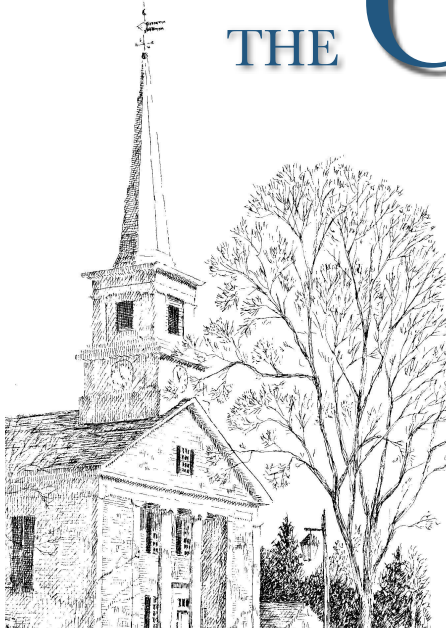


JANUARY 2022

THE GOOD News



Visit DublinChurch.org

All Dublin Community Church sermons, music, and fabulous Sunday school offerings for the children (ages 1-100+) can be found in text and voice at facebook.com/Dublin-Community-Church-47439349395. There you can find our live-stream link for the 10:30 Sunday Service and so much more. Music opens at 10:15 am, as the candles are lit in church.

All are welcome to join Scripture Discussions in a Zoom meeting, every third Saturday at 8:30 am.

Please call for the Zoom link.

The Light of the World

In this New Year our days already have a few minutes more of daylight. Those daylight hours will be increasing, slowly at first and then quite rapidly, for the next six months. The promise of light answers an ancient need in us. Light conveys security, warmth, and possibility. Light, by its very nature, radiates out from its source in all directions simultaneously. The photons, the tiny mass-less particles that make up light, do not discriminate; they just move, quickly, at speeds of one-hundred-eighty-six thousand miles each and every second. At that speed, we could circle the earth seven times in one second!



Light is not only fast, it is consistent and constant. Light photons never, ever, stop moving. Light goes forever and ever. Light is the perfect metaphor for the source of love we call God. And in my opinion and experience, Christ is the perfect metaphor for God. In Colossians 1, we find the following words: "Christ is the image of the invisible God. In him the fullness of God was pleased to dwell."

With the growing light of our days, Friends, may we search for the places within ourselves where God is "pleased to dwell." These places are the places where light overcomes our darkness. Sometimes the light is just a flicker, sometimes a flame, and sometimes a roaring fire. May we look for the light in others, especially those who differ from ourselves, and may we allow our own light to be seen in all we say and in all we do.

This is, after all, what Jesus asked us to do, according to Matthew 5: 14-16: "*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others...*"

Shining with you,
Traceymay



The Dublin Community Church: An Open & Affirming Church

"We, the people of the Dublin Community Church, gather together in love and tolerance to seek through prayer, worship, study, and fellowship to respond faithfully to God's Word, so that, edified and empowered by the spirit of a loving God, we will grow in faith in order to serve God and witness to our community through acts of love, compassion, and healing."

MESSAGE FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION — Rosamond Cady

As you read this “good news,” our children will have already taken the journey to Bethlehem through the four weeks of Advent, where they prepared their hearts and minds for the arrival of the blessed Christ Child.

Was this trip the one we had anticipated a year ago? Absolutely not. But through all the many changes we all have had to make in every single aspect of our lives, our church has been laser-focused on one thing: keeping our children somehow connected to their faith community.

All information received for the past 21 months boils down to this: “it is not advised to meet in-person with children at this time.” That seems counter-intuitive to all other events children are engaged in, but our church has taken the pandemic very seriously. And has taken the task of involving our church families as much as humanly possible even more seriously.

For the four Sundays of Advent, as adults gathered in the sanctuary and the service Zoomed to many, two of our families participated each of those weeks. One of our older children called us to worship and read the sacred texts, while another family lit the Advent Wreath candles, read scripture and offered prayer. All families were invited to decorate the beautiful tree gracing the front portico of the church on December 4 – a gift of Love and Hope and Light to the entire community. The church sent each family an Advent Calendar – in every box a piece of the Christmas Story instead of a piece of chocolate. And every week a Sunday School Lesson is posted on our website for families to “attend” at their leisure; during Advent, we lit our own Advent Wreaths virtually.

We won’t know for many years – as these pandemic children grow into adulthood – whether our efforts to connect them to meaningful faith formation succeeded. But we do know that we tried with all our hearts to make our kids feel loved – by all of us, and by God. Let us enter the New Year with the tenets of Advent in our hearts: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Love, Yummy



**Dublin Community Church
Take-Out Supper for All**

Tuesday, January 25
Pickup begins at 5:30 pm

The menu will be meatloaf, baked potato, peas, and dessert. Reservations are required.

Please call Laurie Jameson at 876-5003 by Friday, January 21, to reserve a meal and give her your phone number. You will get directions when you call.

Offered by members of the Outreach Committee and volunteers from the community.

MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES — Rosamond Cady

Our Annual Congregational Business Meeting will be held **Sunday, January 23**, after worship. At this time, we do not know what that will actually look like – whether in-person, Zoom, or a hybrid mix. But it will happen, and you will have the finalized details in plenty of time from announcements during worship, Traceymay’s weekly emails, and notices emailed from the Church Office.

A tremendous amount of intentional hard work and dedication go into the governance of our beloved church, as is summarized in our Annual Report. All Board chairs, Agent, and Treasurer will need to have their annual reports to Wendy in the Church Office by **January 6**. With important input from all governing boards, the Trustees have spent the last two months crafting the Proposed 2022 Budget.

Wendy will compile all the reports and financial data, and have hard copies of the 2021 Annual Report

available in the west entrance of the church by January 16; she will send the report by attachment the following week. If anyone needs to have the Annual Report mailed to them, they need to notify the Church Office by noon on January 14.

The Trustees have been very busy this past year making many improvements to both the physical church property as well as important updates in our infrastructure. And thanks to the remarkable steady, faithful support from all of you, our church is on solid ground moving into the new year. Thank you.



MESSAGE FROM THE DEACONS — Beth Karlicek

As we made our holiday plans, tackled our Christmas shopping, and engaged in the seasonal activities that bring us joy (and stress!), our gathering together is not taken for granted: We keep a careful watch on the COVID numbers, caution all on wearing masks, social distancing and stay-at-home options — and question each week if we must shift our worship services.

But the uncertainty cannot dim the light that is our church community. Full of love, fellowship, and respect, our fellow church members are all careful and caring.

We have faith in each other and know we will all adjust to what's needed to keep each other safe.



➡ *The poinsettias, given in memory of loved ones each Christmas, were placed between gently lit twigs, with little red cardinals hanging in them.*

MESSAGE FROM OUTREACH — Ellen Bingham

The Outreach Committee will spotlight the Ascentria Care Alliance for a special collection at church on February 13. Among its many human service programs throughout New England, Ascentria helps people in transition “move forward and thrive.”

DCC is collecting for Afghan refugee families who are being relocated to New England and, specifically, to Cheshire County. In addition to donating in church, an envelope will be inserted inside this month's *Good News* to drop a donation in the mail. Their need for funds is real and immediate and will be ongoing. Thank you.

FROM DAVID BLAIR — Harrisville & Chesham Church

One of the joys of hiring Traceymay was the process that brought together members of the Dublin and the Harrisville & Chesham Churches as a joint search committee. Tim Clark's death reminded me how much that fellowship means to me; and that we have the opportunity to revive and sustain it.

I propose a meeting, which could become a series of meetings if we wish, to be held at the Dublin Community Church, with Zoom attendance possible, to consider a subject which I've been studying this fall at the Boston University School of Theology: science. Our professor has taken us through a wide range of topics in physics, chemistry and biology, challenging us to create five-minute presentations for an audience of our choosing that communicate some aspect of the topic clearly and accurately.

I have been learning about cosmology (the Big Bang), relativity (special and general theories), quantum

mechanics, now genetics, epigenetics, and evolution. I would like to choose one of these topics, probably from the beginning of the course; offer you some short videos to watch before we meet; share my five-minute presentation with you as part of a mini-lecture; then share our reactions and questions.

If this is fun and something you'd like to continue, we can do that, either with me taking the lead again or with one of you choosing a topic you'd like to research and present. But one step at a time!

I propose **Wednesday, January 19**, as our trial run, probably from 3 – 4 or from 5 – 6. A small number of us may be able to meet in person in the Dublin Community Church (depending on the state of COVID) while others can join by Zoom if you prefer.

I offer this in the spirit of curiosity and fun that the memory of Tim embodies for me.

— David Blair

OPEN & AFFIRMING STATEMENT — *Adopted by this Congregation in 2005* —

“As people of faith, we believe that God's love is for everyone. We honor human relationships that are based on love, responsibility, mutual respect, trust and fidelity. We embrace each person's uniqueness. We welcome and support all people equally regardless of marital, social or economic status, race, ability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, age or religious affiliation. Therefore, as an Open and Affirming congregation, we invite all persons to join in the full life and ministry of the church and to share its joys, privileges and responsibilities. Knowing that this commitment poses a spiritual challenge, we encourage each other to accept God's call to love our neighbors as ourselves.”

— MONTHLY VOLUNTEERS —

	<i>Deacon</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Greeter</i>	<i>Lift</i>
January 2 –	Beth Karlicek	May Clark	Bruce Fox	Bill Goodwin
January 9 –	May Clark	Karen Conrow	Phil & Ruthie Gammons	June Brening
January 16 –	Janice Moore	TBA	Nancy Jackson	Laurie Jameson
January 23 –	Margaret Flick	Margaret Flick	Mary Loftis	Bob Meissner
January 30 –	Steffie Kyte	Bruce Fox	TBA	Brian Barden

DUBLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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 DUBLIN, NH 03444

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2022						1 Happy New Year
						
2 Worship 10:30 am	3 Church Open 2-5 pm; Mavericks 7-9 pm	4	5 Church Open 10 am to 3 pm; AA 7-8 pm	6 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm; Book Group 10-11 am	7 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm; Annual reports due from Board Chairs	8
9 Worship 10:30 am	10 Church Open 2-5 pm; Mavericks 7-9 pm	11	12 Church Open 10 am to 3 pm; AA 7-8 pm	13 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm; Book Group 10-11 am	14 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm	15 Scripture Discussion 8:30-10 am, call for Zoom link
16 Worship 10:30 am; Trustees meet	17 Church Open 2-5 pm; Mavericks 7-9 pm	18	19 DCC Open 10-3; AA 7-8 pm; David Blair & Cosmology 3-4 pm or 5-6 pm	20 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm; Book Group 10-11 am	21 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm	22
23 Worship 10:30 am; Annual Meeting after worship	24 Church Open 2-5 pm; Mavericks 7-9 pm	25 Take-Out Community Supper 5:30 pm, call Laurie	26 Church Open 10 am to 3 pm; AA 7-8 pm	27 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm; Book Group 10-11 am	28 Church Open 9 am to 1 pm	29
30 Worship 10:30 am	31 Church Open 2-5 pm; Mavericks 7-9 pm					


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