

Frist Congregational Church of Fall River



2024

Parish Guide



First Congregational Church Parish Guide

Volume 146

No 3

March 2024



From Reverend Andy

The life of the church is a gift to us all to receive. The life of the church is also work. And this is true of all of life. If we want to enjoy our children we must work at and with them, if we want to enjoy the view from the top of a mountain we must work to climb it, if we want to participate in a sport we must get on the field and play.

This March is a terrific time to engage in the life of the church as we journey toward Easter. It will be work, it will require a little effort but it will also bring you great dividends for that effort. Come be a part of our feeding ministry, or be a part of our up coming retreat, or help out with the easter Egg Hunt, or deepen your connection to god by participating in the Lenten series or any of the other ministries and opportunities to love God, the world, one another, and ourselves this month.

In the Easter lesson, Peter and John run to the tomb when they hear of the resurrection from Mary, John out run Peter but both arrive at the tomb to encounter **the resurrection. We can get overwhelmed in our lives thinking we aren't keeping up,** thinking we have more to do than we can possibly handle, but often running the race faster is not the answer, running in the right direction is. Running toward the things that matter and away from the things that don't.

The next month of our Lenten walk and the coming celebrations of Easter give us the chance to move toward Jesus, as Jesus moves toward us. Don't worry about how fast you're moving or how good you think you're doing or how many times you have to reset your Lenten walk, but keep moving in the direction of the cross, keeping moving toward the empty tomb keep making space for the life and the work of the church in your life and you'll discover, as even the Peter the slowest runner did on that first Easter, angels in your midst pointing you toward the life eternal.

I pray this March be a blessed 'march' toward the resurrected Christ for our whole church.

Blessings, Rev. Andy

"Diaconate Corner"

Happy March to all.

The hope and promise of spring, warmer weather, flowers, and Easter is here in March. We have already entered into our Lenten season which for many of us is a time of reflection, prayer and the deepening of our faith. We are looking forward to hosting the Lenten series on March 6th at 6pm soup will be served and then there will be a lesson following.

We have our Palm Sunday service on the 24th with our traditional tea after worship in fellowship hall. I hope you are able to join us.

Our Maundy Thursday service will be held on March 28th at 7pm and communion will be served. This is always a beautiful meaningful service. I hope you can attend.

During this Lenten time whether you have laid something down that no longer is serving you or you have added something to deepen your faith I hope this season has meaning for you.

Blessings to all
Linda Fernandes

First Congregational Church of Fall River

ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday

March 3rd, 2024
@ 11:15 AM

Please join us!



First Congregational Church of Fall River

Invites you to

M O P S

Next meeting

Wed Mar 06, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

FMI please call, text or email our group leaders:

Linda Fernandes

(508) 272-6152/lfernandes@comcast.net

Lisa Blanchette

(508) 493-4616/lisa.blanchette@steward.org



A note from Religious Education

Religious Education/Sunday School would like to welcome our new families to our congregation!

I would also like to invite parents/children to join in on some of the upcoming events.

We are planning a Meet and Greet Night for parents and children to come together to ask questions and further get to know each other.

I am really looking forward to getting to know you more and hope to see you there!

Shirley Parrott



Easter is fast approaching... and it is time to place your order for Living Memorials and Memorial Flowers. If you are interested in establishing or contributing to an already established Living Memorial, please fill out the corresponding form and return with payment enclosed, to Church Office by mail to: 21 June Street, Fall River MA 02720 or you can also leave it in the collection plate on Service.

DEADLINE for Living Memorials and Easter Memorial Flowers is Monday March 18, 2024

Easter Flowers Order Form

In Memory of: _____

From: _____

Select the flowers desired:

____ Daffodils ____ Hyacinths
____ Single Lily ____ Tulips

Cost Per Flower is \$23.00

Do you plan to take your plant following the March 31st Service?

____ YES ____ NO

DEADLINE for Living Memorials & Easter Memorial Flowers is Monday March 18, 2024.

Living Memorial Information Form

From: _____

In Memory of: _____

Is this an existing or new memorial?

____ Existing ____ New

Dollar Amount Enclosed: _____

Is there anyone in particular you would like me to send an acknowledgement to?

Place your order form in the collection plate or mail to the church office 21 June Street, Fall River, MA 02720 before March 18, 2024.

The Essentials

The 2024 Ecumenical Lenten Bible Study Series

February

21

1st Congregational Church of New Bedford, 2195 Acushnet Avenue, New Bedford.

Rev. Andy Stinson on Prayer - Regular communication with God through prayer is essential.

East Freetown Congregational-Christian Church, 4 Washburn Rd., East Freetown

- Pastor Virginia Doran on Forgiveness

Following the Christian teaching on forgiveness and reconciliation is essential.

February

28

March

6

We are hosting!

Please Join Us!

1st Congregational Church of Fall River, 282 Rock St., Fall River

- Rev. Doug Stivison on Service - Engaging in acts of kindness and service to others is essential.

United Church of Assonet 9 North Main St., Assonet

- Rev. Don Bliss on Covenant - Embracing a community where mutual fulfillment can be expected is essential.

March

13

March

20

Trinity Christian Church 462 Main St., Wareham

- Rev. Greg Baker on Bible Study - Taking spiritual guidance and understanding from God's Word is essential.

"You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. [Matthew 24:6] The world is a dynamic place, more so these days and 2024 looks like it might be more chaotic than ever. When we look upon the chaos of the world we must remember Jesus calls us not simply to suffer through it, but that by it, something new and closer to Him is being born into it. This year our Lenten series will look at five of the Essential Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian walk and how we can use these God given tools to arm ourselves with the essential tools of Christ's victory, that His grace may be born into the world through us.

Wednesday Nights. Soup is at 6.

Worship is at 6:45.

Study begins at 7pm.



First Congregational Church of Fall River

Lent & Holy Week 2024

There are 5 Sundays of Lent:

FEB 18

"For, With, and To"

FEB 25

"Praise God!"

MAR 3

"Gratitude is Life"

MAR 10

"Trouble"

MAR 17

"For Our Sakes"



Mar 24-Palm Sunday-
"What the Lord Wants" @ 10:00 AM



Mar 24-Palm Sunday
Tea Party @ 11:20 AM



Mar 28-Maundy Thursday
"To the Cross" @ 7:00 PM



Mar 30-Community
Easter Egg Hunt @ 11:00 AM

Mar 31
Easter Sunday
Service
11:00 AM



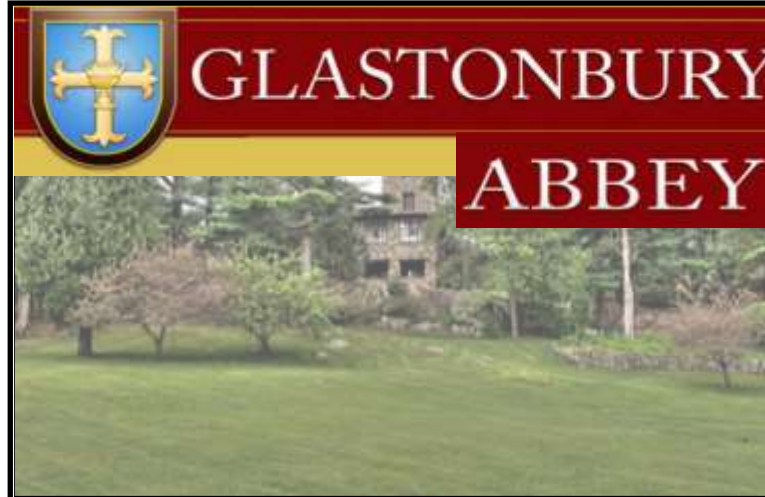
Palm Sunday Tea Party

You are invited

March 24, 2022 11:15 am

Parish Hall

Fascinators and Bowler Hats encouraged!



All Church Lenten Retreat

March 12th afternoon
March 14th after lunch

This year we invite you to deepen your Lenten Practice by spending time at beautiful Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham on retreat with Rev. Andy from First Congregational and Rev. Jamie from First Baptist Church.

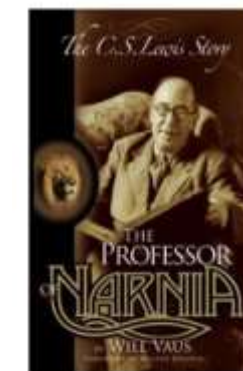
Lent is one of the oldest Christian practices of self-examination and reflection for the purpose of preparation for Easter. Our retreat will begin at afternoon on the 12th of March and conclude after lunch on the 14th of March. Over those 48 hours you will have opportunities to worship with the brothers of the Abbey, to take part in our teaching sessions which will include reflective and soulful techniques from Ignatian and other Spiritual teachings, to enjoy great food and fellowship opportunities, as well as a bask in a generous amount of free time to explore the grounds of the Abbey, take in the beach, relax, rest, or pray.

We genuinely hope you'll join us for this time of deepening our life with Christ and one another.

Blessings,
Rev. Andy and Rev. Jamie

FMI: Please call or email church office at 508-672-5862/churchoffice@fccfallriver.com

Cost is \$50.00 per person, includes room and food!



Take a journey through the life of C.S. Lewis and Mere Christianity

MACCC SPRING WORKSHOP- Saturday, Mar.16, 2024
C. S. Lewis is one of the bestselling Christian authors of all time with over 200 million copies of his 30+ books in print. Lewis's fame was ignited, in part, by a series of talks he gave over BBC Radio during the Second World War. These talks were later collected and published in 1952 under the title *Mere Christianity*, a book that continues to sell 150,000 copies per year, 70 years after its first publication!



Our Workshop Leader - The Rev. Will Vaus

Will Vaus, Pastor of The First Congregational Church of Yarmouth, is the author of 15 published books, on C. S. Lewis and his works. At the Spring meeting of the MACCC, Will is going to lead us on a journey through the life of Lewis and *Mere Christianity*, challenging us to discover how we might re-present "mere Christianity" in our own time and place.

Registration cost \$20, request registration materials at contact@stillfaithful.org.

Massachusetts Association of Congregational Christian Churches
The Church in the Cove
167 Hale Street, Beverly, MA 01915



SAVE THE DATE!! Ashley Cleere Visit

Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere is the new NACCC Executive Director and she began a Listening Tour, endeavoring to visit the 300 member congregations of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. The primary aim of the Listening Tour is to discern new ways for the NACCC to live out our mission:

To nurture fellowship among Congregational Christian Churches and to support ministries of the local church in its community and to the world, all in the name of Christ.

Specifically, her goals for this journey include:

- Hear what is on the hearts and minds of Congregationalists today.
- Become acquainted with communities that are home to NACCC churches
- Connect Congregationalists who share interests and concerns
 - Respond to questions about the NACCC

For this reason, Rev. Dr. Cleere will be visiting our church on

Sunday March 10th,

so we invite you to stay right after Sunday Service and participate of this great opportunity.

No 1236789

Free to all

Lunchtime Organ Recital

Friday, March 22, 2024
at 12:00 PM

First Congregational Church
282 Rock St. Fall River
Guest Musician
Peter Krasinski



performed on our 1911 Ernest Skinner organ with 3 manuals and 1555 pipes.
Donations are accepted.
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

No 1236789

ADMIT ONE



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: Mar 05, 2024 Apr 02, 2024
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>
Also available in Spotify & Sound Cloud





Go to: <https://soundcloud.com>
Search: for FCC Fall River

First Congregational Church of Fall River

282 Rock St Fall River MA

2024 Community

EGG HUNT

Saturday March 30, 2024 @ 11:00 AM

Free Event !!!



Meet the Easter Bunny!!!

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




Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/fccfallriver



Go to: <https://soundcloud.com>
Search: for FCC Fall River



<https://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



LISTEN ON Spotify

Scan to listen to 11:11 & Sunday Worship





First Congregational
Church
of Fall River

March 2024

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	01	02
					Antioch School Hall Use BINGO NIGHT! 5:30-8:00 PM	
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Communion-Worship Sunday @ 10:00AM Annual Meeting @ 11:15 AM Mrs. Quiana Zaets Ordination E. Freetown @ 3 PM	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30PM Step Aerobics @ 7 PM	Staff Meeting 10:00AM Soup Kitchen @ 2:00 PM YOGA @ 6:00 PM	HOSTING 2024 Ecumenical Series The Essentials 6:00-8:00 PM 1st Congregational Church of Fall River 282 Rock St. Fall River MA Topic: Service Presenter: Rev. Doug Stevenson MOPS Meeting @ 6:00 PM	Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM YOGA @ 6:00 PM		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Saving Starts Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship Sunday @ 10:00AM Ashley Cleery Meeting 11:15 AM	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30PM Step Aerobics @ 7 PM	Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM FSA Meeting @ 9:00 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM	Easter Egg Hunt-Filling Eggs @ 9AM 2024 Ecumenical Series The Essentials 6:00-8:00 PM United Church of Assonet 9 N. Main St. Assonet MA Topic: Covenant Presenter: Rev. Don Bliss	YOGA @ 6:00 PM		MACCC Annual Meeting @ 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM McNemey's Event @ 12 - 4PM
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship Sunday @ 10:00AM	Last day to order Easter Flowers Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30PM Step Aerobics @ 7 PM	Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM	Church Council Meeting 7:00 PM ??? 2024 Ecumenical Series The Essentials 6:00-8:00 PM Trinity Christian Church 462 Main St. Wareham MA Topic: Bible Study Presenter: Rev. Greg Baker	UWGRF Board Meeting @ 8:00 AM-Children's Advocacy Center of Bristol County (58 Arch St, Fall River) YOGA @ 6:00 PM Rev. Andy OOTO	Litich Time Organ Recital 12:00 PM Guest Musician Peter Kmsinski	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship Sunday @ 10:00AM Palm Sunday Palm Sunday Tea Party @ 11:15 Parish Hall	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30PM Step Aerobics @ 7 PM	Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM		Vietnam Veterans Recognition Ceremony @ 11:00 AM Maundy Thursday Service @ 07:00 PM	Good Friday	Community Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 AM Free Event
31	01	02	03	04	05	06
Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship Sunday @ 10:00AM Easter Sunday						

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!!

3-Mar Rachel & Ulysses Sallum

7-Mar Jackie & Donovan

28-Mar Tammy & Couture

I choose you everyday & always

Happy Birthday

March Babies

12-Mar Linda Cunha

15-Mar Jeffrey Ward

27-Mar Robin Pavao

30-Mar William Kearney

31-Mar Victoria Neville



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

MARCH

2024

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 Service 10:00 AM

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 - 2:00 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
Shirley Parrott-RE Coordinator