



The Church on the Cape Newsletter



December 2022

Pastor Sammie's Thoughts

Advent is Preparing for Christmas

Advent is the season in the Christian year that leads us to Christmas. The first Sunday of Advent is not just the beginning of a new church season but also the start of the new liturgical year. Advent is the link between the old year in the church and the new; it sets the stage for the understanding of Christmas itself.

The word Advent is derived from the Latin for *adventus*, which means "coming." As a season, it was first observed in the fourth century in France. The season was set at four weeks rather than seven in the sixth century.

Advent is a time of preparing for the birth of Christ and all that comes with the arrival of new life. The liturgical color for Advent is purple- symbolic of waiting, watching, and repenting. Purple has long been the color of royalty; in the later church, it became the color of penitence. Some churches use the color Blue for less of a penitence tone and more of a tone of anticipation.

Whatever color you prefer, the point is that preparation is essential if Christmas is to mean very much more than a rush. Advent mixes anticipation of great joy and the need, equally as strong, of preparation for this joy. Those who do not prepare will probably miss some of the joy. To prepare means to ready our hearts and minds for the celebration of the coming of the One who changes and renews life. We can do that through worship, reading our Bibles, praying, and remembering Christmas is about giving.

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT GOD'S GIVING-giving to us the great gift of God's self in the form of the Christ child. After all, the commercials of the stores are long gone; the church will stand as the place where we remember **Whose Birthday It is** and receive the blessing of joy.

Please join us on Christmas Eve at 9:00 PM (One Service Only)

Note the Time Change from last year.

And also, Christmas Day at 10:00 AM

"LOVE BEGETS LOVE: LOVE BEGETS STRENGTH"

PASTOR SAMMIE ALL SAINTS' DAY SERMON PREACHED AT HUNTINGTON COMMONS'
COMMUNION SERVICE (BUT NOT AT CHURCH ON THE CAPE)

Every time I encounter death, I relearn that EVERYTHING IN LIFE IS AN OPPORTUNITY, AND ALL SAINTS' DAY IS NO EXCEPTION. All Saints' Sunday is an opportunity for several reasons.

It is a time to celebrate not just the great cloud of witnesses, the communion of the saints, but also the relationships that we have had with them. It is a day to render thanks to God for the lives of the dead. And it is a time to confirm the unity of the church on earth and the church in heaven.

All Saints is also a time when the church on earth pauses to ponder how those of us in the living church are to relate to those who have been part of our fellowship in the past and are now separated from us by death and are part of the church triumphant in the afterlife.

It might be helpful for me to share some observations from nearly forty years of ministry. Today is a time for those of you who have deeply loved the departed to think again about where you are, individually, in the grieving process. Many of you, through your own experiences, know that when someone you love dies, your spirit goes through many seasons. There is a season of shock; there is a season of heart-breaking sadness; often, there is a season of anger when all you feel like doing is beating your fists against heaven's door and begging for a little more time. But I also know that there is a season of peace and a season of hope. Of course, these do not come in any orderly fashion. Rather they come jumbled up: one day, you're sure you are going to make it and the next day you're not. One hour your heart is light; the next, it is like an anchor. But over time, and each person's timeline is different, you come to know that it is not in your or anyone's best interest to hold on to death; grief unbearable turns to bearable sorrow. And all of a sudden "letting go" has a new meaning. Camus says it this way: "In the midst of winter, I finally learned that there was in my heat an invincible summer." My way of saying it would be to proclaim that God is the God of the living and the dead, and that in Christ we have obtained an inheritance of love and hope.

To move a little from death and grief is to know that you can trust God's promises as Paul states them in his letter to the Romans. This is chapter 8, verses 38-39: "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." And in Romans 14:8, he writes, "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's."

To move from death and grief is to realize that Jesus makes love the essence of being religious. All Saints is a day to acknowledge the departed and all the gifts they have given to us. It is a time to find consolation in love which does not die with death, but is held eternally in the mind of God. And that is a love that blesses and keeps and encourages you to go on with your life rather than be held back in pain and grief. Because true love not only begets love; it also transmits strength.

On this All Saints' Communion Sunday, let us bring our wounds to the wounded healer. Let us remind ourselves that those we have loved can be remembered with something greater than grief and that love absorbs sorrow. Let us also remember that love transcends despair and joins all mortal and immortal life. And let us be confident that love makes us partakers of God's eternal kingdom. Amen

ADVENT LECTIONARY AND SERMONS

November 27, 2022, First Sunday of Advent: Advent Theme—Hope

Scriptures

1. Malachi 3:1
2. Psalm 122
3. Luke 1:68-69

Sermon Title: "Advent Sentiment: Nothing is Unredeemable"

December 4, 2022, Second Sunday of Advent: Advent Theme—Peace

Scriptures:

1. Isaiah 11:1-10
2. Romans 14:4-13
3. Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon Title: "The Power of Imagination:
Preacher: Rev. Russ Pregeant

December 11, 2022, Third Sunday of Advent: Advent Theme—Joy

Scriptures:

1. Isaiah 35:1-10
2. James 5:7-10
3. Luke 1:46-55

Sermon Title: "Mary, Mother of Our Lord"

December 18, 2022: Fourth Sunday of Advent: Advent Theme—Love

Scriptures:

1. Isaiah 7:10-16
2. Romans 7:1-7
3. Matthew 1:10-25

Sermon Title: "Emmanuel"

December 24, 2022, Christmas Eve (One Service: 9:00 P.M.)

Lessons and Carols

December 25, 2022, Christmas Day (Note Time: 10: A.M.)

Scripture: Luke 2:8-25

Sermon Title: "Happy Birthday Jesus"

January 1, 2023, First Sunday after Christmas (Holy Communion)

John Wesley Covenant Service:

Read and Ponder These Words:

"I am no longer mine, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt; rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside

by thee. Let me be full. Let me be empty. Let me have all things. Let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

January 8, 2023, Epiphany of the Lord

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

CHURCHWIDE ADVENT STUDY INFORMATION

Names for the Messiah

By Walter Brueggemann

All are invited to join in this churchwide Advent study. The book is an Advent/Christmas gift from your pastor.

One will be distributed per family at Church Conference, Sunday November 13. If you would like to be part of the

Discussion Groups we will meet:

December 1, 10:00 AM—11:15 AM

December 8, 10:00 AM—11:15 AM

December 15, 10:00 AM—11:15 AM

December 22, 10:00 AM—11:15 AM

COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UPS

Please stop by the table on the right as you walk into Bartlett Hall. The Sign-up Sheet is now ready for November, December, and January Sign-ups. **We need volunteers!**

CHURCH ON THE CAPE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Prelude is Almost Here!

**Join Us on December 3 from
8:30 AM –1:00 PM**

Start (or finish) your Christmas shopping with us.

CHRISTMAS FAIR FUN ACTIVITIES, GIFT ITEMS

Featuring: Complimentary Hot Cider, Bake Shop, Cooking Sale, Jam, Christmas Ornaments & Décor, Jewelry (New and Used), Knitted Items and Crafts. Themed Item Baskets Include: Sports, Movie Night, Pets, Handyperson Items, Cooking Theme, etc.

Bring your family and friends, all are welcome.

The Cargo Shop will be open too!

CHOIR NEWS

To all you singers in the pews:

Would you like to join the choir singing for the Advent Season?

Rehearsals are on Thursday at 5 pm.

COME AND SING WITH US!

GIVE LOVE

Clean Water in Côte d'Ivoire
The United Methodist Committee on Relief shares this update from [United Methodist Global Ministries / UMCOR](#).

CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Join us December 10 at 2:00
here at Church on the Cape

"The Divas of Gospel" will present a free concert of bluegrass, soul, and gospel music and of course Christmas music! This concert is sponsored by the Keith McClelland Community Music Foundation. Come and enjoy a toe-tapping, hand-clapping good time. This is free and open to the public.

Bring your friends.
Everyone is welcome!

SENIOR MOMENTS
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Looking for a fun and festive way to ring in the holiday season? Please plan to join the Senior Moments Choir for an afternoon of music and merriment. Warm up your voice for an audience "Christmas Carol Sing-Along" and enjoy the festive sounds of the season. Please come and share the gift of music with us this Christmas!

Save the Date: Wednesday,
December 14 @ 4 PM at
Church on the Cape.

Advent

The journey begins at Advent

When Advent began on November 27 this year, so does a new church year for liturgical congregations. The church seasons, which correspond to key events in Jesus' life, begin with the four-week Advent period of preparation for our coming Savior at Christmas. After the 12-day season of Christmas is Epiphany, which begins January 6 and continues through Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. That period of preparation culminates in Holy Week, and then Easter marks the pinnacle of every church year. Forty days after the Resurrection we celebrate Ascension, and 10 days after that, the Pentecost season begins; it lasts until Advent, when the cycle begins again.

"Like a great waterwheel," writes Joan Chittister, "the liturgical year goes on relentlessly irrigating our souls, softening the ground of our hearts, nourishing the soil of our lives until the seed of the Word of God itself begins to grow in us, comes to fruit in us, ripens in us the spiritual journey of a lifetime."

Source: Newsletternewsletter

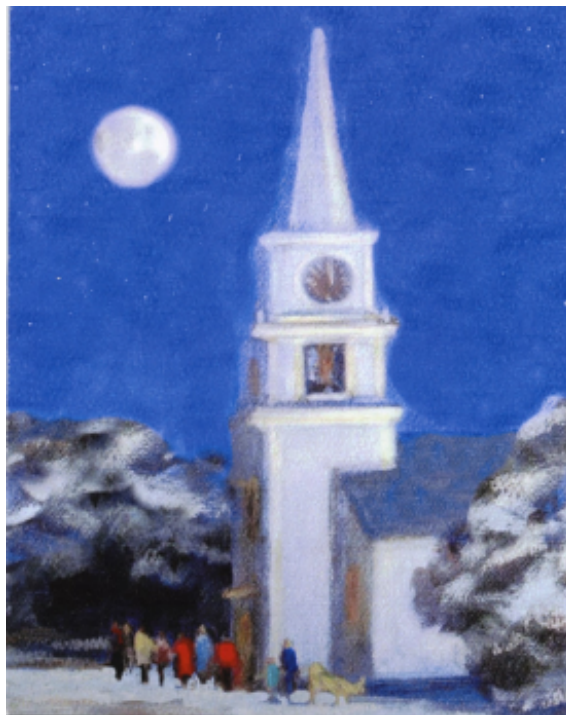
Alternative Christmas Fair – Church on the Cape UMC

December 4, 11, & 18, 2022

WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS: OUR NEW NEIGHBORS:

AS WE ALL WATCHED THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS UNFOLD in Afghanistan, it was heart-wrenching to see what lengths the human spirit will go to in the pursuit of finding peace. Sadly, this wasn't new to us. We have been resettling refugees in Maine for more than 40 years and know that we will collectively prepare to welcome the next generation of new Mainers. Your donations will help to:

- ◆ Outfit a family with clothing, boots, and a warm coat;
- ◆ Create "Welcome Home" baskets with clean bedding, towels, and housekeeping essentials;
- ◆ Conduct cultural training; and
- ◆ Offer interpreting services to towns, businesses, and schools.



HELPING ALL NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Please select which program(s) you would like to support from the following list. Write the dollar amount you will be giving in the space next to this program. If selecting more than one, add the total amounts that will be donated. Mail and Internet donation information is on the next page.

Program Amount:

Bon Appetit	Caring Unlimited
Community Outreach Services	Grace Street Ministry
Habitat for Humanity	Kport Fuel Assistance
Seeds of Hope	York County Shelter Programs
Welcoming Immigrants	

TOTAL _____

Your Contact Information :

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:



The Outreach Committee Of Church On The Cape Conceived Of The Alternative Christmas Fair As A Way To Present Our Congregation And Friends With An Alternative To Traditional Gift Giving, One That Would Support Worthy Causes With Which Our Members Are Involved.

Here is our chance to put Christ's work into Christmas. Donations may be made by mailing a check to: **Church on the Cape, PO Box 2740, Kennebunkport, ME 04046.** Or you may donate online through our website: <http://www.churchonthecape.org/OnlineGiving.htm>. Click on Donate and designate the Ministry of your choice under "Add special instructions to the seller."

Cards will be available for gift-giving purposes.

Bon Appetit:



Bon Appetit is a dinner program in Biddeford that serves meals five days a week, 52 weeks a year. Clients arrive for a free nutritional dinner and companionship. During the summer, 40-50 people are served daily, with the numbers increasing during the winter. There has been a dramatic rise in the number of children coming into family units. Additional funding is always needed to supplement the escalating costs of running this program.

<http://www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com>

Community Outreach Services (Food Pantry):



In response to community needs, 12 churches of various faiths have joined together and support the Church Community Outreach Services. In addition to its primary function of providing emergency food needs, the outreach has broadened its scope to encompass fuel assistance, a voucher program with Hannaford in Kennebunk, a school snack program and a special needs program. <http://coskennebunks.org/>

Grace Street Ministry:



An outreach ministry offering a consistent, compassionate, pastoral presence to the homeless and marginalized in downtown Portland, Maine - to relieve suffering, to address the spiritual needs in this ever-shifting community, and to decrease the prejudice between the housed and the homeless through preaching, education, and experience.

<http://www.gracestreetministry.org/>

Habitat for Humanity:



For over 20 years, Habitat for Humanity in York County has been helping low-income families obtain affordable housing. This program's three legs of support are land, volunteers, and funds. Church on the Cape has been an ever-increasing and vital part of this Christian outreach through our gifts, our prayers, and our participation. Gifts made to Habitat will help increase the number of much-needed homes built each year from a historical average of one per year to a targeted 2 to 3 homes a year.

<https://www.habitat.org>

Kennebunkport Public Health Emergency Fuel Assistance Program:



This program provides for fuel need requests during the winter. The fuel needs are funded solely by donations, and no one is denied assistance. The Public Health Department meets every emergency request immediately. We are expecting a drastic increase in the number of families who will need assistance this winter. The rising costs for fuel, food, and housing will greatly strain the very tight budgets of our seniors and low-income families. <https://www.kennebunkportme.gov>

Partners In Development:



A Christian service organization that strives to help the extremely poor attain independence and whole-life improvement. Through child sponsorships, microcredit loans, housing opportunities, medical care, clean water and sanitation, they aim to transform communities so they can be self-sufficient. PID's work is focused in the neediest sections of Guatemala, Haiti, Mississippi, and Peru. Volunteers from Church on the Cape have made mission trips to Haiti, Guatemala, and Mississippi. <https://www.pidonline.org/>

Pastor Ruth Merriam Missions Fund:



In the spirit of Pastor Ruth's lifetime of service, an endowment was created in her name to help sponsor those who wish to serve on life-changing mission trips.

Seeds of Hope:

Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Center is a drop-in center open Tuesday through Friday that offers hospitality to all who pass through our door. The collection of our efforts strives to offer hope for those who are struggling, care for those in need, advocacy for those who have been silenced, companionship for those who are alone and compassionate love for all. They serve an expanded continental breakfast/lunch four days a week, serving 70-90 per day; offer free new/gently used clothing; and operate a Career Resource Center assisting others in job searching. <https://seedsofhope.org/>

York County Shelter Programs:



This program is committed to ending homelessness and assisting people to reach their fullest potential by providing access to various levels of housing, personal growth opportunities, and community resources. In Alfred, there is a live-in shelter and assistance to complete GEDs or job training. In addition, an extremely active food pantry supplies thousands of boxes to those in need, including holiday baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

<https://www.yorkcountyshelterprograms.com/>

Artwork by Annie Hidell

NOVEMBER 13TH ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Despite the rain, there was a good turnout for welcoming our New District Superintendent, The Reverenced Arlene Tully, along with her four-legged partner in ministry. Nali is an ADI-certified Facility Dog.



In her appointment to District Superintendent, Rev. Tully noted: "You know, I've really enjoyed traveling around the district for the past three months getting acquainted with churches, pastors, and laity.

I am especially grateful to those churches that have hosted my meet and greets," Rev. Tully said. During those sessions, Rev. Tully posed three questions to consider as we envision the future of the Church in the radically transformed landscape of a post-COVID world.

"The questions come from Ronald Heifetz, founder of the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard Kennedy School and coauthor of *The Practice of Adaptive Leadership*.

1. What is precious and essential from the past that we need to carry forward?
2. What is no longer serviceable and must be discarded?
3. What innovations will enable us to carry the best of our history into the future?

"We are not the first Christians to ask ourselves such questions, Rev. Tully said. In fact, we stand in a long line of religious forebears who found themselves in a time of change or crisis in the world and in the Church."

As a congregation, we look forward to Rev. Tully's guidance along with our pastor, Sammie Maxwell.

SUPERINTENDENT INTRODUCTION

Rev. Tully was introduced to the congregation by Jean Moulton, and Debora Berry presented her with a gift from the congregation.



After the introduction, Rev. Tully presided over the service's church governance section, including voting for Officers and Committee Members and the Church Budget for 2023.

And Rev. Tully and her facility dog, Nali, also posed for a photo of the boxes of socks provided by Church on the Cape for those



living on the Portland streets. Please note that in the preceding photo, Nali has socks in her jaws and is ready for distribution to those in need.

THANK YOU! BEVERLY AND SOCK TAGGERS

Through the continued, productive, and dedicated efforts of Beverly Bangs, the congregation set a new record for giving to the Grace Street Ministry of over \$5,000. Socks accounted for \$1,850, of which \$650 was given by Ocean State Job Lot, and \$3,800 was donated for Dunkin-Donuts gift cards. Each pair of socks and Dunkin-Donuts gift card were tagged with "Love from Church on the Cape, Cape Porpoise, Maine."

In the following photos, Beverly shows what 380 gift cards for \$10.00 each look like, and on the next page, the marvelous parishioners who performed the tagging. Those living on the streets in Portland will not only have warm feet but also a warm-up



with coffee and a donut, thanks to the generosity of this wonderful church.

GRACIOUS SOCK TAGGERS HELPING OTHERS KNOW THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN



Sock Ministry at Church on the Cape, Oct. 2022
Front Row: Jane Smith, Armit Pak, Ada Byrnes
Back Row: Beverly Bangs (Coordinator), Janet Vitanza, Bruce Donath, Debora Berry, Rev. Sharon Miesel, Cynthia Nichols
Activity and Photo by Jennifer Murray

THANK YOU LETTER FROM PASTOR JEFF GRACE-STREET MINISTRY

Beverly notes that this is a very long thank you letter, but she promises that you will be happy that you took the time to read it.

Dear wonderful folks at Church on the Cape:

When Beverly contacted me in the middle of last week to arrange a drop-off of socks and Dunkin' cards that you all had so kindly

donated, she said "you'll be pleased." With that simple phrase, my head filled with visions of bags of socks and maybe as many as 40 Dunkin' cards, a very generous gift that would make a big difference in the lives of the unhoused on the streets of Portland.

Imagine my surprise, then, when Beverly arrived yesterday, opened the back of her white SUV, and there were seven large boxes of socks - and not just adequate socks, mind you, but thick wool winter socks, the kind that keeps people's feet warm even when the socks themselves get wet.

I hadn't even finished gawking at this podiatric bounty when Beverly brought out a bag of Dunkin' cards, 380 of them!

I have to tell you; it took the better part of the afternoon to jack my jaw up off of the lawn in front of my house. This is an astonishing, deeply touching and incredibly generous gift. I have been telling folks that some churches would probably donate some Dunkin' cards, but I had no idea that your church alone would collect enough to get us through the bulk of the winter. I actually start giggling when I think of going out on the cold streets today with enough cards for absolutely everyone I meet. I don't believe that has ever happened in the seven years I've been doing this ministry.

There are some who think that giving things to the unhoused creates a transactional relationship that is not helpful. I couldn't disagree more. These simple, but profoundly important objects, bring not only warmth and

respite, but in fact embody the very essence of the Christian message. As Pope Frances says, "You pray for the hungry, then you feed them. This is how prayer works".

As I'm fond of saying, thank you so much for letting me bring your vast and unencumbered love to "the least of these."

With warmth and blessings,
Pastor Jeff
Grace-Street Ministry

**PORTLAND'S UNHOUSED, JEFF
AND BEVERLY, ARE THANKFUL,
COTC FOR YOUR KINDNESS**



**CHURCH ON THE CAPE
LEADERSHIP, OFFICERS AND
COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

A pamphlet showing Church on the Cape Officers and Committee Members was provided along with a detailed Budget Plan for 2023. The church Staff remains the same except for the kindness and dedication of Beryl Samia, who serves as our Organist (Interim). The pamphlet consists of four pages and is very helpful for knowing whom to express ideas to, finding whom to answer questions, and the like from appropriate officers and committee members.

**CHURCH ON THE CAPE
2023 BUDGET PLAN**

A detailed breakdown of the planned church budget showed total expenses of \$263,885. **Your contributions whether they be financial or time to support our wonderful church are very much needed. Please send your pledge cards to the church office.**

**BY MAJOR EXPENSE CATEGORIES,
THE BUDGET AMOUNTS ARE:**

New England Conference	\$56,735
Payroll	139,550
Church Programs	17,000
Building Maint./Utilities/Insurance	38,250
Other	12,350
Total	<u>\$263,885</u>

The budgeted total, it was noted, is a little less than last year despite much higher inflation. An itemized budget plan is available from the church office.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE RISES

A Worship Report was also provided in the Church Bulletin. Pastor Sammie Maxwell became our Interim Pastor in July 2022 and was greeted by 75 in-person worshipers and 527 online on July 10. After a superb welcoming, parishioners took a brief break the following Sunday, and from then on, they continued to come back to in-person worship, as the chart on the adjacent column shows.

Currently, in-person attendance averages about 60 each Sunday, and in October, online visitors averaged about 300. (There may be more online viewers when multiple viewers are present at a single site. Moreover, to count as an online viewer, one needs to be on the site for 3 minutes or longer.) Also, attendance at Huntington Commons is around 20.

In total, Church on the Cape regularly provides spiritual guidance to about 400 individuals each Sunday. OUTSTANDING!

Our thanks to Mike Kelly for providing attendance data.

AND THERE IS MORE GOOD NEWS

Not only is our church reaching about 400 individuals seeking spiritual guidance and

Church on the Cape Church Attendance



belonging to a church family each Sunday, but it is also adding new members.

After four new and church family friends joined as members of our church at the October 23rd church service (Virginia (Ginny) Hamman, Robert (Bob) Picone, Fay Kerr, and Jon Bangs), four new members joined on November 6.

WELCOME!

They are shown in the photo on the next page from left to right: Margaret Myatt, Sharon Collins (affiliate member), Janet Vitanza, and Debora Berry.





Photo by Annie Hidell

MANY HAPPY RETURNS



Somehow, not only for Christmas,
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others,
Is the joy that comes back to you.
And the more you spend in blessing
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to you glad.

—John Greenleaf Whittier

WISDOM FROM MLK



I am convinced that love is the most durable power in the world. It is not an expression of impractical idealism, but of practical realism. Far from being the pious injunction of a utopian dreamer, love is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. To return hate for hate does nothing but intensify the existence of evil in the universe. Someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate and evil, and this can only be done through love.

—Martin Luther King Jr.



The Reason
for the
Season

The Baskets are ready with Bundles of love.... Thank You Debora and Contributors



Photos by Annie Hidell

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

November 4, 2021 – November 13, 2022

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	November 13, 2021	220
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1. BAPTISMS

Elia Louise Ilinca (infant), baptized 7/10/2022	1
Sophie Katherine Stacey (infant), baptized 7/10/2022	<u>1</u>
Total Baptisms:	+2

2 NEW MEMBERS

Profession of Faith:

Jon Bangs, 10/23/2022	1
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b. Transfer from UMC Church:

Sharon Collins, 10/23/2022 (affiliate)	1
Virginia Hamman (West Boylston UMC), 10/23/2022	1
Faye Kerr (from York-Ogunquit UMC), 10/23/2022	1
Janet Vitanza, 10/23/2022	1

c. Transfer from Non-UMC Church:

Debora Berry, 11/6/2022	1
Margaret Myatt, 11/6/2022	1

d. Restored from UMC Church

Carol Olson	1
Robert Olson (affiliate member)	1

e. Restored from Non-UMC Church

Robert Picone	<u>1</u>
Total New Members: 8 Full + 2 Affiliates	+ 10

REMOVAL:

a. By Transfer to UMC Church:

b. By 2021 Charge Conference

c. Transfer to Non-UMC Church

Richard Driver, 1/13/2022	<u>1</u>
Total Transfers:	-1

f. By Death:

Members

David Sandtorv	12/28/2021	- 1
Richard "Fuzzy" Farnsworth	1/3/2022	-1
Carol Chamberlain	5/2/2022	-1
Connie Perkins	10/20/2022	<u>- 1</u>

Non-members

Christopher Bent	2/3/2022	-4
Total Member Deaths:		-4

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	November 13, 2022	227
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Bishop Peggy A. Johnson to serve NEAC

The Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops and Committee on the Episcopacy released the following announcement today:

The Council of Bishops has approved the recommendation from the Northeastern Jurisdictional College of Bishops (COB) and The Committee on the Episcopacy (COE) that Retired Bishop Peggy A. Johnson serve as Interim Bishop for the New England Annual Conference (NEAC) beginning January 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024.

The New England Annual Conference did not receive an assignment or coverage at the conclusion of the 21st Session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. Pursuant to Para. 407 of the 2016 Book of Discipline (BOD), the College of Bishops fills vacancies in such circumstances. After consultation with the appropriate stakeholders, the COB and COE agreed that Bishop Johnson possessed the gifts and graces to lead the NEAC during this interim period.

In discussing this scenario with Bishop Johnson, she articulated that she feels called by God to this particular need and is willing to relocate to New England to provide residential leadership, holistic pastoral care and collaborative oversight.

After reviewing the Conference Profile and Cover Page, as well as The New England Declaration (their detailed strategic vision for inclusive mission and ministry), we met with the NEAC Committee on the Episcopacy and the cabinet. We spent considerable time listening to and discussing their needs, priorities and hopes for their next servant leader.

These conference leadership teams agreed upon NEAC's top priorities for their interim servant leader: a) pastoral care and healing; b) a willingness to embrace the vision already cast, while empowering those within the conference to champion its implementation; and c) relationship-building.

Upon hearing this news we became more confident that our discernment was divinely inspired. Bishop Johnson excels in each of these areas. Therefore, we shared our recommendation and Bishop Johnson's name was received with enthusiasm and thanksgiving. These leaders also provided insights that will help position this coverage arrangement for success.

Please pray for Bishop Johnson and Rev. Mary Johnson as they live into this new opportunity. They are excited to serve and look forward to visiting New England soon. We give God thanks for their willingness to offer themselves so quickly after retirement. We thank you in advance for your support.

Church on the Cape A United Methodist Church

We of The Church on the Cape represent various religious and cultural backgrounds and lifestyles. We are young, old, middle-aged, single, married, widowed, divorced, parents, grandparents, and members of extended families.

Above all, we are people who take risks, make mistakes,
confess, repent and try again.

At the center of our community is Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection are the reasons we are together. The life and hope in this community have more to do with Christ's faithfulness to us than ours to Christ.

Whether you are searching for a faith community or just passing through, we want you to feel at home. Whoever you are, whatever your history, your scars, your gifts; you are among persons like yourself.

Join us from wherever you call home. If you like what you see here, we post our virtual, Hymn Sing, and Sunday Worship Service on our website, www.churchonthecape.org.

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3 Langsford Road
PO Box 2740

Kennebunkport, ME 04046

Church Phone: 207-967-5787

Email address: office@churchonthecape.org

Website: www.churchonthecape.org

Pastor: Reverend Sammie Maxwell

Email Address: scmpreach@windstream.net

Phone: 207 710 3145