

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HAMILTON, MA

JANUARY 12, 2020

Welcome Visitors

If you're joining us for the first time today, we're glad you're here! We look forward to connecting with you. Please join us at the Welcome Desk downstairs in Fellowship Foyer today after each service to enjoy a cup of coffee and to pick up your welcome gift.

Adult Sunday School, Winter Session

Quiet: For most of us, life is busy and loud. We rush from place to place, make long to-do lists, check Instagram and email hourly. The spiritual disciplines of silence and solitude are challenging for us to practice. And yet we desperately need quiet spaces if we are to receive the abundant life that Christ promises. This class will examine how Christians from past and present approach these disciplines and will offer time for self-reflection and experimentation. Class participants will be invited to try incorporating silence and solitude into their weeks, and to reflect on what they have learned by making space for God in these ways. Instructor: Dr. Kerilyn Harkaway-Krieger Location: Ministry Center Room 23/24

"The Sent" - *What is a Missional Church:* Guest instructor, Dr. Daniel Ahn, will take us on an exciting journey exploring what it means to be "The Sent" and to be a missional church. We will be reminded of God's mission from the Old and New Testaments with an emphasis on how the Holy Father sent the Holy Son as a missionary, and how we are sent as missionaries in His master plan. Dr. Ahn has a wealth of cross cultural and international teaching and serving experiences that inform his perspective. Instructor: Dr. Daniel Ahn Location: Chapel

Stewardship Update Giving Status

We are pleased to report that operating budget giving for 2019 was at \$866,659 (out of \$850,000), total boiler giving is at \$54,385 (out of \$100,000), and total missions giving is at \$199,990 (out of \$199,957). Thanks be to God! (Note that these are not necessarily the final figures for 2019, as any checks mailed and postmarked 12/31/2019 have not been received yet, and year-end accounting cross-checks must be performed.)

Audit Status

We are pleased to report that the audit was completed several weeks ago, covering financial activities through 12/31/2018. Accountants' Conclusion: *"Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."* If you would like an electronic copy of the audit, or have any questions about the audit, please email the church treasurer, Roland Brooks: roland2brooks@gmail.com. Printed copies are also available from the church office.

Small Groups

We are starting several new groups in the new year. If you are interested in a small group or would like to hear more about them, please email Pastor Kevin, kbaird@fcchamilton.org, or sign up at fcchamilton.org.

Thank You!

On behalf of our pastoral and ministry staff, please accept our deepest gratitude for your generous Christmas gift! We love you and consider it a privilege to serve you. May the Lord bless FCCH in 2020 as we look to His leading and give Him the glory!

Art Night

All are welcome to come and share or enjoy the artistry of others in our church. Bring a project you are working on, an art object you enjoy, a song, or piece of writing. It's show and tell for grown-ups! Join us Tuesday, January 14 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Wigglesworth Cutler Living Room. Contact Pastor Kevin with any questions - kbaird@fcchamilton.org

Tuesday Morning Missions Prayer

In January, there will be two opportunities to join as a group and pray for missionaries and missions organizations supported by FCCH. Please consider dropping in for one of these two times: **January 14** or **January 28**. We meet from 7:45-8:30 am in the Ministry Center Classroom 21.

Women's Bible Studies

Our Tuesday morning Bible study will be starting a new series on January 21 on the book of James as we discover how to put our faith into practice and receive God's wisdom to grow in Christian character. Join us on Tuesday mornings from 9:15 to 11:30 am in the Ministry Center as we learn to lean on God instead of relying on our own strength. We have 3 weeks left (January 16, 23 & 30) in our study in Exodus at our Thursday night Bible study. Please join us as we conclude this study. We are beginning a book study by Alice Matthews on her book *A Woman Jesus Can Teach* beginning on February 27 through the first week in June. We meet in the Ministry Center from 7:00 to 8:30 pm on Thursday evenings. We would love to see you there.

Dinner for Nine

The Welcome and Hospitality team on the Board of Deacons is organizing a progressive *Dinner for Nine* on Saturday, February 8 - many dinners in many homes! All adults in our church family are encouraged to participate. Dinners will begin at 6:00 pm at host homes and conclude with dessert in the church Fellowship Foyer. If you are interested in hosting *nine for dinner* please contact Jessica Cornell, jessica.n.cornell@gmail.com. Sign up to attend at fcchamilton.org

Youth Ministry Coordinator

First Congregational Church of Hamilton seeks an Interim Youth Ministry Coordinator for 10 hours per week to support the effectiveness of our ministry to youth and their families. The Youth Ministry Coordinator will translate current weekly, monthly, and annual ministry tasks into efficient systems to promote sustainable ministry growth. The position will report to the Pastor of Youth and Families, Chelsea Erickson, and will work closely with the Youth and Children's Ministry Team. The ideal candidate will have experience serving in an administrative role as well as comfort interacting with teenagers and their parents. Because this position interfaces often with the church staff and the larger church body, a successful candidate must have a highly engaging and friendly personality. Interested parties should send a resume to Chelsea Erickson at ckerickson@fcchamilton.org.

Children’s Ministries:

Go Ahead ... Take the Plunge!

Take a new year plunge and dive into the Nursery!
Volunteer with us in 2020! It’s an endearing area where you will meet others as you serve little ones all at once. In the Nursery, being small is BIG! Volunteers serve during 8:30 am or 11:00 am services, on rotation once a month or on dates of your choosing. New volunteers will receive training before your first date of service. Contact Lauren Sager at lbmsager@gmail.com, or sign up on the Nursery bulletin board.

Lauren Sager, Nursery Coordinator
lbmsager@gmail.com, 978-502-2687

Christine Hendrickson, Early Childhood Director
chendrickson@fcchamilton.org, 978-468-1940
Jared Larson, Elementary Children’s Director
jlarson@fcchamilton.org, 978-468-1940

Stephen Ministry at FCCH



A new Stephen Ministry training class has begun and will continue through June 30. For those not familiar, *Stephen Ministers* are laypeople—Christian men and women—trained to provide one-to-

one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. Most of the trainings will be held every other Tuesday from 6:45-9:00pm but there will also be two full day Saturday sessions one in February and one in May. If you are interested in attending the training please contact Kathy Lindsay, klindsay72@gmail.com, or Cece Gough, cmgough@fcchamilton.org.

Missions Spotlight

By Design Ministries

By Design Ministries launched in 1989 as the women’s ministry arm of *Vision New England* and transitioned into an independent organization in 2007. Their mission is to equip and encourage women to influence and serve others for Christ. They accomplish this through events, educational tools and resources. Women, properly trained and confident of their God-given abilities, are positioned to make an eternal difference. Their next retreat, *Journey: Living Well with God & Others*, will be from Friday, January 24, to Sunday, January 26, at the La Quinta Inn & Suites, Andover, MA with special guest speaker, Maggie Wallem Rowe. Registration and more information is available at bydesignministries.org.

2020 Giving Envelopes are ready!

If you are a holder of one of these numbered boxes of envelopes, please find yours in the Fellowship Foyer today. If you would like a box, and do not see your name, please contact Linda Coonrod, at 978-468-1481, lcoonrod47@gmail.com.



Follow Us!

First Congregational Church of Hamilton on Facebook and @fcchamilton on Instagram.

Youth Ministry:

- **Youth Sunday School 9:45 am – 10:45 am**
High School: Barn
 - 7th and 8th Grade: Café
 - 6th Grade: Room 11

Youth Group resumes for both high school and middle school this week. We can’t wait to see you back after the break!

• **High School Youth Group**

Getting you through the week since 2015!

Join us Tuesdays from 6:45-8:45 pm for games, food, and Bible discussion for a bright spot in your week! This year we’ll be looking at the Book of Exodus to see how God rescues His people. We begin each night in the Ministry Center and end in the Barn.

• **Middle School Youth Group**

The best night of the week!

Join us for high-energy games, music, and Bible teaching from 6:45-8:30 pm every Wednesday night! This year we’ll be talking about what it means to have new life in Christ through our series *ALIVE!* We begin and end each night in the Ministry Center.

• **Deep Freeze 2020 at Berea**

Registrations are filling quickly for our winter retreat, Deep Freeze! High school and middle school students are invited to join us for winter activities and speaker sessions to help us grow in our faith. \$250 covers transportation, lodging, meals, and all activities (optional paintball costs extra). Payment plans and scholarships are available upon completion of a simple form. Space is very limited, so contact Chelsea directly to sign up today! [For safety reasons, we are not able to include students with whom we haven’t first interacted at FCCH.]

Chelsea Erickson
978-468-1940
ckerickson@fcchamilton.org
Instagram: @hamilton_ym



ACORD Food Pantry

We serve our clients through weekly food distributions, holiday meal

programs, school vacation lunch bags, nutrition education and outreach, and emergency meal assistance. We are proud to partner with local farms to provide fresh produce to our clients every week. Acord serves the surrounding communities of Essex, Hamilton, Ipswich, Manchester, Topsfield, and Wenham and needs our help. When grocery shopping, please consider picking up items for Acord or you can check out their Amazon Wish List and purchase online. Among their most needed items are:

- breakfast items: jam/jelly, cereal (hot & cold), pancake/waffle mixes, syrup
- canned goods: chili, hearty soup, canned meats, baked beans
- snacks: granola bars, raisins, crackers, pudding
- dry goods: coffee, tea, cocoa, rice and other grains, pasta, baking mixes
- condiments: mayonnaise, salad dressing, mustard, ketchup, sauces, oils
- personal care items: soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes/toothpaste
- fresh produce—*Acord* is able to accept donations of fresh produce from your garden or the grocery store. Just be sure to contact us for drop off options to ensure produce is distributed while it is still fresh. Donations can be dropped off at the Hamilton Wenham or Essex libraries, the Hamilton Public Safety building, or in one of the baskets in the church building or Ministry Center. **We truly appreciate your support!**

