



THE STEEPLE BELL

December/January - 2017/2018

Dennis Union Church – United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

**WITH JESUS AS OUR ANCHOR AND COMPASS,
GOD BIDS US TO BE A BLESSING IN THE WORLD**

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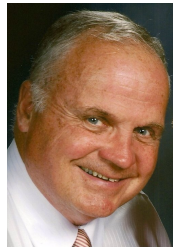
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FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

The season of Advent is on the horizon. Advent begins the church year. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. The word **Advent** means “coming” or “arrival.”

Advent is a season of waiting and watching leading to the joyful celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is marked by a spirit of expectation, anticipation, preparation and longing.

On the four Sundays of Advent we will light the candles on the Advent wreath during worship. The four candles represent hope, peace, joy and love. On Christmas Eve we will light the Christ Candle, for Christ is the Light of the World. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God himself, his eternity and endless mercy which has no beginning or end.

The liturgical color for the season of Advent is **purple**. Purple is the color of penitence and fasting, as well as the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the King.

Red and **green** are more secular colors of Christmas. They derive from older European practices of using evergreens and holly to symbolize the ongoing hope and life that Christ's birth brings into a cold world.

Advent can be celebrated in the home with the creation of an Advent wreath for the dinner table or with an Advent calendar. Celebrating Advent at home helps us to share our faith with our children and grandchildren.

May the season of Advent fill you with hope, peace, joy, and love. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Terry

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Join us for
WORSHIP
SUNDAYS 10:00 AM

WORSHIP IN DECEMBER/JANUARY

Dec. 3 – First Sunday of Advent

Sermon: *Watch, Wait, Hope*

Text: Isaiah 64:1-9

Women's Song

Dec. 10 – Second Sunday of Advent

Children's Pageant

Dec. 17 – Third Sunday of Advent

Music Sunday

Dec. 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sermon: *Mary, Did You Know?*

Text: Luke 2:1-20

Guest Choir "Cranberry Shores"

Dec. 24 @ 4:00 P.M. – Family Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 24 @ 9:00 P.M. – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Sermon: *Was There Ever Such A Night?*

Text: Luke 2:1-20

Dec. 31 – First Sunday after Christmas

Service of Lessons and Carols

Jan. 7 – Baptism of Christ // Epiphany Sunday

Sermon: *Beloved Child*

Text: Mark 1:4-11

Choir

Jan. 14 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

Sermon: *Come and See For Yourself*

Text: John 1:43-51

DUC Singers

Jan. 21 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

Sermon: *Learning to be a Disciple*

Text: Mark 1:14-20

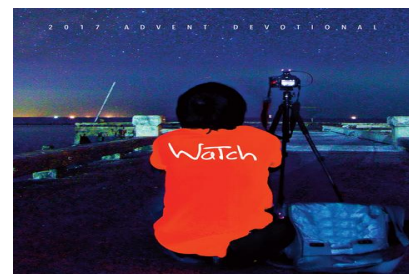
Bells

Jan. 28 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

GUEST PREACHER: Rev. David Powers,
former pastor of Dennis Union Church

Choir

***WE INVITE YOU TO COME AS YOU ARE...
AND DISCOVER WHO YOU CAN BE.***



WATCH

The first Sunday of Advent is December 3rd. Copies of the Advent devotional, *WATCH*, are available outside the church office. This excellent devotional was written by the U.C.C. Writers' Group. Your \$5 donation helps to defray our expense for the publication.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The Flower Committee will take orders for Christmas Poinsettias on December 3 and 10. These plants can be bought in memory of or in honor of a loved one and picked up after the church service on either December 24 or 31.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in memory of a loved one, please be in touch with Nancy Walsh or the church office. The 2018 flower schedule is now being created.

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Church School children will have their Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 10, at the regular 10:00 a.m. worship service.

DENNIS CHRISTMAS STROLL

This year, the Christmas Stroll will take place on Sunday, December 10, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Many Dennis businesses will hold open houses, and there will be plenty of activities for the family. Be sure to join the fun! Children's arts & crafts, and other fun activities will take place in the lower hall of Dennis Union Church.

THE LIVING CRECHE

The annual Town of Dennis celebration, "The Living Creche" will take place on Saturday, December 16. The procession will form at 4:45 at the Cape Playhouse, and participants are asked to bring their own candle. There will be caroling under the stars followed by refreshments in Fellowship Hall.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

All of our church choirs will gather to give a concert at 4:00 p.m. on December 16 (just before the Living Creche). It will also serve as a rehearsal for Music Sunday on Sunday morning, December 17.

CASSEROLES AND CAROLS

Join church members and friends on Wednesday evening, December 13 @ 5:15 P.M. for "Casseroles and Carols" – A Christmas Covered Dish Supper.

Dinner will be served at 5:30 P.M. We will sing carols from 6:30 to 7:00 P.M.

Please sign up on December 3 or 10 or by calling the church office. Let us know if you will be bringing a casserole or a salad. **Please bring your own plates and silverware.**



When in worship, please consider "checking in" with Facebook.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

At the time of a person's death, one of the questions the funeral director will ask is, "Where would you like memorial gifts to be sent?" Church members might consider having memorial gifts directed to the Dennis Union Church.

Church members might also consider including the Dennis Union Church in their estate planning. Your attorney or your pastor can give you more information if requested.

PASTORAL VISITS

You are encouraged to call the church office if you would like to request a home visit from the pastor. Home visits can include communion for those who are not able to be with us on Sunday mornings.

Please inform the church office when members and friends are admitted to the hospital or a nursing home.



If you have not already pledged to our 2018 budget, please forward your pledge to the church financial office. If you *have* pledged, thank you! We appreciate your support!

END OF YEAR REMINDER

In order to be credited to 2017 contribution records and thus appear on your individual statements, all cash or check payments must be received by December 28, 2017.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Committee reports for the 2017 Annual Report are due in the church office from *all board and committee chairs* no later than Wednesday, January 3, 2018. If you aren't sure how to prepare your committee's report, stop by the office and pick up a copy of last year's Annual Report.

SAVE THE DATES!

Coming up in February...the first Saturday, February 3, we will have our annual Budget meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. On the second Saturday, February 10, we will have our Annual Meeting in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. Be sure to attend both meetings. They are important, and we need a quorum!

CANCELLED!

Due to unforeseen events, we had to cancel The Messiah Sing on December 10 just for this year. Instead of that, we will have a Carol Sing from 3:00 to 3:30. Join us!



CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Don't Forget!! The annual **Christmas Cookie Sale** will take place on Sunday, December 10, after the 10:00 service. This is a wonderful opportunity to get a jump start on your Christmas baking or to buy a yummy gift for a neighbor, a shut-in, or just some special person. The Colombia mission team will, once again, host this event with all proceeds going to support our school library project in Ararca (Cartagena), Colombia. We will need LOTS of bakers, so think about your favorite Christmas cookie recipe or try out a new one and add to the magnificent array of cookies that will be displayed in Fellowship Hall. The cost to purchase cookies is \$5.00 for the first dozen and \$3.00 for each additional dozen. This is a wonderful holiday event; make sure it is on your calendar!! Cookies can be dropped off at the church on Saturday (the 9th) morning or before worship on Sunday (the 10th).

CHURCH HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

In observance of the Christmas holiday, the church offices will be closed on Monday, December 25.

In observance of New Year's Day, the church offices will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2018.

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the church offices will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2018.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The minister, officers and congregation of Dennis Union Church offer their sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Nancy Woodworth who died on October 27, 2017. A memorial service was held at our church on November 3, 2017.

The minister, officers and congregation of Dennis Union Church offer their sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Mary Aseltine who died on November 9, 2017.

D-YECH GIFT CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS!

D-Yech Gift Cards are now available for your Christmas shopping/gifts or for yourself! We can get almost anything you can think of. There are complete lists on the hall table across from the office. The best part is...a sizeable percentage goes directly to homeless prevention at NO COST TO YOU! Take and fill out a list of the cards you would like. Please give your form and check to Rachel Simons or Mert Ingham (or Nancy in the office). They take about two weeks to get here. (Even some local restaurants participate, including Hearth & Kettle and Riverway!)

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Faith Family Meal Dates: December 1 and January 5. Located at Faith Assembly of God Church in Hyannis. We no longer cook these suppers, but we are needed to set up, host, and serve the meals! It is easy and fun! The first meal is for children and their families only, the second meal is for all other adults. Try it! E-mail Cindy at: cindyfiscus@hotmail.com with your questions.

- 1) 3:00 p.m. - set tables for dinner and get drink stations ready.
- 2) 4:45-5:45 p.m. – arrive to help serve the first meal.
- 3) 5:45–6:30 p.m. – arrive to help serve the second meal
- 4) Some people needed to help clean the tables and wash a few pots

Day of Hospitality in January:

January 28, 12:00-2:00 p.m. – Drivers are needed to drive our guests from Salvation Army in Hyannis – corner of North and Winter Streets – to church and back again. Also, if you are available to help host, serve, and clean up, please let Cindy know.

TARGETED DONATIONS – DECEMBER

During the month of December we will collect new infant and toddler clothing for A Baby Center in Hyannis – pajamas, sleep sacks, and outfits - sizes newborn through toddler 5.

FOR THOSE WHO DIDN'T KNOW

Many folks who are either new or just forgot...we combine the December and January Steeple Bells, so that you will get one at this time of year.

Usher's Ministry

We are updating our list of ushers for Sunday morning worship services. If you would like to serve as an usher, please speak with Earl Springer, Cheryl Cerbone, or Terry Martinson. Those on the list are asked to usher once a month or so.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jane Wilson	Dec. 2
Shannan Myers	Dec. 7
Beth Boyd	Dec. 11
Mary Morrison	Dec. 11
John Stanton	Dec. 14
Ann Copp	Dec. 21
Ken Landall	Dec. 21
Dick Fiscus	Dec. 26
Deb Anderson	Dec. 28
Enid Crowell	Dec. 30

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Ed & Bev Brink	Dec. 15
Ralph & Nancy Aceti	Dec. 16
Chuck & Lois D'Avolio	Dec. 19
Peter & Connie Rosenberger	Dec. 21
Dick & Cindy Fiscus	Dec. 29
Paul & Barbara Gray	Dec. 31

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Scott Vandersall	Jan. 5
Mert Ingham	Jan. 9
Victoria Schuh	Jan. 12
Doug Hill	Jan. 14
Lloyd Swaim	Jan. 16
Christopher Knell	Jan. 17
Jeff Drake	Jan. 19
Jillian Fiscus	Jan. 20
Earl Springer	Jan. 22
Betty Wrightson	Jan. 23
Lorrie Roughan	Jan. 23
Ted Walker	Jan. 26
John Livingstone	Jan. 26

Karli Herwig	Jan. 27
Nancee Nixdorf	Jan. 28
Liz Cross	Jan. 29
Crystal Reed	Jan. 30

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Paul & Marjorie Kummer	Jan. 19
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CHILDREN AND YOUTH SCHEDULE

Craigville Retreat for 8th grade and up

Dec. 2, 12:00 p.m. to Dec. 3, 12:00 p.m.

Christmas Pageant

December 10, 10:00 a.m.

Please be at church by 9:00 a.m. for music prep and costumes

Choir Concert, Living Creche Procession and Refreshments

Dec. 16, 4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m.

Music Sunday – SECRET SANTA SUNDAY

December 17, during Fellowship

No Sunday School

Youth Fellowship Christmas Party

12-2:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Day,
Services at 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., and
9:00 p.m.

No Sunday School

New Year's Eve Day

No Sunday School

Youth Overnight

January 6, 6:00 p.m.

**LET'S NOT FORGET THE FOLKS
WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY GETTING TO
CHURCH...THEY MIGHT ENJOY A
HOLIDAY GREETING!**

Edie Conti
Beth Boyd
Richard Burnham
Doris David
Russell Gillis
Ann Johnson
Bruce and Carol MacPherson
Ann Johnson
Barbara Mabee
Laurie Soc
Elinore Zeeb

PLEDGE CARDS

We sincerely thank everyone who has returned a pledge card for 2018. If you have not returned your pledge card, it's not too late. Pledge cards are available in the church office and on the guest book stands in the sanctuary. Your pledge fuels our ministry and mission and allows our Finance Committee to plan carefully for the year ahead. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. So, in addition to our Sunday morning worship at 10:00 a.m., we will have our two traditional Christmas Eve services at 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Making our Sunday morning service special will be our guest choir "Cranberry Shores."