

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ 12/4/11
300 Central Street, Saugus, Massachusetts, 781-233-3028
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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., 12/5 7:00PM

Church Council: Mon., 12/12, 7:00PM

Deacons Meeting: Sun., 1/8 after church

Choir Rehearsals: Tuesdays, 7:00PM

Dance Group Rental: Tuesdays, 7:00PM

Religious Ed: Wed., 12/7, 5:30PM

Brownie Troop: Mondays, 4-5:30PM

Masons Week: 3rd week of the month

Meeting of Pearl Pastorate Churches: Sat., 12/17 in Gloucester, 9:30-11:30am

WORSHIP THEMES, SPECIAL SUNDAYS & EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS:

- Wed., 11/30 Advent Bible Study with Kate Pinkham, 10am. Meets 12/7, 14 & 21.
- Christmas Concert, Sun., 12/4, 7PM. Free to all!
- "Advent After School" for ages 5-17, Thursdays, 12/1, 8, 15, & 22, 3:30-5PM
- Sun., 12/4, Worship & Communion, 10AM. Christmas Cake orders due.
- Charlotte Davis Christmas Party, Wed., 12/7, 6:30PM
- Sun., 12/11, Worship & Christmas Pageant, "Christmas Around the World," 10AM. Angel Tree gifts due.
- Sun., 12/11, Masons Christmas Party w/Curious Creatures, 1:30-4:30pm, RSVP needed.
- Fri., 12/16, Blue Christmas Service, 7PM
- Sun., 12/18, Worship & Christmas Sunday. Kids Craft Sunday. Christmas offering received & blessed. Angel Tree gifts delivered to Bridge House & SPIN in Lynn.
- Sat., 12/24 Christmas Eve Worship 7PM. Scripture, carols & candlelight.
- Sun., 12/25 Christmas Day Worship 10AM.

"CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD" CONCERT, Sun., 12/4, 7PM. Come hear Christmas music from all over the globe – Germany, France, England & the U.S. Bring your family and friends to this annual free event! Refreshments will be served following the concert.

ANGEL TREE GIFTS. Our Angel Tree is up and gift tags await you. Take one and buy a gift for someone in need. Please return gifts by Sun., Dec. 11. Can you help deliver the gifts to Bridge and SPIN House in Lynn? See Marilyn Panico, Cheryl Panico or Dotty Annis.

MORE NEWS

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!

CHRISTMAS MEMORY PAGE. Your loved ones can be remembered on our Christmas Memory Page for a \$10 donation to the church. Names of donors and honorees will be included in an insert on 12/18 & 24. Envelopes for donations are on the table in the narthex & the Communications Table in Fellowship Hall. Checks should be payable to First Congregational Church. Deadline is 12/11. Questions? See Marilyn Panico or call 781-233-1454.

THE MITTEN TREE is up in Fellowship Hall. We are collecting mittens, hats & gloves for the needy. In the past we have given to Bridge House, SPIN House & Saugus Food Pantry. All sizes are needed for men, women & children. Thank you, Marilyn Panico 781-233-1454.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE, Fri., 12/16, 7PM. Because of profound loss or sudden life changes, we are not always in the mood to celebrate at Christmas time. We invite you to this one-hour contemplative service of prayer, song, candlelight and comfort for those grieving during the holidays.

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, with music, prayer and praise.

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