



The Spire

A publication of the Original Congregational Church

December 2022

Christmas Services

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Please join us for worship in Advent and Christmas

Third Sunday of Advent, December 11th,

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy in Rose Color

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18th,

A Very Special Service of Advent Readings and Handbell Carols

Christmas Eve, December 24, 5:00pm,

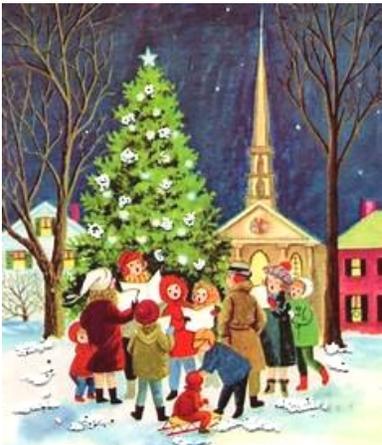
Kid Friendly Pageant Readings and Carols, Festival of Lights and Christmas Reception and Gathering in Fellowship Hall

Christmas Eve, December 24, 10:00pm

Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion and Festival of Lights

Christmas Day, December 25, 10:00am

Sunday Worship with Christmas Carols and Prayers





The Ladies Breakfast Club, is meeting on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month, and 5th when there is. We meet at 9:30am at the Village Griddle in Plainville. Contact Emmie Foster or Sue Schwarm if you plan to attend.

The Kitchen Elves, meet the first Wednesday of each month to prepare and deliver meals to members in need. Preparers and drivers are always welcome.

Rehearsal for choir are Thursday evenings at 7:15pm with Justin Kisch.

Join Pastor Ken and friends for Bible Study in person and by Zoom, Tuesday mornings at 10am in our beautiful parlor.

Lunch Bunch meets at noon in Fellowship Hall the 3rd Wednesday of each month for a light lunch of soup, sandwich, desserts and beverages. There's always an element of fun with friends.

Rehearsals for Bells are Monday evenings at 6pm.

All are welcome!

Highlight Dates

The SPIRE is available on our website!!

Go to the OCC page at www.occhurch.net.

I am Sunday singing rehearsals with the children every Sunday of Advent !

Dec. 4th Caroling on front steps 6pm
Dec. 7th Kitchen Elves
Dec. 21st Lunch Bunch

Dec. 24th 5:00pm Christmas Pageant
Reception and gathering to follow
10:00pm Carols & Lessons

Dec. 25th 10:00am Sunday Worship

“Todays flower’s are dedicated …..”

Any given Sunday you can dedicate the altar flowers to anyone in your life. Notify the office of your chosen day and you can make a donation to the Flower Fund, or bring in an arrangement yourself. For further information contact Donna in the office.

NEWCOMERS WELCOME

If you would like to become a member of our church, which affirms your regular participation in our worship life and support of our work and service to the wider community, please be sure to contact Pastor Ken or Donna in the office at anytime. We have a few families and individuals who are interested in being a part of our next service of Reception of New Members. See details at the worship hour and in the worship bulletin. We look forward to growing along with you in your spirit journey!



If you need to contact the office to submit anything for the bulletin or Spire, please e-mail the office at office@occhurch.net or call

the office at 508-384-3110. Every effort is made to accommodate your needs.

Facebook is used for information purposes. Messages are checked randomly and it is not a recommended way to connect for anything important.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Thank you to all who pledged for 2023 during our pledge campaign!

While pledges are a bit down for next year, we are reminded that “Stewardship, simply put, is what we do with what we have.” We are blessed to have a congregation that contributes to and supports the OCC in so many ways, serving each other and our community through volunteering, donating, praying. Our table is set with the bread and cup, and we are all invited to share in God’s love.

Wishing you joy of the season!
The Stewardship Committee
Jen Chace, Ralph Lambalot, Lesley Whittemore



ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

As most are aware, there is an opening for a permanent OCC Organist/Choir Director. The position requires 10-12 hours per week. The Search committee, Sue Wetmore, Ben Blakesley, Pastor Ken Landin, Ned Ligon, Chuck Peters and Alison Wade, have publicly posted the position via the American Guild of Organists and various social media is begging to receive applications and do interviews.

If you have any thoughts or ideas about this search or the position, please share them with any member of the Search Committee. Thanks.



**Please support the following
businesses that have supported the
2022 Gingerbread Fair**

Altitude Trampoline Park
An Unlikely Story
Bedrock Granite Company
Big Y
Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum
Briggs Nursery
Café Assisi
Cataldo's
Charles Riverboat Company
Christmas Tree Shops
Cottage Car Wash
Dana Ana Meat Market
Evviva Trattoria/110 Grill
F&W Pest Control
Fore Kicks
Franklin Car Wash
Horse N' Carriage
Lake Pearl
Long Horn Steak House
Luciano's
Michael's Deli
Nail Sensation
Nicky's
Novatos Bar and Grill
Only Prettier Design
Parker's Pub
Pat's Peak Ski Area
Plimoth Patuxet Museum
Proctor Mansion Inn
Regional Tire & Service
Roche Brothers
Rustic and Chic
Shaws
Sierra's Brick Oven Pizza & Pub
Southwick's Zoo
Stop & Shop
Trader Joe's
UNO Pizzeria & Grill
Village Griddle
Village Ski & Snowboard
Wampum Corner Liquors
Wrentham Cooperative Bank
Wrentham House of Pizza
3 Pug Creamery



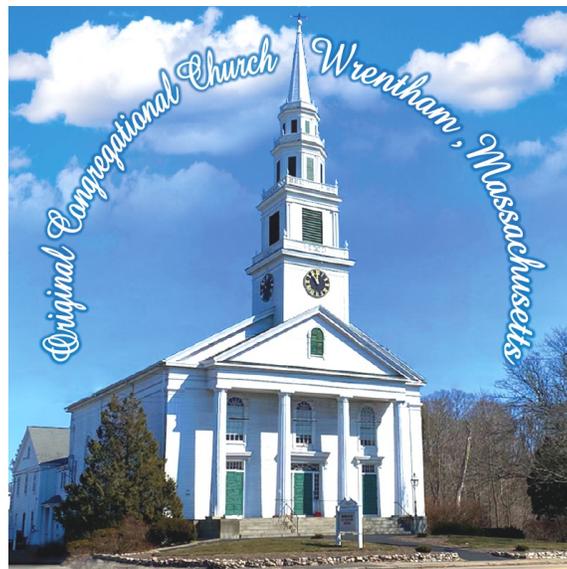
At a Special Town Meeting held on Monday, November 21st, the Town of Wrentham approved an article to appropriate \$215,000 for the preservation and restoration of the OCC pillars. **THANK YOU** to all who attended and voiced their support!!!

The process of securing these funds began in the spring of this year, when the Facilities Team submitted an initial project proposal to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). The CPC and the Historical Commission expressed their support of using CPC funds to assure that this historic architectural feature of Wrentham's town center is preserved, and encouraged the Facilities Team to submit a full project proposal for consideration by the CPC over the summer months. At the conclusion of this review process, the CPC approved the project for advancement to the Special November Town meeting for funding approval by town residents.

The funding is contingent upon the OCC applying for a Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund (MPPF) Grant which would offset some of the cost to the town, and also successfully placing a preservation restriction on the OCC property. In addition, a deed restriction would be placed on the property requiring the repayment of CPC funds if the property is sold for private profit use before the expiration of 99 years. These requirements are well aligned with the OCC's objective of maintaining the church property in all its historical splendor, and keeping the OCC a vibrant central focal point for the community.

The next step in this process will be the submission of the MPPF Grant application which is due in March of 2023.

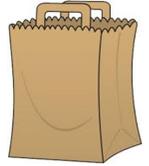
Submitted by Ralph Lambalot on behalf of the Facilities Team



INGATHERING AND FOOD PANTRIES



Two days before Thanksgiving, many Ingathering bags were delivered to Lenore's Pantry in North Attleboro. Having not counted, our estimation of over twenty-five bags would be a safe guess. Joan Badger, Human Service Coordinator for North Attleboro, who also oversees the food pantry met us and helped bring our bags into City Hall, the pantry's location.



The previous evening, she and her volunteers handed out over seventy-five Thanksgiving packages to area families with children under 18 years old. This evening they will be outside again, delivering almost one hundred packages to adult families. She hopes the weather will be a little warmer than the previous night. Just as their shelves were emptying out for this Thanksgiving distribution, our donations arrived.

Nice the way things work out!

This was a 55% increase from the number of food insecure families served last Thanksgiving. Speaking to volunteers from our food pantry in the Whiston House, eighty-one families requested Thanksgiving packages last week. It required some fast last-minute shopping to complete all the needed supplies, only because the local need was higher than anticipated. So, if you are grocery shopping next week, pick up something extra for food pantries near you.

THE FACILITIES TEAM had it's annual Fall Clean Up on Saturday, November 5th. A **BIG THANK YOU** to Mike Foster, Marco Alvarado, Ralph Lambalot, John and Jean Roche, Bob Cummings and Gordon Wetmore for raking, blowing and hauling leaves to complete the fall clean up around the church and Whiston House.



The Sounds of the Season**A NOTE FROM JUSTIN...****CALLING ALL KIDDO'S....**

As you are aware, Christmas is just around the corner and so is the Christmas Eve, 5pm service. Justin (our Interim Music Director) and Monica (our staff soprano) would like to begin I Iam rehearsals Sunday mornings, for no more than 30 minutes, on the **four Sundays of Advent**, beginning Sunday, November 27th. The idea is to prepare the children for the Children's Christmas Eve sing along. So spread the word and bring the children for fun and participation as we rebuild our post Covid holiday season!!



The choir will sing several special pieces for the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. The Choir rehearse at 7:15 on Thursdays and we warm up at 9:15 on Sundays.

The children will sing a few carols for the 5:00 p.m. pageant on Christmas Eve. The children rehearse on Sundays after worship, at roughly 11:00 a.m.

We already have a few new members and we are hoping you will join us too!

A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE....

The Christmas Honors will be going into the bulletin Sunday, December 11th, and will be printed for December 24th and 25th bulletins. There will also be some on the information table outside of the library. Please have your requests to the office no later than December 20th to insure inclusion in the Honors lists.

The office will be closed, as always , the week between Christmas Day and New Years day. We will see you January 3rd.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season, with health and peace of mind for the upcoming years ahead. Thank you for being so kind to me and so appreciative. I am so very grateful ...

Donna

THE ORIGINAL
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

Wonderful Counselor

Beloved Friends,

Christmas is upon us. Doesn't it almost always seem to come as a surprise even though it has been fully announced? I wonder if Mary and Joseph felt that way when they had to travel suddenly to Bethlehem to be registered for the Roman tax codes. The empire had a deep claim on their lives. God has an even deeper one.

In Isaiah 9:6 we here a prophetic claim on the divine presence coming into the world. "Unto us a child is born...the government shall be upon his shoulder...and he shall be called *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*...of the increase of his government and of peace their will be no end."

There is an affirmation of institutions in this dream. Human history is the story of governmental institutions rising and falling. Sadly, they can bring about so much suffering which can be measured in a sociologist's term "misery index." Yet, it is exactly into this kind of world a child of God is born. The key to our hope is that human institutions such as governments and organized religions can be influenced and shaped by our "higher angels." When we let the wonder of divine counsel be our advisor, when we let the one of peace be our leader, we begin to get the world ready to receive the everlasting and divine dream be alive in us.

Sometimes all the preparations and decorating for the season seems to lose its meaning. After all, with a war in Europe, the seemingly endless mass shootings, global pandemics, and economic downturns, doesn't it still seem that the quest for an Empire on Earth continues to work against God's vision for a peaceable world? That makes decorating both a holy act of defiance against the corruption and injustice of human governments while at the same time supporting the idea that institutions can be influenced for the good, the right, the building up of life using a divine design. Shall there not be a little light thrown onto our homes and businesses and town common to remind us what is beautiful?

For this season, it's good to remember that Christmas includes a Wonderful Counselor who actively listens to the cries of the people no matter where they find themselves on the misery index. God cares to listen. And God inspires us to act. Begin with some lights. They remind us of all who have carried the light of love into this world before us.

It's Christmas! It's time to put up the lights and tell the world peace is on the way.

May the God of Everlasting Light and Peace be your guide this season.

Pastor Ken



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Live
Sunday' Mornings
at 10:00am

We're on the web
[www.
occhurch.net](http://www.occhurch.net)

