

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & FEEDBACK

Please remember loved ones by donating a poinsettia for the altar at Christmas. Dedications are listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. You may pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas eve service or if you prefer to leave it, Carolyn will deliver it to a shut in at a later date. (Any poinsettia of any size or color is fine. You can also donate any other seasonal plant of your choice. All are welcome and will be displayed.)

The 2013 Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February TBA following worship. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. There are Board positions that are available. Please see Carolyn or Rich if you are interested in helping to provide leadership for the church.

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

**Church School News:** We will be meeting twice a month. Children will come to church at 10 AM and remain until after the children's sermon. The children will then go to the Sunday School room for the remainder of the time. Each week the children will read a bible story & create a craft. Juice & snacks are provided.

Many thanks to Shirley & Fred Latham for the Christmas tree on the front lawn of the church. It is in memory of their daughter, Joan Marie Latham.

### IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW:

Today	10 AM	Worship, Pageant & BRUNCH!
Wed. Dec. 18	7 PM	Church Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall
Sun. Dec. 22	10 AM	Lessons & Carols Praise Service
Tues. Dec. 24	5 PM	Christmas Eve Worship
Dec. 23 to Dec. 27		Church office Closed
Sun. Dec. 29	10 AM	Worship
Wed. Jan. 15	7 PM	Church Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall

**Reverend Carolyn Johns**

**Emergencies & Home Office Phone: 203-453-3325**

**Rev. Johns' office hours: Thursday's 10 AM to 3 PM**

**Regular Office Hours Tues 11:30 to 2:30 PM**

**Wed -Thur - Fri 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM**

# First Congregational Church of Lyme

1 Sterling City Road, Lyme, CT 06371  
860-434-0220

**Reverend Carolyn Johns, Acting Pastor**  
**December 15, 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**

**United Church of Christ**

**Rev. Carolyn Johns, Acting pastor**

**Rebecca M. Blomgren, Organist**

**Sunday, December 15, 2013 10:00 AM**

*\*Asterisk means please stand if you are able.*

*Third Sunday of Advent*

Prelude: O Come, Little Children

Dale Wood

Welcome, Time of Greeting, Announcements

**Advent Celebration:**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
*those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.*

**LIGHT TWO CANDLES**

Week by week, the light grows stronger and brighter, as we anticipate the coming Christ.

*The candles of Hope and Preparation are already ablaze. Today, we light the candle of Joy.*

**LIGHT CANDLE THREE**

We excitedly anticipate the coming of the Mighty One. The promise of healing, comfort, liberty, and freedom is good news that is meant to be shared!

*Rejoicing in the mercy and justice of our Lord, we kindle this flame. Together, we lift our hearts and voices in songs of joy.*

\*Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Chalice #119

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Offering: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius

\*Doxology

Chalice #46

\*Hymn: "People, Look East"

Chalice #142

\*Benediction

\*Response: "Angels We Have Heard on High" Refrain Only

Chalice RED #155

Postlude: In Dulci Jubilo

R.L.Pearsall

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Please join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall today for brunch.  
All are welcome.

**PRAYERS:** Family and friends of Doad Jewett; F & f of Carroll Johnston; F & f of Jeffrey Peloquin; Frank Sutton (stroke); Helen Younger; Jack Leonardo; Michael Sutton (recurrence of cancer); Dr. Bill; Cindy Fogle and Cindy's mom (Harrington Court, Colchester).

Please visit or send Dr. Bill Irving a card at: Crescent Point, 414 Main Street, Niantic, CT 06357

**Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”      Chalice RED #148 (2 verses only)**

**O Come, all you faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him; Christ the Lord!**

**Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him; Christ the Lord!**

**SCENE 4:**

NARRATOR: The star which the wise men had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was.

NARRATOR: They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; for they saw the child with Mary his mother and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.

**Hymn: “Silent Night”      Chalice RED # 145 (2 verses only)**

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright,  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

This is the story of the first Christmas.

**PAGEANT CAST OF CHARACTERS:**

Joseph—  
Mary—  
Angel Gabriel—  
Shepherd—  
Wisewoman—  
Narrator—

NARRATOR: This is the story of the first Christmas - the night Jesus Christ was born. We celebrate this to remember the hope and joy that this tiny baby brought to the world on that extraordinary night in Bethlehem thousands of years ago.

Jesus' birth brought hope and joy to the world. Hope because at that time there was much wrongdoing and fighting on the earth and the people were looking for a sign from God that he would always be there to look after them — and joy, because, after many years of waiting, God had finally fulfilled his promise to send a man — a savior, or messiah — to Earth to go among the people and teach everybody his peaceful and loving ways. That man would be God's greatest gift to mankind — his son Jesus Christ.

**SCENE 1:**

NARRATOR: A decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be counted. This was the first census, And everyone went to be counted to his own city. Joseph went to the City of David, which is called Bethlehem, he went with his wife Mary, who was with child.

**Hymn: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”      Chalice RED #144  
(2 verses only)**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shineth the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
Your voices raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth.**

(Mary and Joseph approach the manger from the rear of the church and stop in front of the manger)

NARRATOR: And while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to deliver. There was no room for them to stay in the inn. The best they could do was a stable next to the inn. Mary gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger.

**Hymn: “Away In a Manger” Chalice RED #147 (2 verses only)**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

## **SCENE 2:**

(Shepherds enter)

NARRATOR: There were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock at night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shined all around them, and they were filled with fear.

**Hymn: “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” Chalice RED #150 (2 verses only)**

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh, the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”**

(Angel appears, seeming to speak to them.)

NARRATOR: And the angel said to them, “do not be afraid; I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

(Enter any other angels)

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly angels praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased.”

The shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

**Hymn: “The First Noel” Chalice RED #151 (2 verses only)**

**The first Noel, the angel did say,  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star shining  
in the east, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

## **SCENE 3:**

NARRATOR: When Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the days of Herod the King, (enter wise men) 3 wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.”

(Enter any other wisemen)