

Church Events for Advent & Christmas 2019 and Epiphany 2020

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
10 Station Road, Hartland, Vermont 05048

Rev. Lucia Anne Jackson, Pastor

Facebook: [HartlandCongregationalChurch](#)

Church Telephone: (802)436-2224

email at RevLucia13@gmail.com

Dear Members & Friends,

Thanksgiving is just a few days away.... and then the sacred season of Advent – the four weeks of spiritual preparation for the coming of the Christ Child. Advent falls during the darkest season. This year the 4th Sunday in Advent is on the longest night. So, our worship services will focus on “Light in the darkness”. As we deepen into darkness during the first weeks of Advent and then anticipate the Light coming into the world on Christmas. “Light into Darkness . . . Darkness into Light”. Even in the darkness, we are a people of hope and light. As the prophet Isaiah (2:5) reminds us: “Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!”

*We have many special ways to honor Advent: the Advent Workshop, Carol Sing, Pageant, Worship Services & the Hartland Christmas Project. Because of the traditions, those who are lonely feel isolated, those who are grieving feel deep sorrow, those who are estranged from a loved one feel significant distress. If you or someone you know is lonely or grieving this season, consider the ‘**Blue Christmas Service**’ on Dec 8 at 4:00. A Service that acknowledges through prayer, scripture, music and silence, the emotional and spiritual challenges felt especially in this time. For you in this season, the Holy One breaks into our world to offer hope and comfort. May you find Joy in the midst of busyness.*

See you in Church - Lucia

The Hartland Christmas Project

The Christmas Project is an incredible outpouring of generosity and compassion. It is a miracle of community and faith, of churches working together. Hope, Peace, Joy and Love abound.

How can YOU help?

* You can **choose an ornament to shop** for a Hartland Christmas Project Family. Return by Dec 16 .

* **Donate Food:** Foods with meat are great. Spaghetti sauce with meat, beef stews, hearty soups etc. Instant and brewing coffee.. Powdered milk, hot cereals, hot chocolate. Canned veggies, fruits, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap, and dish soap.

* You can **bring in warm mittens, gloves, hats, scarves & socks** to hang on the Mitten Tree in the sanctuary.

* You can **donate: usable household items**, good winter clothing, nice gently used games and toys and books, warm blankets. You may drop off donations starting Dec 2nd, but no used car seats or shoes!

All gifts and donations must be turned in by Dec 16th

* And Please **help sort donations on Dec 16 at 8:00**

* **Free Rummage on Friday morning 8:00 – 11:00**

and help needed for clean up on Friday the 20th!

Remember your neighbors in this season of generosity and abundance!

25 Volunteers are returning to Puerto Rico

January 2020 to work with the United Church of Christ Disaster Relief and Recovery and the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico. There are still many homes with blue tarps and damaged roofs! Please hold us in your prayers.

Our Church is an active, vibrant congregation. *We are small but mighty!! All of the worship and music, outreach and fellowship, mission events and study, youth and children activities need to be supported and organized. If you enjoy the life of this church, if your soul is fed by some part of our ministry or if you have ideas or suggestions for change or if you want to get to know your church and the people in it, then consider participating on a board or committee to help support the life of our church. YES, it is that time of year again –nominating! There are positions on all of the church boards – if you are interested in serving please speak with Martha McGlenn or with Lucia. YOU ARE NEEDED.*

Advent & Christmas Calendar of Events including Worship and Church School:

“Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!” – Isaiah 2:5

Sunday, November 24 Combined Thanksgiving Worship AT the First Universalist Society of Hartland in Four Corners (UU)

11:15 Brunch to Benefit the Youth Mission Trip 2020

12:00 Presentation about Green Burials in the UU sanctuary

Sunday, December 1 1st Sunday in Advent: Hope in the Darkness
Worship with Communion & Regular Church School

Thursday, December 5

12:00 LadyBs Christmas POTLUCK luncheon & Yankee Swap

Sunday, December 8 2nd Sunday in Advent: Peace in the Darkness
Worship & Regular Church School

11:15 Advent Workshop for everyone – bring a dessert to share

4:00 Blue Christmas Service

5:00 Jr Youth Group (here) **6:30** Sr Youth (here)

Saturday, December 14

9:00 – 11:00 Christmas Cookie Walk - a fundraiser

11:00 Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday, December 15 3rd Sunday in Advent: Joy in the Darkness
Pageant - Family Worship -- All Children in Worship

4:00 Christmas Carol Sing along, Hot Cocoa & Cookies!

5:00 & 6:30 Youth Group Christmas Party!

Monday – Friday December 16-20 Hartland Christmas Project Week!

Sunday, December 22 4th Sunday in Advent: Love in the Darkness
Worship & Regular Church School

Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
of Lessons & Carols

Wednesday, December 25– MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Sunday, Dec 29th New Year’s Worship Service – lighting candles for memories of the year past and in hopes for the year to come. An intergenerational service.

Sunday, January 5 Worship with Communion, Epiphany Sunday. Rev. Constance Moser Preaching, Church School

Sunday, January 12 Worship & Church School, Daun Smith Preaching

Sunday, January 19Worship, & Church School & STAR WORDS
Honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr

Sunday, January 26 Worship & Church School
Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon

Sunday, February 2 Worship & Church – a Combined Service here,
Celebration of the Mission Trip to Puerto Rico

11:00 Brunch to Benefit Youth Mission Trip 2020

Music News-Choir Rehearsals

Music celebrates all the gifts of the Christmas season –please join the choir this Advent and share your voice!

Choir Rehearsal schedule for Advent and Christmastime:

For Sunday, December 1-Rehearsal FRIDAY 11/29

For Sunday, December 8- Rehearsal FRIDAY 12/6

For Sunday, December 15- Rehearsal FRIDAY 12/13

For Sunday, December 22- Rehearsal THURSDAY 12/19

All evening rehearsals at 5:00pm and Sunday mornings at 8:30 to sing in Worship each Sunday. Christmas Eve rehearsal Sunday 12/22 after worship.

From the Search Committee

We hope everyone got the chance to hear our report from last Sunday, but in case you didn’t, the report will be available on the church website very soon. Our next step is to further review and summarize our findings (from YOU !) and use them as a basis for building our church profile.

Thanks again to everyone who contributed to our focus groups and survey questionnaires. You really had a lot to say, which will give us a great start into our next phase.

~Tom Ramsey, Search Committee

Christian Education News and Notes

We had a wonderful year in Church School, starting with a Christmas Pageant, "Mary Remembers". We try to include small outreach projects in the curriculum. This year we made get well cards for church members, bookmarks for the hymnals, (some of which are still there), and made bookmarks for different committee members in the church thanking them and reminding them that Jesus loves them. We did a silent Peace March to honor Martin Luther King and learned valuable lessons through the Heifer Project during Lent. We ended the school year with a special thank you service for all the volunteers who help to make this program possible. We also were able to offer nursery care during the summer and have continued this in the new school year. As always, the more volunteers we have, the easier this job is. Please prayerfully consider helping us; even a couple Sundays a year would be a blessing! If you have questions, ideas, or wish to join the team, you can contact me at toucansam54@gmail.com

~*Mary Jo Ramsey, Director of Christian Education*

The Advent Workshop is an event for all ages

For the crafty and the craftily challenged. Everyone is invited! Bring a dessert to share on **Sunday, Dec 8, 11:15 – 1:00!** We will have hot pots of Chili for lunch (email Lucia if you can help) and be making cookies, ornaments, candles, cards and more. On **Dec 14** we have the PAGEANT Rehearsal 11:00 – 12:00 for the Pageant Worship Service on Dec 15. And THE CAROL SING on is Sunday Dec 15.

Stewardship News

Thanks to everyone who has returned their pledge cards! The results are still being tabulated. If you haven't already done so, please consider your most generous pledge, so that we, as a church, can top our 2019 mark and continue to be a place of healing and hope in a broken and needy world.

Pledge cards can still be mailed in the provided envelopes or put into the collection plate at worship. Or they can be dropped off at the church office.

Please return your pledge card as soon as possible – and if you have already done so – THANK YOU !

~*Tom Ramsey, Stewardship Committee*

From the Board of Deacons Regarding Membership

One important topic to be discussed and voted upon at the Annual Meeting, will be the changes in our church's By-Laws and Constitution regarding membership. The goal with this change is to make the wording more inclusive, and reflective of current times by recognizing that each person's faith journey is unique.

Please attend the Annual Meeting to participate in the conversation and vote about this important topic!

~*Cindy Hale, Chair of the Board of Deacons*

The Lady Bs/Ladies Benevolent Society News

Thursday, Dec 5, 12:00 Christmas POTLUCK luncheon and Yankee Swap. Bring a casserole, salad or dessert for the luncheon and a wrapped gift for the Yankee swap! Wrap your gift beautifully for the best wrapped gift prize! Gifts may be new, used, re-gifts, silly or something really nice. Everyone invited to the Christmas luncheon and Yankee swap! You don't want to miss this FUN event!

Saturday, Dec 14, 9:00 – 11:00 Cookie Walk at Church

Donated Cookies needed – please deliver to the Church on Friday the 13th from 8:30 – 10:00 or Saturday morning at 8:30. And PLAN ON ATTENDING the Cookie Walk! You can fill a box with a variety of yummy Christmas cookies. Tell your friends! Better yet, bring your friends!

Call to Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon

Sunday, January 26th Immediately following worship. All Boards, Committees and organizational components (such as LBS, Music etc.) should submit their reports by January 15 so we can post them for people to read prior to the meeting. Posting the reports will save much time at the meeting. We won't need to read reports during the meeting; we can just discuss them and vote on them. Please bring a potluck dish to share at the luncheon!

~*Brian Porto, Moderator*

Men's Fellowship News

The Roast Beef Suppers start January 25

This year run for SIX Saturdays. Speak with the Frazers to join a Roast Beef Supper team or to volunteer for an evening!

Our church has an “online” presence

You can see photos, read sermons, , announcements, updates, special events, church calendar and links to interesting articles.

Even if you are not on Facebook, you can see the church page!!! The Church Facebook page is:

<http://www.facebook.com/HartlandCongregationalChurch>

YOU can take this LINK and click it or paste it into your browser to be taken there directly. AND we have an up-to-date Website!! This is a terrific tool for the CHURCH CALENDAR. Because do you ever wonder what is happening at church? When the meeting starts? Is there Youth Group this week? Simply go to the Church Website at:

Hartlandcongregationalchurch.org Click on “CALENDAR” and there it is – the church calendar of events!

First Congregational Church of Hartland, UCC
PO Box 454 Hartland, VT 05048

All Youth!

Sunday, Nov 24 BRUNCH to Benefit Youth Mission Trip 2019 (UU)

all Mission Trip 2020 participants expected to help! Parental support needed! Start at 9:00, stay through Clean up. This is the biggest brunch because it is the Combined Service!

Sunday, Dec 8 11:15-1:00 you and your family are invited to the **Advent Workshop** (here)– a hands on event for all ages!
5:00 Jr Youth Group (here) 6:30 Sr Youth Group (here)

Sunday, Dec 15 4:00 Carol Sing & Hot Cocoa
5:00 – 6:15 Jr Highs (here) 6:30 – 8:00 Sr Highs
Youth Group Christmas Party! Bring a silly wrapped gift (regifting welcome) and moving the Hartland Christmas Project Donations
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sun, Jan 12 Jr Highs 5:00 – 6:15 Sr Highs 6:30 – 8:00 (UU)

Fri, Jan 17 Dartmouth Men’s Hockey Game – Youth & families invited for a fun night of hockey! Money due on Jan 12th for tickets. Meet here at 6:00 to car pool. \$5 youth \$10 adults!

Sun, Jan 26 Jr Highs 5:00 – 6:15 Sr Highs 6:30 – 8:00 (UU)

SAVE THE DATE Mission Trip 2020 – July 26 – Aug 2, 2019