

Dear Friends,

Our virtual worship service for Sunday, January 24 will be found here on our YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX1ppt9kU5rWj6DPaLGv9Ig/videos> Church President, Jeannette Hodge, is extending the call to our church's annual meeting. George Law, our Chairperson of the Deacons, is reading the gospel lesson Luke 6:27-36. I highlighted a portion of this passage in last Wednesday's letter with a focus on Jesus' exhortation to love our enemies. I decided to delve deeper into Jesus' timeless teaching for this Sunday's service.

Miroslav Wolf is a professor of systematic theology at Yale Divinity School. His quotation gives us much to ponder: "*If you take the 'love your enemy' out of Christianity, you've 'unChristianed' the Christian faith.*"

In addition to the beautiful hymn, "Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race," Kasha's prelude is the hymn, "Help Us to Accept Each Other." The lyrics are written by Fred Kaan and the first verse goes like this:

*Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.*

Ann Labby's church school link for January 24 can be found here. <https://youtu.be/7QvVHZ2gVGI>
Join Ann, virtually that is, at the church gazebo for her message!

Just a few notices:

Please join us for ***Coffee Hour*** tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. (Zoom invitation below)

Bible Study on the Book of Job led by Megan Ettlinger on Thursday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. Write Megan for the Zoom invitation at megan.ettlinger@gmail.com.

Food Share is making available cases of non-perishables, fresh produce, and possibly some meats on Monday, January 25 at 1:00 p.m. at the Portland Senior Center. All are welcome to receive food and no sign-ups are needed. Please arrive a little early in order to line up. Enter by the Portland Library driveway and exit by the Senior Center entrance.

Church Annual Program and Budget Meeting, Sunday, January 31 at 11:00 a.m. (Zoom invitation below)

The Middlesex Association prayer request for January 24: The First Church of Christ in Saybrook asks prayers for the increasing number of people coming to their food pantry suffering from food insecurity.

Please hold in prayer: Jane Aronson, Bob Baker, Annette Bowman, Diane Burgess, Carol Carnemolla, Robert Daniels, Gail Grzegorowicz, Catherine Hunt, Doris Katt, Katie Kou and family, Ann Lavoy, Tim Lavoy, Nicholas Lee, Scott MacDonald, the Maynard family, Martin Moon, Colleen Olsen, Audrey Johnson Roberts, Eleanor Rodrigue, Max Stone, Kelly Utter, Mark Vetrano, Steven Winakor, and the families and friends of Carol DeVivo and Harry Tenney.

God bless,
Jane

First Church Portland is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Coffee Hour

Time: Jan 24, 2021 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83133859423?pwd=MFBacENNV3VxWlg0RnlHcXJORmg3QT09>

Meeting ID: 831 3385 9423

Passcode: 108469

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/keGL4kCP9Y>

First Church Portland is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Annual Church Meeting

Time: Jan 31, 2021 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81418501817?pwd=MTFiL1hkaWJyeVluRVI5aE9lWWkxQT09>

Meeting ID: 814 1850 1817

Passcode: 023187

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/keqm7jkNlr>