

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BUCKLAND

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Phone: 625-9440 Pastor's Phone: (413) 634-5451

Rev. Richard T. Fournier, Pastor

Sandy Carter - Organist / Pianist

January 3, 2021

"This is my (New Year's) wish for you:

*Comfort on difficult days,
Smiles when sadness intrudes,
Rainbows to follow the clouds,
Laughter to kiss your lips,
Sunsets to warm your heart,
Hugs when spirits sag,
Beauty for your eyes to see,
Friendships to brighten your being,
Faith so that you can believe,
Confidence for when you doubt,
Courage to know yourself,
Patience to accept the truth,
Love to complete your life."*

by Ralph Waldo Emerson

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "In Excelsis Gloria" - Henry Gauntlett

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: The Magi come from many places, following a star.

People: We come to worship, and the star sheds light on our lives.

Pastor: The Magi brought gifts to offer the Child.

People: We too bring gifts - ourselves, our hopes, our dreams.

Pastor: Shepherds and Magi- the meek and the mighty - all were welcome in Bethlehem.

People: We too come to Bethlehem and then return to our homes rejoicing.

***HYMN** "As With Gladness Men of Old" No. 114 (vs. 1, 2 & 3)

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Radiant God, all nations are drawn to your light, all people at heart want to shine. You befriend the forsaken and the outcast, your love envelops all your people, for you have come to us in Jesus Christ, as one of us. As we enter this new year may our awareness of your love and light increase and strengthen us with your abiding presence to grow into the people you would have us be. Amen

***GLORIA PATRI** "Glory Be to the Father" No. 575

FIRST SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60: 1-6 page 602

CHOIR ANTHEM "The Light of Christmas" - Joel Raney

PRAYER REQUESTS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

"Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

PRAYER RESPONSE "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

OFFERTORY (We request that you leave your contributions in the basket on your way out or mail them to Vi Scott.)

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2: 1-12 page 783-784

MESSAGE "Led by the Light" – Rich Fournier

***COMMUNION HYMN** "This Is the Day of New Beginnings"
(insert vs. 1, 2 & 5)

COMMUNION

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: We thank you for the promise of this meal: presence to break the bonds of isolation, power to overcome our powerlessness. We thank you for the

promise of this new year, for new life for tired spirits, new hope for fearful hearts. Help us to reach out to each other in community and be agents of renewal. May your resurrection life happen within and through us. Amen

***CONGREGATIONAL SONG** “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

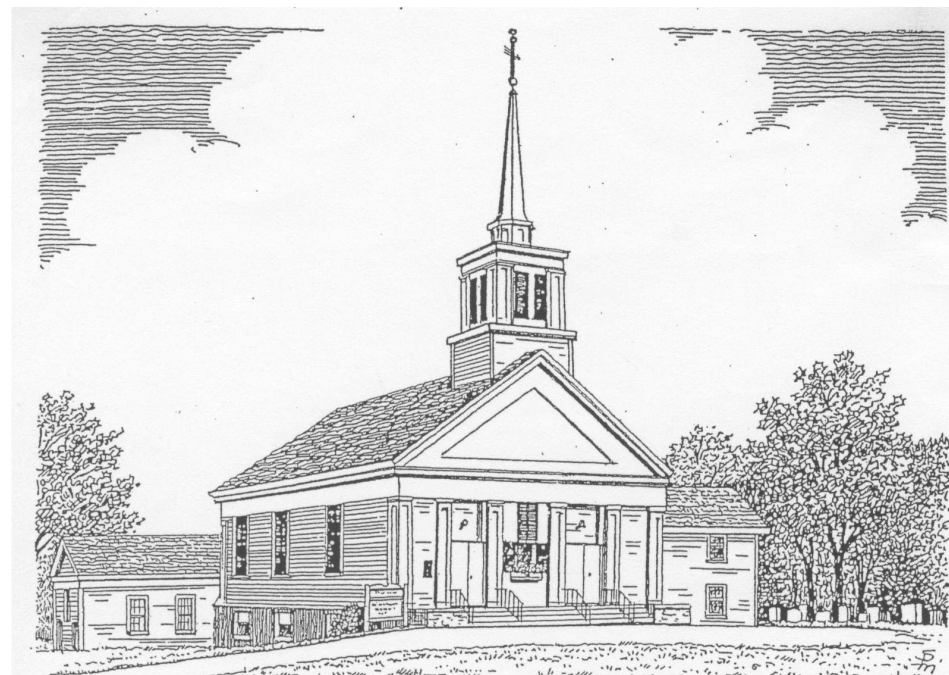
*=All who are able, are invited to stand.

Announcements

A reminder that Committee and Officer written reports for the year 2020 are due by Sunday, January 10th. Reports may be left at the church on the table in the entryway, in the box on Willis’s porch, or emailed to Judy Willis at judywillis56@gmail.com. Copies of reports will be available to members on January 17th and can be picked up at church or from Willis’s porch. Reports will also be emailed to members upon request.

An abbreviated **Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 24th, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning church service. The meeting will be held socially distanced in-person and will be broadcast via Zoom. The only two items to be reviewed and voted on at the meeting will be the 2021 Budget and the 2021 List of Officers and Committees. All other Committee and Officer Reports will be held until it is either safe to meet in person or the weather is such that an outdoor, socially distanced meeting is possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Moderator Paul Willis at 413-625-2649.



Mary Lyon Church

First Congregational Church of Buckland

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