

THE BELL

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Gathered 1632

Vision Statement

Growing in faith by...worshipping God, loving all, joyfully serving others

Covenant – We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the word and the will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshiping God, and striving for the truth, justice and peace. As did those who came before, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

Number 336 January 2022

TO YOU, FROM PASTOR BARTLETT

We have been collecting our pledges and are getting in position to create the budget for the coming year. This financial information will be very helpful in determining how we will finance the continued outreach ministries for First Congregational Church, Marshfield.

I keep reading how many youth are taking their own lives and getting lured into drug abuse. The Gospel of Jesus Christ which we preach is the answer to destructive words and actions. The new life in Christ provides a purposeful mission to the world. This mission is not generationally oriented, but family oriented. The extension of the family is the church of God. Young people are the future of the church as older generations pass. The experience of the elders is invaluable in the training up of the next generations, but the focus of the church must be forward towards the generations that are coming. All Christians of all ages find their needs and visions fulfilled by caring for others in need, and that need now points to those who are coming of age. As has been demonstrated by our youth group and youth groups of the past in many churches, the youth have a tremendous ability to minister to the elderly and the shut ins, providing joy and love.

Sports on Sunday have not destroyed or demonstrably cut back our church ministries. It is, rather, our loss of vision and inability to deal with hardship that lies at the root of the problem. Sports for this lifetime cannot compete with a life plan that brings joy and success in this life and the life that is to come. Our challenge lies in determining how to bring all things together, in Christ, to bring about a transformation after God has answered our diligent prayer.

We have become accustomed to acting on information handed to us by our government and media without prayerfully considering the truth which comes from God. Our country was founded by those whose God provided the mandates. The great commission is the greatest mandate which we have. That mandate can only be fulfilled when our hearts are filled to overflowing with God's love for us and for all people everywhere.

As the interim and by contract, I am working with the church as an advisor to the Pastoral Search Committee. As a pastor, in search of a long term employment contract opportunity, I would be looking for the church commitment to growth which includes the elements mentioned above. I would also be looking for the financial and congregational personnel commitments to outreach. Therefore, as we go forward I would look to the search committee to develop a church profile that would emphasize the growth components.

I would also like the search committee to think about the question: "If I were a pastor, why would I want to pastor First Congregational Church, Marshfield." We have a list of duties to be performed by the pastor, but why would a pastor want to fulfill these duties? What makes our church a visionary place for career fulfillment for a pastor?

Another set of related questions concerns what we would expect of the settled pastor. A pastor can only do so much without active congregational leadership that already is open and moving in a direction of building the body of Christ in numbers and spirit.

What kind of activities will move us as a congregation in the right direction? Calling? Outreach Bible studies? It is only after we have answered these questions, and initiated a workable and sustainable plan, that we should initiate a search for candidates to fill the position that has been created.

The season of Epiphany begins in January of 2022. A new year is a new time to look forward with hope for the future. Once the early church started, the growth was precipitated by the desire to share what God can do in a life. As part of this sharing, we will discuss spiritual gifts that are given to all Christians to employ in Christ's service and, hopefully, we will find opportunities for these gifts to be employed in new growth for First Congregational Church, Marshfield.

Pastor Bartlett

FCCM CONTACT INFORMATION

1981 Ocean St. P.O. Box 826, Marshfield, MA. 02050 - Phone: (781) 834-7664

Email: pastorfccm@gmail.com; secretaryfccm@gmail.com; bookkeeperfccm@gmail.com;

On the web: FCCMarshfield.org - On facebook: [facebook.com/FirstCongregationalMarshfield](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalMarshfield)

Church Cancellations: Please watch FOX25 and www.myfoxboston.com. Also you can listen on WATD radio.

January 2022

FROM YOUR DEACONS

What a wonderful Christmas season we enjoyed at First Congregational Church. The Deacons would like to thank everyone who participated in Advent Readings (Confirmation Class, Sunday School, LBS and the Murphys). Our whole Advent season was blessed with Organ music which added much to our services. Thank you to Doug Ulwick and the Hights who made this possible. And of course, we thank our Minister, Reverend Richard Bartlett, whose faithful preaching and services kept us focused on Jesus.

In spite of Covid fears we continue to see our attendance numbers climb. Thank you to our parishioners who faithfully attend and who patiently endure our changing protocols in this fluid situation. Please see our Pilgrim weekly newsletter for the latest updates.

On January 8th we will take down the greens and prepare our church for the season of Epiphany. (This is followed by the busy season of Lent for which we are already preparing.) The Deacons will be taking over the Sexton duties from Jack Pattison until he is healthy enough to return.

Our goal for 2022 is to keep the church open and running, but we cannot do this without YOU! We survived the challenges of 2020 and 2021. We are ready to THRIVE in 2022!

“Do not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:25

From your Deacons, Michael Rydberg, Judy Johnson, Rick Taylor, Lisa Brown, Frank Wilkins and Alyssa Titus.

FROM YOUR TRUSTEES

Thank you everyone who have helped out on the Fall cleanups and needed projects. Thank you to Rick Taylor and Greg for power washing the Parish Hall and its ramp. It looks amazingly better. Thank you to Lew Conant, Ben and Greg for their terrific work on the room downstairs where the old Food Pantry was. They stripped it bare to studs and re-insulated, put up wallboard, lights and a dropped ceiling. We really appreciate all their hard work.

We had to do a repair on our Parish Hall furnace this month and replaced several of the thermostats to help us continue to conserve energy please reduce the thermostat setting as you leave.

Trustees are working on the 2022 budget and we need to get any final budgets in for us to be able to see the financial health of our budget. We do want to plan for the next enhancements to the buildings and are considering new windows in the Sanctuary and Parish Hall Kitchen renovation. Please let us know if you would like to work with us to help fundraise for these specific projects.

Wishing you a Happy New Year.

Your Trustees, Doreen, Greg and Donna

FROM YOUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

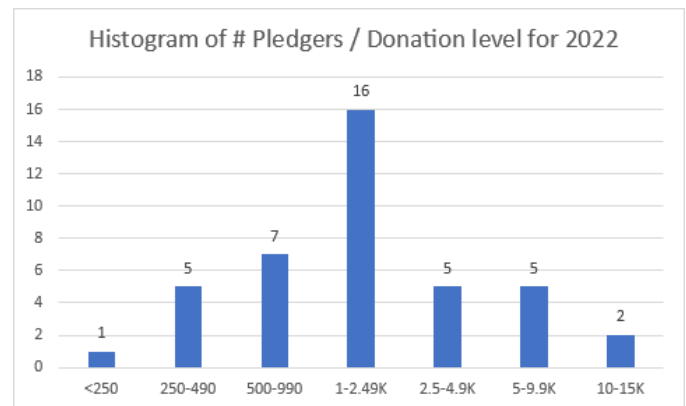
Thank you to all who have submitted your financial pledges for 2022, we really are blessed to have so many of them in already and can now start our budget activities. A reminder to those who have not yet sent in their pledges, we will reach out individually to you once again to try to have our view of the budget this month. If you feel you can't pledge this year, please reach out to Doreen and she will change your status.

We are asking the LBS, the Fair and Thrift and Gift committees to consider their pledges for 2022 since they are a significant amount of our annual budget. We are so blessed to have these significant fund raising efforts that help keep our church able to support missions and youth group activities.

If you would like an update on your yearly pledge status, just call Doreen Taylor 617 281-7693 and she can look it up for you.

NEW! UPDATED OFFICE HOURS BEGIN THIS JANUARY!

The office hours at FCC Marshfield will be changing starting in January due to class schedule changes for our secretary. Starting in January, our office hours will be as follows: Tuesday, 9am-3pm; Wednesday, 9am-2pm; Thursday, 9am-2pm. Mondays and Fridays the office will be open by appointment only. To make an appointment for Monday or Friday, please reach out to Reverend Bartlett or to the church office during office hours. Thank you!



LADIES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY (LBS)

The Ladies Benevolent Society are meeting in-person on Tuesdays at 10am. New members are always welcome!

UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Printed copies of the Upper Room Devotionals are now available in the Sanctuary. You can still access the daily devotionals online at www.upperroom.org/devotionals

FROM THE THRIFT AND GIFT

Hi all from Thrift and Gift! We've been incredibly blessed over the past few months, exceeding what was budgeted for the year! Huge thank you to all of you volunteering your time with sorting, hanging, arranging, rearranging, cleaning, etc.! A monumental task for sure! Looking for ways you might help? Time is always welcome, but there are other ways you can help as well: small blank price labels are always needed, donate your cleaned goods of all kinds, or drop by when we're open just to say hi and browse, you may just find something you need. And, just a bit of personal info, all the volunteers love chocolate and ice cream!

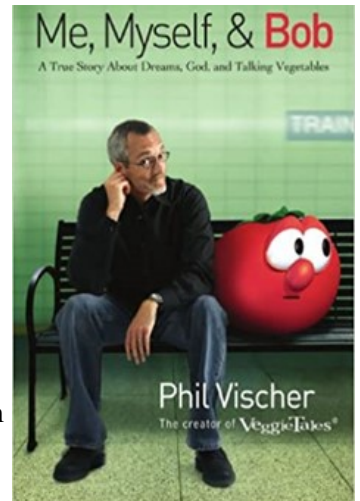
HEAVENLY BOOKWORMS: JANUARY 2021

Me, Myself, and Bob: A True Story About Dreams, God, and Talking Vegetables
by Phil Vischer

A story of dreaming big and working hard, of success and failure, of questions and answers. With wit and heart, Vischer shares how God can use the death of a dream to point us toward true success.

VeggieTales stars, Larry, Bob, and Archibald are the most famous vegetables you'll ever meet. Even when known around the world, so much of the story hasn't been told. In *Me, Myself, and Bob*, Vischer, Veggie Tales creator, gives a behind-the-scenes look at his journey with the loveable veggies. From famed creator to bankrupt dreamer, Vischer tells of his trial and ultimate triumph, as God inspired him with one big idea after another.

Join our Bookworm discussion Friday 1/28/22 (5:30pm) @ the Chrisman's, 13 Mountain Ash Drive in Kingston. Pizza will be served. Books are \$5 and can be picked up on the counter in our library. Please place payment in the envelope provided. Call Georgia @ 781-361-1290 to RSVP or for directions.



BOOKWORM COUCH-POTATOES

If you prefer the comfort of your couch to a discussion in Kingston, be a Couch Potato Bookworm and enjoy the same thought-provoking, interesting books the "Heavenlies" read. Earlier selections can be borrowed from our church library? A few copies of this book will be available after the discussion for a buck!

CALLING ALL BUSINESSES and INDIVIDUALS

The Trustees are offering sponsoring space in The Bell newsletter. This initiative will help bring in additional revenue as well as defray the costs associated with The Bell. In this Bell, we are offering free ads to individuals and businesses affiliated with our church while we test the layout. This could be either a sponsorship or even a personal message. If interested, please contact the church office or speak to/email a Trustee.

Bird Mansions
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"Distinctive homes for your fine feathered friends."
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Tom Campbell
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Marshfield, MA 02050
781 837 5875
Tom@EastComputing.com

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Thanksgiving/Joy: Christ's faithfulness to FCC Marshfield for 388 years, the gift of engaging in both in-person and online Worship, churches around the world; development of COVID-19 vaccines

Healing: Those impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, including the medical teams and officials working to keep us safe. Edna Robie, Kim Callendar, Carol Spooner, John Coombs, John Ritucci, Sr, Jack Pattison, Krista Gottschlich and Kaylee, George and Barbara Irvin, Stephanie, Daniel and for young Noah, Rex Hayden, Pat Taylor, Barbara Coville, Jay Prendergast, Jill Titus, Howard Hill, Ethyln Balkam, Derek Pugh, Joan Chubbs, Anne Sylvester, Ed Zadrozny, Sue Ritucci, Glen Ellingson, Bethany Andreeson, Faith Jean, Louise Nelson, Scott Rogers, Theresa Cooke, Natalie Graham (Jean High's sister), Chris Conant, Brad Willis, Bob Christopher, and Corey Chrisman

Comfort: families and friends of Ann Gorman

Homebound Church Family: Marie King, Kathy Bryan, Alberta Bezanson, and Mary Ellingson.

Guidance & Protection: Men and Women in the military and our first responders, families struggling with addictions, stigma of mental illness, John Coombs, people of Haiti, South Africa, and Myanmar, leaders of our nation, our unhoused youth in Marshfield, a time of transition here at FCC Marshfield, for people of Afghanistan, Patricia Bean's son (US Marine serving in Afghanistan), our troops and their families.



PRAYER PALS ON MONDAY EVENINGS

Prayer PALS pray on Monday evenings 6:30-7:30 in the church library; there is strength in numbers! After a brief devotion/discussion; Pals consider prayer needs and requests then share them with God. Join Pals weekly or when able; If you need a prayer yourself, place your request in the offering plate, the Prayer Box (in Hall parlor), or in an email to secretaryfccm@gmail.com or call 781-361-1290.

“Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”

Jeremiah 29:12

IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICE

-Sundays at 9:30am

Given the up kick in Covid cases, out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to observe a more reserved Passing of the Peace. To encourage distancing we are asking the congregation to stay in their pews and share a contactless greeting with those near you. In the absence of a state mandate, we will not require masks but will encourage their use and make masks available to anyone who wishes to wear one. Please be aware that everyone's comfort level is different and needs to be respected. Our goal is to keep everyone comfortable with coming to worship. Please be patient with us during this fluid situation. All our services will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook Live and available for viewing later. "Fellowship Hour" will continue to be offered in the Parish Hall after worship. Childcare will not be provided at this time. All unvaccinated children in Sunday School are encouraged to wear a mask. Washing stations and restrooms will continue to be made available on the upper and lower level of the Parish Hall. We look forward to joining you in Worship!

FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

- Articles due by Saturday, January 15

Please submit any articles/submissions for the February 2022 issue of *The Bell* newsletter to the church office by January 15. You may also submit your article via email to secretaryfccm@gmail.com. Thank you!

A NOTE FROM YOUR CARING MINISTRY TEAM

The role of the Caring Ministry Team is to assist the minister in meeting the needs of the congregation. The Team consists of 8 members: Lisa Brown, Pam Drouin, Mary Ellingson, Jennifer Fields, Judy Johnson, Donna McCue, Michael Rydberg and Gisele Coville. Each parishioner has been assigned to a Caring Ministry Team member. If you don't know who your Caring Minister is, please contact Michael Rydberg (508-246-3037), Gisele Coville or Jennifer Fields. Our primary mission is to pray for the needs of our assigned parishioners. Please also let us know if a spiritual or practical need should arise.

January 2022



THE GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND

Contact Us: GNFMarshfield@gmail.com <https://GNFMarshfield.wix.com/gnf-website> or
P.O. Box 826 Marshfield, MA 02050

Donate On-line: <https://GNFMarshfield.wix.com/gnf-websiteGoodNeighborFund.net>

Purchase GL Scrip Gift Cards: GNFMarshfield@gmail.com or First Congregational Church,
781-864-7664

Good Neighbor Fund Gift Card Order Form

Help our communities PURCHASE YOUR GIFT CARDS TODAY!

Buy gift cards to use at the Grocery stores that you normally shop for all your daily needs!

Contact us at GNFMarshfield@gmail.com.

VENDOR	DENOMINATIONS	%	# ORDER	AMT DUE
Shaw's Supermarkets	\$25.00/\$100.00	4%		
Roche Bros. Markets	\$25.00/\$100.00	3%		
Stop & Shop	\$25.00/\$50.00/\$100.00	4%		
Whole Foods Markets	\$25.00/\$100.00	3%		

TOTAL CARDS PURCHASED: _____ TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: _____

Please make checks payable to: **The Good Neighbor Fund**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact number: _____ Email: _____

MISSION PROJECTS FOR JANUARY

Seeing, understanding, showing compassion, and helping all people is part of our responsibility to God. Please continue to share in our mission to give support to everyone here and around the world.

Helping our on-going Marshfield Missions

Food Pantry - Please send a donation to the Food Pantry or to a group that is helping to feed the tremendous number of food-insecure families in the United States at this time.

Good Neighbor Fund - Continue to buy your Grocery and Gift Cards through the Good Neighbor Fund. Our neighbors need help year-round.

Helping the Homeless - Please support this on-going project with the Youth Fellowship and donate travel sized toiletries or new clean socks.

Helping our Family and Friends around the World

Please continue to pray for our families and friends around the world.

Opportunities

The Missions Committee has received a donation to be used for Mission trips through a vetted organization. This is open to anyone in the church who might be interested. Please talk to members of the committee for more information. The NACCC has a list of some opportunities on their website.



Leaders and confirmands, Leah Murphy and Emma Verlicco, have acclimated well to the confirmation program, as they continue their study of Lee Strobel's book, "The Case for Christ." Learn along with us:

A recap of our last summary on the first two chapters:

Chapter 1, Lee explains how he as a journalist for the Chicago Tribune was a non-believer, and set out to prove that Jesus was a mere human and great teacher, but certainly not God. He runs his investigation to prove his premise as a lawyer would prepare for a trial; State vs. Jesus Christ.

Chapter 2, he looked at what people at the time thought about who Jesus was and who Jesus said he was. After myriad interviews with renowned biblical scholars/historians and research of ancient writings, he found that countless people, followers, and Jesus himself thought and said Jesus was God.

In Chapter 3, Strobel considered Jesus' sanity. This time he interviews respected psychologists about the clinical signs of mental instability and found Jesus had none. One of those signs was claiming to be someone you were not. Such people believe they are a famous person, and God at the time was certainly famous and someone the Jews had been anticipating for centuries. Using Isaiah's prophecy of the Messiah and His coming, Strobel deemed that Jesus fit that description perfectly.

Examining the evidence of Jesus' being God, Strobel determined that thousands of people believed that totally after witnessing his miracles, his supreme understanding of the scriptures, and his superhuman awareness of things no one else could know. Lee pondered whether a crazy man could turn water into wine, cure the blind, raise the dead, or walk on water, to name a few. He also questioned why would the Jewish leaders of the time fear, be intimidated, or even care about a crazy person? Strobel even considered Jesus' being a hypnosis, learning they work via suggestion to cause people to believe things happened when they had not. Jesus made no suggestions to anyone; people just saw things He made happen. After scrutinizing hypnosis, he found no evidence.

In addition to all of this, one of the greatest pieces of evidence he found was that every Jew knew a claim to be God was blasphemy and punishable by death. Who would willingly die for a lie? Jesus had many chances to deny his deity and save himself, but did not. He gave his life for a truth.

Strobel concluded in chapter 3:

Jesus did not show any signs of mental illness.

Jesus was not a hypnotist.

Jesus fit the identity of the Messiah prophesized in the Old Testament.

Jesus willingly gave his life for the truth of His identity.

In January we will examine Chapter 4 to see whether Jesus matched the identity of the Messiah.

Our confirmands comprise a wonderful group of young women. Continue to keep them in your prayers. And when you see Emma or Leah, pass on a word of encouragement!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 1ST STOP: EXODUS

Starting in January, our Sunday School kids will be traveling into the Old Testament. First Stop is Exodus. Through their journey, kids will see how so long- ago, God claimed his people for himself and taught them lessons of truth, which still apply in their lives today.

Lesson 1: "Princess of Egypt" - Keep hoping in God, even when times are hard

Lesson 2: "The Reluctant Prince" - When God gives us a job, he'll give us the help

Lesson 3: "The Duel Begins" - God is bigger and more powerful than anyone

Lesson 4: "The God of Light and Life" - God takes care of us

Each Old Testament lesson pairs with New Testament scripture, as we do our best to "connect the dots." While connecting, we will have fun too!

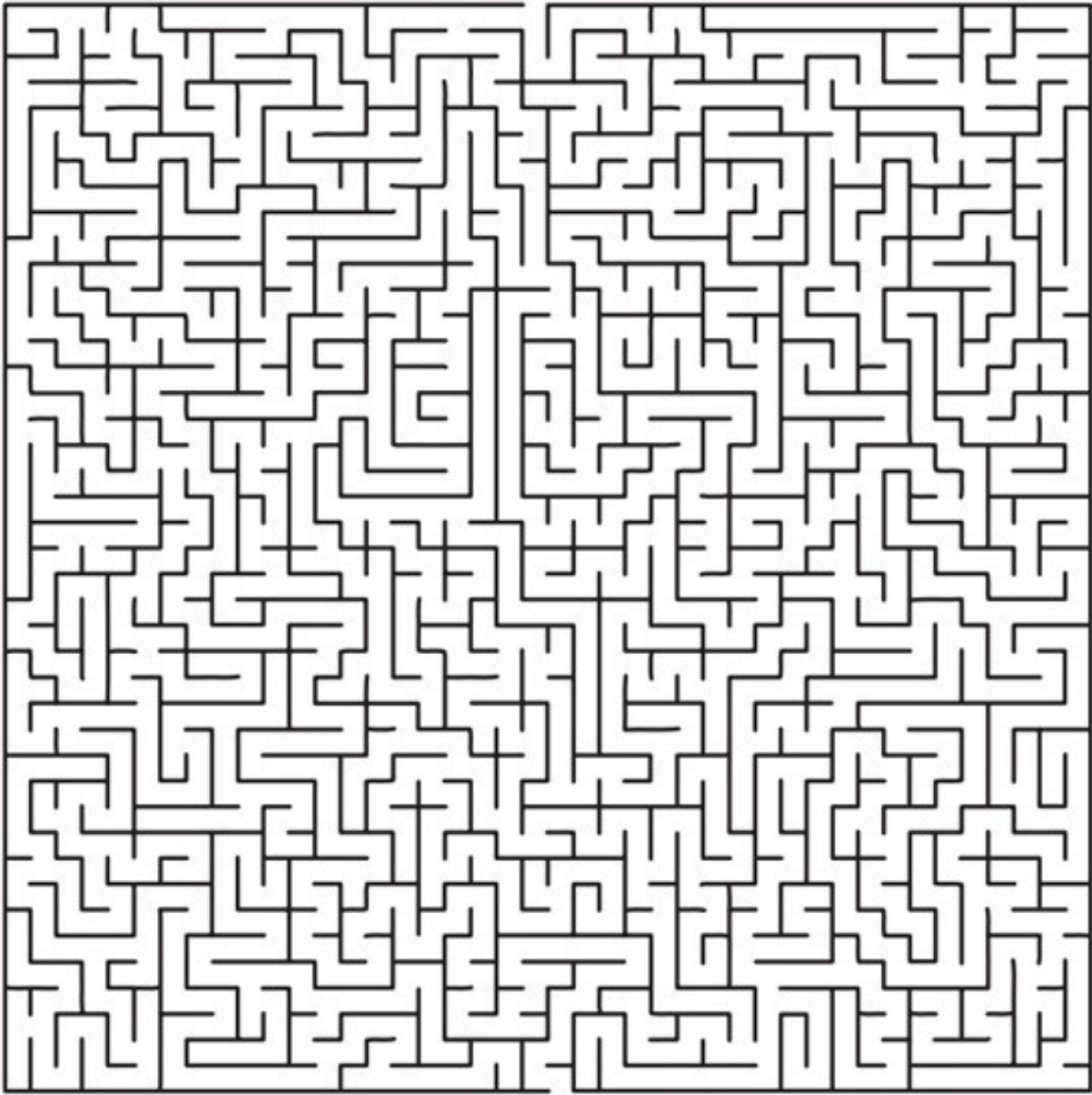
Jesus commanded that we let the children come to Him, assuring that the kingdom of Heaven belongs to them. So, let the children come to Sunday School – their church where they can learn, on their level, that our God is their God too, providing love, care, guidance, support and protection.





Kids' Korner

Here you will find either a fun cartoon or a Puzzle for you to try to complete
(whether you are a kid in age or a kid at heart)!

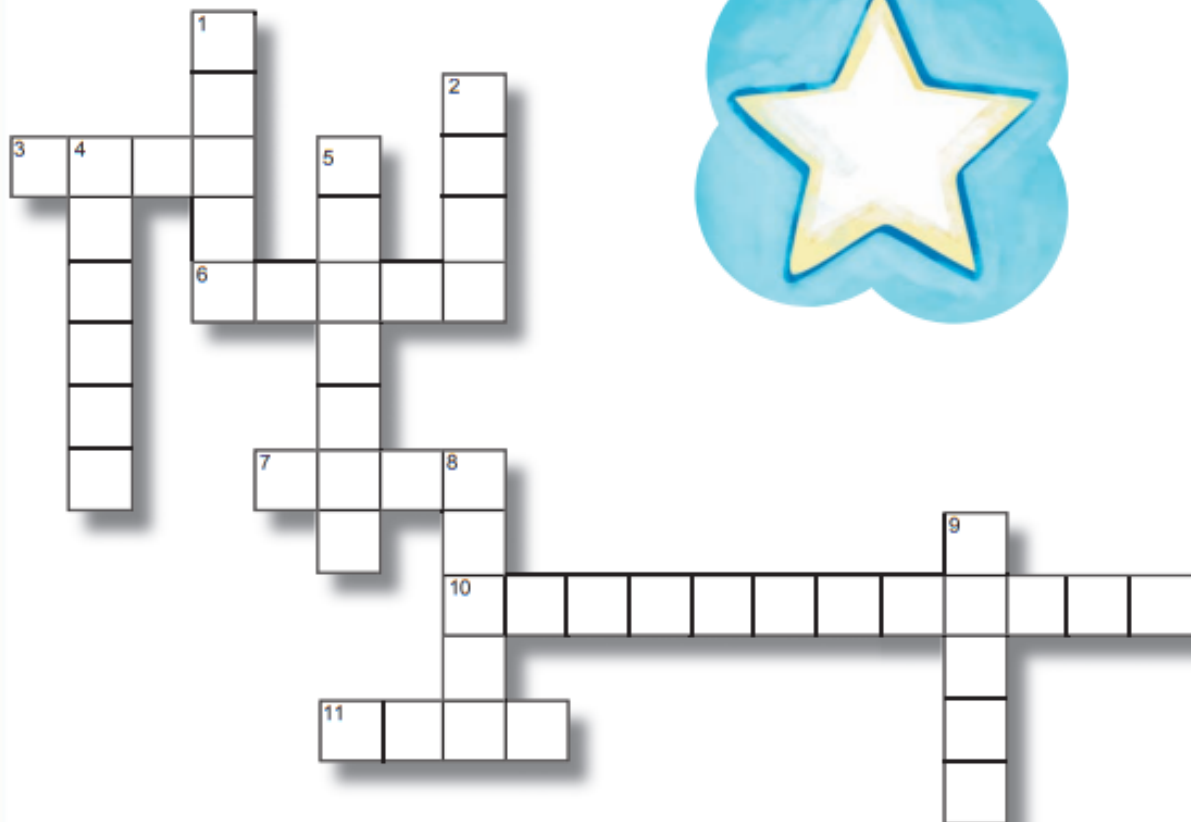
Help the Wise Men Follow the Star



What were the three gifts they brought to Jesus?



Wise Men Crossword Puzzle



Across

3. It guided the wise Men.
6. The ruler of Judea when Jesus was born
7. A monarch or ruler
10. One of the wise men's gifts
11. Full of knowledge or experience

Down

1. The wise men gave Jesus this.
2. Another gift to Jesus
4. Journey to a different place
5. Praise or adore
8. The wise men gave three _____ to Jesus.
9. The wise men went to Bethlehem to see the Baby _____.

JANUARY 2022

First Congregational Church of Attarshfield, Inc.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 New Year's Day
2 Communion <i>Sunday</i> 9:30am Worship and Sunday School 4pm Youth Fellowship	3 6:30pm Prayer Hour	4 10am – LBS	5	6 Epiphany	7	8
9 9:30am Worship and Sunday School 4pm Youth Fellowship	10 6:30pm Prayer Hour	11 10am – LBS	12	13	14	15 Bell Articles Due
16 9:30am All-Family Worship 4pm Youth Fellowship	17 Martin Luther <i>King Jr. Day</i> 6:30pm Prayer Hour	18 10am – LBS Coffee Hour	19	20	21	22
23 9:30am Worship and Sunday School 4pm Youth Fellowship	24 6:30pm Prayer Hour	25 10am – LBS	26	27	28 Bookworm discussion @ Chrisman's 5:30pm	29
30 9:30am Worship and Sunday School 4pm Youth Fellowship	31					

UPDATED! Office Hours: Tuesday: 9a-3p; Wednesday: 9a-2p; Thursday: 9a-2p

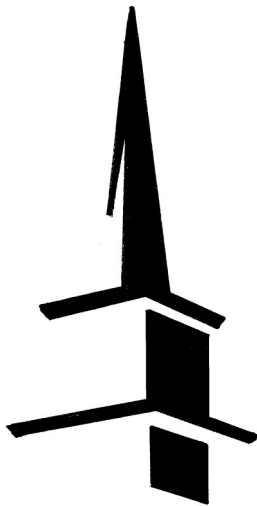
Pastoral Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Church Office – 781-834-7664 Email – secretaryfcm@gmail.com / pastorfcm@gmail.com

The First Congregational Church

1981 Ocean Street
P.O. Box 826
Marshfield, MA 02050-0826

Address Service Requested
TIME DATED MATERIAL



THE BELL

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Interim Minister—Rev. Richard Bartlett
1981 Ocean Street P.O. Box 826 Marshfield, MA. 02050 Office: 781-834-7664
NEW! Church Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00am–3:00pm; Wednesday 9:00am-2:00pm;
Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm
Pastoral Office Hours: By Appointment Only.

Worship Service & Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

All Are Welcome — Nursery Care Provided

www.FCCMarshfield.org
Secretaryfccm@gmail.com
Pastorfccm@gmail.com