

THE CHURCH BELL

APRIL 2018

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



"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

- Jesus Christ - John 11:25, 26

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship and Church School at 10:15 a.m.
Childcare is provided for all Sunday services.
Our pastors will be preaching.

April 1 ~ Easter Sunday
Festival Worship at 10:15 a.m.
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Chancel Choir

April 8 ~ The Second Sunday of Easter
The Sacrament of Christian Baptism
Chancel Choir

April 15 ~ The Third Sunday of Easter
Chancel Choir Chancel Ringers

April 22 ~ The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Chancel Choir

April 29 ~ The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Chancel Choir

The Annual Elections Meeting follows worship.

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Hurd in the Halls.....

We have entered the Easter season, in which we celebrate new life and abundant life in Christ. This year, Alison and I have the great joy of celebrating the new life of our son, Luke Wallace Hurd. We are overwhelmed and exhausted, but full of joy and wonder. And we are grateful for our friends and family, and for all of you, who have walked this journey with us, in love and support, and we return that love to you.

Even as we leave, you will always be in our hearts, and in our prayers. It's hard to find a way to explain all that you have meant, in my professional and my personal life, over the last five and a half years. It's hard to find the words to describe what it's meant to be a part of your lives and the life of this congregation -- and I'm someone who finds words for a living. It's hard to leave a community that has been so loving and faithful, gracious and generous, encouraging and inspiring.

I can never forget my time as a part of this community, and I can never tell all of you how much every minute of my service with you has enriched me and animated me. All I can do is hope that I have made clear my love for you, for this congregation, for the Body of Christ. All I can do is hope that my service here has been an illustration of that love. All I can do is hope that I have loved you half as well as you have loved me.

As you enter into this season of discernment, remember that your trust in God, your love of one another, and your openness to the Holy Spirit will guide you and help you. In your faith and in your discipleship, you will continue to show to the world the true light of Christ, and it will continue to shine so brightly that all will see it, and I will carry a small part of it with me, with joy for having shared it with you.

Blessings,
Chip

News from the Board of Church Life



Happy Spring ! (Or Is It ?)

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 five services in the month of April.

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

Serving Coordinators for April: Whole Board
April 1st – Easter- Matt Rogers
April 8th – Mark Pusateri
April 15th – Terry Trask
April 22nd – Lyn Bartholomew
April 29th- Lisa Z.

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, on 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 June, we played at the Holden Hills Golf Course and it was a blast ! We are open to playing anywhere. Anyone who would be interested in participating, please email me
@ mmrogers232@gmail.com
or call me @ 508-963-0275

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!

Blessings
Matt Rogers

*The May Bell Deadline is
Thursday, April 12.*

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).

Administrative Assistant-**Lisa Fisher** (ext. 100)

Financial office (ext. 103)

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



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 5th

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 5th.**
- 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.



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:
Paper towels, toilet paper and tissues

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.

SECOND CHANCE THRIFT SHOP

Our shop is in need of merchandise!

- men's clothing
- ladies skirts, pants
- men's & women's shoes
- jewelry
- housewares



We appreciate any items that might sell in our shop.

Tell your friends about us too.

Thank you!

We need workers to help organize & sort.
Call Darlene 978-257-3484 & she'll provide more info.

Thank you to all our customers. Please continue to patronize our wonderful shop and support our community.

Happy spring,
Your Second Chance Team



Hello!! It seems as if we have opened our monthly article with snow news since January!! Hopefully we will have no snow news going forward!! We set a record this year by having four (4) Wednesdays cancelled because of weather.. Enough of that!!

When coming back from our Easter break the group will return to two weeks of prayer sessions based on the week's assigned Bible readings. As discussed in the March Bell article, we will continue to use the Quaker practice of spiritual discernment known as the, "Clearness Committee".

On Wednesday April 18th, the group will begin a six week study based on the study guide entitled, "The Christian Atheist" by author Craig Groeschel. At the first session we will discuss, "When You Believe in God but Don't Really Know Him." Other session titles such as, "When you believe in God but aren't sure that He Loves you", will challenge us to think about our relationship with God and how to enhance that relationship.

All our welcome, so please join us on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 PM.

Blessings, George

The Church Register

Deaths

Julia A. White

March 5

Thomas J. DiBuono

March 23

Baptisms

Mason James Rowell

March 18

Prayer and Praise

All those with health concerns:

Jim Bronwell

Carol Rotti

Cayleigh Lynne Gilroy-granddaughter

of Carol Ann Hamilton's friend

Lynne Pierce-Arlette and Bill Peterson's friend

Steven Small

Sophia Landeo

Ron Newman, Dan Newman's father

Bernadette White—one of our faithful

Second Chance Thrift Shop stewards

Lyle Smith

Paula Leftwich-Heidi Leftwich's mother-in-law

Tony-Sharon Seale's brother-in-law

David Holmes-Amie Dehner's step-father

Carol (Baker) Poladian-friend of Heather and Paul

Krasnov

Scott Holt

Debbie Thomas-Carol Rotti's cousin

Bob Akins-Marsha Saunder's brother

Valerie-friend of the Poland family

Lori Rotti

A friend of Jodie Howard

Danielle Akins-Marsha Saunders' niece

Philip Helle-Ursula's husband

Bailey Doonan

Jack Moynihan-Carol Ann Hamilton's friend

Valerie-June Crone's niece

Betty Cummings



Prayers of thanks:

For the safe delivery of Luke Wallace Hurd and continued good health for both him and Alison.

In sympathy:

Jack Malcolmson and family

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.



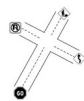
Church School News

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter!!!!

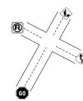
We will have all the children attend church on Easter Sunday, the nursery will operate for those under 3.

We are planning Children's Sunday for Sunday June 10th. Please mark you calendars. We most likely will have practices on June 3rd and May 20th, May 27th will be a Family worship with no church school.

Pam Doonan



Crossroads



Youth Group Schedule - Spring 2018

Date	Day	Time	Activity	Snack
April 8	Sunday	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Meeting Rachelle & Lindsey	
April 13	Friday	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Bistro Set-up	
April 14	Saturday	4:00 - 9:00 PM	BISTRO	
April 29	Sunday	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Meeting Nate & Kelsey	
May 20	Sunday	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Meeting	Ben
June 3	Sunday	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Meeting	Bailey
END OF YEAR BARBECUE - DATE TBD				

SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR OUR INTERIM PASTOR

At their meeting on Tuesday, February 27, the members of the church council decided to begin the process of searching for an interim pastor. The following people are honored to serve on this committee:

David Gustafson, chair, former moderator, current member-at-large on the church council, chancel choir singer
gustofwind@charter.net
508-853-4076

Fred Borchelt, recently served on the visioning committee and currently serves on the stewardship and recruitment board
fredborchelt@comcast.net
508-523-4324

Kristjon Imperio, Minister of Music, staff representative
kristjon.imperio@gmail.com
978-235-6761

Cynthia Montalvo, recently retired administrative assistant, recently served on the visioning committee, ringer in our hand-bell choir
cyn.montalvo@hotmail.com
508-852-8432

Janice Sioui, former church school superintendent
jsioui@charter.net
508-450-5013

The committee would love to hear from you. What skills and previous experiences should we be looking for in our new interim pastor? Please feel free to contact us or to speak personally with any of us.

It will be the goal of the interim search committee to recommend an interim pastor to the church council for approval by mid-May. Ideally, the interim pastor will begin on Sunday, June 3. Throughout this process, the search committee will be assisted by the Rev. Kelly Gallagher, an associate conference minister for the Massachusetts United Church of Christ.

The interim pastor will be with us for at least twelve to eighteen months, as it typically takes that long to find a permanent pastor. The interim pastor will not be eligible to be our permanent pastor. During this period, a new and larger search committee will be appointed by the church council. According to our bylaws, "This committee shall be representative of the various facets of our church work and life and shall keep in mind the overall function of the ordained leadership in making its choice of a candidate. The committee will report regularly to the church council and congregation."

During this transition period in April and May, the Rev. Karyl Leslie and the Rev. George Vogel will provide pastoral leadership and care. We are very fortunate to have their services. Please thank them!

Please keep our church and our pastors in your prayers. The members of the search committee would also like to ask if you would pray for their discernment.

If you have any questions or concerns about this transition process, please speak with a member of the search committee or one of our pastors. We are grateful for the support, faith, and love of the Body of Christ that is our church.

TIMELINE FOR WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND PREACHING

Sunday, April 15: The Rev. Chip Hurd's last Sunday

Sunday, April 22: The Rev. Karyl Leslie

Sunday, April 29: The Rev. George Vogel

Sunday, May 6: The Rev. Karyl Leslie

Sunday, May 13: The Rev. Steven Small ~ A Celebration of Twenty-Four Years of Ministry

Sunday, May 20: The Rev. Steven Small ~ Pentecost and Confirmation

Sunday, May 27: The Rev. Jack Malcolmson

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

The Reverend Wallace A. Hurd IV, Acting Senior Pastor
The Reverend George E. Vogel, Associate Pastor Emeritus
William E. Nierintz, Ch.M., Minister of Music Emeritus
Heidi Pisano, Community Nursery School Director

Kristjon Imperio, Minister of Music
Lisa A. Fisher, Administrative Assistant, Editor
Kendrik Imperio, Custodian

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01 Christopher Fulginiti
 01 John McLaughlin
 01 Jimmy Stark
 02 Jean Dellasanta
 02 Kayden Le
 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 Rautkis
 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
 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