

WEEKLY GOOD NEWS EMAIL

January 10, 2021

First Sunday After Epiphany

First Congregational Church of Hanover, Massachusetts

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

From Pastor Terry

johnterry@fcchanover.org



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR on Sunday, January 10 at 10:30. The Social Matters Committee will be hosting *A Day in the Life - Series I*, and their special guest will be Town Councilor Venessa O'Connor.

<https://zoom.us/j/92797351249?pwd=QXZJQXIEOEftZ0xPM1lcGxLU1dodz09>

Meeting ID: 944 9754 1799; **Passcode:** 73851



Deacons Dennis Falcione, Hal and Mattie Thomas and Bob Meader are keeping the faith and continuing to bring fresh food to Mainspring. Here is what Dennis wrote: “The sincere thanks, gratitude and well wishes to all of us from the folks at Mainspring. I can’t help feel we continue to be blessed in the midst of the Holy Spirit. They were especially excited about receiving fresh chicken, produce, and Italian bread to go with the chicken casserole ingredients. Due to the pandemic, a lot of what they are receiving, while greatly appreciated, is frozen or pre-prepared. Shaw’s was great as they allowed me to pick up 60 lbs. of chicken breast at the sale price, and nicely packaged it in two boxes.

Although we were not able to prep and serve, the Deacons are thankful to once again be a part of this ministry.”



READERS REQUESTED

This pandemic has changed a lot of things. One is that we have not had lay readers as part of the leadership of worship. I am inviting you to read the Call to Worship, Invocation and Scripture for any of the upcoming Sundays. You can record it at home and send it on to Don White who will edit this into the Sunday service along with music by Chad and words by me. Just send me an email with the date you would like to read and I will send the information on to you.

OUTREACH AND SERVICE thanks the congregation for their support for the alternative Thanksgiving Food Drive and Christmas White Gifts. The Hanover VNA greatly appreciated the gift cards we donated.

◆ Please contact Karen Tripp (trippklt@aol.com) to sign up for providing the April meal to MainSpring.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: Please submit your pledge for 2021 as soon as possible. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

2021 PLEDGE ENVELOPES are available at the church office. Come by Tuesday or Thursday between 9 and 2 to pick up your set. Knock loudly on the door to Riley Hall and it shall be opened.

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 7 PM Join in at

<https://zoom.us/j/93375349480pwd=OWlkcjRmV2llaEt0M202RUhKRtA4UT09>

Meeting ID: 933 7534 9480; **Password:** 006430

WEDNESDAY HOUR OF FELLOWSHIP AT 2 PM Join in at

<https://zoom.us/j/5848654652?pwd=WHIDSnlhWkIwc2FGS0c3VWgwNmMzZz09;>

Meeting ID: 584 865 4652; **Password:** 531416

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 on Zoom at 10:30 am in place of Coffee Hour.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

Please email your celebrations and concerns to John Terry or to the church office.



Let's celebrate: Thank you Hal, Maddie, & Stella Thomas, Bob Meader and Dennis Falcione for delivering the January meal to MainSpring.



Please pray for:

- Diane Kofton, friend of Ginny Hunt, with a sudden life-threatening issue
- Joseph Balich, brother of Louise Jackson, with COVID, as well as her parents who had direct contact with Joseph
- Andrew, Jeannie and James White, family of Don and Lynn White, with serious concerns about COVID
- Carol McHugh, friend of Ruth Hall, with ovarian cancer
- Carolyn Frattalone, at home with cardiac issues
- Mary Hoyes, cousin of Jim Hoyes, recovering at home from COVID 19
- Jim Vaille, recovering at home

ATTACHMENT OF THE WEEK FROM Max Lucado

Maybe your life resembles a Bethlehem stable – crude in some spots, smelly in others, not much glamour. You do your best to make the best of it, but try as you might, the roof still leaks, and the winter wind still sneaks through the holes you just can't seem to fix. You've shivered through your share of cold nights, and you wonder if God has a place for a person like you.

Find your answers in the Bethlehem stable. The story of Christmas is the story of God's relentless love for us. The moment Mary touched God's face is the moment God made his case. There is no place he will not go. No place is too common, no person is too hardened, no distance is too far. There is no person he cannot reach. There is no limit to his love. No day is accidental or incidental. No acts are random or wasted. Look at Jesus' birth at Bethlehem. A king ordered a census. Joseph was forced to travel. Mary, round as a ladybug, bounced on a donkey's back. The hotel was full, the hour was late. The event was one big hassle. Yet out of the hassle, hope was born.

It still is. I don't like hassles, but I love Christmas because it reminds us of the heart-shaping promises of Christmas. Long after the guests have left, and the carolers have gone home, and the lights have come down, these promises endure: God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God. Perhaps you could use some Christmas this Christmas?