

## THOTS FROM TOM

It is November! November is an interesting month. It is a month when we observe Thanksgiving and the beginning of Advent. Advent is that season which sometimes gets lost between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. For those who may be wondering, the countdown to Christmas has already begun. Home improvement stores have all their Christmas displays up; and I heard Christmas music for the first time this year over the public address system at Midstate Medical Center, played on October 20. The song? “The Holly and the Ivy.” By the time you read this, there will be some fifty shopping days until Christmas. Yes, we are getting close to Christmas, but let’s not forget Advent. The season of Advent is more than a shopping extravaganza which begins on “Black Friday”, November 26 and ends with those hapless men shopping for their wives’ Christmas presents at Mini-Mart’s and 7-Elevens at 10:00 pm on Christmas Eve. (I am not one of those!)

Advent is a season of anticipation and expectation. It marks a time of preparation for the celebration of the birth of the infant Jesus, and it also marks a time when we look for the *return* of the Christ, his much-anticipated Second Coming. Paul, in his writings made much of the idea common in his era that this return of Christ was imminent; it was coming any day. Still, all these centuries later, we still wait; and during Advent, we pay particular attention to the Old Testament prophecies, which anticipate the coming of the Messiah and the gospels in the New Testament where we read about the coming of the Son of Man, which is the return of Jesus, his Second Coming. So this time of year we prepare, and we wonder, *will he come this year? Will it finally happen?* Advent is a

time of anticipation and mystery. We will attempt to inject this feeling of anticipation and expectation in our worship services during these four weeks of Advent, as we contemplate the providence and wisdom of God, and wonder, will this be the year when we see Jesus?

Remember that the stores are open later during the weeks leading to Christmas. Hopefully, you will have plenty of opportunities to do the shopping that awaits you, which might enable you to take some time during these four Sundays in Advent to join us in contemplating and experiencing the Mystery of Anticipation!

Peace,

Tom

### **First Friday Service Continues December 3**

On Friday evening, December 3, at 6:30 pm, worshipers will have an opportunity to participate in another First Friday worship service, a brief monthly alternative, more casual worship service that features participation of the pastor and church members in worship leading, with music and songs that are significantly different from that which is played or sung on Sunday mornings. The service will be held in the sanctuary, but not necessarily in the pews, and will feature an Advent theme. All are welcome, including children!

### **Covenanting Service and New Member Forums**

For those considering joining the membership of the Congregational Church of East Hampton, a Covenanting Service will be held on Sunday, December 5 during our morning worship service. Two required classes to prepare for that Covenanting Service will be held on two successive Tues-

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days in the church's Emma Prince Lounge, from 7-8 pm. You may bring your children; while no childcare is provided, small children can do quiet activities at the conference table while we meet at the other end of the lounge, and as well, babies are welcome to stay with you. The dates are November 9 and 16. If interested, please contact the church office, at 267-4959.

### **Advent Wreath Sign Up Sheet**

It is Advent wreath time again, that time of year when we invite groups, friends and families to sign up to read short readings as we light our Advent candles in our wreath each Sunday in Advent, and light the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Fellowship Hall. Reading parts will be available at least one week prior to the date for the readings.

### **Church Office Closure**

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, the church office will be closed on Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26.

## **PLUM PUDDING FESTIVAL/CONCERT**

There will be a new format this year. We will be celebrating the Plum Pudding Festival with a Concert from our choirs. The Concert will start at **6:15 p.m.** in the sanctuary and there will be **no pot luck supper**. We would like to highlight our choirs during this festive time of year. Their program includes some pieces from the Messiah by Handel, carols and popular music for Christmas. After the concert, we will go downstairs to Fellowship Hall and have our traditional Plum Pudding procession and sing Christmas Carols.

## **INTENTIONAL GIVING**

Have you returned your pledge card and quilt square?

The Intentional Giving Committee launched our annual giving campaign on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. It will run until Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. We sent out 102 letters and launched ten trails covering 84 families. We ask everyone to return your pledge cards in a timely manner either by returning the card you received in the mail or by completing the card in your trail bag and keeping the bag on your trail moving. A successful campaign now will eliminate the need for a second effort this spring and we could focus our energy in other areas. Also **DON'T FORGET** to decorate a quilt square and return it to church. The more quilt squares we receive, the more quilts we can create. Our quilts will represent how we are connected by God's love. And how each of us is unique and contributes to this church in our own special ways. We are all part of God's quilt.

## **POT ROAST DINNER**

The Fall Pot Roast dinner was a great success...a delicious meal enjoyed by many with the evening culminating with a moving presentation by the "Seeds of Hope" participants sharing their experience from the summer trip to "The School of Life" in Gary, West Virginia.

Thanks to all that came and enjoyed the evening (without our loyal following of good food lovers. where would we be?!). Huge thanks also to those that baked pies and rolls, peeled potatoes, put up posters, sent publicity articles, set up Fellowship Hall, shopped, cooked, cleaned up....a true group effort...all help so very much appreciated!!



## COSA MATTERS

We had an awesome CROP WALK on October 17<sup>th</sup>. We will not have final numbers until the next Chatter, but we had many more walkers this year than last year. We are very proud that a portion of the proceeds from our Walk go directly to the East Hampton Food Bank and the remainder helps people worldwide. We would also like to thank our sponsors who helped defray the cost of T shirts for the walk. We extend our sincerest thanks to American Distilling, East Hampton VFW and Charlie Nichols.

## THE CHRISTIAN OUT-REACH AND SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Had a great experience during our Fall Festival. There were left over soups from the luncheon. We had the opportunity to donate several containers to the Food Bank. The soup was especially well received by an elderly lady who shared that the homemade soup was a wonderful treat for her and it really made her day.

## CHRISTMAS PROJECTS

We are organizing our Christmas projects for our Food Bank, DCF and Family Advocacy. More details in the December Chatter.



## FOOD BANK

We are helping the Food Bank provide Thanksgiving dinners for the community. We anticipate nearly 150 families will sign up for the program this year. Food will be collected in Sunday School classes. The Congregation can certainly contribute as well. We will bring the food to the Food Bank on Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. We also want to thank Carol Mandigo and crew for baking homemade pumpkin bread for each Thanksgiving dinner.

Here are the classroom donation suggestions:

- pre K & Kindergarten - stuffing & gravy
- 1st & 2nd Grades – cranberry sauce & canned vegetables
- 3rd - 5th Grades – pie fillings & pie crust
- 6th - 8th Grades – white & sweet potatoes
- High School – canned fruit & applesauce





## WOMEN'S POTLUCK MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

6:30 pm at the home of  
Lorraine Barlow  
5 Fairlawn Ave 860-267-9175  
Bring a dish to share and join us for  
conversation and fellowship  
Never beens always welcome!

## Youth2getherKlub

Middle School Youth Group  
Wednesday, November 3 and 17  
5:30-6:45 PM

Bring \$4 for dinner Friends welcome!

## FIRST FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

First Friday Worship Service November 7th  
The first Friday of each month at 6:30 pm we will be sharing an alternative worship time that will be led by a lay Worship Team and Pastor Tom. The songs, music, scripture, prayers and meditations will be different than the service for the coming Sunday. Each First Friday will provide the opportunity to worship at an alternative time. If Sunday mornings have been slipping by, you can now join your church family one evening a month. Casual attire, friends and family welcome.

## Helping Hands

Be sure to let Jill Walker (860-267-7180) or the office (860-267-4959) know if you or someone you know of from our church family is in need of some helping hands. We can provide meals, rides, assistance with simple household tasks, or come by and visit! Thanks to Nancy Crouch and Jill Walker for providing a needed hand this past month.

## Kudos Korner

Thanks to everyone that assisted with our annual Fall Festival. It was a glorious day and a good time for all.

Thanks also to Karen Gallmon and the Wellmans for coordinating the Pot Roast Dinner-another great event that brought out so many people.

Thanks to Dave Selger and the Cub Scouts for planting shrubs and bulbs in front of the building.





Seeds of Hope Mission Trip 2011  
 UCC Back Bay Mission Biloxi, Mississippi  
 June 26-July 2 for all in  
 High School, (must be completing  
 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2011), College or Adults

**Information meeting on Sunday November 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 in the lounge for all interested in hearing about the trip (parent should attend where applicable)**

\*\*\*Our “*spend no more than you would anyway*” fund raisers have started or will resume November 7<sup>th</sup> and they really help with MANY people involved-

Use **Goodsearch.com** every time you want to do a computer search. The first time you will be asked who you want to raise funds for- type in **Congregational Church of East Hampton and then hit verify**. After that you should not have to enter that again. We will receive a penny for each search conducted and with well over 200 people in our church family using the net the pennies will add up!

You can also Shop online from that same site- click on **Good Shop**, enter who you want to shop for and go to it! A list of hundreds of merchants is available. Each merchant will list the % that will automatically be donated to our account.

Purchase prepaid/gift cards every Sunday in Fellowship Hall for yourself or others thru our Great Lakes Scrip Program. Cards will be available the next Sunday for pick up. **Stop and Shop** and hundreds of merchants are available for ordering- gas, clothing specialties, entertainment, restaurants and services. If you are going to buy these items anyway- buy them from us and we receive a % of the face value.

**Recycle your bottles and cans** by rinsing them out and bringing them to the furnace room on the first floor (leave under the right side window). Tim Quackenbush is our volunteer recycling expert and after 6 years he’s gotten it down to a science

**Christmas Gifts and Greens Sale**  
 November 7- November 21

**New this year!**

Books, magazines, calendars, devotionals published by Christian inspired *Guideposts*  
 Sample items on display in Fellowship Hall. Catalogs to review also available

**Christmas Greens**









Large and small decorated wreaths, half wreaths and swags  
 Order in Fellowship Hall on Sundays. Pick up items Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup>

Proceeds benefit Seeds of Hope 2011

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHATTER**



# NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>7</b></p>  <p><b>Communion Sunday</b> All Church Family Worship/ Communion, 10am NO Sunday School Seed of Hope Info. Meeting, 11am AA, 8pm</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>All Saints Day</b> Woman's Potluck 6:30pm Host: Lorraine Barlow</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Election Day</b> Tiger Cubs, 6:30pm Boy Scouts, 7pm</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Art Class, 9:30am Bible Study, noon Y2K, 5:30-7:45pm "Amish Grace" book discussion, 7pm AA, 8pm</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Cub Scout Parents/Leaders 7-9pm Bell Choir 6-7pm Piuma Pudding Rehearsal 7:10-8pm</p>  <p><b>VETERANS DAY</b> Bell Choir 6-7pm Piuma Pudding Rehearsal 7:10-8pm</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> FRIDAY</b> Essential Nov 5th 6:30pm</p> 	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Get Your Cakes &amp; Bread</b></p> 
<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Worship, 10am Deacons, 11:30am AA, 8pm</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>New Members Meeting, 7pm Boy Scouts, 7pm</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Art Class, 9:30am Bible Study, noon Y2K, 5:30-7:45pm "Amish Grace" book discussion, 7pm AA, 8pm</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Bell Choir 6-7pm Piuma Pudding Rehearsal 7:10-8pm</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Bread Baking 8am-2pm</p> 
<p><b>21</b></p>  <p><b>Thanksgiving Sunday</b> COSA, 9am Worship, 10am AA, 8pm</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Mom's Group, 10am</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Church Council, 7pm Boy Scouts, 7pm</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Art Class, 9:30am Bible Study, noon "Amish Grace" book discussion, 7pm AA, 8pm</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> 	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>
<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Worship, 10am AA, 8pm</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>  <p>EH Garden Club Wreath Making 6-9pm</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Boy Scouts, 7pm</p>				