



February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Sharing an experience of belonging, with God's music and the love
and justice of Jesus at the heart of what we do.

Welcome

Rachel Robicheau

Opening Music: Just As I Am

Guided Breath & Centering Moment

Opening Prayer

Rev. Timothy Sylvia

Entry Into Worship

One: We enter into this Lenten season,
not to escape the wilderness...

**Many: we enter so that we might
tell the truth about it.**

One: We come carrying what we have hidden,
what we have denied,
what we have learned to live with.

Many: And we come longing for what restores us.

One: The world tempts us with easy answers
and false promises.

Many: And we hunger for truth that sets us free.

One: God calls us to unburden our souls,
to resist what depletes us,
and to turn toward life.

**Many: So we come ready to be honest.
And we come ready to be changed.**

One: This is the beginning of the journey.

Many: Let us worship the God who restores us.

Scripture: Psalm 32

Gospel: Matthew 4: 1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Music: Where God Meets Us

Sermon: What Restores Us When We Are Depleted?

Rev. Timothy Sylvia

Music: Depleted

Affirmation (Unison)

Rachel Robicheau

**We believe that depletion is not a moral failure.
It is the result of living in a world
that consumes people for profit and power.**

**We believe God does not shame our exhaustion.
God meets us within it.**

**We believe restoration does not come from escape.
It comes from the truth-telling that frees us.**

**We believe resisting false power
is part of faithful living.**

**And we believe God walks with us in the wilderness...
not to test our worth,
but to reveal what truly sustains life.**

Offering Invitation

Rachel Robicheau

Pastoral Prayer (with the Lord’s Prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom, come. Thy will be done on 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 forever. Amen.

Closing Music: Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Sending Forth

Rev. Timothy Sylvia, Pastor
Jeff Hobart, Director of Music Ministry

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADULT HYGIENE PRODUCTS DONATIONS: Missions is launching a drive for donations of adult incontinence pads (not diapers or underwear) and menstrual pads (not tampons). There is a Donations bin in Memorial Hall. These products will be delivered to Interfaith Social Services (ISS) in Quincy. You may also donate on-line on the church's [GIVING](#) page.

4th ANNUAL LENTEN TUNA DRIVE: Bring your donations of canned tuna to the church any time until Easter (April 5th) to reach this year's goal of 2,200 cans to be donated to the Friendly Food Pantry!

WEEKLY ONLINE BIBLE STUDY, Wednesday, February 25th, 6:30 pm EST – ONLINE ONLY: Join us each Wednesday for a time of deep reflection, thoughtful conversation, and sacred curiosity as we open scripture together and explore what it means for our lives today.

Whether you've been reading the Bible for years or are just beginning to ask questions, there's space for you here. Bring your wonder. Bring your doubts. Bring your whole self. Come for the community. Stay for the transformation. Zoom link sent out weekly and available upon request.

TAKEOUT TUESDAY, February 24th: Meals can be picked up between 5:00 and 6:30 pm.

BOOK DISCUSSION, Friday, February 27th, 7:00 pm: The Racial Justice Team will be offering a book club discussion on Debby Irving's "Waking Up White". The books are available at the Turner Free Library, and the discussion will be offered online as well. Register at: bit.ly/2026wakingupwhite. Pizza and beverages will be served. Please join us.

BOOK NOOK, Saturday, February 28th, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm: Come check out our huge selection of gently used books. Nothing costs more than \$1.00! Look for the 'Open' flag on the little, white building behind the church.

SENDING SMILES CAMPAIGN: We are partnering again this year with AAA of Westwood to write out cards that will be delivered to local nursing homes. **The cards will be collected throughout the month of February.** *Please be sure to use large writing.* We'll have supplies in Memorial Hall for those joining us in the building for coffee hour. You can also drop cards off in the office or mail them to the office throughout the month. Feel free to use a pre-made card or make your own. Thank you for helping us bring a little sunshine to those in nursing homes during these cold winter months!

ISS STOP THE STIGMA WALK, Saturday, April 25th, 9:30 am: A church team has been set up for this year's walk. If you'd like to join the team, please contact Susan Goodale (psgoodale@comcast.net) prior to registering. Funds raised will go to the New Directions Counseling Center at ISS. Anyone is able to go for counseling regardless of insurance or inability for their copay. Stop the Stigma against mental illness, substance abuse. You can donate to our team, or an individual on our team, by clicking on this link: <https://interfaithsocialservices.org/stop-the-stigma-5k/?form=5Kdonation> and specify that you are donating to First Congregational Church Randolph or the specific walker's name.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Staff Meeting	Monday, February 23 rd	10:00 am in the Chapel
Moderator Team	Wednesday, February 25 th	9:00 am in the Chapel
Racial Justice	Sunday, March 1 st	12:00 pm in the Chapel

SCAN OUR QR CODES:



Online Giving



Events Page of Our Website