

First Congregational Church of Fall River



2023 Parish Guide



First Congregational Church Parish Guide



Volume 135 No 4 Apr 2023

From Reverend Andy

Easter is filled with radical questioning. God’s love for humanity especially manifest in the power of Christ at Easter, is not who it keeps out of God’s love and relationship, but who it lets in. Victor Frankl speaks of the truth he encountered in enduring the suffering of a Nazi concentration camp by writing, “It did not really matter what we expected from life, but rather what life expected from us. We needed to stop asking about the meaning of life, and instead to think of ourselves as those who were being questioned by life.”

The radical nature of Christ’s love that descends into Hell to overcome Death itself and to deliver us all to life and life in abundance opens in us that same expectation the great horror of suffering opened in Frankl. And in Easter, in the resurrection, in our church, in our city, in our families we encounter an invitation to be made new, to be *questioned by life*, and to act it out; to love more boldly, to think more deeply, to live more fully, to strive and work and live with the full confidence of the love of God that we cannot separate ourselves from, for now and eternity.

There are radical questions that Easter, beyond the bunnies and the ham dinners, calls us to encounter in Christ’s relationship to us that is wildly and *properly* disturbing. It rightly curbs our smugness and our sensibilities and the organization of the world as we would make it. It challenges the places we think we get to play master versus in exchange for the places we get to be made new.

This Easter, I hope you will step into the disturbing reality of a love that will not let you go and see what plans it has for you. A radical love that does not deliver what we expect, but rather expects us to lean into its adventure and exploration for us.

This prayer is from Sir Francis Drake, one of the grand explorers of the world. I invite you to pray it this Easter. Pray it for your own vision and for the vision of our church that our view and our horizons may be broadened by the one who loves all and conquers death this season.

Disturb us, O Lord, when we are too pleased with ourselves; when our dreams come true because we dreamed too little; when we have arrived in safety because we have sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, O Lord, when with the abundance of the things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life; when having fallen in love with time, we have ceased to dream

of eternity; and in our efforts to build the new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new heaven to grow dim.

Stir us, O Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms shall show thy mastery and, where losing sight of the land, we shall find the stars.

In the name of Him who pushed back the horizons of our hopes and invited the brave to follow, even the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. – Sir Francis Drake

Blessings, Rev. Andy

Holy Week Schedule



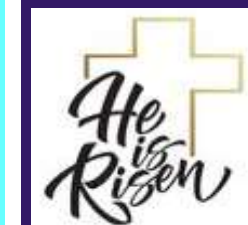
April 02, 2023 10:00 AM
Palm Sunday
Worship Service



April 08, 2023 11:00 AM
Easter Egg Hunt
Church Garden



April 02, 2023 11:15 AM
Tea Party
Church Hall



April 09, 2023 10:00 AM
Easter Sunday
Worship Service



April 06, 2023 07:00 PM
Maundy Thursday
Worship Service

282 Rock St. Fall River MA
FMI: 508-672-5862
churchoffice@fccfallriver.com



<https://open.spotify.com/show/7Cavtolj585E4sjhXdI6xT>



Step 1: Go to <https://get.tithe.ly>
or scan the QR-Code
Step 2: Create an account
Step 3: GIVE!!!



SCAN ME



www.facebook.com/FccFallRiver



<https://fccfallriver.com/>

“Diaconate Corner”

Spring is upon us!

I've heard a quote saying “The Earth laughs in flowers’, and Mother Earth is giggling already. As we entered the Lenten service in East Freetown recently, we were in awe at the early sighting of God’s beauty. This time of year, always amazes me, such a beautiful season to rejoice in God’s glory.

April will be filled with awe and excitement as well. The month immediately commences with Holy Week. April 2nd is Palm Sunday, and not only will we have a beautiful service- always a guarantee with Rev. Andy at the helm- but we’ll also celebrate its commencement with our annual “Tea Party”, held in Parish Hall. It’s always a delight to behold, with its precious little finger sandwiches, accompanied by endless delightful delicacies. And then include our “togetherness”- appreciated now more than ever since the lonely days of the Pandemic. Come! Celebrate! Rejoice with us!

We will not engage in our typical Communion service that would take place on April 2nd, because we want to encourage you to instead share in our Communion service on Maundy Thursday, on April 6th. Andy always has a surprise up his sleeve, and we as Deacons are never quite sure of his exact plans until the Sunday before, but I can guarantee that it will be worth your while if you decide to attend- to me the most soul-searching service of the year. If you’ve never attended a Maundy Thursday service before, let this be the year that you do. Your soul will thank you.

And of course, Holy Week culminates with Easter Sunday- a great day to rejoice in the sacrifice of our Lord, for all of us. It’s a feeling of rebirth and renewal like no other- a fresh start. There’ll be some new members welcomed into our Church family, and also all your many “old” dear friends, surrounded in the loveliness of “God’s laughter”. We look forward to welcoming you home.

This month, soon after Easter, you’ll all receive a copy of Andy’s annual Evaluation form. Anyone that spends any time here shares in the love we all have for Rev. Andy and has a deep appreciation for all he does for us every day. Now it’s important that Andy receives feedback, and your completion of this form will provide him with that tool. Please take the time to “have your say”, sign your name, and return your form to church by May 5th. We appreciate your efforts.

We, as Deacons, are thrilled beyond measure that our Sunday School is up and running again. As of March 5th, through June 11th, six Deacons and ten volunteers have offered to take turns teaching lessons in pairs to our darlin’ young family members. So far, there’s been a good response, with children ages 1 ½ to 11 years old. The selflessness of all volunteers inspires me every Sunday morning. Most of these folks have not been “professional” teachers, but their love for the Church and its word shines through. Below is a list of all volunteers for March and April: Members Sue Nascimento, Becky Soens, Cheryl Furze, and Cynthia Farnham. Deacons Lisa Blanchette, Bob Guinen, Sue Lanyon, Linda Fernandes, and Nancee Brightman. We love you and thank you all!

We have decided to have two Gatherings this month, the Palm Sunday “Tea Party” mentioned earlier, and our typical third Sunday Gathering on April 16th. After all, we have so much to celebrate! Please share your company with us not once, but twice! Goodies and friends will be there for your joy and pleasure. Have a delightful month of April!

Love, Peace, and Grace
Susan Lanyon, Senior Deacon



Missions News!!

Hello friends and hello spring!

Although the winter was mild, the first sighting of robins, snowbells and daffodils is so welcome. The awakening of God’s natural world hopefully will do the same for your spiritual life and draw you closer to ways you may sense the Holy Spirit moving you toward one of the many Missions opportunities offered in the months ahead.

With the help of students from the Resiliency Academy we were able to package 50 hygiene kits and deliver to First Steps Inn for their residential program and emergency overflow shelter which concluded at the end of March. Resiliency youth were also super helpful to Denise Ward in filling plastic eggs for our upcoming Easter Egg Hunt on April 8th. We love having them to the church assisting with projects as it greatly improves their self-worth and confidence. We are trying to come up with more ideas to involve them in future projects. If you have any thoughts, please share them with us.

Our friends at the Fall River Deaconess have an Easter Wish List for their youth in community residences, including their siblings. Missions has agreed to fund 15 gift cards at \$25.00 each to send our members and friends to shop for the needed baskets, candy, and toys. There is no better way to answer God’s call and bring joy to the heart of a youngster on Easter morning. We thank you for all you do.

We had the pleasure of meeting Wilkin San Meristal, a missionary from the Dominican Republic who shepherds underserved Haitians working in the sugar plantations and living in the batays. He is the founder of Light A Candle, a ministry which provides health services, education and spiritual support in La Romana. I’d encourage you to visit their website: www.feul.org. Missions will be following Wilkin’s work to learn more and to make decisions on how we may offer financial and prayer support.

Join us and know the fulfillment of the hope and light we can bring to others. My best to you for a blessed Lenten season and a joyous Easter!

Gratefully,
Deb Vautrin, Missions Chair

Free to all



Lunchtime Organ Recital



Friday, April 21, 2022 at Noon
Judith Conrad
First Congregational Church
282 Rock St. Fall River
performed on our 1911 Ernest Skinner organ with 3 manuals and 1555 pipes
Free, contributions to Partners in Health accepted
for further information email: judithconrad@mindspring.com

First Congregational Church
282 Rock St. Fall River MA

All Level Yoga Workshop & Fundraiser Saturday, April 1st at 10:00am

This will be a 90 minute, *donation based all levels yoga class*. The emphasis will be on the breath and quieting the mind as you gently stretch and strengthen the physical body. The class will conclude with a 10 minute meditation to ensure you leave feeling refreshed and with an overall sense of well-being.

All donations will be going to Boston Children's Hospital through the
Yoga Reaches Out Event!!



Here is the link.
<http://fundraise.childrenshospital.org/goto/NellyMajer>



Nelly Majer
Instructor

Palm Sunday Tea Party

You are invited

April 02, 2022 11:15 am

Parish Hall

Fascinators and Bowler Hats
Encouraged!



First Congregational Church of Fall River
282 Rock St Fall River MA
2023 Community

Easter Egg Hunt!!!

Open to the public

Saturday April 08, 2023 @ 11:00 AM

Meet the
Easter
Bunny!!!



Easter Flowers

In Memory of
Sandra Bentley
From Debra Bentley

In Memory of
Isabel MacNaught & Nicholas Braga
From Bonnie Braga

In Memory of
Gardner & Ann M. Brightman
Mabelle Martha Meacham Brightman
From Nancee Brightman

In Memory of
Jeanette & Manuel Fernandes
From Gary, Linda & Sophia Fernandes

In Memory of
Clark Family
From Cheryl Furze

In Memory of
Rev. Robert A Rust, Sr.
From Ann & Patty Grealish-Rust

In Memory of
Ann & Michael Albanese
and Helen Just
From Deb & Ken Just

In Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Leslie H. Lanyon,
Leslie E. Lanyon and
James & Eleanor Ward
From Sue and Ken Lanyon & Family

In Memory of
Harold & Mary Hadley
From Sandra McKenna

In Memory of
Adriano Morais
From Alicia & Luis Morais

In Memory of
William Myers
From Claire Myers

In Memory of
Robert T. Rupp
From Barbara Smith-Rupp

In Memory of
Hilda Clayton Smith & Ida Clayton
From Barbara Smith-Rupp & Beverly Freitas

In Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. James Thornton
From Daughter Doris

In Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Lester W. Sowle
From Niece Doris

In Memory of
Brian Vautrin, Barbara Vautrin
& Theresa Leonard
From Deb Vautrin

In Memory of
Jim & Eleanor Ward
Dennis & Mary C. Medeiros
From Denise & Ken Ward and Family

In Memory of
Rev. & Richard F. Wilcox
From Jane & Jonathan (Wilcox) Hively

In Memory of
Moe "The dog"
From Mimi Patricia Davis

Living Memorials

In Memory of
Robert Anthony "Bob" Lombardi
From Nancee Brightman

In Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Leslie H. Lanyon,
Leslie E. Lanyon and
James & Eleanor Ward
From Sue and Ken Lanyon & Family

In Memory of
Brian Vautrin,
Barbara Vautrin
& Theresa Leonard
From Deb Vautrin

In Memory of
Jim & Eleanor Ward
Dennis & Mary C. Medeiros
From Denise & Ken Ward and Family



This has been a very worthwhile endeavor that our church has embraced and we need volunteers to help with the preparation as well as serving.

SOUP KITCHEN

Upcoming Dates:

Apr 4, 2023 May 2, 2023

Please plan to be at church
by 2:00 PM

Have you ordered your brick to help complete our Memorial Walkway in the James Ward Memorial Garden?

Order forms are available in the Narthex or by calling/emailing the church office at (508) 672-5862 or churchoffice@fccfallriver.com



Please join us every
Tue-Wed-Thu for:

11 Minutes at 11:11 am

With Rev Andy on Facebook Live
<https://www.facebook.com/FccFallRiver>

"Be a part of something larger than yourself"

First Congregational Church

Free Yoga Classes

@ 6:00 PM

282 Rock St.

(Please use Cherry Street door)

Every
Tuesday & Thursday
Free and open to the public
(13yrs and up)

All levels welcome!!
Please refer to our
Facebook page for all class
cancellations or changes.



MOPS

this is motherhood

First Congregational Church of Fall River
Invites you to

M O P S

First Meeting

Wednesday May 3rd, 2023 @ 5:30 PM

For more information please contact our
group leaders:

Linda Fernandes: lfernandes@comcast.net

Lisa Blanchette: lisa.blanchette@steward.org

In MOPS International, we gather and support moms. We believe in the simple but revolutionary idea that remarkable things happen when moms come together. Our acronym stands for "Mothers of Preschoolers" because we began in 1973 when a group of moms with young children banded together to share their lives and parenting journeys.

Over the past 45 years, MOPS has expanded our reach to include ALL moms. In addition, we are partnering with churches and organizations worldwide to equip and encourage moms in more than 68 countries.

Come and join our group, starting on May 3rd, 2023 @ 5:30 PM at 282 Rock St. Fall River MA in Bethany Hall and every first Wednesday of every month!

MOPS this is motherhood!



We believe giving to the church should be meaningful, simple and fast. That's why Tithe.ly makes this easier, they are comprehensive suite of digital giving tools for our church.

- Step 1: Go to <https://get.tithe.ly> or scan the QR-Code
- Step 2: Create an account
- Step 3: GIVE!!!

It is on Apple, Android
or online,
as simple as that!!!



SCAN ME



<https://soundcloud.com/user-281358520>



<https://open.spotify.com/show/7CavtoIj585E4sjhXdI6xT>

Scripture
Readings & Sermon

Congratulations and Best Wishes

We know these lists may be incomplete, so we ask that anyone whose name is not included be sure to call the Church Office with the necessary information.

Happy Anniversary!!

11-Apr

Corinne & Henry Smith

18-Apr

Susan Moe Raposo & Jeffrey Raposo

25-Apr

Judy & Jack Alston

I choose you everyday & always

First Congregational Church
Office: 21 June Street
Fall River, MA 02720



Prepared especially for

You!



If you no longer wish to receive the *Parish Guide*, please let the Church Office, know by phone (508) 672-5862 or email at churchoffice@fccfallriver.com

Moving??? Please let us know; don't forget to notify the church office...



All printed copies of this parish guide are printed on paper that is at least 30 % post-consumer content. Please recycle it when you are finished.

First Congregational Church Worship @ 10:00 A.M.

Telephone: (508) 672 5862
Fax: (508) 672 2341
Email Address: churchoffice@fccfallriver.com
Website Address: <http://fccfallriver.com/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FccFallRiver/>
SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-281358520>
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
9:00AM - 2:30 PM

The Staff
Rev. Andrew Stinson
Senior Minister
Denise Ward-Moderator
Judith Conrad-Music Minister
Cheryl Foley-Bookkeeper
Ivette Alarcon-Church Admin.
Henry Parker-Sexton

April Babies

2-Apr Gary Fernandes

2-Apr Austin Wildnauer

5-Apr Craig Benjamin

5-Apr Amiyah Matos

8-Apr Frank Noble

8-Apr Rebecca Soens

9-Apr Kenneth Benjamin

10-Apr Laura Hadley

21-Apr Donald Wood

22-Apr Kaleigh McNerney

22-Apr Tiffany Oliveira

23-Apr Jackie Donovan

24-Apr Pamela Wilkinson

27-Apr Tammy Couture



*First Congregational
Church
of Fall River*

April 2023

UP COMING EVENTS!!

Office hours
Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM -2:00 PM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	01 <i>Yoga Workshop & Fundraiser</i>
02 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 <i>Palm Sunday Service @ 10:00 AM</i> <i>Sunday School</i> <i>Palm Sunday Tea Party @11:15 Parish Hall</i>	03 Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30 PM Step Aerobics @ 7 PM	04 <i>Downspouts 9:30 AM</i> Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Soup Kitchen @ 1:30PM YOGA @ 6:00 PM	05	06 <i>Maundy Thursday Service @ 07:00 PM</i> YOGA @ 6:00 PM	07 <i>Good Friday</i>	08 <i>Community Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 AM</i>
09 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 <i>Easter Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM</i> <i>Sunday School</i>	10 Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30 PM Step Aerobics @ 7 PM	11 Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM	12 Deacons Meeting 7:15 PM	13 YOGA @ 6:00 PM	14	15
16 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM <i>Sunday School</i> Fellowship Sunday @11:15 AM Denise & Ken OOTO	17 Patriot's Day Office Closed Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30 PM Step Aerobics @ 7 PM Denise & Ken OOTO	18 Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM Denise & Ken OOTO	19 Denise & Ken OOTO	20 UWGFR Board Meeting @ 8:00 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM Denise & Ken OOTO	21 <i>Lunch Time Organ Recital 12:00 PM</i> Denise & Ken OOTO	22
23 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Baptism-Harlow Abadie Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM <i>Sunday School</i>	24 Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30 PM Step Aerobics @ 7 PM	25 Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM Antioch School Grandparents Concert 8:00 AM-12:00PM YOGA @ 6:00 PM	26 Church Council Meeting 7:00 PM	27	28	29
30 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM <i>Sunday School</i> New Members Class @11:30 AM	01	02	03	<div data-bbox="1756 1461 2533 1965" data-label="Complex-Block"> <p>First Congregational Church of Fall River</p> <p>NEW MEMBERS CLASS</p> </div> <div data-bbox="2564 1542 3061 1895" data-label="Text"> <p>Sunday April 30th, 2022 11:30 AM FMI: 508-672-5862 churchoffice@fccfallriver.com</p> </div>		