



CONWAY VILLAGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

THE GOOD NEWS

December 2023



Volume 12, Issue 12

'Tis the season to express gratitude, echoing the sentiments of the classic song that deems this the most wonderful time of the year. Thanksgiving prompts us to acknowledge the bountiful blessings bestowed upon us by God. As we step into Advent, a period marked by preparation and anticipation of God's ultimate gift—His Son, Jesus Christ—we embark on a reflection of the gifts our faith bestows: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, celebrated on each of the four Sundays of Advent.

In the Christian Church, Advent heralds the commencement of the New Year, starting on December 3rd. Just as we customarily reflect on the events of the past calendar year and set resolutions on January 1st, let us extend this contemplation to our contributions to The Brown Church over the past year. While the church may or may not fulfill our personal needs, it undoubtedly serves the broader community, offering a space for worship, solace, and sustenance for both body and spirit.

Looking ahead, let us consider how we can support the only remaining church in Conway Village during the upcoming year. Operating on a deficit budget, with a diminishing endowment fund, the church is challenged monthly to meet its operating costs, vulnerable to market fluctuations and unforeseen expenses. Can we contribute financially, or if we already do, can we elevate our annual giving? Alternatively, there are avenues to boost the church's income without increasing personal financial commitments—actively participating in fundraising events is one such way.

Expanding our congregation is another avenue to extend our impact. Perhaps you know someone seeking a church community, but lacks transportation or is new to the area. Increasing our outreach can magnify our collective generosity. If financial constraints limit direct contributions, can we be more lavish with our time? The food pantry, for instance, often faces a shortage of volunteers. Unloading deliveries, stocking shelves, and preparing food for distribution are just a few ways our time can make a meaningful difference.

As we enter this season of reflection and giving, let us prayerfully contemplate how each of us, in our unique capacities, can contribute to the well-being and sustainability of The Brown Church in the year to come.

Submitted by Nancy Irving,
(with an assist by AI - ChatGPT)



Conway Village Church

Presents

Hometown Christmas Fair & Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 2nd 10 am - 6:30 pm



Crafts
Caroling
Bake Sale
Hot Cocoa
Tree Lighting
Evergreen Swags
Turkey Luncheon
Pictures with Santa
Pick-a-Prize Auction



Conway Village Church 132 Main St. Conway NH 03818 603-447-3851 info@thebrowchurch.org



The Conway Village Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
Reverend John G Hughes, II

PO Box 333
132 Main Street, Conway, New Hampshire 03818
www.thebrownchurch.org
Tel. 603-447-3851

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

TO: All Members and Friends of the Conway Village Congregational Church

The Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Conway Village Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024, at approximately 11:00 am in the Sanctuary of the Conway Village Congregational Church after worship. The meeting will be held in person and via Zoom platform. Voting will be done via roll call method. Please email cvccwebteam@gmail.com or call the office for the phone in information.

The purpose of this Annual Meeting will be:

1. To hear reports of the officers, board and standing committees for the preceding year.
2. To approve a Budget for 2024.
3. To discuss the Council plan.
4. To elect officers, board and standing committee members for 2024.
5. To conduct any other business that may come to the floor of the meeting.

Dated at: Conway, New Hampshire, on the 22nd of November 2023

Dawn Vitters, Clerk



Food Pantry Wish List

Ramen Noodles-Chicken &/or Beef
 Rice-A-Roni-Chicken or Beef
 Ketchup – 20 oz.
 Mustard – 20 oz
 Mayo - small jar
 Stable Milk box – 20 oz.
 Juice - Orange or Apple – 64 oz.
 Small Soup - Chicken Noodle or Tomato
 Jelly - Grape or Strawberry-16 oz.
 Small canned Chicken or Tuna-5 oz.
 Baked Beans – 15 oz.
 Tomato Sauce – 15 oz.

Beef Stew - Canned – 15 oz.
 Boxed Crackers – 1 lb.
 Boxed Spaghetti – 1 lb.
 Canned Veggies - Peas, Carrots-15 oz.
 Instant Oatmeal – 1 lb.
 Paper Towels
 Toilet paper – individually wrapped
 Shampoo - White Rain or Suave-24 oz.
 Dawn Dish detergent – small size
 Tide Laundry Detergent – small size
 Large Laundry Detergent
 Hand Soap - Dial 2 or 3 pk bars

THANK YOU

for your donation!

Your contributions have helped make
a difference in our community!

Conway Village Church Food Pantry

Food Pantry Donations

Please call the office to schedule
a drop off time. Most of these
items can be bought at Dollar Tree
or any supermarket.

Thank you for your donations!

CVCC Food Pantry By Appointment Only

Tuesdays, 8:30-12 pm

Serving Albany, Chatham, Conway, Center
Conway, East Conway & Eaton

603-447-3851

Call for appointment or for more information.

Outreach Committee

**Anne Getchell, Sylvia Weld, Charlyne
 Gray, Dawn Vitters, Marilyn Hughes
 & Charles Monaghan**

Food Pantry Statistics

MONTH	Households	People Served	Meals Given	Over 60	Under 18	Walk Ins	New Households
January - November 2023 <i>(Excludes November 28th)</i>	379	763	54,462	369	98	79	40
January - November 2022	373	799	33,558	359	139	76	40

Outreach

Shaw's and Star Market gift cards will be donated to the Conway Village Congregational Church as part of this year's Holiday Nourishing Neighbors program.

The funds for these gift cards will be raised by our community at our local Shaw's or Star Market this holiday season, from November 10th through December 31st, 2023. We should receive them in late January of 2024.



Thank you for all your efforts to make sure our neighbors have food on the table this holiday season. We are so excited to work with Shaw's and Star Market!

Be sure to visit our local Shaw's and Star Market to support their efforts!

On November 15th, Conway Elementary brought over 505 lbs. of food to our Food Pantry this year.

Conway Police Department will do their Cram a Cruiser this year at Market Basket, on December 9, from 10-2. Please support this wonderful Fundraiser they do. Just let them know you are from the "Brown Church".

Ode To Time

"Time waits for no man" so they all say,
We can't take it with us or give it away.
We can't buy or sell it or make it our own.
If we wish, it can keep us in our safe comfort zone.

Time seems to allow us to just stand around.
If we blink, we can lose it ne'er to be found.
But time, if well used, can help us through life,
it can ease all our worries, our stress and our strife.

There's a time to live and a time to die,
there's a time to be happy and a time to cry.
No one has more time than another
it's equally doled to be used as we bother.

Time should be used to the greatest advantage,
it requires our hours and days to be managed.
We must be aware as time races by
we're here for a short time – to live, love and die.

So let's use our time here on God's great earth,
to better this life for all of it's worth.
So, in the end, our victory is won,
our time was used well, a good job was done.

The use of our time is a challenge indeed,
we can waste it away or use it to lead.

Mary Russo

NINE REASONS SMALL CHURCHES THRIVE

1

SMALL CHURCHES ARE PARTICULARLY AUTHENTIC.

2

SMALL CHURCHES STAY CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNITY AROUND THEM.

3

THERE'S ALWAYS TIME FOR "PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE."

4

PEOPLE CAN BUILD GENUINELY LOVING RELATIONSHIPS.

5

LAY LEADERS ARE ACTIVE AND READY TO HELP OUT.

6

SMALL CHURCHES GIVE THE BIGGEST WELCOME.

7

PEOPLE KEEP BELIEVING IN THEIR MINISTRIES, EVEN WITH SMALL NUMBERS.

8

PEOPLE ARE IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER'S SPIRITS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

9

SMALL CHURCHES AREN'T AFRAID TO BREAK THE RULES.

Would you like to help out in the Food Pantry?

Paul and Sylvia are looking for two people to become Coordinators for the Food Pantry starting January 1, 2024 for the second and third weeks of each month. After 15 years, we are looking to step back. Training will be provided. Anyone interested please contact Paul or Sylvia at peweld@gmail.com

Thanks and God Bless
The Welds



Many hands helped fill the 88 turkey dinner bags filled for 44 families in 1 hour! Each family receives 2 bags containing a complete Thanksgiving Dinner. Thank you to everyone for your help! Happy Thanksgiving!



January Newsletter Articles

Due By »
Thank you!



Sundays 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship via Zoom
To access Zoom meeting by Phone
Phone Number: 1 646 558 8656
(for audio only)
Meeting ID: 876 2425 7300
Password: 589150

Join us in person!



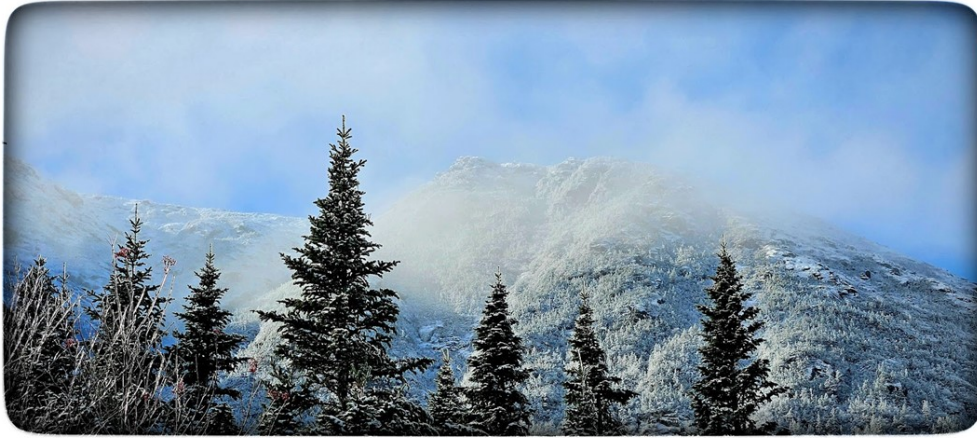
Coffee Fellowship Following Sunday Morning Worship Services

Fellowship time is a great support time. It is wonderful to be able to chat with each other and keep up with what is happening in our busy lives. Coffee fellowship consists of light snacks, such as pastries or cookies and coffee and juice. There is a sign up sheet available if you would like to provide the light snacks for any given Sunday.
Thank you.

Join us for fellowship!



TRUSTEES' MESSAGE



.....And just like that, December is here.

This is a busy month with Stewardship, Advent and planning for the Annual Meeting on January 28th. We are working on the challenging task again this year of how to balance the budget.

In November, instead of the regular Council meeting, we had a Roundtable meeting that included Council members and non-Council members. Thanks to the twenty who gave their time and input.

The next two years are critical in that we cannot continue to take funds out of the endowment to pay the bills. The questions posed to the group were (and we pose to all of you now) "What do you want this church to be personally? for the community? What do you want from a Minister at Brown Church?"

We have not put together a full report of the information we collected, but there were some common themes.

- ◇ The Brown church is friendly and welcoming.
- ◇ We need more people involved in volunteering to support the church missions, community connections and fundraising events.
- ◇ We would like more live music at the church services.
- ◇ We want a minister who can provide full pastoral services to the church family and community, whether full or part time
- ◇ Sermons that relate to and teach the scripture and today's life.
- ◇ Increase building use to support the community.

We will continue to work on this, to share with you all and discuss at the annual meeting. The biggest challenge facing us is how do we continue doing what we do well, improve and expand on it and financially support it. This is not an overnight fix, but we do need to make some decisions now.

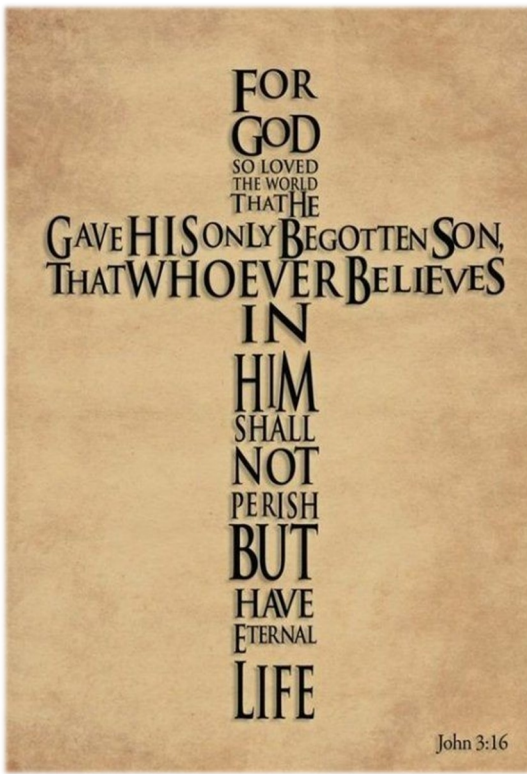
We invite you all to come to the December 2nd event, Christmas Eve day and evening service at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. Mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting on January 28th after church.

TRUSTEE OF THE WEEK

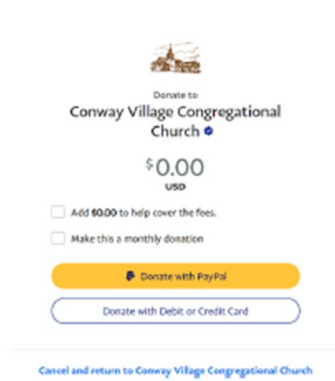
12/3	Duddie Andrews
12/10	John Edgerton
12/17	Nancy Irving
12/24	Anne Getchell
12/31	Nancy Divine

Trustee Board ~ Anne Getchell,
John Edgerton, Duddie Andrews,
Nancy Irving, Nancy Divine, &
Tom Workman, ex officio member,
Treasurer

**TRUSTEE'S
MEETING**
Tuesday,
December 5, 2023
4:30pm



You will soon see Quick Response (QR) codes on church print materials including our bulletins, pew cards, newsletters, and event flyers. QR codes are a type of barcode that is typically linked to a website or an application. A QR code provides easy access to our website when scanned with a mobile device (phone) camera. The two QR codes below are different they both have a small image of our church in the center. The QR code on the left when scanned takes the user to our donation page. The QR code on the right goes to the home page of our website. There are many potential designs and uses for QR codes but these are two that we will be using for now.

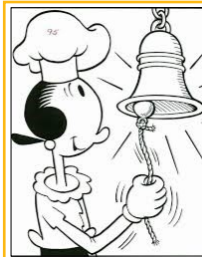


To contact the web/tech team email
cvccwebteam@gmail.com

The primary reason we have decided to begin using these QR codes is to provide an easy way for people to make donations and to learn more about our church. A lot of people no longer carry much cash with them. This has been evident in our plate donations when we have visitors who would have gladly made a donation, or perhaps given a larger donation but were not carrying cash.

In the future we will likely use QR codes for the Capital Campaign or other specifically targeted donations such as to the Food Pantry.

Please visit our website or email us at info@thebrownchurch.org to sign up for our email mailing list. Let us know which types of emails you are interested in, weekly worship, monthly newsletters, special events & volunteer opportunities, website:
thebrownchurch.org



**The Dinner Bell
 Fresh Homestyle Meal
 Everyone is Welcome!!**

**NOV. 6th WE RETURN
 TO WINTER HOURS!**

Mondays 4-5 pm

Free Community Dinner



Call the Church office on Mondays to get the days menu!



603-447-3851 Take Out Only!

These services continue to operate while taking recommended safety precautions and practicing social distancing.

From the Deacon's Bench

I don't know about you but as daylight diminishes I tend to feel things more deeply.

As each day presents itself I try to remind myself that something as simple as a hello, a smile or a phone call, may be the best part of another person's day.

I find the words from the following hymns help to lift me up:

“Christ Be Our Light”

Longing for light, we wait in darkness

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness

Christ, be our light.

and

“Lord, I lift Your Name On High”

Lord I love to sing you praises, I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us

You came from heaven to earth to show us the way.

We sure have a busy month ahead:

Saturday, Dec. 2:

- Hometown Christmas Fair starting at 11am with a Hot Turkey Sandwich Lunch
- MWV Santa (Dan Levigne) will be joining us at 4:30 for Pictures & tree lighting
- Ending the night with Caroling and Hot Chocolate
- All day Craft and baked goods sales, and Pick a Prize

Sunday Services at 10 am

- Dec. 3 Paige will be teaching us the movements for the hymn “Lord, I lift Your Name On High”
- Dec. 3 First Sunday of Advent and Communion
- Dec. 10 Second Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 17 Third Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service at 6 pm

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love always,

Beth

NOTE:

Soon you may notice envelopes with a sticker that says “Diaconate Fund”.

Our expenses include many items: Fellowship supplies, Flowers, Candle oil, Communion supplies, Decorations, All Zoom related expenses, Thinking of You Cards, Sympathy Cards, Get Well Cards and Special music. We appreciate your support.

(If you might be interested in becoming a Deacon, please contact one of the Deacons listed below.)

Diaconate

*Co-Chairs - Louise Saxby & Judy
Workman; Treasurer - Dawn
Vitters; Secretary - Beth Campbell,
and Nancy Divine*

Deaconess of the Month

Beth Campbell

Diaconate Meeting

*December 6, 2023
3:30 pm*

November Worship Service

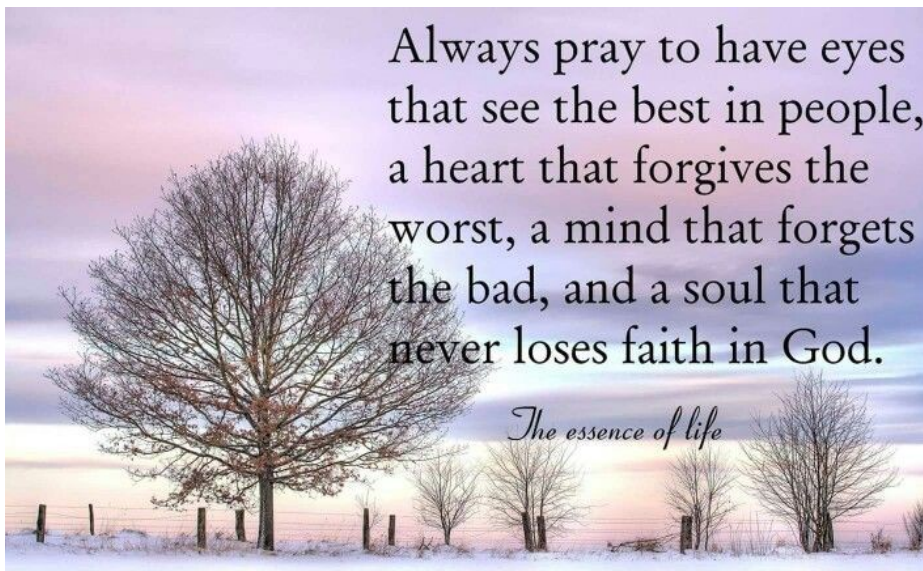
Date	In Church	On Zoom	Children	Special Day/Sermon Title
11/5	32	15	1	Communion Sunday "Being Genuinely Transpar-
11/12	34	14	3	"One Step at a Time"
11/19	35	17	1	"On the Road to Glory"
11/26				"Would You Like to be Chosen People?" Guest Musician: Katherine Rhoda

To add someone to the Prayer List

Please call 603-447-3851 or email info@thebrowncchurch.org
Also, please provide the person's mailing address, so we may send cards. Thank you



- Prayer Requests
- † Cathy Currier
 - † Colleen Albert
 - † Elise Keeney Edgerton
 - † Linda Frechette
 - † Alice Spear
 - † Jill & Curt Reynolds
 - † Tom Steele
 - † Carol Baribeau
 - † Sandy Stowell, Lisa Horne & Family
 - † Mark Weld
 - † Debbie Kelly
 - † Greg Turgeon
 - † Russ Hunter & Family
 - † Paula Burgess
 - † Alexandra Tiresta
 - † The Philippine People & the Philippines
 - † Bonnie Kimball
 - † Pat (Gahagen) Goetzinger
 - † Erin
 - † Roy Andrews
 - † Suzanne & Eddie
 - † Misty
 - † Corey & Family
 - † Marcia Dolley and Family
 - † The People & Nation of Israel
 - † The People of Palestine



December

Birthdays

- 🕯️ **Bernie Plimpton**
- 🕯️ **Prudy Shackford**



Conway Village Congregational Church Mission Statement

"We are a community of faith in Jesus Christ, open to all, and by following His teachings we willingly serve God, our neighbors and each other, through worship, fellowship and ministry."

~Women's Bible Study~
Thursdays, 9:30am

women's
BIBLE STUDY

~ Men's Bible Study ~
Fridays, 9:00am

MEN'S
BIBLE STUDY

Conference Room &/or Sanctuary, also available on Zoom. If you would like to join a group, please contact the Church office at 603-447-3851 or email info@thebrownchurch.org

Conway Village Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
PO Box 333,
132 Main Street
Conway, NH 03818

Email

info@thebrownchurch.org

Website

www.thebrownchurch.org

Phone: 603-447-3851

Rev. John G. Hughes
Minister

Moderator
Carl Vitters

Admin. Asst./Bookkeeper
Melody Bergman

Conway Village Church

The Brown Church

132 Main St Conway, NH 03818 603-447-3851

Apple Crisp

\$35 per pan

Purchase Apple Crisp by the Pan (10"x12")

Our Apple Crisp is a great holiday or any day dessert.

Call or email the church to purchase and arrange a pick-up time
603-447-3851 info@thebrownchurch.org

Your patronage supports our local community outreach

*Call the office to
order your Apple
Crisp before
they're gone!*



CVCC Office Hours

Monday	8:00 am-4:00 pm
Tuesday	8:00 am-4:00 pm
Wednesday	8:00 am-4:00 pm
Thursday	8:00 am-4:00 pm
CLOSED FRIDAYS	

facebook

Email or Phone Password Log In
Forgot account?



Brown Church
Conway Village
@TheBrownChurchConwayNH

Home
Email Signup



Like Share ...

Learn More





Send Message

Our Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/TheBrownChurchConwayNH/> You can find it by searching in Facebook for the "Brown Church Conway NH" If you use Facebook please "LIKE" our Facebook Page by clicking the "Like" button at the top of the page. By liking our page people will see our church and know that we are well liked within the community. You will be notified on your Facebook notifications when we post something new. You in turn, if you choose to, can

share that post on your page, which is very helpful in promoting the church, particularly for promoting our events. Thank you & God Bless





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9 am Men's Bible Study	2 9 am AA Good Morning Group Hometown Christmas Fair & Tree Lighting
3 10 AM Worship First Sunday of Advent	4 Dinner Bell 4-5 pm Take out Only	5 Food Pantry 8:30-12 pm By Appt 4:30pm Trustees	6 3:30pm Diaconate	7 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm AA Big Book	8 9 am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	9 9 am AA Good Morning Group
10 10 AM Worship Second Sunday of Advent	11 Dinner Bell 4-5 pm Take out Only	12 Food Pantry 8:30-12 pm By Appt	13 <i>Tentative</i> Council 4:30pm	14 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm AA Big Book	15 9 am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	16 9 am AA Good Morning Group
17 10 AM Worship Third Sunday of Advent	18 Dinner Bell 4-5 pm Take out Only	19 Food Pantry 8:30-12 pm By Appt	20  Articles Due Today!	21 No Women's Bible Study 7 pm AA Big Book <u>Office Closed @ 2pm</u>	22 9 am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	23 9 am AA Good Morning Group
24 10 AM Worship Fourth Sunday of Advent 6 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 <u>Office Closed</u> <i>Merry Christmas</i>  <i>Jesus is The Reason for The Season</i>	26 Food Pantry 8:30-12 pm By Appt	27	28 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm AA Big Book	29 9 am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	30 9 am AA Good Morning Group
31 10 AM Worship 						



Hello December

Worship Schedule

Advent
Lectionary B

Sunday, December 3, 2023 – 1st Advent

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9
Mark 13:24-37

Sermon: "**Have We Withered Away?**"

Psalm 122

Sunday, December 10, 2023 – 2nd Advent

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

Sermon: "**A Peaceful Message: a Thief and Destruction?**"

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-29

Sunday, December 17, 2023 – 3rd Advent

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon: "**Do You Have a Voice?**"

Psalm 146:5-10

Sunday, December 24, 2023 – 4th Advent

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55
Luke 1:26-38

Sermon: "**My Phone Takes Great Pictures!**"

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-29

Christmas Eve, December 24th – Lessons + Carols 6:00p.m.

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

Meditation: "**Mary Treasured Up and Pondered**"

Psalm 96

Sunday, December 31, 2023 – 1st Sunday after Christmas

Scripture: Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3
Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 2:15-21

Sermon: "TBA" – Charles Monaghan, preaching

Psalm 148