



First Congregational Church
"Old South Church"
United Church of Christ

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Find us on Facebook at:
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Congregational Church

Find us on the web at:
www.FarmingtonUCC.org

Telstar, December 2019 and January 2020

Rev. Marrison's Musings

Our stewardship campaign theme this year is "All In" to promote our overall involvement and commitment to Old South Church. We have dedicated time to discuss "in" words that relate to our relationship with the church. Many of you have spoken about how your involvement in the church inspires you. You invest your time, talent, and treasure into Old South. We invoke the spirit in our worship. You invite others into the fold of our community. Your input into the mission and ministry of this church matters.

As we turn our calendars to December, we step directly into the season of Advent. We begin our preparations for the birth of Jesus. Advent is meant to be an interruption, a pause, in our routines as we await the incarnation of God through Jesus. It can't be pushed. It can't be induced. The incubation of ideas and babies requires time.

So let us enter into the season of Advent with intent. Let us incline our ears to the prophets and angels who tell their stories. Let us absorb the influx of goodwill and great blessings. Know that above all else there is a place for you at the Inn.

Blessings,
--Rev. Marrison Kettell

Executive Council

Minister: Rev. Marrison Kettell	Clerk: Shannon Munro
Moderator: Chris Magri	Financial Secretary & Fundraising: Brenda Scribner
Treasurer: Amanda Adams	Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Jodie Gunther
Chair, Christian Ed: Arin Hilton	Chair, Outreach, Justice & Witness: Randy Oakley
Chair, Diaconate: Shelley Griffith	Chair, Financial Trustees: Marilyn Hylan
Chair, Property Trustees: Daniel Bachelder	
Member at Large: Robin Beck	Member at Large: Wendy Huish

December Deacon of the Month: Roger Condit
January Deacon of the Month: Mary Sinclair

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

Would you like to meet with Rev. Marraine? She is in the office regularly. Sometimes her beloved canine friend, Rusty, is here with her too. If you have dog allergies or prefer not to come to office when dogs are present, please let us know. If you would like to schedule a time to meet with Rev. Marraine (with or without Rusty!) please contact her at RevMarraine@FarmingtonUCC.org. Rev. Marraine's regular days off are Friday and Saturday.



The Church Office is generally open Tuesday through Thursday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. In December, there will be changes to this schedule:

- The office will be open Monday, Dec. 9, 8-4:30 pm; and Tuesday, Dec. 10, 8-Noon; and closed the remainder of the week (Phyllis will be visiting her parents for her mom's 85 birthday).
- The office will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 17, and open Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 18 and 19, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.
- The office will be open Monday, Dec. 23, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Phyllis will be in the office other times during this week but there will be no set schedule.
- The office will be open Monday, Dec. 30, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Phyllis will be in the office at other times this week too but there will be no set schedule.



Calling New Members!

If you are interested in learning more about membership at Old South Church or if you have made the decision that you would like to join, we want to hear from you! Please contact Rev. Marraine (RevMarraine@FarmingtonUCC.org or 778-0424) to schedule a time to meet with her. All new members meet with the minister prior to joining. This provides a time to for you to ask questions, learn more about what is involved in membership, and also allows us to communicate important information to you too. New Member Sunday is February 2, 2020.



From the Moderator

With Telstar about to take a one-month vacation, it occurs to me that we'll be starting *two* New Years during the next two months. The first is the new liturgical year, leading off with Advent. Now I have to confess I've never been very good at Advent, never been much for quietly pondering the darkness in life and waiting for light to arrive in the world. Partly this is because I'm not very good at "quiet" or "pondering" but partly it's because December has always been a month I survive rather than relish – something to do with final exams and both children's birthdays and a major holiday and an annual post-holiday family visit to New York. There's not enough eggnog in the world to make all of that go down easily.

Then there's the new calendar year, leading off with the day for making resolutions. However, I stopped making resolutions some time ago, a stance that represents realism or cynicism depending on your viewpoint. Let's just say I'm not especially good at following through on well-intentioned self-improvement goals. Your mileage may differ.

All the same I feel that this year it's good to reach stopping points where we can look back one more time and then continue forward. It's been an eventful year, certainly for me personally and I think for Old South as well. Not all of the events have been happy ones, so I think Advent may be particularly meaningful this December. We can acknowledge the darkness without succumbing to it. There are certainly things to hope for: big things, like finding a tenant for the Holman House or figuring out how to replace the church roof; or small things, like getting to sing my favorite hymn that just happens to be an Advent hymn. As for January 1, the transition from Father Time to Baby New Year reminds me that there is no end without a beginning, that fresh starts are always possible, that resurrection happens. Whether or not any of us start spending more time on that exercise bike, we can always rededicate ourselves to serving our church and serving God's people.

May we all find hope, peace, and ultimately joy in the months ahead.

Chris Magri

News and Upcoming Events

December Meetings

Executive Council: Thursday, Dec. 5, 6:00 pm in the Church Office

Deacons: Sunday, December 8, 11:00 am in Matthew Room

Financial Trustees: Tuesday, December 10, 5:30 pm in the Church Office

Outreach, Justice, Witness: Tuesday, December 10, 6:30 pm in the Matthew Room

Property Trustees: Tuesday, December 17, 6:00 pm in the Church Office

Christian Ed: To Be Determined

January Meetings

Executive Council: Thursday, January 2, 6:00 pm in the Church Office

Deacons: Sunday, January 12, 11:00 am in Matthew Room

Financial Trustees: Tuesday, January 14, 5:30 pm in the Church Office

Outreach, Justice, Witness: Tuesday, January 14, 6:30 pm in the Matthew Room

Property Trustees: Tuesday, January 21, 6:00 pm in the Church Office

Christian Ed: To Be Determined

The December Retirees Lunch will be held at Noon in the Vestry on Monday, Dec. 2. The January meal will be on Monday, Jan. 6. Please bring a dish to share and join the Dick and Lynda Giard for this monthly gathering. If you are a retiree and would like to know more about this meal, please contact Dick at dickgiard@msn.com





2020 Scheduled Concerts:

Sunday, March 1st: HighTime returns to Old South from Connemara, Ireland with their breathtaking energy and passion for music, song and dance. For more information about the band visit www.hightime.ie

Monday, March 9th: Realta from Belfast, Ireland makes their debut at Old South. For more information about this Belfast based band visit www.realtamusic.com

Stay tuned to Telstar, bulletins, and your weekly emails to learn more about these concerts. Both concerts doors open at 6 pm. Jam session kicks off at 6:15. Concert follows at 7pm. Admission Adults \$15 and students \$5-\$10. Reserve tickets by calling or texting Debbie Davis Robinson at 207-491-5919, or email her at: oldsouthchurchconcerts@gmail.com.



Women's Retreat 2020

We are looking forward to the 2020 Women's Retreat which will be August 29-31. It's not too early to "save the date" and start making payments (If you want to start paying monthly in January, the deposit is \$40 and you would pay \$29.28 per month, February through August OR start now and lower the monthly cost!). The retreat is \$245 for 2 nights and 6 meals, a private room, and lots of fun and spiritual re-kindling. Save your space today, with a \$40 deposit or begin your payment plan today! Confidential scholarships are available. Please see Phyllis in the church office to learn more about payment plans and scholarship.



Armchair Travel

For the winter months, our Matthew Room Photo Wall will feature photos of our travels so that we can “get away” vicariously. Thanks to our smartphone and digital technology, lots more of us are snapping photos of our travels in and/or out of state. Do you have some photos you love that fall in this category? Scenery, some unusual object or activity, animals, skies.....you name it. The only stipulation is that any face(s) in the photo not be recognizable to Old South viewers.

The Matthew Room Photo Wall is not a photo contest in any way, but an opportunity to share a bit of ourselves through our photographs. Each photo is identified by photographer and title of the photo.

You may wonder how to print the 8 x 12 photo needed for the existing frames. Smartphone photos are designed to print that dimension. Walmart photo printers will print out your 8 x 12 photos for \$2.87, in one hour, and about \$4.75 instantly. Ask for assistance at the counter of their photo center.

If you would like help in choosing a photo(s) from your collection, or have any questions, please contact Karyl at krcondit2@gmail.com, or 778-3722. In general, the less “busy” the photo is, the more easily viewed on the wall. More than one photo may be submitted at a time and displayed as space allows.

We would like the photos to display in January 2020. We need twelve photos to display. We hope you Old South photographers keep the Photo Wall in mind with your picture taking!

Mission and Outreach

Outreach, Justice and Witness will be meeting in the Matthew Room at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays, December 10 and January 14. This is an open ministry with no fixed membership, and we encourage you to stop in, see what plans are in action and help us to serve God’s people both locally and globally.



Fair Trade and Heifer International Alternative Gift Giving

Join Outreach, Justice, and Witness for the annual Heifer International Gift and fair-trade coffee and chocolate sale day on Sundays, December 8 and 15, immediately following worship. We will be selling Palestinian made Olive Oil, Hot Cocoa Mix, coffee and chocolate bars as well as Heifer gifts to people in parts of the world where hunger and poverty are the norm. You will be able to make contributions to Heifer International in honor of loved ones for alternative gift giving.



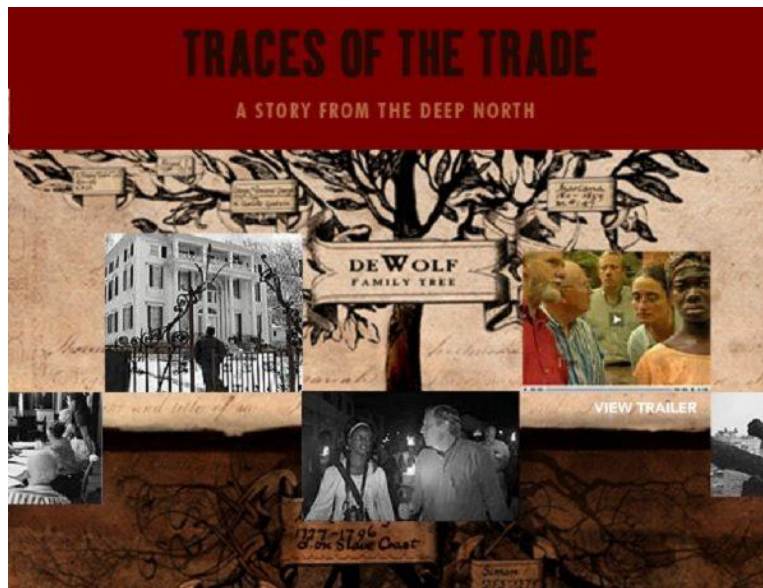
EcuHeat Benefit Concert December 12

Please join us on Thursday, December 12, for the annual FAEM EcuHeat benefit concert with COIG. Proceeds from this event will be donated to the fuel fund to provide heating assistance to our local area. Doors open at 6 pm with a jam session kicking off at 6:15 and concert to follow at 7 pm Admission: Adults \$20, Students \$10/\$5. Reservations are recommended by calling or texting Debbie Davis Robinson at 207-491-5919. Volunteers and refreshments are needed for this event. Please contact Debbie Davis-Robinson 491-5919, Brenda Scribner 299-3686, Hallie Yorks 778-0111 or stop by the Fundraising Table during coffee hour.



The Care and Share Food Closet Item of the Month for December is toilet paper. Donations may be dropped off at the church and we will deliver them to Care & Share. Your donations of canned goods and toiletries are also welcome!

Would you like to volunteer at the Food Pantry? To learn more, please contact Therese Hersey at 778-0586.



MOVIE NIGHT with Outreach, Justice, and Witness: *TRACES OF THE TRADE*

Please join Outreach, Justice, Witness on Tuesday, January 28, at 6:30 pm in the Newman Wing Chapel for a viewing of this 2008 documentary film as we recognize the 400th anniversary of slave trade in America. The film follows a New England family's confrontation of their history after discovering that they are descendants of one of the largest slave trade dynasties in the country. Discussion to follow.



Coat & Cupboard

We are accepting your donations of gently used, clean coats, blankets, and boots for distribution at Coat & Cupboard. Donation boxes are located by most entrances to the church building or may be brought to the church office during office hours. Thank you for your donations to this youth ministry.

Support Needed for OSC Knitting/Crocheting Ministries

You probably already know about the Old South Prayer Shawl Ministry. Did you know that there are also some among us who knit or crochet scarves, mittens, hats, etc., to give to Coat and Cupboard? Donations of yarn to support these ministries are greatly appreciated. This is a great way to clean out your or a friend's "stash"; we accept clean, odor-free yarns. Monetary gifts, for yarn and supplies, may be made to Old South Church (designated for Prayer Shawl Ministry).

For more information, including shawl guidelines and patterns, contact Myrna Vallette at 778-4387 or myrna.vallette@gmail.com. Please see Rev. Marraine, Phyllis Pederson, or Myrna Vallette to request a shawl.



Warm little
heads and
little hearts



Medical Equipment Ministry

This ministry is a very well utilized program in our wider community. It is very gratifying to help people with their needs and allow them to avoid the cost of expensive medical equipment. If you would like to take a turn overseeing the medical equipment ministry, shifts are approximately 2 ½ weeks long (beginning of the month to mid-month and mid-month to the end), please contact Randy Oakley at:

roakley@roadrunner.com

Thank you!



For the November Community Luncheon we served 160 meals of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, and peas. And we had cake and ice cream for dessert. We had lots of good comments from the folks about how good the meal was, and how appreciative they are that we are doing this ministry. This is especially true now that the weather has gotten colder.

Our December meal will be held on December 14th, and the menu will be roast pork loin with gravy, rice pilaf, green beans and cake (with ice cream for those who eat with us in the Vestry). We will again this year be treated to a very special musical presentation by the Mt. Blue High School Chamber Singers, accompanied by our very own Patricia Hayden. This is always a special treat and we encourage you to come enjoy good food, good fellowship, and good music.

The January Community Lunch will be served on Saturday, January 11. Watch for details in your weekly emails and bulletins!

Stan Wheeler

Rocell Marcellino, Co-Chairs



The Warming Center, a ministry of Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry

From January 9th until February 27th our Warming Center will be welcoming the Farmington area community every Thursday from 10-2.... offering coffee and snacks in the morning and a soup lunch at noon. Puzzles, cards, conversation, and new friends all make the Warming Center a delightful place to spend time during the cold months. This year we are also offering a variety of art projects for our guests at our art table at 10:30 in the morning

Not only is the Farmington area invited to our Warming Center, our Old South family is also welcome. Many of us have been on our team helping to run the Warming Center for over ten years. It would be wonderful to have more of our church family join us whether it be for lunch, to come and chat with our guests, to join the art table or to volunteer to be a worker during our scheduled day...We have five different jobs: greeters, listeners, servers....and making soup and baked goods. If you are interest in volunteering, please contact Betsy Riley at 207-491-9814.

If you want to come and spend some time with us, come any Thursday that we are open. You are more than welcome.



Congregational Care Training

The Pastoral Care Team is hoping to expand its care network. The Pastoral Care Team was established several years ago when Rev. Cathie Wallace offered the Called to Care training from the United Church of Christ at Old South. The goal of training is to equip people with tools to allow for a broader depth of care for the congregation and to open the ministry of care to more individuals in order to be more responsive and nurturing to the pastoral care needs of the congregation. Rev. Marraine has led Called to Care training also and is happy to offer it at Old South. A very short initial information session of 10-15 minutes will be held after worship on January 12th in the Matthew Room prior to the Deacons Meeting. Classes will meet on Saturday mornings: January 25th, February 1st, and February 15th from 9am-12pm. Classes build upon each other so all sessions must be attended if you plan to participate in this group. If you are feeling called to a ministry of care, please join us!

Music and Worship

Old South Vesper Services

Please join us in the Matthew Room on Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, and 18, for midweek evening services led by Rev. Marraine Kettell. The services will begin at 5:15 pm with gathering music beginning earlier. Acoustic music with Shepherd's Pie, readings, and prayer will be a part of each service. All are welcome.



★ **THE CHRISTMAS FUND** for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is blessed each year by members, friends, and congregations of the United Church of Christ that give in support of this ministry. We are grateful for every single gift that is given. Because of these gifts, the Pension Boards is able to give direct financial assistance to UCC clergy and lay church employees who are struggling to make ends meet in retirement or are facing an urgent situation that demands resources they don't have. The Christmas Fund offering is one of the four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ. We will receive this special United Church of Christ mission offering at Old South on Sunday, Dec. 15.

Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry Service of Compassion and Hope

The Service of Compassion and Hope will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., hosted by the Fairbanks Union Church, 583 Fairbanks Rd., Farmington. This is a reflective time of healing for all people whose losses make the holidays a hard time.



Old South Christmas Eve Worship December 24, 5:30 pm

Please join us for this special time of worship on Tuesday, Dec. 24, when we hear the story of the birth of Christ and pray for peace in our world.



The Not Quite Ready for Prime Time Singers

Do you enjoy singing or simply making noise with your voice? Please join the "Not Quite Ready for Prime Time Singers" for their annual Christmas Eve performance. We will have a couple of rehearsals and then we will raise our voices together in music at the Old South Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24 at 5:30 pm. This is not a long-term commitment but will be a joyful one. Stay tuned to our weekly emails for rehearsal information or if you would like to know more now, please contact Amanda Hilton (amandaLhilton@gmail.com). Thank you!



Hymn Sing, December 29

Didn't get enough of your favorite carols during the season leading up to Christmas? Now is the time to sing them! Please join us for a carol sing at Old South on Sunday, December 29. Instead of a morning sermon, we will sing to our heart's content. Please join us.

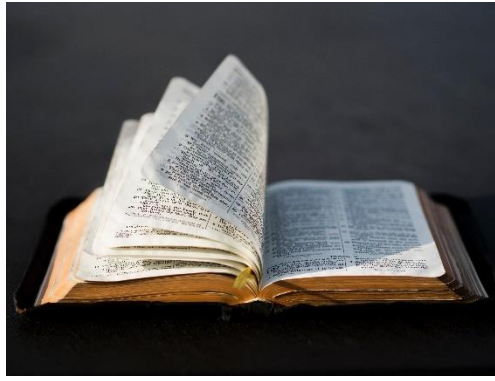


"Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it."

– the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

FAEM Martin Luther King, Jr. Service

There will be a Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry Martin Luther King Jr Day Service at Noon on January 20 at Old South Church. Craigen Healy will be speaking about her work with the Honduras Partnership and how technical school scholarships can make a difference in young lives. All are welcome.



Revised Common Lectionary for the month of November

The Revised Common Lectionary is a list of Bible passages followed by the majority of mainline Christian churches, including the United Church of Christ. Most weeks, Rev. Marraine uses the Revised Common Lectionary. The lectionary readings for December and January appear below.

Advent Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2019	<u>Isaiah 2:1-5</u>	<u>Psalm 122</u>	<u>Romans 13:11-14</u>	<u>Matthew 24:36-44</u>
Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2019	<u>Isaiah 11:1-10</u>	<u>Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19</u>	<u>Romans 15:4-13</u>	<u>Matthew 3:1-12</u>
Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 2019	<u>Isaiah 35:1-10</u>	<u>Psalm 146:5-10</u> or <u>Luke 1:46b-55</u>	<u>James 5:7-10</u>	<u>Matthew 11:2-11</u>
Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 2019	<u>Isaiah 7:10-16</u>	<u>Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19</u>	<u>Romans 1:1-7</u>	<u>Matthew 1:18-25</u>
Christmas Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Christmas Eve December 24, 2019	<u>Isaiah 9:2-7</u>	<u>Psalm 96</u>	<u>Titus 2:11-14</u>	<u>Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)</u>
First Sunday after Christmas Day December 29, 2019	<u>Isaiah 63:7-9</u>	<u>Psalm 148</u>	<u>Hebrews 2:10-18</u>	<u>Matthew 2:13-23</u>
Second Sunday after Christmas Day January 5, 2020	<u>Jeremiah 31:7-14</u> or <u>Sirach 24:1-12</u>	<u>Psalm 147:12-20</u> or <u>Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21</u>	<u>Ephesians 1:3-14</u>	<u>John 1:(1-9), 10-18</u>
Epiphany Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Epiphany of the Lord January 6, 2020	<u>Isaiah 60:1-6</u>	<u>Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14</u>	<u>Ephesians 3:1-12</u>	<u>Matthew 2:1-12</u>
Baptism of the Lord January 12, 2020 <i>First Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	<u>Isaiah 42:1-9</u>	<u>Psalm 29</u>	<u>Acts 10:34-43</u>	<u>Matthew 3:13-17</u>

Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 19, 2020	<u>Isaiah 49:1-7</u>	<u>Psalms 40:1-11</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 1:1-9</u>	<u>John 1:29-42</u>
Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 26, 2020	<u>Isaiah 9:1-4</u>	<u>Psalms 27:1, 4-9</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 1:10-18</u>	<u>Matthew 4:12-23</u>



Church Service and Office Cancellation Information

We make every effort to hold worship and other scheduled events in inclement weather, but we may cancel in the event of dangerous road conditions. Should this happen, we will update the church Facebook page and announce it on WKTJ-FM 99.3 and seek to have a notification listed in the Daily Bulldog cancellations section.

The church office will close if RSU 9 cancels school due to weather.



The Deacon's Corner

Every year, as we hang the greens and make our way through the season of Advent, I am reminded of the rich traditions that surround this season. I am also reminded that I don't know very much about them. This year, I decided to do a little research.

Wikipedia describes the Christian season of Advent as "a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration

of the Nativity of Jesus and the return of Jesus at the second coming". Although the practice of Advent likely began in the 4th or 5th century, most of our traditions and our understanding of the season can be traced to the Middle Ages. (Christianity.com)

I'd like to offer a bit of background information about two Advent practices at Old South Church: one that has been an important part of our tradition for many years (our Advent Wreath) and one that we are trying out for the first time this year (adding "Chrismon" ornaments to our Sanctuary Christmas Tree).

The modern Advent Wreath is thought to have been introduced in 1839 by a German pastor named Johann Hinrich Wichem. Wichem founded a mission school as part of his work among the urban poor in Hamburg. According to the story, every morning the children at the school asked Pastor Wichem if it was Christmas yet (sound familiar?). Finally, Wichem found an old wagon wheel and mounted 20 small red candles and 4 large white candles around the circumference. He lit one red candle each weekday and one white candle each Sunday to help the children mark the approach of Christmas. (wikipedia.com)

Advent wreaths today are rich in symbolism. Their circular shape, with no beginning or ending, denotes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul and God's never-ending Love. The evergreen boughs call to mind the continuity of life through the seasons and God's unfailing presence in the world. (Christianity.com). The candles, taken together, remind us of the Light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus. Three of the candles are blue, the color of hope and one candle is pink (rose), the color of joy.

The sequence in which we light the candles follows the story of Jesus' nativity. On week one, we light "The Prophet's Candle" for hope and remember the hope of the prophets as they awaited the Messiah's birth. The second week we light "The Bethlehem Candle" for faith and pray for a faith equal to that of Mary and Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem. On week three we light the pink "Shepherd's Candle" for joy and perhaps feel the shepherd's great wonder to hear of the birth of Jesus. The fourth week we light "The Angel's Candle" which brings hope of Peace on Earth. (crosswalk.com) And, finally, on Christmas Eve, we light "The Christ Candle", the white candle in the center of the wreath. From this candle's flame we light our own small candles and gather in a circle around the Sanctuary. We pray and sing for Peace and Joy and Faith and Hope and God's never-ending Love in the world.

This year we are trying out a new Advent custom at Old South: adding "Chrismon", an abbreviation of "Christ Monogram" (or Christ Symbol), ornaments to our Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary. Chrismons are ancient symbols for Christ or some part of Jesus' Ministry. Chrismon ornaments were first made by Frances Kipps Spencer at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia in 1957. Every Christmas since then, Ascension Lutheran Church, has raised a 20 foot tree decorated with Chrismon ornaments inspired by Ms Spencer. Many other churches and denominations have adopted the custom of Chrismon trees as well. (whychristmas.com)

Chrismon ornaments are hand made with only white and gold materials which are the liturgical colors of the Christmas season. Some common symbols are angels, crosses, candles, stars, fish, doves and mangers. Take a look at our tree to see the ornaments that were made by members of our congregation this year.

On behalf of all our Deacons, I would like to wish each and every one of us in Old South's large and loving church family an Advent season rich in faith and hope, a joyous Christmas and a coming year that abounds in Peace and Love!

Shelley Griffith

Your Old South Deacons: Roger Condit, Mary Sinclair, Michelle Scribner, John Demers Lindner, Christine Merchant, Brent Laflin, Karen Jordan Paul, Carole Trickett, Margaret Gould Wescott, Shelley Griffith (chair)

Children and Youth



Please join us Sunday, December 15 at 11 am in the Matthew Room for our annual Family Advent Party, when we prepare to welcome the baby in the manger. We'll have an array of simple kid crafts, as well as healthy snacks, and cookie decorating, too! Plus, we'll hear a favorite Christmas story about a humble woodworker in snowy Lapland who follows a bright star to find the Prince of Peace. All families with children are warmly invited to join in the fun.



Pageant Sunday-- December 22

Once again, we welcome the Christ baby with angels, shepherds, and a sheep or two on the Sanctuary steps. The annual Christmas Pageant, a beloved tradition, is performed by our very own Sunday School children (with a wee bit of help from adults). We'll begin our preparations during the Sunday School hour, beginning December 8. As in years past, we'll have a Very Important Dress Rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 9:00 am. Please make every effort to attend!

Our regular classes resume Jan. 5. We'll have our next Movie Morning at the end of the month—Jan. 26.

High School

The story of Christ's birth isn't just for little kids! On Dec. 8 and 15, we'll meet in the Matthew Room to learn more about the history of Christ's birth and the symbolism that weaves through this beloved story. On Dec. 22, we'll be lending a helping hand or two with the Christmas Pageant. We'll re-open Coat & Cupboard on Jan. 5.



Thrifty Santa Toy Sale —for High School AND Middler Students

The Vestry becomes Santa's best-kept secret on Friday, Dec. 6 as we prepare for the third annual Thrifty Santa Toy Sale. Our mission work is twofold: to offer good, clean toys at very affordable prices, and to raise funds for Coat & Cupboard, the Pancakery Cafe, and other youth programs. **This is a big job, and this year we're recruiting some new elves—our Middler Youth Group students—to help make this project a success!** We work from 4:00 pm til we're finished---with dinner when we need a break. Then, the doors open Saturday morning---please arrive by 7:30 am latest so we can be ready to greet our shoppers at 8 am. *Ho, ho, ho!*



Youth Group, Part 2: Coat & Cupboard

The Youth Group will be hosting the fifth annual "Open House" from noon to 2:00 pm on Chester Greenwood Day, Saturday, Dec. 7. (Because the first Sunday of December is Thanksgiving weekend, this will be the only day we open to the public this month.) Members of the community are warmly invited to stop by and select a clean, gently used coat from our large selection of donated items. We also have blankets, hats, mittens, and some snow pants and boots, too!



The Pancakery Cafe

Our free brunch cafe opens just once this month, Dec. 8, for an extra special Christmas brunch, with gingerbread pancakes and Santa's Own secret-recipe chowder. Plus, we welcome back the one-and-only Steve Muise for fiddle holiday carols. The menu also includes our "nearly famous" quiches, vegan chili, and hot panini sandwiches.

December 2019 Calendar

Sunday, Dec. 1:	<i>no programming for children and teens today</i>
Friday, Dec. 6:	Thrifty Santa Prep Night--High School <i>and</i> Middler Youth Groups--4 pm til ?
	Saturday, Dec. 7: Thrifty Santa Sale (please arrive by 7:30 am for 8 am opening) and Coat & Cupboard (noon - 2 pm)
Sunday, Dec. 8:	Sunday School pageant prep day; high school classes; The Pancakery Cafe 11:30 am
Sunday, Dec. 15:	Sunday School pageant prep day; high school classes; Advent Party 11 am
Sunday, Dec. 22:	Pageant Sunday, no evening Youth Group
Tuesday, Dec. 24:	Christmas Eve service
Sunday, Dec. 29:	<i>no youth programming today</i>

January Youth Programming Events

After the excitement of Christmas, we settle back into our "regular" programming:

- * Sunday School classes resume Jan. 5
- * The Pancakery Cafe opens Jan. 12 and 26
- * Coat & Cupboard opens Jan. 5
- * High School classes return Jan. 12
- * Movie Morning will be Jan. 26
- * Youth Group returns Jan. 5

Stay tuned, too, for more information regarding another epic "**middler midwinter mini retreat**"--an evening of fun, games, and more!

How Do I Find Out More?

Don't miss a single youth activity! Sign up for our email newsletter, "*Old South Kids This Week*," to receive updates, news, photos, and more. Just send a note to Jodie@FarmingtonUCC.org.

Fundraising Group News and Updates

Have you heard the news? Credit Cards are now being accepted at the Fundraising Committee Table on Sundays before and after the church service to pay for Hannaford cards and merchant gift cards. If you forgot your checkbook but need a card for a gift, come on over!



Hannaford and Merchant Gift Cards

Hannaford cards and merchant gift cards may be purchased on Sundays before Church and during coffee hour and at the church office during office hours. Check out the selection of ready to use gift cards of local, regional and on-line merchants at the Fundraising Committee Table or in the church office! On Sundays, you now have the option of using a credit card to make your purchases at the Fundraising Committee Table. Fees apply. Check with Brenda Scribner for more information.

Purchase gift cards for holiday giving. Old South receives a percentage of the cost of the card. A wide selection of on hand gift cards are available for immediate purchase at the Fundraising Table but did you know that you can order from an even greater assortment? Check out the full list of available cards in the church office or at the Fundraising Committee Table on Sundays or at:

<https://www.scripzone.com/certificatelist.aspx>

Holiday Shopping That Benefits Old South Church

Be sure to do your shopping through Amazon Smile and Amazon will donate .5% of your total to Old South. There's no cost to you and once you choose Old South as your charity, there's nothing else you need to do. You can go to smile.amazon.com and click select on First Congregational of Farmington. Thank you to those of you who have been utilizing this giving method already!

From the Property Trustees

We want to let you know of yet another huge project facing our church family. The Property Trustees are in the midst of getting bids for the work that was laid out in our capital campaign, but we have also learned that our roof is in need of significant repair. In fact, we will need to have the entire roof over the church sanctuary and vestry areas redone. This project will likely include stripping of the original shingles and replacing with 50-year shingles. With its many angles and size, the roof is going to be a huge project but one that must be done. We have already sustained some interior damage in our church kitchen due to leaks on our roof, and we find shingles laying all around the church grounds when rain and wind hit our area. We will keep you posted as we learn more and share photos from the first contractor who was up and explored the area.

The Property Trustees wish All a very Happy and safe Holiday Season. Thank you all for all you do.

Respectfully,
Amanda Adams, Alton McCleery, John McKim and Daniel Bachelder (chair)



Poinsettia Memorials and Celebrations

Given in loving memory of our parents by Alton and Cheryl McCleery

Given in loving memory of Emma David by Ed David

Given in loving memory of Ken and Liz Marks by the Marks Family

Given in loving memory of our parents by Karyl and Roger Condit

*Given in loving memory of Jerry and Stephen Parr by Carolyn Parr and Sarah Parr
Ellsworth*

Given in loving memory of our beloved parents by Jim and Susan Wahlstrom

Given in celebration of Family by Alton and Cheryl McCleery

Given in celebration of Family by Donna and Stan Wheeler

Given in celebration of Patricia Hayden

Given in celebration of Carolyn Parr



Wreath Memorials

Given in loving memory of Gayle Davis by Ed Davis

Given in loving memory of Jack Durham by Pat Durham

*Given in loving memory of Donald & Grace Wertz and Jack & Alley Ahearn by Wendy Wertz
Huish and Family*

*Given in loving memory of Barbara & Richard Morton by Marilyn Hylan and
Richard M. Morton*

The Living Water Association, Maine Conference and the United Church of Christ



Would you like to know more about the Living Water Association UCC and Honduras Partnership? Please contact the church office (Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org), to learn about our connections with other UCC churches in Maine.



The Maine Conference UCC office is in Augusta at 337 State Street, Suite 3, Augusta, ME 04330. To learn more about the Maine Conference UCC, visit www.maineucc.org



**You are invited to join Windham Hill UCC on their trip to The Holy Land Eleven Days and Nine Nights
March 10 – 20, 2020**

There is no travel experience quite like a journey to the Holy Land. We will be traveling from Boston to Tel Aviv on Turkish Airlines, with our travel coordinated by Gate 1, the company which has taken us on all of our previous Windham Hill adventures. Once we arrive in Tel Aviv we will travel up the coast

to Caesarea and then on to Galilee. While in Galilee we will have a cruise on the Sea of Galilee and visit Capernaum where Jesus taught at the synagogue. We will travel on to visit Nazareth, the Jordan River, Caesarea Philippi, and Mount Beatitudes where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. We will visit the Dead Sea, Qumran, famous for the Dead Sea Scrolls and the ancient fortress of Masada. Our last five days will be in Jerusalem. The cost of the trip is \$3550 in twin bedded rooms. The single supplement is \$629.00.

The trip package will include: Flights Boston to Tel Aviv round trip on Turkish Airlines, Airline fuel surcharges, Airport taxes and fees 9 nights accommodation at 4 Star or better accommodation Buffet breakfast daily, 1 Lunch and 9 Dinners Services of a Gate 1 Tour Escort Services of a Deluxe Motorcoach with restroom facilities Admission to all of the sites listed on the itinerary Portage of 1 piece of luggage per person.

All taxes and airline fuel surcharges are as of June 1, 2019 and may increase until time of departure. Not included are: the cost of a passport and any needed visa's, travel cancellation and health insurance, transportation to Boston's Logan Airport, tips and gratuities to the tour escort from Gate 1 and the driver, all optional tours and personal travel on days at leisure, and any soft drinks or other beverages. Windham Hill requires individual purchase of Cancel for Any Reason Travel Insurance as a condition of registration for this trip.

If you are interested in this trip please email Sally Colegrove at Colegrove21353@AOL.com. She will then send you the full brochure and a registration form. The trip is open to all who would like to come on a first come, first served basis and is limited to 42 participants. A reservation will secure you a place once Windham Hill has received a registration form and a non-refundable deposit check for \$350 payable to Windham Hill United Church of Christ, which will be credited to the total cost of the trip, to Rev. Sally Colegrove, Windham Hill United Church of Christ, 140 Windham Center Road, Windham, Maine, 04062.



Would you like to learn more about the United Church of Christ? Please check the United Church of Christ website for more information about our denomination: <http://www.ucc.org> On this site, you may sign up for "Weekly Seeds" a reflection based on the Revised Common Lectionary readings for each Sunday of the year. There is also a link to an electronic daily devotional called, "The StillSpeaking Daily Devotional."

Get Connected and Stay Connected!

OLD SOUTH CHURCH

First Congregational Church of Farmington
235 MAIN ST. (Church) ~ 227 MAIN ST. (Office)
FARMINGTON, ME 04938
TEL: (207) 778-0424

WORSHIP: 9:30 AM SUNDAYS

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Tuesday through Thursday



<http://www.farmingtonucc.org/>



www.facebook.com/OldSouthFarmington



[TWITTER.COM/FARMINGTONUCC](https://twitter.com/FARMINGTONUCC)



[INSTAGRAM.COM/OLDSOUTHLOVE](https://www.instagram.com/oldsouthlove)



[PINTEREST.COM/OLDSOUTHCHURCH](https://www.pinterest.com/OldSouthChurch)

Old South Statement of Identity

"In Christ there is no longer Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for all are one..."

(Galatians 3:28)

Walking toward God, we, the members of (Old South) First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Farmington, Maine, seek through God's Grace to be a congregation that includes all persons who desire to live God's Love, as shown to us through the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. We respect and embrace differences of gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identification, mental and physical ability, as well as racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic background. We welcome all to share fully in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our congregation. We are an open and affirming church: open to all and affirming of all

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

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary)	2 12:00pm Retirees Lunch (Vestry) 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing)	3 1:00pm Staff Meeting (Church Office)	4 9:00am Sweatt Winter Coat Delivery (Matthew Room) 12:00pm Thrifty Santa Toy Sale Set Up (Matthew Room, Vestry) 5:15pm Vespers (Chapel) 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	5 12:00pm Thrifty Santa Toy Sale Set Up (Matthew Room, Vestry) 1:00pm Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry (Offsite) 6:00pm Executive Council (Church Office)	6 12:00pm Thrifty Santa Toy Sale Set Up (Matthew Room, Vestry) 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group* (Matthew Room)	7 8:00am Thrifty Santa Toy Sale (Old South Church) 1:00pm UMF Community Chorus Set Up and Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 1:00pm Coat & Cupboard (HMH Carriage House)
8 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room) 11:00am Deacons (Matthew Room) 11:30am Pancakery (Vestry)	9 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing)	10 5:30pm Financial Trustees (Church Office) 6:30pm Outreach, Justice, Witness (Matthew Room)	11 5:15pm Vespers (Chapel) 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	12 7:00pm EcuHeat Benefit Concert featuring Coig (Old South Church)	13 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group* (Matthew Room)	14 12:00pm Community Lunch (Vestry)
15 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room) 11:00am Family Advent Party (Matthew Room)	16 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing)	17 6:00pm Property Trustees (Church Office) 7:00pm FAEM Service of Care and Compassion (Offsite)	18 5:15pm Vespers (Chapel) 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	19 2:00pm Just Friends (Chapel)	20 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group* (Matthew Room)	21 9:00am Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
22 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room)	23 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing)	24 5:30pm Christmas Eve Worship (Sanctuary)	25 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	26 7:00pm The Open Circle, LGBTQ+ Support Group* (Matthew Room)	27 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group* (Matthew Room)	28
29 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary)	30 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing)	31				

Please note, January activities and dates will be updated as additional dates are determined.

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	2 6:00pm Executive Council (Church Office)	3 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group* (Matthew Room)	4
5 9:00am Coat and Cupboard (HMH Carnegie House) 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary)	6 12:00pm Retirees Lunch (Vestry) 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing)	7	8 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	9 10:00am Warming Center (Newman Wing)	10 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group* (Matthew Room)	11 12:00pm Community Lunch (Vestry)
12 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room) 11:00am Deacons (Matthew Room) 11:30am Pancakery (Vestry)	13 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing)	14 5:30pm Financial Trustees (Church Office) 6:30pm Outreach, Justice, Witness (Matthew Room)	15 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	16 10:00am Warming Center (Newman Wing) 2:00pm Just Friends (Chapel)	17 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group* (Matthew Room)	18
19 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room)	20 12:30pm FAEM Martin Luther King Jr. Service (Old South Church) 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing)	21 6:00pm Property Trustees (Church Office)	22 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	23 10:00am Warming Center (Newman Wing) 1:00pm Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry (Offsite) 7:00pm The Open Circle, LGBTQ+ Support Group* (Matthew Room)	24 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group* (Matthew Room)	25 9:00am Called to Care Training (Matthew Room) 3:00pm Beer (or beverage of your choice) and HMHymns (HMH Gathering Room)
26 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends* (HMH Gathering Room) 11:30am Pancakery (Vestry)	27 6:00pm Buddhist Group* (Newman Wing)	28 6:30pm Traces of the Trade Movie (Chapel)	29 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	30 10:00am Warming Center (Newman Wing)	31 1:00pm Bereavement Support Group* (Matthew Room)	