

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ 12/25/11
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Rev. Martha Leahy, Pastor
All Ages Worship Together Sundays at 10:00AM

WELCOME! Welcome to the First Congregational Church in Saugus Center! If you are a first-timer today and like what you see and hear, please sign our Guest Book located in the Narthex (the front entrance of the church) and we will put you on our newsletter mailing list. Worship services are every Sunday at 10:00AM. Large print bulletins, Bibles and sermon copies are available – please see an usher to assist you. You can find bulletins, sermons and more on our website. Fellowship and Coffee Hour follow the service; we would be pleased if you could join us.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: All ages worship together in our church. During the church program year (Sept-June) children 5 and up sit together in the very front pew with adult "Shepherds" and participate fully in the service. When they enter, they light a special candle to place on their own altar space. We provide activities for them in colorful worship bags called, "God-Pax." Once a month, a teacher leads them in an art project that ties into our worship theme. Children 4 and under are welcome in our nursery if they get fidgety. We hope you and your child have a meaningful worship experience with us.

CALENDAR

(See Communication Center in Fellowship Hall for all the details)

Food Pantry Donations: We collect donations every first Sunday of the month (Communion Sunday) for the Saugus Community Food Pantry; located at the Cliftondale Congregational Church, Essex Street, Saugus, open Fridays 9:30-11:00AM. Please remember them when you are out shopping.

Trustees Meeting: Mon., 1/3, 7:00PM

Deacons Meeting: Sun., 1/8 after church

Stewardship: Sun., 1/29 after church

Dance Group Rental: Tuesdays, 7:00PM

Brownie Troop: Mondays, 4-5:30PM

Rev. Martha's Sunday off, 1/1/12, Kate Pinkham preaching, **Communion** will be 1/8/12

Church Council: Mon., 1/9, 7:00PM

Choir Rehearsals: Tuesdays, 7:00PM

Religious Ed: Wed., 1/4, 6:30PM

Masons Week: 3rd week of the month

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: Tuesday, 12/27.

WORSHIP THEMES, SPECIAL SUNDAYS & EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS:

- Sat., 12/24 Christmas Eve Worship 7PM. Scripture, carols & candlelight.
- Sun., 12/25 Christmas Day Worship 10AM. Happy birthday, Jesus!
- Wed., 12/28 Sunday School Families Supper & Conversation 5PM

MORE NEWS

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP. On Christmas Eve 12/24 we will celebrate the coming birth of Jesus with a traditional service of lessons, carols and a candlelight singing of "Silent Night," along with guest soloists. On Sunday, Christmas Day 12/25 we gather at our regular worship of 10am to continue the celebration with great joy, music, prayer and praise.

KIDS NIGHT OUT! All Sunday School children, families, teachers and supporters are invited to a supper on Wed., 12/28, 5-7:30 p.m. Kids will love the food - mac & cheese with chicken fingers. Conversation following supper for adults, with a movie & popcorn for the kids. We will talk about changes in our Christian Education program in 2012 – good things are happening!

2012 BUDGETS DUE TO THE TRUSTEES. All committees are asked to submit their 2012 budgets to the Trustees this month so they can set the annual budget in January. If they do not hear from you, they will use 2011 figures, which may be reduced if pledges do not meet our goal.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2012. Have you returned your pledge card yet? It is up to each of us to support our church by worshipping regularly; caring about one another; volunteering on a board, or a committee or for a fundraiser; and pledging with financial gifts. Questions? See Greta Zaniboni. Together we can keep our church alive and relevant in our community and in the world!

U2CHARIST SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S EPISOCPAL, Fri., 1/6/12, 7:30PM. Hey everyone! Do you like U2 music? Are you curious about how to worship God in a different way? Come to our U2charist on the Epiphany! U2charists are inter-denominational worship services that feature U2 music and Holy Eucharist (Communion). The rock band U2 spends much of their time focusing on global reconciliation, justice for the poor and oppressed, and the importance of caring for one's neighbor. Led by the global MDG ambassador, Bono, U2 is calling people worldwide to a deeper faith and engagement with God's mission. The U2charist seeks to be an extension of this ministry. In keeping with this goal, Fr. Kevin Olds (St John's Episcopal Church in Saugus) and the Rev. Jill Olds (Old North Church, UCC in Marblehead) will be co-leading a U2charist. In the spirit of U2's global efforts, the proceeds from the offering will go towards Saugus Public Schools. We hope to see you there! St.John's Episcopal Church, 8 Prospect Street, Saugus, MA 01906. (RSVP to Rev. Martha if you want to go with her.)

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO BE THINKING.....BREAKFAST! Our next community breakfast is Sat., 1/14/12, 7-10 A.M. French toast, ham, sausages, home fries, scrambled eggs, homemade beans, pastries, drinks. Donation \$5.95. Can you sell some tickets? See Gene Decareau.

December Birthdays: 12/1 Jane Taatjes; 12/11 Julie Cormier; 12/20 Judy Wallace
December Anniversary: 12/4 Dean & Donna Thomas