



April, 2019

# The Messenger



**First United Methodist Church**

120 West Main St, Westborough, MA 01581

(508) 366-4910 • [www.firstumchurch.com](http://www.firstumchurch.com)



**Dear Friends,**

Do you ever watch the news and just feel sick? Bad news can just bring you down and make you feel hopeless. That is why the Good News of Jesus saves us each day. I encourage you to focus on THE Good News of God's love and also the good news in the world today. Seek it out and share it and you will feel the difference. We are drawn to see God in good news stories of people loving and serving others. **Romans 5:5 says... "Hope does not disappoint us because God's love is poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."** I happen to stumble upon a website -<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/good-news> that just has good news to read and I was amazed how it made me feel filled with hope.

It was evident to me that the news we consume will have an effect on our spirits. It is easy to get down because of all the negativity and feel hopeless and upset. Just like junk food makes our physical bodies feel bad and unhealthy it is the same with our souls. What do you take in spiritually each day? How do you feel after watching the news for 3 hours? I do not advocate putting our heads in the sand and ignoring the problems we face but I do know that God does not want us to overwhelmed and depressed. The recent vote by the General Conference of the United Methodist Church has discouraged many people. The majority in the American UMC do not agree with the exclusion of those who are in the LGBTQ community. We simply seek to be like Jesus and love and welcome all. But it will not deter us from being the church that shares the Good News with all people.

Thank you for embracing the Good News of a Risen Lord Jesus as the foundation of our faith. Each day we are called to bring the Good News of the Gospel out into the world. To share and live out the love of Jesus to a hurting world. I believe that our souls are drawn to inspiring stories of compassion, love and sacrifice. On this good news site I read of a golden retriever puppy being a seeing eye dog for a blind golden retriever and a story of a dog that saved his family from a fire. One comment about this heroic dog was ...**"This confirms what I've come to know. Dogs are why I still believe in God"** It makes me think of a dog friend of mine that was called to Heaven recently. Rocky- a black lab- was owned by Jill Dupree and family. Jill volunteers many hours at First UMC as our Financial Secretary and she would bring Rocky into the church office a couple times a week for many years. Rocky would always be a breath of fresh air because he was always loving and joyful. Rocky seemed to just exude good news! Life is good and I am blessed is what he would project with his tail wagging and his teeth grinning. Rocky amazed me because he actually learned to SMILE! We will miss him but know he is with God in Heaven.

**We are in a battle against the power that is the antithesis of the Good News of Jesus and we must continue to rejoice always in Christ.** (Philippians 4). Easter is coming on April 21st and I invite you to take part in our **Holy Week Services**. Easter will mean so much more if you come to the Christian Seder Meal we offer and the Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service. **Invite someone to come to church with you to celebrate the Good News of Jesus Christ!** That He is Risen! and has won the victory over sin and death. Come to our Easter Sun Rise Service at the Tufts/Cummings School on the border of Grafton and Westborough- 6:30am. We will stand in the field and worship together- with God's creation- and believe in **THE Good News! HE IS RISEN!**

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*He is not here;  
he has Risen!  
Luke 24:6*



*April, 2019*

*He is not here;  
he has Risen!*

*Luke 24:6*

### April 7

Isaiah 43: 16-21  
Psalm 126  
Philippians 3: 4-14  
John 12: 1-8

### April 14

Mark 11: 1-11  
Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29  
Isaiah 50: 4-9  
Psalm 31: 9-16  
Philippians 2: 5-11  
Mark 14: 1-15: 47 or  
Mark 15: 1-39

### April 21

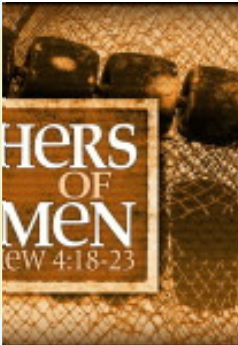
Acts 10: 34-43  
Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15: 19-26  
John 20: 1-18 or Luke 24: 1-12

### April 28

Acts 5:27-32  
Psalm 150  
Revelation 1: 4-8  
John 20: 19-31



Please contact an usher for hearing devices during both worship services.



## Men's Fellowship

All men are invited to come to McDonald's on Rtes. 9 and 30 *every Wednesday* at 6:00am for fellowship and prayer. Additionally, you may join for the Men's Fellowship Luncheon on Thursday, March 21st @ Masonic Lodge, Church Street. All men of any age are welcome to attend. Questions?

Contact Paul Graves: 508-366-1521

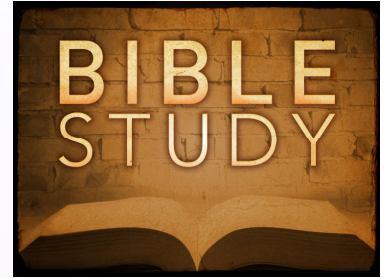


April, 2019

We are a busy church and our news changes quickly! Please find us on facebook for all of the latest news: **First United Methodist Church in Westborough, MA**



## Bible study: Mondays, 9:15 am & Tuesdays, 12:30 pm



During March and April both Bible studies enjoyed Rev. Adam Hamilton's course *Christianity and World Religions*. Those Hamilton covered were Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam and Christianity. The "global religious landscape" was a fascinating mix: 0.2 % Jews; 6.9% Buddhists; 15.1% Hindus; 16% unaffiliated; 24.1% Muslims; 31.2 % Christians. Christians do make up the largest number by far at 2.3 billion people.

Beginning with the story of the Wise Men who followed the star to find the Baby Jesus, Hamilton explained why he personally feels it is important for Christians to try to understand and lovingly accept our neighbors who may not be Christian. The Wise Men after all were "from a country far," surely not Jewish but felt called to see this tiny person they knew would change the world.

Was God trying to tell us in sending the Wise Men that Jesus came for everyone, not just the Jews? Perhaps God was setting an example that God does and we should love and value all people.

Another "wise man" that Hamilton included in his study was a Hindu, Mahatma Ghandi. He is said to have found his inspiration in the Sermon on the Mount. "Don't love only those who love you back. If someone strikes you on the cheek, turn the other cheek." On his office wall was only one religious figure. It was an image of Jesus. Ghandi turned to Jesus' teaching to understand what noninjury might look like as an agent of change. He understood that nonviolence could be an incredibly powerful force. Although Ghandi was Hindu he considered himself a follower of Jesus, who helped him see what living a life of noninjury and sacrificial love could actually change the world. In the United States Ghandi's approach inspired a young Baptist preacher, Rev. Martin Luther King, in his nonviolent protest that changed the world.

Please see me if you are interested in joining a Bible study. God's word is always fascinating to read and study.

He is not here;  
he has Risen!  
Luke 24:6





*April, 2019*

*He is not here;  
he has Risen!*

*Luke 24:6*

## ***Music during Worship: March***

April 7 9 am & Crossroads: Sanctuary Choir  
Crossroads: Crossroads Band

April 14 9 am: Sanctuary Choir  
Crossroads: Crossroads Band

April 21 9 am: Good News Ringers & Sanctuary Choir  
Crossroads: Good News Ringers, Sanctuary Choir  
& Crossroads Band

April 28 9 am: Carillon Ringers & Joyful Sound  
Crossroads: Carillon Ringers, Joyful Sound  
& Crossroads Band



**JOIN US FOR A MESSIANIC PASSOVER SEDER!**

**Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in Webb Hall**

According to the Gospels, Jesus' Last Supper was a Passover Seder meal with his disciples. Kathy Cavaliere will once again lead us in a Messianic Passover Seder that combines the traditional Jewish Seder with New Testament references to how Jesus fulfills the symbols and promise of the traditional Seder. The Passover Seder is an annual retelling of the Hebrews escape from slavery in Egypt, led by Moses, recounted in Exodus 12. The Seder includes a responsive telling of the story including traditional songs, traditional Hebrew blessings, the 4 questions asked by a child and answered by the adults, and symbolic foods: 4 small cups of wine (grape juice), greens, salt water, bitter herb, matzo, haroset, and lamb shank. The Seder is broken up by a traditional dinner meal of chicken soup with matzo balls and potato pancakes (prepared by chef Marla Lavitre & sons) with coconut macaroons for dessert (thanks to esteemed baker June Murray). The Seder continues with the Hallel (Praise) to God after the meal and the (4<sup>th</sup>) cup recognizing the symbolic presence of Elijah, the Old Testament prophet thought to herald the coming of the Messiah, a part that was actually played by John the Baptist.

The Messianic Passover Seder concludes at 6:45pm so we can continue the story in the Sanctuary at the very moving Tenebrae (Maundy Thursday) Service at 7pm. In this way, we experience the Easter story just as Jesus did and get to walk with Him on his journey to the cross. I hope you will join us. Feel free to invite friends or anyone curious about a Passover Seder.

Please call the church office 508-366-4910 or email [opsmanager@firstumchurch.com](mailto:opsmanager@firstumchurch.com) to reserve your spot by Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> so we have an accurate count for the meal. Thank you!





## Appalachia Service Project 2019

It's spring! That means that the summer is getting close. The 2019 Youth Team is starting to turn its attention from fundraising to training and the logistics of actually transporting 168 volunteers (and their tools and sleeping bags!) to Appalachia. The big news we're awaiting right now is the announcement of our actual county assignments, expected April 15. But that doesn't mean fundraising is done! We've raised a little over \$80,000 to date, but have almost \$40,000 left to go. Thank you to everyone who has supported our ASP fundraising events so far, and a special shout-out to those who attended March's ASP Adult Social in Westborough -- it was a great turnout and a great evening, as we tried something a little different. (If you won anything in the silent auction, you should have heard by now. If not, better luck next year!) Watch this space (and our Facebook page) for future events. Thank you for helping us help others.

The 2019 ASP Adult Team is getting serious. We have officially booked our week of service for October 5-12, and already know where we're going -- Jonesville, VA, the same as last year. Currently, we have 16 people signed up, which would be a new record size for this group, but we still have room to add more. If you're interested in more information about a week of service through home repair with ASP, email Jonathan at [asp@firstumchurch.com](mailto:asp@firstumchurch.com). The Adult Team's first fundraiser, the Rummage Sale is going on as I type this. If the quantity of stuff donated to that is any guide, it's going to be a good year.

Finally, two happy announcements. ASP volunteer centers are run by summer staff members, usually college students as a summer job. They plan repair projects, deliver materials, prepare evening programs, manage the meals and facility -- it's a really big job, and critical to ASP's program. At the same time, because ASP is a resource-constrained charity, it doesn't pay very well, which can make it a difficult job for college students trying to save up for the fall to take. Our ASP group has a long history of members taking ASP jobs after they've graduated from the high school program. So, we are happy to announce that our own Mike Reh has been selected for a position this summer. He will report for staff training and county assignment towards the end of May. Second, to recognize the dedication of staff members and remove some of the financial disincentive to work for ASP, we are announcing the Westborough ASP Staff Scholarship of \$1000, to be awarded to members of our Youth Team who go on to full-time (and then some!) staff jobs with ASP. Mike is our first recipient. Congratulations and good luck, Mike!

### ASP Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show (and Silent Auction!), April 7

Mark your calendars! The 26th Annual ASP Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show will be held on Sunday, April 7th. A full-course pasta dinner, prepared by our experienced ASP chefs and served by our intrepid ASP volunteers, starts at 5:30 in Webb Hall, with the show to follow upstairs at 7:00. This event is a real showcase of the talents of our congregation -- you may not believe what the person in the next pew is capable of! Come for a night of good food and sharing. Dinner tickets are \$12/adults, \$6/children under 12. The total price for a family has been capped at \$35. A free will offering will be taken at the show.

Come have a great dinner, and see just what the person in the next pew is capable of!

### ASP Can Drive, April 20

The ASP youth team will be holding its second deposit can and bottle drive of calendar 2019 on Saturday, April 20, from 8 am - 1 pm. Thank you to everyone who has been saving their deposit cans and bottles and making these drives more successful every year. It's time to bring them down to be counted! If you can't make the drive, you are welcome to bring your empties to the shed in the church parking lot any time. We do ask that you separate glass from plastic and aluminum, and box it -- we don't want any broken bottles. Boxes are available in the shed if you need them.



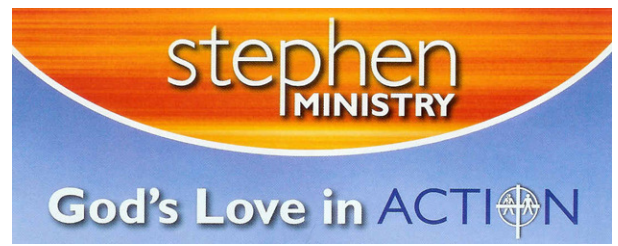
*April, 2019*

*He is not here;  
he has Risen!*  
*Luke 24:6*





## Stephen Ministry News



April, 2019

*"What is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him?"* Psalms 8:4

One of the key messages Stephen Ministers receive from our training, which is later reinforced through continuing education studies, is the importance of caring for ourselves while we care for others. With this in mind, our Stephen Ministry team will be going on an overnight retreat in early April to St. Scholastica Priory in Petersham. There, we will have an opportunity to participate in a service and meal with the community of monks and sisters, as well as hearing about Benedictine Prayer. The retreat will also provide us with time away from the distractions of busy lives to listen to God's voice, and to be connected to Him through our bodies (yoga, breathing exercises) and the beauty of the natural world surrounding us.

In our continuing study of "Right Here, Right Now" by Amy G. Ogden, we have been preparing for the retreat by learning about how to practice basic Christian mindfulness skills. In our daily lives, we all have times when we're doing something routine that may not require a lot of focus, such as brushing our teeth, washing dishes, or folding laundry. During those times we can choose to intentionally be present, and to focus on God. Repeating a mantra such as *Maranatha* ("Our Lord, come"), either silently or aloud, can help us stay in the moment. In Psalms 8:4, King David speaks of God being mindful of man. For our relationship with God to flourish, we need to be as intentionally mindful of Him as He is of us.

The Stephen Ministry Team is specifically trained to provide one-to-one care to people who are hurting. If you have any questions about Stephen Ministry, or would like to request care from a Stephen Minister, please contact one of our Stephen Leaders, Rev. Elizabeth Kubota, Kathy Ng, or Andrea Machnik.

*He is not here;  
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Luke 24:6

Salisbury Singers present Use promo Code "45th" to receive a 10% Discount

# MAGNIFICENT MOZART

Saturday April 6, 2019 – 7:30 pm  
Trinity Lutheran Church, 73 Lancaster St., Worcester, MA

With the Bach Consort of Worcester  
*Great Mass In C Minor, K. 427 & Regina Coeli In C Major, K. 276*

Michelle Graveline, Artistic Director  
Bradford Dumont, Assistant Conductor

[www.salisburysingers.org](http://www.salisburysingers.org)

Soloists:  
Diana McVey - Soprano  
Pamela Dellal - Mezzo Soprano  
Jonas Budris - Tenor  
James Demler - Baritone





*continued from page 1*

**I invite you to be a good news person.** Someone who celebrates the good that God is doing through First UMC. Don't miss a Sunday service, be involved in our mission and outreach, fellowship with brothers and sister, and be an encourager to others. This world needs you to be a light that shines the love of Jesus. Be filled with the good things that God offers to those who believe. It is a daily journey of opening your heart to the Word of God and getting on the path that leads to Glory. I thank you for helping me be a good news person in a hurting world. Let us enter this Spring Season with confidence that God is with us.



*April, 2019*

**In Christian Love,**

**Pastor John**



Save the date for AFTER GLOW:

**Thursday, May 16th  
11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Program:** A Worcester players group "The Fraud Squad" presents an interactive program on scams targeting the senior population. You'll be watching a scam reenacted right in front of you. Seven people will present a 45 minute show with typically 3 skits. Learn how to avoid being scammed. Also those who wish to share with others what has happened to them can do so after the skits. Learn about the Senior Fraud Helpline: 1-800-297-9760. Remember....When in doubt, check it out! More details to follow.



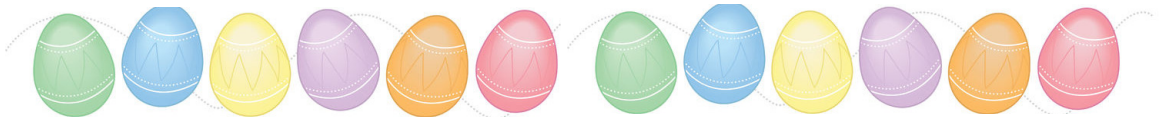


# EASTER EGG HUNT AND BREAKFAST!



- WHO:** All children and parents are invited!  
Older children/youth will have the opportunity to volunteer to help at the craft tables/hiding eggs/in the kitchen.
- WHEN:** Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> 9AM
- WHERE:** First United Methodist Church of Westborough...(rain or shine!)
- HOW:** Children wishing to participate are invited to gather in Webb Hall at 9AM for a light breakfast, some crafts, and an Easter story. Hunting for eggs will be done in groups by families and parents are welcome to join in the fun!
- PLEASE:** EACH CHILD IS ASKED TO BRING THEIR OWN EASTER BASKET FOR THE HUNT!

**DONATIONS:** We will be collecting food for the Westborough Food Pantry. Please bring any non-perishable items to the breakfast with you. We will also collect money donations to go towards the cost of the breakfast.



## **Easter Egg Breakfast and Hunt Registration**

Our family would like to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt!

<u>Name of Child(ren)</u> _____	age _____
_____	age _____
_____	age _____
_____	age _____

Number of Adults attending : \_\_\_\_\_

**To register for this event, please return this form to the Christian Ed. office  
at First United Methodist Church.**



April, 2019

Third Monday Book  
Group,  
Monday, May 20 @  
6:30pm

## CHURCH LIBRARY

"Love the Lord your God with all your mind."



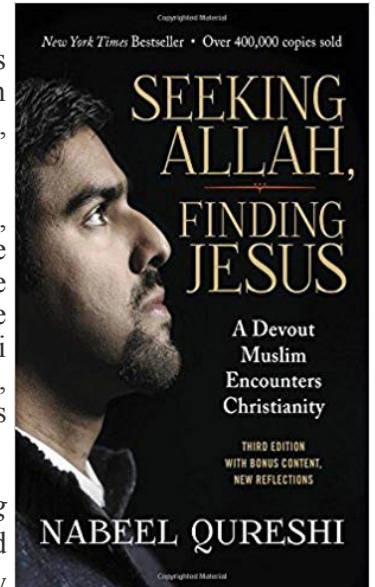
(this group is not meeting in April)

*Available in the church office!*

In *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, now expanded with new bonus content, Nabeel Qureshi describes his dramatic journey from Islam to Christianity, complete with friendships, investigations, and supernatural dreams along the way.

Providing an intimate window into a loving Muslim home, Qureshi shares how he developed a passion for Islam before discovering, almost against his will, evidence that Jesus rose from the dead and claimed to be God. Unable to deny the arguments but not wanting to deny his family, Qureshi struggled with an inner turmoil that will challenge Christians, Muslims, and all those who are interested in the world's greatest religions.

Engaging and thought-provoking, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus* tells a powerful story of the clash between Islam and Christianity in one man's heart--and of the peace he eventually found in Jesus.



**Who Am I?** NO asking google! Contact the office with your answer.

Adam, God made out of dust, but thought it best to make me first,  
So I was made before man, to answer God's most Holy plan.  
A living being I became, and Adam gave to me my name.  
I from his presence then withdrew, and more of Adam never knew.  
I did my Maker's law obey, nor ever went from it astray.  
Thousands of miles I go in fear, but seldom on earth appear.  
For purpose wise God did see, he put a living soul in me.  
A soul from me God did claim, and took from me the soul again.  
So when from me the soul had fled, I was the same as when first made.  
And without hands, or feet, or soul, I travel on from pole to pole.  
I labor hard by day, by night, to fallen man I give great light.  
Thousands of people, young and old, will by my death great light behold.  
No right or wrong can I conceive, the scripture I cannot believe.  
Although my name therein is found, they are to me an empty sound.  
No feat of death doth trouble me, real happiness I'll never see.  
To Heaven I shall never go, or to Hell below.  
Now when these lines you slowly read, go search your Bible with all speed  
For that my name is written there, I do honestly to you declare.

He is not here;  
he has Risen!

Luke 24:6



*April, 2019*

*He is not here;  
he has Risen!*

*Luke 24:6*

The Wesleyan Quadrilateral, *Rev. Elizabeth Kubota*



Order of Deacon

Leading and Equipping the Church in Servant Ministry  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Just what is the Wesleyan Quadrilateral you may be wondering. Perhaps you have heard someone drop the phrase but not explain what is meant by it. I have to admit that was me my first week of seminary. Well, I had been Methodist my whole life and had even taken Disciple Bible study. Still the Wesleyan Quadrilateral could have been a geometric shape in the honor of John and Charles Wesley as far as I knew. Once I found the answer to this question it really was not such a difficult thing and even useful in reflecting on Scripture.

According to Methodist historians the theology of Charles Wesley is recorded in his hymns-possibly 6,000 of them. The theology of John Wesley is recorded in his sermons. Historians feel both John and Charles Wesley contributed equally to Methodist theology. Below is a short summary of the four things the Wesleys valued in their Christian reflection, living and preaching.

**Scripture:** Christians believe that Scripture is the primary source for Christian beliefs. Wesley shared this reverence for Scripture. In it Jesus Christ meets us with redeeming grace. We know that Jesus Christ is the living Word of God whom we trust in life and death.

**Tradition:** Christians have tried to interpret the truth of the gospel for their time. Tradition is shared common history of Christians. It is the continuing activity of God's Spirit transforming human life. It is God's self-giving love from Jesus Christ.

**Experience:** We follow Wesley's practice of examining experience for confirmation of God's grace attested in Scripture. Christian experience gives us new eyes to see living truth in Scripture.

**Reason:** Theology should include the use of reason. By reason we read and interpret Scripture; determine if our Christian witness is clear; ask questions of faith; seek to understand God's action and will.

Scripture, Tradition, Experience and Reason are all ways the Wesleys reflected on their personal theology. But where did the Wesleyan Quadrilateral come from? A 20th century theologian, Albert Outler, is credited for organizing Wesleyan theology into the quadrilateral. If you think of a rectangle with Scripture labeling the bottom, Tradition and Experience flanking the sides and Reason across the top, you have the Wesleyan Quadrilateral. So now you may say, what shall we do with our Wesleyan Quadrilateral? In the May Messenger I will share what I did with it in one of my ordination papers.





April, 2019

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he has Risen!

Luke 24:6

## We are Entrusted! God has entrusted us to take care of and appreciate His earth. God Connections!

Song of Solomon 2:11-12 "Look around you: Winter is over; the winter rains are over, gone! Spring flowers are in blossom all over. The whole world's a choir—and singing!"

Spring is springing! Let it be an opportunity to connect with God. (And an opportunity to share with your church. Please send photos to Gina ([opsmanager@firstumchurch.com](mailto:opsmanager@firstumchurch.com)).



In March, over 100 families and individuals took the Entrusted Challenge, committing to (1) changing ONE habit to be kinder to the earth and (2) to looking for God moments in nature. (If you missed it, please sign up outside Stephanie's office.)

Here's what a few folks are doing to be greener:

Keeping reusable bags and takeout containers in my car / Eating more vegetarian meals / Recycling food bags and other plastic film at my grocery store / Taking shorter showers / No longer buying water in plastic bottles / Contacting my government representatives to support green initiatives / Turning off the lights. For more ideas, check out [https://www.massaudubon.org/content/download/34858/778249/file/MA\\_4Rs-checklist.pdf](https://www.massaudubon.org/content/download/34858/778249/file/MA_4Rs-checklist.pdf)

Please share your habit changes and God moments! We'd like to add them to our "garden" outside Stephanie's office and to our communications. email them to Gina at [opsmanager@firstumchurch.com](mailto:opsmanager@firstumchurch.com)

### APRIL: Reduce, REUSE, Recycle... and APPRECIATE!...

This month, the church will (1) encourage our congregation to reuse Sunday bulletins (stay tuned!), (2) try out reusable batteries in Pastor John's wireless microphone, and (3) reuse the Easter flowers by planting the bulbs during our beautification and clean-up on May 4.

### Upcoming Entrusted-Related Church Events – Please Join In!

**April 6, 9am: Mini Clean-up** – A 1-hour quick clean-up outside the church to freshen things up for Easter

**April 21, 6:30am: Easter Sunrise Service** – What an incredible way to appreciate and connect with God and nature!

**April 28: Composting 101** - Please join Marla Levitre and Karen Yeowell between services on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> for Composting 101. It's easier (and less gross) than you think.

**May 4, 8-12noon: Annual Church Beautification** (Clean-up and Plantings)

### Some Earth Day-Related Clean-up events in nearby towns:

Westboro: 4/13, 6:30am and 9:30am. Online sign-up recommended: [earthday@westboroughlandtrust.org](mailto:earthday@westboroughlandtrust.org)

Grafton: 4/13, 9am and 12pm. Meet at Grafton Common.

Hopkinton: 4/27, 9am-12pm. Lake Maspenock clean up. Meet at Sandy Beach.

Northboro: 4/27, 7:45am-10am. Meet at Ellsworth McAfee Park Pavilion. Bring a donation for the Northboro Food Pantry.

Southboro: 4/27 (4/28 raindate), 8-11am. Meet at the Southboro DPW.



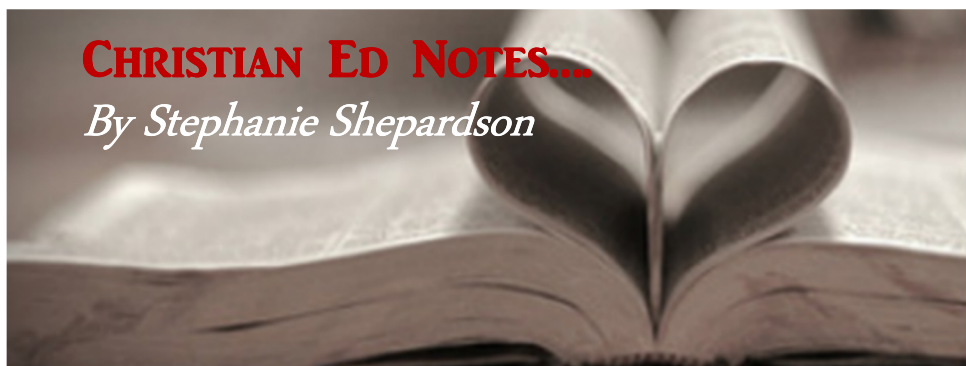
Seeing God's "heart" in nature



*April, 2019*

## CHRISTIAN ED NOTES...

*By Stephanie Shepardson*



### Sunday School:

Sunday School meeting – On Wednesday evening, April 10th at 6:30pm, the Children and Family Ministry Committee invites anyone interested to attend this meeting to discuss the future of the Sunday School. We will be discussing possible name changes (something other than “Sunday School”), curriculum changes, and ways to keep our program engaging for the kids and simple for teachers. We’ll also be discussing room changes for next year as the church will be under construction.

Teachers needed! Please consider being a teacher because our children and youth need Sunday School. Even if you’ve never taught before, we welcome you to try it out! If you have faith in God and want to share your faith story, then you can teach! Please contact Stephanie at : [christianed@firstumchurch.com](mailto:christianed@firstumchurch.com)

There is no Sunday School on Easter Sunday – April 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Youth Group:

April 7<sup>th</sup> – ASP Spaghetti dinner and talent show! 5:30pm

April 14<sup>th</sup> – regular youth group  
6:30-8:30pm

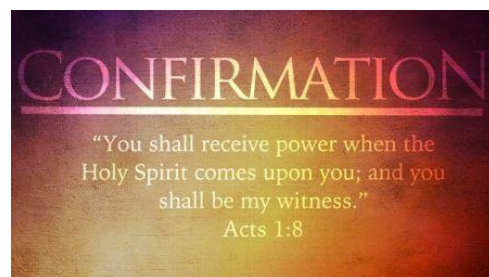
April 21<sup>st</sup> – no YG – Happy Easter!!

April 28<sup>th</sup> – regular youth group  
6:30-8:30pm



### Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt!

Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> at 9am!!!  
Registration forms can be found outside Stephanie’s office. Join us in the morning for a delicious breakfast, crafts, story from Pastor John, and of course the egg hunt!



### Confirmation

April 7<sup>th</sup> – class at 5pm

April 28<sup>th</sup> – class at 5:30pm

### Vacation Bible School

ROAR: Life is Wild, God is good!!

July 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> at St. Luke’s in Westborough. Register before June 17<sup>th</sup> for a discount! No registrations accepted after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Registration forms can be found outside Stephanie’s office. We need volunteers so let Stephanie know if you’re interested!!

*He is not here;  
he has Risen!*

*Luke 24:6*





*April, 2019*

## Design/Build Subcommittee in Contract Negotiations with General Contractor

The Design/Build Subcommittee is in contact negotiations with a contractor to do pre-construction and construction activities with us on our building project, which will create a larger fellowship space outside the sanctuary and make the building handicap accessible. Architect Doug Sacra of Maple Hill Architects is still on track to be completely finished with construction documents by May 1 and we are still on track to break ground in the summer. The GC is leading pre-construction walk-throughs with subcontractors who will bid on our project. If you know of any subcontractors who would like to bid on this project or possibly provide in-kind work, please contact the office ASAP.

## More Financial Support Needed for Our Time to Build

The Fundraising and Finance subcommittees report that we have received 1.735 million in pledges and an additional \$350,000 in un-pledged gifts for a total of \$2,082,000 in committed pledges and un-pledged one-time gifts. The most recent project estimate is \$2,630,000. As a result, we expect to finance \$400,000. To lower our loan payments, we are looking for at least \$120,000 in pledges. So if you haven't given yet or you'd like give more, your pledge is still welcomed and your generosity and support will be appreciated.

## Coming Soon

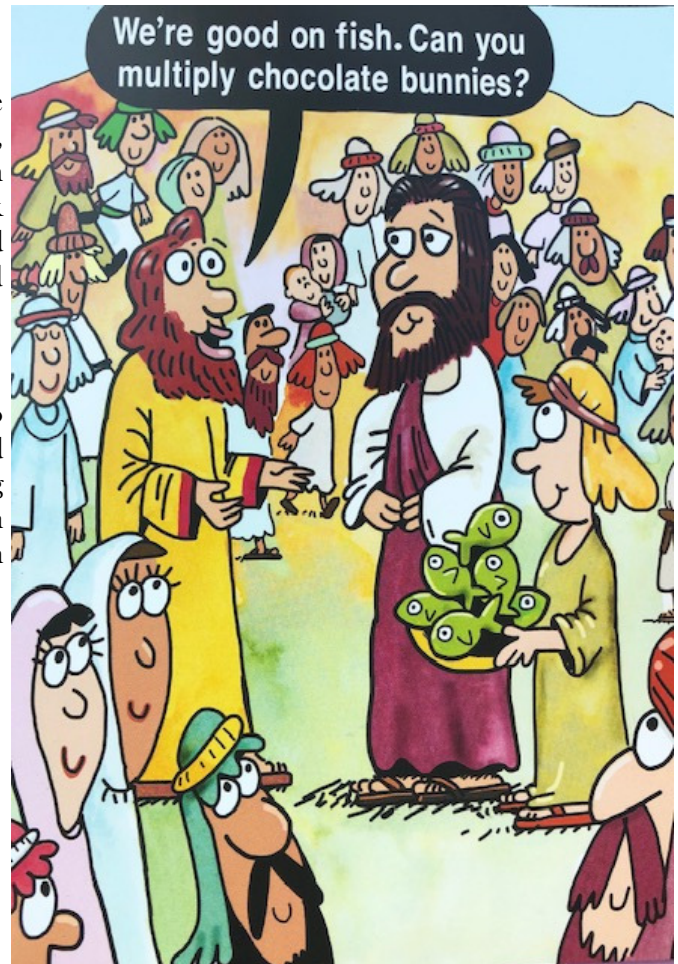
The vision of a modernized, accessible building is coming to life through the love, prayers, and hard work of our church family. Check the building committee link on the church homepage for continued updates. Check out floor plans and experience the video walk through here:

<http://fumc-capital-campaign.webflow.io/>

Finally, many thanks to the volunteers who have already begun cleaning closets and making plans for the upcoming construction work. Pre-construction volunteer activities will continue through spring and early summer.

**OUR TIME  
TO BUILD  
CAMPAIGN**

First United Methodist Church  
Westborough, MA







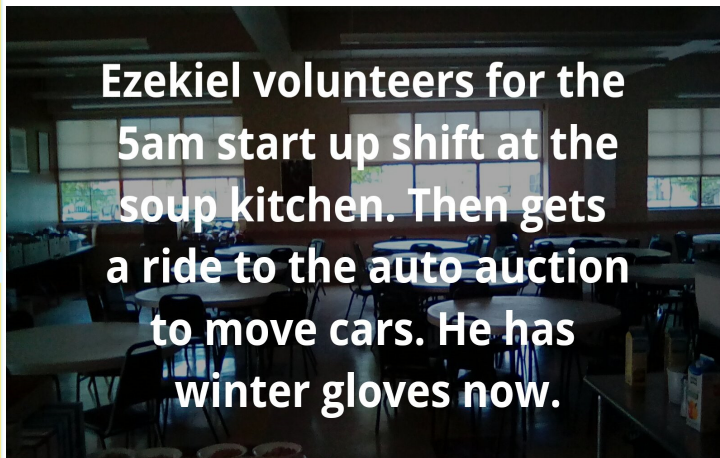
April, 2019

# Outreach News



**Worcester Recovery Spring Party:** Sunday, May 5th, 1-3 p.m.  
Will play bingo; bring prizes such as toiletries and cards, stuffed animals, snacks/cookies.

**Did you know?** We have volunteers weekly offering love, hope and the basic essentials to folks living in homelessness in Worcester. Led by our wonderful volunteer Brenda Armstrong, Brenda participates in Thursday Café, which is a program in Worcester offering guests a hot meal, opportunity to take a safe nap and spend time in fellowship with one another. Additionally, Brenda goes to Worcester Fellowship on the first Sunday of each month 12:30-1:45 to bring a bagged lunch while an open-air church service is being brought to those who come. Please contact Brenda if you would like to help out with any of these important ministries.



Help us to donate  
**2019** pairs of socks  
for the homeless  
in **2019**



Boxes for our Troops will run through Sunday, April 28. Please include \$16 to defray shipping costs. Pick up a box at the church and fill it with snacks and supplies for our troops serving overseas, based on the list of suggested items included. Thank you to the Mates and all of you for supporting our troops in this tangible and important way!



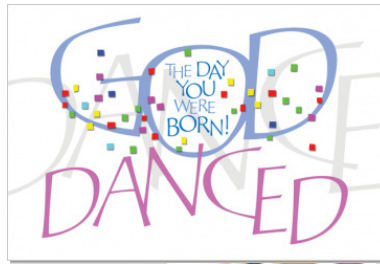
He is not here;  
he has Risen!  
Luke 24:6



April, 2019

*He is not here;  
he has Risen!*

*Luke 24:6*



### Birthdays

Amy Neil	1
Grady Roadman	4
Caroline Estella	5
Taylor Dee	5
Patricia Desiral	6
Adam Strecker	8
Kristi Corbin	12
Steve Qualey	12
Martha Scarsdale	14
Tyler DeLisle	15
Henry Paltrineri	18
Susanna Estella	21
Nathan Burns	21
Tim Dee	22
Kim Machnik	23
Melissa Erickson	24
Diane Newland	26
Chris Cooke	28
Beverly Braman	29
Denise Adams	29
Marilyn Leffler	30
Chip Feazel	30



### Anniversaries

Michael and Jennifer Fields	19
Ruth and Jim Niedzolkowski	24
Jim and Debbie Emery	25
Jamie and Robert Martin	26



*Here is a 2-day old lamb with her mom at Heifer Farm, Rutland. Kim (Machnik) and husband Mark are caretakers at the farm while waiting on the property to be sold. Thank you Andrea, for sharing this great picture with us!*

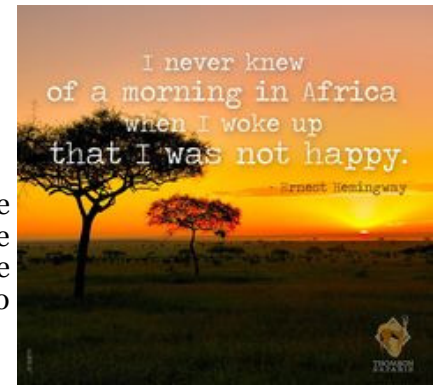




*April, 2019*

## AFRICA MISSION: All things Ubumwe (oo-boom-way: *unity* in Kinyarwanda)

This will be the first in a series of articles about the Ubumwe Trips: Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the people we meet, the places we visit, why we go, etc. For this first installation, I would like to introduce you to Mark Neil!



Mark's passion for Africa stems from his youth as an "MK" - - a missionary kid. His parents were Baptist missionaries in DR Congo (then known as Zaire). He grew up alongside (now Pastor) Lwabimba - - they share an interest in motorized things, like mopeds and motorcycles, as well as a love for DR Congo. Lwabimba and his wife Martha are our hosts during our visits, taking exceptionally good care of us. Lwabimba is now both a Baptist pastor and a successful businessman, who together with Martha operate a well-known and successful motorcycle shop in Bukavu.

Mark considers DR Congo - and now Rwanda, as well - 'home away from home'! He loves spending time in each of these countries, and loves being able to share this part of the world with you. And, now that the Neils have a daughter (Kara) and son-in-law (Jeremiah) in Rwanda, they try to get there to spend time with them as often as possible!

For more information about the Ubumwe trips, please feel free to write: [Rwanda.DRC@gmail.com](mailto:Rwanda.DRC@gmail.com)



Martha, Lwabimba, Mark and Kara

The Neil family prayer card from when Mark was a child.







# April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:15am Bible Study	2 12:30 Bible Study 6:30pm Carillon Ringers 7:30pm Joyful Sound	3 7:00pm Good News Ringers	4 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir/8:15pm Jubilate Deo/Men's Choir 7:30pm Praise Ringers	5 7:00pm AA Meeting	6
7 5:00pm Confirmation Youth Group/ASP Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show 5:30pm 6:30pm Spiritual Group	8 9:15am Bible Study 7:00pm Outreach Meeting	9 12:30 Bible Study 6:30pm Carillon Ringers 7:30pm Joyful Sound	10 6:30pm Stephen Ministers 7:00pm Good News Ringers	11 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir/8:15pm Jubilate Deo/Men's Choir 7:30pm Praise Ringers	12 7:00pm AA Meeting	13 9:00am Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt
14 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm Spiritual Group	15 9:15am Bible Study	16 12:30 Bible Study 6:30pm Carillon Ringers 7:30pm Joyful Sound	17 7:00pm Good News Ringers	18 Men's Luncheon 5:30pm Seder 7:00pm Maundy Thursday 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir/8:15pm Jubilate Deo/Men's Choir 7:30pm Praise Ringers	19 12noon Good Friday Service @ St. Stephen's 7:00pm AA Meeting	20 ASP Can/Bottle Drive 5:30pm Easter Vigil
21 Easter Sunday—no Youth Group Easter Services: 6:30am Sunrise, 9am & 10:30am	22 9:15am Bible Study	23 12:30 Bible Study 6:30pm Carillon Ringers 7:30pm Joyful Sound	24 6:30pm Stephen Ministers 7:00pm Good News Ringers	25 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir/8:15pm Jubilate Deo/Men's Choir 7:30pm Praise Ringers	26 7:00pm AA Meeting	27
28 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm Spiritual Group	29 9:15am Bible Study	30 12:30 Bible Study 6:30pm Carillon Ringers 7:30pm Joyful Sound				



120 West Main Street

Westborough, MA 01581

***Know Accept Share***

Address Service Requested

*If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please contact the office @  
opsmanager@firstumchurch.com.*

**First United Methodist Church a Stephen Ministry Congregation**

120 West Main Street

Westborough, MA 01581

**Office Hours: Monday– Thursday: 9:00am– 2:00pm**

**Fridays, 9:00am– 12noon**

**Worship Schedule**  
***Sunday 9:00 AM and 10:30am***

**Staff**

***Reverend John Wesley Taylor***

508-451-5858

[pastor@firstumchurch.com](mailto:pastor@firstumchurch.com)

***Reverend Elizabeth Kubota***

508-839-3789

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**Minister of Handbell Music**  
***Cynthia Hamburger***

**Director of Christian Education**  
***Stephanie Shepardson***

**Operations Manager**  
***Gina Downing***