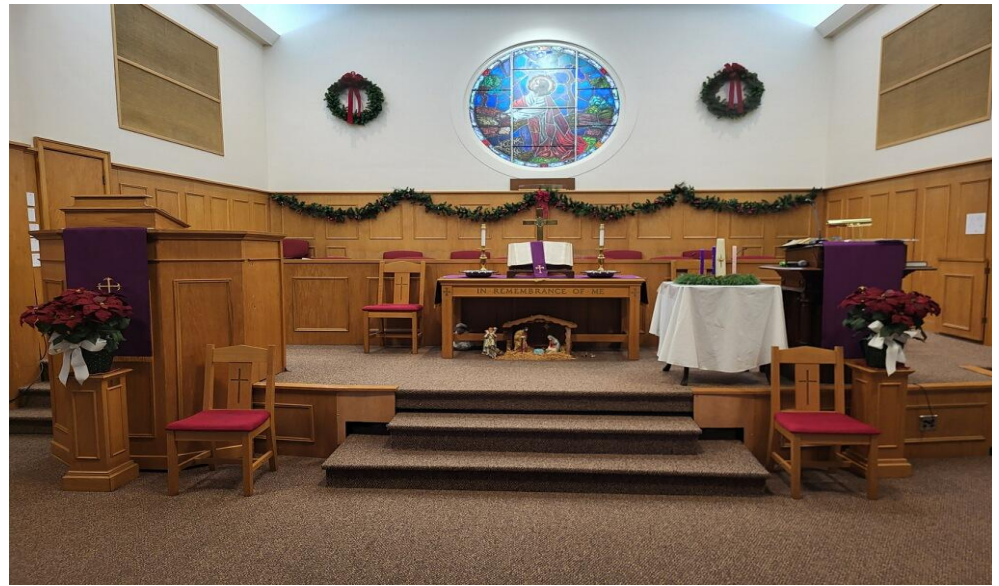


# Congregational Church of Hooksett

## December 2022 Newsletter



### Contact Us

Congregational Church of  
Hooksett

5 Veterans Drive

Hooksett, NH 03106

(603) 485 - 9009

[office@hooksettucc.org](mailto:office@hooksettucc.org)

[www.hooksettucc.org](http://www.hooksettucc.org)

Rev. Kerry Richardson,

Interim Pastor

[pastor@hooksettucc.org](mailto:pastor@hooksettucc.org)

Jacki Mead, Admin. Asst.

[office@hooksettucc.org](mailto:office@hooksettucc.org)

Mr. Jon Abrams,

Music Director

[accompanist@hooksettucc.org](mailto:accompanist@hooksettucc.org)

### Kerry's Corner

Wow, December already, seems like we just got up from the Thanksgiving meal and here we go into the Advent season. The month will most likely fly by, but Advent is a season, a season of expectation, the word itself means that. We expect something to come. What is that something? It is the growing expectation of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now obviously we are not claiming that in a physical sense, that Mary again gives birth. So then, what do we mean? It is a reasonable question in a time when our society has both lost faith and yet longs for faith. Sometimes it's hard to find the words for what we believe. Advent is a season for us to prepare to recall something that happened long ago. This memory is about someone who changed the way in which we think about the future. So, as we prepare for the expected, let us be open to the unexpected, the unexpected Hope, Joy, Peace and Love. Perhaps personally we can find new Hope, a Joy for the coming year, Peace within ourselves and Love for one another.

My hope is that we can prepare together in this Advent season. Let's see where the journey takes us.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Pastor Kerry

### From the Diaconate:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life."

John 3:16 (NRSV)

## Lectionary Readings for December

### December 4

#### 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12

### December 11

#### 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10  
Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke  
1:46b-55  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

### December 18

#### 4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 7-19  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

### December 24

#### Nativity of the Lord Proper I

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

#### Nativity of the Lord Proper II

Isaiah 62:6-12  
Psalm 97  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

#### Nativity of the Lord III

Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)  
John 1:1-14

From the Diaconate:

Christmas will soon be upon us. Our church will be decorated to commemorate the birth of Christ Jesus, our savior. As we are now in the church season of Advent, we will begin lighting our Advent Candle Wreath on November 27th . There will be a Blue Christmas service in December. Date and time to follow. On December 24th at 4:00 pm, there will be a Christmas Eve service. There will be a Christmas Day service on Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 am. There will be no Coffee Hour that day so everyone can enjoy their time with family and friends.

We are always looking for volunteers to participate in our service as Ushers and Worship Leader. Ushers welcome guests before service, hand out bulletins, and take the offering. Worship Leaders assist the Pastor during the service. Please speak with a Deacon if you would like to assist.

Please consider wearing your name tag on Sundays to help our newer members know who you are. If you do not have a name tag, please contact Jacki Mead, our new administrative assistant, so she can make one up for you.

We have added a sign-up sheet for Coffee Hour. If you would like to serve coffee and juice during coffee hour, please sign up. You do not have to make the coffee, one of the deacons will make it. It is not necessary to provide food. However, anyone is welcome to bring goodies for coffee hour.

We are now serving communion instead of handing out communion cups as people enter the sanctuary. Communion is served on the first Sunday of every month.

If you are interested in joining the church, please speak with Pastor Kerry.

If you have any questions or concerns about our church services, please let us know.

Kindly submitted by Your Board of Deacons:

Bill Andrade, Norm Boucher, Andrea Brown, Walker Brown, Kim Carbonneau, Lynn Chevrette, Joan Cote, Nancy Vaughan, and Paula Vaughn

## From The Hooksett Community Kitchen:

Scout Troop 603 will be preparing our Hooksett Community Kitchen's monthly meal for December . The menu includes sloppy joes, baked beans, glazed carrots, salad, dessert, beverages. We hope you will be able to attend!



Help us every time  
you shop Amazon.

## Attention Amazon Shoppers

Looking for a way to help the Church? Every time you make a purchase using Amazon, sign in under AmazonSmile and select the Hooksett Congregational Church as the charity you would like to support. Once you've selected the Church, you should not have to select it again. However, each time you make a purchase make sure you are using AmazonSmile. The same products and prices are available, but with the AmazonSmile, the Church receives a donation. In 2021 we received a little over \$100. Thanks for your support.



### From the Trustees:

December is going to be a busy month for the Trustees. The biggest task will be the 2023 Budget. A budget meeting was held in November to put a tentative plan together. If you wish to see that document please ask Jeff Hamilton for an electronic copy. Generally, things have remained unchanged except for adjusting the Pastor salary from fulltime to 3/4 time and making adjustments to meet anticipated increases in expenditures like utilities and such. Changes were also made to some salaried positions such as the music director (a combined position of both the accompanist and the choir director) and the administrative assistant position.

In a time where there is not much good news around money and funds we wanted to highlight a success with our current budget. In a typical year our church would have withdrawn between \$80-\$100,000 from investments to make ends meet BUT to date, we have only withdrawn \$10,000 this year. We hope to continue this momentum going into the future although there are a few new costs as mentioned in the previous paragraph. As a group, to help with this, we decided to include a covenant goal this year of \$67,000. In the past, this has been a number we plug in after covenants are received but in changing it we hope setting this mark will give more clarity for funds needed to offset costs for next year's budget. Overall, the budget work went well and hopefully it will be something that our church can move forward with in the new year.

The trustees have had many requests for the use of the church and are excited about how our building is being used for our immediate and local community. It is our belief that the more we can utilize our space for events like meetings, fitness classes and meals it will help grow our body of faith and allow us to fulfill the mission of our church.

Thanks to all who participated in the clean-up in late November. We raked lots of leaves, made improvements on the Community Kitchen sign and did lots of work on the inside by washing windows, cleaning the pews and the kitchen.

Have a great December,  
The Trustee Team



### **From the Missions Committee:**

Angel Tree, Angel Tree, Angel Tree Rock!

(It's) Angel tree time with (an) Angel Tree rhyme,

(It's) Angel tree time with (an) Angel Tree rhyme,

Giving and caring the Angel Tree way,

Makes a family's holiday.

Angel Tree, Angel Tree Angel Tree Rock,

It's really not hard,

To buy a gift card,

These go to families to help them buy gifts,

To make a special day!!!!

It's the right time, it's a fine time to help (our) community,

Angel Tree time, shopping spree time-

It lifts the spirits for you and me!

Angel Tree, Angel Tree, Angel Tree Rock!

Time to wrap up this song...

Pick out an ornament or maybe two!

(Let) Christmas Spirit shine through!

This year we will again be reaching out to our incredibly generous congregation to help make the Holiday Season a little easier for our church members in need.

Again this year our plan for the Angel Tree will be to provide gift cards to allow folks to make individual gift purchases in time for the holidays. We have received feedback that this is what works best for those who have received gifts from the Angel Tree. This year we will be giving folks \$25 Walmart gift cards. You can take an ornament from our Angel Tree, purchase the gift card and bring it to church (a member of the Missions Committee will be happy to take them!) or you can give funds and we will purchase them, please make checks out to the church with Angel Tree in the memo line.

If you would like to receive an Angel Tree card, please contact Pastor Kerry with the number of people in your family. Our original cut off was Sunday, November 27th, but it's not too late if you missed that date. The



goal will be to deliver/arrange pickup of the gift cards beginning 12/4 to allow time to make purchases for Christmas if needed.

We are always amazed by the generosity and caring of this congregation! Thank you in advance for helping to brighten the holidays for others. It is truly a blessing to see the generosity and caring you show for one another.

Blessings and Peace,

The Missions Committee

Pam Hennessey, Kathleen Murphy, Vicky Karels, Kristen Hamilton and Kathleen Dube

### From The Music Committee:

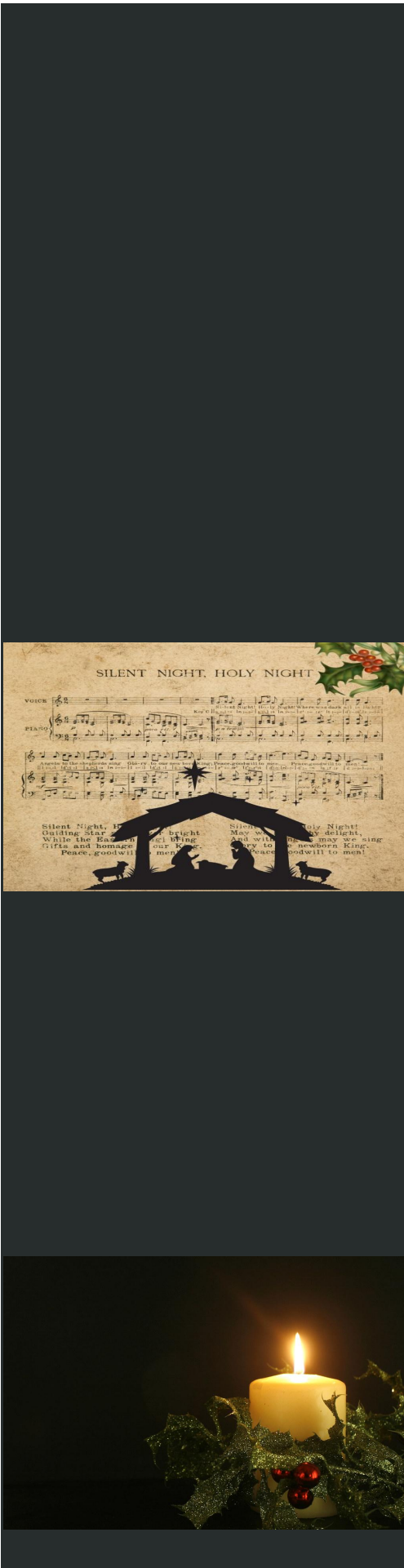
There is no more loved time of the year for music in church than Advent and Christmas. From the contemplative music of the Blue Christmas service to the joyful exuberance of a rousing Christmas carol, there is something for everyone to sing along with and enjoy! The Music Committee and our Music Director, Jon Abrams, have worked to make our beloved Christmas hymns part of our December worship. We all have our favorites, but *Silent Night* is such a quintessential holiday song which always evokes that special feeling of Christmas peace. Follow the link below to learn more about this beautiful song's rich history. Enjoy this holiday season and the great music that captures all the joy and celebration of our Savior's birth. May the peace and joy that comes from such a loving God fill all of our lives now and in the coming year! Merry Christmas!

[The Story Behind The Beloved Christmas Carol "Silent Night"](#)

### From the Prayer Team:

A prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.





**December's Hooksett  
Food Bank Collection is  
cereal!**

Close the door of hate

and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,

and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,

and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,

forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Would you like us to pray for you? Please contact us at

[prayer@hooksettucc.org](mailto:prayer@hooksettucc.org). It is completely confidential and we are honored to do it. Would you like to join us in prayer? The team will hold a prayer meeting on Zoom for all on December 28, 2022 at 7 pm during which we will share readings from the Bible and general prayers from the team. No specific names will be raised by the team, but you will be welcome to share in any way that you feel led. Please feel free to participate or just be present. No one will be put on the spot to share or pray out loud. We hope that you will consider joining us on the fourth Wednesday in December using the Zoom link below. Have a blessed Christmas everyone!!

Hooksett UCC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: December Prayer Meeting

Time: Dec 28, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84710546802?pwd=VlVvOEJva0pselhseHhWT1B1eUNHQOT09>

Meeting ID: 847 1054 6802

Passcode: 755492

### **Other News:**

Want to know what is going on throughout the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ? Click this link to sign up for their weekly digital newsletter:

<https://tinyurl.com/y9kct9zi>



