

*First Congregational Church of  
Wiscasset, UCC*



The Tree Lighting!

*The  
MEETING HOUSE CHIMES  
December 2024*

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*First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, UCC  
28 High Street, Wiscasset, ME 04578  
(207) 882-7544*

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**VISION:** We are on a journey to reflect God's love, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of all.

**MISSION:** Together we strive to praise God, grow in faith, cultivate love, spread joy, care for all people and God's creation, promote peace, and do justice.

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*Welcome to the December edition of the Chimes!*



"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." ...*Jeremiah 29:11*



## *Myers' Musings*

*December 2024*

*"It's that time of year – don't miss anything!"*


Dear church families,

On December 17, 1903, a couple of bicycle-makers and merchants, Orville and Wilbur Wright, were able to keep their hand-built airplane in the air for 59 seconds. This was a moment that changed history! In their excitement they immediately sent a telegram to their sister back in Dayton, Ohio. It read: "First sustained flight today in 59 seconds. Hope to be home for Christmas."

Their sister was so excited by the good news that she took the telegram with its big news to the editor of the local newspaper. The next morning, to her surprise, the newspaper splashed out the news in bold letters, "Popular Local Bicycle Merchants to be Home for the Holidays."

The biggest news of the time passed by Dayton, Ohio, on that historic day. The newspaper office missed the point.

During the coming Advent and Christmas seasons, that is



something we need to ask ourselves, “Do we miss the point, do we miss the most important and exciting events of the day?”

All during my seminary and theological training and throughout most of ministerial career I thought the main point of Advent was preparation and anticipation for the coming of the Christ Child. Not that that is not important, but more and more I am impressed that despite our best efforts of preparation, it is often the unexpected surprises where we find Christ arriving in our lives.

For example, how many of us spend so much time preparing for Thanksgiving that we miss the opportunities to truly give thanks for and to our friends, family and the good things of our lives? Or take the birth of Christ. The religious people and all the Jewish people were in great expectation for a king to be born (why else would a jealous, paranoid King Herod order all males under the age of two to be killed?) But there was no royal birth, no headlines, or no royal couple. Instead, there occurred an obscure birth in a stable, under the most unpretentious of circumstances, to the most peasant of parents.

As it turns out, the birth of the most revolutionary person in all of history was missed! There was no birth celebration – except for a few shepherds, 3 Magi, and some animals.

In our haste of the upcoming holiday seasons, let us resolve to be aware of what Good News we can find in the unexpected surprises of these hectic times. Don’t let the most important things of your life pass you by!

Looking forward to the surprises of the seasons!

*Dave Myers*

(See the "Sermons and Scriptures" section below for the upcoming Sermons)

### **Drivers Anyone?**

If you would like to provide an occasional ride to and from church on Sunday mornings for those unable to drive themselves, please





Church  
Live streaming

## Streaming Sunday Services

Are you good with Audio/Visual equipment? If not, would you like to learn?

The church needs a few more people to step up and stream our services on Sundays. Tom Clement, Dewey Harris, Chris Sieracki and Sarah Whitfield have made an enormous commitment to be responsible for streaming our services each Sunday.

Please contact any of our current “stream team” or Libby Mooney if you would like to become part of the team!



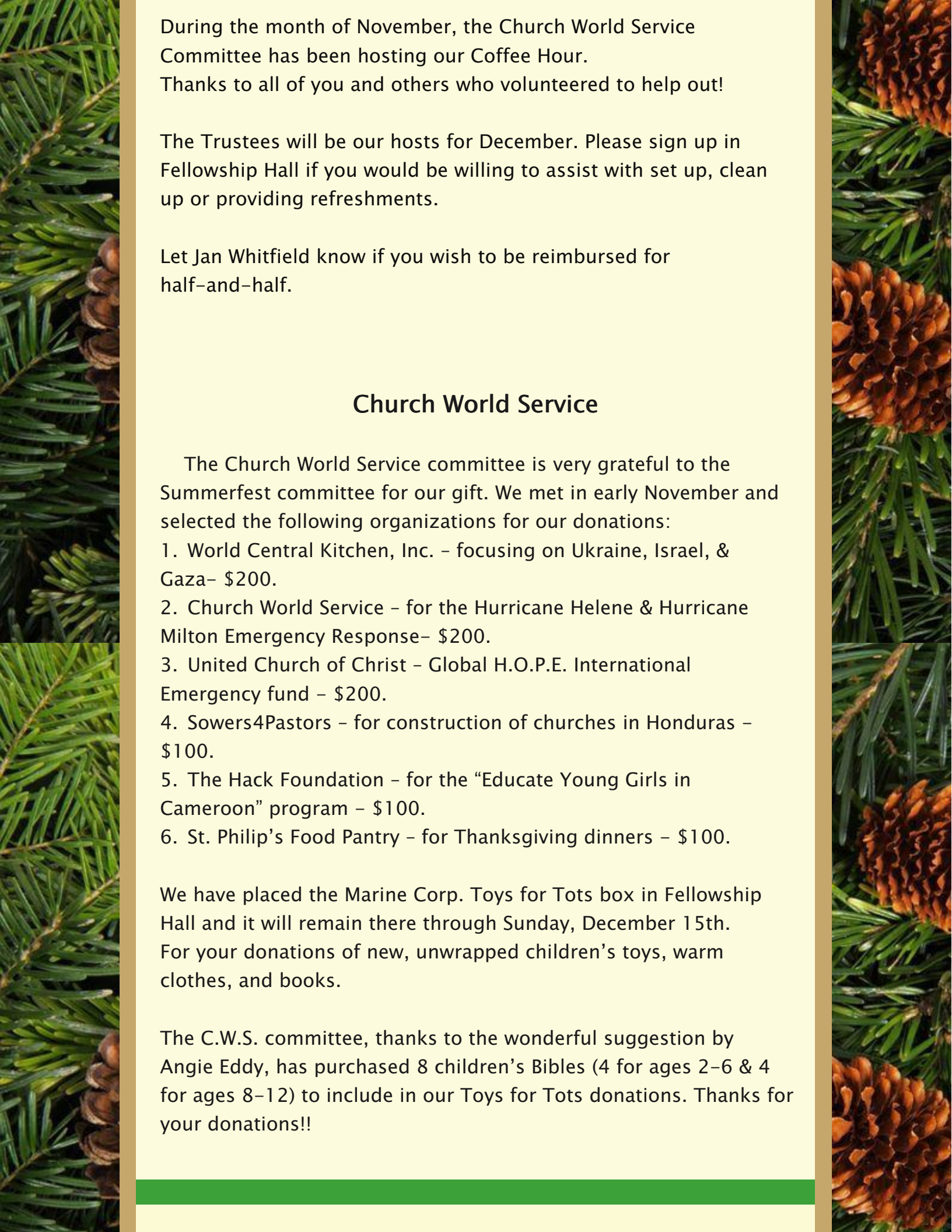
## Would you like to bring in flowers to grace our sanctuary?

Bringing in your favorite houseplant to share would be wonderful! Would you be willing to leave your beautiful offering for more than one week?

Please sign up for two weeks in a row if you'd like. Cut flowers are always welcome too!

## News from the Hospitality Committee





During the month of November, the Church World Service Committee has been hosting our Coffee Hour. Thanks to all of you and others who volunteered to help out!

The Trustees will be our hosts for December. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall if you would be willing to assist with set up, clean up or providing refreshments.

Let Jan Whitfield know if you wish to be reimbursed for half-and-half.

## Church World Service

The Church World Service committee is very grateful to the Summerfest committee for our gift. We met in early November and selected the following organizations for our donations:

1. World Central Kitchen, Inc. – focusing on Ukraine, Israel, & Gaza– \$200.
2. Church World Service – for the Hurricane Helene & Hurricane Milton Emergency Response– \$200.
3. United Church of Christ – Global H.O.P.E. International Emergency fund – \$200.
4. Sowers4Pastors – for construction of churches in Honduras – \$100.
5. The Hack Foundation – for the “Educate Young Girls in Cameroon” program – \$100.
6. St. Philip’s Food Pantry – for Thanksgiving dinners – \$100.

We have placed the Marine Corp. Toys for Tots box in Fellowship Hall and it will remain there through Sunday, December 15th. For your donations of new, unwrapped children’s toys, warm clothes, and books.

The C.W.S. committee, thanks to the wonderful suggestion by Angie Eddy, has purchased 8 children’s Bibles (4 for ages 2–6 & 4 for ages 8–12) to include in our Toys for Tots donations. Thanks for your donations!!



# == SOS == SHOP ORGAN SOCIETY



The First Sunday of each month the Organ Society will set up Shop in Fellowship Hall, offering seasonal handmade items for sale.

Sunday December 1, we will have various Christmas themed items and gifts.



# ORGAN SOCIETY COOKIE SALE

The Organ Society Cookie Sale will be on **Sunday, December 15** after worship in Fellowship Hall.

Remember how delicious our cookies were in the past and the wonderful variety. Buy for yourself and your friends!

We have not raised our price – only \$5.00 per plate!



**We need many volunteers to make goodies this year, so please help us out if you can.**

We ask that your cookies/brownies, etc., be nut-free. Gluten-free items are great also.

Bring your donations to the church by 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 14 as that is the morning we package all the goodies for easy distribution on Sunday after church.

If you cannot drop off your cookies early Saturday, please leave them in the kitchen by Friday, December 13.

**Why not plan to include these delicious treats at your holiday gatherings!**

Please email Joan Shea, [joanzone7@gmail.com](mailto:joanzone7@gmail.com), with any questions.

## *Worship during December, 2024 (Advent Season)*

Dec. 1:

First Sunday of Advent.

Theme: Preparing. Communion. Our sanctuary will be graced with the Hanging of the Greens – the Advent wreath which we celebrate each Advent Worship service with a different emphasis. This week the Advent Candle is Hope; and also the four wreaths which represent “The Cross”, “The Circle”, “The Star”, and the “Heart.” The message will be about how we prepare for Christ’s coming into our lives.

Dec. 8:



**The Advent candle of Peace.**

**Sermon: “An Annotated Genealogy of Jesus”** based on Matthew 1:1 – 18. Perhaps one of the least studied and read passage of the Gospel may be one of the most important – the first 18 verses of Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus’ genealogy from Abraham – all 42 generations. This will be an audience participation sermon.

\*It will be followed by a Pot-luck Luncheon with slideshow by Rev. Myers of the Holy Lands and some maps showing Jesus’ Journeys.

**Dec. 15:**

**The Advent candle of Joy.**

**The Choir will present a Special Christmas Anthem. Sermon: “John the Baptist Never Won a Preaching Award”** based on Luke 3:1–12. We are told that John was a preacher that called the people that flocked to him “a brood of vipers and he dressed in camel hair and ate locusts and honey.” That wasn’t the preaching advice I received in Seminary!

**Dec. 22:**

**The Advent Candle of Love.**

**Sermon: “Christmas Fear and Christmas Cheer”** based on Luke 1:26 –55. Christmas Sunday. The approaching birth brought both fear to Mary and Joseph and all the Jews who live under King Herod who had issued a decree that “all males under the age of two be slaughtered.” And of course the birth of Jesus brings cheers to our celebrations.

**Dec. 24:**

**The Christ Candle will be lit.**

**Christmas Eve Service with Candlelight.**

**Sermon: “When Obstetrics Became Revelation”** based on the Nativity Stories.

An ordinary birth during a terrible time of fear and unrest has provided a revelation of love to generations down through the ages.

**Dec. 29:**

**Christmas Lessons and Carols.**

**Sermon: “Fulfilling the Past to Greet the Future.”**

***Various Announcements***



## *December 8*

The sermon and fellowship time on this Sunday will be altered.

The worship service will feature as a sermon “An Annotated Genealogy of Jesus” Matthew 1:1 – 18. This is a congregation participation sermon, in which the congregation (and choir) will be asked to make responses to all the names in the genealogy from Abraham to Jesus.

Then after church you are invited to a **Pot-luck after Church!!** Please bring your favorite dish. As a result of watching **The Chosen**, and the interest that developed in the land and conditions of Jesus ministry, **Rev. Myers will share slides from his 2011 trip to Jordan and Israel** that will give you an idea of Jesus’ travels, the terrain, and topography, and many of the commemorative sites.

### **St. Philips Capital Campaign**

St. Phillip’s Church, our sister Church in Wiscasset, is undergoing a capital campaign to raise money for their continued operation.

Specifically, they are attempting to raise \$100,000 for repairs and improvements to their building that last saw a significant renovation in 1866 and \$100,000 for ongoing pastoral and outreach functions.

As such, your Trustees recommended and in November Church Council approved a donation from our endowment of \$20,000. This donation is from FCCW as a fellow Wiscasset Church. Individual Church members are encouraged to provide their own contributions to this campaign.

If you would like to donate please send your donations to:  
St. Philip’s Church  
12 Hodge Street  
Wiscasset Maine 04578

Thanks, Dewey Harris for Trustees

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING OUR NEW  
“KEEPER OF THE CHURCH HISTORY”?**



Hi all! You've probably heard that Greg and I are moving to Thornton Oaks in Brunswick at the end of the year, and I would like someone to replace me as the "Keeper of the Church History".

All the boxes in the safe are catalogued except one, and a notebook is available in the safe closet which lists the contents of each box. A lot of you heard about our many historic items at our 250th Anniversary Celebration last summer.

Please let me know if you would be interested in taking over the job. I will be happy to walk you through the process which is pretty much complete. We just need someone who can familiarize themselves with our wonderful church history.

Many thanks! Joan Shea, [joanzone7@gmail.com](mailto:joanzone7@gmail.com), 207-882-4067.

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### A Message from the Trustees:

Please practice of closing **all** doors when we're not in the building.

Closed doors make a huge difference in the event of a fire.

Thank you,  
Your Trustees

### CLYNK Reminder

CLYNK bags, in which you put your returnable bottles and cans, are available in the church office. The tags that must be put on these bags are in Fellowship Hall tacked on the CIS bulletin board near the kitchen; there are also pre-tagged bags there.



Take the tagged filled bags (no more than 20 pounds) to any local Hannaford CLYNK station or bring it to church and notify Beth Maxwell who will take the bag to Hannaford. There is a bag in the kitchen if you want to bring in bottles and cans and deposit them there instead of collecting them at home.

The money collected by using these bags is used to support the Feed Our Scholars program.

Many thanks for participating in this effort.





### Pastoral Care

In case of a pastoral emergency please use Rev. Dave's cell phone 202-302-6903. Office hours are T, W, Th 9:00am - 12:00pm. Please continue to use the church number (297-882-7544) for all other church business.

Cindy Clemet  
Church Council President

### Directories!

**If you have moved, new phone number, new email address, please let the office know so we can update the directory with any changes.**

The 2024 directory are now available. Please pick one up in Fellowship Hall or in the Narthex. If you are away, Ted is happy to put one in the mail to you, or Email to it to you.

Please keep the office posted when phone numbers or addresses change. It is easy to update the database so the next time the directory is printed, your change will be included.





*Thank you for reading the December issue of The Chimes!*

If you have news, you'd like to share for the **January** issue, please send in your article by **December 20th** to [fccw@myfairpoint.com](mailto:fccw@myfairpoint.com).

[>> Click here for the November Chimes](#)

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*First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, UCC*

*Mailing address: P.O. Box 350*

*[www.uccwiscasset.org](http://www.uccwiscasset.org) ~ [fccw@myfairpoint.net](mailto:fccw@myfairpoint.net)*

*Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 9am-12pm*

*Worship: Sunday 10 a.m.*

*Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. David C. Myers*

*Music Director: Joel Pierce*

*Office Administrator: Ted Gilbert*

*Sexton: Mary McKinney*

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*Shining the Light of Christ*  
FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH  
*in the Heart of Wiscasset*

First Congregational Church, Wiscasset | 28 High Street P.O. Box 350 | Wiscasset, ME 04578  
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