

# FRIENDLY MESSENGER

First Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602  
www.fcc-worcester.org · Office: 508-752-4635 · [office@fcc-worcester.org](mailto:office@fcc-worcester.org)  
Office hours are Monday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

April 2025



*Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!*

As the world around us awakens to the beauty of spring—trees budding, flowers blooming, and the world awakening from the grip of winter, we are reminded of the power of new life. As the cold and barrenness of winter fade away, it is making room for fresh beginnings, vibrant colors, and the warmth of the sun. In much the same way as today, the world was full of brokenness. We've learned that, at that time, Jesus stepped in. He bore our sin, carried our shame, and walked out of the tomb victorious – so we could walk in freedom. The cross is where love paid the price, and the empty tomb is where hope was born anew.

During this Easter season, my heart is filled with anticipation and joy – and I hope yours is too. Easter is more than a celebration; it is the very heartbeat of our faith. It is the glorious reminder that redemption is real, and it is ours through Jesus.

In the midst of this glorious Easter season, my heart is filled with gratitude and hope. The resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith – a declaration that light triumphs over darkness, life over death, and hope over despair. In a world that often feels uncertain and weary, Easter reminds us that hope is not just a feeling, but a living reality found in Christ.

As we draw closer to the day that we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we should take this opportunity to remember that without the Resurrection, we have nothing!

One of the most beloved scriptures in the Bible is the following: *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*  
~ John 3:16

Easter is a celebration of the greatest new beginning – the resurrection of Jesus Christ! While we live in a busy world, the most significant thing we can do with our time is spend it in the presence of our Lord in worship. There is something powerful about gathering together with people as well! I hope to see you on April 20<sup>th</sup> for this glorious celebration!

Easter Blessings, *Sue Anderson*

**April 13 @ 10:00 AM ~ Palm Sunday** ~ The First Congregational Church in Worcester

**April 17 @ 7:00 PM ~ Maundy Thursday** ~ We have been invited to the First Congregational Church of Paxton, 1 Church Street, Paxton, MA 01612

**April 19 @ 7:00 PM ~ Good Friday** ~ We have invited the FCC of Paxton to join us here, at the First Congregational Church in Worcester

**April 20 @ 10:00 AM ~ EASTER SUNDAY** ~ First Congregational Church in Worcester

**SEE YOU IN CHURCH!**

## Thank You Greg and Cindy!

Our sincere thanks go out to Greg & Cindy for the beautiful job they've done completing the painting of the side door entryway. It looks beautiful!



## Fellowship



In April, we will be doing an **Easter Craft** that Ruth is planning for us. We'll also be enjoying another stellar lunch at the **Skyline Bistro** in the Worcester Technical High School; Another entertaining game of **BINGO** is also on our agenda; Be sure to check the calendar below for upcoming meetings/events!

You're always welcome to join us along with friends and/or family. You're sure to have a great time! We meet at 10:00 AM in the church parlor, unless otherwise specified.

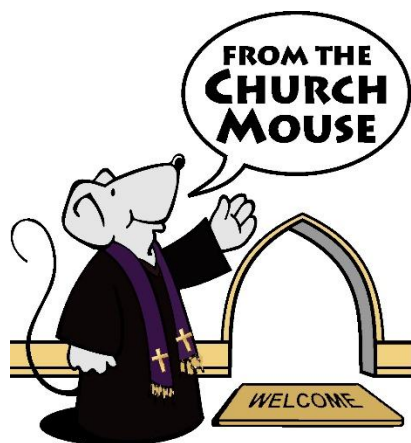


## Hospitality

Please join us in the parlor for coffee and goodies every Sunday after worship. If you are able to host a coffee hour, there is a sign-up sheet on the table. If you bring the goodies, we supply the beverages and paper goods. You don't even have to bake, store-bought is A-OK. It doesn't have to be fancy either. Fruit is always good and so are crackers and cheese. Also, two or more people can sign up together. Most importantly though, is for you to join us in fellowship. Hope to see you there!



*"True hospitality is a delicate balance of warmth and form." – Sheila Ostrander*



**Happy April! Happy Spring! And best of all, Happy Easter!** The whole Lenten Season is so special, with Ash Wednesday, then Palm Sunday...I love to make palm crosses and it's fun to wrap a palm around a broom handle, tape it there overnight and take it off in the morning and put it above a picture. There are all sorts of things to do with palms. Anyway, after that is Maundy Thursday, next comes Good Friday and finally, Easter Sunday! They're all such incredibly special days. Our God is an awesome God, isn't He? Giving us His only Son, Jesus Christ, to live and die for us. Can you imagine?! Knowing that He was going to suffer such a cruel and painful death, nailed to a cross, a crown of thorns sticking in his

head....what a horrible sacrifice...and all just for US! I just love my God and Jesus for the life They made for me!

I love the way everyone celebrates in church....(especially the coffee hours...hehehe). Easter baskets with chocolate bunnies, different colored and decorated eggs, and jelly beans, and....oh, do you know the jelly bean story? It makes Easter even more special, thinking about what each color represents. Let's see...oh yeah...

**Red** is for the blood He gave.

**Green** is for the grass He made.

**Yellow** is for the sun so bright.

**Orange** is for the edge of night.

**Black** is for the sins we made.

**White** is for the grace He gave.

**Purple** is for His hour of sorrow.

**Pink** is for a new tomorrow.

And a handful of jelly beans,

Colorful and sweet,

Is a prayer, a promise,

A loved one's treat!

Happy Resurrection Sunday!

Have a wonderful and blessed Easter!

As always, your friendly church mouse,

**Nick**



**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 **20<sup>th</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!



### ZOOM OR YOUTUBE



Although it seems to be hit or miss lately, we do try to broadcast our **Sunday services** via Zoom and afterwards on YouTube. Zoom seems to be acting up on us, not recording some Sundays. Hopefully, this problem will be resolved promptly. In the meantime, if you are at home and would like to join us virtually on Sunday mornings at 10 am, you can try doing so by following this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83102423294?pwd=RjhHZGNDZDZJyODNHWFabnRVZ2Vldz09>



**Sunday's service is usually uploaded to YouTube on Monday. You can see it here, and can also find our latest services here when we can record them:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDQmijukLaC24hwdyayupdg> or by searching "First Church, Worcester" on YouTube.



### 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.



### The First Sunday of Every Month Carty Cupboard



Many thanks for your Carty Cupboard donations once again. In March, we donated **12 bags of groceries. That was fantastic!** After school snacks and quick and easy but nutritious breakfast foods as well as lunches would be great. Those in need truly appreciate whatever you can give. Snacks like fruit cups, pudding cups and granola bars are always welcome. Jelly in plastic jars, mac and cheese and cereal are great, too. Donating not only non-perishable food, but also personal care items and/or baby items, are always welcome.

### Also, on The First Sunday of Every Month Deacons Fund

Thank you also for your generous contributions to the Deacons Fund. This is an on-going fund, set up for someone in desperate need of help. It is a one-time emergency fund.

*"Giving does not only precede receiving; it is the reason for it. It is in giving that we receive."*

*~ Israelmore Ayivor*





Greg and Cindy request prayers for their **grandson**; Matt and Dawn request prayers for **William**, who is facing health challenges. Danny requests prayers for **John**; Ellen requests prayers for her nephew, **Tyler** and his family. Tyler is undergoing treatment for cancer; Connie requests prayers for **Mac** and also for her niece **Linda**; Sue & Norman request prayers for their daughter, **Melanie**, Sue's brother, **Danny**, and her sister, **Lee**; They would also appreciate prayers for their doctor, **Phillip**; The Deacons request prayers for **Ann, Dolores, Paul, and Joyce & Armand**; Kristin requests prayers for **Mitch**; We ask for continued prayers for **Erika**; as well as for **Jane**. Please also keep our **Pastoral Search** and our **Music Director Search Committees** in your prayers.

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.

"Prayer is the link that connects us with God." ~ A.B. Simpson



### April

10 Kristin Olson	16 Khyllie Richard	22 Susan Cardin
24 Leanne Jezerski	26 Judy Langlois	

### May

07 Dawn Ahaesy	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 Bourgeault		



"Don't just count your years, make your years count." ~ George Meredith



### April

05 Dolores & Marie Trzcinski	18 Steve & Heidi Hinson
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"I was made and meant to look for you and wait for you and become yours forever." – Robert Browning





## *Easter Sunday Flowers*



Our Sanctuary will be decorated with tulips and daffodils on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025. If you would like to help with our beautification by ordering these plants, please indicate your choice on the form below. You can place your order in the Offertory Basket or leave it in the office with Sue.

### **PLEASE PRINT**

I would like to provide \_\_\_\_\_ tulip plant(s) at \$10.00 each

I would like to provide \_\_\_\_\_ daffodil plant(s) at \$10.00 each

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*Recognition will be in the Easter Service Bulletin\*\*\***

Please return this completed form along with cash or a check by **Sunday, April 13, 2025.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### **Please check one:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will pick up my plant/plants after the Easter Service.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will leave my plant/plants for someone else to enjoy.**



Tuesday

01 All Day ~

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Wednesday

02 10:00 am - Fellowship~ (Parlor)

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Thursday

03 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

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Friday

04 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

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Sunday

06 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (Sanctuary) ~ Communion Sunday ~ Gluten free communion and non-alcoholic grape juice are used.

We collect non-perishable items for the **Carty Cupboard** Food Pantry today.

We gratefully accept monetary donations for our **Deacon's Fund** today.

11:30 am Party Planning Committee Meeting (Conference Room)

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Monday

07 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

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Wednesday

09 10:00 am - Fellowship~ (Parlor)

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Thursday

10 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

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Friday

11 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

1:00 pm Trustees Meeting (Conference Room)

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Sunday

13 10:00 am - **PALM SUNDAY** ~ FCC Worship Service (Sanctuary)

**LAST DAY TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS!**



11:30 am Deacons Meeting (Conference Room)

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Monday

14 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

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Wednesday

16 11:00 am Fellowship ~ Lunch at the Skyline Bistro ~ Worcester Technical High School

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Thursday

17 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service at FCC of Paxton

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Friday

18 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

7:00 pm - Good Friday Service (Sanctuary)

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Sunday

20 10:00 am **EASTER SUNDAY** ~ FCC Worship Service (Sanctuary)

*Happy Easter*

Monday

21 Church Office Closed Today

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Wednesday

23 10:00 am Fellowship ~ (Parlor) **BINGO**

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Thursday

24 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

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Friday

25 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

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Sunday

27 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (Sanctuary)

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Monday

28 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

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Wednesday

30 10:00 am Fellowship ~ (Parlor)

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*“Look for the bits of beauty in every day. That is where the magic happens.” ~ Unknown*



**What:** Retirement Party for Scott Yonker, our Music Director

**Where:** In the church hall, downstairs

**When:** June 29, 2025

*This will be held immediately following the church service  
and will be a luncheon buffet.*

*We hope you'll join us. Scott has been with us for about 30 years!*

*We'll miss him and his musical talents immensely!*





## ***More April Updates***



**I'm sorry. I guess I just wanted to extend your enjoyment of this month's newsletter, so here you go:**

- **Scott Yonker** is doing the service on **April 6<sup>th</sup>** and has a wonderful surprise in store for us.
- **Rev. Bobby Girard** will be preaching on **Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**.
- We will be going to the **FCC of Paxton on Maundy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Scott Yonker** will be doing the **Good Friday Service here, April 18<sup>th</sup>**. The Paxton church has been invited to join us.
- **Rev. Noelle Dattilo** will be preaching on **Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**.
- **April 27<sup>th</sup>** will be a special joint service done by **Pastor Ellis of the Iglesia Pentecostal Casa de Vida**. Please note that this service will begin at **11:00 am**, with a luncheon in the parlor to follow. **Pastor Ellis has agreed to stick close to our timeframe.** 😊

Hopefully, this is it on the updates. Again, my apologies.

Joyful Blessings,

Sue Anderson