

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**December 3, 2023**

*First Sunday of Advent: Hope*

Welcome, Announcements & Opening Prayer

Prelude

\*Hymn #116 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *New Century Hymnal*

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Gracious God, we are weary. For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

**People: Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard. Remind us that we deserve Sabbath rest.**

Leader: For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

**People: Forgive us for creating so many distractions. Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.**

Leader: For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

**People: Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves. Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.**

Leader: For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

**People: Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith,

No matter how many times we wear ourselves thin,

No matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions,

No matter how many times we ask ourselves, “How can this be?”

God’s love keeps showing up for us.

So say this with me:

**We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Gathering Time

Anthem

Scripture Reading Luke 1:1-23

Message

\*Hymn#109 “With Joy Draw Water” *New Century Hymnal*

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer *(See back of bulletin for words)*

Communion

Stewardship Moment

\*Doxology *(See back of bulletin for words)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Hymn #122 “Come, O Long-Expected Jesus” *New Century Hymnal*

\*Benediction

Postlude *(please remain seated through the postlude)*

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.**

**Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### December Prayer Requests

Karen & Vic Carbonneau  
Virginia Hyatt  
Bill Mellekas  
Karen Proulx  
Michelle Seekamp  
Don Lavoie  
Family of Violet Hopkins

Barbara Holland  
Roberta Lavoie  
Rick Muh  
Chrystalyn Molnar  
Polly Ehrman  
Jason Plummer  
Colin Muh

Linda and Bob Warden  
David Sykes  
Christina Waddell  
Kevin Bergen  
Jennifer Hines  
Rolla Gerlack  
Jeb Kenison

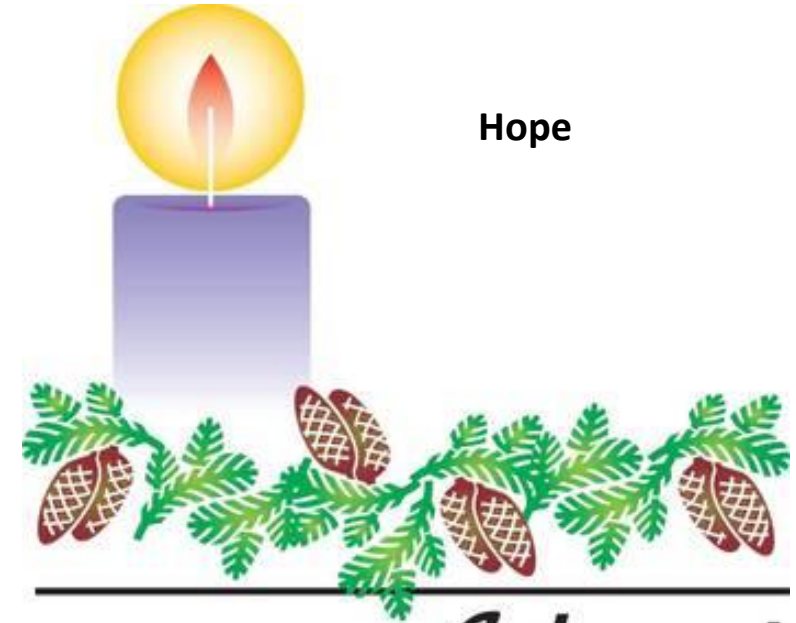
*After 4 weeks names will be removed unless requested to continue.*

*Please contact Elaine Pollak, Caring Tree chair, at (802) 633-3669 or laneylou@gmail.com*

*Thank you for joining us for worship today!*

*It is our sincere hope that all who gather in this place will know and experience the love, forgiveness, hope, and new life available through Jesus Christ.*

*First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Littleton, New Hampshire  
December 3, 2023*



**Hope**

FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

**Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz**  
Pastor

206-484-9814 (cell)  
peter@1stconglittleton.org

**Music Director & Organist**

Dorothy Morton

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

189 Main Street

Littleton, NH 03561

603-444-3376, Fax: 603-444-6589

E-mail: fstcong189@gmail.com

www.1stconglittleton.org

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FCC Shining Lights Learning Center

444-7379

*Thank you to Mary Menzies, Deacon and worship leader today*

**Please join us today after the service to decorate the sanctuary and church!**

**Calendar:**

Monday, December 4: White Mtn. Chorus Rehearsal – Sanctuary – 6:00pm

Wednesday, December 6: Choir rehearsal – Ladies Parlor – 6:00pm

Friday, December 8: Shining Lights Winter Pageant – Sanctuary 5:00 pm  
Dinner following - FH

***Not to be missed! A wonderful way to cheer on and support the families and children of our Shining Lights Learning Center! There is a sign up if you would like to help!***

Sunday, December 10: Adult Bible Study (Minor Prophets) – Classroom – 9:00am

**LAST CALL!! Poinsettia Order Forms at back of the Sanctuary**

The cost is \$18.50. All orders must be given to

**Eric Trafford** (860-655-7667 cell) or [erictrafford@icloud.com](mailto:erictrafford@icloud.com) by **TODAY!!**

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "CHERRY BLOSSOMS".



***Our Mission Statement:***

*As followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we are called to provide a loving invitation and welcome to all, to inspire and uplift through the worship of God, to reach out to heal and enrich lives through the Holy Spirit, and to nurture people at various stages of their spiritual growth.*