

DECEMBER 2023

FRYEBURG NEW CHURCH

12 Oxford St. Fryeburg, Maine 04037



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Greetings dear Readers!

by Rev. Catherine

Welcoming Advent

Advent marks the beginning of the New Church year, and it is a time for slowing down, reflecting and preparing for the Nativity of Christ. During Advent we experience the season of darkness, the darkest time of the year. And it is during this time that the Christian tradition has placed the story of the birth of Jesus. Our faith teaches us that in the midst of the darkness, the light will come.

During Advent we are also reminded that both darkness and light are a part of our world. And Swedenborg teaches that there is both darkness and light within each one of us, which are different states of being in good and truth. During this Advent season I invite you to reflect on how to invite Jesus to be part of

the darkness as much as the light.
Allowing the love of Christ to encompass
all aspects of ourselves and our world.
In the expectant time of Advent may you
experience that longing for the Messiah
to come, and to come again. For it is
through that expectant longing that we
make space for the Lord to enter more
fully into our hearts and our minds.
Encompassing the darkness and the light
and filling us with love.

**May this be your prayer for the season,
"Come Lord Jesus"**

~ Rev. Catherine



CHURCH OFFICE

12 Oxford Street
Fryeburg, Maine 04037
207-935-3413

Secretary hours:

Wednesday 9 - 1

Thursday 9 - 1

Friday 9 - 1

subject to change without notice

Pastor:

Wed. & Thursday 9:30 - 1:00

Friday, Sat. & Sun. By appointment

fryeburgnewchurchpastor@gmail.com

207-256-6333

Contact People

Chair of Trustees: Lee Dyer

Trustee: Greg Huang-Dale

Treasurer: Jim Dutton

Trustee: Susan Logan

Trustee: Brian Baker

Trustee: Terrie Carlson-Rideout

Music Director: Greg Huang-Dale

Office Secretary: Dawn Crowe

Childcare coordinator: Dede Frost

Pastor: Rev. Catherine Lauber

**For contact information visit
www.fryeburgnewchurch.org**



CALENDAR

- **Family Worship** ~ Sundays HYBRID @ 10:00 a.m.
- **Coffee Hour** ~ Volunteers needed, thanks!
- **Fair Debriefing and Potluck** ~ December 3 after worship
- **Trustees meeting** ~ December 12 hybrid @ 6:30 pm
- **Tai Chi** ~ Saturdays @ 8:30 - 10:00 am (contact Greg Huang-Dale)
- **Dinner Bell at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Fryeburg** ~ Wednesdays 5pm - 6pm drive through pick-up. No Dinner Bell during school vacations.
- **Game Night at FNC** ~ every 2nd & 4th Tues. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- **Online Meditation** ~ Joining our friends in Michigan. Wednesday, December 6th @ 7:00 pm
- **Sound Bath Meditations** ~ Wednesday, December 13th 7:00 pm and Wednesday, December 20th 7:00 pm. We will reconvene the second week of January 2024.
- **Hanging of the Greens** ~ December 3
- **Communion Service** ~ December 10
- **Fryeburg Academy Candlelight Concert** ~ Dec. 10 @ 4 & 7 p.m.
- **Christmas Sing-a-long** ~ December 16 @ 2:00 p.m.
- **Please let Rev. Catherine know your favorite Christmas Hymns and we will sing them during our December services. Fa-la-la-la-la!**
- **There will NOT be a morning service on December 24th**
- **Christmas Eve Ecumenical Service at First Congregational Church Fryeburg. 5:00 pm.**
- **Sunday, December 31st** - New Year's Eve service at 10:00 am.
- **Fun Holidays ~ Wacky, Bizarre Days by Holiday Insights**
www.holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/

Please contact the office if you have an addition for the newsletter.

“I truly believe that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas spirit, we can bring joy and happiness and peace to this world.”

~ Norman Vincent Peale ~

FNC NEWS

Written by Claire Kiesman and Martha Richardson

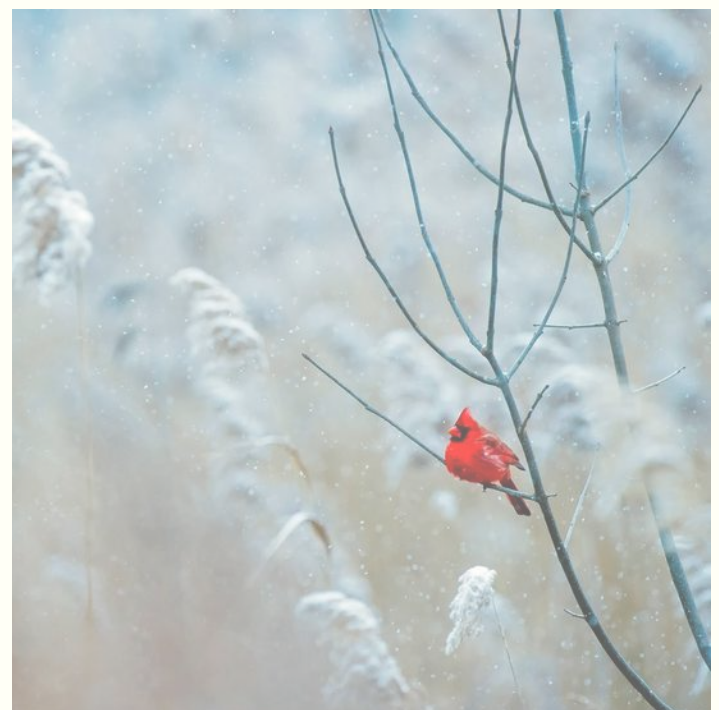
Welcome to December! Amongst all the hustle and bustle, tinsel and lights, shopping, and cookie baking, we hope you have the time to reflect on why we celebrate the Christmas Season. Relax, take a deep breath, and be thankful that we all have such a loving Creator. * We missed this last month. Trevor & Nancy celebrated their Silver Anniversary on Oct 3 with a day trip to the Berkshires where they enjoyed the Berkshire Botanical Garden. Then a 4-day vacation to Cape Cod a few days later to visit 7 beaches, the Sandwich Glass Museum, the Edward Gorey House, Nauset Lighthouse, Salt Pond Visitors Center, Beech Forest Trail, Commercial St in Provincetown, and much more. They only visited 6 beaches because it was raining the first day! What a great celebration, Congratulations and may there be many more. * Also, Brendan Crowe was in China visiting a friend at the end of September and into October. He was able to attend their Harvest Festival where he was able to enjoy some of their customs and try some local foods. He had a wonderful time and will certainly go back. What a great trip for you Brendan. * Debbie and John Urgese celebrated their 40th Wedding anniversary on Nov 12. They took a trip to the Virgin Islands. They stayed on St. Thomas for three days, and then to St. John where their daughter Katelin had found a house for them to rent. She and her family and their son Zach joined them for Thanksgiving. St. John is $\frac{3}{4}$ National Park, so they had plenty of places to walk and hike.

They went snorkeling every morning at a different beach and swam with swarms of fish. Debbie said, "Everything is very expensive, because everything has to be imported. For example, a pound of Cod was \$29. They were lucky because Katelin ordered a lot of their food on Amazon and had it shipped to ST John. Congratulations to you both. * We are so sorry to hear that Jane Dutton slid from her new slippery wheelchair and fractured Tibia and Fibula bones in her leg. She's at home with a brace on her leg. We wish her a speedy recovery. * One of Jim Dutton's sisters passed away recently. Our sympathy to his family. * We wish to each of you a very blessed Holiday season. Enjoy your families.

Please if you have any news, let us know.

Thank you and God Bless you.

Claire 935-2200, and Martha 935-1217





DECEMBER SERVICES

Sunday December 3rd - Greening the Church
10:00 am Pot Luck following the Service.
Fair Debrief Session following the pot luck.
Starting at 12:30 pm.

Sunday, December 10th - Communion Service
10:00 am. For our online congregation, please
gather your Holy Supper elements of bread and
wine and have them with you when you join on
Zoom.

Sunday, December 17th - Worship 10:00 am.
The Poinsettias arrive. For honouring and
remembering our loved ones.

Sunday, December 24th - No morning service
Christmas Eve Ecumenical Service at First
Congregational Church Fryeburg. 5:00 pm.

Sunday, December 31st - New Year's Eve Day
service at 10:00 am.

CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG

A Christmas Song Sing-A-Long, hosted by
Ellen Schwindt and her students, takes
place at 2 Pm on December 16th at
Fryeburg New Church at 12 Oxford Street in
Fryeburg. Come enjoy many renditions of
Jingle Bells, The Ukrainian Bell Carol, Oh
Christmas Tree, and even the Dreidle Song
played on the piano, violin, and maybe even
our very own Estey Organ Company organ.
Requests will be honored as far as we are
able and we will share some snacks and hot
chocolate after we sing.

Important Information



THE COLLECTION PLATE

Ways to give to the church:

Checks can be mailed:

12 Oxford Street, Fryeburg, ME 04037

PayPal:

<https://fryeburgnewchurch.org/giving/>

Drop off at the church office or in the front door mail slot.

Thank you, donations are appreciated

ZOOM LOGIN INFORMATION

We are offering Hybrid Worship services at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays.

Join Zoom Meeting (live link)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85357860199>

Dial by your phone

1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 853 5786 0199

There is no password.



FOR MORE VISIT: www.fryeburgnewchurch.org



FROM THE

DECEMBER 2023

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

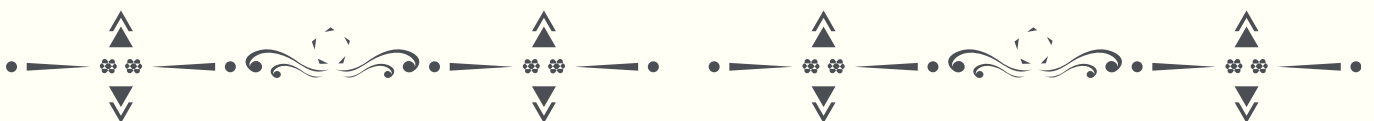
Happy Holidays!

As we wrap up a very eventful 2023, it is the perfect time to extend an overwhelming thank you to all who gave their time, talents, energy, and financial support. Stewardship comes in all forms and levels to keep our church moving forward. While we usually think of 'giving to the church' as a monetary offering, which is very important. It is also an act of service to help maintain the buildings and grounds. It is the talents that pull our worship services together. It is the time and energy we give to our fundraisers and especially the Fair. And the ideas and follow-through to welcome the community into our church with arts, culture and companionship.

The new year will also bring a fresh perspective and vision from our ministry and church community. During our December and January meetings, the Board of Trustees will dive deep into our projected 2024 budget. We will weigh our expenses with our assets. We will acknowledge the more significant projects that need our attention, the areas that are no longer serving the church, and the wish list we want to dive into that will grow the community.

We invite you to access what you would like to receive from the church and how to balance that with your continued stewardship. Keep us, the Board and Rev. Catherine, connected with your vision for the Fryeburg New Church and how we all can work together to grow our community.

**Many warm Blessings,
Lee Dyer, Chair of the Board**



December Sound Bath Meditations

We are very fortunate that Rev. Catherine is offering online sound bath meditations! A very wonderful and relaxing experience.

If you have never attended a sound bath now is the perfect time to check it out.

This month's offerings will be online on the following dates.

Wednesday, December 13th 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 20th 7:00 pm

We will reconvene the second week of January 2024.

Login using the Church Zoom link.

Rev. Catherine's beautiful collection of singing bowls.

