



**January 2021**

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**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday - Friday  
10:00am - 1:00pm

**PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:**  
By appointment, or check  
the weekly *Spirit*.

**Visit our web page at**  
**www.tccucc.org**  
**and visit us on Facebook**

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 25**

# THE VISITOR

**TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*At the Heart of the Community - With the Community in Our Hearts*



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## Our Interim Pastor

The Interim Pastor Search Team and the Governance Council are so pleased to announce our Interim Pastor, Greg Schmidt, who will be starting his ministry with us on January 4. We are all very excited about working with Pastor Greg to strengthen our faith and become a greater presence in our community. Please see his introductory letter to us on the next page.

*Cathy Hill*



**Remember to check the  
members-only portion of the  
TCC website for updated  
reports.**

*Our church family received a lovely  
Christmas card from Jessie  
Marshall, wishing us love, from her  
new home in Florida.*



# KEEP SEEKING HIM



## **Introducing Our Interim Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Gregory Schmidt**

Hello new friends,

My name is Greg Schmidt. I am about to start as your interim pastor.

In just a few days we will begin a new year and I know we are all thinking “I can’t wait for 2020 to be over.” What a crazy and difficult year it has been. We all had a good lesson in how to change our lives almost completely didn’t we? We learned how to stay home more, wear masks, communicate and even worship via the internet. What will 2021 bring? As the first doses of the new vaccine are shipped and administered there is already fear of a new strain of the virus being found in Europe. So the future remains almost as questionable as the past nine months have been. While there is much that is out of our control there are some things we can.

For the members and friends of the Townsend Congregational Church this new year will bring forth some things you can look forward to, control and, with some prayer, make work to your advantage.

- You have a new interim pastor, me, to help steer you through this time of wilderness and transition.
- You can choose to be part of the future of the church by participating in worship and other activities.
- That God will give you the courage to speak to new people when they come into the church. If you are not going to notice them, speak to them and make them feel welcome, your desire for church growth will NOT happen.
- That God will grant you the willingness to give generously to the church.
- That God will also grant you the willingness to serve the church with your time and talent. The Congregational Church relies on the members of the congregation to serve on the boards and committees which actually run the church. Please think about how you might be able to serve the church for the glory of God.

### **Here is some bio stuff you might be interested in:**

I was raised on Long Island, NY and attended Franklin and Marshall College. Having heard the call to ministry I then attended Andover Newton Theological School. While a student at ANTS I had the pleasure of being the student Pastor in Duxbury, MA for three years. It was in Duxbury that I met my future wife, Sharon. Following graduation I served churches in Ithaca, NY; Short Hills, NJ; Shelton, CT; Harvard, MA and am just finishing a two and a half year interim in West Boylston, MA. Each one of those churches taught me something about ministry, myself and my faith. My guess is you will be no exception to this.

In addition to my work in the church I have served the Mass Conference and Central Association in various ways. I have represented the Central Association on the UFRC (Unified Fitness Review Committee), co-chaired the Continuing Education Task Force and served as chair of the committee on Ministry and been Registrar of the Association.

My wife Sharon is the secretary for the guidance department at The Bromfield School in Harvard. Sharon and I have two sons.

We know that with God all things are possible, all endings are new beginnings and all mourning turns into joy. The Holy Spirit has brought us together for the good of the church and the glory of God.

I am excited to begin as your interim pastor and eager to get to know you. My first Sunday in your pulpit will be January 10th.

Yours In Christ,

Greg





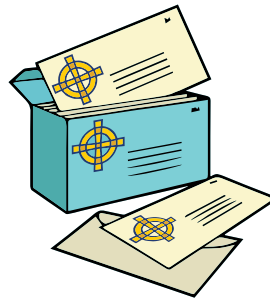
## Our Online Auction Did Well - Thanks To All!

As you know, we were unable to have our church auction in May, but, as we had already collected many items, we thought TCC would benefit if we sold as many as possible during this difficult time. Congratulations to the winners of these items:

Bailey's/Mariano's gift card – Carole Gustafson  
 Bird wall hanging made by Wanda Wilson – Jody Burnham  
 Butterfly Place gift certificate – Wanda Wilson  
 Cardinals wall hanging made by Wanda Wilson – Cathy Hill  
 Champion Cleaners gift certificate – Jody Burnham  
 Cobblestone Quilts gift certificate – Beth Klein  
 Cozy Tea Cart gift certificate – Renee Fossey  
 Evans on the Common JFK quote wooden plaque – Dick Lee  
 Forest Appliance gift certificate – Cathy Hill  
 Home at the Cooperage gift certificate – Renee Fossey  
 Home at the Cooperage vintage print of Townsend – Gretchen Churchville  
 Parker's Barn gift card – Beth Klein  
 Pizza Pizzazz gift card – Wanda Wilson  
 Pizza Pizzazz gift card – Beth Klein  
 SS Lobster gift certificate – John D'Angellilo  
 Sterilite - 2 red dish pans – Chris Clish  
 Sterilite - 2 black wastepaper baskets – Beth Klein  
 Sterilite laundry hamper – Beth Klein  
 Sterilite mini crate – Beth Klein  
 Sterilite storage drawer – Beth Klein  
 Sterilite caddy – Beth Klein  
 Table runner made by Wanda Wilson – Niles Busler  
 Unadvertised, unofficial request for Dick Lee's chili dinner – John D'Angellilo

Thank you to everyone who participated in our online mini auction – we were able to collect a total of \$797! We still have some items left - stay tuned for a future auction either live or online!

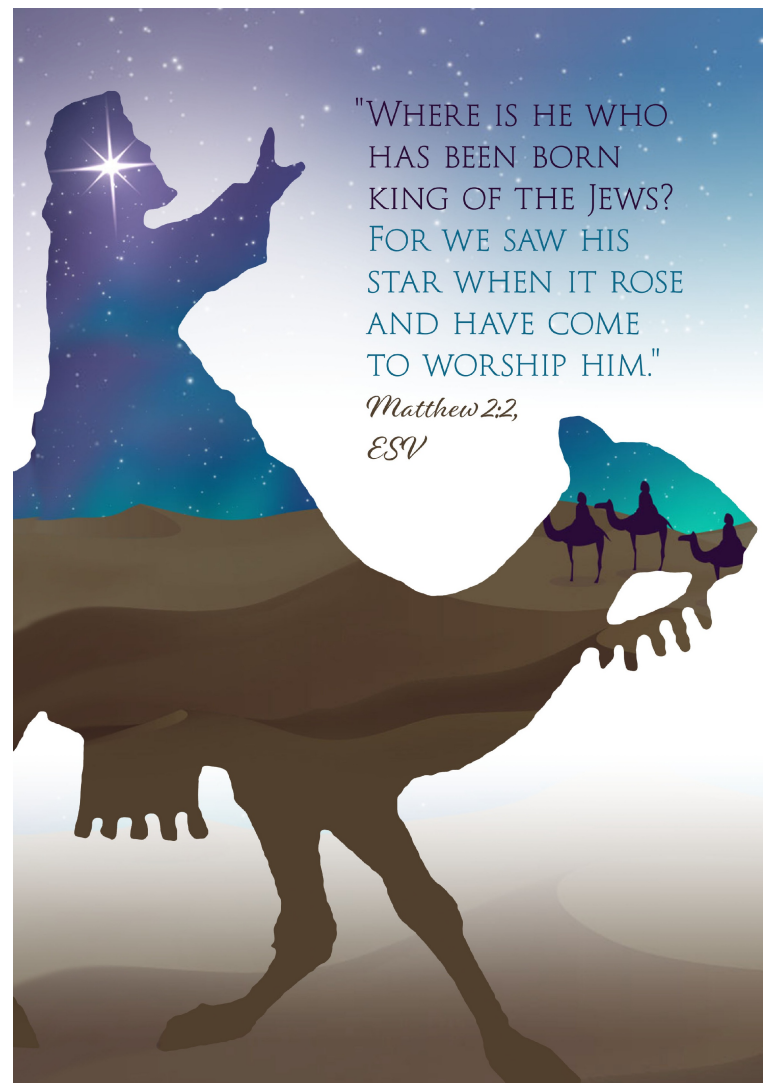
*Dick and Nancy Lee*



## No Offering Envelopes This Year

Since it is unknown as to when we will return to worship services where everyone may attend safely, Jody chose not to order offering envelopes. Next year, hopefully, we can resume this tradition. Please remember that you may continue contributing to TCC's missions via mailed-in checks, or various online options, including through the TCC web page using a credit card, or setting up your bill pay program to include regular payments to TCC.

*Thanks for keeping us in your hearts and minds.*



## The Birthday Fund

This is a fun way to contribute above and beyond your regular giving to the church to something above and beyond our normal operating budget. We appreciate those who have participated so far. Simply make a donation on (or around) your birthday in the amount of your age (Memo: Birthday Fund)! Participate and watch our gifts grow!



## JANUARY



3-Linda Modica; 7-Jessica Swift;  
8-Nicole Beauchesne; 9-Bill  
Wilkinson; 12-Michele Busler;  
13-Jason Goyette and David  
Wilson; 14-Rob Gosselin; 17-Louis  
DuBreuil and Bob Lorenzen;  
18-Jane Misner and Skip Lloyd;  
22-Alison Wright; 24-Nancy Lee;  
27-Kathy Perkins; 28-Linda Hatch  
and Moe Tremblay



Just a quick reminder that, if we are in the midst (or aftermath) of a winter storm and you're not sure if the church is open, there will be a message left on the church's answering machine (if there is power) and on the church's web site/Facebook. If the power is out in the center of town, then the church will be closed.



## Village Common Children's Center

Dear Carole Gustafson, Nick Zielenkiewicz, Don & Beth Klein, Dick & Nancy Lee, and David & Wanda Wilson,

On behalf of all the VCCC families, staff and myself, I would like to send you all a great big



for your kindness and generosity in cleaning up the mess made by the shed accident\*. VCCC MOST appreciates your time and help.

Here's wishing you, and all of our TCC family, safe, healthy and happy holidays and many blessings in 2021.

Best,

Carol Ciccolini, VCCC Director

\* The incident that Carol is referring to occurred on November 30, when the driver of a Mid-Town Beef truck had some kind of medical crisis and lost control of his truck. The vehicle ran through two portions of the town common fence, drove right between the church and its neighboring property, completely took out the VCCC storage shed and dislodged the TCC storage shed, before finally coming to a stop in the ditch on the other side of our back lawn. Thanks be to God that no person was injured in this incident, and that there was no damage to any primary structures. Wanda Wilson is proficiently dealing with the various insurance companies with regards to the TCC portion of this adventure.



## THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

The Spirit of Christmas came in with a bang.  
The shopping, the parties, the carols we sang.  
The Spirit of Christmas invaded all beings,  
much laughter and loving was all we were seeing.  
We spoke to our children importance of sharing,  
in helping the needy, we taught them of caring.  
We focused on Christmas... the birthday of Christ  
who came into the world to make the world right.

And now, it is over, we'll take the tree down,  
pack up decorations, put away Christmas sounds.  
The bells will stop playing, the carols will cease;  
we'll etch in our mem'ries, our great Christmas feast.  
The manger displayed, no longer will be  
set out as reminder of the Holy Fam'ly.

But the Spirit of Christmas need not come to end,  
the Spirit of loving our neighbors and friends  
could now live on as the months pass us by....  
the Spirit of Christmas can last if we try  
to always remember why the Christ child was born....  
recapture the feeling we had Christmas morn.  
The Spirit of Christmas can last through the year  
if we practice our kindness and bring someone cheer:

a handshake, a smile, a loving remark  
can be just the magic to touch someone's heart.  
A meal to a shut-in can be someone's feast  
that won't go un-noticed, no not in the least!  
And a gift for no reason could brighten one's day  
who otherwise thought "No-one loves me, I say".  
Yes, the Spirit of Christmas lives within me and you,  
and is shown to all people from the good things we do!  
So, take now this Spirit Christ meant us to share  
by living in love and showing we care.  
And just as reminder of the spirit to keep  
when you take down the tinsel and ornaments so sweet...  
take one special item from your Christmas tree,  
hang it in a place where always you'll see....  
and thus be reminded that Christ's love endures-  
that the Spirit of Christmas lives forever, and more!

Christine Clish

## Poetry Corner

This poem was written  
in 1992 for the Dec. 27  
worship service.



## OUR BLESSINGS:

Congratulations to Kathy Duckett, MSN, RN, for being recognized in the local papers for her new job as Director of Advanced Care at home for the Home Health Foundation. We are thankful to Wanda Wilson for making Greens baskets for many of our members that are homebound; we are also thankful to Judy Russell, June Cloutier and Carole Gustafson for delivering them. We join with Kristina Cormier in giving thanks that her friend Ashley, who had to be induced almost a month early due to pregnancy complications, is doing well, along with her baby. We pray for all new parents during this time of pandemic, where any extra help is not readily available. We give thanks for Nancy Lee for running the online auction, and for everyone who participated; the auction made \$797. We give thanks for the blessing of Noelle Dattilo, who served as our pulpit supply pastor for a number of weeks in November and December; and for the blessing of

Marvin Caldwell, who was our Pulpit Supply Pastor for two Sundays after Christmas. We give thanks for the blessing of the Worship Committee, who work diligently to ensure we all have access to the Sunday worship services. We offer prayers of thanksgiving that Kim Emerson's son, Ryan Benson, has fully recovered from his COVID-19 infection. We also give thanks that Cathy Parsons' brother, Peter, has a good prognosis as his cancer was diagnosed early; although we will keep him in our prayers as he goes through his treatments. Ed, Cheryl and Ray give thanks for all the prayers; Ray is on the mend from his collapsed lung, and it doesn't look like he will need surgery. We offer prayers of thanks for those who came to the snow-removal-aid of Tracy Winslow and Kathy Perkins after the snow storm in December. We are very thankful for the wonderful Nativity recording made by Heather Rochette and the youth of our church; it was beautifully done and definitely helped to mitigate the feelings of loss on not being able to get together to celebrate the coming of Jesus with our usual community events. We also give thanks that our interim pastor, Greg Schmidt, has accepted the contract offered to him and he is all set to begin his ministry with us on January 4; thanks be to God.

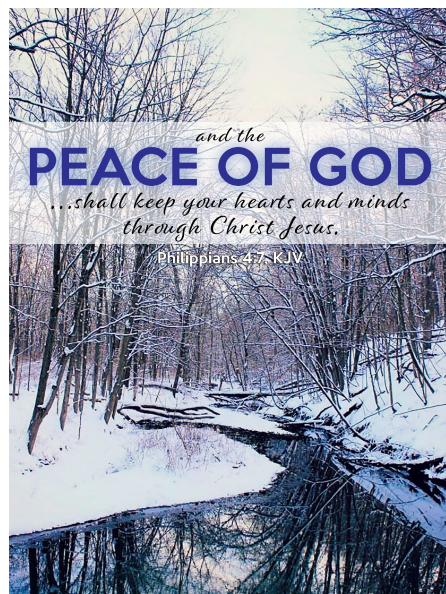
### Wedding Anniversaries:

John and Elaine D'Angelillo, 62 years on Jan. 3

### OUR CONCERNS:

We pray for all who have been quarantined since the beginning of the Pandemic, our friend Dave Ryder is one, and know there are many others. Continued prayers for our members who are homebound. We offer prayers of consolation for the family and friends of John D'Angelillo's sister, Virginia Dower, who passed away on Nov. 20. We offer prayers of consolation for the family and friends of Meryle Winslow who passed away on Dec. 9; Meryle was Tracy Winslow's mother and, before her illness, was a frequent visitor at our Sunday worship services. We pray for all those that have fallen ill due to COVID-19 and all those that are caregivers and front-line workers. We pray for those who continue to work to provide goods and services for all, and pray for those who are struggling due to furlough and the new State guidelines. We pray for all of the students who are struggling with remote learning. We pray for Susan (a friend of Chris Clish) whose mother passed away in November and now her beloved dog, Ollie, just passed away. Dick Lee's life-long friend, Henry Gilhooly, passed away on Dec. 21; we offer prayers of consolation for all his family and friends. We

pray for the people of St. John's Catholic Church on the loss of their rectory to a fire on Monday; we also offer healing prayers for Father Jeremy whose hands were burned when he tried to douse the flames.



We received a letter from Bob Lorenzen with an update of his health; he very much appreciates the cards he has received at Keystone Center (44 Keystone Dr, Leominster MA 01453), and wants us to know he can no longer walk without assistance; he doesn't know how long this walking difficulty will last, but it won't be a short term; please keep Bob in your prayers, and definitely keep sending him cards and messages of love.

### OUR HEALING PRAYERS:

We offer healing prayers for our former church secretary, Sharlene (Gugarty) Rourke; since September, 2019 she has been hospitalized three times and undergone innumerable tests for a mysterious condition affecting her liver, pancreas, and other organs; the only thing that has been ruled out so far is cancer. We offer healing prayers for Ernie, a good friend of Moe Tremblay, who is having some health issues and enduring a lot of tests. We offer healing prayers for our church secretary, Karen Hopkins, who contracted the COVID-19 virus at the end of December.

### OUR CANCER FIGHTERS:

We offer prayers of healing and hope for all those in our immediate and extended families who are in the midst of battling cancer, and for all those who care for and support them. Dorothy DuBreuil, breast cancer; Lorraine M, cutaneous T cell lymphoma; Cathy Hill's sister, Morag Graham, and Barbara Goodwin's step son, Tyler who both have Non-Hodgkins lymphoma; Meg Genoter's friend, Heather; Kathy Duckett's friend, Caroline, jaw cancer; Charlie Hersey's Dad, Fred; John Ciccolini (Carol's husband), liver cancer; Cindy Miller's mother-in-law, Lynne Donnelly, breast cancer; Maureen (family friend of the Emersons), brain cancer; Tricia (friend of Paul Martineau), breast cancer/brain cancer; Bill Jordan (Carole's brother), chronic lymphocytic leukemia; Kerry Thrasher; Tracy Winslow's Aunt Sylvia, breast cancer; Kathy Perkins' friend, Jerry Quince, brain cancer; Bob (friend of the D'Angelillo family); and Ken (friend of Lee McTighe); Cheryl Borko's dad, throat cancer; Nattie (friend of Moe Tremblay), Multiple myeloma; Moe Tremblay's oldest brother, Ray, prostate cancer.





## LECTIONARY, JANUARY 2021

### January 3, 2021 - Second Sunday after Christmas Day

First reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12  
 Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21  
 Second reading: Ephesians 1:3-14  
 Gospel: John 1:(1-9), 10-18

### January 10, 2021 - First Sunday after the Epiphany

First reading: Genesis 1:1-5  
 Psalm: Psalm 29  
 Second reading: Acts 19:1-7  
 Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

### January 17, 2021 - Second Sunday after the Epiphany

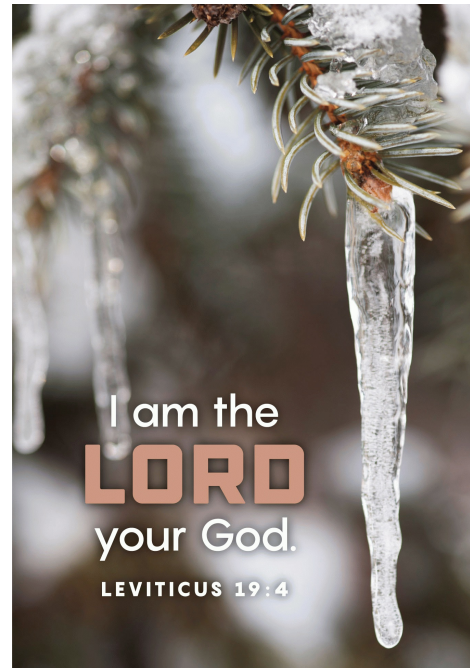
First reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)  
 Psalm: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
 Second reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
 Gospel: John 1:43-51

### January 24, 2021 - Third Sunday after the Epiphany

First reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
 Psalm: Psalm 62:5-12  
 Second reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
 Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

### January 31, 2021 - Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

First reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
 Psalm: Psalm 111  
 Second reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
 Gospel: Mark 1:21-28



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### MSPP INTERFACE

MSPP INTERFACE is a mental health referral service that is available for all residents in Townsend, Pepperell, and Ashby. Just call 888-244-6843 x1411 during normal business hours (M-F, 9-5) and you will be able to speak with a licensed mental health professional, or an advanced level graduate student, who will discuss the situation with you, and then call you back with a referral which meets your therapeutic needs, insurance, schedule availability and immediate openings.



This service was made possible by Teenage Anxiety and Depression Solutions (TADS) through a grant from the Nashoba Valley Community Healthcare Fund. Check out TADS web site at [www.tadsma.org](http://www.tadsma.org) and check out the web site for MSPP INTERFACE at [msppinterface.org](http://msppinterface.org)

*Submitted by Pam Snaith*

Townsend Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
3 Brookline St., PO Box 487  
Townsend MA 01469-0487

*Worship at 10:15 am*



## **OUR COMMON PURPOSE STATEMENT**

*Being in an intimate relationship with God in the present, we are an ever-learning, action-oriented, justice-seeking, community-caring church. Our purpose is to use our gifts to make God's love real and alive for everyone.*

*We are committed to ministering through the use of our gifts, learning to live the Christian way of life, and being together in Christ by seeking to fulfill these three commandments of Christ:*

- ❖ *To love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30)*
- ❖ *To love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31)*
- ❖ *To love one another as Christ has loved us (John 13:34)*

