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Youth Leaders

Sheryl Bierden

Jennifer Rowan

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Jim Croak

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The Beacon

The Newsletter of The First Congregational Church in Norwood

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 10, Issue 2

March/April 2017

On one of those cold days last week, when the snow had finished falling but I still didn't want to go outside, Grace called me to the window to look at the birds. There were three cardinals in the tree in front of our home. Cardinals are not found in California, so when I moved to the east coast, I relished the times that a cardinal led my way as I walked to classes in seminary. Even though they are much more common here, I still always love to see them, and find that when I do, I have to stop to appreciate them, to let my breath be taken away by their beauty, and wonder how they manage to survive in the wintry days in New England.

Lent is a season in the church year when we are asked to stop and appreciate what is before us, a time to reflect upon the gifts of God in our sometimes frigid and difficult lives. It is a season to remember that as people on the journey, we are called to be prayerful and repentant, and to be giving and generous to others. It is a time to stop and take stock, a time to refocus.

In the church, Lent is often understood as a time of self-denial (fasting that is supposed to draw us into an increased awareness of our prayer lives and of the self-giving life of Jesus). If you choose to fast from something that is quite ordinary to your days, I encourage you to do so and to pray when the lack of that ordinary thing comes to your mind.

Sometimes in churches, rather than fasting, people are called upon to feast or "take on" good deeds (another way of almsgiving). If you choose to take on a good deed, may that also draw you into a prayerfulness or a spirituality of the everyday.

I am so happy that as we journey together in worship this Lent, we will be looking at the intersection of our baptismal vows and the call to loving and justice seeking action in the world. We will be blessed with music, poetry, and ritual action from composer Mark Miller and pastor Marcia McFee's Worship Design Studio as a part of our Lenten journey. I hope you will enjoy the gifts that come from the Lenten Series called "Roll Down Justice" a phrase taken from Amos 5:24 "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

The brilliant little birds have reminded me that there are gifts all around us should we would take the time to see them. Those gifts may be received and lived out through prayerful contemplation or through the giving of ourselves through our actions in the world. I pray that you will be able to do both this Lenten season as we make our way to Easter.

Glad for the journey before us,

Pastor Michele

**No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.**



SEEKING TO BE A SANCTUARY TO ALL

It is good as we make our way early in this New Year for us to be reminded of our call to be a community and to consider the needs of others. To that end, we are trying to be mindful of the needs of our members by offering gluten-free wafers for communion. We have dedicated our balcony as a fragrance- and floral-free space, and we ask that fellowship foods be peanut free (or note if peanuts or other nuts are present in treats served during coffee hour). I am mindful that there are a number of our members who have severe allergies that can induce anaphylaxis, a reality that requires that they remain vigilant to their own needs. Please offer your love by also being vigilant to these needs by sitting in the main sanctuary if you wear fragrances or if you are unsure if your scent will disturb those with chemical sensitivities (for example, hair products, deodorants, perfume and cologne, or hand lotions), and being mindful of the dietary restrictions of a number of our faith family.

I am moved by the Open and Affirming statement of the First Congregational Church that states in part, "As a loving and caring faith community, we recognize that we are one body in Christ and are called to love our neighbors as ourselves. In response to God's call to be agents of justice, we welcome all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability, race, age, culture, family status, sexual orientation or gender identity into the full life and community of our church."

Many thanks for considering those who journey with food or chemical sensitivities as we live out our call to be community together.

– Pastor Michele



**Eleven new members joined
our congregation on
new member Sunday,
January 29th, 2017.**

**Welcome to our new church
family members!**

Robin and James Wilson live in Norwood and are parents to Liam (13) and Isla (9). James is a product design principal and Robin is a teacher. Liam and Isla both play hockey, soccer, and the violin.

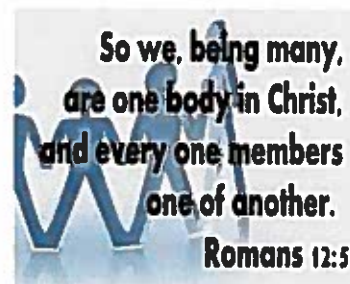
Karen and Joe Sleeman live in Norwood. Karen is a teacher at Dedham High School and Joe works in IT Support for Dedham Public Schools. They are the parents of 2-year old JJ and Tommy (9 months).

Lindsay Merchant lives in Canton with her husband, Brendan. They are the parents of Sydney (8), Lucy (4) and Catherine (18 months). Brendan is a cardiologist at South Shore Hospital. **Desley Boardman** is Lindsay's mom and the proud grandmother of Sydney, Lucy and Catherine!

Emily Haenn is the mom of 3-year old Maggie. They live in Norwood and Emily works as an Operating Room Assistant at Norwood Hospital. Emily loves to read, is interested in cooking, and enjoys spending time with family.

Joan Giblin and Kelly Noumi live in Norwood. They are parents to 4-year old Sky and 3-year old Jack.

James and Michele Allan are happy to be two of Norwood's newest residents (coming most recently from New Hampshire). Michele is your new pastor and James is a stay at home dad for the time being. They are proud parents of Grace (9) and Aidan (3). They grew up in California, and love the New England seasons and enjoy cooking, hiking, and exploring museums.





LENTEN JOURNEY

WORSHIP IN MARCH AND APRIL

Wednesday, March 1, Ash Wednesday Worship in Warner Chapel, 7:00 PM Amos 5:21-24

The season of Lent begins with a call to repent, which means to “turn around.” This year, we will turn from our apathy, turn from simply “going through the motions” of our live and worship. Instead we will pray to be active instruments of peace, agents of change in the world. We begin the journey toward renewing our baptismal identity as the hands and feet of Christ by “re-cognizing” - turning our minds and hearts toward the world and its peoples.

Sunday, March 5 Romans 8:31-19

In our baptismal rituals, we take a special moment to repeat the precious name of the person being baptized. In a world that seems obsessed with who is “right and wrong,” “good or bad,” “in or out” or on “this side or that side,” it is a radical endeavor to name each person as “Child of God” - no matter what people say. This, indeed is where love of the other begins...love for the self, as God loves us.

Sunday, March 12 Psalm 13

Over half of the liturgical songs of the Israelites were Psalms of Lament. Penned in a time of exile and persecution, these were poets trying to give voice to the pain of the people. Today we lament the injustice of our time and yet, like the Psalms of Lament, we end in praise for God’s goodness. We remember that even and especially in times of despair, through our baptism we are given the “freedom and power to resist evil in all its forms” as we “put our whole trust in God.” How will we put these words into action to show hope to the world?

Sunday, March 19 Matthew 25:31-40

At our baptism, we promise to nurture others and are reminded that we are to “serve as Christ’s representatives in the world.” Today we ask the question, “do we as the church look and act like Jesus?” Our song of justice today invites us to dream of a church “where justice is flowing with hope and peace growing.” What thoughts and behaviors do we need to shed in order to make room for hope and peace to grow in and through our lives and our church?

Sunday, March 26 Luke 23:32-43

Each time someone is baptized, the whole church body gathered also makes vows. One of the things we promise is to be a community of love and forgiveness. Each day we must choose between letting the difficult things about life create resentment in us or allowing the work of forgiveness to make way for love. Our song of justice this week was written as a response to a modern-day act of forgiveness that reminds us of the power of Jesus’ forgiveness, even on the cross.

Sunday, April 2, Communion Sunday Isaiah 58:6-12

Our featured scripture this week speaks of being a “well-watered garden like a spring of water that won’t run dry.” Baptismal waters continue to feed the streams of justice as we allow the Holy Spirit to work within us every time we set our hands and feet to the work God has for us to do. As we break bread today, we remember that as long as there are those who are hurting, hungry, excluded and oppressed, we are called to be faithful disciples, setting a table and inviting all to the feast.



Sunday, April 9, Palm Sunday Isaiah 35:1-3, Matthew 21:1-11

The entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem was a vision of a coming day when power is displayed not with military might but through the solidarity of all people in the name of love and justice. We pray this day for a time when we are one and we support one another on the road of life, not tear one another down because of our differences. We will affirm our oneness with the whole human family this day.

Thursday, April 13, Maundy Thursday

Pot Luck Dinner 6:30 pm & Tenebrae Service with Communion 7:30 pm

The Junior High Youth Group will help facilitate a potluck before our Maundy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae Service.

Friday, April 14, Good Friday Service in Warner Chapel, 12:00 noon

Gather in Warner Chapel for readings and prayers which will focus on the last words of Christ.

Saturday, April 15, Easter Vigil

6 pm-midnight – Sign up to pray for a half-hour in the Sanctuary

Sunday, April 16, Easter Sunday

6:00 am Sunrise Service – Meet at St. Timothy's as our Junior High Youth Group leads worship. Communion will be served.

Easter Breakfast following the Sunrise Service at the Brookside Café.

10:00am *Celebration of Easter Worship Service* in the Sanctuary.

*Installation of Rev. Michele Bagby Allan
As Pastor Sunday, March 19, 2017
3:00 pm Service*

*Join us in
Celebration*

Reception to Follow

*Clergy are
encouraged to robe
and wear red stoles*



**All Church Visioning Day –
Planting Seeds in Faith**

**Mark your calendars now
for April Fool's Day!**

On Saturday, April 1st, we will gather in Pingree Hall from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon for a simple breakfast and fellowship at 9 am and a time of dreaming together from 9:30 – 12 noon (please note that if you can come only for a portion of the morning, you are still most welcome!). Using the Parable of the Sower and Soils (Mark 4, Matthew 18, and Luke 8) as our focus scripture, we will look at seeds that have blossomed in our faith community in the past, and then we will vision together what seeds God may be calling on us to plant, water, and tend in the coming year. Pastor Michele and church leadership will be there to facilitate.

Please join in this day of discerning God's guidance together. The soil will not be as rich if you are not there! More information will be coming in future church communications!

The Marion W. Rich Fund

Do any of you senior members of the church [over 65 years old] have un-reimbursed medical expenses? The Rich Fund may be able to help with that. Save your receipts accumulated over the past three months; make copies; fill out the brief form and submit it to the office by the date below. Blank copies of the application are available from the church office or Phyllis Hemmer. Wishing you all a healthy New Year!

RICH FUND SCHEDULE 2017

Submissions are due by:

May 15, 2017

August 15, 2017

November 15, 2017

MILESTONES

Baptisms

Colby Almeric Saunders 12/18/16

Skyler MaryAllen, 12/22/15

Thomas George Sleeman, 2/26/17

Deaths

Lester Drake, 1/16/17

Ruth Winstanley, 1/12/17

New Members

James and Michele Allan

Desley Boardman

Joan Giblin and Kelly Noumi

Emily Haenn

Lindsay Merchant

Karen and Joe Sleeman

Robin and James Wilson

PRAYERS AND REMINDERS

We ask the congregation to remember those people who are shut-in or in nursing homes with prayers and reminders that they are remembered:

At their home (Norwood):

Dorothy Rich

At Charlwell House (Norwood):

Pauline Ingemi



Over 60's
Luncheon
March 2, 2017
12 noon
Pingree Hall

FRIENDLY SERVICE

Friendly Service will meet on Mondays, March 13th and 27th, as well as April 10th and 24th from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm in the Alden Room, downstairs in the Sunday School wing. We invite all women of the church to join us as we work on our puff quilts and other projects for the 2017 Evergreen Faire. If you're looking for something new and rewarding while enjoying fellowship time, come and work with us. No talent needed. We welcome new people and old friends. Feel free to bring your own projects or try something new with one of our loyal members. Perhaps you'd like to make a Christmas decoration for next year's tree. We can help you as you help our church. Bring your sandwich and coffee mug. Treats will be provided.

Questions? Call anyone below:

Emily Tibbetts 781-762-1127

Rennie Grover 781-762-3514

Phyllis Hemmer 781-762-0904

The Parish Fund

The Deacons want everyone to know that the Parish Fund is available to help people of the congregation and people of the community during this time of the year - funds for winter clothing, help with heating bills, supermarket gift cards, etc. Requests can be sent to Pastor Michele at rcvmallan@verizon.net or telephone her at 781-762-3320. Though it can be hard to ask for help; please know that Pastor Michele is sensitive to the need for discretion. This is the time of the year that we come together to be in support of each other.

This fund is collected on Communion Sundays in the Narthex after Worship. Support is distributed to individuals at the discretion of the Pastor. Please note, we do not keep cash on hand to give to people in need.



Junior High Youth Group Update

2017 started off with a highly successful MLK Day of Service event at the church! Thanks to all who participated! We also welcomed Pastor Michele to one of our meetings and had a great time getting to know each other. As we look toward Spring, we are excited about our plans, so check Staying Connected for updates!

Here's where you can find us in March and April:

- 3/5 Skits 5:30-7 @ church
- 3/12 Sandwich making for Generic Ministry 5:30-7 @ church
- 4/2 Easter Sunrise Service planning and games 5:30-7 @ church
- 4/9 Easter Sunrise Service Prep and games 5:30-7 @ church
- 4/16 Easter Sunrise Service & Breakfast at Brookside Cafe
- 4/20 (Thursday during April Vacation) Prep and Serve Over 60's Luncheon at church 11-1
- 4/30 Prep plants to sell at Community Day

Your JHYG Leaders,
Sheryl Bierden (617-416-5187 – cell)
Jennifer Rowan (617-930-5854 – cell)
Fcc.jhyg@gmail.com

Senior High Youth meet monthly on Saturday nights at Church. Come and join the fun!

For more information, please contact Robin Hazerjian at grhaz@verizon.net.



Our church is forming a **Bereavement Committee** to formalize a long-standing ministry and tradition that has thrived in our Congregation across generations. This ministry of compassion provides comfort and support to members and their families who are mourning the death of a loved one. We do this by helping to coordinate collations (receptions following memorial services) for members and their families in their time of need.

The responsibilities of the Bereavement Committee include Pingree Hall set-up, receipt and set-up of catered items ordered by the family and any home baked goods, replenishment of serving tables and clean up.

I will serve as the first point of contact. We are looking for 6 committee members to be on call, from which, perhaps 3-4 members will be needed per collation.

Your time, expression of support and love are among God's greatest gifts that we can share with each other.

If you would like to help, please contact me at firstcongo.norwood@verizon.net or 781-762-3320.

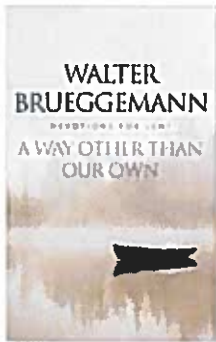
Thank you,
Lauren Metta

Confirmation

This winter and spring, Laura and Faye are participating in Confirmation Classes through the church. Please keep them in prayers as they meet with Pastor Michele and Sharon Pocock twice a month leading up to Confirmation Sunday. This March and April, they will meet March 12th and 26th to discuss the sacraments of Baptism and Communion and Questions about God. In April, they will participate in worship and have classes on April 9th and 23rd to discuss living in a multi-faith world and the history of the United Church of Christ. Do hold them in prayer as they explore faith, life and what it means to participate in Christian Community.

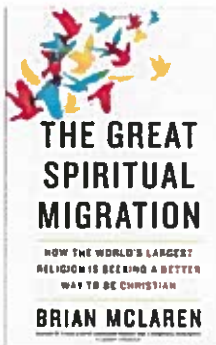
Winter Book Recommendations from Pastor Michele

If you are looking for a good Lenten Devotional book or a good spiritual read for this winter, Pastor Michele has recently come across two books to recommend for you. If you should decide to read these, please let her know what you thought of them!



“A Way Other Than Our Own: Devotions for Lent” by Walter Brueggemann is a daily devotional for Lent that offers scripture, reflection and prayers for each day in the season of Lent. From the back cover, “We begin our Lenten journey addressed by the remarkable assurance that the God who summons us is the God who goes along with us. Lent recalls times of

wilderness and wandering, from newly freed Hebrew slaves in exile to Jesus’ temptation in the desert. God has always called people out of their safe, walled cities into uncomfortable places, revealing paths they would have never chosen. Despite our culture of self-indulgence, we too are called to walk an alternative path – one of humility, justice, and peace. Walter Brueggemann’s thought-provoking reflections for the season of Lent invite us to consider the challenging, beautiful way of grace.”



“The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World’s Largest Religion is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian” is the latest book by Brian D. McLaren. From the front cover, McLaren “argues that-notwithstanding the dire headlines about the demise of faith and drop in church attendance-Christian faith is not dying. Rather it is embarking on a once-in-an-era

spiritual shift. For millions the journey has already begun. Drawing from his work as global activist, pastor, and public theologian, McLaren challenges readers to stop worrying, waiting, and indulging in nostalgia, and instead, to embrace the powerful new understandings that are reshaping the faith. In *The Great Spiritual Migration*, he explores three profound shifts that define the change.”

SAVE THE DATE!
COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY
SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017



In response to the congregation’s strong interest in the topic of racial justice, the program **White Privilege: Let’s Talk** is being presented by the Christian Service Board over 4 Sundays during Lent. It is a self-reflective program developed by the UCC to delve into what it personally means to be of the white race in the US today. It is based on the writings of five theologians. They discuss their personal awareness of white privilege through a variety of topics; their own spiritual autobiography through the lens of race, whiteness as the norm, the cash value of whiteness and on becoming an ally. Sign up is requested so copies of the materials can be downloaded before the start of the sessions.

The program will run from 11:30am - 12:30pm on Sundays March 5th, 12th, 26th and April 2nd. Childcare will be provided. Please contact the church to sign up during coffee hour or through the church office at 781-762-3320 or email at FirstCongo.Norwood@verizon.net.

Lenten Adult Bible Study

We will begin our Lenten series the first Sunday in Lent, March 5, 2017. We will meet all six of the Sundays in Lent. This Lent we will be looking at Lenten art, especially art relating to the lectionary readings for each Sunday.

We meet in the parlor from 8:15 to 9:30 AM. We begin each meeting with a time of fellowship including coffee and bagels and muffins and will end each of the Lenten classes with a time of quiet and meditation and the lighting and extinguishing of the Lenten candles. We hope you can join us!

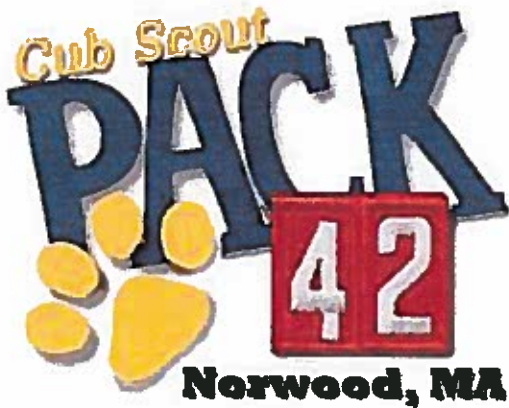
- Mary Ann Violette

*Scouting Groups Chartered by the
First Congregational Church in Norwood*

**BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA
TROOP 42**



Prepared. For Life.®



Girl Scouts®



A Time for All Children on Scout Sunday, 2/5/17

“Would you hide your light under a bushel?”



VENTURE CREW 420

Venture Crew 420 is an organization for young men and women who are at least 13 years of age, who have completed the 8th grade, and are no more than 20 years of age. Venturing is a co-ed program created by the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who have similar interests in a multitude of experience areas including but not limited to high adventure, drama, sports, music, boating, etc. One goal is to enhance our member's life experiences with positive social activities, and community service.

Venture Crew 420 meetings are held at First Congregational Church in Norwood on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at 7:00 PM. For more information, contact Tom McClintock by email at tmclint@bellatlantic.net.



VENTURING® BSA

For Questions about Scouting at FCC Norwood, contact Charter Representative, Beth Amis in the Church Office or email Scoutmaster Tom McClintock at tmclint@bellatlantic.net.

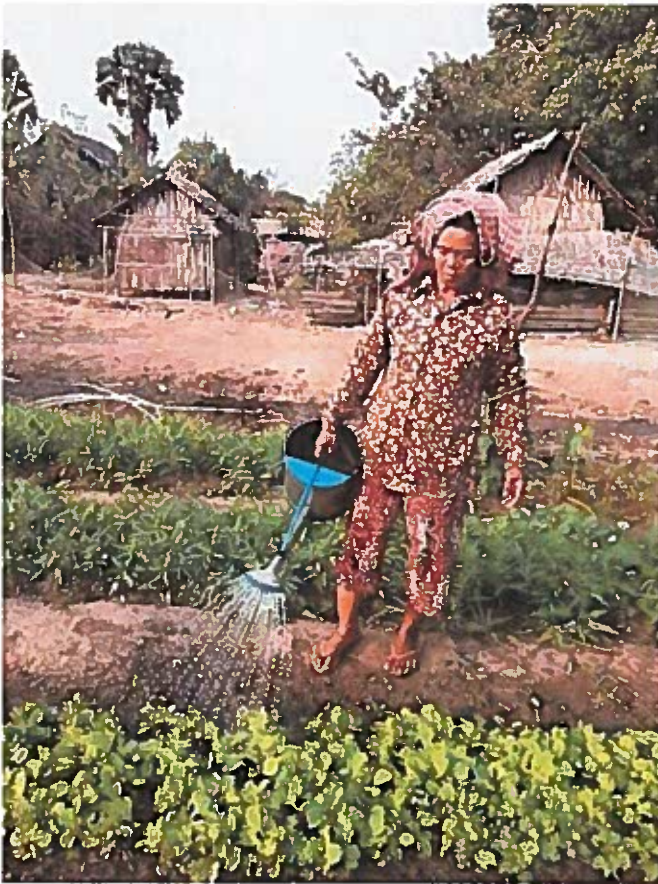


One Great Hour of Sharing® is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development actions.

We will be collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Sundays, March 19 and 26, 2017.

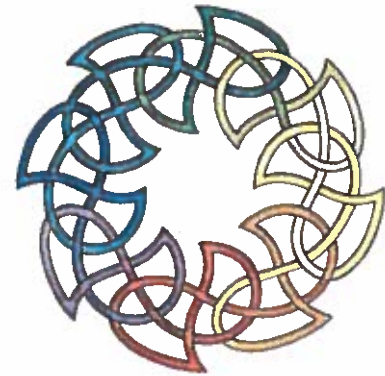
At the First Congregational Church in Norwood, our Board of Christian Service will match donations made for OGHS, so every dollar donated by congregants will go twice as far!

Please give generously.



Som Bee and her granddaughter now have access to clean water for cooking, drinking and gardening

For more information, please see www.ucc.org/oghs.



Sacred Circle

Wednesday Mornings 7:00-7:45 am

The “Sacred Circle” meets on Wednesday mornings at 7:00 am. It is a time for spiritual reflection, prayers for those in need, and praying over Prayer Shawls as part of the Prayer Shawl ministry. It is indeed a “sacred” fellowship among those who gather. Some come and stay week after week. Some come and go (and come back again from time to time). The circle is open to all. We always have an extra chair. **All are welcome.**

- Melissa Baughman

‘I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..’ Matthew 25:35



‘Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

Matthew 25:40

‘ God is still speaking,**’**

Massachusetts Conference Super Saturday Event

The Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ has planned an amazing day of worship, keynote presentations from theologian Brian McLaren, and workshops for lay leaders and clergy on Saturday March 18th from 8 am – 3:45 pm in Wilbraham, MA. How wonderful would it be to have a team of people from First Congregational Church participate in the day! Pastor Michele and Mary Sullivan are already planning to go. Would you like to join them? You can register for the day at www.macucc.org. Do let Michele or Mary know you are registered, and we can work on carpooling from the church together.

Super Saturday is a collaborative effort between the Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island Conferences, UCC, with presenters and attendees from all conferences.

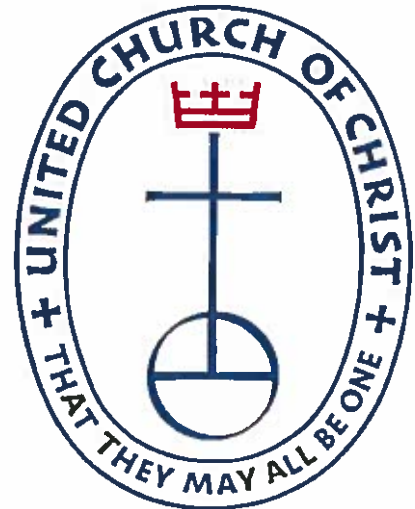


Please remember those in our local area with non-perishable food donations to the

Norwood Ecumenical Food Pantry

Donations may be left at Church in the basket located outside of Pastor Michele's office.

The pantry serves over 350 families in Norwood and Westwood. They have a completely volunteer staff of over 100 people who give many hours of their time each week to purchase food, stock shelves, sort goods by expiration dates, clean, repair, and handle administrative duties. You can find out more at <http://norwoodpantry.org>.



We have created an **online calendar** for activities in our Church building. Check it out on our website at <http://firstcongregational-norwood.com/>

ONLINE DIRECTORY

The Church Office is updating the Online Directory for members and regular attendees.

Please help us by checking your phone, address and email information online and letting us know of any changes or additions needed. Updated photos can be sent to the church office at:

firstcongo.norwood@verizon.net

Log in Here:

www.instantchurchdirectory.com

Download the App to your smart phone - it's awesome!

You can also download the Directory as a PDF here:

www.firstcongregational-norwood.com/my-fcc/church-directory/

Password: fcc1736!@

Daily Lectionary Scripture References March 2017 (Year A)

Wed., Mar. 1

Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah
58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Thurs., Mar. 2

Psalm 51
Jonah 3:1-10
Romans 1:1-7

Fri., Mar. 3

Psalm 51
Jonah 4:1-11
Romans 1:8-17

Sat., Mar. 4

Psalm 51
Isaiah 58:1-12
Matthew 18:1-7

Sun., Mar. 5

First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Mon., Mar. 6

Psalm 32
1 Kings 19:1-8
Hebrews 2:10-18

Tues., Mar. 7

Psalm 32
Genesis 4:1-16
Hebrews 4:14-5:10

Wed., Mar. 8

Psalm 32
Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28
Matthew 18:10-14

Thurs., Mar. 9

Psalm 121
Isaiah 51:1-3
2 Timothy 1:3-7

Fri., Mar. 10

Psalm 121
Micah 7:18-20
Romans 3:21-31

Sat., Mar. 11

Psalm 121
Isaiah 51:4-8
Luke 7:1-10

Sun., Mar. 12

Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

Mon., Mar. 13

Psalm 128
Numbers 21:4-9
Hebrews 3:1-6

Tues., Mar. 14

Psalm 128
Isaiah 65:17-25
Romans 4:6-13

Wed., Mar. 15

Psalm 128
Ezekiel 36:22-32
John 7:53-8:11

Thurs., Mar. 16

Psalm 95
Exodus 16:1-8
Colossians 1:15-23

Fri., Mar. 17

Psalm 95
Exodus 16:9-21
Ephesians 2:11-22

Sat., Mar. 18

Psalm 95
Exodus 16:27-35
John 4:1-6

Sun., Mar. 19

Third Sunday in Lent
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Mon., Mar. 20

Psalm 81
Genesis 24:1-27
2 John 1-13

Tues., Mar. 21

Psalm 81
Genesis 29:1-14
1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Wed., Mar. 22

Psalm 81
Jeremiah 2:4-13
John 7:14-31, 37-39

Thurs., Mar. 23

Psalm 23
1 Samuel 15:10-21
Ephesians 4:25-32

Fri., Mar. 24

Psalm 23
1 Samuel 15:22-31
Ephesians 5:1-9

Sat., Mar. 25

Psalm 23
1 Samuel 15:32-34
John 1:1-9

Sun., Mar. 26

Fourth Sunday in Lent
1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Mon., Mar. 27

Psalm 146
Isaiah 59:9-19
Acts 9:1-20

Tues., Mar. 28

Psalm 146
Isaiah 42:14-21
Colossians 1:9-14

Wed., Mar. 29

Psalm 146
Isaiah 60:17-22
Matthew 9:27-34

Thurs., Mar. 30

Psalm 130
Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:8-3:3
Revelation 10:1-11

Fri., Mar. 31

Psalm 130
Ezekiel 33:10-16
Revelation 11:15-19



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Daily Lectionary Scripture References April 2017 (Year A)

Sat., Apr. 1
Psalm 130 58:1-12
Ezekiel 36:8-15
Luke 24:44-53

Sun., Apr. 2
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Mon., Apr. 3
Psalm 143
1 Kings 17:17-24
Acts 20:7-12

Tues., Apr. 4
Psalm 143
2 Kings 4:18-37
Ephesians 2:1-10

Wed., Apr. 5
Psalm 143
Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41
Matthew 22:23-33

Thurs., Apr. 6
Psalm 31:9-16
1 Samuel 16:11-13
Philippians 1:1-11

Fri., Apr. 7
Psalm 31:9-16
Job 13:13-19
Philippians 1:21-30

Sat., Apr. 8
Psalm 31:9-16
Lamentations 3:55-66
Mark 10:32-34

Sun., Apr. 9
Palm/Passion Sunday
Palms:
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Matthew 21:1-11
Passion:
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or
Matthew 27:11-54

Mon., Apr. 10
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

Tues., Apr. 11
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36

Wed., Apr. 12
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

Thurs., Apr. 13
Maundy Thursday
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Fri., Apr. 14
Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews
4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42

Sat., Apr. 15
Holy Saturday
Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations
3:1-9, 19-24
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16
1 Peter 4:1-8
Matthew 27:57-66 or John
19:38-42

Sun., Apr. 16
Easter
Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah
31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts
10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or Matthew
28:1-10

Mon., Apr. 17
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21
Colossians 3:5-11

Tues., Apr. 18
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Exodus 15:1-18
Colossians 3:12-17

Wed., Apr. 19
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Joshua 3:1-17
Matthew 28:1-10

Thurs., Apr. 20
Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 2:8-15
Colossians 4:2-5

Fri., Apr. 21
Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 5:9-6:3
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Sat., Apr. 22
Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 8:6-7
John 20:11-20

Sun., Apr. 23
Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 22-32 ; Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

Mon., Apr. 24
Psalm 114
Judges 6:36-40
1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Tues., Apr. 25
Psalm 114
Jonah 1:1-17
1 Corinthians 15:19-28

Wed., Apr. 26
Psalm 114
Jonah 2:1-10
Matthew 12:38-42

Thurs., Apr. 27
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Isaiah 25:1-5
1 Peter 1:8b-12

Fri., Apr. 28
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Isaiah 26:1-4
1 Peter 1:13-16

Sat., Apr. 29
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Isaiah 25:6-9
Luke 14:12-14

Sun., Apr. 30
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35



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**Official Open and Affirming Statement
of the First Congregational Church in Norwood:**

**We of the First Congregational Church in Norwood,
United Church of Christ, recognize the call of our living God
to affirm the dignity of every person.**



As a loving and caring faith community, we recognize that we are one body in Christ and are called to love our neighbors as ourselves. In response to God's call to be agents of justice, we welcome all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability, race, age, culture, family status, sexual orientation or gender identity into the full life and community of our church.

By declaring ourselves as an open and affirming congregation, we celebrate the wide range of gifts found in a diverse community. All members, officers, boards and committees are encouraged to meet this call in all of their actions.

Our Purpose Statement:

*Our purpose is to be a growing Christian community
of faith, fellowship, and spirituality, leading through service
and working for justice in our communities.*

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS



Rev. Michele Bagby Allan, Pastor

Michele's regular schedule is as follows:

Mondays 9 am – 12 noon at Perks

Tuesdays through Thursdays 9 am – 12 noon in the Church Office

Visitations by appointment in the afternoons

Fridays and Saturdays are Sabbath and Family Days for Pastor Michele.

You can email Pastor Michele at Revmallan@verizon.net.

Beth Amis, Church Administrator

Beth works in the Church Office Tuesdays - Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 pm and most Sundays before and after Worship. She works other hours for projects as needed. The best way to reach Beth is by emailing her at Beth.FCCNorwood@gmail.com. Beth is away from the office and email on Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays.

Lauren Metta, Church Administrator

works in the church office on Tuesdays – Thursdays from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. The best way to reach Lauren is by emailing her at FirstCongo.Norwood@verizon.net.

Sheryl Bierden, Facility Rental Manager

Sheryl is available for inquiries about church rentals via email at FCCNorwood.Facilities@gmail.com.

The Church Office is closed on Fridays and Saturdays.

WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH

Phone: 781-762-3320

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JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK!

Holy Week



Palm Sunday, April 9
10:00 am Worship, Palms and Parade!

Maundy Thursday, April 13
6:30 pm Potluck Dinner in Pingree Hall
7:30 pm Worship with Communion and Tenabrae Readings

Good Friday, April 14
12 noon Worship – Gather in the Sanctuary to hear the Seven last words of Jesus and to pray during the time of the Cross

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 15
6 pm-midnight – Sign up to pray for a half-hour in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 16
6:00 am Sunrise Service – Meet at St. Timothy's as our Junior High Youth Group leads worship. Communion will be served.

Easter Breakfast following the Sunrise Service at the Brookside Café.

10:00am Celebration of Easter Worship Service in the Sanctuary.
There will be trumpets and festive music!

First Congregational Church in Norwood
100 Winter Street
Norwood, MA 02062

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