

THE CHURCH BELL

MARCH 2017

The First Congregational Church Newsletter

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ
At 26 Central Street in West Boylston
online at www.fccwb.com

*The Lord has yet more light and truth to break forth
from his holy Word."*
- John Robinson, pastor to the Pilgrims



*Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint, but happy are those who keep the law.
~ Proverbs 29:18*

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship and Church School at 10:15 a.m.
Childcare is provided for every Sunday service.

March 1 ~ The Beginning of Lent ~ Ash Wednesday
7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Service at
Oakdale United Methodist Church

March 4 ~ 4:30 p.m. First Saturday Worship Service
Wallace A. Hurd leading
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

March 5 ~ The First Sunday in Lent
Wallace A. Hurd preaching
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Chancel Choir

March 12 ~ The Second Sunday in Lent
Wallace A. Hurd preaching
Chancel Choir

March 19 ~ The Third Sunday in Lent
Wallace A. Hurd preaching
Chancel Ringers
David Gustafson, clarinet

March 26 ~ The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Wallace A. Hurd preaching
Chancel Choir

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Hurd in the Halls.....

It's a common practice to give something up for the season of Lent. Most often, we give up things like chocolate, or alcohol, or soda, or cursing --- some kind of vice that we know is bad for us but in which we indulge all the same. We deprive ourselves of something we don't need in order to help us learn to live without it and become a better person. Recently, there have been movements to give up social media like Facebook, or even mobile phones and the internet all together, in order to help people reconnect to the people and things around them.

Giving up these unnecessary, and sometimes unhealthy, distractions from the real world can be very good practice for living better and more focused lives. A healthier body or a clearer mind are goods in themselves and they can help us in our efforts to lead better lives. Money not spent on unnecessary or frivolous purchases gives our families a safer financial future. There's much to be gained by giving something up for Lent.

All of that is great, and I encourage you to find something to give up for lent that you hope to give up forever, in order to live a healthier, simpler, or cleaner life. But I also encourage you to take on something new, that you hope to carry with you as you continue to live and grow in Christ.

When we celebrate Lent, we celebrate Jesus' ministry: his devotion to God's people, the giving up of his life for the sins of many, and his triumph over death as signaled by the resurrection on Easter morning. When we deprive ourselves of a luxury, we remember in some sense what Jesus gave up to serve God and God's people. Yet, during Lent we are also called to remember what Jesus took on, what he offered to the world, in that service.

There are several opportunities during Lent to learn more about ourselves and our congregation: Faith Conversations before church; Adult Discussion group on Wednesday evenings; workshops and worship on the first Saturday of the month. All of these can be opportunities for us to grow in Christ and gain a deeper understanding of our faith, our church and our mission. And if there is nothing that speaks to you currently, speak up yourself! Perhaps you'll be surprised to find others who share your particular interests and passions.

As always, there are a number of service opportunities as well, from the small to the great. The congregation is always looking for new ushers, for folks to assist in fellowship hour, to work with the youth and to participate in outreach to the world around us, from the John St. Soup Kitchen to the Food Pantry to the Thrift Shop. And we need not limit ourselves to what we know and already do, but to reach out further and find the greater need. While we walk these days of Lent together and remember what Christ gave up for us, and as we give things up ourselves, let us also remember the gift Christ gave to us, and give in the same spirit to the world he saved.

Blessings,
Chip



Community Nursery School News

CNS had a great month of February that started off with the groundhog seeing his shadow. Looks like his prediction was true with all the snow the we've gotten! The children are enjoying playing in it. The pre-k children even built their own snowmen! We had Patriot's Day where all the children showed their pride. I think they might have brought them some good luck! We ended off the month celebrating Valentine's Day with yummy treats and Valentine's for our friends.

Heidi Pisano - Director



A Holy Experiment for Lent - A Mini Retreat on Prayer Saturday, March 4
(first Saturday in Lent)
1:00-4:30 p.m., ending with First Saturday Worship and Holy Communion at 4:30

Purpose: for participants to learn and explore ways to enhance their prayer journeys in Lent and beyond.

Led by Acting Senior Pastor Chip Hurd and Pastor in Residence Rev. Karyl Leslie.

During our time together we hope to explore some dimensions of prayer we may not have considered before, open our imaginations and concepts of what prayer is and can be, and learn about and maybe try out some different ways of praying and tools to help us in our prayer.

"Holy God, in all things bring glory to your name."



*The April Bell Deadline is
Thursday, March 16th.*

Send address changes to administrator@fccwb.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

TELEPHONE: 508-835-4462 FAX: 508-835-4463

OFFICE EMAIL: administrator@fccwb.com

WEBSITE: www.fccwb.com

Messages may be left on the church phone system for the staff at any time. Acting Senior Pastor **Wallace "Chip" Hurd** (ext. 101). Bookkeeper—**Cindy Testa** (ext. 103). Administrative Assistant—**Lisa Fisher** (ext. 100).

Staff Email addresses are:

Chip: whurd@fccwb.com

George: gvogel@charter.net

Financial Office: financial@fccwb.com

Christian Ed Office: pjmdoon@msn.com

Community Nursery School: cnswb@fccwb.com



Second Chance
Thrift Shop

Our 2nd Chance Thrift Shop is looking forward to you coming in and shopping for the new season.

We have the best prices in town!

**Thank you!
Your all volunteer team.**

**Shop is located on the 2nd floor of First
Congregational Church
Open: Wednesdays 9:30 am to 1:00 pm
Saturdays 9:30 am to 12:00 pm**



Crossroads

SPRING 2017 SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Time	Activity
Mar 3	Fri	TBD	NOOP
Mar 12	Sun	6-8 PM	Meeting
Mar 26	Sun	6-8 PM	Meeting
Apr 9	Sun	7-9:30 AM	Pancake Break-fast
Apr 23	Sun	6-8 PM	Meeting
May 7	Sun	6-8 PM	Meeting
May 21	Sun	6-8 PM	Meeting

**END OF YEAR BARBECUE – DATE
TBD**

**Coming this Fall...
Friends and Family Church Auc-
tion. Please watch for details in
the coming months.**



WB FOOD PANTRY

First Congregational Church partners with Oakdale United Methodist, Christ Lutheran and Our Lady of Good Council churches in West Boylston to host a Food Pantry. It is open from 1-4 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Donations of food and money are always welcome.

Current Pantry Needs include:
Jams and Jellies
Canned pasta and stews
Coffee and tea. No Kcups please.

Please check all items for expiration dates as we have to discard any items that have expired.

Donations may be left in the blue bins in the ramp entrance. Thanks so much for your generosity.

This project was funded in part by a grant from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

Thank
You

Sincere and Heartfelt Thanks to our church family for your Prayers, Concerns and Loving words in the passing of our Dearly Beloved sister and aunt, Kimberly Bornhoeft. Her courageous battle with ALS ended on Feb. 2nd. She passed peacefully from this world into the eternal arms of Jesus Christ. We have been blessed by God's abundant Grace and Love for her presence in our family, soon to be United again.

With Love and Sincerity,
Dr. Robert Franger, Chris and Tyler Franger.

News from the Board of Church Life

whatever
YOU DO.
DO IT FOR THE LORD.

COLOSSIANS 3:23

Our Board of Church Life wants to thank all those who have so willingly answered our requests for help each month to serve our church at our Sunday services.

Terry Trask is our volunteer coordinator for Sunday services in March. If you are willing to give of your time in some way on a Sunday morning by serving as a Greeter, an Usher, a Lay Reader, or a Coffee Server, please visit our bulletin board in Fellowship Hall and sign up on our monthly schedule posted there. Or you can contact Terry at his email address: tjlband@yahoo.com.

Our Board of Church Life appreciates everything you do to help us meet our responsibilities. Thank you!

Matt Rogers
mmogers232@gmail.com

The Church Register

Deaths

Lena Laurin
February 8

Prayer and Praise

All those with health concerns:

Jim Bronwell
Howard Rotti
Carol Rotti
Cayleigh Lynne Gilroy-granddaughter of Carol Ann Hamilton's friend
Robert Comeau-Nancy White's son
Linda Redman-Kelley Small's friend
Lynne Pierce-Arlette and Bill Peterson's friend
Steven Small
Frank-the step father of Chris Rotti's wife
Sophia Landeo
Nathan and Jonathan Dehner
John Morrow
Ralph Griswold-Marilyn Griswold's brother
Linda-Carol Rotti's cousin
Ralph-Lori Rotti's brother
Doreen and Todd Albert-daughter and son-in-law of Carol Ann Hamilton's friend
Charlie Flood-Sue Coviello's brother



In Sympathy:

The family of Lena Laurin
Richie Blais and family as they grieve the loss of Richie's father, Sylvio.

Wider concerns:

Thanksgiving for all who come through our doors.
Our service men and women around the world and their families.
Those who are unemployed among us and around the country.



In the event of inclement weather please listen to
WSRS 96.1 FM or WTAG 580 AM
radio stations for church cancellations.
Or call the church answering machine that morning for any cancellations!

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH BOARD NEWS

Upcoming Events...



JOHN STREET SOUP KITCHEN

Our next opportunity to volunteer at the **John Street Soup Kitchen** will be:
Saturday, March 4th

We need:

- 30 lbs. of mashed potatoes in 5lb increments
- Desserts: 4 dozen squares or cookies
- **Deliver to our church kitchen by 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, March 4th**
- People to help serve



Please contact Dave O'Brien at 508-835-8929 or dnbobrien@gmail.com for more information.

HOPE for HOUSING

PURCHASE GROCERY CARDS

CVS Stop & Shop Big Y Shaw's Hannaford

Build a Habit...Save a Home

Together, we can end family homelessness!
Food Cards are available for purchase each Sunday following worship.

Checks are accepted for payment

- You purchase food cards- value from \$10 - \$100
- You receive the full face value of the card you purchase.
- What you don't spend remains on your card for later use.
- The store donates 5% of what you spend to prevent family homelessness.



The Outreach Board is planning a mission focused month of March leading up to Mission Sunday on April 2. In the month of March representatives from the following organizations are expected to join us during worship and for after worship discussion:

- Dismas House: Their mission "is to reconcile former prisoners to society, and society to former prisoners." Through Dismas House, the Dismas Family Farm, and the Father John Brooks House, former prisoners are engaged in the hard work of rebuilding lives.
- Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center (CHC): An organization providing health services to the community regardless of individual's ability to pay. **Currently over 28,000 patients of all ages receive care and service through Kennedy CHC's medical home model of care.**
- Rainbow Child Development Center: Provides care, education and therapeutic services for children. Rainbow provides high-quality education to nearly 300 children daily that helps to eliminate barriers and lower the achievement gap between low-income children and children with more academic, social and economic opportunities.
- CMHA, Hope for Housing (HFH) Gift Cards: HFH retailers donate 2-10% of all sales to the Hope for Housing program to assist families at risk of homelessness. By purchasing gift cards for local retailers, you help to stabilize families and keep them in their homes.

Please join us for these informative updates during and after worship in the month of March and learn how our Outreach efforts and funding are helping to fulfill our congregation's mission to *Serve Others*.

Worcester Refugee Assistance Project has resumed activities and are looking for new volunteers for the following:

1. Monday and Thursday evenings from 6-7:30pm for ESL, homework help, and reading buddies.
2. Saturday mornings from 10am-12pm for children's programs.
3. Saturday afternoons from 1-3pm for youth programs.

Check out their website calendar for updates on program activities and contact them if you are interested in volunteering. www.worcesterrefugees.org

Church School News

Lent Workshop

On **March 5th**, the children will participate in a prayer workshop. The workshop will take place during the Church School hour .

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen
Matthew 6: 9-13

E	M	A	N	A	B	L	F	O	E
Y	L	O	E	R	S	O	R	M	T
I	O	N	D	E	R	T	I	D	T
R	H	E	H	G	S	E	E	G	E
F	C	T	I	E	N	S	N	N	L
E	A	V	T	B	C	I	D	I	Y
F	E	T	R	B	Y	A	K	K	O
A	T	A	H	A	E	Y	L	O	H
E	E	B	R	E	A	D	E	P	O
D	D	P	A	P	R	A	Y	I	N

PLACE
PRAYING
TEACH
FATHER
NAME
HOLY
KINGDOM
BREAD
FORGIVE
DEBT
TEST
FRIEND



IMPORTANT DATES!!!!

March 1— Ash Wednesday
March 3— NOOP
March 5— Prayer Workshop
April 9— Palm Sunday
April 16— Easter

To reach the Christian Education Office, please e-mail Pam Doonan at pjmdoon@msn.com

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
26 CENTRAL STREET, WEST BOYLSTON, MA 01583-1600

Wallace A. Hurd IV, Acting Senior Pastor
The Reverend George E. Vogel, Associate Pastor Emeritus
William E. Nierintz, Ch.M., Minister of Music Emeritus
Cindy Testa, Bookkeeper

Kristjon Imperio, Minister of Music
Lisa A. Fisher, Administrative Assistant, Editor
Kendrik Imperio, Custodian
Heidi Pisano, Community Nursery School Director

The Reverend Steven A. Small, Senior Pastor is on medical leave.

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FAX: 508-835-4463

EMAIL: administrator@fccwb.com
WEBSITE: www.fccwb.com



02 Florence Bancroft	18 Anna Mahoney
02 Jared Fancy	19 Matthew Pusateri
04 Shirley Smith	19 Sarah Walker
04 Jessica Chassey	21 Carly Pusateri
05 Daniel Rowell	22 Janet Murray
09 Jane Barnard	22 Kimberly Vidars
09 Sarah Latorre	22 Erin Wright
10 Abigail Bartholomew	24 Arlette Peterson
11 Lindsey Blais	25 David Gustafson
12 Paul Crosby	26 Jody Barnard
14 Ryan Poland	26 Thomas Bartholomew
14 Rebecca Seiple	27 James Cahn
14 Marilyn Griswold	27 Eric Riley
14 Brenna Wilson	27 Brian Rautkis
15 Leah Rotti	28 Jeremy Smith
16 Daniel Newman	29 Annelle Benson
16 Erin Smith	29 Lauren Hailey
16 Jana Wright	30 The Rev. Steven Small
17 Megan Pusateri	30 Robert Thompson
18 Leah Pusateri	