



CHIMES

Winter 2021 Newsletter



DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, November 28

First Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 4

Christmas in Cotuit

Sunday, December 5

*Second Sunday of Advent
and Communion*

Sunday, December 12

*Third Sunday of Advent
Worldwick Candle Lighting-**ONLINE**-
Facebook Live***

Sunday, December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, December 21

Longest Night-7p.m.

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve -4:30p.m. and 8p.m.

Saturday, December 25

Christmas

Sunday, December 26

SERVICE ONLINE ONLY-Facebook Live

Sunday, January 2

SERVICE ONLINE ONLY-Facebook Live

Sunday, January 9

Epiphany Star Sunday

Dear Beloved Community,

Our Advent and Christmas theme this year will be *Close to Home*. Our devotional and worship resources were created by A Sanctified Art. This is how they expressed the theme:

When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. Close to Home acknowledges the "already but not yet" tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God's promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

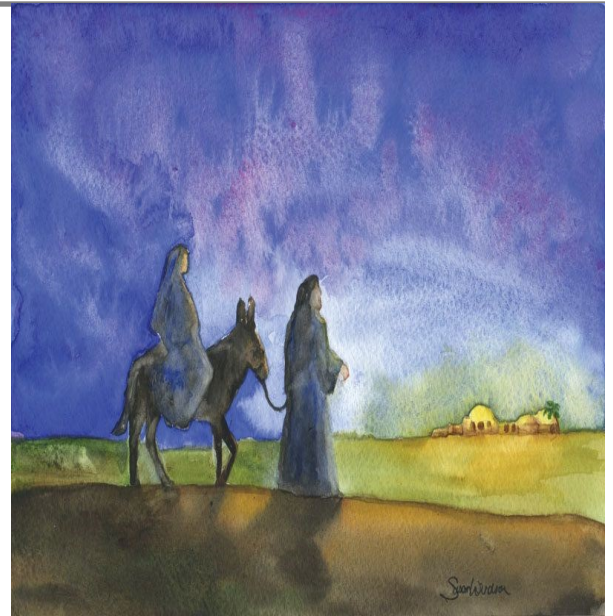
The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich with home metaphors and imagery. After receiving the angel's news, Mary retreats to Elizabeth's home, seeking refuge and safety. Christ is born in the midst of a journey home, in a crowded dwelling space amidst livestock and shepherds alike. The Magi travel far from home to pay homage to Christ, and, having been warned in a dream, they avoid Herod by traveling home another way. In these scriptures, home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth—sacred ground is all around us.

Close to Home also names the pain many of us will carry into this season. The holidays can poke at our grief. Many will be missing loved ones lost to sickness and tragedy. The traumas of the pandemic will still be with us. Many will have

(continued from front)

lost homes—due to natural disasters, economic hardship, and unjust policies. Many do not feel safe in their own homes due to poor living conditions or harmful family dynamics. Many feel alone and isolated at home. Churches are discerning transitions with their physical buildings; many of our spiritual homes are changing.

This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home—wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, and courage.



Contained in this booklet you will find a Photo-A-Day Advent Calendar, where you can be on the lookout for an image that leads us deeper into the theme, in the center of this booklet is a family Advent Calendar with a daily invitation to go deeper, and in Bruce Hall you can pick up a devotional booklet.

The blueprint imagery in these theme materials seemed perfect for our Advent when we enter our Building Expansion Project. May this season closer to home in God.

Repeat the Sounding Joy,

Rev. Angela Menke-Ballou

ADVENT PHOTO-A-DAY

ADVENT 1	ADVENT 2	ADVENT 3	ADVENT 4
11/28 - HOPE	12/5 - PEACE	12/12 - JOY	12/19 - LOVE
11/29 - HOME	12/6 - FOUNDATION	12/13 - PROCLAIM	12/20 - SANCTUARY
11/30 - AWAKE	12/7 - TENDER	12/14 - COURAGE	12/21 - EMERGE
12/1 - RESTORE	12/8 - REMEMBER	12/15 - BELONGING	12/22 - FREEDOM
12/2 - YEARN	12/9 - FAITH	12/16 - REJOICE	12/23 - CHERISH
12/3 - PROMISE	12/10 - BLUEPRINT	12/17 - ABUNDANT	12/24 - EXTRAORDINARY
12/4 - NOURISH	12/11 - SUSTAIN	12/18 - REST	12/25 - GLORY

CLOSE to HOME

#closetohome

#cfcadvent2021

If you would like to schedule a time to meet with Pastor Angie, please contact the Church Office at 508-428-6163 or e-mail cfc436@comcast.net.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS 2021

December 4th:

Christmas in Cotuit

Holiday Baskets 10a.m.-2p.m.

Small Works Art Show 10a.m.-3p.m.

December 21st:

Longest Night Service at 7 p.m.

December 24th:

Christmas Eve Service at 4:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

December 26th & January 2nd:

****Online Service Only-Facebook Live****

January 9th:

Epiphany Star Sunday

Mark your calendars that December 26 & January 2 will be online only. Pastor Angie will be back at the Parsonage to lead worship. We hope that this might give us a chance to avoid the possibility of a post-holiday surge as our staff and members travel to be with families over the holidays.

CHRISTMAS IN COTUIT

Christmas in Cotuit is scheduled for Saturday, December 4th and will include the events which were eliminated last year due to COVID pandemic. Santa will arrive by boat in Cotuit Bay.

For a full schedule and list of events please refer to the Cotuit-Santuit Civic Association website:
cotuitcivicasociation.org

We look forward to celebrating with the
Community for Christmas 2021!



ALL CHURCH BUDGET MEETING:

Sunday, December 5 after the 10 a.m. service. Please join us for an All-Church Budget Meeting presented by our Treasurer, Ellen Wakefield and the Admin. Team.

Zoom link will be available in the Weekly Word for those who cannot attend in person.

YOUR GIFTS

providing Gifts for Others

It is always fun to wake up on Christmas morning to gifts under the tree. But for many teens, they will wake up to no gifts. **Teens Love Christmas Too** is a program run by our local Salvation Army to make sure there are gifts for our local teens. This year, we are collecting gift cards to be given to the Hyannis Salvation Army to distribute to the families of teenagers. You determine the amount to put on the card and then bring your cards to the Church Office on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1-2 p.m. each week up to **December 1** and put them on the designated table in Bruce Hall. They will then be delivered to the Salvation Army to distribute to the families.

Merry Christmas!

ALL DROP OFFS—Tuesdays and Thursday 1-2 p.m.



Examples of the types of gift cards are: Amazon, Best Buy, Bath & Body Works, iTunes, Olympia, Dick's Sporting Goods, Dunkin', Starbucks, Target, Walmart, Barnes & Noble, Old Navy, Kohls, Ryan's Family Amusement, Game Stop, Cape Cod Mall, Restaurants, and clothing stores.

HOLIDAY MEAL BASKETS:

In partnership with the Cotuit Fire Department, our church will be providing **Christmas meals** to families in our community. The Fire Department will provide the hams, and we will get all the fixings. Please bring in your non-perishable items to the church on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-2 p.m. and put them on the designated table in Bruce Hall. Suggested items but not limited to are canned vegetables, fruit, soups, mac and cheese, boxed potatoes, rice, and any food item that goes with ham. Other items such as canned tuna, peanut butter, cereals, shelf stable milk, etc. are so appreciated to add to the food bags. Please bring your food to Bruce hall no later than **December 17th**. We will be packing the food bags and delivering (non-contact) the Christmas meals on Saturday, December 19.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Every two months, Cotuit Federated Church holds a Blood Drive for Cape Cod Healthcare. Your giving can provide life-saving support to a person in need here on Cape Cod! The following are the 2021 Blood Drives held on Mondays — **January 25, March 22, May 24, July 26, September 27, and November 22**. The hours are usually 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. More details will be provided in the *Weekly Word* e-mail sent on Fridays.

www.capecodhealth.org/give-blood

BUILDING EXPANSION UPDATE

Our Building Expansion Project is underway. On October 17, we had our Ground Breaking Ceremony. People in our community from 3 to 97 were able to don a hardhat and move some of the earth to make way for our new holy space.

After a pause in getting some of our final permits, the High Street garage was taken down, and some trees will be coming down and then fences going up as we lay the foundation for the build.

We are overwhelmed by your support of this project.

We are already at over 3 million toward our goal of 3.9 million for the entire project. Dick Whitman and Lynne Belfiore increased their pledge by \$5,000 and said if ten others increased their pledge or gave a new pledge of \$5,000 or over, then they would give an additional \$5,000. With a promise from another family to donate in the new calendar year, we are half way there. If you can help us meet this pledge that will move us farther toward our goal.

- Bricks are also available for purchase.
- These are \$250 per brick
- Christmas special of \$1000 for 5 bricks.

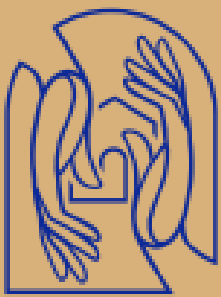
Purchasing these now would allow your bricks to be read to be installed as the building is constructed rather than being added at a later date.

Another milestone for our project is that in September we burned the mortgage for the Post Office, this frees some additional funds for the construction project and increased costs of the new building.

In the coming month, we will be flexible about how and where we are meeting. We have been assured that we will be in the sanctuary through Christmas, but we may have to change entrance doors. We will be communicating through the Weekly Word important changes.

We are so deeply grateful for each of you and your generosity and commitment to this project. Look at what is possible with God!





CLOSE to
HOME

ADVENT calendar

We encourage you to place this poster on your refrigerator. Each day, move a magnet to the next place on the calendar and complete the daily prompt together as a family.

2

Set up a stable for your nativity scene.

14

Make placemats for your family.

9

Add animals to your nativity scene.

18

Help your family clean or decorate for Christmas.

23

Add Mary and Joseph to your nativity scene.

22

Hug someone who makes you feel safe.

4

Help your family do the laundry.

16

Add shepherds to your nativity scene.

11

Help your family cook dinner or set the table.

25

Christmas Day!
Celebrate Christmas!
Add baby Jesus to your nativity scene.

21

Take a walk to look at the Christmas lights.

5

Make a Christmas to-do list—include fun things!

7

Describe a hope
you have for
the future.

3

Call or write to
someone you love
who lives far away.

10

Pray for people
experiencing
homelessness.

20

Build a fort.
How many
people can
you fit?

17

Gather canned
goods to take to
the food pantry.

13

Look for a chance
to share today.

15

Sort through your
belongings for things
to donate.

8

Draw a map
of your home.

6

Build a home for
your favorite toy.

12

Go stargazing
tonight. What do
you wish for?

24

Christmas Eve!
Invite a friend to
come to church
with you.

1

Name five things you
miss about home
when you're away.

19

Visit an animal shelter and
ask how you can help.





**Christmas Pageant on
Sunday, December 19 (in person)
AND
December 26 (*online service only*)**

EPIPHANY 'STAR' SUNDAY

**Mark your
calendars to join
us
on Sunday,
January 9th**

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School classes began, outdoors on the playground, in September. Classes have moved inside to Bruce Hall, with windows open and masks on. Families and children have been very flexible!

The Christmas Pageant will be two-part: December 19 in person during worship and December 26 during online worship. Children will be participating in either or both, as families choose. There is no Church School on December 26 and January 2. Worship will be online.

At some point during construction of the new building Church School will be remote on Zoom. I will notify families, in advance, as soon as possible, before those Sundays.

There will be no Vacation Bible School this summer. Unknowns influenced this decision: potential pandemic restrictions and available space in July, as well as the construction process. VBS will return in 2023.

Thank you to you all for your flexibility as we continue to navigate through the current times. Channel your inner Gumby!



Blessings,
Lynne Belfiore
Director of Christian Education

The Longest Night

A SERVICE OF LIGHT IN
THE MIDST OF DARKNESS

Our Longest Night Service is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 21st at 7p.m.** This will be a service that honors Christmas as a difficult season for those who have experienced loss of loved ones, work, and/or relationships during the past year. This quiet service will allow us to rest in God's presence and to bring our grief and longing, our pain and prayer, to our Savior. Join us for this time of healing and remembering, of lighting candles to remind us that God's light shines in our darkest hour and our longest night.

Hosted by Hearts Hope Healing

In Conjunction with  **The Compassionate Friends**
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Sunday, December 12th (*ONLINE ONLY)*



Light a candle for all
children who have died

**Worldwide
Candle
Lighting®**

... that their light
may always shine.

COTUIT NURSERY SCHOOL

providing early education

Hello from Cotuit Nursery School. We are happy to back in school this fall with reduced COVID protocols. Our students, teachers and parents are all still masked, but parents/guardians are now allowed into our classroom space. That is a welcome change!

Our class sizes are small this year although capacity is not limited by the Department of Early Education and Care as it was last school year due to the pandemic. We will have a couple more students join us in January and registration remains open to new students. So, spread the word!!

The State of Massachusetts has awarded Stabilization Grants using funds from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act to licensed pre-school programs to help with operating costs and to offset the loss of revenue due to mandated lower enrollment due to COVID. We are thrilled to accept a 5 month grant that may possibly be extended into 2022. This money has helped Cotuit Nursery School cover payroll expenses, rent and supplies for the students and will hopefully keep us out of the red financially for 2021.

Our fundraisers are still virtual this fall and they are included in the Weekly Word, the bulletin and the bulletin board in the church hallway. You can also find information on our Facebook page. Feel free to participate!

Cotuit Nursery School is thankful that we are able to continue to provide such a fun, educational and important service to the children and families in our program. Thank you for your support!!



Cotuit Nursery School

PO Box 1671, 40 School Street, Cotuit MA 02649

Phone: 508-428-1470

e-mail: cotuitnurseryschool@yahoo.com



OUR VISION

Because of our shared commitment to follow Jesus Christ, we envision a community of faith that not only honors who we are but who we are called to be with God. In that spirit, we covenant to be helpful to each other, assuming the best of one another.

We desire to have our spirits expanded so that we are ready to discover who we are in God. We seek fellowship with one another because of the joy found when we are truly known.

We eagerly nurture compassionate hearts, grateful spirits and a readiness to embrace what God puts before us. We work to be loving and open, in the hope that what God imagines for us will be realized.

We aim in all things to be devoted to the mission of being Christ's hands in the Church, the community and the world.

MUSIC

Although I loved having worship outside, I am happy that we've moved back into the sanctuary. I'm sure the people that sat near me outside will miss me frantically trying to turn pages in the wind, though. It has been a joy to have choir and bell choir rehearsals. The choir will only be singing once a month and we will continue to have special music on the other Sundays, so if you're interested, please let me know! Hand bell choir will be playing in December and then taking a break until we determine what is happening with all of our spaces. We are SO excited to have a dedicated rehearsal space. But we have been working hard on new techniques and are excited to show them in our December offering on the 12th. Please let me know if you are interested in singing in the choir or have an idea for special music.

Megan Anthony, Director of Music



PASTOR ANGIE'S 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

~ Philippians 1:3-5

As I pause to reflect on ten years of ministry at CFC, I am lifting up a prayer for you and yours. Serving this congregation is a complete and humbling joy for me. I am thankful that we have the opportunity to serve God together. You are in my prayers with gratitude.

Many Blessings,

CHRISTMAS TRIBUTES

Gifts may be made in honor or in memory of loved ones, and dedications will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY and return this slip to the Church Office.

OPTION 1— Poinsettias: Cotuit Federated Church traditionally decorates for Christmas celebrations with holiday poinsettias. Donations of \$15 to the Holiday Flower Fund are appreciated.

OPTION 2— Afghan Project: This donation will go to Neighborhood Support Team-Cape Cod (NST-Cape Cod) to help sponsor the three families from Afghanistan. The family will likely be placed in Falmouth. This gives us a chance to support a refugee family as we remember that Joseph, Mary, and Jesus fled from Bethlehem to Egypt to escape the danger that they faced by King Herod. A donation of \$50 (or an amount of your choice) would go a long way to support this work.

Indicate which Option:

☐ Option 1—Flower Fund

☐ Option 2—Church World Service

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Your Name: _____

Phone: _____

Mail form and payment to: CFC, P.O. Box 436, Cotuit MA 02635

Checks payable to Cotuit Federated Church.

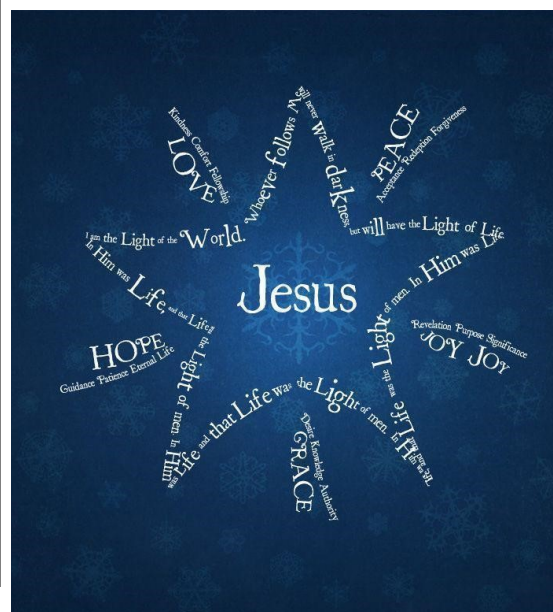
The deadline to order is December 17th.

Work of Christmas Begins

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back
with the flocks,
then the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal those broken in spirit,
to feed the hungry,
to release the oppressed,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among all peoples,
to make a little music with the heart...
And to radiate the Light of Christ,
every day, in every way,
in all that we do and in all that we say.
Then the work of Christmas begins.*

-- Howard Thurman, adapted

Source: <https://www.godweb.org/christmasprayers.htm>





Bless this house! May it be every day changed by Your love, Jesus. Keep our homes safe. Protect our dwellings from all that could cause it harm. Let our houses be safe places to restore what has been lost and welcome mats for those who need Your love. We ask for a legacy of love that drifts down into the furthest generations of our family and the family of all that walk through our door. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Join us for Christmas Eve services at 4:30 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Wishing you and your loved ones much joy!



COTUIT FEDERATED CHURCH

40 School Street • Post Office Box 436 • Cotuit, MA 02635

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

No matter
who you are
or where you
are on
life's journey,
you are
welcome
here.