

THE CRIER

A PUBLICATION OF COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH

A Note From Pastor Lauren

Happy New Year! As we transition from 2023 to 2024, there may be all sorts of ways that we observe that a new year has arrived.

One of the simple ways that I mark a new year is by organizing the files on my computer. (Hear me out before you roll your eyes too much!) The thing is, I have been a Solo Pastor since I was Ordained in 2011. Worship planning and preaching has thus fallen to me while serving two congregations, so we are talking about a lot of documents by now! 709 worship services, prayers, and liturgies and 536 sermons written and preached to be exact. I have found that being organized helps me (and church staff) a great deal.

What I do every year around the end of a year is move previous sermons and worship services into larger folders (Sermons 2008-2017, Sermons 2018-2023, etc.) and make brand-new folders for preaching and worship for the year ahead: 2024 Worship & 2024 Sermons.

There's a span of time when those new folders are empty. "This folder is empty" is what my laptop tells me in small print. What does this sim-

ple way to mark the beginning of a new year mean to me?

An empty page.

A blank slate.

An empty computer folder waiting to be filled with worship services and sermons.

But more than that—hard work, inspiration, and memories that are yet to be.

"This folder is empty."

Though not for long.

Let's face it, some years of our lives are just fantastic. We had the best time! Other years are difficult and painful. "It was not a good year" we might think to ourselves or confide to our loved ones. Yet there is something hopeful about this space and time *between*, as we move from what has been to what will be.

An empty page.

Though not for long.

May your new year be all you hope for and more.

Love,

Pastor Lauren

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Ministers:

All of the Members of the Church are called to serve in daily life.

Staff:

Rev. Lauren L. Ostrout, *Pastor*
Kimberly Lewis, *Music Director*
Nicole Hosford, *Office Manager*
& *Christian Education Director*
Tom St. Louis, *Treasurer*
Dave Hock, *Custodian*

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WORSHIP INFORMATION

Epiphany SUNDAY

January 7, 2024

It has become a tradition at Colchester Federated Church to receive Star Words on Epiphany Sunday. A word to reflect upon during the year ahead. A word that could guide you on your way, just as the Magi followed the Christmas Star to find Jesus in Bethlehem. Each year, Nicole cuts out the stars and Pastor Lauren writes a word on each one.

We hope that you will be able to come worship with us and pick up your Star Word! If you are unable to come that Sunday, you are always welcome to stop by the Church Office to pick one up as well.

Scripture Readings & Readers

| | | |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|
| Jan 7 | Matthew 2:1-12 | Ryan Rowe |
| Jan 14 | John 1:43-51 | Cheryl Letendre |
| Jan 22 | Mark 1:14-20 | Dick Paige |
| Jan 28 | Mark 1:21-28 | Alice Walls |

Interested in being a scripture reader?
Please reach out to John Dooley

IN OUR PRAYERS

For those who are ill or recovering:

Ethan Collins (*John Dooley's grandson*)

Sadie Dombrowski

Elizabeth Emory

Terry Howard, Sr

Eleanor Keller

Kathy Landry

Tammy Savalle (*Michele Howard's sister*)

Teri Sawchuk

Jacki Walter (*Karen Monteleone's sister*)

Prayers for all those who are providing care for family members.

Prayers for all those who are grieving.

Prayers for all who are in recovery and struggling with sobriety.

Prayers for all those separated from their families.

Prayers for our country, its leaders and for peace here and in the world.

***Names will remain on the prayer list for 1- 3 months unless otherwise
communicated to the church office.***

CELEBRATIONS & THANKS



JANUARY Birthdays

- 01/02 Karen Monteleone
- 01/05 Kerry Felice
Sam Ringuette
- 01/07 Karen Sundin-Delzell
AJ Tiezzi
- 01/08 Michele Wyatt
- 01/13 Terry Howard Sr.
- 01/16 Kurt Frantzen
Camden McCarvill
- 01/22 Jakob Misbach
- 01/23 Kelly Goodwin
- 01/24 Kaitlin Bradstreet
- 01/29 Kolby Simonds
BethAnn Voiland
- 01/31 Krista MacGregor



JANUARY Anniversaries

- 01/12 Evelyn & John Plecan

We are very thankful to so many people in our church community...

... Thank you to Amy Domeika & Deborah Howard for donating new coffee pots for coffee hour.

... Thank you to Christine Miskell and Tom St. Louis for donating the new wreath for the sanctuary.

... Thank you to Barbara Bosse, Mark Bosse and Tom St. Louis for repairing and painting the wall near the stage.

... Thank you to Suzanne Cramer for dropping off donations to the Colchester Food Bank while Avis was on the mend.

... Thank you to the members of Church Life for organizing the poinsettia sale and deliveries.

... Thank you to the members of Christian Education for organizing the Christmas Pageant.

... Thank you to Neill Ostrout for trimming the branches near the church sign to make it more visible.

... Thank you to Mark Bosse, Dick Paige, Todd Simonds, and Kaytlyn Howard for sharing their testimonies for the 2024 Pledge Campaign.

... Thank you to Dave Hock and Tim Kyser for cleaning up after various storms and flooding in the building.

... Thank you to Dolores Sawchuk, and her crew of helpers, for putting together fruit baskets for our CFC family and friends that could use extra cheer.

... Thank you to Steve Bradstreet and Troop 72 for setting up the manger in the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve Services.

... Thank you to all those who provided special music, lit the Advent Candles, read scripture, and helped with ushering at our Christmas Eve services and throughout the Season of Advent.

... Thank you to the AA meeting attendees for their generous donation of paper good supplies.

We thank those who check on and open/close windows and doors... for those who bring in paper goods to offset our expenses, and for those who donate their time and efforts to maintain and repair our buildings and grounds.

Giving Update

| | November | Year to Date |
|-------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Total Pledged | \$12,422 | \$136,640 |
| Total Received | \$16,213 | \$137,665 |
| Difference | \$3,791 | \$1,025 |
| Percent Received | 131% | 101% |

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



Advent Week 1: The Bible Study Class



Advent Week 2: Tanya Robillard & Susan Rissenan



Advent Week 3: The Discipleship Class



Advent Week 4: 9 AM The Barrows Family



Advent Week 4: 9 PM—The CFC Choir



9 PM Christmas Eve Special Music

Photo Credits: Steve Bradstreet, Barbara Bosse, and Richard Hosford

POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS



**Thank you to everyone who donated the poinsettias for the sanctuary.
They were given by:**

Chester Anderson: In memory of my wife Alberta

John Barr: In memory of Evelyn Barr & John Barr, Jr.

The Bradstreet Family: In memory of Pam Lane

The Bradstreet Family: In memory of Mom & Dad, we love you!
Love, BethAnn, Krista, and Steve

Jude & Steve Bradstreet: In memory of Jack & Ginny Bartlett

Forrest and Suzanne Cramer: In honor of Mary Abigail & Catherine Dean
Amy Domeika

Kurt Frantzen: In memory of Joan Frantzen

Kaytlyn Howard: In memory of Thomas W. Hinchliffe, Jr.

Joyce Johnson: In memory of Joan Frantzen

The Marvin Family: In memory of Carolyn Mary Marvin

Barbara McKelvey: In memory of Jeffrey McKelvey on his Christmas birthday!
In memory of Jan McKelvey & extended family
In memory of Albin & Nellie Anderson & extended family

Gary Riddell: In memory of my mother Joann Riddell, my father Robert Riddell,
my brother Rob Riddell, and my grandmother Eunice Flowers

Dolores Sawchuk: In memory of My Loved Ones

Frank & Jeannette Tomlinson: In memory of Loved Ones

SNAPSHOTS AROUND CFC



Photo Credits: Steve Bradstreet, Barbara Bosse, Deborah Howard, and Jocelyn Nadeau

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Photo Credits: Steve Bradstreet & Richrd Hosford

NEW MEMBERS

In December, CFC welcomed 17 New Members to our church family! Our congregation is all the better because of each of you officially joining our church.



WELCOME



Photo Credit: Steve Bradstreet

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024 PLEDGES

The bustle of the Christmas Season is almost past -- but behind the scenes our Treasurer and Ministry of Stewardship are working hard to produce our proposed 2024 Budget. In order to do so, they need a grip on how much pledge funds will be available. So, *many* thanks to all who have pledged already, and for those that may be a bit behind with the Holiday Season and all, we would *greatly* appreciate your turning your pledge in soon!

The pledge form can be placed in the offering plate during worship, mailed to the church office, or your pledge amount can be emailed directly to our Assistant Treasurer, Steve Bradstreet.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Annual Meeting will be held following worship on **February 25th.**

ANNUAL MEETING

***All reports must be sent into the office by February 12th.**

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Steve Bradstreet and the scouts from Troop 72 for assembling the manger in the sanctuary!



CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for a few folks to join our Gifts and Leadership Team! This is a great way to help out in a most impactful way. And the commitment to this particular team is only a little over a month long!

If you think you may have some time to...


- 1) reach out to current members of Diaconate and our Ministries to see how they are doing and
- 2) recruit some additional people to fill the current vacancies

Then please see Dick Paige after church



CHURCH CALENDAR

JANUARY 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|---|-----------------------------|--|
| | 1 Office Closed <i>New Year's Day</i> 12 PM AA (Lib) 7 PM Boy Scouts (JR/SR/G) 7:30 PM AA (Lib) | 2 10:30 Zoom Bible Study 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM AA Women's Meditation (Lib) | 3 12 PM AA (Lib) 7:30 PM AA (Lib) | 4 10 AM AA (Lib) | 5 12 PM AA (Lib) | 6 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib) |
| 7 9 AM Worship Service (S) 12 PM Discipleship (Lng) 3 PM Pickleball (G) 7 PM Boy Scouts Committee Meeting (SR) Kim Lewis Off | 8 12 PM AA (Lib) 7 PM Boy Scouts (JR/SR/G) 7:30 PM AA (Lib) Nicole Hosford Off | 9 10:30 Zoom Bible Study 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM AA Women's Meditation (Lib) 7 PM Stewardship (Lng) | 10 9:30 AM Staff Meeting (O) 10 AM My Brother's Keeper (JR) 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM Girl Scouts #63223 (JR) 7:30 PM AA (Lib) | 11 10 AM AA (Lib) 5:30 PM Girl Scouts Cookie Rally (SR) 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (S) | 12 12 PM AA (Lib) | 13 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib) 10 AM CHD Vaccine Clinic (Lib) |
| 14 9 AM Worship Service (S) 3 PM Pickleball (G) Dave Hock Off | 15 Office Closed 12 PM AA (Lib) 7 PM Boy Scouts (JR/SR/G) 7:30 PM AA (Lib)  | 16 10:30 Zoom Bible Study 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM AA Women's Meditation (Lib) 7 PM Deacons (Lng) | 17 9:30 AM Staff Meeting (O) 10 AM My Brother's Keeper (JR) 12/7:30 PM AA (Lib) | 18 10 AM AA (Lib) 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (S) | 19 12 PM AA (Lib) | 20 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib) |
| 21 9 AM Worship Service (S) 12 PM Discipleship (Lng) 3 PM Pickleball (G) | 22 Crier Deadline 12 PM AA (Lib) 7 PM Boy Scouts (JR/SR/G) 7:30 PM AA (Lib) | 23 10:30 Zoom Bible Study 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM AA Women's Meditation (Lib) | 24 10 AM My Brother's Keeper (JR) 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM Girl Scouts #63223 (JR) 7:30 PM AA (Lib) | 25 10 AM AA (Lib) 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (S) | 26 12 PM AA (Lib) | 27 9:30 AM AA (SR) 9:30 AM Al-Anon (JR/Lib) |
| 28 9 AM Worship Service (S) 10:15 AM Prayer Circle (Lng) 12 PM Discipleship (Lng) 3 PM Pickleball (G) | 29 12 PM AA (Lib) 7 PM Boy Scouts (JR/SR/G) 7:30 PM AA (Lib) | 30 12 PM AA (Lib) 6 PM AA Women's Meditation (Lib) | 31 10 AM My Brother's Keeper (JR) 12 PM AA (Lib) 7:30 PM AA (Lib) | | | |

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