

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN MANSFIELD – November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1pm-2:30 Book Group 6pm-7:30 QCRR Volunteer Meeting	2 7pm Choir	3	4
5 10:15am Worship	6	7 10-Noon Staff Meeting 6pm Ministry of Caring	8 1pm-2:30 Book Group	9 7pm Choir	10	11 9am-12pm Piano Recital (Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall)
12 10:15am Worship Advent Service & Community Engagement Opportunities Planning Chime Choir	13 9am –1pm Sewing & Service	14	15 1pm-2:30 Book Group	16 10am Set Up & Prep for Lasagna Dinner & Auction 7pm Choir	17 6pm Lasagna Dinner & Auction	18 12-5pm Fellowship Hall reserved for event
19 10:15am Worship WAIM Walk for Warmth 1pm Take Note Concert	20	21	22	23 THANKSGIVING DAY OFFICE CLOSED	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 10:15am Worship	27	28	29 1pm-2:30 Book Group	30 5:30pm Governing Board 7pm Choir	31	

FIRST CHURCH FAITH FORMATION IN MARCH

Some congregations are feeling that Advent is just not long enough, that the Christmas season's decorations and carols are encroaching evermore on the Church's four short weeks of Advent. And so, they are making the time of preparation for Christmas seven, instead of four, weeks. The readings assigned for this time of the Church Year also invite us in that direction, leading us to look for where we might find Jesus being born in the world today: where sharing happens, where injustice is undermined, where the hungry are fed, the imprisoned are visited, and the naked are clothed. In this time of pre-Advent, may Christ be born in our hearts again.

Sunday, November 5, 2017

This Sunday we gather around Jesus' Welcome Table with our forbearers in faith from the beginning of time and with generations yet to come as we celebrate All Saints Sunday. You are invited to bring a photograph or an image of a person who has been a saint in your life to place in the windowsills as we surround ourselves with pictures of holiness. Following Worship, there will be a meeting about the future of the Saturday Morning Breakfasts.

A Prayer...

God of unfailing light, in your realm of glory the poor are blessed, the hungry filled, and every tear is wiped away. Strengthened by this vision, may we follow in the way of holiness that Jesus made known in life and death. Amen.

Sunday, November 12, 2017

This week, we begin several weeks of listening to Jesus' words in Matthew 25, beginning with his Parable of the Wise and Foolish Lightbearers. Worship Circle will gather with the theme, "Be Ready." Following Worship, the Ministry of Spiritual Life will gather with those who wish to plan Advent Service and Community Engagement Opportunities.

A Prayer...

Wake us from our slumber, O God, and call us forth to greet Christ, so that with eyes and hearts fixed on him, we may follow to eternal light. Amen.

Sunday, November 19, 2017

Our reading of Matthew 25 continues with Jesus' Parable of the Talents, reflecting on ways of resistance to the powers that be. Worship Circle reflects on the theme, "Investing What is Offered" as they too consider Matthew 25:14-30.

A Prayer...

God of the covenant, your Spirit invites us to remember that you chose us to be your servant people. Awaken us to the power and gifts you pour into us for the good of creation, and

grant that we may be trustworthy in all things, producing abundantly as we work to build your realm. Amen.

Sunday, November 26, 2017

The Church Year ends with our proclamation of Jesus' Parable of the Goats and the Sheep in Matthew 25:31-46 as we celebrate Christ the Servant King. Worship Circle's theme is "Christ Among Us" as we reflect on the ways we continue to see Jesus in those he loves (which, of course, is all people). In the evening, the choir leads carols as we light our tree and enter into the Advent Season.

A Prayer...

You raised up your Son, O God, and seated him at your right hand as the servant king who seeks what is lost, binds up what is wounded, and strengthens what is weak. Empowered by the Spirit, grant that we may share with others that which we have received from your hand, to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And looking ahead...

Following Worship on Sunday, December 3, we will have our Advent Workshop. Come, make some crafts, create an Advent Wreath, and enjoy conversation as we begin our preparations for the great joy of Christmas!

FIRST CHURCH INFORMATION YOU NEED

- We are a **Tuna Church!** This means you are invited to put a can of tuna fish into the net bag in Fellowship Hall every once in a while. We're committed to providing 30 cans of tuna each month to our local food banks, so add a can of tuna to your shopping list. Your help is greatly appreciated! Please look for dolphin-safe tuna. It is better for all God's creatures! Also, please be aware when purchasing tuna that Greenpeace indicates that Chicken of the Sea brand uses destructive fishing practices. We are also collecting canned fruit.
- **Care Cards:** Each week we suggest several people or groups who might be strengthened with notes of caring prayer and love. Stationery is provided. We invite you to take a quick minute during fellowship time to write a note, put the recipient's name on the envelope and leave it on the table to be mailed Monday morning. Thank you for this demonstration of our connectedness and love!
- **Reminder:** if you need to reach Pastor Ann or Pastor Joe for an emergency, please call their cell phones: **Ann - 781-223-4914 and Joe - 608-354-3686.** Emails and texts are also another quick way to get in touch with them. They check office messages on days they are at church and irregularly on other days.

FIRST CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE

Thanks to the generosity of New View Tree Care, LLC, and its owner, Mark Roberts, our Christmas tree is trimmed, the strings of lights that were repaired have been re-installed, and existing lights are re-aligned as needed. The magnificent Mansfield Center Christmas tree at FCC is ready for lighting!

New View also trimmed limbs on a few other trees on the property, removed a dead ash tree that could have been a liability, and cleaned the brush in front of the stone wall bordering our Browns Road entrance. They did a great job for us! The crew from New View included Junior, Jason, Chad and Nicholas; Jo-Anne Roberts and Nikki Pedersen from First Church were there to support the crew. On behalf of the Congregation, thank you, Mark and New View Tree Care!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Christmas Poinsettias delight our eyes and spirits, and are a wonderful way to honor and remember important people in our lives. They make our sanctuary look like a glorious celebration of hope, joy, love and peace! Please take a quick moment to complete and return your order form to Carol Drescher! Order forms can be found in the narthex and the Browns Road entrance. **Orders are due with payment are due on December 10th.** Poinsettias will be on display December 17th and 24th, and can be taken home or given away following worship on the 24th.

WAIM's ANNUAL WALK FOR WARMTH

WAIM's Annual Walk for Warmth is next week November 19th at 2:15 p.m. Sponsored by Windham Area Interfaith Ministry. Last year, WAIM raised \$43,000, which helped over 100 people stay warm and keep their lights on. It is a two mile walk and starts and ends at Temple B'nai Israel, 345 Jackson Street in Willimantic, CT. Registration begins at 1 p.m. and the Annual Interfaith Service begins at 1:30 p.m. Walkers are asked to contribute at least \$20. Refreshments and children's activities provided.

OUR THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Our Thanksgiving Offering this year will benefit WAIM's Energy Assistance Program – the program is designed to help low income families ineligible for other programs receive energy assistance. Many of those served include seniors and children; all of the families served are at risk of running out of heat, hot water, or electricity. Most either do not qualify for government assistance, or have exhausted any assistance that was available to them.

ANNUAL GOODS & SERVICES DINNER AND AUCTION

SAVE THE DATE! - NOVEMBER 17TH

We need everyone to consider what they might like to contribute to this year's event. We are looking for items that someone might like to purchase for their use or to give as a gift, as the holidays are approaching. Typical items include gift certificates, meals, special trips or services, gift baskets, and whatever else you might dream of. We raised over \$5,000.00 last year; let's see if we can exceed that goal this year! Please see Donna Clauson if you have any questions.

LOCAL OUTREACH

WAIM's Gifts for Teens Program: provides vouchers for eligible teens so parents can purchase a meaningful present. Donations can be made to WAIM or in our church offering, suggested donation is \$30.00 in the form of cash or gift card, noting WAIM GIFT, by Sunday December 17th.

WAIM's For Kids Only Program: children come to WAIM and pick out a gift for a parent/guardian. There will be a box marked For Kids Only in Fellowship hall for slightly used or new gift items for women and men. Items are needed by Sunday, December 6th.

Adopt-a-Family Programs: offers families in crisis an opportunity to celebrate the holidays through the love of an unknown neighbor. We will adopt a family through WAIM and Mansfield Human Services. Look for a tree decorated with gift items that are needed.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Winter is almost here! Should there be inclement weather, please be sure to check Channel 3 (WFSB) for church service cancellation, event cancellations or office closing.

The office will be closed when Schools in Mansfield are cancelled. Meetings will also be cancelled unless specific arrangements are made by that group. In the event the office is closed during the week due to bad weather, Wendy will still be checking messages and e-mails.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

NOVEMBER

11/06	DAWN CLAUSEN
11/07	JANNA PEDERSEN
11/08	PARRISH PROTHEROE
11/10	JENNIFER CHURCHILL
11/14	DEB HUBBELL
11/16	DON BAXTER
11/18	ANN BAILEY
11/20	GEORGE BAILEY JULIA HAEGER
11/21	WILL STEARNS
11/22	DALE TRUMAN
11/29	ANNA-MARAYA BELLIZZI

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN MANSFIELD (UCC) (CONGREGATIONAL)

Ministers

All the People of the Church

Pastors

Rev. Ann Plumley & Rev. Joseph Blotz

Music Director

Cathie Rowe

Organist

Erik Haeger

Office Administrator

Wendy O'Connor

Childcare Provider

Emely Salman

Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday, 9am-1pm – Closed Mondays

Tel.: (860) 423-9008

E-mail : firstchurchmansfield@snet.net

Website: www.myFCC.info

Like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/FCCMansfield