

The background is a dark blue gradient with several stylized snowflakes in shades of light blue, purple, and pink. Interspersed among the snowflakes are numerous small, semi-transparent dots in shades of pink, purple, and light blue. The text is centered and reads:

*First Congregational
Church*

January

2024 Parish Guide



First Congregational Church Parish Guide

Volume 144 No 1 January 2024

From Reverend Andy

But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. -Hebrews 2:9

Happy New Year! I pray that the opening of 2024 has been a blessing to you and there is goodness in your days. As we open a new year we open ourselves to the possibilities of what lies ahead. Some of you may have great plans of things your looking forward to in 2024, other of us a new year might being with it anxiety and worry about the world and where we are going to find ourselves in it. Maybe it is a little of both. Wherever you find yourself I simply want to remind you that our church, its programs, its opportunities for service and its worship to the Lord is here for you to be a deeper part of in 2024.

Whether you're a core part of our leadership and been a part of the church for decades or whether you are reading this at the edges not even sure who I am or somewhere in between, there is place for you and with you in this community. In the Hebrews passage we are reminded God came to be as we are to defeat death. The defeat of death is really the defeat of separation and disconnection. Christ come to end our separation; our separation from each other, our separation from creation, our separation from ourselves, and our separation from God.

The great gospel hymn writer and singer Gloria Gaither once said, "God has not called us to see through each other, but to see each other through." We are in a world these days that is busy trying to see through us, trying to find a problem with us so it can reject or enslave us or both. Jesus came into the world to see us through and has given us the church so we might see one another through, though the celebrations and the tragedies of our lives. In the new year when the suffering of separation inevitably creeps around you there is community and love that is bigger than the shadow that exists not to 'see though you' but to see you through.

Deepen and widen your walk with FCCFR this year, it will help see you through.

Peace and Grace,
Rev. Andy Stinson



Diaconate Christmas Project

Adopt a child for this project for just \$25.00 until January 2024.

**IT IS SO EASY!!!!
THE SHOPPING HAS BEEN
DONE NOW WE NEED FAMILIES
TO SIGN UP TO ADOPT
A CHILD FROM DSS (Department of Social Services)**



Thank you!!!



TREASURER

Notes from the Treasurer

Detailed statements of your contributions for the calendar year 2023 will be mailed during the month of January.

PLEDGE CARDS for 2024 are still available in the narthex or by contacting the church office. Give your name and I will mail a PLEDGE CARD for 2024 to you.

Ken Ward
Church Treasurer



“Diaconate Corner”

Cheers to 2024!

“God of love, open our hearts and minds and those of many others this Christmas time to the good news of Jesus Christ, that all whose lives are insecure, or empty, or aimless, may find in the one born at Bethlehem all they need today- and much more besides”. - This is how our Prayer of Invocation began on New Year’s Eve Day. How crucial a message to begin 2024! Let our hearts and minds be the manger of this month as we begin a new year of worship together.

My five-year tenure as your Senior Deacon comes to an end on January 10th, with so many sweet memories and feelings of gratitude. I’ve been blessed to have served this entire reign with Rev. Andy as my worship leader, how lucky am I! We as Deacons have seen a lot of changes since 2018, beginning with the gift of an amazing Pastor, followed by the survival of a Pandemic unforeseen by any of us as such a worldwide crisis, continuing with the adventure of a new meeting place in Bethany Hall, and concluding with a new dynamic group of Deacons, many of them relatively new, dedicated members here, simply glowing with hope and promise.

Although my husband Ken and I will no longer “officially” be Deacons, as we always say, “Once a Deacon, always a Deacon”, so we will be available to serve in any capacity as a Deacon, as is needed by our FCC family. I am still on other committees, and Ken will continue to serve as Head Usher.

We welcome Debbie Just and Gary Fernandes as our newest Deacons, knowing full well that they will serve our church honorably. Ken and I will serve Communion on January 7th, and the third Sunday Gathering will still be provided on January 21st, the third Sunday of the month, by the Deacons. This tradition of monthly fellowship will surely continue.

It was indeed a privilege to serve as your Head Deacon, and Ken and I leave the Diaconate with the knowledge that our Church family is in wonderful hands. I thank the following Deacons for their support and loyalty throughout my journey: Bonnie Braga, Doris Thornton, Larry Loverde, Edie Banky, Bob Lavoie, Bob Guinen, Ken Lanyon, Deb Vautrin, Linda Fernandes, Debra Bentley, Lisa Blanchette, and Nancee Brightman. Thank you all !

I would also like to take a moment to express our deep gratitude to all that have supported our Diaconate Christmas project this year. As of last count, we still have about 25 children to be adopted, and it’s not too late! We will continue to accept your \$25.00 donations throughout the month of January. Our list of donors is posted each week in our Sunday bulletin as a way of expressing our appreciation toward our cheerful givers:) We’re 75% of the way!

At the close of our Candlelight service, which was SO LOVELY, my dear friend Caroline gave me two beautiful magnets, which now have a home on my refrigerator. Let me share their messages with you:

First, a sweet cardinal with the quote, “And behold I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20)

Secondly, a beautiful setting of a Church with the quote, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart” (Proverbs 3:5)

I will leave you with these thoughts, carry them with you through 2024. God bless!

Love, Peace, and Grace, Senior Deacon, Susan Lanyon

Missions News!!



Happy New Year First Congregational Church families and friends! Opening the door to missions work in 2024 holds a great opportunity for serving, for change, for working alongside each other in fellowship and for offering help to many who will be recipients of our “faith in action.” I like to think of January as a month of mystery as we are yet to know God’s vision for our church or the way in which the Holy Spirit may move among us to respond to God’s call.

First to recap, our Christmas giving ministries have concluded with 70 Christmas stockings stuffed and delivered to Saint Vincent’s. Unfortunately, our student friends from the Resiliency School were unable to assist us as planned but Ryan Stinson, Vicky Neville, Cyn Farnham and Patricia Davis quickly dug their heels in and got the job done – we thank you for your enthusiasm and spirit. We also delivered 29 sets of pajamas and slippers to the youth at the Fall River Deaconess. Missions is so grateful to our shoppers who generously gave of their time to bring joy and a smile during a season that can be very challenging. To be shown love and care by a total stranger is really the most precious gift that can be given or received.

We are continuing to assist the United Way in their “Warm Hearts Warm Coats” drive which meets every Wednesday from 9:30am to 11:30am in the gymnasium. The students from the Resiliency School have recently joined our efforts under a newly organized group called the “Leadership Council” and we look forward to continued community service and mentoring relationships with them.

We have been contacted by Tom Mello who runs the city’s emergency overflow shelter for the homeless located at the Timao Center on 371 Bay St. They are in need of volunteers from 4 PM to 7 PM for cooking and serving dinner. This is a 15-week program (which has already opened) and they are asking for a consistent commitment each week for the 3-hour block. We are considering forming a team for this ministry. For example, if FCC provides 6 volunteers to take on the Wednesday night slot, each of us 6 would take a turn cooking and serving every Wednesday through to the end of the program. If you are interested in learning more, please email me at debvautrin@yahoo.com or call the church office.

A new year is about to unfold with all its hope and promise and change. Dear friends, it has been my privilege to have served you as Chairperson for the past six years. As disciples together on the journey I feel we have brought light and hope to many, and I am so grateful for your support and the gift of your friendship. As you know, my mantra has been “new faces in new places” and we have seen just that - new members and friends signing up and joining up to be the hands and feet of God in the world. I did so little to foster this sense of community as it truly is a testament to the way all of you live our faith, lock our hands in mission and love our church. And we are such a warm, welcoming bunch who love to have fun. What we have here is indeed very special!

Having Cynthia Farnham and Larry Loverde as Committee members has been a Chairperson’s blessing - so deeply grateful. And how do I begin to thank Rev Andy for his leadership, mentoring and for always showing up. I knew very little about church mission work and am grateful to Andy for his teaching, idea sharing, and many hours of meeting time given to nurture the ways in which we served and grew. I’m happy to welcome Vicky Neville who will now serve with Cyn and Larry, offering her unique perspective as our church’s only missionary and her regular participation in many of our missional endeavors.

In closing I’ll help myself to a quote Rev Andy shared in his January 2022 parish guide article. Fitting words for the freshness and newness of this moment:

“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language and next year’s words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning.” T.S. Eliot

My best to you all for a happy, healthy blessed New Year!

In anticipation,
Deb Vautrin, Missions Chair

Christmas Poinsettias Dedications

In Memory of
Jim & Eleanor Ward
Dennis & Mary Medeiros
From Denise & Ken Ward and Family

In Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Leslie H. Lanyon
Leslie E. Lanyon
James & Eleanor Ward
From Susan & Ken Lanyon and Family

In Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. James Thornton
Mr. & Mrs. Lester W. Sowle From
Daughter & Niece Doris Thornton

In Memory of
Beverly J. Freitas
Robert T. Rupp
From Barbara Smith

In Memory of
Isabel MacNaught
Nicholas Andrew Braga
From Bonnie, Sue, Haley, & Holy Braga

In Memory of
Kendall Just
From Deb Just

In Memory of
Brian Vautrin
Barbara Medeiros
Theresa Leonard
From Deb Vautrin

In Memory of
Ann and Henry Smith
From Smith, Cabral
and Mello Families

In Memory of
Rev. Richard F. Wilcox
& Mrs. Jean F. Wilcox
From Jane (Wilcox) Hively &
Jonathan Hively

In Memory of
Jeannette & Manuel Fernandes
From Linda, Gary and Sophia
Fernandes

In Memory of
Clifton Berryman Sr.
Clifton Berryman Jr.
Gertrude Berryman
From Judy Morrow

In Memory of
Dr. Robert Moe
& Mrs Evelyn Moe
From Jeff Raposo and Susan Moe-Raposo

In Memory of
Dr. Mr. & Mrs.
Lincoln Davol Brayton
From Nathanael Brayton &
Stephen Brayton



Diaconate Christmas Project

Sponsors



Missions Committee
Sponsoring 20 Children

Ladies Benevolent
Sponsoring 4 Children

Ken & Denise Ward
Sponsoring 2 Children

Sue & Ken Lanyon
Sponsoring 2 Children

Jen & Manny Rezendes
Sponsoring 1 Child

Mike & Alicia Ward and
Family
Sponsoring 1 Child

Kathy & Jeff Sanson
Sponsoring 1 Child

Bonnie Braga
Sponsoring 1 Child

Debora Just
Sponsoring 1 Child

Jean More Limoges
Sponsoring 1 Child

Nancee Brightman
Sponsoring 1 Child

Henry Parker
Sponsoring 1 Child

Sue & Bob Hadley
Sponsoring 1 Child

Cheryl Furze
Sponsoring 1 Child

Doris Thornton
Sponsoring 4 Children

Patricia Davis
Sponsoring 2 Children

Linda, Gary & Sophia
Fernandes
Sponsoring 2 Children

Christine Sweeny
Sponsoring 1 Child

Anonymous Donor
Sponsoring 1 Child

Barbara Smith
Sponsoring 2 Children

Debra Bentley
Sponsoring 1 Child

Claire Myers
Sponsoring 1 Child

Deb Vautrin
Sponsoring 2 Children

Miriam Harrison
Sponsoring 4 Children

Sue Nascimento
Sponsoring 2 Children

Vicky Neville
Sponsoring 1 Child

Lisa & Garrett
Blanchette
Sponsoring 2 Children

Becky & Darren Soens
Sponsoring 1 Child

Missy & Colin Kearney
Sponsoring 1 Child

Jared & Amy Lanyon
Sponsoring 1 Child

Wellington Family
Sponsoring 2 Children

Kenny Gourdin
Sponsoring 1 Child

Cynthia & Bill Farnham
Sponsoring 6 Children

Deloras Silva
Sponsoring 2 Children

Thank you!!

There is still time to
Adopt a child for this project
for just \$25.00 until January 2024.

KAM'S LAUNDROMAT laundry love

FREE COFFEE! FREE WIFI!

FREE WASH & FREE DRY

Come join us on the last Wednesday of every month to get your clothes cleaned for free!

"Clean clothes = dignity."

DATE: Last Wednesday of Every Month
TIME: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
WHERE: 415 Second Street, Fall River, MA (Rear entrance on Morgan Street)
FREE PARKING IN REAR

IMPORTANT:

- Up to two (2) washers allowed per person. Additional washers will cost extra.
- Detergent & dryer sheets provided as needed. You can bring your own, too!
- If you are unable to attend the posted time, you may set up an appointment.
- Using public transit? Take SRTA bus #1, #3, #5 or #10 to 2nd St @ Rodman.
- * = Free coffee available at Kama Food Mart with coupon.

Want to donate scan the QR code 

Next Laundry Love
 Wednesday Jan 31st, 2024 9 AM-12 PM
 For more information contact
 John Milkey Email: jmilkey05@gmail.com
 Call or Text: (508) 571-5132
 Volunteers always welcome!!

First Congregational Church of Fall River

All Church Family Fun Night!



Topic:

"Stories from the Camino"

Wednesday Jan 31st 2024
 5:30 PM

Come and enjoy good food, fellowship, lessons and more.
 FMI or RSVP—508-672-5862
churchoffice@fccfallriver.com

SOUP KITCHEN

This has been a very worthwhile endeavor that our church has embraced and we need volunteers to help with the preparation as well as serving.

SOUP KITCHEN

Upcoming Dates: Feb 06, 2024 Mar 05, 2024
 Please plan to be at church by 2:00 PM

First Congregational Church

Free Yoga Classes

@ 6:00 PM
 282 Rock St.
 (Please use Cherry Street door)

Every Tuesday & Thursday

Free and open to the public (13yrs and up)

All levels welcome!!
 Please refer to our Facebook page for all class cancellations or changes.



Please join us every Tue-Wed-Thu for:
 11 Minutes at 11:11 am

with Rev Andy-on Facebook Live
<https://www.facebook.com/FccFallRiver>
 Also available in Spotify & Sound Cloud





Go to: <https://soundcloud.com>
 Search: for FCC Fall River

MOPS
 this is motherhood

First Congregational Church of Fall River Invites you to

M O P S

Next meeting
 Wed Feb 07, 2024
 @ 6:00 PM

FMI please call or text our group leaders:
 Linda Fernandes (508) 272-6152/
lfernandes@comcast.net
 Lisa Blanchette (508) 493-4616/
lisa.blanchette@steward.org

First Congregational Church of Fall River invites you to our MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) Group. MOPS gathers and supports moms through friendship and encouragement.

The acronym stands for "Mothers of Preschoolers" because it began in 1973 when a group of moms with young children banded together to share their lives and parenting journeys. Over the past 45 years, MOPS has expanded our reach to include ALL moms. Ours here in Fall River could include you. Come check it out! We hope you've already decided to connect with us.



Have you ordered your brick to help complete our Memorial Walkway in the James Ward Memorial Garden?

Order forms are available in the Narthex or by calling/ emailing the church office at (508) 672-5862 or churchoffice@fccfallriver.com



Facebook
 Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/fccfallriver

SOUNDCLOUD
 Go to: <https://soundcloud.com>
 Search: for FCC Fall River

https://fccfallriver.com/

LISTEN ON Spotify

Scan to listen to 11:11 & Sunday Worship




SCAN ME

FCC Spotify



First Congregational
Church
of Fall River

January 2024

Office hours
Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	01 New Years Eve Office Closed Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:00 PM Step Aerobics @ 7 PM	02 Soup Kitchen @ 2:30PM YOGA @ 6:00 PM	03 UW Coat Drive 9:00-11:00 AM MOPS Meeting @ 5:30 PM	04 YOGA @ 6:00 PM	05	06
07 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM Messiah Sing @ 3:00 PM	08 Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:00 PM Step Aerobics @ 7 PM	09 Staff Meeting 10:00 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM	10 UW Coat Drive 9:00-11:00 AM Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM Antioch School-Gym Usage 1:00 - 2:00 PM	11 Fall River Council of Churches Meeting 10:00 AM @ Swansea YOGA @ 6:00 PM	12	13
14 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Switcharoo Sunday Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM	15 Martin Luther King Office Closed Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:00 PM Step Aerobics @ 7 PM	16 Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM Denise & Ken OOTO	17 UW Coat Drive 9:00-11:00 AM Antioch School-Gym Usage 1:00 - 2:00 PM Denise & Ken OOTO	18 UWGFR Board Meeting @ 8:00 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM Denise & Ken OOTO	19 Denise & Ken OOTO	20 Denise & Ken OOTO
21 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM Fellowship Sunday @ 11:15 AM Denise & Ken OOTO	22 Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:00 PM Step Aerobics @ 7 PM Denise & Ken OOTO	23 Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM FSA Meeting 9:30-3:30 PM YOGA @ 6:00 PM Denise & Ken OOTO	24 UW Coat Drive 9:00-11:00 AM Antioch School-Gym Usage 1:00 - 2:00 PM Denise & Ken OOTO	25 YOGA @ 6:00 PM Denise & Ken OOTO	26	27
28 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM	29 Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:00 PM Step Aerobics @ 7 PM	30 Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM	31 Laundry Love Volunteers needed 415 Second St. Fall River @ 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Antioch School-Gym Usage 1:00 - 2:00 PM All Church Family Night 5:30 PM Church Council @ 7:00 PM	01	02	03

Congratulations and Best Wishes

We know these lists may be incomplete, so we ask that anyone whose name is not included be sure to call the Church Office with the necessary information.

Happy Anniversary!!

7-Jan Brenda & Oliveira

16-Jan Edie Banky & James Kingsley

I choose you everyday & always

Happy Birthday

January Babies

4-Jan Miriam Harrison

5-Jan Maggie Donovan

6-Jan Kendall Lanyon

7-Jan Christine Sweeney

11-Jan Michael Farinha

11-Jan Carol Viveiros

20-Jan Paisley Moniz

21-Jan Aayden Aguiar

26-Jan Callie Perreira

27-Jan Michael Ward

31-Jan Mason Ward



First Congregational Church
Office: 21 June Street
Fall River, MA 02720



Prepared especially for

You!



If you no longer wish to receive the *Parish Guide*, please let the Church Office, know by phone (508) 672-5862 or email at churchoffice@fccfallriver.com

Moving??? Please let us know; don't forget to notify the church office...



All printed copies of this parish guide are printed on paper that is at least 30 % post-consumer content. Please recycle it when you are finished.

First Congregational Church Worship Service 10:00 AM

Telephone: (508) 672 5862

Fax: (508) 672 2341

Email Address: churchoffice@fccfallriver.com

Website Address: <http://fccfallriver.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FccFall-River/>

SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-281358520>

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
9:00AM - 2:00 PM

The Staff

Rev. Andrew Stinson
Senior Minister

Denise Ward-Moderator
Judith Conrad-Music Minister
Cheryl Foley-Bookkeeper
Ivette Alarcon-Church Admin.
Henry Parker-Sexton