

Pastor:  
Rev. W. David Weddington  
E-mail: [pastordavid@myfairpoint.net](mailto:pastordavid@myfairpoint.net)

Music Director & Organist  
Dorothy Morton

Wednesdays. 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Sun. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Worship Service and Sunday School  
10:00 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship  
11:15 a.m.

189 Main Street  
Littleton, NH 03561  
603-444-3376, Fax: 603-444-6589  
E-mail: [fstcong@myfairpoint.net](mailto:fstcong@myfairpoint.net)  
[www.1stconglittleton.org](http://www.1stconglittleton.org)

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Church office hours: Monday-Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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FCC Shining Lights Learning Center  
444-7379  
E-mail: [fccshininglights@myfairpoint.net](mailto:fccshininglights@myfairpoint.net)

*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.*

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*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.*

**WE GATHER TO SHARE THE GIFT OF HEALING**

Are you suffering? **Yes, some of us are very tired and sick.**

Are you sad? **Yes, some of us often weep.**

Are you wounded? **Yes, some of us bear many scars.**

Are you bringing others with you?

**Yes, we bring the hurts of loved ones with us, too.**

Brothers and sisters, trust in Jesus Christ, the Great Redeemer.

**As children of our loving Creator, we are willing to share one another's pain.**

Come, let us pray for one another.

**Come, let us praise the Holy One, our God:**

O God, with your healing love, touch us, and not only us, but these others we bring in our hearts.

**God, with your healing love, as soft and fragrant as olive oil, touch our bodies, our minds, our spirits, and our hearts.**

May our eyes be blessed for clearer seeing.

**God, touch our eyes with your healing love.**

May our ears be opened for deeper hearing.

**God, touch our ears with your healing love.**

May our lips be blessed for needful speaking.

**God, touch our lips with your healing love.**

May our physical bodies—our hearts, our lungs, our skin, our eyes, spines, our feet—as we name our wounds, O God, may our bodies, and those of these others we bring, be made whole.

**God, touch our hearts, our minds, our physical bodies with your healing love, for we place our lives, and the lives of those we bring, in your powerful, loving hands for healing, O God, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*(based on the work of Patricia Catellier and Cheri Holdridge)*

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**December 20, 2015**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Those who are able may stand where marked (\*).

Gathering Music #138      “Holy Ground”

Welcome, Announcements and Prayer      *Ann Craxton*

Prelude

Lighting the Advent Candles      *Lars and Cynthia Nielson*

One: Last week we lit three candles,  
the candles of Hope, and Peace, and Joy;

**All: And, thrilled by the light of this bright pink candle,  
we shouted: Gaudete! Rejoice!**

One: Today, we join with Christians all over the world  
to light our fourth Advent candle.

**All: We light this candle for the vulnerable Child  
who is coming to embody God’s great Love.**

One: He will show us that Love is patient and kind,  
openhearted, generous and truthful.  
Love sticks it out; Love doesn’t give up;  
Love stays; Love never ends.

**All: And the Love of God shines in the gathering darkness;  
the Love of God shines, a beacon in the night;  
and the threatening darkness, no matter how it tries,  
will never overcome it. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*Hymn: #256      “Love Has Come!”

Anthem      “Call to Advent”      *Williams*

Children’s Time

Moments of Concern and Celebration  
(please fill out a blue card)  
Pastoral Prayer and the Savior’s Prayer (“trespasses”)

A Special Time for Healing

Worship of God with our Tithes and Offerings  
Offertory Music  
\*Doxology #815 and Offertory Prayer

Hymn (*insert*)      “In the Bleak Midwinter”

Scripture      Luke 1:39-45, 56

Sermon      “Grounded in Human Flesh, Grounded in Love”

\*Hymn: #250      “O Little Town of Bethlehem”      *vs. 1, 2, 3*

\*Benediction

\*Response #250      “O Little Town of Bethlehem”      *vs. 4*

\*Postlude

# The Christmas Fund ~ Special Offering

For more than 100 years, the Christmas Fund has helped active and retired clergy and lay workers of the church who find themselves in financial need. The Christmas Fund is one of the four Special Mission Offerings of the Church, along with the Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Strengthen the Church offerings.

Gifts to the Christmas Fund are used to help servants of the church who have insufficient income in retirement, retirees who need help affording health insurance premiums, or persons who find themselves in emergency situations that require swift assistance. The Christmas Fund also supports a long-standing tradition of providing "thank you" checks to retired clergy who would otherwise be without funds at this time of year - a modest but tangible affirmation that their wider church family continues to love them and be grateful for their service.

The needs of those who serve the church are real, and we are working to ensure that no one goes without.

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## Poinsettia Dedications



- June Davis – *In Memory of Charles & Cicerone*
- Barbara Holland – *In Loving Memory of Dick Holland*
- Jean D. Kimball & Roberta Lavoie – *In Loving Memory of Maurice & Doris Stearns*
- Phil & Joyce Krill – *In Loving Memory of Mr. & Mrs. George H. Krill & M/M Elmer A. Beyrer*
- Reg & Emily LaFlam – *In Honor of our two sons and their wives, Ron & Cindy LaFlam and Roger & Jennifer LaFlam*
- Karen & Stuart Lord – *In Honor of Parents and Children*
- Virginia Miller & Family – *In Loving Memory of Charles Miller*
- Su Schott – *To the Glory of God*
- Judy & Ed Warden – *In Loving Memory of Dick Warden, father of Ed and Rita & Bill Eaton, parents of Judy*
- Linda & Bob Warden – *In Memory of Loved Ones*
- Wilma & David Weddington – *In appreciation of Paul Drake & Viki Kiman and In Support of Ivey Mask*

## Notices for the week of December 20, 2015 – December 26, 2015

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- TODAY. ... 10:00 am .. Worship Service & Sunday School
- 11:15 am .. Coffee Fellowship
- 2:00 - 4:00 pm .. Christmas Open House – Weddington Residence
- Mon..... Pastor’s Sabbath
- Tues..... 6:00 pm .. Al Anon/Ladies Parlor
- Wed ..... 5:00 pm .. AA – Ladies Parlor
- 6:30 pm ... Choir Practice – Ladies Parlor
- 7:00 pm ... Weds. Night AA – Fellowship Hall
- Thurs..... Shining Lights Holiday – no school
- 7:00 pm ... Christmas Eve Service – Sanctuary
- Fri..... OFFICE CLOSED – Merry Christmas
- All Day Alcothon
- Sat..... 7:30 pm ... AA – Fellowship Hall

AA meetings: Monday – Friday 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

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**Usher/Greeter:**

**Coffee Fellowship:** Deacons

**Flowers:** to the Glory of God

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The Weddingtons will be hosting a

Christmas Open House on

Today! from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Address: 312 Oak Hill Avenue, Littleton.

Drop in and enjoy some Christmas Cheer ~ See you then!

# December Prayer Request Concerns & Celebrations

## CONTINUING & NEW

Keeping those in need of our prayers: The President, World Leaders, the improvement of our economic situation, Syria and its people, the Youth of our Community, the future of our World, and Rev. David and Wilma Weddington as they participate and lead us into the future.

**Curtis Sears** (brother of Carol-Ann Blake) age 64, just diagnosed with myositis leukemia. (Emily LaFlam)

**People of the North Country impacted by no snow**  
(Wilma Weddington)

## Cancer

|                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ron LaFlam (Emily LaFlam)         | Betsy Warden (Linda Warden)    |
| Alison Bolt (Linda Warden)        | Joyce Willoughby (Glenda Iles) |
| Holly Hyslop (Su Schott)          | Joe Carter (Donna Matz)        |
| Paul McMillan (Tina Peabody)      | Kathy Gordon (Judy Warden)     |
| Diane Stinaker (Richard Peterson) | Mike Jorde (Donna Matz)        |

## Illness/Recovery

|                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Patricia Tuck (Pat Tuck)         | Bill & Janet Doyle (Emily LaFlam) |
| Robert Karmen (Judy Warden)      | Yolanda Hyde (Linda Warden)       |
| Aldyn Frenkiewich (Linda Warden) | Jeremy Doyle (Emily LaFlam)       |
| Alan Williams (Judy Warden)      | Carol Detrick (Wilma Weddington)  |
| Don Bliss (Glenda Iles)          | Jake Baker (Alice Muh)            |

## Loss/Grieving

Family of Lily Bloom (Emily LaFlam)  
Family of Rodney Collins (Tim Gould)

## Military

The names of people in the military are on the name board by office.

*To add a name to our prayer list, please fill out a blue card located in the pew racks and place them in the offering plate or hand them to a Deacon. The name will remain in the bulletin for approximately 4 weeks. We understand that some situations are very serious and a longer period of time would be helpful. You may call the office with any names that need to be added or to update the status.*

*If you or someone you care about would like a visit or call, please contact Pastor David at 603-991-0535 or Pam Nute at 603-444-3376.*

*If you have an emergency during the week and Pastor David is away, please call the church office at 444-3376 and Pam Nute will contact someone for you.*

*\*\*Names listed without original contact person will be removed from the list if we are not notified. In order to keep this list up-to-date, it is important that we be notified when someone should come off the list. Thank you.*

