

ANNOUNCEMENTS & FEEDBACK

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!!
Elizabeth House 2nd; Sandy Peterson
3rd; George House 13th; Gretchen
Gaughran 18th; and Jesus of
Nazareth 25th.

IMPORTANT!!!!The next New London Community Meal Center service is Sunday, December 8. Please let Rich know if you will be available to serve or to participate by preparing food in advance. We need chili prep, cornbread, and salad/fruit (advance order). Rich will prepare yellow and white rice. We need around eight or so people to serve on Sunday afternoon (arrive around 4 PM for 5 PM service.)

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS: Please join Church School on Dec. 1 and 8 to practice for the Christmas Pageant. On December 15, we will perform the pageant and share an all church brunch.

Holiday Adopt A Family: Please take a tag from our "Angel Tree" in the Fellowship Hall to support our annual Adopt a Family mission. **Unwrapped** items are due back by Dec. 8th. See Laura Beth if you have questions.

Child #1 is a 3 year old female
 Clothes size 4 toddler or Shoes size 9 toddler
 Leap Frog Leap Reader book
 Baby Alive Real Surprises doll
 Lego Duplo Set size Med. Or Mega Blocks
 Play dough sets Prettiest Princess or Rapunzel Hair

Child #2 is a 12 year old female
 GameStop gift cards
 Movie passes
 Costume Jewelry
 Kindle Fire
 Dress Boots size 8.5
 Clothes size women's Med.

Mother:
 Grocery/Gas/Department Store Cards

IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW:

Sun. Dec. 1	10 AM	Worship, Church School (pageant practice), Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager, guest preacher
Sun. Dec. 8	10 AM	Worship, Church School (pageant practice) Emily Bjornberg, guest preacher
Sun. Dec. 15	10 AM	Worship, Pageant, Brunch
Sun. Dec. 22	10 AM	Christmas Music Praise Service
Tues. Dec. 24	5 PM	Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship
Wed. Dec. 25		Christmas Day
Sun. Dec. 29	10 AM	Worship

Reverend Carolyn Johns
Emergencies & Home Office Phone: 203-453-3325
Carolyn's email: carolyn.f.johns-emp@snet.net
Rev. Johns' church office hours: Thursday's 10 AM to 3 PM
Regular Office Hours Tues & Thurs. 11:30 to 2:00 PM
Wed & Fri.: 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM

First Congregational Church of Lyme

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860-434-0220 FAX: 860-434-8858

www.lymechurch.com

Reverend Carolyn Johns, Acting Pastor
December 1, 2013



Welcome!

We, the members of the First Congregational Church of Lyme, CT, interpreting the Bible in the context of its times and our time and following the teachings and example of Jesus, declare our church to be an Open and Affirming church, actively expressing Jesus' inclusive embrace of all people. We acknowledge God's acceptance of every individual and Jesus' commandment to love one another. Therefore, this church welcomes heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals to worship and enter into the full life and ministry of our church. In our community of faith, all people are encouraged to participate and share their talents and energy in worship and sacraments, leadership positions, ordained ministry, lay ministry, learning, service, mission, and fellowship. Further, persons of every gender, mental and physical ability, age, race, nationality, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing, and family structure are welcome in our church community; and the First Congregational Church of Lyme invites all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation.

The First Congregational Church of Lyme

Rev. Carolyn Johns, Acting pastor

Rebecca M. Blomgren, Organist

Sunday, December 1, 2013 at 10:00 AM

*Please stand if you are able

The First Sunday of Advent

Prelude: The Promised Savior James Southbridge

Introit: Prepare the Way of the Lord Choir

Welcome, Time of Greeting, Announcements

Call to Worship:

Leader: The poet, Emily Dickinson, wrote:
"Hope is a thing with feathers that perches in the soul."
The psalmist declared: "I put my hope in You all day long."
Hope is more than wishful thinking.

PEOPLE: Whatever we face in life, we will put our hope in God.

LEADER: Hope is the Spirit of God dwelling within us, reminding us we are never alone. Hope is our active commitment to be God's faithful people, whether we walk an easy path or face fiery trials.

PEOPLE: Whatever we face in life, we will put our hope in God.

LEADER: When we light the candle of Hope, we embrace God's presence among us, yesterday and today and always.

PEOPLE: Whatever we face in life, we will put our hope in God.

LEADER: Come, let us walk in the light of God's hope!

*Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Chalice RED # 119

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Hymn: "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" Chalice RED # 122

Advent Lighting: The candle of Hope

Offering:

*Doxology Chalice RED #46

Offering Prayer

Scripture: Psalm 122, Matthew 25: 34-40

Sermon: "Backpacks of Plenty" Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

*Hymn: "Christians, We Have Met to Worship" Chalice RED # 277

*Benediction

*Response: "When God is a Child" vs 1 Chalice RED #132
"Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright. When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid."

Postlude: Prepare the Way, O Zion Robert Lau

Please welcome our guest preacher today, Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager. Laura graduated from Yale Divinity School this year and recently accepted a call to the East Haddam Church. She lives in Old Lyme with her husband, Paul, and is delighted to be with us today.

PRAYERS: Family and friends of Carroll Johnston; F & f of Jeffrey Pelouquin; Lorrie King; Frank Sutton (stroke); Helen Younger; Jack Leonardo; Michael Sutton (recurrence of cancer); Francis Rand (fall); Dr. Bill; Phyllis Keel; Cindy Fogle and Cindy's mom (Harrington Court, Colchester).