



**MESSENGER**  
of the  
**First Congregational  
Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**Melrose, Massachusetts**

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

*Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Pastor*

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**Happy New Year!**

Last Sunday began the church season of Advent. We think of Advent as our preparation for Christmas, but the word itself denotes its additional meaning: it is the beginning of the church year. So let me be the first to wish you a "Happy New Year!" By the way, can you name the seasons of the church year? I'll give you a hint: "A Chilly Elephant Listened Eagerly to the Pirate". Hmmm...

One of the best liturgical symbols we have of this important season is the Advent wreath. Each Sunday we light one of the four candles on the wreath. During this darkest time of year, this is a very important act that reminds us of the coming light of Christ into the darkness of our lives and our world. On Christmas Eve we light the center candle—the Christ Candle itself.

The wreath itself carries much meaning. Being round it reminds us of the unity of God. A wreath in ancient times was also presented to the victor of a competition. For people of faith, Christ is our victor over any challenge—even death itself.

Then there are those candles. Three purple and one pink. Each represents, in turn, Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. Every year, however, we encounter this question: Why the pink candle? The answer is quite interesting.

The early church had only one liturgical season: Lent. This is the season that leads up to the Easter resurrection. It is a somber season but also contains tinges of hope and joy due to the coming of Christ's resurrection. Consequently, when Lenten purple candles were lit during this time of penitence, the candle for the third week was pink—a reminder of this coming joy. The pope would also present the faithful with a pink rose at that time. A rose is also a symbol of Jesus' mother Mary so the pink candle also took on a connection to her life.

When the season of Advent was adopted, this tradition from Lent was imported to the four weeks before Christmas. As in Lent, the candles were designated purple to encourage repentance. The third candle, however, remained pink. Today it reminds us of the coming joy of the incarnation at Christmas and the power of Mary in this timeless narrative. It is the candle of Love.



*Second Sunday*  
OF ADVENT

**Sunday, December 6, 2009**

*Renewing the Covenant*  
**FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY**

**10:00 AM – WORSHIP**

**and Church School Pre-K – 12**

**11:15 AM – Coffee Hour, Narthex**

**7:00 PM – Mandatory Youth Mission Trip Meeting,  
parents/guardians included**

**DURING THE WEEK**

**Friday, December 4**

6:00 – 9:00 PM – Winter Wonderland Fair

**Saturday, December 5**

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Winter Wonderland Fair

7:30 PM – Polymnia Choral Society Concert, sanctuary

**Tuesday, December 8**

3:45 PM – Bread of Life Dinner at St. Paul's, Malden

**Wednesday, December 9**

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal, sanctuary

**Thursday, December 10**

7:30 PM – Deacons and Trustees at the Packhams'

**The following groups meet here regularly:**

**Boy Scouts** – Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the basement

**Girl Scouts** – Sundays at 5:30 PM, Rm. 1 and lounge, Mon. at 7 PM, Rm. 7/8, Wed. at 6PM, Rm.7/8, Fridays 2:30 and 5PM, 7/8

**Pre-PAL** – 9 11:30 AM – M, T, Th, Fri, Room 7

**PAL** – 3:00 PM, Room 7/8

**Cub Scouts** – Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

**Al-Anon** – weekdays at 12 noon, Sunday at 1 & 7 PM – Rm. 8

**Blue of a Kind** – Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Music Room

**S.A.R.P.** – Tuesdays at 6:30 PM, lounge

**A.W.O.L.** – Tuesdays at 7:30 PM, 7/8, lounge, Rm. 1

**Mothers' Group** meets Wednesdays 9-11 AM, lounge, 1, 7/8

**CODA** – Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, lounge

**Vital Cycles** - Thursdays at 7:00 PM, lounge

**O.A.** – Fridays at 7 PM, lounge

**A.A.** – Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, Fridays at 8:00 PM and Saturdays at 3:00 PM – Rm. 8

Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. What better way to prepare for the birth of Christ in our lives!

--Did you remember the liturgical seasons? "A (Advent) Chilly (Christmas) Elephant (Epiphany) Listened (Lent) Eagerly (Easter) to the Pirate (Pentecost)"!

See you in church,

*Rev. Dominic*



**If you have a student at college**, we would like to have their address to be in touch with them this holiday season. Please call the church office (781-665-2111) or [info@fccmelrose.org](mailto:info@fccmelrose.org)



Donna Miner, Jennie Way, Marilyn McComas (Essex Park Rehab, Beverly MA), Betty Crane, Kate Watson, Anne Wing, George Burrell, Bud Pendleton, Barbara Jones.

**Please keep in your prayers:**

† Marcy Holbrook and Wayne Leslie and family.  
Marcy's mother passed away recently.



**Memorial Wreaths that adorn the church this year are  
In Loving Memory of: Given by:**

Marjorie E. Thayer	Donald F. Thayer and family
Our parents:	Sallie and Hans Klemm
Karl and Maria Klemm,	
and Francis and Helen Lathrop	
Troy P. Oosterman	Bob, Cheryl, Kate and Lauren
Cynthia Henry	Family and friends
Our Parents	Steve and Debbie Anderson



Blue Christmas Service

**First Congregational Church**  
**121 West Foster Street, Melrose**  
**Sunday, December 13**  
**- 7:00 p.m.**

For many, Christmas is a difficult time of year due to a loss in one's life. The death of a

loved one, the loss of a job or one's health, the end of a relationship—these challenges and many others can make the holidays a trying time as we seek to cope with the constant refrain of holiday cheer.

By means of a brief service of prayer, scripture, song and candlelight, we will seek to honor and heal the pain many may be feeling this time of year. Please join us for this time of devotion and fellowship as we anticipate the arrival of Christ's healing in our lives this Advent season.

**MANDATORY MISSION TRIP MEETING - SUNDAY DECEMBER 6, 2009 – 7:00 PM!**

To all current high schoolers and 8th grade Sunday School students: Sunday evening, 7:00 PM at the church for a mandatory Mission Trip Meeting. Your parent/guardian also must attend! We need to map out a fundraising schedule and work out the details for our trip in June. Any questions, call Martha Jancaitis, 781-979-9292 or mjancaitis@hotmail.com



**CITY MISSION HOLIDAY DRIVE**

CMS Christmas



Gifts

Each year, City Mission Society, a UCC MA Conference mission activity, organizes a Christmas Shop, where needy families and individuals are invited to come and select gifts for themselves and their children.

Circle 10 is proud to be organizing our Church's collection efforts again this year.

Look for our drop-off table before service in the Narthex.

Donate this coming Sunday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> through Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> (Preferred Date) or Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> (Final donations).

City Mission recommends the following **new/unused** donations:

- ❖ **Winter coats, sweaters and sweatshirts (large sizes especially)**
- ❖ **Hats, mittens, gloves and scarves**
- ❖ **Socks and underwear**
- ❖ **Blankets and backpacks**
- ❖ **Toys, games, and books for all ages**
- ❖ **Gift cards – Grocery, Target, CVS or other Merchants.**

Contact Jen Crain at [jen\\_crain@hotmail.com](mailto:jen_crain@hotmail.com) or another Circle 10 member with any questions or to arrange a pick-up of a donation.

To sort gifts at First Church in Winchester, contact Carl McDonald at CMS to arrange a date/time in advance—(617) 742-6830, ext. 210 or [information@cmsboston.org](mailto:information@cmsboston.org).

# WINTER WONDERLAND FAIR

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC  
121 WEST FOSTER STREET, MELROSE

DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> 6-9PM and DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> 9AM-2PM  
BEEBE ESTATE TROLLEY STOP



**FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER 6-8:30PM**



**KIDDIE MOVIES and POPCORN**



**SATURDAY LOBSTER ROLL LUNCHEON 11:30AM-1PM**

**START YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING** in the Narthex

- \* Fabulous Raffle Baskets
- \* Special Raffle ~ *an original painting by Don Fox*
- \* Mrs. Claus's Closet ~ *handmade soft goods*
- \* Blitzen's Bakery and Candy Shop
- \* Silent Auction
- \* Vintage Jewelry
- \* Christmas Décor and Gifts
- \* Collectibles



**BOUTIQUE SHOPS** in the adjacent rooms

- \* Jewelry ~ *sterling silver and Swarovski crystal*
- \* Maharaja's Chest ~ *jewelry with semi-precious stones*
- \* Doll Fashions ~ *hand crocheted and miscellaneous items*
- \* Doll Clothes, Afghans, Christmas Ornaments
- \* Country Crafts and Decoupage Boxes
- \* Crocheted Items ~ *slippers, dishcloths, pot holders, dolls*
- \* Boiled Mittens ~ *hand sewn with fleece lining*
- \* Handmade Greeting Cards
- \* Decorated Flip Flops
- \* Painted Glass ~ *stemware and candle jars*
- \* RIM ~ *handcrafted pins and information*
- \* Boy Scouts

**FOR THE KIDS ~**

**VISITS WITH SANTA** souvenir photo and CD

**SANTA'S WORKSHOP** in the BASEMENT!

- \* Christmas Crafts
- \* Cocoa and Goodies
- \* Gingerbread House Decorating
- \* Make Reindeer Food  
~ *Rudolph's special recipe*

\* Special Shopping ~ *only kids, K-5th grade, can purchase these new and handmade gifts for the special people on their list ~ at kid-prices!*





**TEMPLE BETH SHALOM OF MELROSE  
WELCOMES YOU TO THE  
22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER**

**Please join us for a festive holiday party**

**First Baptist Church, Main St., Melrose  
Thursday, December 25, 2009**

**Doors Open at 12:00 PM**

**Dinner Served at 1:00 PM**

RSVP: Council on Aging, Melrose 781-665-4304  
Transportation Provided Upon Request  
Please specify if you require special  
accommodations

Sponsored by Temple Beth Shalom, in cooperation  
with the First Baptist Church, Melrose Council on  
Aging and the Melrose Business Community

**No Admission Charge**

***Celebrate Community***

**Support the ministries of First  
Congregational Church in  
Melrose, UCC just by going  
Christmas Shopping on-line!!**

**It's FREE to join.** Shop at over 650 generous  
stores including Land's End, Abbey Press, Eddie  
Bauer, JCPenney, Expedia, and many more! These  
stores give up to 26% from every purchase you  
make to First Congregational Church in Melrose,  
UCC.

**What's the catch?** There isn't one. It's free. No  
"spam." Total member privacy. Members have  
raised over **\$2,000,000** for their favorite causes.

**Here's how iGive.com works:**

- 1.** To shop via iGive.com, go to the home page of  
our church's web site and click on the iGive.com  
button. This will automatically select "First  
Congregational Church in Melrose, UCC" as your  
designated cause.
- 2.** Shop online at any of the 650+ stores associated  
with iGive.com by linking through iGive.com.  
You'll see all your favorite stores, including Lands  
End, Dell, Expedia, Abbey Press, and JCPenney!
- 3.** First Church receives a donation check for a  
percentage of each purchase from iGive.com!

**It's free, it's easy, and every purchase you make  
generates a donation to First Church!**

<http://www.iGive.com/FCCMelrose>

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**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - \$12.00 per plant**

Send your order form by Sunday, December 13 to: Nancy Gift, 74 Prospect St., Melrose, MA  
02176, 781-665-1790

Ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF:

\_\_\_\_\_

# of plants ordered \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to *First Congregational Church*.**

