

# The Spire

*A publication of the Original Congregational Church*



*December 2023*

## 2023 Annual Church Mouse Fair Moments



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**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 Thursday evenings at 6pm.

All are welcome!

**The SPIRE is available on our website!!**

**Go to the OCC page at [www.occhurch.net](http://www.occhurch.net).**

### Highlight Dates

- December 6 Kitchen Elves 9am
- December 10 Christmas Concert 3pm
- December 20 Lunch Bunch 12pm
- December 24 Christmas Service 10am
- December 24 Christmas Eve Service 10pm

### **“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 need to contact the office to submit anything for the bulletin or Spire, please e-mail the office at [office@occhurch.net](mailto:office@occhurch.net) or call the office at 508-384-3110. Every effort is made to accommodate your needs.

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!

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.





### Ingathering Delivery

Thirty generous bags of requested items were delivered to Grit and Grace Sober Home for Women this past week. Kristen Silva, the House Manager, and some of the residents helped unload the delivery into their cozy home. We on Outreach remarked how comforting, and tranquil the home feels as soon as you step in. There were grateful hugs all around, and we would like thank all of you for making this gift possible.



## STEWARDSHIP

The official Stewardship drive ended Sunday November 19 with the announcement that we were slightly ahead of last years' operational budget. Pledges continue to be accepted, and we have hopes of even better results to share at the annual meeting in January.

The Stewardship Committee wishes to thank Mike Foster for his steady guidance, and monitoring of the 2024 campaign. We also wish to sincerely thank all those who were able to pledge for 2024, and all those who will do their best to contribute to the welfare of the OCC in this year and years to come.

Bob Boissy and Ralph Lambalot  
Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs



**Please support the following  
businesses that have supported the  
2023 Church Mouse Fair**

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



**KATHY BOISSY**

We have an elementary teacher who waits for the fair book sale each year in order to buy books for her classroom. She always buys a lot of books.

We were not surprised that the older woman with bright purple hair bought our book about Lenny Bruce.

**LEESA BURKE**

A coming together of talent, enthusiasm, dedication and patience. A roving Santa to infuse the spirit of the season to all.

**BECKY CUOCO**

Several were trying to negotiate buying the little crafted mice on the tree in the hallway. One person was hoping the mouse posters were for sale!

**JEAN ROCHE**

A woman had been to our table/fair before and was looking for something specific, delicious she said, and we were the ONLY ones who ever had them. The Bake table tempted those on diets, customers confessing their sins of indulgence and we were happy to admonish them with reassurance of the good works the church would be doing with their contributions. Penance given was to buy items to share with friends and family!

**STEVE BECKER.**

The meatball subs were very popular this year. One factor that made a difference was that Heather bought the meatballs at Restaurant Depot. They were larger and tastier than last year. We received compliments. One lady came back and said it was "the best meatball sub that she ever had." At around 11:30, due to the high demand for meatball subs, we thought we would run out so we sent Ian Knott to the store to buy more sauce. That worked well until we ran out of rolls. At that point we offered customers substitute Mac and Cheese or meatballs with a hotdog roll on the side. Several people took us up on those options. The doughnuts were popular as usual; customers enjoyed looking them over in the plastic case to decide which one looks best. The adults enjoyed that as much as the children. We ran out early. I asked Chris Cuoco how many grilled cheese he was making and he said he had lost count.

**KIM KELLY**

While writing their respective names on raffle tickets, one man complimented another, "I love your (VT) hat. I'm from VT." They continued talking for at least 5 minutes about various towns, inns and restaurants to visit. They ended by shaking hands and wishing each other a happy holiday season!

Also, Sean and I could start a side business as costumed rental characters. We were solicited several times to hire-out to serve Thanksgiving dinners!

**GORDON WETMORE**

My biggest fear is that no one will show up. I arrived here at 7:00am – no one was in line. At 8:00am, a few people were in line – the "regulars" that I have come to know. By 8:30, many more. And by 9:00 when the doors opened, they were down the sidewalk next to FH right to the end of the building! In a gentle rainfall with falling temperatures! YES!!! I asked Alden Hardy to count how many people came through that door when it opened. 153!!! The most ever! And 150 went down to Attic Treasures. The other 3 headed for the rest rooms.

**BETH LACROIX**

The vendor next to me (Darby by design) had fabulous, snarky butter/cheese spreaders. The "shark cuterie" was my favorite! Sue Wetmore made the most adorable little turkeys out of nuts - I bought one for each of my Thanksgiving guests!

**JOAN AND CHARLIE ROBERTS**

We met two people from Maine who used to live in this area. They make the trek here every year just to attend the Wrentham Church Fair. They said it's the best one they attend during the holiday season.

**JESSIE PARSONS**

A few words of gratitude before the Thanksgiving tasks get started

It was a personal joy for me to work once again at the OCC Christmas Fair. This being an all hands on event, I was able to experience once again the dedication and talent of this Church Family. May the love and blessings of the Holy Spirit be with each and every one as we go forward in the days ahead. With much love, Jessie



**MIKE FOSTER**

The visit from

Santa was great, but the visit from Jessie was better.

A short visit with two retired co-workers from Quincy for their 20<sup>th</sup> fair in a row was special.

Special thanks to the Wrentham Cooperative Bank for their generous donation to the Fair.

Special thanks to the King Street Deli for donating five gift certificates to the auction.

Lynette Beaudro mailed a dozen or so boxes of donations to the fair from Qatar.

**GORDON**

What a pleasant surprise when a little red bus from North Attleboro arrived and 10 senior ladies jumped off. You would have thought each were given a roll of quarters and they just arrived at Foxwoods.

**SHERRY DAVIS**

I look forward to Jimmy Dunn's contributions to the plant table...such a creative gentleman! And the American flag wood guy! We ordered one of the wavy flags!

**ALICE CASAVANT**

One thing that made the day so special was the wonderful impact that Santa Claus had on so many people who visited the fair. The children seemed truly delighted by spending time with him as did adults. When he had a lull in his area, he made a point of moving through the Church and making the day special and fun for all.

Another special part of the day was the care that Julie and Courtney took to explain in detail to Cindy and Chuck all the intricacies of organizing and documenting all the steps necessary for the Silent Auction. Turning over the reins is sometimes a difficult task, but Julie and Court were dedicated to making the transition smooth for Cindy and Chuck.

**LESLEY WHITTEMORE**

A flock of 100 delightfully decorated turkeys, meticulously crafted by Sue Wetmore and her dedicated turkey team, quickly disappeared from the Craft Table to adorn Thanksgiving tables everywhere.

**SUE WETMORE**

One of the best moments for me was the opportunity to work with two women fairly new to our church, Andrea DeBaggis and Sabrina Tedeschi. Sabrina's crocheted chickens and tree ornament flew off the table. Andrea was a sales woman extraordinaire, generating interest in items and selling like a pro. Many thanks also for Lesley's help and her suggestion to make "lots of turkeys". I found myself chuckling every time someone wanted to buy a few. Thanks to all who made so many quality items for the crafts table. It was a joy to work together for the good of the church!

**NANCY MURE**

One of my neighbors stopped in at the fair to say hi to us at the Gift table. Remarking how beautiful the two scarves that we had on display were, she said, "I'm sure they're from the Museum of Fine Arts gift shop!" The woman standing next to her snapped them both up immediately. We couldn't have done better if we'd planned it.

**JULIE CAMPBELL**

The Silent Auction is a large undertaking - One challenge is all the work required at the end of the fair: taking everything down while also determining the winning bidders.

As Court and I were busy on the computer, determining the winners and working with Chuck and Cindy Peters as they learned the system, we were so uplifted to see all of those who appeared unbidden by us, to help in the disassembly and sorting of all the auction items. We had enlisted the help of a few folks (Bob and Alice Casavant, Rick LaCroix), but suddenly we found that there were many more helpers! Trevor and Ian Knott with Ralph Lambalot brought the plywood boards back down to the vestry for storage. Alison Wade, Lesley Whittemore, and another gentleman (whose name I did not get) worked with Bob, Alice, Chuck, Cindy and Rick to take down tables, pull the items for each bidder and make the calls to the winners. The result is that the work was completed in record time! The auction truly takes a village to pull off, and we were so grateful for all of those who helped to make it a success

Pam Jennette

Noah received a fur hat from a customer after taking an armful of attic treasures to the gentleman's car! One thank you leads you to another thank you!!

**KENDRA FARLING**

People were pleasantly surprised when they asked the price of an item and we told them that when they were done shopping, to make a donation to the church as to what they thought was right.

**CHUCK PETERS**

The buzz at the Silent Auction confirmed that the OCC fair is circled on many attendees' calendars every year as a "can't miss" event. One attendee shared that she plans her visits from Maine around the fair. Another attendee, one of the last winning bidders picking up their auction purchase as a gift for a family member, provided the highlight of the day. On her way out, she stopped in the doorway and explained she had been coming to the fair for years and always left with a pleasant welcoming feeling, so much so that she now realizes OCC might be the place for her and plans to attend services in the near future.



## A NOTE FROM JUSTIN...

And mark your calendars: the Christmas Concert and Potluck will be on Sunday December 10th at 3:00 p.m. It will feature the choir, The Wrentham Wringers, and guest instrumentalists. Maybe you (dear reader) want to play or sing something?!?



### **Mark your calendar for December :**

**The Christmas Concert** will be **Sunday December 10 at 3PM**. It will feature the choir, the Wrentham Wringers, and special guests. A potluck dinner will follow. Members of the congregation and their families are welcome to perform.



**Would you, your children, or grandchildren like to perform a holiday piece for this festive occasion?**

**Calling all kids!** This year, the **Christmas Pageant** will be at the 10 a.m. Worship service on Christmas Eve, December 24. Rehearsals are Sundays from 11:15 to 12:00.

The **evening service on Christmas Eve** will be at **10 p.m.**, featuring Monica and the choir.

## A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE....

The Christmas Honors will be going into the bulletin Sunday, December 10th, 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 18th to insure inclusion in the Honors lists.

Christmas Sunday Service, December 24, 2023 10:00am

Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 2023 10:00pm

**Please submit your Annual Reports to me for January.**

**The office will be closed, as always, the week between Christmas Day and New Years day. We will see you January 2nd.**

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season, with health and peace of mind for the New Year. Thank you all for making me feel so welcomed as your new Office Administrator.

I truly feel blessed to be here.

AnnMarie

*The Sounds of the Season*





*Are You the One to Come?*

Friends in Faith,

With the coming of December, we enter the season of Advent. Preparations are being made to welcome the holiday season. Even with so many dark things happening in the world in these days, it remains important to prepare for the promise of hope and peace.

In the Prophet Isaiah 11:6-9, we hear the promise of what God is doing with the world. This includes the human world and the natural realm. All that God has made is holy. “In all of my sacred mount,” the Lord declares, “nothing evil or vile shall be done, for the land shall be full of devotion as the waters cover the sea.” With wars in Europe and the Middle East, it feels more like the world is awash in violence. It is vital to people of faith that we look to God’s ancient claims on us that do not have us settle for easy answers of who is right and wrong and who is to be judged and granted mercy. The whole world is the Lord’s.

Isaiah proposes the peaceful promise that “Wolves shall dwell with lambs, the leopard rests with the calves, with a little child to herd them in safety.” In biblical imagery, Isaiah is talking about the nations relationships with each other. Could an oppressing nation live together in peace with a weak nation? Shall the powerful and the small trade goods, skills and services together in harmony? Will those wielding great power not be aggressors but supporters? This vision of a peaceable world is itself a holy creation. It comes from above. Peace between the children of all the nations are our highest aspirations. In the concrete reality of suffering under smashed concrete dwellings and broken treaties and boundary violations, comes a concrete dream dwelling in the deepest heart of what it means to be human and to be alive.

The natural world is not just peaceful. Animals survive and thrive in the fragile balance of fight, flight, and consumption. But there is a balance through time and with enough space given, an amazing harmony is at work. Can this ancient dream once again take up a deep claim on how we view what is happening in the world? Can we be in solidarity with the suffering of all children? Can we look for that child who can herd the human heart with love? Can we grieve with the grieving, be afflicted with all the afflicted from the biggest of perspectives? In times of war, we look for the one who is to come. The Lord describes who is to come will carry a spirit of wisdom and insight, counsel and valor, devotion and reverence. The truth will include not just the truth of one’s own experience, but the experience of all. And most especially the truth includes the coming of this ancient dream of the promise of peace.

*May peace pursue the world this advent season, and may peace come to dwell in yours, and every human heart.*

*Pastor Ken*



THE ORIGINAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH

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Live  
Sunday Mornings  
at 10:00am

We're on the web  
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