

CALENDAR			
MONDAY, December 22		FRIDAY, December 26	
Church Office	9:00-1:00	Church Office	CLOSED
Chair Yoga (Hall)	9:30-10:30	AA	7:00
AA (Hall)	6:30-7:30		
TUESDAY, December 23		SATURDAY, December 27	
Church Office	9:00-1:00		
Miracle Kitchen	10:00		
WEDNESDAY, December 24		SUNDAY, December 28	
Church Office	CLOSED	First Sunday After Christmas	
Christmas Eve Worship	4:30		
Pot Luck	6:00	Worship	10:00
Christmas Eve Worship	7:30	Coffee Hour	11:15
THURSDAY, December 25			
Christmas Day			
Church Office	CLOSED		



CHRISTMAS EVE
 4:30pm Family Service
 5:45pm Potluck Dinner
 7:30pm Service with
 Candlelit Communion




GOOD NEWS IS LOUDER THAN FEAR



Fourth Sunday Of Advent

Sunday, December 21, 2025 | 10 o'clock in the morning

40 School Street | Post Office Box 436 | Cotuit, MA 02635
www.cotuitfederatedchurch.org | 508-428-6163

Bulletin Cover:
Sanctified Art -- In Too Deep
by Nic Faison

My inaugural contribution to A Sanctified Art in 2023 focused on the relationship between Mary and Elizabeth. After having a challenging pregnancy, I used my art to explore the divine connections of people who carry pregnancies. But even after reading these pregnancy stories time and again, I have struggled to sit with Joseph and how he processes all of this change. Somehow life is always in alignment with the text, and now, as I process a divorce, I think of what it would feel like for someone else to try to fit into my established family system.

This made me think of a Joseph who can't sleep well at night, as his mind is uneasy with the words of Gabriel in his ear. I wanted Joseph to have an uncomfortable sleep form with a clenched fist that shows us he is tense even while he dreams. His foot is raised up in a way that looks almost as if he could pop up at any moment. His hair, while luxurious, has flowy movement to it, leaning into the uneasiness. I don't think Joseph's role needs to be a cornerstone for the birth story; however, as my own life changes, I can appreciate the importance of his devotion and obedience to God.

In the artwork, the angel Gabriel is talking to Joseph as he sleeps, with silver locs reminiscent of God from the children's book I illustrated, God's Holy Darkness. This is a nod to my own work, which honors holiness as brown, coarse textured, and wise.

GUEST INFORMATION: Thank you for worshipping with us today! Pick up a welcome brochure to learn more about our church. Join us for coffee hour following today's worship — just follow the crowd to our community room (Hamilton Hall). Both our sanctuary and community room are handicapped-accessible at the High Street entrance. Handicapped parking is available on High Street and in the driveway to Hamilton Hall. Please ask a Greeter or Deacon to answer any questions.

FELLOWSHIP PADS: Whenever you have questions or comments, feel free to note them in the red fellowship pads available at each pew. Everyone — guests and regular attenders alike — are asked to sign the fellowship pads when passed during the Offering. If you are a first time visitor, please include your email or physical mailing address.

PRAYER CARDS: You will find prayer request cards at the Welcome Center and in the pew racks. You are invited to fill out a card and place it in the offering basket. If you want your request included in next Sunday's bulletin, please check the appropriate box.

OUR E-LIST: The "Weekly Word" is an e-mail newsletter for our members and friends. If you do not receive it and would like to, please complete the New Comer form available in the Welcome Packet, or call the Church Office at (508) 428-6163 or e-mail cfc436@gmail.com to sign up.

ALTAR FLOWERS: If you would like to donate flowers on any given Sunday, please sign up on the Sign-Up Sheet or contact Shannon in the office—(508) 428-6163— with your dedication.

*Please join us today for coffee and refreshments
following the service.*

TODAY'S SERVERS

Ministers: *The People of Cotuit Federated Church*
Pastor: *Rev. Angela Menke Ballou* | Community Minister: *Rev. Daniel Smith*
Director of Music: *Megan Anthony*
Deacon: *Carol-Jean O'Toole* | Worship Steward: *Cindy Kenna & Susan Shepherd*
Lay Reader: *Chris Lynch* | Greeters: *Kate Christian & Susan Cochrane*
Director of Christian Education: *Lynne Belfiore*
Admin. Assistant for Ministry: *Shannon Boon*

Thank you to all those who serve!

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

- Worship
- Coffee Hour



***Prayer of Dedication**

***CLOSING HYMN**

The United Methodist Hymnal #248

Please join in singing.

On This Day The Earth Shall Ring

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please join us in Hamilton Hall for a coffee hour!



WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Let the Fires of Justice Grow

HYFRYDOL ("Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus")

*Fear is growing all around us, planted there by human power
Choking out our liberation as King Herod o'er us towers
Yet the force of human empires can't take root in kin-dom ground
We'll uproot the fear they planted, liberate those whom they bound*

*Anywhere God's children suffer, anywhere they live in fear
Anywhere oppression deepens, anywhere they sow in tears
Let us shine the light of justice, fueled by fear that had us bound
Hand in hand, proclaim God's kin-dom 'til we topple every crown*

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Passing of the Peace is the oldest part of the Christian liturgy and is a special way we welcome each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. You are invited to greet members with a handshake or hug, or contactless through hands over your heart, waving or giving the sign of the peace.

***CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION**

Chris Lynch

One: Here in worship—

All: we pray together,

One: we stand together,

All: we sing together,

One: we listen together.

**All: Here in worship—
we are not alone.**

One: So when life gives you reason to grieve, to fear, or to worry,
remember this moment.

All: We are not alone.

One: Let us worship our with-us God.

***OPENING HYMN**

Please join in singing.

UMC #245

**The First Noel
(V 1, 2, 4)**

Gathering of the Prayers

Lord's Prayer

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive
us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass
against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver
us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.*

Prayer in Song:

*Give me birds at the dawning, birds at the dawning,
birds at the dawning to sing my soul awake
Give me love in the waiting, love in the waiting,
love in the waiting to sing my soul awake.*

OFFERTORY

Invitation To Offering

Offertory

***Doxology:**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God, above, ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Chris Lynch

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 1: 18–25

Rev. Daniel Smith

SERMON

Rev. Daniel Smith

Lord Baby Jesus

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Daniel Smith

Prayer in Song:

*Give me birds at the dawning, birds at the dawning,
birds at the dawning to sing my soul awake
Give me love in the waiting, love in the waiting,
love in the waiting to sing my soul awake.*

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

Steve Hampton & Scott Kwart

One: In a world full of fear, where do we see Love? ...

An Advent Story of Love in the Midst of Fear

One: In a world full of fear, where do you see
the presence of love?

**All: We see love all around us. We see love when
people hold open the door. We see love in a
warm embrace, a homemade casserole,
a phone call after a long day. We see love in
random acts of kindness and intentional
acts of empathy. We see love all around us.**

One: You are right. Even in a fearful world,
love is all around us.
Today we light the candle of love as a
reminder of this good news.

(Candle is lit.)

May this flicker of light help us remember
that even in a fearful world, love is here.
Love is world-changing.
Love is shining bright.
We only have to look for it.

**All: Thanks be to God for a love like that!
Amen.**

CHORAL ANTHEM

CFC Choir

Joseph's Song

Lloyd Larson

Scene 2: Mary and Joseph

Carol: O, Little Town of Bethlehem v 1-2 (UMC #230)

Scene 3: Angels Appear

Carol: Angels We Have Heard on High v 1 –2 (UMC #238)

THE CFC CHURCH SCHOOL CHILDREN PRESENT

"Fear Not!"

Aubrey Flynn: Narrator

Jamison Ballou: Narrator

Mac Field: Zechariah

Juni Bianco: Elizabeth, Angel 2

Clara Flynn: Mary

Brandon Low: Joseph

Elliot Nurse: Angel 3

Maddie MacDonald: Angel 1

Lukas Lemonius: Caesar Augustus,

Shepherd 2

Serafina Mecca: Shepherd 1

Griffen MacDonald: Star

Cast:

Scene 1: Who is Afraid?

Carol: Mary Did You Know?

Scene 4: Shepherds

*Carol: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night v 1-2
(UMC #236)*

Scene 5: A Star Appears

Scene 6: the Rest of the Story

Carol: Joy to the World v 1-2 (UMC #246)

THE END