

The Seekonk Congregational Church  
United Church Of Christ

The  
Caller

Gathered 1885



**ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024 at 9:30AM**

Communion Sunday

Special Jazz Celebration

Children will begin in Worship!

*This is the traditional All Saints Service*

*Honoring those who have gone before us since last November and the roll call of loved ones will be shared.*

*Also, we will have a special remembrance of all who have influenced our faith*

*– individually and as a faith community.*



**THANKSGIVING SUNDAY**



**SPECIAL WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

**“Bring A Friend Sunday”**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 at 9:30AM**

- Our Service will be fashioned after the early Pilgrim worship!
- The five grains will be given in remembrance of the first Thanksgiving
- Children will begin in Worship - Preschool through Grade 8

Please Bring: *Canned and boxed goods to fill holiday food baskets.*

*Seekonk Congregational Church*

*United Church of Christ*

600 Fall River Avenue

Seekonk, MA 02771

508-336-9355 Fax: 508-336-3296

Church Office Email: [seekonkucc@gmail.com](mailto:seekonkucc@gmail.com)

Web Site: [www.scc-ucc.com](http://www.scc-ucc.com)

**TO BELIEVE IS TO CARE-----**

**2024 NOVEMBER / DECEMBER**

**-----TO CARE IS TO DO !!!**

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Ruth E. Shaver  
Director of Faith Formation: Kristin Putney  
Director of Music: Susan Barrow  
Office Administrator: Maria Tavares  
Treasurer: Donna Euell



Assistant for Operations: Louanne Jennings-Abelson  
Co-Senior Deacon: Tony DeJesus & Lori Ferreira  
Moderator: Stacy Inman  
Parish Nurse: Addie Heelan  
Co-Trustee Chairs: Craig Mace & Linda Sable  
The Congregation Ministers

## ADVENT CANDLES

Four candles, three purple and one pink in a green ring.  
A message from God to you they bring.  
The first candle is the flame of **hope**.  
God empowers us and helps us cope.  
The second candle tells of true shalom.  
May grace and **peace** be upon your home.  
A sign of **joy** is the third.  
Angels make glad tidings heard.  
The fourth candle is the light of **love**.  
Agape streams in abundance from above.  
Four purple candles burn in a ring -,  
Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, to you they bring.



--Elinor S. Mosser, *Advent Candles, in Ecunet*

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP



### **DECEMBER 1: 9:30AM**

Our beautiful “**Hanging of the Greens**” Service with pageantry, special music, lighting of the tree, and fifth graders presenting the symbols of our advent and Christmas faith. The Candle of HOPE will be lighted. One of the year’s most beautiful worship services! Children begin in church with families. Sign Christmas cards to homebound and out of town friends in the Hall after the service.

### **DECEMBER 8: 9:30AM**

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Candle of PEACE will be lighted. Sign Christmas cards to homebound and out of town friends.*

### **DECEMBER 15: 9:30AM**

Music of the HARP will fill the sanctuary and the anointing oil of healing is offered to all who choose to come forward and receive this blessing for yourself or on behalf of loved ones. This inspirational advent service of healing and wholeness in the midst of the busyness of life celebrates with the 3<sup>rd</sup> candle of JOY in anticipation of the birth. Sign Christmas cards to homebound and out of town friends.

### **DECEMBER 22: 9:30AM**

*Lessons and Carols with special Christmas music, readers, carols (Children will participate in a pageant to tell the nativity story). Candle of LOVE is lighted.*

### **DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: 5 & 10PM**

- *The 5PM service is a Family Service – with Procession of the Holy Family. Choirs of children and sacred dance.*
- *The 10:00pm worship will be Candlelight Communion with special music. All are welcome! Bring Friends!*

### **DECEMBER 29: 9:30AM BELL SUNDAY**

Ring out the OLD and Ring in the NEW! All invited to bring a bell of any shape, size or material. (No Church School – children in church).

## ~EPIPHANY CELEBRATION ~ SUNDAY JANUARY 5, 2025 @ 9:30AM

*Come celebrate as a Whole Church Family and dedicate yourself  
to be the light of the world in the Year 2025*

**THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

## FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR



Thank you all for such a warm welcome to my tenure as your Interim Pastor! I appreciate all the kind words and inclusion on board and committee email messages as I get up and running here in Seekonk. That bodes well for our time together and the work to which we are called.

One of the things you will hear me say regularly during this interim period is that “God has a plan!” I don’t mean that in the ways many of us were taught to think—that God knows the outcome of every single decision and action we take and that we don’t ultimately have free will. What I mean when I say this is that God’s plan for this church accounts for us working faithfully together to discern the best ways to use the resources (of all kinds) available to make the hopeful, liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ real to the people of Seekonk and surrounding towns. On the other side of God’s plan is God’s preparation of the people who will send their profiles to the search team and of the somewhat smaller group that will have an interview or two or three. The team will learn from each person whose profile they read and from each person they interview however many times they meet. Eventually, it will become clear who God is calling to become the next Pastor and Teacher of Seekonk Congregational Church United Church of Christ. Right now, most of these folks aren’t even aware that they will be called to enter the search process, but God is at work with them just as God is at work with us.

With that in mind, I invite you all to consider adding two intentions to your devotional or prayer practice. The first is for us as a congregation as we do this sacred work of discernment. Asking for guidance, wisdom, honest, openness to new ideas and possibilities, and patience are all appropriate for this time. The second is for those whom God is preparing to be part of our discernment work as candidates. Asking for their wisdom, their honesty, and their fidelity to who God has called them uniquely to be as Ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ while they write their own profiles and as they interview is essential to helping them go where God can most prosper the work of their ministry and the churches to which they are called in the end. I don’t think God has identified *the* next pastor of SCC yet, but I do believe that God has options in preparation for us and one of them is the next pastor.

You will also hear me say, “Be patient.” The process takes a while and it cannot be rushed if it is to be done well. The first real measurable goal I have as your Interim Pastor for the group preparing the church’s profile to produce a document that reflects who SCCUCC actually is. Based on my experience and on the general patterns of interim ministry, I think we *could* have a solid draft for review and comment by this time next year—or a little later if the team takes part of the summer off, which is both reasonable and often necessary because Sabbath restores vision and energy. It may also take several month longer, and *that’s okay* as long as we’re faithful to the work. God is with us at every step of this process and sometimes, God invites us to slow down, to savor, to pray, to explore a little more as we prepare.

The good news is that we can start now with the “data gathering”. As we head into the holiday season, I’d like you to reflect on the traditions of SCCUCC that are most meaningful to you. These traditions, part of the HERITAGE and MISSION of the church, help us answer the profile question, “Who are we?” These will be the focus of our work as we begin this journey. I have some ideas that might help us illustrate and share these joyous elements of being SCCUCC...stay tuned!

Peace,  
—Pastor Ruth

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER 2024 ~

3<sup>rd</sup> **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY** *Day Light Savings Ends*  
K-8<sup>th</sup> GRADE BEGIN (with family) IN CHURCH

10<sup>th</sup> Regular Classes

17<sup>th</sup> Regular Classes

24<sup>th</sup> **THANKSGIVING SUNDAY:** K-8<sup>th</sup> GRADE BEGIN (with family) IN CHURCH  
*Coffee Hour... AUTUMN BREAKFAST CAFE*

(Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>) 5th Grade *Hanging of the Greens* Rehearsal @11AM



## DECEMBER 2024 ~



1<sup>st</sup> **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT** ~ *Candle of Hope* **HANGING of the GREENS**  
K-8<sup>th</sup> GRADE BEGIN (with family) IN WORSHIP  
**FAMILY ADVENT ACTIVITIES** (self-guided) **Soup & Bread during Coffee Hour**

(Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> Church Bazaar 9AM – 2PM)

8<sup>th</sup> **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT** ~ *Candle of Peace* Regular Classes

15<sup>th</sup> **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** ~ *Candle of Joy*  
**CHERUB Choir** (preschool-K-1<sup>st</sup>) sings in Church at beginning ~



22<sup>nd</sup> **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** ~ *Candle of Love*  
**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** (all children arrive 10 minutes early)  
All ages share in the Christmas Story (*no extra rehearsals required*)

24<sup>th</sup> **CHRISTMAS EVE** (Tuesday)  
5 pm **Special Family Service** *Special Choirs / Sacred Dance Processional*  
10 pm *Communion Service*

29<sup>th</sup> **BELL SUNDAY** (no church school, families invited to worship)

## **CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE 2024-2025**

Nov 3 9:30 start in worship, **All Saints Sunday**, then **TEACH** (CSH)

Nov 9 *Sat Fall Yard Clean Up* (optional-CSH)

Nov 10 *no required worship*

Nov 17 9:30 worship

Nov 18 or 19 Mon or Tue, Mentor & Confirmand **Zoom Chat** 7:30-8:45 PM

Nov 24 9:30 worship **Thanksgiving Sunday**, **CLASS TIME** 10:30-1:00 lower hall

Dec 1 9:30 start in worship, **Hanging of Greens** (Candle of Hope) then **TEACH** (CSH)

Dec 8 9:30 worship (Candle of Peace)

Dec 9 or 10 Mon or Tue Mentor & Confirmand **ZOOM Chat** 7:30-8:45P

Dec 14 *Santa Breakfast? TBD* (CSH)

Dec 15 9:30 worship (Candle of Joy) 10:30-12, **X-mas PARTY** Gift Game with mentors

Dec 20 or 21 **Living Creche**, Arrive at 6:30 (CSH)

Dec 22 9:30 worship (Candle of Love)

Dec 24 **Christmas Eve** worship, **Required**

Dec 29 *no required worship*, **Bell Sunday**

# PEOPLE AND PASSAGES



## IN MEMORIAM

*Joanne Cardin*

*April 1, 1955 — September 9, 2024*

*Neal Abelson*

*July 8, 1950 ~ September 13, 2024*



### **Prayers of comfort and strength are extended to ~**

~~Family and friends of Joanne Cardin. Joanne is survived by her two children, Jason Cardin and Michelle Kwolek; her two grandchildren, Angelina Toledo and Aaron Kwolek; and her companion, Joseph Peno.

~~Family and friends of Neal Abelson, husband of Louanne Jennings-Abelson. In addition to his wife, he leaves his loving children, Carl J. Abelson of Cranston, Annie K. Andrade of Riverside, and his cherished grandson, Connor J. Curry of Riverside.



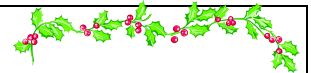
## NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE...

### **GRATITUDE OVERFLOWING ~~~**

~~Thanks to Lesley Daigle and her pilgrims for preparing cards with 5 kernels of corn for Thanksgiving Sunday  
~~ Thanks to those who give so generously gift certificates.

**The Columbarium Committee...** The Columbarium is available to all church members and their families. Use of the Columbarium Includes the inurnment spot, the container, the plaque, and the actual inurnment. Funeral and cremation costs are not included. We encourage anyone who would like more information on the Column to contact Shelley Alves or Linda Sable

## CARING MINISTRY



We will once again have Christmas cards for the congregation to sign for those who are unable to come to church and friends who have moved away. Cards will be available to sign on December 1, 8 and 15.

**The Deacon's Fund** goes to help those in our faith community in need of emergency help or those who have special needs! For those who give via paper envelopes, the envelopes are GREEN and in the offering envelope box for the first Sunday of each month. OR if you give on-line, go to [www.scc-ucc.com](http://www.scc-ucc.com) and click on the online giving button at the top righthand corner and fill out the online giving form. We thank all who give faithfully and encourage others to consider a small gift for this fund each month.

### **NEW MEMBER SEMINAR**

If you would like to join the church and become a member of Seekonk Congregational Church, UCC, there will be a Seminar following worship on **November 24<sup>th</sup> at 11AM**, led by Rev. Dr. Ruth Shaver. Please sign up, call the church office or send an email to [seekonkucc@gmail.com](mailto:seekonkucc@gmail.com)

**Sometimes the pastor is the LAST to know** if you are sick, injured, or hurting in any way ~ please remember to let Rev. Dr. Ruth Shaver know if you would like to be remembered in the prayers of our faith community. There is great strength in knowing that you are not alone or that others are keeping you in their prayers!

### **INVITE THOSE WITH NO CHURCH HOME TO VISIT OUR CHURCH**

*... If we seek to be a church that is welcoming – it begins with each one of us extending an invitation~~*

**Music & Arts Committee presents  
OPEN MIC NIGHT in the hall**



**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>  
~6:30 TO 9 PM IN THE HALL**

It's time to share your talents: singing, playing musical instruments, comedy, dance - all talent is needed.  
All ages are invited. Sign up sheets in the hall or call the office.  
We hope you will be part of the entertainment. A fun night for everyone.

Any questions, see Craig Grant or Director of Music, Susan Barrow

**SANTA IS COMING  
COME HAVE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

INCLUDES KID FRIENDLY BUFFET, FUN CRAFTS FOR ALL AGES  
AND PHOTOS WITH SANTA – BRING YOUR CAMERA / PHONE

STOP BY WITH YOUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS

*Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> ...from 9-10:30AM*



*Adults - \$10 ~~~~ Child - \$5*

Reservation Preferred...Call 508-336-9355

*Sponsored by the Sr. High Youth Group*

**YOUTH GROUP**

Friday, Nov 1, 5th - 8th grade, in Lower Hall 6:30-8:30 PM

Sunday, Nov 10 or 17 (will confirm this week) in Hall, 3rd- 8th in Hall 10:45-1:00

Friday, Nov 22, 5th - 8th grade, in Hall & kitchen, 6:30-8:30 PM, making Pies

Sunday, Dec 8, 3rd- 8th in Hall 10:45-1:00

Friday, Dec 13, 5th - 8th grade, in Hall



**CALLING ALL 5<sup>th</sup> GRADERS!!!**

On Sunday, **December 1<sup>ST</sup>** at the 9:30AM in the beautiful “**Hanging of the Greens**” Service.  
ALL 5<sup>th</sup> graders will **rehearse at 11:00AM** on Saturday, **November 30<sup>th</sup>** in the church.

Rehearsal time will be approximately one hour.  
Any Questions call Kristin Putney 774-991-1555



## BOARD OF DEACONS

As I write this it's hard to believe it's 74 degrees, and I have shorts on and the windows open . I am not one of those people who wait till December 1st to turn my heat on so this weather is awesome.

The Deacons would like to welcome our interim minister Rev. Dr. Ruth Shaver to provide minister duties, and to help guide us in our search for a settled pastor.

The Deacons would also like to welcome Linda Mace as a new Deacon.

November brings a time of good food and fellowship as we have our annual Harvest Supper, and our beautiful Thanksgiving service.

December will bring our Advent services as we await the birth of our lord Jesus Christ.

We also have our annual Christmas Bazaar on December 7th will many opportunities for you to volunteer and get involved.

To truly feel the Christmas spirit make sure to attend our famous Living Crèche.

The Deacons would like to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving, and a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

***We are very grateful for all our Pulpit Suppliers, who gave us wonderful sermons/messages:***

***Rev. Dr. Patty Kogut*** is a dedicated and inspiring leader and Area Conference Minister within the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, known for her compassionate and hands on approach to ministry. With a Doctorate in Ministry and extensive experience in pastoral care, she has served in various capacities within the local church and beyond, focusing on church vitality, inclusivity, and social justice. Through her sermons, workshops, and community outreach, Rev. Dr. Kogut emphasizes the importance of faith in action, fostering connection among diverse groups, and empowering individuals and churches to live out their spiritual values. She is passionate about mentoring future leaders and promoting healing within congregations and beyond.

***Rev. Caroline Johnson:*** *Caroline/I was born and raised in North Carolina and moved to Rhode Island with my family 33 years ago. She/I will never be a true Rhode Islander because I can't say "ma cah" for "my car", but I can now honestly give directions, saying things like, "It's where the Showcase Cinema used to be..." I was raised in the Presbyterian church, joined Central Congregational church in 1992 and began seminary in 1993. In 2002, I was happy to become the chaplain at Women and Infants Hospital and remained there for 20 years. I have two grown children and four young grandchildren, so I do a lot of grand parenting between Vermont, Washington DC and North Carolina. I also find great pleasure in visiting and preaching in different Rhode Island churches.*

***Rev. Dr. George E. Peters...*** *He is Pastor and Teacher Emeritus at Chapel Street Congregational Church UCC (Lincoln) and the Past President of the Historic RI Conference UCC. George and his wife Jan live in East Providence and are active members of Newman Congregational Church UCC and are associate members of the Fort Myers Congregational UCC during the winter months. George and Jan share in common a love of choral music and have sung together since their student days at Bates College. They have two adult children, Amy Peters Clark who is a museum educator in the Boston area and Justin Peters who is a music educator at Moses Brown School in Providence. The Peters have three granddaughters.*

**DEACONS:** Lori Ferreira & Tony DeJesus (Co-Senior Deacons)

Dawn Houle	Jim Siegfried	Bonnie DeBlois	Mark Johnson	Brian Burns
Lesley Daigle	Cindy Pearson	Linda Mace	Christina Greene	Tom Heelan

Louanne Jennings-Abelson & Evelyn Watkins (Deacon Emerita) Jonathan Ryder (ad hoc)

Donna Euell (ad hoc) Russ Noble (ad hoc)

**Submitted By:** Tony DeJesus

Co-Senior Deacon



## Share The Faith...

### BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH!

(Thanksgiving Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup> is a perfect time to bring a friend.) Do you know that 80% of the people around you are not a part of any faith community? Who have you told recently about our church? Have you invited them to come?

### A CHRISTMAS HONOR AND A GIFT TO THE CHURCH

If you would like to give a holiday gift to the church in someone's name as a Christmas present, visit the gift table in the hall (or see Mary Catherine Gherardini) during coffee hour. In return for your contribution, you will receive a bag with a gift card and a holiday ornament which your honoree can open on Christmas.

## Be a Well Being

The purpose of the **Be a Well Being** group is to provide a supportive and non-judgmental forum for exploring stress management strategies. Meditation, prayer, gentle movement, breath work and group discussion will be utilized. The group will be held the from 6pm-7pm. Group dates for the remainder of this year will be:

- Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

If you have any questions, please email Sarah Stevenson at [mamastaloney@gmail.com](mailto:mamastaloney@gmail.com)

## COMING IN DECEMBER

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sign up sheets will be available soon

LIVING CRECHE @ 7:07PM... December 20, 21, 22 and 23

Manger Scene with carols and readings



*We are a welcoming community of faith that will not discriminate against any person regardless of race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability.*

# BE THE CHURCH

*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.*

**Forgive often. Reject Racism.**

**Fight for the powerless.**

*Share earthly and spiritual resources.*

*Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*





## TRUSTEES

As you know, the Trustees are always kept busy with updates and repairs to our Sanctuary and the Gardner building. The microwave that was broken in the kitchen was replaced, thank you Lori Ferreira. The minister's office was fully cleaned and painted and a new Contract for our Interim, Rev. Dr. Ruth Shaver was prepared and signed. We welcome our newest members of Trustees, Ron Rupert and Pat Smith! The problem with the yellow jackets getting into the lower Sanctuary was resolved by sealing up a hole in the foundation and making sure the area was safe to use. There was a leak in the basement in the Sanctuary and it was resolved by cleaning the gutters and the downspout which were clogged by debris. The budget continues to be carefully monitored and repairs are done as they are reported.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for maintenance of the Church and the grounds. If you see any maintenance related issues, please see a Trustee

**Blue Envelopes...** Thanks to all who contribute to the Mortgage Debt Reduction! The Blue envelopes in your box help us meet the monthly expenses. Or if you wish to give online...go to [www.scc-ucc.com](http://www.scc-ucc.com) and click on the online giving button at the top right hand corner and fill out the online giving form.

## FALL CHURCH GROUNDS CLEAN-UP

Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> (9AM – Noon)

Volunteers needed for cleanup of Church grounds

Signup sheet in Hall  
Bring your gloves, rakes and bags

(Contact if any question: Trish Sweeney 508-736-8434)



## BLOOD DRIVE

(make your appointment at) [donate.ribc.org](http://donate.ribc.org)

There are Many Reasons to Give Blood

Blood Drive ... 4-7pm in the Hall ~ Monday Dec 9<sup>th</sup>

YOUR CHURCH STAFF EXTENDS TO ALL  
IN THIS FAMILY OF FAITH  
A HOPEFUL, JOYFUL, PEACEFUL, LOVE-FILLED  
BLESSED ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON!



Peace on Earth



## FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

### PLEDGE GIVING (2024-2025)

**“IT’S NEVER TOO LATE  
TO SUBMIT YOUR PLEDGE.”**

You can call the office at any time  
*Is your Pledge up-to-date?*

Electronic Giving ~ Traditional: Church Envelope

For more information regarding Electronic Giving (*forms*) and Pledge Cards for those who have not yet pledged please call Maria in the office 508-336-9355.

*Your Stewardship Committee*

## HAVE YOU REMEMBERED THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?????

### WHAT IS A PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY?

Throughout the centuries, shawls have been made to provide comfort, warmth and protection for the elements. Today's Prayer Shawls are handmade gifts of well wishes, into which blessings and intentions have been lovingly stitched with prayers for the recipient, offering comfort and warmth of a different kind. With this in mind, people who love to knit and crochet have picked up their needles, hooks and yarn to use their love of their craft to make a thought filled gift for someone special, creating a gift from their heart.



**KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.**

Similar to praying, spiritual practice involves adding prayer or blessings from our minds and hearts to the work in our hands.

#### **Who will receives the Prayer Shawl?**

Prayer shawls often begin with a specific person in mind but they may also be inspired by an intriguing stitch pattern or a tempting yarn. Even if we do not have a specific person in mind, as our projects progress, we might learn of someone who is in need of a shawl.

#### **How can you use the time making a Prayer Shawl as a spiritual experience?**

To create a peaceful surrounding and to enhance your quiet, reflective knitting time, prepare your shawl-making space by lighting a candle, playing some quiet music and making yourself a cup of tea.

We will be happy to share Prayer Shawl patterns for both knitting and/or crocheting to anyone who wishes to make a Prayer Shawl. Please let Evelyn Watkins (401-680-2490) or Donna Euell know if you are interested in getting a pattern or finding out more about how to make a Prayer Shawl. Also if you happen to know of friends or family who have extra yarn to donate we will be happy to speak with you.

Thank you all VERY MUCH - and especially thank you all for taking time to pray for our many Church members and friends on our Prayer List in our Church's Weekly emails. We have heard from many how much it means to them that we are thinking of them and sending prayers.

## MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION

We are collecting food for UCAP Food Baskets from November 24<sup>th</sup> until December 15<sup>th</sup>. We hope to put together at least 25 food baskets.



- ◇ **WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT MA DEPOSIT BOTTLES AND CANS**, sought them, and turn them in for money to support mission concerns. Anyone who wishes to contribute cans and bottles can bring them on Sunday to be deposited in the green bins located on Fall River Ave. parking lot. Thank you.
- ◇ **FOOD CERTIFICATES NEEDED...** We need Gift certificates in \$5, \$10 or \$25 amounts from area stores to ease the way for those in need who stop in seeking help. Please give to Rev. Ruth or leave in office any time. Thanks (*Area Grocery stores or Target, Subway, Wendy's etc...*)
- ◇ **HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS...** Annual Holiday food for UCAP food baskets. Please bring in donations of non-perishable food **from November 24<sup>th</sup> until December 15<sup>th</sup>**.
- ◇ **NON PERISHABLE FOOD NEEDED** for our food Pantry...cereal, oatmeal, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, past sauce, canned meats, soups, canned fruit, etc... and microwave foods.

## On Thanksgiving Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup> Neighbors In Need



### SPECIAL OFFERING *God's Love In Truth and Action*

That is Neighbors In Need – our annual offering to help people on the margins of American society help themselves to the more abundant life that God wants for all of us.

Through our gifts to Neighbors In Need, we stand hand in hand with a rich variety of persons who ask us to work *with them, not for them*, as together we seek the peace that God intends for us all.

## NEIGHBORS IN NEED

*Please give generously...*

*NIN Envelopes are available in the pews and at each entrance of the church.*

*You can give online at [www.scc-ucc.com](http://www.scc-ucc.com)*

## HARVEST SUPPER

*Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>*

*Buffet Serving ~ 5 to 6:30PM*

*Eat In or Take Out*

*MENU: Baked Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Butternut Squash, Harvard Beets, Onions, Cole Slaw, Rolls & Butter and Sheet Cake*

**Tickets: Adults \$17**

**Children (5-12 years old) \$7**

*For tickets or any information please contact the church office*

**RESERVATIONS ARE SUGGESTED**

*Vegetables donated by Four Town Farm*

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS!!!**



*And the people said to Jesus... “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or homeless or sick or in prison... and the answer came: “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did it also to me.”*

~Matthew 25

**Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> is Thanksgiving Sunday** in our Seekonk Congregational Church~ United Church of Christ --- A FESTIVE DAY OF GIVING THANKS TO GOD for all of our blessings. Because we are God's people, we dare to take seriously the verses from the 25<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Gospel of Matthew... and care for God's children who must be valued, loved and nurtured in equal measure.

**NIN (Neighbors In Need)** connects us to each other and provides a way for us to journey in support of those in this country who are suffering from hurricanes, fires, floods...and those who are underprivileged, oppressed or marginalized.

Our NIN offering goes to concerns in our community and throughout our land as well as for our ‘companions on the journey’ in our partner churches in Haiti, and this year’s offering will be designated for:

- \*\*\*Helping to overcome poverty, address environmental concerns, alleviate hunger, and suffering of all kinds
- \*\*\*Providing continued help to our partner churches in Haiti to offer medical care, shelter, education and food.
- \*\*\*Offering ministry to children and families, through nutrition, health and wellness programs here in the United States...giving a “hand –up, not a hand-out”.

In the midst of our blessings...and our tables overflowing with turkey and all the trimmings...may we take the opportunity that this special offering brings to fill desperate lives – human faces victimized by injustices – here in our country and in our partner churches in Haiti. May we also remember the compelling message of Jesus who reminds us that when we give to those who are hurting... we offer healing in Christ’s name.

With gratitude for all gifts,  
Your Board of Mission & Social Action

<i>Betty Graham</i>	<i>Suzanne Paglia</i>	<i>Elizabeth Smith</i>
<i>Alice Supinski</i>	<i>Bonnie DeBlois</i>	<i>Jim Siegfried</i>
<i>Yvette Sousa</i>	<i>Carol Bragg</i>	



**P.S. *Neighbors in Need* offering can be dropped off in the offering plate in church on November 24<sup>th</sup> or sent to the Church Office. Please make check payable to Seekonk Congregational Church. *NIN Envelopes are available in the pews and at each entrance of the church.* You can give online at [www.scc-ucc.com](http://www.scc-ucc.com)**

**Canned goods and non-perishable food items are also gratefully received (11/24 through 12/15) to fill food baskets for the Holiday Season. Many Thanks!**



## EARNEST WORKERS

**HAPPY FALL 2024 and WELCOME to the EARNEST WORKERS for our NOVEMBER and DECEMBER Activities!**

**Wednesday, DECEMBER 11, 2024 - CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON and YANKEE SWAP at Davenports Restaurant in Seekonk - Save the date!**

We have reserved December 11th with Davenports for our very popular and fun Christmas Luncheon and Yankee Gift Swap! Joyce Greene and Pat Smith are coordinating this event. NOTE: December 1st is the deadline for signing up to join us for the Christmas Luncheon. More details will follow.



Planning ahead for 2025 - Save these dates:

**Sunday, JANUARY 5, 2025 - First of our January Soup Sales after Church during Coffee Hour.**

**Wednesday, JANUARY 8, 2025 - MAKING MAY BASKETS**

We will meet in the Hall of the Gardiner Building at 10 a.m. for our Business Meeting. We will also discuss plans for our additional January Soup Sales which will be held on Sunday, January 12th and Sunday, January 26th. Following the business meeting we will make our traditional May Baskets. Coordinating this meeting are Pat Smith and Joyce Greene. Please bring a bagged lunch and beverage.. Dessert and decaf coffee will be provided.

**Wednesday, FEBRUARY 5, 2025 - GUEST SPEAKER JOSH WRIGHT - "STAYING SAFE FROM CYBER THREATS AND BEYOND"**

**More details to come...**

If you have questions about the Earnest Workers please contact: Trish Sweeney or Cheryl Gherardini (Co Chairs), Evelyn Watkins (Secretary) or Joyce Greene (Treasurer). Please feel free to call the Church Office to get phone numbers for these Earnest Worker leaders if you wish.

We all hope you enjoy this Holiday Season!

The sale of **Rada Cutlery** is an ongoing **Earnest Workers' Fundraiser**. All proceeds benefit the church. Call or text Joyce Greene at 401-742-0759 to request a catalog, see a sample, or place an order.



### ~ Craft Group ~

Our group meets Tuesday from 11am to 1pm in Room1. Come and join us for some lively conversation and craft work. Maybe you knit or crochet or do bead work, coloring or painting. We like to share and have some laughs. Bring a snack or lunch if you like. Contact Mary Silvia at 774-644-5387 with any questions. **Hope to see you!**





# CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

**SATURDAY – DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**

**9:00AM – 2:00PM**

Our Christmas Bazaar is a wonderful Seekonk Congregational Church, UCC tradition offering beautiful wreaths and centerpieces, delicious ham and beans, wonderful breakfast and luncheon items served, Grandma's Attic with all sorts of Christmas items, pictures with Santa and so MUCH more!

Look for the sign-up sheets beginning on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Hall and at the end of the ramp in Church to offer to help with making Centerpieces

*If you or a friend has a business and would like to donate a gift basket or gift card to the Christmas Bazaar drawing table, please let us know.*

*Please email or text Evelyn Watkins 401-680-2490 ([evelynwtkns@gmail.com](mailto:evelynwtkns@gmail.com))*

***WE NEED YOUR HELP!!***

**WE THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR DONATIONS!**

***WHAT WAYS CAN YOU HELP WITH OUR CHRISTMAS BAZAAR?***

**HELP TO SET UP THE HALL AND GRANDMA'S ATTIC**

**HELP WITH ALL THE FUN ACTIVITIES THE DAY OF THE BAZAAR**

**HELP CLEANING UP AFTER BAZAAR**

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO COME VISIT US!**



## KEEPING CHRISTMAS

by Henry Van Dyke

It is a good thing to observe Christmas day.  
The mere marking of times and seasons, when people agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a person to set one's own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day and that is  
KEEPING CHRISTMAS.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people  
and to remember what other people have done for you?

To ignore what the world owes you and to think what you owe the world? To put your rights in the background and your duties in the middle distance and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground? To see that all human beings are just as real as you are and try to look behind their faces to their hearts hungry for joy? To own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life but what you are going to give to life... To close your book of complaints against the management of the universe and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness...

Are you willing to do these things even for, a day?  
THEN you can KEEP CHRISTMAS.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children? to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old? To stop asking how much your friends love you and ask yourself whether you love them enough? To bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts...To try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you...To trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you...to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings with the gate open...

Are you willing to do these things, even for a day?  
THEN you can KEEP CHRISTMAS.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world...stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death...and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas,

And if you can keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone.

**Merry Christmas!**



**Happy New Year!**

ORDER FORM FOR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

I wish to have a Poinsettia placed in the sanctuary during the Christmas season:

Poinsettia plant(s) at a cost of \$10.00



It would be appreciated if payment is made with your order.

Checks should be made payable to Seekonk Congregational Church and marked "Christmas Plant".

All plants in Memory or in Honor of a loved one will decorate the sanctuary.

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERING: DECEMBER 13**

Please give the following information:

Name(s) of Donor(s) \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with payment to the Church Office.

Any questions call Maria at the church office 508-336-9355

