



WELCOME ~ DECEMBER 22, 2024

We are glad you've joined us for worship today. If you are visiting with us today may you discover a friendly church, a safe haven where you will be loved and accepted; where you will be challenged to reflect on your beliefs, acknowledge your doubts, ask questions, and grow in your faith. May The First Congregational Church, Canton Center help you find God's compassion, healing, reconciliation, justice and joy in our worship service and where you are given the opportunity to put your faith into action through effective outreach ministries. We hope to get to know you as a new friend and invite you to fill out a visitor card. No matter who you are, or where you are in your journey, you are welcome here.

The flowers this morning are given by

*Ken and Pamela Thomas, Deb and John Walsh and Steve and Laura Thomas
in loving memory of their parents, Bill and Ellie Thomas.*

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund will be collected again today. This Mission Offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks. **Please make checks payable: to FCCCC with memo: Christmas Fund.**

December Missions Collections. We are collecting **winter scarves, hats, gloves, mittens, and socks** for the month to be given to various organizations. Please put on or under the Christmas Tree in the sanctuary. Please place in a plastic bag so the don't get pine needles in them.

Do you need a little Christmas – Right this very minute?- If you need a little something to fill around the edges, or perhaps a gift for a Christmas or New Year party, stop by the Scrip table during Coffee Hour. We have many cards in stock for you to take home today – plenty \$10 and \$25 for various retailers and some larger ones too. Or you can order an e-card for many of our 600 available retailers and I will email it to you on Tuesday morning so you can print or email to your recipient! Every gift card you purchase through Scrip gives a percentage back to the church. **Merry Christmas!!**

This Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 5:00 pm - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

*Christmas Eve Collection will go to the Canton Emergency Fuel Bank.
Please make checks payable to: FCCCC with memo: Canton Fuel Bank*

Next Sunday, Dec. 29 - LESSONS & CAROLS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ~ SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING: of the First Congregational Church, Canton Center, Sunday, January 12, 2025 after the 10 am service, OR on January 26 or subsequent Sundays until a Quorum is obtained.

AGENDA

1. Approval of the proposed 2025 budget.
2. Any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bev Sealand, Clerk

Joys for:

Donna & Charlie Hammond's great grandchild, Caroline Ruth Hammond born Dec. 9, 2024.

The Potter family who decorated our sanctuary with candles & wreaths. (Cora Mutch)

Prayers for:

The 11 businesses that were affected by a fire recently in Simsbury. (Debbie Poleyestewa)

Girls/women of the world for their safety, welfare, health and lives through their reproductive rights and in the continued struggle against violence against women. (Marianne Burbank)

Martha Stansel's brother in-law who is in intensive care and prayers for Martha's family.

All the victims of the Sandy Hook shooting 12 years ago - not just for the families of the 20 first grade children and their 6 caretakers, but also the other primary victims of that horrible day:

the surviving children, teachers, and administrators;

the police who first entered the school and were the first witnesses to the carnage;

the first responders who had to stand around powerless as the extent of this tragedy unfolded;

the government officials who had to inform each deceased victim's family;

the detectives and forensic investigators who had to process the crime scenes;

the EMTs and ambulance drivers who were unable to save any of the 26;

the individuals who transported the bodies and the coroners who had to conduct autopsies;

the employees of the funeral homes which had to handle the burials;

the pastors/priests/other officials who conducted the funeral/burial services;

the residents of Sandy Hook.

(Jim Todd)

Sunday 22	Monday 23	Tuesday 24	Wednesday 25	Thursday 26	Friday 20	Saturday 27
Worship 10 am	Choir 4:30 pm Al-Anon 7 pm	Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm AA 7:00 pm	ACA 7 pm			AA 11:00 pm