



PEACHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Collaborator's Report December 2nd, 2023

John Marshall

With Pastor Sonia's decision to step down effective December 31, the church has begun its transition, a process for which it plans to engage our community fully. It is a time of great opportunity for the Peacham Congregational Church and its work in the community we cherish.

Sonia was on sabbatical in October, in India and Nepal, an experience about which she debriefed the congregation in early November, at a gathering that stimulated a lively exchange on spiritual experiences and everyday conditions there (of relevance to our spiritual and everyday lives here).

- During the October sabbatical, the church held services led by congregants and guests, which were well received and will serve as a model for what we do beginning in January (community ideas/input very welcome).
- The lifeblood of the Meetinghouse is the activities that take place there, from the craft fair in early November to the continued success of the Children's Academy and, as the signs in front of the building note, preservation is happening here!

Looking ahead:

- We will light the Memory Tree tonight, gathering to read the many names of those remembered, light the tree, and enjoy grilled-cheese sandwiches and tomato soup.
- 10-12 this morning: food drive at the Social Hall (tuna and peanut butter especially needed at The Open Door).
- Advent services begin tomorrow, leading to a short Blue Christmas service on the morning of the 24th followed by a community-focused celebration of Christmas that eve, with lessons, carols, and traditional readings/music presented by the community and even a men's choir singing Happy Xmas (War is Over)!
- We are sounding out community members interested (potentially as members of a joint community committee) in working on the details and financing of the church's long-range plan for the Meetinghouse.
- We cannot emphasize too much the opportunity before us and the essential role of our community to the church in this time of transition.