

First Congregational Church of Fall River

November

2023 Parish Guide



First Congregational Church Parish Guide



Volume 142 No 11 November 2023

From Reverend Andy

You will hear of wars and rumors of wars but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Mt 24:6

I was away on Sabbatical last month from 17 September to 16 October, of which, two weeks was hiking the Camino de Santiago from Astorga to Santiago on Pilgrimage with 8 other warriors and 3 staff from Warriors on the Way, an organization that facilitates combat veterans to go on pilgrimage together. For more information: www.warriorsontheway.org.

On Camino the days were simple and powerful. Simple, as I would often rise earlier than the rest to get myself ready for the day, which was, simple. We would have worship every morning and be on the Way by 7 AM at the latest, some days a lot earlier, depending on the goals for the day. The mornings were always cool and quiet, and we would, as a practice, start the day in silence for the first half hour or so. As we walked, we would watch the world awaken. In Spain the sun comes up late, almost everyday we began our walk before sunrise. And so we walked, and kept walking. This stretch of the Camino is notoriously uphill so when the grade got steeper, I would get out the hiking poles which gives a little more horsepower going uphill. **We'd complain and get angry, we'd laugh and comment on the beauty around us, we would pass fellow 'peregrinos' (pilgrims) and wish them well with a hearty "Buen Camino"** the greeting of encouragement along the way.

After 15-18 miles in the average day we would arrive at our 'albergue' (hostel) which was usually a bunkhouse along the Camino for pilgrims. We would get cleaned up and changed and have a little afternoon relaxing. **We would gather in the evening, to discuss the day's reflection that was set during worship that morning.** Sometimes it would be light and breezy, but other topics, about ego, about loss, about letting go and about the reality of war, would spark powerful conversations that would go late into the night. Inevitably the conversation of warriors and wounds, sacrifice and service, and what we still carried. Then we would sleep the way 18 miles of hard road brings sleep. Simple and powerful. Eat, sleep, walk, repeat.

Our lives today are largely divorced from these two great realities of simplicity and power. The busy-ness and complexity of modern life, the requirements of holding life together, the real human pain we watch playing itself out on the global stage with the horror of war and economic uncertainty, none of it is simple and it buries us in banality, rather than raise us into the beauty of life.

In Matthew, Jesus not just says we are going to confront war in this life, but that its whole

function will be to alarm us, to lose ourselves in the complexity and conflict and the horror and the difficulty that will drain away all meaning and purpose and power. This is not a text of prophecy about the future, it's a text of instruction right now.

Friends don't lose the simplicity and power of your life be lost to the 'alarm' of the 'wars and rumors of wars'. We will struggle, in fact we are made for it, but that is not the panic, the alarm, that comes from corrosion of despair. The great Portuguese author Fernando Sabino wrote, "In the end, everything will be okay. If it's not okay, it's not yet the end." Live now the simplicity and power of your life. Eat. Sleep. Walk. Repeat. Do not let the enemy steal life's beauty, because we are on this road for such a short time and have stories yet to tell that we do not yet know.

Thomas Merton gave an instruction that lives on for all Pilgrims,

"You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith, and hope."

Peace and Grace
Rev. Andy

Mission Work In Panama



Hello! My name is Sophia Fernandes and I am an active member of the church. I attend Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences where I am a member of my University's chapter of Global Brigades. Global Brigades' mission is to inspire, mobilize, and collaborate with communities to achieve their own health and economic goals with a vision to "give millions of empowered community members the resources and capacity to thrive."

In May 2024, I will be attending our first medical brigade to Panama where I will volunteer my time to implement mobile clinics in communities that otherwise would not have access to healthcare. For those who have been following me through this journey, the Brigade was originally scheduled for December of 2023 and we were supposed to go to Ghana. If you have already donated, the money will still go towards my Brigade!

Through money raised by volunteers, Global Brigades is able to provide community members with pro-bono general medical consultations, vision screenings and other specialized care. I will have the opportunity to assist in triage, take vital signs, and facilitate health education workshops. Global Brigades has been able to perform over 1.5 million medical consultations and I hope to be able to help raise that number. Global Brigades is almost entirely funded through volunteer fundraising. The funds that I raise go towards providing medical care to those who otherwise would not have access to it, and they will allow me to physically travel to Panama to donate my time to help implement clinics in underserved communities. If you are interested in donating, please write out a check to the First Congregational Church with Sophia Fernandes Global Brigades in the memo and hand it in to the church office!

For more info about the club you can visit the below link!!

<https://fundraise.globalbrigades.org/empowered/chapter/massachusetts-college-of-pharmacy-and-health-sciences-medical-telebrigade-december-2023-international>

Scan for the Global Brigades Info



“Diaconate Corner”

November - a Month to be Grateful.

It's hard to believe that we're now preparing for Thanksgiving- a time to have appreciation for all our blessings. And our blessings here at FCC have been many- we are blessed indeed.

My first thought is how grateful we are to have Andy back with us again. October 22nd was such a special Sunday, filled with joy and excitement, all connected with the return of Rev. Andy. It was his 5th Anniversary with us on October 1st, a day which occurred while he was on his Pilgrimage through Spain, and we were filled with anticipation, knowing that we would celebrate that precious milestone upon his return with us. We presented Andy with a few gifts from his FCC family, as hugs and smiles surrounded him during our “Welcome Back Brunch”. It was a special day for everyone!

During our monthly Deacon's meeting held on October 18th, Andy surprised all the Deacons with a memento from his trip to Spain, a “Cross of Santiago”. You'll probably see many of us adorned with these beautiful crosses during future FCC services. Thank you, Andy!

This month of festivities will begin with our holiest feast of feasts, our serving of bread and wine during our **Sacrament of Communion**, offered on November 5th. Also, we will be continuing our tradition of serving “Pies of the Season” for our Gathering this month on November 19th-yum! Following that Sunday, we ask that you “Save the Date” for our Thanksgiving Eve service, always so touching, taking place on Wednesday evening, November 22nd, at 7:00 PM. If you've never attended one of these evening services, let 2023 be your year to celebrate the blessings of Thanksgiving in a special way, you'll be so glad you did.

In closing, I shall end with an Irish blessing, one that is most appropriate for this season of appreciating your blessings:

“May your troubles be less, and your blessings be more.”.

God bless you one and all, remembering to count your many blessings every day.

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

Scholarship News

Pop-Up Bake Sale - to Help Sponsor Scholarships

As mentioned last month, we will be having some occasional fundraisers during the 2023-2024 school year in order to supplement our budget for our young scholars of FCC members and their families.

Our fundraiser this season will be a “Pop Up Bake Sale” held on November 12th, offered immediately after church, selling various homemade delights. If anyone is interested in baking anything for this good cause, please contact me before then so I can plan on including your “delight”. Thank you in advance for your support with this endeavor.

Many blessings,
Scholarship Committee Chairperson,
Susan Lanyon/Telephone 774-644-3926



Missions News!!



Fellow First Congregational members and friends! We are upon the season of giving and Thanksgiving and I am so very thankful for our time of fellowship at the 4th Annual "United We Move" which is United Way of Greater Fall River's Annual Appeal. Reverend Andy shared that he visited BMC Durfee High School and learned that 90% of teachers, staff, and students there have benefited in some way, directly or indirectly, from United Way programs and care - simply astounding and at the same time humbling that we at FCC own a small part of this great gift. We were 15 strong Pilgrims stepping our way over the roots and rocks of the Tattapanum Trail and the rain did not dampen our spirits in the least; in fact, I feel it refreshed us. Reverend Andy, in his reflections afterward, said our relationship-building and bonding through our walk brings the love of Jesus outside our church walls. It provides hope to people who are strangers to us yet we bring forth the life blood of our church and its contributions in the caring of the wider community. This is what it means when we hear "This is church being the church." Your missions committee donated \$480 to the United Way based on the number of walkers who hit the trail. Thank you to all and may you receive God's blessings.

Another reason for thankfulness is our participation and hosting once again of the United Way's Coat Drive starting Wednesday, November 1st at 9:30 in our gymnasium and continuing weekly until February. Last year we distributed 1404 coats to more than 30 community partners. In addition, we packed up 1000 knitted accessories, blankets and boots to groups who do homeless outreach.

And there is no doubt the Holy Spirit moves through us and among us as I received a call from Brendan White, Behavior Therapist at the Resiliency Preparatory Academy, our school neighbors next door. He shared that his students have been asking when community service starts again at FCC - they want to come back! Such a meaningful relationship growing on both sides as we answer God's call and truly need each other to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in Fall River. We welcome volunteers and appreciate any time you can give - even if but an hour. Please check us out and "Experience Something Greater Than Yourself" when you touch the heart of a tween/teen trying to make sense of it all and an individual trying to find an extra layer of warmth to ward off the impending winter chill.

I have been visiting "Laundry Love," bringing a smile and hospitality to the many families there in conversation and support of each other. Missions will be donating laundry detergent/dryer sheets on a quarterly basis, and we encourage donations be brought to the church as you are able. "Laundry Love" meets the last Wednesday of each month from 9:00 - 12:00 at Kam's Laundromat located on 415 Second St Fall River. Join us for a cup of coffee and a sense of the vital community that gathers there trying to put their best foot forward with the dignity that clean clothes provide. Blessings to John Milkey who brought this nationwide, recognized program to Fall River.

Related to Christmas giving, we have been contacted by both St. Vincent's Childrens Services and Fall River Deaconess Home with a request to consider the Christmas stocking stuffing and pajamas/slippers projects once again. Our committee has met and agreed to support both - more details to come on ways to make this year the brightest Christmas ever for youth served in these communities.

The Acoaxet Chapel in Westport continue to fund raise for their mission's trip to the Dominican Republic in February 2024. They are holding a Spaghetti Supper on Wednesday, November 8 at 6 PM. A group of us attended their last Spaghetti Supper back in June and it was delicious and plentiful for a great price with a variety of awesome door prizes and raffles. Doris Thornton won the 50-50 raffle then generously returned her winnings back to benefit the trip - thank you Doris we are not surprised - your heart barely fits in your chest!!!! Please see details below to reserve tickets which must be purchased in advance.

Yes, the season of giving and Thanksgiving is here, and I can't be prouder to stand among you, my church family, as Pilgrims on the way bringing love, comfort, hope and peace to God's people.

Blessings Dear Friends and Happy Thanksgiving,
Deb Vautrin, Missions Chairperson

MOPS

thus is methuend

First Congregational Church of Fall River
Invites you to

M O P S

Next meeting
Wed Nov 08, 2023
@ 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



FCC Stewardship
Sunday
November 19, 2023

Pledge cards are being mailed.
Bring completed cards to church for Stewardship offering.

Additional Pledge Cards available in the Narthex

All Church Retreat

Topic: *The Power of Pilgrimage in Everyday Life*

When: Nov 13-Nov 15, 2023 * Where: Glastonbury Abbey * Check in: Nov. 13 by 4:00 PM

Only few slots available

\$ 50.00 per person

FMI: 508-672-5862churchoffice@fccfallriver.com



First Congregational Church of Fall River invites you to an

All Church Retreat

Topic: *The Power of Pilgrimage in Everyday Life*

Join Rev Andy and Rev. Jamie from First Baptist for a three-day two-night retreat at beautiful Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham Massachusetts. Enjoy the peaceful setting of the monastery, attend worship and engage with the brothers as we take time away from our daily lives to renew our spirit.

Our topic: "The Power of Pilgrimage in Everyday Life" will specifically invite how we can bring into our everyday practice of life the lessons and spirit as a Pilgrim people.

You're invited to arrive Monday afternoon at Stone Crest Retreat House at 35 Hull Street Hingham Massachusetts, between 4 - 6 PM. Rev Andy and Rev. Jamie will be there to welcome you and get you oriented for our evening meal at 6:30 PM. After Dinner we will gather in our meeting space go over the schedule, familiarization to the place, and the next few days ahead.

You'll be invited to times of worship, free time, reflection, bookstore browsing, goat petting and instruction sessions on our topic throughout the next two days with our culminating event being lunch together on Wednesday the 15th. Check out will be by 1:30 PM.

If you have never been on retreat, I invite you to consider giving yourself the gift of time away from the daily rhythm of life, the beauty of tended sacred space in Glastonbury and the fellowship of new and old friends with whom we share the journey of our church lives.

The cost for all meals and lodging will be \$50.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Andy

All Saints Living Memorials

New Living Memorial

Ronald J. Dupras
From: Dupras Family & DaCosta Family

Kendall Just
From: Deb Just

Marion Zelms
From: Claire Myers

Dennis C. Medeiros
James & Eleanor Ward
Mary C. Medeiros
From: Ken & Denise Ward and Family

Clifton Berryman Sr.
Clifton Berryman Jr.
Gertrude Berryman Sr.
From: Daughter Judy Morrow

Nicholas A. Braga
From: Bonnie Braga
Susan Nascimento

Leslie H. Lanyon
Leslie E. & Norma Lanyon
James & Eleanor Ward
From: Ken & Susan Lanyon and Family

Brian Vautrin
Barbara Medeiros
Theresa Leonard
From: Deb Vautrin

Always in our Hearts

- † Joan D'Adamo
- † Lillian Paul
- † Robert T. Rupp
- † Kendall Just
- † Patricia Snell
- † Beverly S. Freitas

Brick Dedications

The Just Family
From Kendall & Deb Just

Installation TBD

All Saints Service will take place
on Sunday November 5th, 2023
at 10:00 am

*First Congregational Church
of Fall River*

Thanksgiving Service

*Wednesday November 22
at 7:00 PM*

*Give Thanks With
A Grateful Heart*



Newport Navy Choristers Christmas Concert

Newport Navy Chorister presents
46th Annual

Christmas in Song

Sunday, December 3, 2023, 4:00 pm
at First Baptist Church
228 North Main Street, Fall River, MA
Donation \$10.00 at the door

First Congregational Church of Fall River has
20 free tickets

available please contact the church office at
508-672-5862 or churchoffice@fccfallriver.com,
if you would like to attend.

This year's beneficiary: The Branch Community
Supper at First Baptist Church

There will be collection of donations of new
sleeping bags and tents.

Diaconate Christmas Project

*Adopt a child for this project
for just \$25.00 until
January 2024.*

**IT IS SO EASY!!!!
THE SHOPPING HAS BEEN
DONE NOW WE NEED FAMILIES
TO SIGN UP TO ADOPT
A CHILD FROM DSS**
(Department of Social Services)

Thank you!!!



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: Nov 07, 2023 Dec 05, 2023

Please plan to be at church by 2:00 PM

First Congregational Church

Free Yoga Classes

@ 6:00 PM

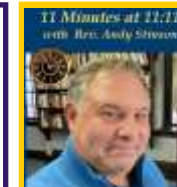
282 Rock St.

(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>
Also available in Spotify & Sound Cloud



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

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



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



**[https://
fccfallriver.com/](https://fccfallriver.com/)**



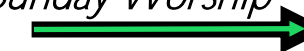
Step 1: Go to <https://get.tithe.ly>
or scan the QR-Code
Step 2: Create an account
Step 3: GIVE!!!



SCAN ME

LISTEN ON Spotify

Scan to listen to 11:11 &
Sunday Worship





*First Congregational
Church
of Fall River*

November 2023

UP COMING EVENTS!!

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	01	02	laundry love FREE WASH & FREE DRY Come join us on the last Wednesday of every month to get your clothes cleaned for free! "Clean clothes = dignity." DATE: Last Wednesday of Every Month TIME: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM WHERE: 415 Second Street, Fall River, MA (Rear entrance on Morgan Street) FREE PARKING IN REAR <small>IMPORTANT: Up to two (2) washers allowed per person. Additional washers will cost extra. Detergent & dryer sheets provided as needed. You can bring your own, too! If you are unable to attend the posted time, you may set up an appointment. Using public transit? Take SRTA bus #1, #3, #5 or #10 to 2nd St @ Rodman. * = Free coffee available at Kama Food Mart with coupon.</small> Want to donate scan the QR code	
05	06	07	08	09	Next Laundry Love Nov 29 th , 2023 For more information contact John Milkey Email: jmilkey05@gmail.com Call or Text: (508) 571-5132 Volunteers always welcome!!	
Daylight Savings Starts Choir Rehearsal 8:30 <i>All Saints Service</i> Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM Nominating Committee @ 11:15 AM	Pastoral Rel. 5:30 PM Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:00 PM	Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Soup Kitchen @ 2:30PM YOGA @ 6:00 PM	UW Coat Drive 9:00-11:00 AM MOPs Meeting @ 5:30 PM	Mrs. Beverly Freitas Memorial Service @ 11:00 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Baptism - TBD Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM	Veterans Day office Closed All Church Retreat @ 16 Hull St, Hingham, MA 02043, USA Registration Needed!!	Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM	UW Coat Drive 9:00-11:00 AM Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM	UWGFR Board Meeting @ 8:00 AM-ZOOM YOGA @ 6:00 PM	Lunch Time Organ Recital 12:00 PM Guest Musician Steve Young	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Choir Rehearsal 8:30 STEWARDSHIP Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM Fellowship Sunday @ 11:15 AM Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:00 PM	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:00 PM	Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM	UW Coat Drive 9:00-11:00 AM Thanksgiving Service 7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Day HO Office Closed YOGA @ 6:00 PM		
26	27	28	29	30	November 5th, 2023	
Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:00 PM	Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM	UW Coat Drive 9:00-11:00 AM Laundry Love Volunteers needed 415 Second St. Fall River @ 09:00 AM-12:00 PM Church Council @ 7:00 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!!

2-Nov
Jennifer & Nathan Bettencourt

30-Nov
Linda & Frank Noble

I choose you everyday & always



Happy Birthday

November Babies

1-Nov Beatrice Whitney-Dean	8-Nov Haley Braga	16-Nov John Donovan
2-Nov William Brayton	8-Nov Holly Braga	16-Nov Hailie Perreira
2-Nov Brenda Oliveira	8-Nov Andrew Marshall	18-Nov Sandra Augustinho
5-Nov Jack Alston	9-Nov Cecile Moniz	19-Nov Nancee Brightman
6-Nov Cheryl Furze	10-Nov Cheryl Foley	19-Nov Robert Hadley
6-Nov Jessica Sylvia	12-Nov Emily Caron	23-Nov Manny Rezendes
6-Nov Jennifer Wilkinson-Rezendes	12-Nov John Freeman	
	14-Nov John Oliveira	

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 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