

*“We seek to demonstrate God’s Spirit through worship, witness,  
and ministry to the needs of the people in the church and the community.”*

***First Sunday of Advent***  
*December 1, 2024 ~ 10:00 A.M.*

**CHRISTIAN CONCERNS**

Art Wallace

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**·PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**PRELUDE & CENTERING PRAYER**

Inspired by Luke 1

Christ, here you come again! And while we love you and celebrate your coming, it always seems to take a lot of work to get ready for it. So, give us the strength we need to make it through, and beyond, fill us with joyful anticipation. Because it’s not just anyone who is coming; it’s you! Amen

**INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Inspired by Jeremiah 33 & Luke 21

Leader: As we journey through the Sundays of Advent, listen to the promises of God:

**All: a righteous branch springs forth,**

Leaders: a promise of justice and righteousness,

**All: a promise of safety.**

Leader: Listen to the promise of Jesus:

**All: the Kin-dom of God draws near.**

Leader: Keep alert, watch for signs of hope.

**All: Our Advent journey begins.**

**LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE**

Emma Meleo, Sierra Cole, Ben Urban, Charlotte Holly

Emma: In our most desperate times, by day or by night, the hope of Christ may be found. We watch and we wait to witness the hope of heaven making a place here on earth.

Sierra: Today we light the candle of hope, because hope has come to us.  
(Light the first candle.)

**All: Come, hope of heaven! We lift up our heads with expectation.  
Where will we find you today?**

**·HYMN OF PRAISE** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Chalice Hymnal #119

**·UNISON INVOCATION**

Holy One, you have promised us that the day when your creation will live peacefully, lovingly, and justly is nearby. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**·THE 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.

**ANTHEM**

✝ The children are invited to leave the sanctuary for Sunday school at this time.

**GATHERING AND PRESENTING OF OUR GIFTS**

**Offertory**

**·Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**·Prayer of Dedication**

## THE COMMUNITY AT PRAYER

### Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, and Our Lord's Prayer

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 for ever. Amen.

### Response

### SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 5:22-24

Romans 12:9

Matthew 2:6

Dale Dubina, Deacon

Page 1046 OT

Page 197 NT

Page 2 NT

**SERMON** "It's the Most Wonderful time of the Year?"

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Hymn of Preparation** "Lord Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary"

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true; with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.  
(Words and music by John Thompson and Randy Scruggs.)

### Invitation

### Words of institution

**Sharing of the Bread and the Cup** (Using Grape Juice)

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**HYMN OF CELEBRATION** *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

Chalice Hymnal #677

### THE BENEDICTION

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Amen

### POSTLUDE

Those who are able, are invited to stand.



**Announcements for the week of December 1, 2024.**

**Greeting you today as you entered the sanctuary was Deacon, Dale Dubina.**

Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday. We welcome everyone to worship this morning. A special welcome is extended to all who are visiting us for the first time. If you would like more information about our church, and its programs and activities, or would like to be added to our mailing list, please speak to one of our Deacons or the Pastor. We encourage you to complete one of the "I Wish..." visitor cards located in the pew and drop it in the offering basket. Again, welcome, it is good to worship God together. We deeply appreciate all who participate in leading worship.

**Please remember to silence your cellphones during the service. Thank you for your assistance.**

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The candle by the sanctuary's American flag is lit to remember and honor those serving our country as military and first responders. May it remind us to say a prayer for those giving of themselves to keep us free from harm.

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The sanctuary is equipped with a "Hearing Loop System" which works with hearing aids that have a "T-Coil" setting, sending the sound directly to the hearing aid. We also have headphone devices that work with this system that are available from the ushers.



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**Let us keep in our prayers:**

- |                |                |                   |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Evelyn Grabber | Ginger McGuire | Mary Meli         |
| Ellen Meseroll | Teddy Randall  |                   |
| Barbara Rodman | Ruth Tilley    | Ruth Turner-Jones |

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**December Birthdays**

- |                      |                       |                        |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 3rd ~ Al Manning     | 8th ~ Amy Kirkpatrick | 11th ~ Michelle Kersey |
| 14th ~ Teddy Randall | 28th ~ Ellen Meseroll | 30th ~ Emma Meleo      |

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**Church Office Hours:** Tues. ~ 1-5 p.m. Wed.-Fri. ~ 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

| Sunday                                                                                          | Monday                                                          | Tuesday                                                                                                                                    | Wednesday                                                                                             | Thursday                                                                       | Friday                                    | Saturday                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1<br>9:15am Choir Rehearsal (S)<br>10:00am Worship (S)<br>11:30am Nominating Committee Mtg (MR) | 2<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S)                                 | 3<br>9:30am Advent Bible Study (MR)<br>6:00pm Boy Scouts (FH)<br>7:00pm Advent Bible Study (Zoom)<br>7:00pm Environmental Justice Comm Mtg | 4<br>11:00am Winter Market Setup (FH & K)<br>3:00pm Board of Outreach Mtg (MR)<br>5:15pm AFG Mtg (MR) | 5<br>11:00am Winter Market Setup (FH & K)<br>7:00pm Board of Deacon's Mtg (MR) | 6<br>11:00am Winter Market Setup (FH & K) | 7<br>9:00am Winter Market (FH & K) |
| 8<br>9:15am Choir Rehearsal (S)<br>10:00am Worship (S)<br>3:00pm Service of Remembrance (S)     | 9<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S)<br>7:00pm Scout Leader Mtg (MR) | 10<br>9:30am Advent Bible Study (MR)<br>6:00pm Boy Scouts (FH)<br>7:00pm Advent Bible Study (Zoom)                                         | 11<br>5:15pm AFG Mtg (MR)                                                                             | 12<br>7:00pm Board of CE Mtg<br>7:00pm Brd of Trustees Mtg (MR)                | 13                                        | 14                                 |
| 15<br>9:15am Choir Rehearsal (S)<br>10:00am Worship (S)<br>3:00pm Open Mic (FH)                 | 16<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S)                                | 17<br>9:30am Advent Bible Study (MR)<br>6:00pm Boy Scouts<br>7:00pm Advent Bible Study (Zoom)                                              | 18<br>5:15pm AFG Mtg (MR)                                                                             | 19<br>7:00pm Council Mtg (MR)                                                  | 20                                        | 21                                 |

December 2024

**Severe Weather Cancellations** ~ In the event of severe weather, please check for cancellations of Sunday morning worship services and church activities on WFSB TV Channel 3, church website, or you may contact any deacon.

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**Special Christmas Services**  
 First Congregational Church of Lebanon  
 588 Exeter Road, Lebanon, Connecticut

Service of Remembrance  
 Sunday, December 8, 2024 - 3:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service with Lessons & Carols  
 Tuesday, December 24, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  
 Tuesday, December 24, 2024 - 11:30 p.m.

www.lebanonfirstcong.org

## Our Weekly Calendar

(Please check with church office before scheduling any meetings or events.)

### Sunday ~ 12/1

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (S)  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service (S)  
11:30 a.m. Nominating Committee Meeting (MR)

### Monday ~ 12/2

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (S)

### Tuesday ~ 12/3

9:30 a.m. Bible Study (MR)  
6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)  
7:00 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)  
7:00 p.m. Environmental Justice Committee Meeting (MR)

### Wednesday ~ 12/4

Winter Market Setup  
3:00 p.m. Board of Outreach Meeting (FH)  
5:15 p.m. AFG Meeting (MR)

### Thursday ~ 12/5

Winter Market Setup  
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (FH)  
7:00 p.m. Board of Deacon's Meeting (FH)

### Friday ~ 12/6

### Saturday ~ 12/7

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Winter Market (FH & K)

### Sunday ~ 12/8

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (S)  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service (S)  
3:00 p.m. Service of Remembrance (S)

(MR-Memorial Rm, FH-Fellowship Hall, LR-Lathrop Rm, K-Kitchen, S-Sanctuary, CR-Class Rm)

**Quilt Drawing** ~ The Round Robin Crafters have been busy sewing two quilts. Both quilts are on display in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are three for \$5 and may be purchased either from a member of the Round Robin Crafters (Sandy Rose, Dawn Drum or Michelle Kersey) or at the Winter Market on December 7th. Drawing will be held on Sunday, December 8th, following the worship service.

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**Nominations for Senior and Junior Steward** ~ Special forms for nominations are available at the back of the sanctuary, on our website, or by contacting the church office. Forms may be dropped in the box located in the church foyer or mailed to the church (please put Attn: Stewardship Comm. on envelope). Nominations will close on **January 12, 2025**.

**What is the Outstanding Steward Award?** ~ Each year the congregation is asked to nominate an Outstanding Junior and Senior Steward. At the Annual Meeting the awards are presented. Consideration is given to how SIGNIFICANTLY they have helped our church, its family members, and missions. You are asked to give examples of the qualities, efforts, and dedication they have shown in the mission and life of our Church.

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**Christmas Tree Decorating** ~ On Sunday, December 8th, the church family will decorate our sanctuary Christmas tree during a special part of the worship service. The deacons invite everyone to bring a special ornament to be shared with the congregation during this wonderful annual activity. Ornaments will be provided if you wish to use one from a prior year.

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**WAIM Workday** ~ Saturday, December 21st is our day at WAIM! As you know, our faith community is one of 39 faith communities belonging to the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry. As a member, we commit to help WAIM by sending a group of volunteers twice a year on a Saturday morning and assist the organization monetarily. Please invite your friends and family to come with you. It is much more fun with a group. Our commitment is to help from 9 AM to noon.

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**Service of Remembrance ~ December 8th - 3:00 p.m.** ~ The holidays can be a difficult time for those who have recently lost loved ones. At this special Service of Remembrance, you are invited to light a candle in memory of your loved one. If you are unable to attend this service, please contact a deacon or call the church office at 860-642-6179 with the names of the people you want remembered, and Rev. Amie will light those candles and mention their names.



## From the Board of Christian Outreach

Last year we were able to contribute six boxes of items to the Willimantic No Freeze Shelter. We will continue to collect items again this year. A box is in the foyer for this purpose. Following is a list of needed items. Homelessness isn't always a choice, but we can choose to help.

### WINTER NEEDS

Disinfectant Wipes	Disinfectant Spray	Hand Soap	Lotion
55 Gallon Trash Bags	Tissues	Paper Towels	Razors
Toilet Paper	Deodorant	Shampoo	Soap
Conditioner	First Aid Supplies	Nail Clippers	
Tweezers	Combs & Brushes		

### Clothing (men's & women's, med-xxl)

Sweatshirts	T-Shirts	Hand/Foot Warmers
Thermals	Underwear	Waterproof Gloves
Rain Ponchos	Sweatpants	Ear Buds/Headphones

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**Epiphany Sunday** ~ Sunday, January 5th, our church will celebrate Epiphany. Epiphany commemorates the visit of the magi to the Christ Child. In 1999, we began a tradition of giving paper 'star gifts' to the congregation on Epiphany Sunday. The paper stars are inscribed with a word for the recipient to reflect on throughout the year. Some of us post them as bookmarks in our Bibles or daily readings, tuck them in our wallets, or prop them up on a shelf. Whenever we see 'our star' (or a star shape anywhere), we remember the message of love and hope, peace and joy, and the lessons that Jesus taught. It's a simple reminder to refocus our busy lives. Please join us on January 5th. There will be a star for you!

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## *Holiday Open Mic*

*December 15, 2024*

*3:00pm - 6:00pm*

*First Congregational Church of Lebanon Fellowship Hall*

*Come and be a part of the fun. Come and perform, or just come and listen, but come.*

There will be lite refreshments available.

You can sign up ahead of time by emailing to Art Wallace at [ajwopenmic@gmail.com](mailto:ajwopenmic@gmail.com), or sign up at the door.

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On Tuesday, December 10th, the Lebanon Clergy will be hosting lunch at the Lebanon Senior Center. Our church is responsible for the dessert. We thought asking the church family to make a dozen of their favorite cookies would be fun. If you have a favorite cookie that you would like to share, please drop them off at the church on Sunday, December 8th or Monday, December 9th (**please leave a note with the name of the cookie, if they contain nuts, or are gluten free**). Please let the church office ([lebfirstcong@att.net](mailto:lebfirstcong@att.net)) know if you would like to donate cookies. ~Thank you!



# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

This year the Flower Committee would like to offer Christmas poinsettias to the congregation to purchase in memory of or in honor of a loved one(s). They will be displayed on Sunday, December 22, 2024.

I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ 6" pot poinsettia for \$7 each.

RED ONLY

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

For the bulletin insert:

The plant is given In Loving Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Or In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**To be picked up after the service on  
Sunday, December 22, 2024.**

Please make check payable to The First Congregational Church of Lebanon. Orders and payments may be placed in the Flower Committee box or mailed to:

The First Congregational Church of Lebanon  
P.O. Box 125  
Lebanon, CT 06249  
Attention: Flower Committee

**Please return order by Wednesday, December 15th.**

Contact Sandy Belisle, Dawn Drum, Marge Page or Linda Heatherly with any questions.

JESUS CHRIST

## 119 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Unison*

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine  
 3. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,  
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,  
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show,  
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease;

*Refrain Harmony*

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 and death's deep shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice, re - joice!  
 and cause us in her ways to go.  
 fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin hymn (12th century); st. 1-2 tr. John Mason Neale, 1851;  
st. 3-4 tr. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916  
MUSIC: French melody (15th century); arr. and harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854

VENI EMMANUEL  
LM

# 677 Let There Be Peace on Earth

C Am Dm7 G7 C F C Dm G7

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me;

C B7 Em B7 G G7

let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

Am Em C7 F G7 C

\*With God our cre - a - tor, chil - dren all are we.

Am7 D7 G Am7 D7 G7

Let us walk with each oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.

C Am Dm7 G7 C F C Dm G7

Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment now.

\* Original words: "With God as our Father, brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony."

WORDS: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, 1955  
MUSIC: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, 1955; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1987

WORLD PEACE  
Irr.

© 1955, renewed 1983, Jan-Lee Music

C B7 Em B7 G

With ev - ery step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow:

C C+ F D7 D°7

to take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.

C E7 F C F G7 C

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.