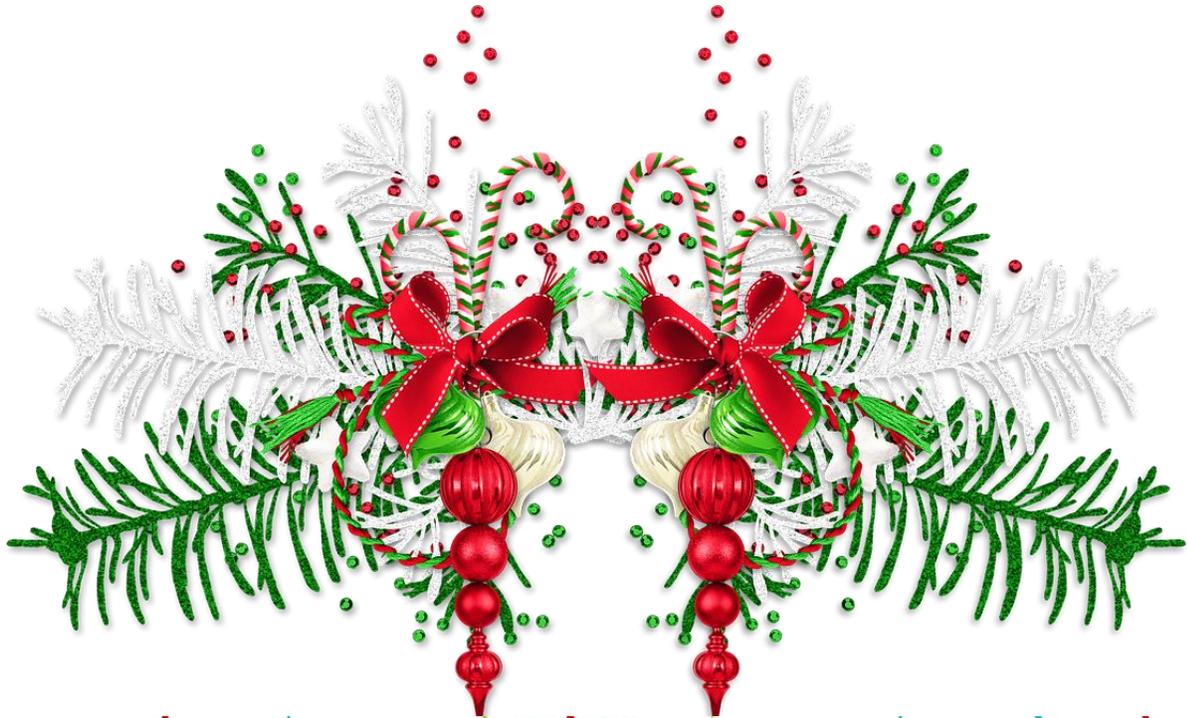


***NORTH BRANFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
PARISH VISITOR
DECEMBER 2021 AND JANUARY 2022***



Merry
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
New Year





Advent and Christmas Schedule

*North Branford Congregational Church
warmly invites you to join us for*

The CHRISTMAS JOURNEY

Sunday, December 5 – 10 am Second Sunday of Advent. We focus on *PEACE*.

Sunday, December 12 – 10 am The Third Sunday of Advent. We focus on *JOY*.

Sunday, December 19 – 10 am The Fourth Sunday of Advent. Our Christmas Pageant.

Friday, December 24 – 10 pm Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

Saturday, December 25 **Christmas Day** Remember to take the time to thank Our Father for the amazing gift of His Son!



We are located at 1680 Foxon Road, North Branford

<https://www.northbranfordcongregational.org/> or 203-488-8456





From YOUR - MODERATOR

JOANNE PALMIERI

Dear NBCC Church Family,

I would like to wish all a happy and peaceful Advent Season. I would ask that we all pray for our church during this period of transition. Let's shine our light bright to overcome the darkness. Our Veteran's Sunday Service on November 14, 2021, was a perfect example of sharing the light and spirit of this church with each other and with the community. It was a true blessing. I pray for continued healing and spiritual growth for us all. Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God Bless,
Joanne Palmieri, Moderator





A MESSAGE FROM THE WORSHIP LEADER

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)
Life is not static. Just as the summer sunshine gives way to the cool breezes of autumn, seasons in our lives also change. Today we find ourselves in a new season as a church family, experiencing a transition in ministerial leadership and adopting new bylaws to organize our church life. I am blessed and humbled to be a part of supporting NBCC in this particular period of its ministry along with the “many hands” that do so much work here at the church. Thank you for your trust and please know that my door is open to you.

I was recently watching part of a masterclass on church growth and I was struck by something that one panelist shared. Pastor Mark Kelsely made the point that “healthy things grow”. It was a simple statement but a profound one. Whether its kids or plants, pets or trees, things that are healthy tend to flourish and naturally grow. As a small church, eager to welcome more folks into our pews and to share with them on the Christian journey, I would urge us all to reflect a little on the idea that “healthy things grow”. My challenge to each of us individually is to ask what we can do, with God’s help, to support health and growth at our church. Here are a few ideas to consider:

- have a daily faith practice (a time of reading your Bible and praying) so you are growing in your own faith throughout the week
- attend church regularly: get reconnected, challenged and encouraged along with your church family
- regularly pray for the church family, its ministries and leadership
- get involved by volunteering in big or small ways
- commit to always speaking with respect and kindness about fellow church members
- learn a bit about the church structure so if you have a question, concern or idea you can go to the right person to share it
- respect tradition but be open to different approaches. Like food, sometimes you have to try something new a few times before you enjoy it!
- try to greet and get to know different people in the church body, especially those with whom you have not connected before

By God’s grace, and with prayer and work, we can truly be a congregation that is “Rooted in Christ ...Growing Together”. Let’s embrace this new season and all the health and growth that can come with it. It’s my privilege to be on the journey with you.

Thank you and God bless,
Wendy Tarry, M.Div





*A MOMENT
TO PAUSE*

During this Christmas season let us keep our hearts open so, with the new year, we can walk a new path the Christ Child has set before us. It will be a path filled with courage, faith, hope and love. For, if we trust in these words, all beloved church families will once again begin to prosper.

~ fran v. giambalvo





ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

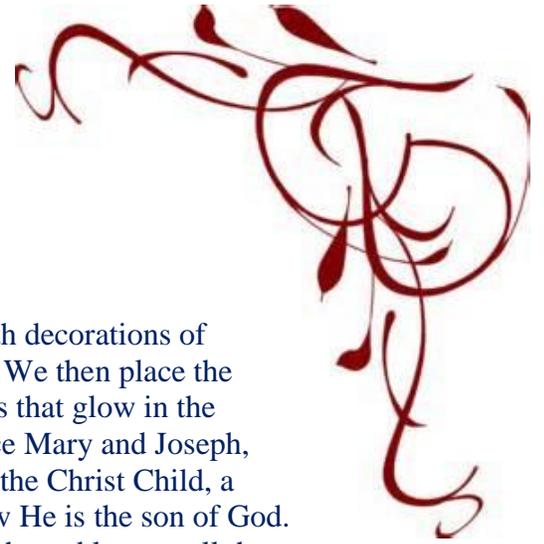
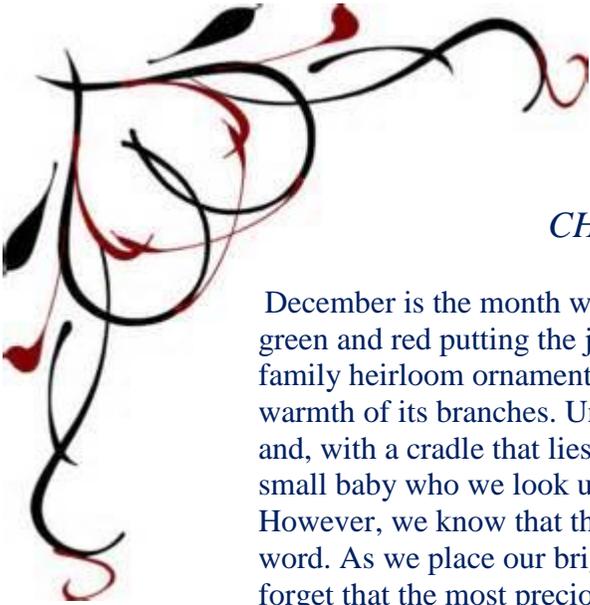
The Annual Meeting of the North Branford Congregational Church will take place on **Sunday, December 12, 2021**, following the worship service. We will discuss and vote on the budget and elect the Slate of Officers, Board and Committee members. Please plan on joining your church family for this important meeting.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
December 19 at 10:00 AM service

With some creativity, volunteer work and God's help, we are working hard to put together another beautiful annual NBCC Christmas pageant! Join us to hear beautiful Christmas music and to share in the wonderful story of Jesus' birth. If you or your children would like to be in the pageant, please contact Wendy as soon as possible wendytarry@gmail.com





CHRISTMAS GIFTS

December is the month we celebrate Christmas with decorations of green and red putting the joy throughout our home. We then place the family heirloom ornaments upon the tree with lights that glow in the warmth of its branches. Under the tree we then place Mary and Joseph, and, with a cradle that lies between them, we place the Christ Child, a small baby who we look upon in awe of as we know He is the son of God. However, we know that this baby will also bring light and love to all the world. As we place our brightly colored gifts under the tree let us never forget that the most precious gift of all that we will receive on Christmas day is that of the Christ Child.

As the Christmas season ends, we take down our tree and wrap each ornament with loving care as we put them away for another year. The one thing that we do not have to pack away, however, is the Christ Child. For without Him, how can we move forward into the light of a new year?

As we leave the old year behind let us walk on a new path to find;

COURAGE: knowing that no matter what obstacles may cross our path during the year, we can ask the Christ Child to help us through the darkness and into the light of a new tomorrow.

HOPE: to never lose sight throughout this new year knowing there is much more awaiting us that will bring joy and love into our lives if we just keep our hearts open to all the beauty that surrounds us.

FAITH: a word that really tells us to be patient. For even though we cannot see it, we can feel it in our hearts, that our faith of trusting and never doubting that the Christ child is listening to our intentions.

LOVE: visible throughout the Christmas season as we show kindness to everyone we meet. Let us carry this love within our hearts as we walk into the new year always reaching out in kindness to our brothers and sisters.

Even though Christmas has ended it does not mean we should not carry the glorious words of courage, hope, faith and especially love within us. For, how can we expect to find love and the light of each new day if we pack away the Christ Child with our Christmas decorations? His light, love, hope, faith and courage are meant to be with us each day.

~fran v. giambalvo





For
unto you
is born this
day in the city
of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord

Luke
2:11





Some of us have been blessed with so much
and it takes so little to reach out to say,
“I am here for you!”

MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER

Worship committee will meet on Sunday, December 5 after worship
Leadership board meeting is on Tuesday, December 14 at 6:30 pm

CLOTHING SHED IS NOW OPEN

The clothing donation shed is located in the parking lot of the church, it's designed to give our members and neighbors a uniquely clean, convenient, and well-cared-for option to donate their used clothing. St. Pauly Textile Inc., the company that has provided the shed, partners with businesses and various organizations to distribute donated items both here in the U.S. and worldwide, where they're ultimately re-worn by people who need them. NBCC receives funding for donated clothing, allowing us ways to maintain and expand our ministries.

TOPS

TOPS exercise program meets every Wednesday at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.

GET TO KNOW OUR CHURCH

Live Streaming Worship On-Line! Are you are unable to attend Sunday Worship but would still like to feel the closeness of your church family? Just click on the following link below to watch our Worship Live on Sunday Morning at 10:00 AM. With this link you can also watch a recap of any past Sunday worships you might have missed. **Remember, your church family is never far away!** Click on this link - www.Facebook.com/CTNBCC



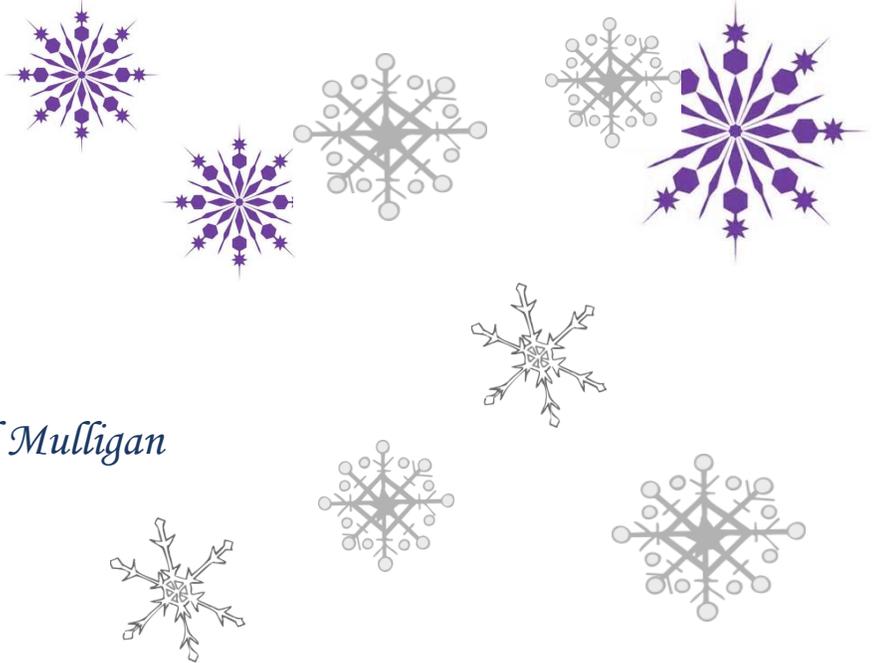
***Christmas is not so about opening presents as
it is in the kindness of opening our hearts!***





December Birthdays:

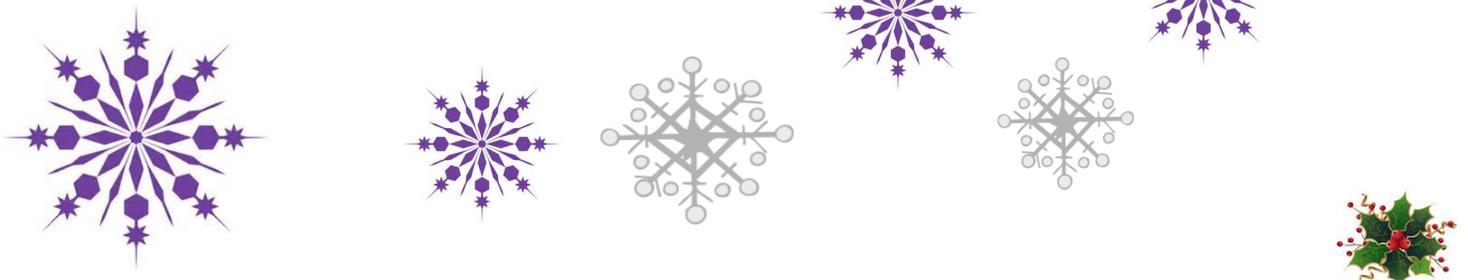
- 4: Jane Leschuk
- 6: Melanie Bauchmann
- 8: Sharon Small
- 9: Joanne Palmieri
- 16: Robert Amento
- 17: Nancy Elliston & David Mulligan
- 21: Tyler Reid
- 28: Jonathan Bodwell



January Birthdays:

- 6: Lucy Berte
- 9: Paul Nanamaker & Skip Borgerson
- 16: Kim Juniver
- 22: John Doran
- 23: Arnie Palmieri
- 25: Ginny Montelius & Terry Parsons
- 30: Diane Farley
- 31: Nancy Bodwell

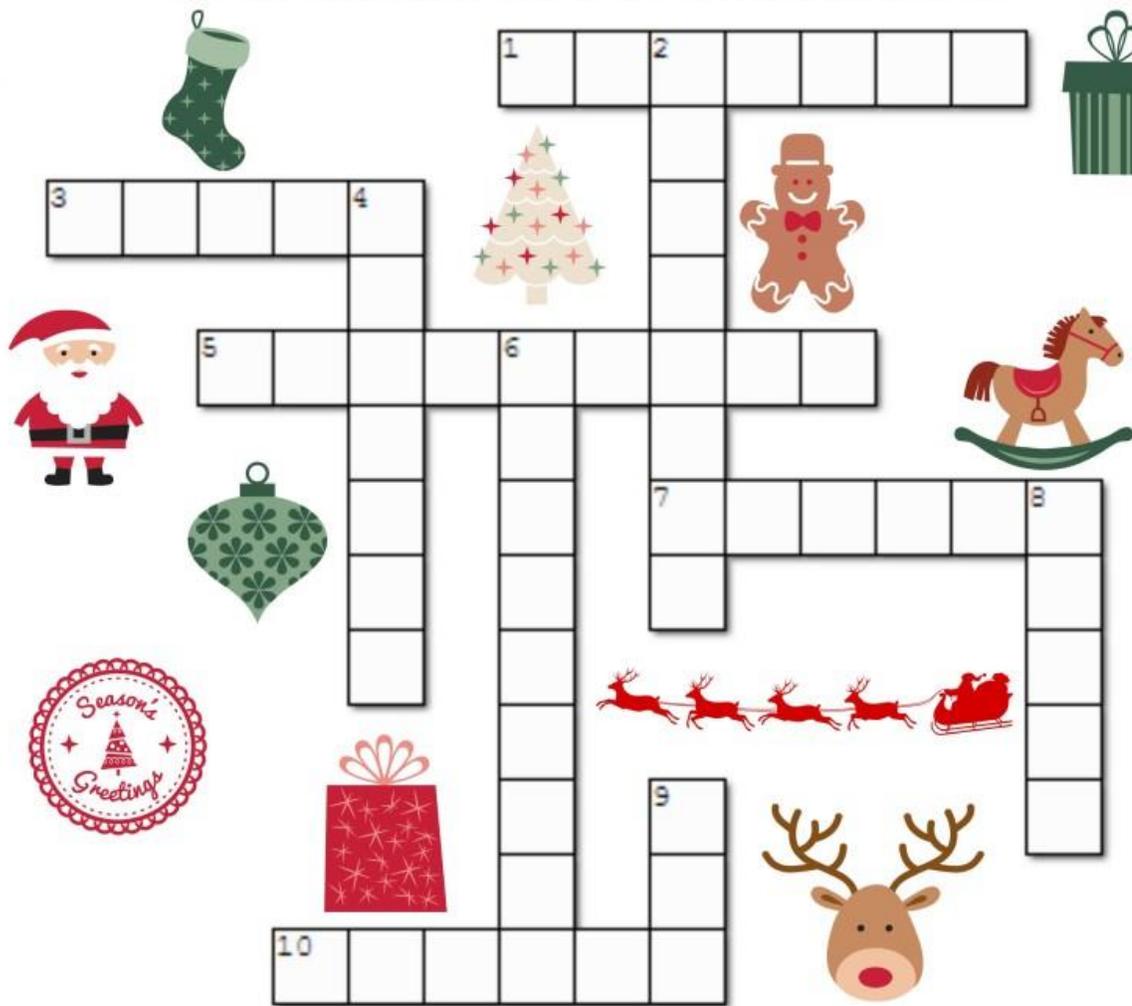
Forgotten anyone on our birthday list
please call the church office and
let Fran know!





CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

USE THE CLUES TO COMPLETE THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



Across

1. One of Santa's Reindeer
3. Santa's Helpers
5. December 25th is _____.
7. Christmas Drink
10. The name of a popular snowman.

Down

2. Christmas Month
4. He hates Christmas!
6. You hang them by the chimney.
8. On Christmas morning we unwrap our _____.
9. ___ to the world!



OM



DECEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:00 pm TOPS	2 7:00 pm AA meeting	3	4 7:00 pm NA meeting
5 Second Sunday of Advent 10:00 am Worship	6 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Womens AA group	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8 6:00 pm TOPS	9 7:00 pm AA meeting	10	11 7:00 pm NA meeting
12 Third Sunday of Advent 10:00 am Worship Annual Meeting Follows service	13 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Womens AA group	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15 6:00 pm TOPS	16 7:00 pm AA meeting	17	18 7:00 pm NA meeting
19 Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:00 am Worship Christmas Pageant	20 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Womens AA group	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 6:00 pm TOPS	23 7:00 pm AA meeting	24 Christmas Eve 10:00 pm Lessons and Carols	25 WISHING EVERYONE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS 7:00 pm NA meeting
26 10:00 am Worship	27 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Womens AA group	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 6:00 pm TOPS	30 7:00 pm AA meeting	31	

Keep in prayer every man and woman in the military who are not able to be home to share this Blessed Christmas with their family!



JANUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Wishing Everyone A Happy & Healthy New Year 7:00 pm NA meeting
2 10 am Communion Service	3 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Womens AA group	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 6:00 pm TOPS	6 7:00 pm AA meeting	7	8 7:00 pm NA meeting
9 10 am Worship	10 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Womens AA group	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12 6:00 pm TOPS	13 7:00 pm AA meeting	14	15 7:00 pm NA meeting
16 10 am Worship	17 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Womens AA group	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19 6:00 pm TOPS	20 7:00 pm AA meeting	21	22 7:00 pm NA meeting
23 10 am Worship	24 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Womens AA group	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26	27 7:00 pm AA meeting	28	29
30 10 am Worship	31 OFFICE CLOSED		6:00 pm TOPS			7:00 pm NA meeting

Everyday...

~ pray for someone who is alone ~



The North Branford Congregational Church, UCC

1680 Foxon Road, PO Box 410, North Branford, CT 06471

The ministers of this parish are all of its members.

Assisting them in their ministries are:

Church AdministratorFran Giambalvo

LEADERSHIP BOARD:

Moderator Joanne Palmieri

Business ManagerJonathan Bodwell

TreasurerJennifer Ramsay

Recording Secretary Laurie Vincent

Worship.....Gerry Borgerson & Arnie Palmieri co-chairs

OFFICERS:

Financial SecretaryNancy Bodwell

Asst. Financial Secretary.....Ginny Montelius

Clerk.....Marcia Duenkel

Church office hours are Wednesday—Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
203.488.8456

Parish Visitor articles must be in the office by the 15th of the month
Please leave in the church admins mailbox in the office, or
e-mail to nobfdcong@sbcglobal.net,

**No Matter Who You Are,
No Matter Where You Are on Life's Journey,
You are Welcome Here!**

