

# First Congregational Church Weekly Newsletter

East Longmeadow, MA



**November 26, 2025**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP** in the sanctuary or livestream link:  
<http://www.facebook.com/churchontherotary/>

## **ADVENT STUDY “Minor Players in a Big Story”**

Join Pastor Thomas for this year’s Advent Study, “Minor Players in a Big Story.” We’ll be using familiar carols or hymns and scripture to look at some minor characters in the Christmas story: Elizabeth and Zechariah, the shepherds in the hills around Bethlehem, and King Herod.

**December 7 – “Struck  
Speechless”**

**(Zechariah and Elizabeth)**

Scripture – Luke 1:5-23, 57-80

hymn –

“Blessed Be The God of Israel”

**December 14 – “Playing the  
Victim Villain”**

Scripture – Matthew 2:1-18

Carol – “Coventry Carol”

(Lullay, Lullah)

**December 21 – “A Glimpse of  
Heaven”**

Scripture – Luke 2:8-20

Carol – “While Shepherds  
Watched Their Flocks

Each session will begin shortly after Coffee Hour at 11:15 & conclude at 12:30 p.m.

Please sign up on the poster in fellowship hall so we have an idea of the size space we need for seating!

## **CHOIR FOR THE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON**

Do you find yourself humming to music in your vehicle? Sing your favorite song in the shower? Then you may be just the person to join our choir for the Advent and Christmas season! Rehearsals begin soon, day and time TBD. See Deborah, Director of Music, or by email at [music@churchontherotary.org](mailto:music@churchontherotary.org).

## **NEED COOKIES on December 5**

It is with great joy that we will once again be hosting children and their families at the annual lighting of the community Christmas tree on Friday December 5th. The Lions Club will organize a lighted truck parade. The East Longmeadow Fire Dept. will then bring Santa into town on the back of a fire engine and drop him off at 6:30 to greet the children and invite them into Fellowship Hall for pictures, cookies and hot cocoa.

That’s where we’ll need your help! Please bake or buy cookies and drop them off in the kitchen at the **church before 5:30 on December 5th**. It will be so nice to once again welcome families into our church to celebrate the approaching holiday season with this long-standing tradition. Thanks so much.

## **KENSINGTON FOOD PANTRY - THANK YOU**

So many bags filled with cans and boxes of food adorned our altar. It was wonderful to see.

These grocery bags were collected during our Thanksgiving food drive. We have filled the shelves and bins in our food pantry. They are overflowing with good things to eat for the families of Kensington School. The staff at Kensington are always amazed and so thankful for all the food and what it means to their children.

Our faithful volunteers deserve a lot of thanks for the sorting of food, heavy lifting, delivering bags and stocking of shelves. This church is so generous, loving and compassionate that it enables us to help others in so many ways.

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This Thanksgiving we were also able to provide six families at Kensington with a complete turkey dinner. At First Congo we really know how to share God's love. I am overwhelmed with the generosity of this wonderful church. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Happy Thanksgiving

#### PUB THEOLOGY

Join us this coming Tuesday night, December 2!!

Meet in the back upper parking lot at 6 pm to depart and have dinner at a local restaurant. Open to suggestions and trying new places. Hope to see you there!

**The church offices are closed on Thursday & Friday 11/27 & 11/28**  
due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.



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