

# THE CHURCH BELL

JANUARY 2017

## The First Congregational Church Newsletter

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ  
At 26 Central Street in West Boylston  
online at [www.fccwb.com](http://www.fccwb.com)

*The Lord has yet more light and truth to break forth  
from his holy Word."*

- John Robinson, pastor to the Pilgrims



*Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk  
in the light of your presence, Lord," - Psalm 89:15 NLT*

### JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Worship and Church School at 10:15 a.m.**  
**Childcare is provided for every Sunday service.**

#### ***January 1~ New Year's Day***

10:15 a.m. United Worship at Christ Lutheran Church  
*The Sacrament of Holy Communion*

#### ***January 7~ 4:30 p.m. First Saturday Worship***

Wallace A. Hurd leading  
*The Sacrament of Holy Communion*

#### ***January 8 ~ The First Sunday after Epiphany Celebrating Epiphany***

Wallace A. Hurd preaching  
Chancel Choir

#### ***January 15 ~ The Second Sunday after Epiphany***

Wallace A. Hurd preaching  
Chancel Ringers

#### ***January 22~ The Third Sunday after Epiphany***

Wallace A. Hurd preaching  
Chancel Choir

#### ***January 29~ The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany***

Wallace A. Hurd preaching  
Chancel Choir

The Annual Meeting of the Church Follows Worship.

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## *Hurd in the Halls.....*

As we switch out our calendars, and make our resolutions, and map out our plans and intentions for the year ahead, we are hopeful that 2017 will bring us abundant blessings and great joys. In this time of new beginnings, may think of starting over, or of trying new things to make ourselves happier, healthier, humbler, and holier. We are both grateful for what we have already received and for the opportunities that lay ahead for us. The dawning of a new year is the time when we think about reinventing ourselves, of reinvigorating our lives, of rejuvenating our faith.

This is a time to consider the possibilities of our future, the potential within our grasp, and the passion that we can harness to realize them. We can be boundless optimists, reaching higher and going farther than we have in the past. And we can dig deeper within ourselves to find greater resolve and greater reserves of faith, when we eventually stumble. And all of this is made even easier when we share in these hopes and dreams together.

As we strive to make ourselves better, as we strive to become better fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters, we also strive to become better disciples of Jesus Christ and more faithful servants of God. We open our ears and our hearts to the calling and the presence of the Holy Spirit. And we do not do it alone, but with one another, with the support and the love of one another, with the encouragement and comfort of another.

As members of the Body of Christ, and as members of the First Congregational Church of West Boylston, we mourn with those who mourn and rejoice with those who rejoice. We strive not only to make ourselves and one another better, but our church, our community, and our world. The world is sorely in need of those who would sow peace and joy, who would share love and mercy, who would practice welcome and justice. The world is sorely in need of the church. The world is sorely in need of the best of us and our blessings.

In this time of new beginnings and new possibilities, let us become hoppers and dreamers. Let us become prophets and teachers. Let us become disciples and servants. Let us bring the best of ourselves to the world around us, that the world around us might be made better through our acts of compassion, hospitality, and love. Let us share our blessings with all those we meet, that we might become blessings to them, and to the whole world.

May God bless you and yours in the coming year, and may you feel inspired and emboldened to share those blessings and increase them, through the working of God's Holy Spirit in you and through you.

Blessings,  
Chip



Today brought a visit from Lisa Zendzian and Sue Coviello to call on me, and to deliver a most beautiful Poinsettia from the Christmas altar flowers. I am so grateful for their visit. It was heartwarming to chat with them. Even though I'm absent from church, I still feel part of the warm and caring people that we are at First Congregational Church, West Boylston. Jim and I are blessed and grateful to be members with all of you.

With our appreciation and our blessings to all of you.

Shirley and Jim Patch

## ***2016 ANNUAL REPORTS AND 2017 GOALS***

***DUE Monday, JANUARY 2nd***

## **CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING**

To the Members of the First Congregational Church of West Boylston, Massachusetts:

The Annual Meeting of this church will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 11:30, following morning worship.

The meeting is to consider the following articles:

Article I: To receive the 2016 reports of the Ministers, Officers, and Boards, and act thereon.

Article II: To receive the proposed 2017 Goals, and act thereon.

Article III: To receive the Budget proposal for the year 2017, and act thereon.

Attest: Daniel Newman, Church Moderator

**Worship  
Follow  
Serve  
Love**

**God  
Jesus  
Others  
All**

## **PLEASE PLEDGE BY JANUARY 2...**

We are grateful for the individuals and families who have made pledges and gifts to First Congregational Church for 2017.

We still need to hear from some of you. If you have not yet made a pledge, we need you! The Board of Administration and Finance is currently working on our budget for 2017 and they will soon need to make decisions about the level of expenses our gifts and pledges will support.

Please remember that every gift counts; we are asked only to give according to our ability.

Pledge cards are available in the Narthex and in the church office. You may fill out a card and place it in the box provided or call your pledge into Laura Bronwell at 508-834-4462, ext. 103

If you requested envelopes on your pledge card, your 2017 Offering Envelopes (Stained Glass Window) are in Fellowship Hall waiting for pick up. Please use the new envelopes starting January 1. Discard ALL left over envelopes.

If you want envelopes and do not find them, please call Laura and she will be happy to provide them. Thank you and thanks be to God!



## CHRISTIAN OUTREACH BOARD NEWS

### Upcoming Events...

#### JOHN STREET SOUP KITCHEN

Our next opportunity to volunteer at the **John Street Soup Kitchen** will be:  
Saturday, January 7th



We need:

- 30 lbs. of mashed potatoes in 5lb increments
- Desserts: 4 dozen squares or cookies
- **Deliver to our church kitchen by 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, January 7th.**
- People to help serve

Please contact Dave O'Brien at 508-835-8929 or [dnbobrien@gmail.com](mailto:dnbobrien@gmail.com) for more information.

#### HOPE for HOUSING

##### PURCHASE GROCERY CARDS

CVS Stop & Shop Big Y Shaw's Hannaford

*Build a Habit...Save a Home*

Together, we can end family homelessness!  
Food Cards are available for purchase each Sunday following worship.

**Checks are accepted for payment**

- You purchase food cards- value from \$10 - \$100
- You receive the full face value of the card you purchase.
- What you don't spend remains on your card for later use.
- The store donates 5% of what you spend to prevent family homelessness.



#### WB FOOD PANTRY

First Congregational Church partners with Oakdale United Methodist, Christ Lutheran and Our Lady of Good Council churches in West Boylston to host a Food Pantry. It is open from 1-4 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Donations of food and money are always welcome.



**Current Pantry Needs include:**

**Canned soups and stews**

**Coffee and tea. No Kcups please.**

Please check all items for expiration dates as we have to discard any items that have expired.

Donations may be left in the blue bins in the ramp entrance. Thanks so much for your generosity.

This project was funded in part by a grant from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.





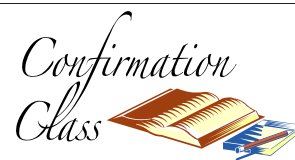
### Community Nursery School News

December was a great month at CNS. We participated in a toy drive to help local families in need. It showed the children the importance of helping those less fortunate than us. We also had our holiday pajama parties where we watched *The Grinch who Stole Christmas* one day and *Polar Express* the other day.

We will be having an open house for the public for the 2017-2018 school year in January and are currently accepting enrollments. We do have a few openings and the infant room, as well as a few part time openings in the younger preschool room.

Please call me at (508) 835-3845 or email me at [cnswb@fccwb.com](mailto:cnswb@fccwb.com) if you would like more information or would like to schedule a time to come in and tour the school.

Heidi Pisano - Director



### CONFIRMATION NEWS

Continue to work on your passages.

Remember to attend a minimum of two Sundays a month in Worship. Remember to sign in on Pastor Hurd's Office Door..

You are expected to attend the Annual Meeting on January 29 following worship.



To all our friends,



We're looking forward to seeing you in 2017!

Appreciating your donations,  
Honoring your patronage,  
Enthusiastically supporting FCCWB  
And  
Wishing you health & happiness in the New Year!



All the best,  
Your 2nd Chance Thrift Shop Team  
978-257-3484 2nd Chance Shop mgmt.

Open Wednesdays 9:30am to 1pm  
And Saturdays 9:30am to 12:30pm



## News from the Board of Church Life

*whatever  
YOU DO,  
DO IT FOR THE LORD.*

Nathan Dawidczyk is the coordinator for volunteers during Sunday services in January. If you would like to give of your time in some way on a Sunday morning by being a Greeter, an Usher, a Lay Reader or a Coffee Server – visit our bulletin board down in Fellowship Hall or email Nathan at [nathandawidczyk@gmail.com](mailto:nathandawidczyk@gmail.com)

The Board of Church Life would like to give BIG THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our All Church Christmas Caroling on Sunday, Dec. 4th. Following caroling we returned to church for cookies, hot cocoa and fellowship! Great time was had by all!

The board would also like to thank all the numerous bakers who helped grace our holiday cookie table with their favorite Christmas cookies! They were delicious!!

Thank you all for your many contributions throughout the year!

Many hands make light work!

Wishing you a Blessed 2017!

Matt Rogers

*The February Bell Deadline is  
Thursday, January 19th.*

Send address changes to [administrator@fccwb.com](mailto:administrator@fccwb.com)

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**TELEPHONE: 508-835-4462 FAX: 508-835-4463**

**OFFICE EMAIL: [administrator@fccwb.com](mailto:administrator@fccwb.com)**

**WEBSITE: [www.fccwb.com](http://www.fccwb.com)**

Messages may be left on the church phone system for the staff at any time. Acting Senior Pastor **Wallace "Chip" Hurd** (ext. 101). Financial Assistant-**Laura Bronwell** (ext. 103). Administrative Assistant-**Lisa Fisher** (ext. 100)

**Staff Email addresses are:**

Chip: [whurd@fccwb.com](mailto:whurd@fccwb.com)

George: [gvogel@charter.net](mailto:gvogel@charter.net)

Financial Office: [financial@fccwb.com](mailto:financial@fccwb.com)

Christian Ed Office: [pjmtoon@msn.com](mailto:pjmtoon@msn.com)

Community Nursery School: [cnswb@fccwb.com](mailto:cnswb@fccwb.com)

## Prayer and Praise

### All those with health concerns:

Jim Bronwell

Howard Rotti

Carol Rotti

Cayleigh Lynne Gilroy-granddaughter of Carol Ann Hamilton's friend

Robert Comeau-Nancy White's son

Linda Redman-Kelley Small's friend

Sylvio Blais-Richie Blais' father

Lynne Pierce-Arlette and Bill Peterson's friend

Steven Small

Frank-the step father of Chris Rotti's wife

Sophia Landeo

Nathan and Jonathan Dehner

John Morrow



### In Sympathy:

Lori Rotti and family as they grieve the death of her mother-Shirley DelleFemine

### Wider concerns:

Thanksgiving for all who come through our doors. Our service men and women around the world and their families.

Those who are unemployed among us and around the country.

In the event of inclement weather please listen to  
**WSRS 96.1 FM or WTAG 580 AM**  
radio stations for church cancellations.  
Or call the church answering machine that morning  
for any cancellations!



If the Weather Outside is  
Frightful

# Church School News



A special Thank You to Helen Holt for doing such a great job with our Christmas Pageant!!!! What a great pageant. Thank you also to the children who participated, great job and to the teachers who helped tell the story!!

**And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.**

**-2 Peter; 1-4**



## Advent Wreath Forms



Please return your Advent wreath forms from the Advent Wreath Workshop after you are done displaying them to the church office or Christian Ed. office. **Thank you!**

**Jesus came so you could begin anew...**  
**May your faith be transformed with the gift of His love.**  
**Happy New Year!**

To reach the Christian Education office,  
 e-mail Pamela Doonan @ [pjmduon@msn.com](mailto:pjmduon@msn.com)

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**26 CENTRAL STREET, WEST BOYLSTON, MA 01583-1600**

*Wallace A. Hurd IV, Acting Senior Pastor*  
*The Reverend George E. Vogel, Associate Pastor Emeritus*  
*William E. Nierintz, Ch.M., Minister of Music Emeritus*  
*Laura E. Bronwell, Financial Assistant*

*Kristjon Imperio, Minister of Music*  
*Lisa A. Fisher, Administrative Assistant, Editor*  
*Kendrik Imperio, Custodian*  
*Heidi Pisano, Community Nursery School Director*

*The Reverend Steven A. Small, Senior Pastor is on medical leave.*

**PHONE: 508-835-4462**  
**FAX: 508-835-4463**

**EMAIL: [administrator@fccwb.com](mailto:administrator@fccwb.com)**  
**WEBSITE: [www.fccwb.com](http://www.fccwb.com)**



01 Donna Holt	16 Howard Rotti
01 Susan Walker	19 James Patch
03 Jennifer Breen	19 Stephen Pusateri
04 Ashton Bates	20 William Boyle
04 Carol Rotti	22 Graeme Boyle
05 James Adams	22 Sam Stewart
05 Kristen Allain	22 Emily Trask
07 Laurie Mahoney	23 Douglas Ketchum
07 Margaret Rotti	23 Donna Mehaffey
10 Olivia Latorre	25 Louise Howland
10 Anthony Smith	25 Abbey O'Brien
12 Sienna Leone	26 Leah Bradford
14 Joan Nierintz	26 Nancy White
16 Elizabeth Cummings	