

First Congregational Church of Fall River



2023 Parish Guide



First Congregational Church Parish Guide



Volume 136

No 5

May 2023

From Reverend Andy

If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed. – Proverbs 29:18 The Message

In the church calendar this is Easter season, this is a time of exploration of the meaning of the presence of the risen Christ that culminates in Pentecost, the birthday of the church on the 28th of May. Considered the **“Great Fifty Days”** of the encounter with the resurrection and bearing witness to it, the task of this Eastertide is what this proverb invites us to: *to see what God is doing* in bringing new life. Correspondingly, as the proverb suggests, to not see what God is doing is going to have us falling all over ourselves. The **great task of the Easter season in the declaration “He is Risen!”** is to *attend to what God is doing in bringing new life.*

In the words of John Robinson to the first pilgrims as they left Europe in search of a new land where they **could be free, “It is my belief there is yet more light to be revealed from the word of God.”** How true his worlds from 402 years ago proved to be. The world has known growth and light unimaginable to Robinson in his time and so too is our task in our church today; endeavoring to see what God is doing and reveal some more light from the Word.

How do we attend to what God is doing? To me, the task is giving our selves the permission to dream. If the resurrection is anything it is the impossible becoming possible. It is not in great moments of clarity, like the Megatron speaking from on high, that the voice and vision of God comes to us but it in our own moments of daring to dream of what might be. Do we really see Jesus around the fire? Do we really find the gardener who turns out to be Christ? There is no greater irony than the irony of the resurrection; and the question of Eastertide is can we see it?

Elon Musk recently said in an interview, **“The most ironic outcome is the most likely outcome.”** Knowingly or not, he was pointing to the greatest truth, the truth of all truths, that of Christ’s resurrection. It’s the reality of the world and if we are honest, it is the reality of our lives. The people we marry, who are kids **become, what we do for work, if we cannot see the ironic, see the ‘first may be last and the last may be first’** reality woven into it all we need to look again.

We are blessed with the warmth of fellowship, with resources to make a difference, with beauty in our **meetinghouse, and hands that regularly offer God’s love to the world. But here in Eastertide, right now, what stands before us in the “Great Fifty Days”** is an opportunity to *attend to what God is revealing* in our dreams and hopes for our lives and our church. **If we don’t, we risk, as the proverb suggests, falling all over ourselves** and this will neither be joyful, fun, nor promoting the kingdom of God.

Let us look to the season and to the resurrection of Christ and attend to what God is revealing in this Easter. Let us look as a church for ways that new life is coming to be, and let us in our lives attend to how the deadness of our own life is coming to life. Spend some time imagining what God is bringing to life in our **church and your life and may the Holy Spirit use us well in the building of God’s kingdom, so that when the wind blows on Pentecost on the 28th the Spirit finds a home in us.**

Blessings, Rev. Andy

“Diaconate Corner”

MAY we march together as Pilgrims

April brought us closer to God than I could have ever imagined. Where should I even begin? Our combined Lenten services were truly inspiring, Palm Sunday surpassed its expectation of being an uplifting, delightful, and even delicious beginning to Holy Week, Maundy Thursday reached down to the depths of my soul, again bringing tears to one of our parishioners, and finally the experience of an Easter Sunday that was beyond beautiful! I can’t even dream of how next year can possibly live up to the level of Lenten Season 2023, but somehow it just might..

If you were unable to partake in any of these experiences, you just might be that one person, or one family, whose mere attendance might bring these events to new heights in 2024. Every one person makes a difference in God’s eyes, as well as in our family here at First Congregational Church. All are welcome here!

This was the second consecutive Easter that also included a “New Members Ceremony” for three of our friends that we have grown to know and love over the past two years: Debbie Just, Claire Myers, and Leroy Wordell. We’ve already thought of them as family, but now they have taken their vows to join us in Covenant. I can’t think of anything more endearing that could have added such a loving touch to our cherished traditions of Easter Sunday. And let’s not forget the new tradition of several ladies wearing such fashionable Fascinators on both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday..... Love it!

I am grateful to so many people that I won't attempt to list them all in fear that I'll mistakenly forget someone, but more than a dozen special people made a tremendous giving of themselves to our Lenten season. From the bottom of my heart I thank you all, again and again. This year this list also includes a large group of folks that have volunteered every Sunday in the Sunday School. You're all angels!

May continues to show promise as we embrace our faith journey. On May 7th we shall partake in the Sacrament of Communion, on May 14th we will celebrate Mother’s Day together, and May 21st will be the day of our monthly Gathering, always a joy indeed, and still one more Sunday together for Memorial Day weekend. Another memorable month! I hear tell that there’s also a special Baptism planned for that last weekend..... Come join us!

The month of May provides us with a special opportunity to express to Rev. Andy how much he means to us. I am told every week from so many, how much they appreciate Andy, and now is your chance to let him truly realize the depth to which your feelings exist. An EVALUATION is enclosed that we would love for you to complete and return, signed, to either the Church office or myself by June 4th. Any questions? Feel free to ask me any Sunday, or by calling me if necessary (774-644-3926). Andy would be most grateful to hear from you, to know that you took the time to share your thoughts with him. I will share these thoughts and feelings at our June Deacon’s Meeting, and then with you in our Summer Parish Guide. Thank you in advance!

A thought for the month of May.....

There’s a song in every silence, Seeking word and melody,
There’s a dawn in every darkness, Bringing hope to you and me,
Unrevealed until its season, Something God alone can see.

From the “Hymn of Promise”, sung together on April 23rd

Love, Peace, and Grace,
Senior Deacon, Susan Lanyon



Scholarship Committee

Scholarship News Your Scholarship Committee has met and will have **Scholarship Applications for 2023** ready for qualified students any time on or after May 7th. They can be found in the vestibule on Sunday mornings, through Susan Lanyon, or through Ivette at the Church office. We will again be offering a Joan Twaddle Scholarship this year, based on your submitted essays, in addition to our FCC Scholarships.

Applications are due no later than June 11th. Please return them to either myself, or Ivette, by that date. The Committee will meet soon after that to review all applications. **We look forward to hearing from you, we're thrilled to be part of your educational journey!**

Excited to hear from you, Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Susan Lanyon

Missions News!!

With the steady march of spring and the painting of our landscape with the beauty of flowers and lush greenery, we are so happy to see the same in our new and evolving relationships with our neighbors, community partners and friends. We are so grateful to continue working with the students and staff of the Resiliency School as they have helped fill 100 bags of candy and snacks to give to our guests at the May Branch Supper at First Baptist Church. They arrive at our door with smiles, enthusiasm, and a readiness to serve and they are beginning to share more of themselves in conversation with us. Happiness is based on relationships and this partnership has brought joy beyond measure on both sides. Missions will also be celebrating with them again at their Year End Field Day at Ruggles Park by providing an Ice Cream Social on Wednesday June 7 at 1:00.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to be a beautiful expression of shared talent and newfound creativity nurtured among six women gathering every Monday evening in Bethany Hall. We are planning our third shawl blessing by Rev. Andy and will be providing shawls to the Southcoast Cancer Center at Charlton for availability to patients. Those who have received a shawl have shared how much it has helped toward their strength and recovery, their healing from grief or the closeness they have felt to God during an illness. Bethany Hall and this special ministry welcomes you to drop in for a visit to learn more or simply to be with us.

Upcoming events and considerations - We are hoping to sponsor a summer campership for one or more youth at the FR Deaconess Home and plans are underway to coordinate this gift.

First Steps Inn is planning its annual "Get Steppin' 5K Walk." Rev. Andy is sponsoring the event at the gold level and we are taking early steps in organizing a team. **SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday August 12 at 9:00 AM.

We have been invited once again to join the United Way of Greater Fall River in their annual campaign kickoff "United We Move Trail Festival." This would make our third year of walking the beautiful Bioreserve and it's one of my favorite activities enjoyed with my church family. **SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday October 21.

It is our hope that the beauty of God's brush strokes upon the landscape may enliven you, inspire you and energize you. Your Missions Committee is hopeful that you hear and respond to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit - let this be your time to join us!

Blessings,
Deb Vautrin, Missions Chair
Cynthia Farnham, Larry Loverde, Committee Members



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

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



Faith Lutheran Church of Quincy
invites you to a

Charity Recital for the Fire Recovery Fund of the Cambridge Faith Lutheran Church.

Presented by *Marcus Johnson, Baritone*, with Joel Davidson, pianist, Chris Robins, oboist, and Nikki Ready, Soprano on **Saturday, May 6th 4pm** at **Faith Lutheran Church, Quincy, MA 02169.**

The program, titled "Music of the Moon" includes a mix of classical, American, and contemporary composers and follows themes of space, stars, time, and the thing that ties beyond them all: Love. Light refreshments will be served after the recital. Please come and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful music and visit our garden coming into bloom.

FMI please contact
johnson.marcus.alan@gmail.com.

"Be a part of something larger than yourself"

ALL
CHURCH

FAMILY NIGHT

JOIN US WEDNESDAY
MAY 10TH, 2023
5:30 PM

GREAT GUEST
SPEAKER

GOOD FOOD

LESSONS

FELLOWSHIP

Guest Speaker

REV. DR. GREGORY MOBLEY

Gregory Mobley is a Professor of Hebrew Bible and Congregational Studies at Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School. Mobley's primary interest is in uncovering in order to appreciate the meaning-making of the stirring stories under the surface of the over-edited moralistic and priestly layers of the Bible. Mobley has written articles and book review in journals such as the Journal of Biblical Literature, Catholic Biblical Quarterly, Interpretation, and Biblische Notizen, and has contributed to a number of Bible handbooks, including the New Oxford Annotated Bible.



Welcome New Members !!



Deborah Just

Deborah born in Fall River, is Durfee and BCC alumna. Married to Kendall Just and mother to a son, nana to three grandkids and owner of 2 cats. She is a retired bookkeeper and office manager. Deborah admired Mother Theresa of Kolkata and her favorite bible verse is Deuteronomy 31:8-5. Also, a fan of FCC Podcast!!! Let's welcome Deborah Just to our Church!!

Lunchtime Organ Recital

Free to all

Friday, May 26, 2022 at Noon

Steven Young, Organist

First Congregational Church
282 Rock St. Fall River

Music by Bach, Becker, Callahan, Dunham, Pinkham, and Schumann performed on our 1911 Ernest Skinner organ with 3 manuals and 1555 pipes.

Free, donations will be taken for
RAZOM of Ukraine.

The Program will be followed by a light lunch in
front of the church

For further information call the church at (508) 672-5862
or email judithconrad@mindspring.com.



Claire Myers

Claire is a Boston native, enjoyed spending time with her grandparents who lived across the street from them; what a blessing. School lover that graduated with honors and raised a family while completing her associates degree. Her triumph in life, raising six beautiful children. Claire works part time at the Council on Aging . Let's welcome Claire Myers to our Church!!!



Leroy Wordell

Leroy grew up in Taunton; he is father to 7 children, grandfather to 14 grand kids and 7 great grandkids. Leroy was a Deacon and part of the Choir as part of First Baptist Church, however he recently moved back to Fall River and after this move, he decided to join our church. So it is with great joy that FBC has entrusted us with Leroy as our new member. Let's welcome Leroy Wordell to our Church!!

Easter Fun!!



**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

Upcoming Dates: May 2, 2023 June 6, 2023

Please plan to be at church by 2:00 PM

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.



Please join us every
Tue-Wed-Thu for:

11 Minutes at 11:11 am

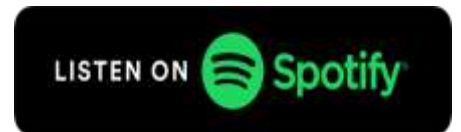
With Rev Andy on Facebook Live
<https://www.facebook.com/FccFallRiver>

*"Be a part of something larger
than yourself"*



Scripture
Readings & Sermon

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



[https://open.spotify.com/
show/7Cavtolj585E4sjhXd16xT](https://open.spotify.com/show/7Cavtolj585E4sjhXd16xT)

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



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



SCAN ME



*First Congregational
Church
of Fall River*

May 2023

UP COMING EVENTS!!

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	01	02	03	04	05	06
		FSA Meeting @ 8-12		Hoasting GFR Council of Churches @ 10AM		
		Staff Meeting 10:00 AM				
	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30 PM	Soup Kitchen @ 2:30PM	MOPS Meeting @ 5:30 PM	Property Meeting 6:30 PM		
	Step Aerobics @ 7 PM	YOGA @ 6:00 PM		YOGA @ 6:00 PM		
	Henry Vac	Henry Vac	Henry Vac	Henry Vac	Henry Vac	Henry Vac
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
Choir Rehearsal 8:30						
Communion						
Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30 PM	Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM	All Church Family Night 5:30 PM			
	Step Aerobics @ 7 PM					
		YOGA @ 6:00 PM	Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM	YOGA @ 6:00 PM		
Henry Vac	Henry Vac	Henry Vac				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Choir Rehearsal 8:30						
Mother's Day						
Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30 PM	Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM		UWGFR Board Meeting @ 8:00 AM		
	Step Aerobics @ 7 PM					
Fellowship Sunday @ 11:15 AM		YOGA @ 6:00 PM		YOGA @ 6:00 PM		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Choir Rehearsal 8:30						
Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30 PM	Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM				
	Step Aerobics @ 7 PM		Church Council @ 7:00 PM			
		YOGA @ 6:00 PM		YOGA @ 6:00 PM		
					Lunch Time Organ Recital 12:00 PM	
28	29	30	31	01	02	03
Choir Rehearsal 8:30						
PENTECOST -Baptism	Memorial Day HO	Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM				
Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM	OFFICE CLOSED					
	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30 PM					
	Step Aerobics @ 7 PM	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!!

- 7-May Danielle & Jeffrey Cabral
- 20-May Deborah & Rudolph Nickerson
- 27-May Maggie & Kenneth Perreira
- 27-May Alicia & Michael Ward
- 29-May Jessica Sylvia & Jo Anne Marshall
- 29-May Kristin & Sumner III Waring
- 31-May Christine & Timothy Mulrooney

I choose you everyday & always

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May Babies

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2-May Bonnie Braga | 20-May Nila Soens |
| 3-May Lillian Paul | 21-May Judith Mulrooney |
| 4-May Gina DiNucci | 21-May Linda Pierce |
| 5-May Emma Rezendes | 23-May Jenessa Medeiros |
| 5-May Taylor Sylvia | 23-May Patricia Ward |
| 6-May Michael Dean | 24-May Elizabeth Ann Waring |
| 7-May Katherine Costa | 24-May Joshua Wilkinson |
| 7-May Aiden Sylvia | 27-May Donald Foley |
| 9-May Jeff Sanson | 27-May Annelise Menard |
| 11-May Susan Nascimento | 28-May Linda Fernandes |
| 15-May Nicholas Costa | 28-May Elizabeth Waring |
| 16-May Racheal Jersky | 29-May Brendan McNerney |
| 16-May Walter Woodward Jr. | 30-May Remington Chapman |

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



MAY
2023

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
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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