

The Chimes Newsletter



*Federated Church of Ashland
118 Main Street
Ashland, MA 01721*

~ December 2022 ~

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day, We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen. ~ *Henri J.M. Nouwen*



**Christmas Boutique
Saturday, December 3
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

There will be crafts, knitted items, jewelry and a food sale. We hope everyone will attend.

Pam Dunham and Melanie Conner

**A -- Anticipation in Advent
D -- Deliberate quiet and reflection
V -- Veni Veni Emmanuel!
E -- Emmanuel--God With Us
N -- Now is the season to repent and return
T -- Time to make room in our lives for the
Coming One**

All Blessings, Katie



YOU are invited

**A Community Celebration of Christmas
Christmas Eve
6:00 - 8 :00 PM**

6:00 - 7:00 PM - We will have live music in the Sanctuary performed by Sorana Scarlet, Harpist and Anne Gasper, Flutist and Feeding of the Manger Animals (please bring a canned good to donate).

7:00 PM - Candlelight Communion Service with Music

Please plan to join us for a Community Christmas!

The Lord's Prayer in Advent

Our loving God,
mother and father of us all,
in you is our hope and our heaven.

May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe,
the way of your mercy and justice be our way,
your heavenly will be done on earth.

With the bread we need for each day, feed us;
for the choices we make against love, forgive us,
in times of testing, strengthen us;
from the oppression of evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory and the power which is love, now and forever, Amen.

**Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25**

**We will not have a worship service on
Christmas Day.**



Merry Christmas to All!

**New Year's Day
Sunday, January 1**

**Please note: We will have our regular worship service, but
have moved communion to January 8th.**



Pumpkin Patch Update

Let me start by saying that this year's Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser was a success thanks to the commitment and energies on the part of the congregation of our Federated Church and the assistance of our High School students. My grateful "Thank you" is extended to all who helped.

As in previous years, we saw a number of repeat customers coming to buy their favorite pumpkins. This year we introduced two new attractions. First, was the Fair, selling baked goods, knit wear, and other items. My thanks are extended to those who made these items for sale. Secondly, Gina (Guidi) McCleary provided her time and talents to take photos of children and family members amid the pumpkins. Both attractions helped to make this month's fundraiser a bigger success than in previous years.

Let me take a moment to talk about the dollars taken in. Total sales were \$6066, 75% is being returned to the Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers. That amount is \$4549. The remaining 25% remains with the church and that amount is \$1517.

Following are the names of those who committed the necessary labor and support to make October 2022 such a success:

Linda Russo	Peg Daly	Leslie Kendall
Lisa & Tom Colby	Pam Dunham	Pat Adams
Arlene Ripley	Gina McCleary	Raman Krishnan
Christian Rieck	Clayton Rieck	Tina Kingsbury
Mike & Sue Rieck	Katie Keene	Wayne Buckley
Bill Tougas	Kim & Tye Jordan	
Porter & Sylvian Woodward		
David & Heidi Wesolowski		
Melanie & Mike Conner		
Vauntina & Andy Franklin		

Children Helpers: Yuna and Nathaniel Woodward
Leah and Aidan Wesolowski

My apologies for any omissions or misspelling of names, these errors were not intentional.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill (and Sue) Wallace

Holiday
~ Office Closed ~
December 26th



Ukraine Fundraisers

Show your support for the People of Ukraine!
Purchase heart shaped pins in the Ukrainian national flag colors, Flag pins, Sunflower pins or Silk sunflowers.

Small pins (Hearts or Flags) - \$5 each
Large pins (Hearts or Sunflowers) - \$10 each

Silk Sunflowers - \$10 each

If you would like to purchase any of these items, please leave a message in the Church Office @ 508-881-1355 or call Rev. Katie Keene @ 617-721-2002. You may also purchase them at the Thrift Shop on Wednesdays or Saturdays.

100% of All proceeds to benefit the People of Ukraine through the work of the World Central Kitchens in the Ukraine and neighboring countries.

Church Office

The Church Office remains closed.

Linda continues to work from home. If you need to reach her, please feel free to leave a message at the church office 508-881-1355 or send an email to fcoaoffice@verizon.net

Stay safe and be well, Linda :)



Church Pledges



Thank you to everyone who continues to faithfully send in their pledges.

If you are able to keep up with your pledge, we would appreciate you mailing it to the church.

For those of you who are unable to contribute at this time - we do understand.

Thank you for your continued support!

Prayer Requests

Prayer needs, concerns and thanksgivings: the prayer life of our community is as vibrant as ever. If you would like to add anything to our weekly prayer list, please leave a message for Linda in the church office 508-881-1355 or send an email to Linda at fcoaoffice@verizon.net





Our Thrift Shop is OPEN ...

**Wednesdays 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
AND
Saturdays 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Masks are Required to Enter the Thrift Shop
Donations are accepted the days we are Open.**

**Please Note: We will be CLOSED
Saturdays - December 24 and 31**



Sunday Worship Service

We continue to hold in-person worship services at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings in our Sanctuary.

Our worship service is also available live at 10:00 AM on YouTube FCOA.

You may also view any of our past services on YouTube.

Wishing you every happiness at the holidays and throughout the coming year.

Merry Christmas!



Brown Bag Sunday

The Ashland Food Pantry continues to accept donations.

Would you please consider picking up a few extra non-perishable food items while you are grocery shopping?

Donations may be brought to the Church on Sundays between 10:00 -11:00 AM. If you would like to drop off your donations directly at the Community Center, there is a bin located outside.

Thank you for your continued support!



Our Members' Birthdays

December

12/31 Laura Conner

January

1/2 Dotty Clowes

1/4 Bruce Scotland

1/18 Kaylee Kendall



May you always know peace, love, light and laughter.

Federated Church of Ashland

508-881-1355

Pastor - Rev. Katheryn Keene

617-721-2002 --- kkeene@townisp.com

Office Manager - Linda Iarussi

Church Office: fcoaoffice@verizon.net

Web Site: federatedchurchashland.org