

*First Congregational Church*

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS



### **Our Purpose Statement**

It is our purpose to joyfully celebrate Christ's presence and God's grace in our lives; to respect one another in love, actively seeking and embracing those who wish to grow with us in faith, hope and love; to follow the example of Jesus, as we minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the community.

*Through service we flourish.*



*The First Congregational Church in Worcester*  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

*March 26, 2023*

*You are invited to a time of quiet preparation during the Prelude*

Prelude

*Adagio in G Minor ~ Albinoni*

Ringling of the Chimes

Call to Worship (*from UCC Worship Ways*)

Breath of Life, you animate us.

**We come before you seeking revival from within.**

Holy One, when you speak, great things happen.

**Empower us to make great things happen.**

Matchless One, you bring good things to life.

**We desire to bring good things to life too.**

Great God, you lead us to righteousness.

**Lead us in the work for justice. Come, let us worship!**

Invocation and Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Adoration ~ *Insert*

*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

Jesus, keep me near the cross, there a precious fountain;

Free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever, till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;

There the Bright and Morning Star shed His beams around me. [Refrain]

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever, till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross! O lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;

Help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me.

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever, till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross! I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever;

Till I reach the golden strand, just beyond the river.

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever, till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Responsive Reading

*Psalm 130*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!**

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

**But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.**

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in God's word I hope;

**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.**

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with God is great power to redeem.

**It is God who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.**

Message for the Young and Young at Heart

Sharing of Announcements, Celebrations and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer,  
when I call, answer me. O Lord hear my prayer.  
O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

Old Testament Reading

*Ezekiel 37:1-14*

Giving of our Offerings

Offertory

*Meditation ~ Larson*

\*Doxology

*Picardy*

Praise our loving God, the Creator of all things, from atom to sun;  
Praise the Christ, our Lord and our brother, victor o'er the Cross, Chosen One;  
Pray that by the Spirit's power on our journey God's will be done.

\*Prayer of Dedication

**O God, receive this offering that we gladly give. May it be used to revive and restore those in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

\*Hymn ~ #234

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love, and do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
Until my will is one with Thine, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,  
But live with Thee the perfect life of Thine eternity.

Gospel Reading

John 11:1-45

Meditation

*Work for Justice*

Rev. Josh Fitterling

\*Sending Hymn ~ *Insert*

*We Shall Overcome*

We shall overcome, we shall overcome; we shall overcome someday  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome someday.

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand; we'll walk hand in hand someday  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we'll walk hand in hand someday.

We shall all be free, we shall all be free, we shall all be free someday.  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall all be free someday.

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace, we shall live in peace someday.  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall live in peace someday.

\*Benediction & Benediction Response

*New Britain*

Depart in peace to do God's will, walk ever in the light;  
for Christ is with you evermore, to guide your day and night.

\*Postlude

*Fugue on "Ebenezer" ~ Behnke*

*\*Please stand in body, or in spirit.*

*All are welcome to attend Coffee Hour immediately following our worship service in the Parlor. Not sure where to go? Just ask. Any one of us would be delighted to help you!*

*Want to get more connected with the happenings at First Church? Simply fill out one of our "Welcome Home!" cards located in the pew back in front of you and place it in the offering this morning.*

*\*Large print bulletins are available in the Narthex as well as hearing assistance devices for those who may need them.*

*We are glad you joined us today.*

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*The First Congregational Church in Worcester*  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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[office@fcc-worcester.org](mailto:office@fcc-worcester.org)

Doug Perkins, Sexton

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**Prayer Requests**

*Connie MacInnes requests prayers for her niece Linda and friend Marie Samuelson whom is very ill; Judy Mitchell requests prayers for her granddaughter, Ellanora; Sue & Norman Anderson request prayers for their daughter, Melanie Anderson, Sue's brother, Danny Waskevich and their friend, Roger Waite. Dawn & Matt Ahaesy request prayers for Dawn's dad, Francis Lajoie and Gina Ahaesy. The Deacons request prayers for Betty Dalbeck, Dolores Trzcinski, Jeanne Fassett, Paul Scherdell, and Joyce & Armand Thienel. Our fervent prayers are with Normairis Rivera's son, Joey as he undergoes a kidney transplant. Kristin Olson requests prayers for Mitch Bourque. Prayers for the Lingner family on the passing of Richard. Prayers for Hampton Bagdasarian who is having trouble with one eye.*

*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). Thank you for praying with us!*

**Announcements**

**Fellowship** ~ Fellowship meets in the Parlor at 10am on most Tuesdays. All are welcome to join.

**Special Music for Palm Sunday and Easter ~ Donation Appeal** ~ On Palm Sunday and Easter this year, our time of worship will be musically enhanced with the addition of brass! Donations to help cover this cost can be made to "First Congregational Church" with a memo of "Special Music" and we ask that all donations are received by March 31st. If you have questions, reach out to our Minister of Music, Scott Yonker. Thank you for your support!

**Holy Week Services are as follows ~**

**Palm Sunday is April 2<sup>nd</sup> with service @ 10:00 am**

**Maundy Thursday is April 6<sup>th</sup> with service @ 7pm (preceded by soup and bread meal at 6pm)**

**Good Friday is April 7<sup>th</sup> with service at 7pm**

**Easter Sunday is April 9<sup>th</sup> with service at 10am (Featuring Brass Quartet)**

**Carty Cupboard Food Pantry Collection/ Deacon's Fund Collection ~ April 2, 2023** ~ On the first Sunday of every month, donations of non-perishable, shelf-stable items are collected for the Carty Cupboard in Worcester. Funds are also collected monthly to provide one-time, emergency assistance to a neighbor in need.

**Are you interested in becoming a member of First Church?** Contact Rev. Josh at 610-750-2688 or [pastor@fcc-worcester.org](mailto:pastor@fcc-worcester.org) to express your interest and to learn more today! New members will be welcomed into covenant on Easter Sunday, April 9th at 10am!

**Open Sanctuary ~ Wednesdays from 2 to 3** ~ Pastor Josh will be in the Sanctuary, a moment each week for folks to spend time in the peace of our sanctuary space to sit, pray, listen, and ponder. Music will be playing and Pastor Josh will be available for anyone who wishes to have a conversation.

**Coffee Hour Hosts Needed** ~ We would love to have you help us provide hospitality. Sign-up any Sunday after worship in the Parlor. Thank you!

**Carpet Fund Collection** ~ Our new carpeting fund is growing! Please continue to add whatever you can spare to the Teddy Bear jar in the narthex. Thank you!

## *Weekly Calendar*

### **Today**

10:00am	FCC Worship (Sanctuary)
10:00am	Family Christian Church of God (Hall)
11:00am	Ghanian Resurrection Ministries (Upper level)
11:30am	Council Meeting (Conference Room)
6:45pm	AA Meeting (Hall)

### **Monday**

7:00pm	AA Meeting (Hall)
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### **Tuesday**

10:00am	Fellowship (Parlor)
6:30pm	AA Meeting (Hall)

### **Wednesday**

2:00pm	Open Sanctuary (Sanctuary)
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### **Thursday**

6:45pm	AA Meeting (Hall)
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### **Friday**

9:00pm	Spirit Life Chape (Hall)
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### **Saturday**

10:00am	New Hope SDA (Sanctuary & Parlor)
12:00pm	Church of God (Hall)

### **Sunday**

10:00am	Palm Sunday (Sanctuary)
10:00am	Carty Cupboard/ Deacons Fund (Sanctuary)
10:00am	Family Christian Church of God (Hall)
11:00am	Ghanian Resurrection Ministries (Upper level)
11:30am	Confirmation Class (Conference Room)
6:45pm	AA Meeting (Hall)