



# CHIMES

Winter 2024 Newsletter



## FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**Saturday, December 7**

*Christmas in Cotuit*

**Sunday, December 8**

*Second Sunday of Advent  
World Wide Candle Lighting*

**Sunday, December 15**

*Third Sunday of Advent*

**Sunday, December 22**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Christmas Caroling 4:00 p.m.*

**Wednesday, December 18**

*Longest Night  
7:00 p.m.*

**Tuesday, December 24**

*Christmas Eve  
7:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.*

**Wednesday, December 25**

*Christmas*

**Sunday, December 29**

*First Sunday After Christmas*

**Sunday, January 5**

*Star Sunday Epiphany*

Dear Beloved Community,

In Mary's song, the Magnificat, she proclaims that the mercy of God is "from generation to generation." Our experiences of God's presence and holiness is passed down from our ancestors into our own lives and experiences.

The Preamble to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ has been a guiding document in my journey with God. Particularly this line, the UCC "affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God."

In each generation, we are given the responsibility to make the faith our own. Like Mary, we hold it in our bodies and help give birth to it in our world.

Our lives echo the ancient song and add new chords of our own lived experiences of God.



Repeat the Sounding Joy,





# ADVENT 2024 Photo-a-Day Challenge

## DECEMBER

### First Week of Advent

- 1 - Promise
- 2 - Fulfill
- 3 - Time
- 4 - Justice
- 5 - Righteousness
- 6 - Live
- 7 - Called

### Second Week of Advent

- 8 - Hope
- 9 - Messenger
- 10 - Prepare
- 11 - Seek
- 12 - Delight
- 13 - Endure
- 14 - Offering

### Third Week of Advent

- 15 - Home
- 16 - Fear
- 17 - Grow
- 18 - Gladness
- 19 - Victory
- 20 - Renew
- 21 - Gather

### Fourth Week of Advent

- 22 - Awe
- 23 - Amazed
- 24 - Treasured

### CHRISTMAS DAY

- 25 - worship



FROM  
GENERATION  
TO GENERATION...  
*We keep seeking*



## ADVENT CALENDAR

An Advent calendar for children, families, and individuals. Each day in December, color in a new figure on the calendar. Then, complete the daily action prompt.

Get your calendar after worship or from the church office during regular business hours Monday-Thursday 9:30-1:30.



## ALTAR BONSAI COURTESY OF SAM SHEPHERD



You may have noticed the presence of several bonsai trees on the altar over the past several weeks; these trees represent the 'family tree' of Abraham that we have been exploring through our study of Genesis. The trees have been supplied by Susan and Gary Shepherd's son Sam Shepherd who has been practicing bonsai art for over 15 years. Sam has a collection of 10 bonsai trees that he has been caring for over that time, some of which he acquired in a 'pre-bonsai' state (field grown trees) and developed into a refined traditional bonsai form. While some are more refined than others, all bonsai are considered to be in a constant state of development as they grow and change. His trees range in age from 15 to over 90 years old. He has both deciduous and coniferous trees that include maple, Japanese Beech, azalea, hornbeam, Japanese Black Pine and Ezo Spruce.

The most challenging aspect of bonsai is most certainly patience and restraint. A bonsai's development often passes through the hands of many artists as they can survive indefinitely with the proper care. "We are merely caretakers along its journey. Observing a tree respond to everything from ever-changing environmental conditions, watering, fertilization, to trimming its limbs is imperative to support a healthy tree".



## FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION ADVENT 2024

The stories, scriptures, and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations. Many of us enter this season with a swell of memories and emotions as vast as the cultural and religious rituals this holiday holds. Like a tapestry woven throughout time, the Christmas story weaves us in—to remember how God has shown up in the past, to continue the work of collective liberation, to behold the presence of God in flesh and bone.

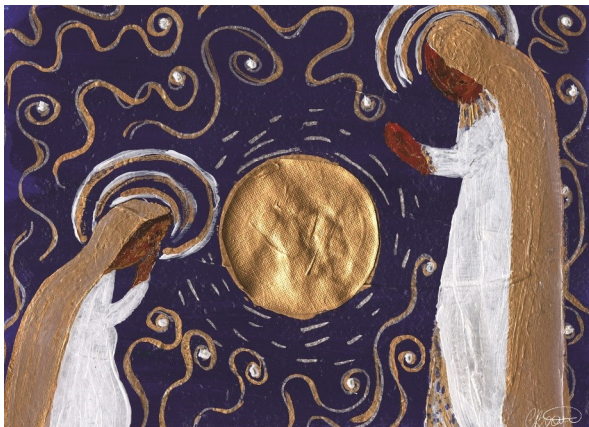
In this worship series, we invite you to take a closer look at how the Christmas story unfolds. We encourage you to pay attention to each of the characters in these familiar narratives and ask: What did each person pass on or contribute? How did they either participate in God's liberation and love—or try to thwart God's justice? What can we learn from them and what is our role now? What will we pass on to the next generation?

As creatives, we've contemplated these questions and themes while revisiting the stories surrounding Christ's birth. And, because many of us connect to our ancestors through the food they've passed down to us, we've shared family recipes for you to prepare as an act of Sabbath rest. Day by day, we invite you to explore with wonder and curiosity for the ways God is speaking to you.

From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us.

This Advent, may you remember that you belong to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won't let you go.

Artfully yours,  
The Sanctified Art Creative Team



### EVERY YEAR

By Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

***My heart and I have an agreement.***

***Every year we show up here—  
here in the sanctuary,  
here with the candles and the tall ceilings,  
here with the creaky church pews  
and the songs of silent nights.***

***My heart and I have an agreement.***

***Every year we show up here—  
at the end of the year,  
after another 12 months  
of humanity, of me  
trying to  
keep it all together,  
trying to  
keep my head above water,  
trying to  
keep up appearances.***

***Every year we show up here.***

***We drop it all.***

***We leave it at the door.***

***We come into this space  
and I could swear it feels different.***

***Maybe it's God.***

***Maybe it's hope.***

***Maybe it's love.***

***But whatever it is,***

***I need it***

***every year,***

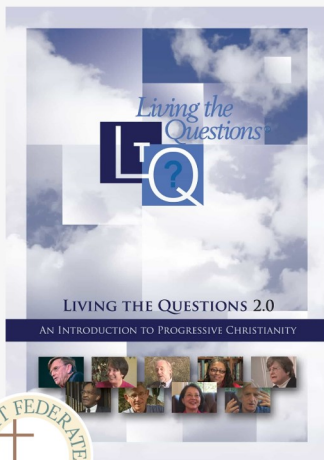
***so we show up here.***

***Tell us again the story of tonight.***

***My heart needs it.***

## BOOK STUDY WINTER/SPRING

LIVING THE QUESTIONS  
AT COTUIT FEDERATED CHURCH



LIVING THE QUESTIONS 2.0

AN INTRODUCTION TO PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY



Winter/Spring 2024

*In the winter we will complete our Living the Questions 2.0 study. We did the first two sections last winter and spring.*

*LtQ2 is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers and instead strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity. Featuring thirty acclaimed scholars, theologians and other experts, Tis section is entitled "Call to Covenant." New participants are welcome to join for this new section of discussion. The study will begin on January 14 and run through the first week of March.*

*Our binders for the class are \$5 and available at Coffee Hour.*

*Call to Covenant*

*January 14 -- 15. A Kingdom without Walls*

*January 21 -- 16. Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision*

*January 28 -- 17. Incarnation: Divinely Human*

*February 4 -- 18. Prayer: Intimacy with God*

*February 11 -- 19. Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry*

*February 18 -- 25 -- Break Week*

*March 4 -- Creative Transformation*

*March 11 -- 21. Embracing Mystery*

**Study will be on Tuesday evenings at  
6:30 p.m. in Hamilton Hall.**

**All are welcome.**

## WHAT IS AN EQUIPPING CHURCH?

On behalf of your Equipping Team, I would like to share an overview of what is involved in Equipping. This overview was written and shared by Janet Kearsley who was an original member of the Equipping Team and who currently serves on our Vision Team.

"An Equipping Church starts with its people, not with its structure. It works to encourage and equip its people to find their deepest connections to each other and to God. It does this by creating a trusting and transparent atmosphere that says Yes to people's gifts; that encourages people to do what makes them feel holy and alive; and that is bottom up rather than top down. It's a bit like a potluck supper where each person brings their special food—and with some love, faith and flexibility, it all works. And not only works, but is filled with spirit and warmth. This is the heart of The Cotuit Federated Church. We are open to each person's heart and soul."

Thanks to Janet for this beautiful overview of Equipping. We hope that it helps people understand how our church governance works.

On behalf of your Equipping Team, have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Cathy Anton  
Dave Bergeson  
Charlie Dings  
Linda Harmon (Team Leader)  
Diane McAdams  
MaryBeth O'Brien





# CHRISTMAS IN COTUIT 2024



## Schedule Of Events:

\* 10:00am - 3:00pm  
 Historical Society: Bring the kids to paint a wooden ornament for your tree (until noon). Play lawn games and enjoy roasted marshmallows, cider, and s'mores around the firepit until 3:00.

\* 10:00am – 3:00pm  
 Cotuit Federated Church: the Women's Fellowship Gift Basket sale (until 2:00) and the 23rd annual show and sale of small works by local artists and photographers. Give art for the holidays.

10:00am-2:00pm Cotuit Federated Church: Children's craft activity sponsored by CFC Sunday School and glitter tattoos sponsored by Cotuit Nursery School.

\* 10:00am – 4:00pm  
 Artisan Craft Fair at Freedom Hall: artists, pottery, jewelry, wreaths, shell art, soaps, honey, and much more

\* 10:00am – 4:00pm  
 Winter Open House at the Cahoon Museum. Explore amazing exhibits, try your hand at holiday art projects, and enjoy seasonal treats. Free admission.

\* 11:00am - 3:00pm  
 Cotuit Library: Bring the kids to decorate cookies and fill up on hot chocolate, then participate in a scavenger hunt.

\* 11:00am - 1:00pm  
 Bring your holiday gift list to the Cotuit Kettleers Store for some Kettleers merch or a personalized paver to be placed in our Walk of Champions.

\* 11:00am – 5:00pm  
 Cotuit Fresh Market Main Street Tastings

\* 12:00pm - 2:00pm  
 Cotuit Fire Station Open House. Stop by for chili and learn more about plans for the new firehouse.

\* 3:00pm - 5:00pm  
 Hot chocolate in Memorial Park, courtesy of Cotuit Fresh Market

\* 3:30pm  
 At the Town Dock: DJ Lisa Z and Pizza by Zoe Pizza of Mashpee, courtesy of the Cotuit-Santuit Civic Association


\* 3:45pm  
 Santa's arrival by boat at the Town Dock, followed by tree lighting (lights installed by Bartlett Tree) and visits with Santa in Memorial Park

\* 4:00pm-5:00pm  
 Open House with cookies in the Cotuit Federated Church Community Hall. Enter from High Street or through the patio doors from Memorial Park.

## COOKIE DONATIONS:

Let the Village taste your special cookies! Please bring cookies for this year's Christmas In Cotuit to the church on Thurs. Dec. 6th 9-1, or Sat. Dec. 7th 10-12.


**Hosted by Hearts Hope Healing**

In Conjunction with  **The Compassionate Friends**  
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Light a candle for all children who have died

**Worldwide Candle Lighting®**

*... that their light may always shine.*



**Sunday, December 8, 2024**  
 Open at 6:00, Starts at 6:45 - Cotuit Federated Church  
 40 School St., Cotuit, MA

**THE LONGEST NIGHT**  
 Saturday, December 21, at 7pm  
 ...a service of comfort and hope...



FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...  
*God meets us in our fear*

## YOUR GIFTS

### providing Gifts for Others

Cotuit Federated will be giving gifts to Teens in two ways this Christmas though Teens Love Christmas and Gift Bags for Homeless Cape Teens.

Teens Love Christmas -- The gift tags that were picked up from the Christmas tree in the Community Hall need to be returned to the church no later than December 6th in order to get them to the Salvation Army. Please attach the tag to the wrapped gifts.

Gift Bags for Homeless Cape Teens -- For several years Kelli Dottridge has organized gift bags for teens who are homeless on the Cape. This year gifts will be given in bulk. Gifts for Homeless Cape Teens is distributed by Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC). See the details in the graphic provided by HAC to the right.

Merry Christmas!



## Please Help Support the Homeless on Cape Cod



This is our 7th year supporting people who are experiencing homelessness on Cape Cod, and we'd love your support! In the past 6 years we've given gift bags to over 650 homeless people. Regretfully, the number of homeless on the Cape continues to rise.

Instead of filling gift bags this year, we're collecting donations and bringing them in bulk to HAC. It has been determined this is the best way to serve our community.

Items needed: *Must be new unopened items*

**Tents Wool blankets Sleeping bags for cold weather**

**Hand/foot warmers Flashlights with batteries**

**Thermal hats, gloves, socks & long underwear**

**GIFT CARDS~ \*Dunkin \*McDonalds \*Burger King \*Stop & Shop**

**\*Cumberland Farms \*Wendy's**

*Financial donations are also appreciated.*

*Last day to drop off donations is Friday December 13th*

Coordinator Kelli Dottridge kelli.dottridge@gmail.com 508-648-5367

ALL DROP OFFS—Monday-Thursday 9:30-1:30



In partnership with the Cotuit Fire Department, our church will be providing **Christmas meals** to families in our community. The Fire Department will provide the hams, and we will get all the fixings. Please bring in your donations to the church Monday through Thursday between 9:30 and 1:30.

**Suggested meal items are:**

**potatoes, dinner rolls, butter, green beans, carrots, chicken or beef stock, and cake mix or frosting.**

Please bring your food to Hamilton Hall no later than **December 22**. We will be packing the food bags and delivering the Christmas meals on Sunday, December 22.



# CHRISTMAS TRIBUTES

Gifts may be made in honor or in memory of loved ones, and dedications will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY and return this slip to the Church Office.

OPTION 1— Poinsettias: Cotuit Federated Church traditionally decorates for Christmas celebrations with holiday poinsettias. Donations of \$15 to the Holiday Flower Fund are appreciated.

OPTION 2— *Layla's Legacy: CFC Nursery & A Baby Center:* Monetary donations will be split between outfitting our Nursery and providing a gift to A Baby Center. A donation of \$50 will go a long way in support of this work.

Indicate which Option:

Option 1—

Option 2—

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and payment to: CFC, P.O. Box 436, Cotuit MA 02635

Checks payable to *Cotuit Federated Church*.

**The deadline to order is December 17th.**

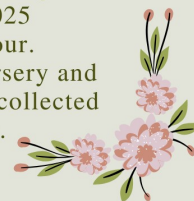


*Layla's Legacy*



We will remember our beloved  
**Layla Madison Dwyer**  
on January 19, 2025  
during Coffee Hour.

Items for our Baby Nursery and  
A Baby Center will be collected  
in her memory.





FROM  
TO GENERATION...  
*We keep seeking*



*Cotuit Federated Church*  
7pm and 11pm  
CHRISTMAS EVE



## COTUIT FEDERATED CHURCH

40 School Street • Post Office Box 436 • Cotuit, MA 02635

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

No matter  
who you are  
or where you  
are on  
life's journey,  
you are  
welcome  
here.