

# FRIENDLY MESSENGER

April 2026

First Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602

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***“I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord.***

***“Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live.” (John 11:25)***

Hello dear *Church!*

As the Lenten season comes to a close, we find ourselves standing at the threshold of Jesus' final days—and the wonder of His resurrection. Over these past weeks, we have walked the slow and honest road of repentance, reflection, and return. And now, as Easter draws near, we turn our gaze forward, not as people of the cross alone, but as a Resurrection People—alive in Christ, and awakened again to new life!

Lent has a way of telling the truth. It asks us to look inward. To notice what has grown tired or distracted within us. To name what needs to be released, and what needs to be restored. It does not rush us... it tarries. It simply invites us to return—to God, to one another, and even to ourselves.

And many of you did just that. In quiet prayers. In small acts of faithfulness. In choosing again what matters most... following Jesus all the way! This is the road of faith, *dear ones*, the very ground upon which resurrection takes root.

Wilderness was never meant to be the destination. We were not created to stay at the cross. We are moved toward life.

*Friends*, as the stone is rolled away and the tomb unsealed, we find ourselves on the edge of something utterly astonishing: *Christ is risen!* Not just then... but now. This is what it means to be a post-resurrection church.

As we journey into a new season, let us be a people who gather not simply to remember, but to live differently because of what God has done. This April, my prayer is that we might have new eyes to notice what is being made new among us.

A heart softened.

A burden shared.

A joy rediscovered.

A quiet strengthening of faith.

A restored relationship,

More courage for whatever lies ahead.

These are the signs of resurrection life. And they are already here.

Ever your Pastor T

## PREPARING FOR EASTER

This has been such an incredible time of year... an emotional rollercoaster of joy and despair, made more profound by the amazing array of talents in our church.... our Music Director - Dr. Christopher Grills ~ our Liturgist - Pastor T - Louis' & Will's voices of angels ~ Bob's carpentry expertise - he made the cross and hammered nails into it as Jesus' crucifixion drew near... from young children, to young, teens, to young at heart, everyone contributed in whatever way they could. There were people speaking and others cooking (delicious & hearty meals!). There were some cleaning and others playing various instruments. It's been a remarkable journey! We thank each and every one of you!



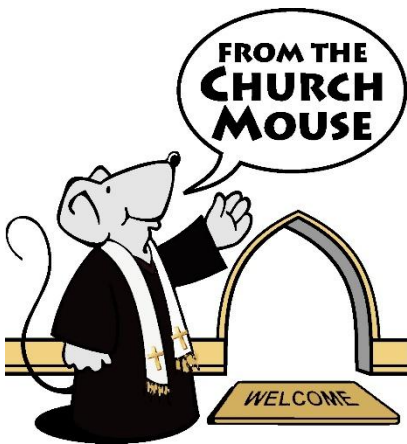


We are excited to announce that March brought another new member to our church! If you see Nick, be sure to welcome him! Please let Pastor T know if you are interested in joining. We would love to have you with us!



On Ash Wednesday, February 18th, a beautiful community of individuals gathered in the parlor for a simple meal, followed by a brief, intimate service, with ashes being administered by each one of us.

It was wonderful to share fellowship and prepare our hearts for the Lenten season. A heartfelt thank you to Pastor T, as well as all who participated.



Hi there! I hope you're as excited about Easter as I am! Our church certainly has been busy in preparation. Palm Sunday was very emotional, as I heard cries of "Hosanna" one minute and "Crucify Him" the next. The youth along with Pastor T, put on a skit for us and boy, were they ever good! Eva even made a donkey!

Isn't our Lord amazing?! I mean, he was lashed and **NAILED...BIG SPIKES...** to a cross!! They put a crown of **THORNS** on his head!! Why did he suffer like this?? **He could perform miracles, so He could have stopped this torture. He did this for US!!** So that OUR sins would be forgiven. He suffered not only physically but emotionally, too. He was humiliated for hours on end...and still, He stayed brave, and never faltered right up to the end! I thank Him profusely for this gift He gave to each and every one of us.

What's coming up next is the greatest miracle of all. I can hardly wait for Easter Sunday. I heard that the church is having a son-rise service. I bet it will be beautiful! Do you know why we have Easter eggs? Well, they symbolize new life and rebirth - in Christianity, they represent the resurrection of Jesus.

Thank you, Jesus!!! ❤️

Happy Easter from your faithful church mouse,

**Nick**

## Fantastic Fellowship Festivities

Join us on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM!

It's hard to tell what we'll be doing because this winter was pretty hard on all of us, and we weren't able to stick to our schedule. Whatever it is will be fun though. Besides, it's better than sitting at home.

### Tentative Schedule

1 ~ Who knows?! Anything can happen on April Fools Day! 😊

8 ~ Perhaps a craft

15 ~ lunch at the Skyline Bistro ~ Worcester Technical High School

22 ~ BINGO!

29 – TBA



Marsha's friend's husband, **Theodore** and his family;  
**Kim**, who Debbi requests prayers for; Ellen's  
nephew, **Tyler** and his family; Connie's niece **Linda**; **Sue**  
requests prayers for her daughter-in-law, **Lynne**, who  
broke her hand, continued prayers for her daughter,  
**Melanie**, her sister, **Lee**, and her brother, **Danny**;

Members **Hampton, Dolores, Paul, Erika, Jane, Carol, Joyce & her husband, Armand**;  
Kristin's friend, **Mitch**; We also desperately need to pray for **World Peace**.

*If you would like to add a prayer concern or update our list, please email the church office at [office@fcc-worcester.org](mailto:office@fcc-worcester.org) or call the office at 508-752-4635.*

*"It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without heart."*

*~ Mahatma Gandhi*



### Our Daily Bread

Pick up your copy from the bookcase in the narthex. Available right now is the March – April – May issue in regular print and April – May – June in large print.

## Hospitality

### Bring Your Special Touch!



Come and share your favorite snacks with us at Coffee Hour, which is held in the parlor every Sunday after our worship service! We make the coffee and other beverages and we supply the paper goods. All you have to do is bring some goodies. There's always a sign-up sheet on the table and two or more people can sign up together. We'd really appreciate your help!

*"When we serve others, we are serving Christ."*



### Accessibility Items Available for Worship!

Did you know that we offer large print bulletins? They are available in the narthex as you enter the sanctuary. If you don't see any there, just ask and we'll be happy to provide them. We also have hearing assistance devices that make hearing what is said at the pulpit much easier! They are in a basket on the table in the narthex.



### On The First Sunday of Every Month Deacons Fund

The Deacons' Fund is a financial resource provided by churches to assist individuals and congregations in need during times of crisis. It typically offers temporary support for basic needs such as rent, utilities, and emergency expenses, emphasizing mutual care within the community. Thank you for your support!

*"The more you give, the more comes back to you, because God is the greatest giver in the universe, and He won't let you outgive Him. Go ahead and try. See what happens."*

*- Randy Alcorn*



**Carty Cupboard  
Every Sunday**

Thank you for helping to make a difference to those less fortunate than us! We may be small, but we're mighty! Your generosity is like a warm, fuzzy blanket taking care of others. Pastor T. brings everything to Carty Cupboard for us, and we continue our mission. Our "wagon Train" is looking a little sparse this week.

Snacks like squeeze-up applesauce are fun and nutritious. Pudding, fruit, and Jello cups are good snacks, too. Granola bars provide a good source of energy and are quick to grab. Things like tuna fish, mac & cheese, beans, instant potatoes, hearty soup, shelf-safe milk, juice boxes, and condiments are some of the foods people can use. Besides food, they can also use personal care items and/or baby items.



*"God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with."*

*Billy Graham*



*April*



10 Kristin Olson    16 David Purdy    16 Khylie Richard

*May*

16 Donna Spaulding    17 Robert Olson  
 21 Christina Dalbeck    25 Beverly Bean  
 25 Heidi Hinson    25 Marsha Huntoon  
 25 Deborah Mirick    26 Phillip Cardin    26 Marianne Bourgault

*Do you want a happy heart when you are old? Then get with the Lord and stay with Him.  
That is how it works.*



*April*

05 Dolores & Marie Trzcinski    18 Steve & Heidi Hinson



*"Your marriage is a testament to the grace and goodness of God."*

Do you have something you'd like to see in our newsletter?



If you have some news, an article, or an announcement that you would like included in the newsletter, please leave it in the office with Sue Anderson or email her at [deegram@charter.net](mailto:deegram@charter.net) or [office@fcc-worcester.org](mailto:office@fcc-worcester.org) by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of each month.

See it here first!

If you would like a copy of the newsletter sent to you via email, please email the office and we'll add you to our list. There are also copies in the narthex that you can pick up. If you don't have an email address or can't get to church, send us your address and we'll be happy to send you a hard copy every month. You don't want to miss out!



# Holy Week

please join us

@ First Congregational Church  
1070 Pleasant St Worcester, MA  
01602 / (508) 752-4635

Sunday, March 29, 2026

dramatic Liturgy  
of the Palms



Full Breakfast @ 9am

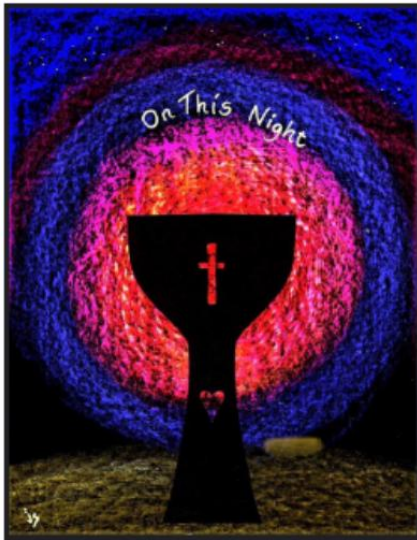
Worship @ 10am

(No coffee hour afterwards)

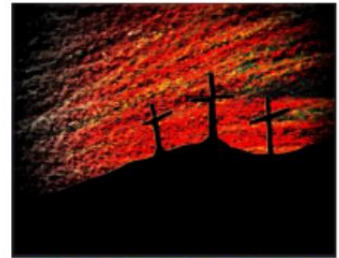
Maundy Thursday  
April 2, 2026

dramatic Tenebrae

Simple Supper at 5pm  
Worship w/ Communion  
@ 6pm  
...depart in the silence



Good Friday  
April 3, 2026



the sanctuary will be open  
for prayer and reflection  
12 noon til 3pm

...the time when Jesus  
SUFFERED & DIED

# RESURRECTION MORNING



## 6am Son-Rise

Coes Pond, Mill St w/special music  
Easy U-turn @ Big D lot  
plenty of street parking  
4 accessible lot spots  
beach seating available

## 10am Traditional

Celebrate new life in  
Christ in the adorned  
Sanctuary!  
The empty tomb dramatized  
in Word & 🎵



**Wednesday**

**01 10:00 am Fellowship**

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**Thursday**

**02 5:00 pm Soup Supper**

**6:00 pm Worship service with gluten free communion & grape juice**

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**Friday**

**03 12:00 – 3:00 pm The sanctuary will be open for quiet reflection**

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**Sunday**

**05 10:00 am HAPPY EASTER! Worship Service with Pastor T**

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**Wednesday**

**08 10:00 am Fellowship**

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**Friday**

**10 1:00 pm Trustees Meeting (*Conference Room*)**

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**Sunday**

**12 10:00 am Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)**

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**Wednesday**

**15 10:00 am Fellowship**

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**Friday**

**17 1:00 pm Trustees Meeting (*Conference Room*)**

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**Sunday**

**19 10:00 am Worship Service (*Sanctuary*) Welcome to our new members, who are joining the church today!**

**11:30 am Deacons Meeting (*Conference Room*)**

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**Wednesday**

**22 10:00 am Fellowship(*parlor*)**

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**Sunday**

**26 10:00 am Worship Service(*Sanctuary*)**

**11:30 am Council Meeting (*Conference Room*)**

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