

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
CANTON CENTER, CT**

**December 24, 2024 ~ 5:00 p.m.  
Christmas Eve**

**In Person & Live Streamed**



*Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold,  
everything is softer and more beautiful.  
~Norman Vincent Peale*

*\*Please stand, if able. Bold denotes unison response.*

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

*Gloria*

Francis Callahan

Cherry Brook Chimes Handbell Choir

*{Lighting of the altar candles during prelude by our Acolyte}*

## INTROIT

*Rolling Downward*

Men's Chorus Dir. Jim Todd

## PRESENTATION OF THE CRECHE

Church School Youth

## CALL TO WORSHIP

On this holy night, we gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior. The world waited in anticipation, and now we rejoice in the light that has come.

**We come with thankful and expectant hearts, ready to embrace the miracle of Christmas and the story of God's great love for us.**

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

**We rejoice in the light of Christ  
that shines in our hearts and in our world.**

Angels proclaimed the good news to shepherds, saying, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

**This is a night of joy, hope, and peace. Let us lift our voices in joy and thanksgiving, celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

## \*CAROL

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Pilgrim (red), 132

## \*PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Loving God, as we gather on this holy night, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We rejoice in the hope, love, and joy that He brings into our lives. Let the light of Christ's birth shine brightly, dispelling darkness and bringing harmony to all. May we remember the true meaning of Christmas and share our love with others. As we anticipate the celebration of His birth, may our hearts be filled with peace and wonder. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### \*Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end, Amen, Amen.*

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**      3 Generations of The Goodwin Family

### ANTHEM

*Child of the Poor*  
Jerry Alonzy & Judy Robinson duet

### \*CAROL

*The First Noel*

Chalice (Blue), 151

### THE OFFERING:

*Canton Fuel Bank*

*The Christmas Eve offering will be for the Canton Fuel Bank. Thank you for your gifts that will help to serve a true need in our community this winter. Please make checks payable to: FCCCC with memo: Canton Fuel Bank*



### OFFERTORY

*Gloria In Excelsis Deo*  
Senior Choir



Lloyd Larson



**CAROL** (seated)

*Silent Night*

Chalice (Blue), 145

*The light is passed from the Christ candle into the congregation, symbolizing the light of Christ within us all. As you pass the light to the next person, please be sure that you tip only unlit candles and that lit candles remain upright. For safety purposes, we ask that children under age 10 not handle lit candles by themselves.*

**\*CAROL**

*Joy to the World*

Pilgrim (Red), 130

**BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* Original Eng. Folk song  
Senior Choir arr. Beatrice Perham Krone

**POSTLUDE**

*Come Rejoice*  
Soloist - Jim Todd

Carly Simon

***The Worship Is Ended...***

***Our Service Now Begins***

**Interim Minister:** Rev. Kurt Satherlie

**Director of Music:** Mary Lou Keefe

**Asst. of Faith Formation:** Karen Needham

**Office Manager:** Kristen DiMattia

**Ministers:** Every Member

**Dir. of Faith Formation:** Dr. Hollace Bristol

**Sexton:** Walt LeGeyt

**Duty Deacons:** Cora Mutch & Phil Doyle



**First Congregational Church**

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[www.cantoncenterchurch.org](http://www.cantoncenterchurch.org)

## WELCOME

Please know that whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

**If you're visiting, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card** (found in the pews or on the back tables) and place it in an offering box, to help us better connect with you.

Looking for more information about the church?

Please feel free to ask the church office during the week.

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

***Thank you for joining us on this Christmas Eve, we welcome you!***

*If you are visiting with us this evening,  
we extend our special welcome and hope you will worship with us again.*

*Offerings will be donated to the Canton Emergency Fuel Bank.*

*Please make checks payable to: FCCCC with memo: Canton Fuel Bank.*

*Thank you to all who have given poinsettias - you may take them after tonight's service.*

### ***And our thanks to:***

***Marianne Burbank** for providing for our Christmas tree, donated from Case's Farm, in memory of Marianne's grandfather, Harry Humphrey, and father, Sam Humphrey.*

***Jim Potter and family** for decorating the church for the season and **Nancy Alford** for the seasonal arrangements on the front steps and other assistance with flowers through the season.*

***Karen Needham**, who has loaned the crèche set on our Communion table.*

*For the beautiful music from the **Senior Choir & Handbell Choir**.*

## **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

# POINSETTIAS 2024



## IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Kenneth Satherlie & Karen Satherlie Davidson

Peg & Larry Carlton and Frances & John Pickrell

Bob Oswald, beloved husband, father & son

Ned Bunnell

John & Anna Bunnell and Franklin & Helen Andrews

Our parents and grandparents

Leon & Vera Turner

Alden & Ruth Tyrol

Norman, Barbara & Erick Erickson

Ev & Louise Erickson

Burton Turner

Dick Berry

Our parents: Henry & Muriel LeGeyt  
and Casimer & Regina Pilitowski

Mary & Sam Humphrey  
and Aunt Ruthie Humphrey

My parents, Muriel & Henry LeGeyt  
My father-in-law, Jim Mutch Sr.

Carol & Walter Soderberg

Marion & Henry Ford Lundgren

Our parents, Gwen & John Johnson  
and Margueriette Baran

## GIVEN BY:

Pastor Kurt

Kathy Pickrell

Kristin Oswald

Geri Bunnell

Geri Bunnell

Skip & Nancy Alford

Susan Turner

Susan Turner

Susan Turner

Susan Turner

Susan Turner

Susan Turner

Dan & Patti LeGeyt

Dan & Patti LeGeyt

Marianne Burbank

Marianne Burbank

Cora Mutch

Cora Mutch

Lori & Grant Hagedorn

Kathleen Lundgren

Craig & Linda McAllister

Craig & Linda McAllister

# POINSETTIAS 2024



## **IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Our sons - Tom & Jeff

Casey LeGeyt  
Brett E. Hooper  
Denise Perkins Humphrey  
My Little Angel  
Mom & Dad

Ruth and John Wilkins

Our parents, Lester & Dorothy Chamberlin  
and Edward & Dorothy Keefe

Our son, Jason Edward Keefe

## **IN CELEBRATION OF:**

Dorothy Satherlie

Our wonderful and supportive church family

My family

My family

Our children and grandchildren

Our daughters, Cailyn & Lauren and their families

Family - past and present

My grandson, Greyson Robert Penn

## **GIVEN BY:**

Hugh & Marcia Anderson

Mommy & Daddy  
Mom & Dad  
Mom & Phil  
Daddy  
Phil LeGeyt

Martha & Paul Stansel

Peter & Mary Lou Keefe  
Peter & Mary Lou Keefe

Peter & Mary Lou Keefe

## **GIVEN BY:**

Pastor Kurt

Kristin Oswald

The Dunn Family

Evelyn Sealand

Skip & Nancy Alford

Craig & Linda McAllister

Charlie & Donna Hammond

Darryl Haberern

