

First Parish Congregational Church  
One Church, Street  
Wakefield, MA 01880  
http://www.fpccwakefield.com  
Email: fpccx1644@aol.com



VOLUME LXXIII, No. 23  
December 11, 2009

**CHRISTMAS SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 20, 2009**

**Morning Worship Service—10:30**

Sermon: The Rev. Richard A. Weisenbach,  
D. Min

*Why Is Christmas Such a Big Deal?*

Scripture: St. Luke 2:8-14

Calendar for Sunday, December 20, 2009

- 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship Service  
(infant and toddler care provided)
- 10:30 am Church School Classes  
(Pre-K-Grade 7)
- 11:30 am Fellowship Hour (vestry)
- 12 n Junior Choir Rehearsal

**The memorial flowers** will be given in loving memory of Marjorie Newman by her family.

**The poinsettias** adorning the sanctuary will be given in memory of loved ones by members and friends of First Parish Congregational Church.

**Minister's Reception Line Volunteer:** Kathryn Millheim

**Ushers for December:** Joseph D'Agostino, Stephen Gates, Kathryn Millheim, Marcia Phinney, Scott Mitchell, Linell Nester, Linda Byam, Jennifer Byam, and Linda D'Agostino (captain).

**Greeters:** Arthur and Carol Callan

**Fellowship Hour Hosts:** Benjamin and Barbara Parish.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2009**

**Family Worship Service—10:30**

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dean Pedersen

*The Day After*

Scripture: St. Luke 2:22-40

Calendar for Sunday, December 27, 2009

- 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship Service  
(infant and toddler care provided)  
No Church School or  
Confirmation Classes
- 11:30 am Fellowship Hour (vestry)
- 12 n Junior Choir Rehearsal

**The memorial flowers** will be given in loving memory of Harriett Given by her husband and family.

**Greeters:** Paul and Deborah Somers.

**Minister's Reception Line Volunteer:** Joan Potter.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**



**5:00 pm:**  
**Children of the church**  
**re-enact Christmas Eve at the Manger**



**11:00 pm:**  
**Carols, Candlelight & Communion**

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**R.A.W. MATERIAL**

**Letter from Jesus About Christmas**

Dear Children,

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season.

How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth, just GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Now, having said that, let Me go on. If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of the Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can remember Me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish!

If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it:

- Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.
- Visit someone in a nursing home. Not just during Christmas time, but all through the year. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.
- Instead of writing the president complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sends out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family?
- Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.
- Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.
- Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make the difference...
- Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas," that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they would close and let their employees spend the day at home.
- If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary—especially one who takes My love and Good News to those who have never heard My name.
- Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in Me and they will make the delivery for you.
- Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Let people know by your actions and words that you are one of mine. (John 13:35)

Don't forget; I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love Me. I'll take care of all the rest. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember —

I LOVE YOU,

*JESUS*

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The Lord provided a beautiful day for First Parish to host its seventh Community Thanksgiving Dinner. We welcomed over 350 guests. The Lord knows what is in our hearts and continues to work through us to provide love and fellowship to those who come through our doors. After grace was said by Pastor Rich, guests were treated to a full-course turkey dinner topped off with apple pie for dessert. We were also able to provide additional meals to families and groups that were in need. His love was indeed present!

None of this would have been possible had it not been for the countless volunteers who gave so much of their time, energy and love to help shop, decorate, provide transportation, cook, greet, and serve our guests. Many of you were very generous with donations to help with the purchase of food and supplies. There were many returning volunteers, while others were first-time helpers who were amazed at what was involved, but were still willing to lend a hand. What a wonderful testament to the Lord's love—

Our sincere thanks and best wishes for a blessed holiday season!  
Jill Sullivan and Darcy Hildreth

Many thanks to all who supported the HOT (Helping Our Troops) "Adopt-A-Box" program. Because of an outpouring of generosity our goal of shipping **500** boxes was far surpassed. At our Christmas mailing we were able to ship **641** boxes to our troops! HOT would like to thank Kim Albushies and her Cub Scouts for joining us and over **100** volunteers packing boxes for the military. We would also like to thank Ida Montgomery for donating knitted hats. Ida helped us reach our goal of **500** knitted caps for the soldiers in the mountains of Afghanistan. Local knitters produced **582** hand made caps in one months time!

HOT meets monthly to pack and ship donated items to our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are committed to continue these mailings until our troops are safely home. If you would like to be involved with supporting our military, HOT may be the organization for you. You may contact us at [www.helpingourtroopma.org](http://www.helpingourtroopma.org). Once again, thank you and please continue to keep our military in your prayers.

Maryellen Dee

#### CHURCH ATTENDANCE (Family Sunday)

	Chapel	Sanctuary	Total
November 29	32	142	174
December 6	13	168	181