

THE CHURCH BELL

APRIL 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



APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

April 1 ~ 4:30 p.m. First Saturday Worship Service

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Wallace A. Hurd leading

April 2 ~ Mission Sunday

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
The Sacrament of Christian Baptism
Reflections on Mission
Chancel Choir

Second Hour ~ Opportunity to discuss potential
and ongoing outreach ministries.

April 9 ~ Palm/Passion Sunday

Wallace A. Hurd preaching
Chancel Ringers

April 13 ~ Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion and A Service of Shadows

April 14 ~ Good Friday 7:00 p.m.

An Ecumenical Service at the First Congregational Church
A Dramatic Reading of the Passion According to Matthew
The Reverend Michelle Grube preaching

April 16 ~ Easter Sunday

Festival Worship at 10:15 a.m.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Wallace A. Hurd preaching
Chancel Choir - Brass and Timpani

April 23 ~ The Second Sunday of Easter

The Sacrament of Christian Baptism
Wallace A. Hurd preaching
Chancel Choir

April 30 ~ Vision Sunday

The Sacrament of Christian Baptism
Wallace A. Hurd preaching
Chancel Choir

The Annual Elections Meeting follows worship.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hurd in the Halls.....2

Adult Discussion Group
Crossroads Schedule
Prayer and Praise.....3

Board of Church Life
WB Food Panty Needs.....4

Christian Outreach
Church Register
Church School News.....5

Birthdays
Church Staff/Address.....Back Page



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

Hurd in the Halls.....

This month, we will say the greatest three words in the English language. No, not "Spring has sprung," but "Christ is Risen." On Easter morning, surrounded by our friends and family, we will celebrate the miracle of the empty tomb and God's triumph over sin and death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In cries of Alleluia, we will give thanks and shout for joy at the gift we have received from the grace of God.

The joy of Easter morning, however, only comes after a period of sorrow and suffering. The crowd that lines the parade route on Palm Sunday becomes the mob shouting "Crucify Him" on Maundy Thursday. The disciples that share in the Last Supper and affirm to stand at Jesus' side abandon him on Good Friday, when the cross becomes all too real. The promise and enthusiasm of Jesus' ministry turn to anger and outrage over Jesus' arrest and trial, which then give way to fear and anxiety over his death. Alone and afraid, the disciples do not leap into action, but mourn the loss of their leader and their friend. They grieve over the end of their shared life and ministry. Their hope, it seems, is lost.

It is only when they hear the news of the empty tomb, and are visited by the risen Christ himself, that the disciples find themselves encouraged and emboldened enough to continue their efforts. They are comforted and renewed in their purpose and their conviction in the coming of the Kingdom of God. The disciples find new strength and new vitality, taking Jesus' message to new places and new people. Christ's resurrection signals a new covenant between God and the people, a new age into which they have entered. They go into the world, in courage and peace, sharing the Gospel as they have learned it from Jesus and that they themselves have experienced.

In our services throughout Holy Week --- on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday --- we share in the disciples sadness and Jesus' pain, but we do so with an eye toward that glorious morning, when the stone will be rolled away. A light pierces the darkness and shines brightly within it. We come together as a community, not in fear that all is lost, but in joy at all we have gained. We see the pain and suffering around us and acknowledge the fear and anxiety even in our own lives, but we also anticipate the coming of the resurrection. Even in our distress, we remain secure in our hope.

We will shout "Christ is Risen" and "Alleluia", and share the story of the empty tomb. Mary has discovered it empty and been told that Jesus is not there. The disciples will walk with him on the road to Emmaus and eat with him by the fire. He will appear to those who knew him, fortifying them for the path they must walk.

As we journey ourselves through this time, let us be reminded that he still walks with us, fortifying us and refreshing us through the Holy Spirit. With hope and joy in our hearts, let us be disciples who spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Good News that God has brought to us: Christ is Risen.

Blessings,
Chip



April 2017

Hello from the Adult Discussion Group!

Well it does appear that we are finally through winter and are now enjoying some signs of spring.

The Adult Discussion Group has been studying the Adam Hamilton series entitled, *Forgiveness, Finding Peace through Letting Go*.

This is a repeat series because the group engaged in this subject in early 2013. However, the subject of forgiveness is never out of date and even those in the group that remember this subject are hearing it in a new way.

In this series we have been reflecting on God's forgiveness and what it means for us while at the same time discussing the meaning and application of forgiveness, sin, and repentance. Also, we have been focusing on the burden involved in carrying unforgiven sin and on the process of letting it go.

Please come and join in the candid discussions about one of the most important theological concepts of our faith.

Blessings, George



SPRING 2017 SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Apr 9	Sun	7-9:30 AM	Pancake Breakfast
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

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
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
Ron Newman-Dan Newman's father



In Sympathy:

Sue Coviello and family as they grieve the loss of her brother, Charlie Flood.
The family of William Trask.

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.

***The May Bell Deadline is
Thursday, April 13th.***

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: gvoegel@charter.net

Financial Office: financial@fccwb.com

Christian Ed Office: pjmduon@msn.com

Community Nursery School: cnswb@fccwb.com

News from the Board of Church Life

Happy Spring!



The Board of Church life has a very busy couple of months ahead!

First, BOCL, wants to thank all those who have so willingly answered our requests for help each month to serve our church at our Sunday services.

During Lent, we ask individual members of our board to each take one week (or a special service) in April to ask church members to serve as Greeters, Ushers, Lay Readers, and Coffee Servers, as needed, so that one person doesn't need to assume the responsibility alone for the whole month during a busy season. We have seven services in the month of April, including two evening services.

The following is the schedule of our BOCL coordinators for the month of April:

April 2nd - 10:15 AM - Allison Person
 April 9th - Palm Sunday - Mark Pusateri
 April 13th - Maundy Thursday - 7:00 PM - Terry Trask
 April 14th - Good Friday - 7:00 PM - Lyn Bartholomew
 April 16th - Easter Sunday - Matt Rogers
 April 23rd - Sue Coviello & Lisa Zendzian
 April 30th - Carol Fisher-Crosby

If you are willing to serve our church in one (or more) of these responsibilities during the Lenten season, please speak to one of these BOCL members and let them know. You may also fill-in your name on our monthly server schedule for April posted on our bulletin board, (where you can often find our board coordinators during coffee hour!), in Fellowship Hall near the exit door to the parking lot. We'll put you right up to the front of the line!

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

The BOCL is looking to schedule a church wide co-ed Golf Outing, at a local course, a Sunday afternoon, sometime in May or June, to have some fun together while promoting fellowship among our members and friends outside the formal church setting. Last May, we played at the Holden Hills Golf Course and it was a blast!

We are open to playing anywhere and we will hold an open discussion meeting after church on Sunday, April 9th, in the parlor for all those who would be interested in participating so we can find out how many people in the church would like to play.

At that time, we could also discuss which course we'd liked to play, the cost of the round of golf, the format of the outing, and any other concerns that we might have.

And please don't shy away due to the level of your golfing ability! None of us are pros! Besides, each of us will be playing in front of only 3 other golfers who are your friends! (Personally, I am terrible player!)

We'll make additional announcements in early April so we reach as many people as possible.

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

Matt Rogers
 mmogers232@gmail.com



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:

Toilet paper, paper towels and tissues.
 Personal items such as shampoo, soap,
 mouthwash and toothpaste.

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.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH BOARD NEWS



Upcoming Events...

JOHN STREET SOUP KITCHEN

Our next opportunity to volunteer at the **John Street Soup Kitchen** will be:
Saturday, May 6th

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, May 6th**
- 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.



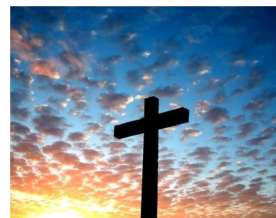
The Church Register

Deaths

*William Trask
March 25*

*Welcome Chase Robert Oikle
born March 23
to Katharine and Heath Oikle.
Kelley and Steven Small are the proud
1st time grandparents.*

Church School News



Please join us for our Special Services
Maundy Thursday, April 13th
at 7pm First Congregational Church
Good Friday, April 14th
at 7pm First Congregational Church
Easter, Sunday April 16th



Crossroads Pancake Breakfast- Sunday April 9th

Come support the Youth Group and enjoy some delicious pancakes. This has become one of the best annual traditions; join us before church for some food and fellowship. Watch Fellowship Hall for details and listen for announcements.

We are in the process of planning Children's Sunday in June.

We hope to have all the children there to participate. As soon as the date is confirmed we will get that information out to parents.

Pamela Doonan

pjmduon@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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01 Christopher Fulginiti
 01 John McLaughlin
 01 Jimmy Stark
 02 Jean Dellasanta
 02 Beth Tivnan
 03 Scott Holt
 03 Dorothy Whitcomb
 04 Matthew Gagnon
 04 Kelley Small
 05 Beaman Cummings
 05 Jack Krugman
 06 Phyllis Dodge
 06 Pamela Doonan
 06 William Dowell
 06 William Nierintz
 07 Benjamin Bryant
 07 Thomas Doonan
 07 Barbara Poland
 08 Heidi Leftwich
 11 Sarah Person
 11 Dylan Rauktis

12 Karl Hall
 13 Pamela Bjorklund
 13 Janice Sioui
 13 Rebecca Skodis
 14 Joshua Michalak
 15 Anna Wahl
 16 Emily Seiple
 17 Cameron Breen
 18 Carl Barnard
 19 Rob Franger
 20 Jason Boyle
 20 Claire Eaton
 22 Matthew Rogers
 23 Joanne Gulbicki
 24 Samantha Bates
 24 Deegan Ketchum
 24 Gordon Lankton
 25 Mitchell Benson
 29 Whitney Barnard
 29 Jody Poland
 30 Stephanie Stark