



December 2016

Church of the New Jerusalem

Monthly Newsletter

A community united by faith in God and love to the neighbor

Advent has arrived! According to our Book of Worship, this is a season that *"invites our inner preparation to celebrate worthily our Lord's coming..."* For those of you who could attend the first Sunday of Advent here at FNC, we worked on some "outer preparation" by hanging the greens in our sanctuary, among other decorations. We look ready for the season...now for that inner work!

After church, my family (in the holiday mood) headed to Weston's to find our own Christmas tree for the parsonage. It wasn't too difficult to find just the right one - they all looked perfect. With the children's approval, we decided on the perfect tree. It was at the moment when the saw was about to touch the tree that my joyful mood rather lurched to a halt. I knew that the beautiful tree in front of me had been planted and cared for and grown for this very reason - to be a Christmas tree in someone's home - but I couldn't help but be sorry that it's life was about to end.

Just lately, I read about a discovery in 1962 that had astounded those who took note. The world's leading polygraph expert, Cleve Baxter, had been in his office at work; his secretary had brought in a couple of plants

from a nearby plant sale. As he was watering them, he had the notion to place electrodes (one part of a lie detector test) in several places on the plant to measure how long it would take the moisture to reach the top of the plant. But what he found was that the chart looked more like what would be expected if a *person were taking a lie-detector test*. Then he wondered how the plant would react to a threat. He had the image of burning the leaf he was testing and without having verbalized the thought, he touched the plant with the equipment, and the pen jumped off the chart. Baxter proved that plants could think and respond; they have a consciousness!

In his later research, he found that in stress conditions, as when it is being cut, a plant will "faint" so it can't feel any pain; it goes "flatline" on the machine. *Maybe I feel a little better?* (And here is something else worthy of note: with fruit, the plants wish to give up its fruit only in a loving ritual, a communion between the eater and the eaten, a Sacrifice.

Baxter said, "It may be that a vegetable appreciates becoming another part of another form of life rather than rotting on the ground,

The Fryeburg New Church aka The Church of the New Jerusalem

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*Office Hours: Pastor ~ Wednesday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.,
Saturday by appointment*

Secretary ~ Wednesday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

www.fryeburgnewchurch.org

just as a human death may experience relief to find himself on a higher realm of "being").

As I think of all this, I can't help but think that while this season has so much beauty, so much hope, and so much excitement (especially if you are a child!), it is also about a miraculous story that will one day be filled with its own kind of pain and sacrifice. The Christ Child enters the world as the long awaited Messiah. He offers hope and love and light to the world, and as we all know, that life would be surrendered at the cross. Yet, it is all for LOVE. I'm so grateful to lean on the truth that life doesn't truly end. No aspect of creation is separate from this cycle of Life.

So before we cut our Christmas tree, we took a moment and said "Thank You" to our tree. Thank you for being the one to give our home extra light and joy and beauty this season. May you not feel any pain.

And thank you, Christ, for coming into this world to share your message of love and peace. Thank you for enduring the pain, and honoring with your whole life what would be for the highest good of all.

With love and blessings this Advent Season,

*Rev. Alison, Adam,
Monroe and Elin*

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Interested in receiving daily Christmas readings from the (General) New Church? Sign up at:

<https://newchurch.org/landing-pages/daily-christmas-readings/>

Worship Schedule

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Family Worship 10:00 AM

Dec. 4: *Advent Message:*

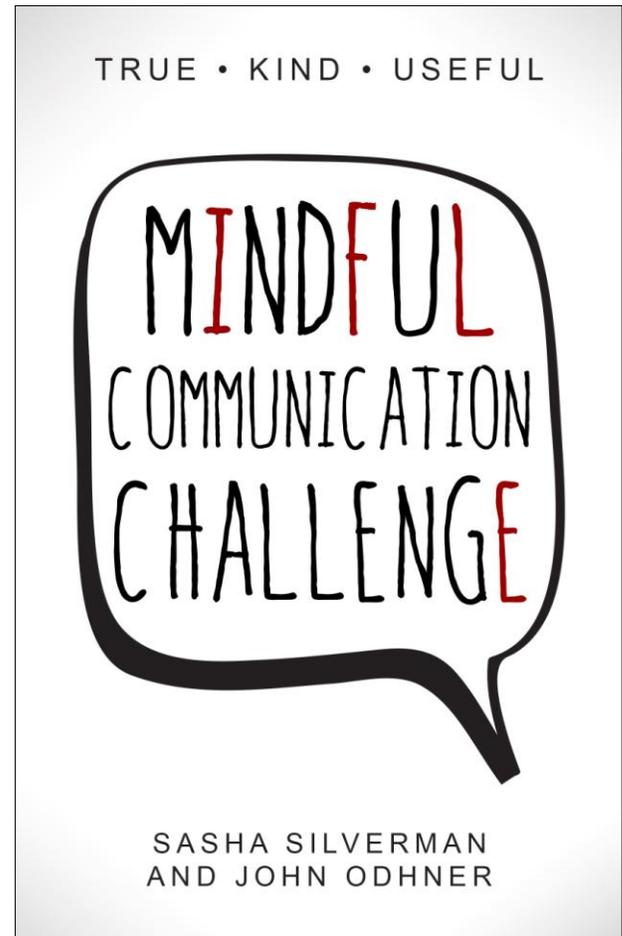
Welcoming what we wanted

Dec. 11: *Advent Message and Communion*

Dec.18: Children's Pageant Sunday!

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service,
7pm, First Congregational Church

Dec. 25: Christmas Day Service led by
Martha Richardson



Message series coming up in the New Year!
(A New Church Journey Program)

Church Report

Dinner Bell North

The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 7:00 pm**. The meetings are open to all, but you should contact the Chair prior to the meeting to get an item on the agenda. Also, please speak to any of the Trustees with your questions, concerns, compliments or complaints. We are here to serve you.

Currently Serving Trustees

Stew Frost, <i>Chair</i>	935-3344
Jon Crowe, <i>Vice Chair</i>	925-1302
Cindy Priest, <i>Treasurer</i>	935-3360
Jim Gibson, <i>Trustee</i>	935-3676
Donnette Barnes, <i>Trustee</i>	461-2411
Susan Logan, <i>Secretary</i>	603-694-3743
Judy Hatch, <i>Trustee</i>	935-2223
<i>Women's Alliance Representative:</i>	
Patricia Swett	603-939-2262

Women's Alliance

The next meeting of the Women's Alliance is TBA. All ladies are welcome and encouraged to join us.

2016 Officers for the Women's Alliance are:

President Jean Cressy
Vice-President Claire Kiesman
Secretary Sally Harnden
Treasurer Patty Swett
Chaplain TBA

Dinner Bell North is looking for a volunteer with a vehicle to drive to Hannaford on Wednesday mornings to pick up the donated food at 9:00 a.m. Need a hatchback, van or truck with storage space. Let Sally Gibson know if you can help. 935-3676
Thank you!

Thank you for your donations to both the Sweden Food Pantry and Brownfield Food Pantry during this season of giving thanks. Your help is greatly appreciated!
Thank you so much!

Annual Meeting, Oct 30

Most of you probably are not aware that we did not have a quorum going into our Annual Meeting on October 30th. Church was well-attended that day, and it never occurred to us that we would not have at least 15 members of our congregation downstairs after, but we did not.

Calls were made, and members who live in Fryeburg Village rushed to the church so that the meeting could proceed. We are very grateful to these members.

We are all busy. We just ask that, looking ahead, time be allotted next year to have your important voice heard when the business of our church takes place. We need you. ☺

Thank You,

Your Trustees

Christmas Eve Candlelight Ecumenical Service

Please join us on Saturday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m. for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Ecumenical Service at the First Congregational Church at 655 Main Street in Fryeburg.



All are welcome.

In Our Prayers

We lift up our entire church family; we offer healing prayers for Burton Chaplin, Nels, Neil Dow and the Ferguson's. Prayers for church family members unable to be with us at church. Prayers for those of you who have recently lost loved ones. Prayers for those living with mental illness and addiction. We also lift up safe travel prayers for all of you traveling this holiday season.



Christmas Pageant

Please join us for a special service on December 18th! The children will be presenting a traditional Christmas Pageant during the service. Afterwards, join us downstairs for a Christmas Party! *We may have a special visitor from the North Pole!*



POINSETTIAS

Orders for red poinsettias need to be in to the office by Friday December 9th. The cost for each poinsettia is \$10.00, you will find an order slip and envelope enclosed.

Office phone #935-3413. Thank you!

This year we are ordering from locally owned Papa's Floral!

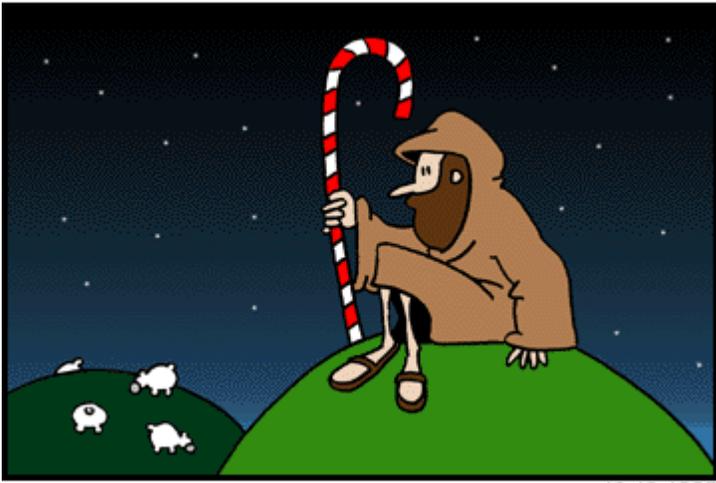
amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

New Fundraiser...you just have to shop at Amazon.com!

When you shop online through Amazon.com, there is a very easy way to donate to our church.

First, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and follow the directions to choose a charitable organization: ours is **Fryeburg New Church**. Then each time you go to Amazon, be sure you enter the site through 'smile.amazon.com' and your purchases of eligible products will automatically count toward a donation of .5% of the purchase price to our church. That's all you have to do; everything else is exactly the same, no extra fees to you as consumer, or to the church. The only thing that's different is that our church benefits! So thanks!



12-18-1997



12-23-1998

Y'NOW JESUS ... I CAN REMEMBER WHEN THIS TOWN WAS SO SMALL THAT ONE COULDN'T EVEN FIND A HOTEL



Thanks to Mikel Rice 12-25-1999

O WOW ... A LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM BLOCK SET

Thank you to those of you who were able to help out with the *Community Giving Tree!*

We hope you remembered direction #7 on the tag, where the instructions read, "Thank you for showing the Christmas spirit and for praying for your recipient."

☺ Thank you for your gifts and prayers!



Fa la la la....

It's an FNC tradition to go caroling!!!!

This year's caroling date and time TBA

Homeowners along the caroling route will be notified in advance that we will be coming their way! Our plan will be to go caroling and then return to the parsonage to warm up and enjoy some food and fellowship! Please feel free to bring a food item to share!

Welcomers for December

Dec 4 *open*
 Dec 11 Debbie Dolley
 Dec 18 Martha Richardson
 Dec 25 *open*

Ushers for December

Dec 4 *open*
 Dec 11 Stanley Dolley & Chuck Priest
 Dec 18 Jen & David Richardson
 Dec 25 Dean Harnden & Jean Cressy

Coffee Hour for December

Dec 4 Potluck
 Dec 11 Joyce Siracuse
 Dec 18 Christmas Party
 Dec 25 *No coffee*



Calendar for December 2016 (held at our Church unless indicated)			
4	Sun	Second Sunday of Advent Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship "Potluck with a Purpose" Community Tree Lighting @ Bradley Park	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. after worship 6:00p.m.
6	Tue	Trustees Meeting	7:00 p.m.
7	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS Life Loves You bookgroup	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
9	Fri	Poinsettia orders due	
11	Sun	Third Sunday of Advent Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship w/ Communion	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
14	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS Life Loves You bookgroup	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
18	Sun	Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Pageant and Party Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship Christmas Party	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 am after worship
21	Wed	Rev. Alison @ FHCC Dinner Bell North @SEAS Life Loves You bookgroup	10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
24	Sat	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ First Congregational Church	7:00 pm
25	Sun	Christmas Day	
28	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
31	Sat	New Year's Eve	
1	Sun	Happy New Year! Adult Choir Family Worship <u>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</u>	9:00 a.m. 10:00 am

Merry Christmas



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Address Service Requested