

First Congregational Church

of Fall River

February 2019

Parish Guide





First Congregational Church Parish Guide

Volume 97

No. 2

February 2019



From Reverend Andy's Desk

'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.'

Jesus' words have often been thought to mean we should evangelize the world... and not that I'm against that, but I suspect it has more to do with admiring the world. I have lost three mentors in my life. All of whom succumbed to the natural march of time dying old and, in their beds, victoriously entering the next life after a life well lived, bodies broken only by time and spirits stronger than ever. One was a teacher, Mr. Bragdon. One was a true friend and mentor, Shep Welsh. The other was my great Uncle, Kenny.

All three of them loved me in their own way and made a difference in my life; they mattered. They mattered in a way I am certain none of them realized fully. The time they spent teaching, caring, and simply permitting me to be among them made me begin to understand what being a man looked like.

They taught me something about what it was to work hard by the calluses on their hands and what it was to love well by the calluses on their souls. They showed the possibility of a world beyond the reaches of a small coastal Maine town whether it was the possibility of studying at the Sorbonne, writing advertising in California, or the exotic knowledge of my own origin.

The church calls this relationship discipleship. The New Testament uses the word 'disciple' 232 times while the word Christian appears only once. Literally translated as 'a learner' a disciple is one who seeks to learn from the way of Christ. While none of these men had a particularly memorable faith life, they taught me more about how Christ loves me than any sermon I have ever heard. And as the church, it is our central role to make disciples. Notice how this is not so much about reciting scripture as it is taking an interest in the life of another.

They mattered to me because they took time to be in relationship with me, not because they had to, but because they chose to do so. The author Michael Meade writes, "If you are a younger man and you are not being admired by an older man you are being abused." While I write these words from my own perspective, I am just as certain this is not just male phenomenon. Each of us, regardless of age, regardless of gender need to be caught in the net of Jesus' radical love which is made manifest by the caring of the grand sisterhood and brotherhood of Christ.

More than anything these men saw me as valuable and admired me, helping me believe in my own value. They had walked the steps ahead of me in life and imparted wisdom not through

preaching but through the practice of their lives. Their importance to me was exponentially more than they would ever know.

I was talking to one of the basketball coaches who volunteers with the CYO church league that meets on Tuesdays and he said of why he was coaching, "I do it because it was done for me." No greater statement of the extension of God's radical unflinching love for us has ever been more perfectly stated.

This is our job as the gathered church. Every day I walk the streets of Fall River and encounter souls who desperately need someone to notice them and admire them; to disciple them. But we do not have to go outside of 282 Rock Street to find someone that needs us, or someone whom we need.

If you are not being admired by someone, ask someone to be there for you, you may be surprised by what you find. And this is not just if you are young, especially if you're older. If you are not admiring someone younger in your life consider discipling someone, if you're 90 take that nubile young 75-year-old under your wing and show them what the next 15 years has in store for them.

I hope you will remember the Love of God is not a statement of orthodoxy but an experience to be lived and shared. Offer your love not to instruct verses of scripture but to permit them to be present to the love of God that dwells in you. Dare to share your lives, loves, victories, and defeats that we all might be caught in the net of the radical unflinching love of Christ Jesus.

Rev. Andy Stinson



"Be a part of something larger than yourself"

Rev. Andy Stinson



Notes from the Treasurer

Pledge Cards have been received from 43 individuals/families for a total pledge amount of \$35,147.00 as of January 22, 2019. That is up from the 33 individuals/families that submitted pledge cards for all of 2018. If anyone or family still wishing to complete a pledge card for 2019 can find blank ones in the narthex as you enter the church, or contact the church office to have one mailed to you. THANKS to all that submitted their PLEDGE CARDS!!

Pledge envelopes for 2019 are still available for anyone that requests one. Contact the church office if you need them.

Ken Ward, Treasurer

Property Happenings

We have scheduled a joint meeting for Property and Prudential committees for Thursday, March 7, 2019 @7 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to have an opportunity to discuss the restoration of our Bell Tower. John Wathne, chief architect and engineer from Structures North and a representative of Phoenix Bay State Construction will be present to detail the restoration and give us an opportunity to ask questions.

Ken Ward, Property Chair



Diaconate News from January

Dear Friends,

We are truly thrilled with the anticipation of sharing our first full year with Rev. Andy. It has been a delight to be a deacon with Andy as our Pastor. We welcome Bob Guinen as our newest member of the Diaconate family, and Bob Lavoie as a return member who's always been there to assist us, even when he was not assigned as a Deacon.

We had our first meeting of 2019 on January 9th and the following roles have been accepted by our present Board of Deacons:

- Senior Deacon – Susan Lanyon
- Church Council Representative – Larry LoVerde
- Secretary – Bonnie Braga
- Responsible for Get Well Cards, etc. – Deb Vautrin
- Responsible for Assigning Greeters – Bob Lavoie
- Head Usher – Jeff Ward
- Assistant Ushers – Bob Lavoie, Ken Lanyon

It was decided last year that it would be wonderful to have a “Meet, Greet, and Nibble” on the 3rd Sunday of every month, immediately following church. We’re looking forward to these gatherings; please mark them on your calendars. They’ll usually be held in the Bogle Chapel, easily found as you exit our Sunday service.

We’d like to specifically thank Linda Fernandes, our former Senior Deacon, for her many years of dedication and guidance. We’d also be remiss if we didn’t express our appreciation to Denise Ward for her leadership with the Christmas Diaconate Project. Thank you, thank you to you both!

Sincerely,
Susan Lanyon



Feb 10th 2019
VALENTINE'S SUNDAY
LOVE LOVE LOVE
GOD IS LOVE!
GOD LOVES YOU!!

All are invited to join us for food and fun making Valentine's for nearby nursing homes and for our homes!!

Please RSVP to Jackie - text or call her at 508-863-5079



FOOD DRIVE to benefit local Veterans in need!

Please fill a bag with non-perishable cans or packages of food - soups and stews, tuna fish, peanut butter and more!!

Cash donations are also welcome.

Sunday School children will arrive early to help collect the donations!



First Congregational Church ANNUAL MEETING

We will be going over annual reports from the 2017 church year. Lunch will be served. We need a quorum of at least 20 members so please be a part of this event. Reports will be available in Narthex at least 2 weeks before the meeting.

Where: Fellowship Hall

When: March 10, 2019

Time: 11:15 AM

PLEASE JOIN US!!





FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
YEAR ROUND DELEGATE TO THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES (NACCC)

If you would like to be our church delegate and attend the National Conference in Chicago, please read the responsibilities listed below. There will be a form you can fill-out and send to the office or call Ivette to say you are interested in this role. When we get all the available candidates, we will have an election on March 10th (annual meeting) to choose the delegate.

Responsibilities of this role:

- ⇒ Receive and read the monthly newsletter from the NACCC
- ⇒ Share the information with us – through a summary to be posted in the Narthex and Parish guide.
- ⇒ Respond to the questions and provide feedback to the NACCC
- ⇒ Attend the national annual meeting in June of each year – 2019 is in Chicago (all expenses are covered by the church).
- ⇒ To attend workshops at the conference and bring back the information to your church.
- ⇒ To present this information to the church membership at a coffee/luncheon get together after worship.
- ⇒ The primary focus of the Year Round Delegate is to ensure that the needs of our churches are being met and it is your opportunity to help the NACCC become a more effective organization to serve our church.

_____ Yes, I would like to be considered for this role. I have read the responsibilities and am willing to fulfill this role.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

SIGNATURE _____



Dementia Friendly Fall River &
First Congregational Church of Fall River

Invite you to the
*HOW TO BECOME A DEMENTIA
FRIENDLY FAITH COMMUNITY*
Free Training
Open to the Congregation

When: Tuesday February 5th, 2019
Time: 10:30 AM
Where: FCC Fall River 282 Rock St.

RSVP is required as space might be limited

RSVP at Church office
by calling 508-672-5862 or email
churchoffice@fccfallriver.com

Working to improve the quality of life in Fall River for those with
Dementia and their care partners.

We Still Do & Always Will

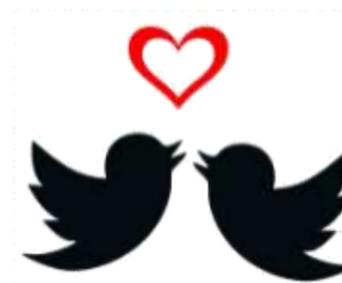


You are invited to
First Congregational Church
Wedding



Vow Renewal

February 10, 2019
Immediately after Service





Welcome to our
New Members

John & Judy Alston

Ceile Moniz

Tara Correia

Kirsten Cantara-Oliveira

Kris Stinson

January Baptisms



Aniyah
Ann Marie
Garcia

Kymani
Kareem Eli
Gonzalez



Fellowship
Cafe



Sunday February 17, 2019
11:15 am @ Bogle Chapel

SOUP KITCHEN

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

Mark your calendars to be at our church by 2:30 PM, first Tuesday of Every month

Any changes will be published in Weekly Bulletin



First Congregational Church
Yoga Classes

Instructor—Nelly Majer

Remember!!!
Open to the public
(13 yrs. & up)
All levels are Welcome!!
You only need your
mat & water



(Please use Cherry Street Door to access the building.)

If any class is cancelled will be published in the Parish Facebook Page.



Dear Members:

Our church directory is available to view on your mobile device!
Instant Church Directory - the program we use to build our church directory - has a free app for church members to download on their Apple, Android and Kindle Fire devices.



You will be asked to enter your email address as it's listed in our directory. If your email address isn't listed in the directory, let **Ivette** know so it can be added. Once you enter your email address follow the directions on screen to complete the login process. After you login, the directory will be downloaded to your device. Anytime updates are made, they will update on your device too. In the app you will be able to search for families and members and call, email and text right from the app.

More information can be found at www.InstantChurchDirectory.com/app.



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@fccfalriver.com



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Choir Rehearsal 8:30 AM Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM		Music Ministry Meeting @10:30 AM Free Dementia Friendly Community Training 10:30 AM RSVP Required Staff Meeting @10:30 AM Soup Kitchen @ 2:30PM YOGA @ 6:00 PM	Church Council Meeting @ 7:00 PM			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Choir Rehearsal 8:30 AM Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM		Music Ministry Meeting @10:30 AM Hosting Mayflower Association Meeting 9:00 AM -12:00 PM YOGA @ 6:00 PM	Deacons Meeting @ 6:30 PM			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Choir Rehearsal 8:30 AM Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM Coffee & Fellowship @ 11:15 AM	Presidents Day HO Office Closed	Music Ministry Meeting @10:30 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM		PG Article Request Prudential Meeting @ 7:00 PM		Hosting Symphony Auditions
24	25	26	27	28	01	02
Choir Rehearsal 8:30 AM Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM		Music Ministry Meeting @10:30 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM				

Congratulations and Best Wishes

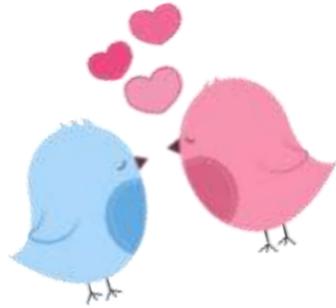
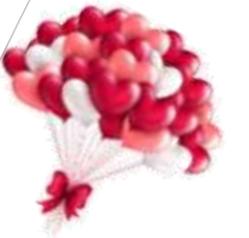
We know these lists may be incomplete, so we ask that anyone whose name is not included be sure to call the Church Office with the necessary information.



Happy Anniversary



Happy Birthday!!



4th February

Linda & Gary Fernandes

- | | |
|--------|-----------------------|
| 1-Feb | Kathy Sanson |
| 2-Feb | Walter Benjamin |
| 2-Feb | Kenneth Perreira |
| 2-Feb | Anthony M. Corchado |
| 3-Feb | Amanda Nickerson |
| 4-Feb | Nathaniel Chamberlain |
| 4-Feb | Henry Smith |
| 5-Feb | Sophia Fernandes |
| 7-Feb | Eric Wildnauer |
| 8-Feb | Ryan Marshall |
| 9-Feb | Killian Enos |
| 10-Feb | Kaylin Mulrooney |
| 10-Feb | Chloe Palmer |
| 10-Feb | Sydney Palmer |
| 10-Feb | Audrey Poitras |



- | | |
|--------|----------------------|
| 11-Feb | Mason Rioux |
| 14-Feb | Robert Costa |
| 14-Feb | Kassidy DaPonte |
| 16-Feb | Odette Wood |
| 21-Feb | Mitchell Menard |
| 21-Feb | Maggie Perreira |
| 24-Feb | Kolbe Wildnauer |
| 25-Feb | Dorothy Caron |
| 25-Feb | Cassandra Menard |
| 25-Feb | Sandra Wood |
| 26-Feb | Susan Hadley |
| 27-Feb | Robert Costa |
| 27-Feb | Guinevere Perry |
| 27-Feb | Jennifer Bettencourt |
| 27-Feb | Laurence LoVerde |

