

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 335 December 2021

TO YOU, FROM PASTOR BARTLETT

We are entering two of the exciting times of the church, Advent and Christmas. It is a time to reflect upon how the coming of Jesus transformed our culture for all time. The world has a repetitive history of centralization of power and corruption encouraging a replacement center of power. The vast numbers of people dwelling on earth have had to bear the results of cataclysmic difficulties in survival. Jesus came to turn the world upside down, to return hope and health to those of lesser means and to make everyone of the same value before God. God's love can fill our hearts, and forgive and remove those characteristics we have that destroy, rather than build our character. He teaches us community and fellowship where all are blessed on the same path of freedom and hope. None are left behind, but all who receive Christ's invitation are transformed to fulfil their equal part in the ministry of love that puts others before ourselves and flourishes in our community. We have a tendency to circle the wagons of our lives to find protection and security apart from the greater society except for a few close relationships. Jesus invites us to reach out to everyone with the good news of freedom from isolation and the cure to our finding God's intent for our lives. It is not just individuals that withdraw from God's plan, it is our complacent satisfaction as social groups, churches, and communities. The coming of Jesus shows how sacrificial love, inserted into the world, actually transforms the world to build the loving community God intended. Several aspects of the coming of Christ are explored at this season, but Christ's coming means our going to a world that is lost by its own turning to the temporal things of this world rather than to the eternal values that will bring joy and peace through all eternity. Our love of Christ at Christmas is measured by our willingness to deny ourselves for that sake of seeing joy, peace, and hope come to many that are losing hope.

God designed us in God's image. Let us look in the mirror of God's truth to see who and where we are in the life we were designed to live in God's love. Let us be continually transformed by inviting God's Holy Spirit to empower our lives to speak and live the invitation to the good news of Jesus for the sake of all.

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; tfccwebmaster@gmail.com

On the web: FCCMarshfield.org - On facebook: facebook.com/FirstCongregationalMarshfield

Church Office Hours (Note Updated Schedule; by appointment only): Monday 9:00am-3:00pm; Tuesday 9:30am-12:30pm; Wednesday 9:00am-3:00pm; Thursday 9:00am-1pm (office is closed on Fridays)

Pastoral Office Hours: Tue—Thurs. 9:30am-12:30pm (Mondays are Pastor's day off).

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

December 2021

FROM YOUR DEACONS

Our attendance numbers continue to climb! We recently had 52 people in attendance, a number which we haven't seen in worship since March of 2020. We have seen many new people in worship since Reverend Bartlett has stepped into the pulpit. God is certainly blessing his ministry. Last year at this time we were worshipping with our windows open, the heat off and no cushions on the benches. Because our vaccination rate is far above 80% there is no need to impose those restrictions at this time. This is subject to change depending on the variants and CDC guidelines, but for now we can keep our congregation safe AND comfortable.

Our fellowship Coffee hour seems to be running smoothly. We ask the congregation to be hyper vigilant to the new people who seem to be led to our church. Please be on the lookout for them at coffee hour. Leave room at your table or join them at theirs.

We decorated the sanctuary for Advent and we will decorate the Christmas Tree during the Family Sunday Service on December 12th with a Christmas Hymn Sing . We are pleased to announce that we will be able to offer Organ Music to accompany our worship services during the Advent season! JOY TO THE WORLD!

As of now there are no plans to open the nursery during worship until we can find qualified volunteers to help out. The Confirmation Class is up and running. You will see confirmands Emma Verlicco and Leah Murphy participating in worship as ushers and worship assistants. They were gifted with engraved bibles and have had a two classes so far with a lesson on Advent and have had some questions answered.

There is no better time to be in worship than during the festive Christmas season. If you haven't attended in a while, please consider joining us.

"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

We wanted to thank the very many helpers that signed up for special projects to help beautify our Church building and grounds. The committee to help with special projects was a tremendous success with documenting the needs and seeking volunteers to help with the individual tasks. Having the ability to do the work when folks were available helped bring out many more volunteers and we all want to thank you for your efforts. We will continue to give updates as new needs arise and more volunteers are needed.

The Trustees have begun to work on next years budgets and really need the final committee budgets to get moving along on this annual process.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas.

Your Trustees,

Doreen, Greg and Donna

FROM YOUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Pledges are coming in and we have dedicated those received so far on Nov 21st. These pledges are vital inputs to the budgeting process and if you can get your pledges in before Thanksgiving the Trustees will be able to start working on the next year's budget. As pledge cards come in Doreen Taylor will begin distributing the new 2022 envelopes. Using envelopes helps the tracking of contributions and become a paper record of the weekly or monthly contributions.

We ordered a few extra envelopes this year for anyone that would like to start using them.

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.

LADIES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY (LBS)

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



FLOWER DEDICATION SIGN-UP SHEET

The sign-up sheet for the 2021 season, has been placed in the vestibule of the sanctuary. Please see dates available to celebrate, honor or remember a loved one. Remembering with the gift of flowers, brings great joy to the Lord and those we love. You may contact Liz Vaillancourt, 781-837-8114 or Sarah, in the church office, 781-834-7664.

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

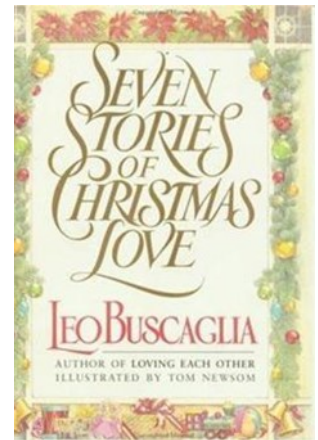
FROM THE THRIFT AND GIFT

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: DECEMBER 2021

Seven Stories of Christmas Love by Leo F. Buscaglia

This little Christmas book includes illustrations reminiscent of Norman Rockwell. The author of PBS fame, shares 7 holiday stories from his life, which appeared in Women's Day magazine in the late 1980's. They describe how his experiences producing a school Christmas pageant, reinforced his belief in the value of love. If you need inspiration or just want laugh and bask in the true meaning of Christmas, these short stories are sure to inspire love, hope, trust and faith. 128 pages



to

Join our Bookworm discussion Thursday 12/30/21 (5:30pm) @ the Chrisman's, 13 Mountain Ash Drive in Kingston. Call Georgia @ 781-361-1290 to rsvp or for directions. Pizza will be served. Books are \$5 and can be picked up on the counter in our library. An envelope for payment is provided.

FALL CLEAN UP TASK FORCE

The Church Council has created a task force for the impending cleanup of our church facilities and properties as the leaves start falling. Over the next few weeks, the council would like to hear from any individuals in the congregation who might be interested in serving on this task force which will be planning and organizing the Fall Clean Up. We anticipate that Work Groups will be formed and scheduled for these various seasonal activities. If you are interested in joining the Fall Clean Up Task Force or any of the work groups, please contact Steve Hight, Greg Prendergast, or any member of the church council.

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
by Jack Pattison
781-422-3640
"Distinctive homes for your fine feathered friends."
www.birdmansion.com

#3

EAST COMPUTING
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- Virus Removal
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- Backup Solutions

Tom Campbell
51 Regis Road
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, marriage of Philip and Laurel

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, and Joan Leod

Comfort: families and friends of Marcia Laffin, Karl Peterson, and Joseph Green

Homebound Church Family: Roz Novinsky, 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 un-housed 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 for you and others around the world on Monday evenings 6:30-7:30pm in the church library. After a brief devotion/discussion; the group reviews prayer needs and then presents those needs to our Lord. Join them regularly or occasionally when able; numbers strengthen prayers! If you can't pray with the Prayer Pals, but need a prayer for yourself or another, place your request in the offering box, or in an email to secretaryfccm@gmail.com or call Georgia (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 our vaccination rate of well above 80% we feel it is safe to continue meeting for worship without masks or distancing. If you feel safer with a mask on, please feel free to wear one. Everyone's decision to wear or not wear a mask will be respected. For the congregations comfort we will worship with the heat on and the windows closed. This is subject to change depending on the CDC guidelines and the variants, but for now we can meet in comfort AND in safety. We will observe a reserved "Passing of the Peace" with limited physical contact. Hand sanitizer continues to be available in the pews. We are experimenting with an all Gluten Free Communion . Please feel free to stand and sing with the Choir and to use the Pew Bibles and the Hymnals. Printed bulletins will be available, and the online bulletin will continue to be offered in advance for those who wish to access on their mobile device. All of our services will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook Live and available for viewing later. All are welcome to gather for "Fellowship Hour" 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!

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

- Articles due by Wednesday, December 15

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

BOOKWORM COUCH-POTATOES

If you'd rather (or have to) stay on your couch at discussion time, Heavenly Bookworms invite you to be a Couch Potato Worm. While Couch Potatoes miss the interesting discussions, they still can enjoy all the same inspiring books. FYI, most of our earlier selections can be borrowed from our church library! Also, copies can be purchased for \$1 after the discussion.



December 2021



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-website GoodNeighborFund.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 NOVEMBER

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.

MISSION CHRISTMAS PROJECT—THANK YOU

Thank you for all who packed a shoebox for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. With your help. We packed over 35 shoeboxes! Thank you!

December 2021

CONFIRMATION TIME IS HERE

In case you have been wondering what this year's Confirmation Class has been up to, I would love to tell you. Leah Murphy and Emma Verlicco began their monthly classes in October. They are studying Lee Strobel's book, "The Case for Christ."

In Chapter 1 Lee explains how he as a journalist for the Chicago Tribune was a non-believer. Since his wife was, he set out to prove that the man named Jesus, was a mere human and a great teacher, but God he was not! Being an investigative journalist with a legal background, he decided to approach it as a lawyer would and put the premise on trial; State vs. Jesus Christ.

In Chapter 2, he chose his first piece of evidence he would look for was find out who people living at the time thought about him, and specifically who Jesus said he was. He interviewed renowned biblical scholars and historians and reviewed myriad of ancient writings, including the Bible. He discovered that countless people, followers, and he himself thought and said he was God. While there were many references in the Bible about people's observations, the biggest piece of evidence was why would he say he was God, knowing that the penalty for claiming such at that time, would be a brutal flogging and gruesome death? So the evidence he found was that people around Jesus and Jesus himself said he was God.

Mike Rydberg joined Pastor B., Georgia and the confirmands in November to share his presentation on "Jesus is our Rock." Of course, it included rocks! We took part in an exercise where we got to know our rocks "up close and personal" to the point we could identify them blindfolded. Scriptures Mike shared, to name a few, revealed how Jesus knew us before we were born and knows everything about us, including the number of hairs on our heads. Each of our rocks will be inscribed with our names and favorite Bible verses, and after Confirmation graduation, will be placed under our Church sign with all of the other confirmation rocks of the past. Super cool! Next time you pass by the sign, take a look!

Lean and Emma also took part in our Mission's Committee project and filled an Operation Christmas shoebox for a deserving child in another part of the world. They also have been serving as worship assistants, ushers, acolytes and Sunday School Aides and were Advent readers for the first Sunday of Advent.

As you can see, they have been very busy these last 8 weeks. They are all over the place, so please say hello!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our 2021-2022 IN-PERSON Sunday School year kicked off on September 19th in the Parish Hall:

- * **Parents, please continue** to escort your child(ren) into the Parish Hall via the downstairs doorway and stay for a brief health screening before crossing to the Sanctuary.
- * Please also continue to come back inside after class so that your child(ren) may be returned directly to you following class.
- * Masks will be provided at the time of arrival for children without one, so don't be concerned if you forget one any day.
- * We will be practicing safe-distancing and every child will be provided with dedicated supplies. In addition, we will continue the practice of sanitizing Sunday School space and supplies prior to and following each class.
- * The Nursery will remain closed until the end of the pandemic, including variants.

*** As we continue to study Old and New Testament soldiers who show us how they suited up in the Armor of God, this year's Sunday School Theme is *Warriors of Faith. We are looking forward to continuing our Journey together!*

[Click here to register your child\(ren\) for Sunday School!](#)

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)!



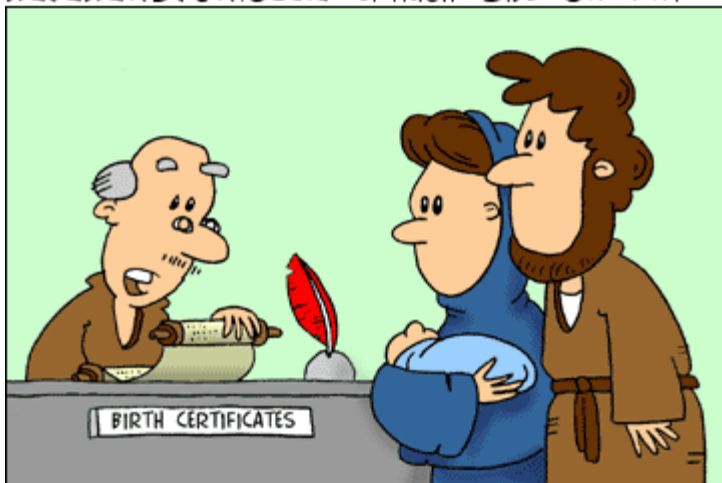
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The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



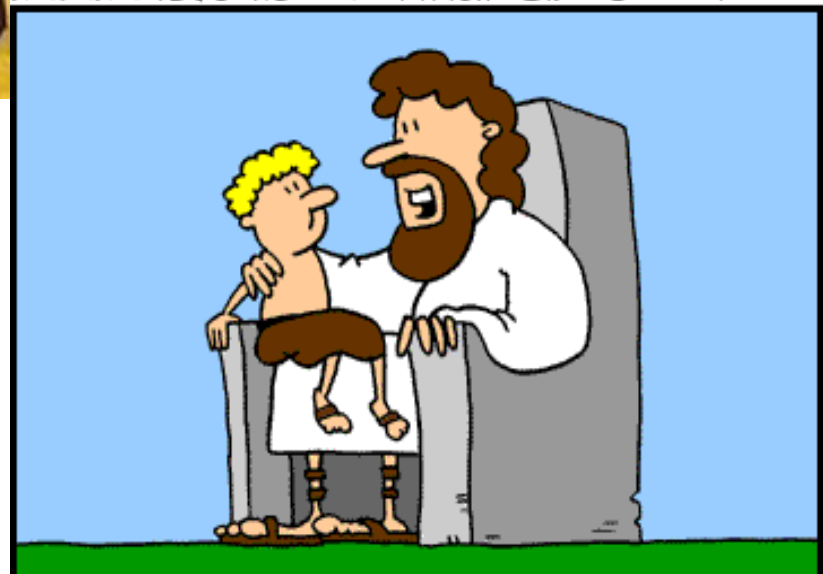
Then the 3 WISEMEN from the East visit the Newborn King. **Mt 2**

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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-20-2000

'JESUS, WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE' IS A BIT LONG FOR THIS FORM ... YOU MIGHT WANT TO JUST USE 'JESUS'



Thanks to Christopher Huffman 12-24-1998

HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED?

DECEMBER 2021

First Congregational Church of Atarshfield, Inc.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 10a-2p Annual Christmas Fair
5 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 9:30am Worship and Sunday School 4pm Youth Fellowship	6 6:30pm Prayer Hour	7 10am – LBS	8	9	10	11
12 3 rd <i>Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30am Worship and Sunday School 4pm Youth Fellowship	13 6:30pm Prayer Hour	14 10am – LBS	15 Deadline to Submit Bell Articles	16	17	18
19 4 th <i>Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30am Worship and Sunday School 4pm Youth Fellowship Live Nativity	20 6:30pm Prayer Hour	21 10am – LBS Coffee Hour	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 4pm Christmas Eve Service	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>
26 9:30am Worship and Sunday School	27 6:30pm Prayer Hour	28 10am – LBS	29	30	31 <i>New Years Eve</i>	



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

First Congregational Church
Parish Hall (& Parking Lot)
1981 Ocean St, Marshfield

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021
10 AM - 2 PM

WREATHS, GREENS,
FUDGE, COOKIES,
HANDIWORK, CHRISTMAS CRAFTS,
CHRISTMAS GIFTS
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
LUNCH SERVED FROM 11:30AM – 1:00PM

Church Fare Thrift and Gift Shoppe will be open

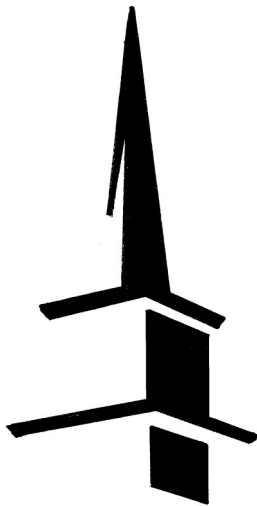
Hope to see you there!!

SPONSORED BY THE LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

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
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Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm
Pastoral Office Hours: Tuesdays from 9:30am to 12:30pm and other days by appointment.

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

All Are Welcome — Nursery Care Provided

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