

THE BELL

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Gathered 1632

332 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 325 JANUARY 2021

LIVING INTO HOPE

Happy New Year to you and your loved ones! We enter 2021 with hopeful hearts. Hopeful that the end of the pandemic is now in sight. Hopeful that political divisiveness may be transformed to peaceful and civil dialogue. Hopeful that God's children of all races may live with dignity and mutual respect. This year, we enter a new chapter in the life of our historic church. Living into our 389th year of being gathered in Jesus' name, we quickly approach the decade which leads to our 400th year as a congregation. Friends, this will no doubt continue to be a challenging time, but it is also a time of great opportunity. May we hold fast to our faith in Jesus as we live into the hope He has given us. Happy 2021!

Grace and peace, Pastor Joel

ONLINE LECTIO DIVINA

- Fri., Jan. 8 (8am)

Get your coffee and kickoff your weekend with meditative reflection on Scripture. Join us for our upcoming *lectio divina* online session on Friday morning (8am) on Jan. 8. *Lectio divina* is a contemplative way of reading the Bible. A centuries-old ecumenical spiritual practice, it dates back to the early church and was a monastic practice in the 6th Century. *Lectio divina* is a way of praying Scripture that leads us deeper into God's Word. Our online *lectio divina* will be in a multimedia format, accessible via Zoom video call; <u>click here</u> to signup for Jan. 8. <u>Click here</u> to join the Zoom meeting (Password: 248712), or call +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 408 638 0968 or +1 669 900 6833. Meeting ID: 843 0644 4284. All are welcome!

New! BIBLE STUDY: Jonah, Joel & Amos!

- Wednesdays at 1pm (starting Jan. 6)

Having now completed our study of Matthew, we're happy to announce a new Bible Study on the minor prophets Jonah, Joel & Amos to be held in Jan. 2021, meeting Weds. online via Zoom at 1pm. Study guides are available for a suggested donation (Let BCE know if you'd like a copy. **Books are available in office.**). <u>Click here</u> to signup and join us as we explore God's Word in *Jonah, Joel & Amos! <u>Click here</u> to join the Zoom meeting (Password:* 087699), or call +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 408 638 0968. Meeting ID: 912 2913 6401. All are welcome!

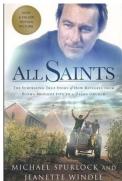
FCCM CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Pastoral Office Hours: Tue. 9:30am-12:30pm, Wed. and Thur. 9am to noon (Mondays are Pastor's day off). **Cancelations due to storms:** Please watch FOX25 and www.myfoxboston.com. Also you can listen on WATD radio.



ALL SAINTS: THE SURPRISING STORY OF HOW REFUGEES FROM BURMA BROUGHT LIFE TO A DYING CHURCH

By: Michael Spurlock, Jeanette Windle

Dive deeper into the true story behind the powerful film! After accepting his new position, salesman -turned-pastor Michael Spurlock is ordered to shut down his dilapidated country church, which boasts a dozen members and a mortgage well beyond its means. Instead, he challenges his parishioners to risk it all to welcome refugees and revive their community!

The discussion for January's book will be Friday 1/29/21 (7p) via Zoom - call Georgia for Zoom instructions - 781-361-1290. Book is \$4 (call Georgia) or order from Christianbook.com.

Are You a Couch-Potato who likes to Read?

Then...become part of an exclusive group of Couch Potato Book-worms. Skip those discussions! Books are about real people... inspiring, interesting and informative. Travel all over the world with us and meet amazing Christians. Past selections are available in our Library; contact Georgia (781-361-1290).



FROM YOUR DEACONS

MERRY CHRISTMAS! Thank you for celebrating Christ with us this Advent season! We have had an average of 35 people in worship for our Advent services so far with many more participating online. Our Candlelight Christmas Eve service is offered at 4pm this year. You will find your candles waiting in the pews for you. You are invited to take your candles and any unused candles home with you after the service.

Thank you everyone for your co-operation with our guidelines for in person worship as we strive to keep our church open and safe. For two weeks after Christmas Governor Baker has reduced church capacity from 40% to 25%. Please be aware that we have been operating at only 25% capacity ever since we re-opened in September. Given our 6 foot distancing and 2 person per pew requirements, even Pastor Joel's ordination did not exceed that capacity. In addition, based on recommendations from the NACCC we have decided to keep the narthex entry door and four windows at the front of the church OPEN during Worship for ventilation. THE CONGREGATION IS ENCOURAGED TO DRESS WARMLY and keep hats, coats and gloves on to stay comfortable during Worship as the weather gets colder. The Meeting House thermostat will be lowered to 50 degrees during Worship. This will help with ventilation while also avoiding wasting heat. These changes are necessary to keep our church open and the congregation safe. Also, between services, an industrial disinfectant sprayer will be used to sanitize the Meeting House.

Pastor Joel will be on a well-deserved vacation from Dec 27th to January 5th. Our Pulpit will be filled by our own Frank Wilkins on Dec. 27th and by Tom Coronite, who you may remember from our Installation service, on January 3rd. Please plan on attending and supporting these servants of Christ.

The Christmas Decorations will be taken down on Sat Jan 2nd at 10 am. We welcome any volunteers to help with the "Un-hanging of the Greens." MERRY CHRISTMAS and God Bless us Everyone!

WERKET CHIEFTWING and God Diess us Everyone.

To God be the Glory, Your Deacons, Michael Rydberg, Judy Johnson, Rick Taylor, Lisa Brown, Frank Wilkins and Alyssa Titus.

SENDING IN OFFERINGS

- Supporting our Ministries

As we continue to live into this unprecedented time of social distancing, we encourage all members and friends of FCCM to submit offerings to support our ongoing ministries. Offerings may be mailed to the church at First Congregational Church of Marshfield, P.O. Box 826, Marshfield, MA 02050. You may also opt to submit your offering through your bank or financial institution. God's grace is abundant, and He will sustain us through this COVID-19 crisis. Please contact the Church Office or a Trustee with any questions. Thank you for your generous support!

LADIES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY (LBS)

We are having ZOOM meetings about every other Tuesday at 10 am. Thank you –Phyllis

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.

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

- Articles due by Friday, January 15

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESTART

Our 2020-2021 IN PERSON Sunday School year started on September 20th in the Parish Hall! Parents need to escort their child(ren) into the Parish Hall via the downstairs doorway, stay for a brief health screening, and then come back inside after class so that your child(ren) may be returned directly to you. Please Exit through the Front Door of the Parish Hall. Washable/Reusable Masks will be provided at the time of arrival and a limited supply of single use masks will be available upon check-in moving forward. We will be practicing Safe-distancing and Every child will be provided with Dedicated, new supplies. I will be sanitizing Sunday School space and supplies following each class. (Nursery Care will resume sometime after Massachusetts moves into Stage 4 of COVID-19 recovery.)

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

- Sundays at 4pm

Youth Group had a great start to the new school year! Before we even had our first meeting, we've had a busy Fall planned. Things will look a little different this year, but we will be meeting in person (with safety measures in place!). Meetings will be held outside (weather permitting) and will include social distancing, hand sanitizer, and wearing of masks. Students will need to have rides to and from the meetings as the Leaders will not be able to give rides. We are continuing to build the Group and are looking for new active members.

- Scott Rogers, Carrie Sylvester, Josselyn Sullivan and Pastor Joel Boyd

LBS CHRISTMAS FAIR

- Thank you!

Thank you for all who came out to support our annual Ladies Benevolent Society Christmas Fair on Saturday December 12th! We were inside the Parish Hall and out in the Parking lot! There were Wreaths, Greens, Fudge, Cookies, Handi-work, Christmas Crafts, and Christmas Gifts! The Thrift and Gift Shoppe was also open. Thank you so much for all who helped make this event a success for our church. You are appreciated!

UNHANGING OF THE GREENS

— Sat., Jan. 2 (10am)

Following the holiday season we will be unhanging and storing the greens in the Meeting House. All are welcome to help. Please see a Deacon with any questions. Thank you.

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.





IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

<u>Thanksgiving/Joy:</u> Christ's faithfulness to FCC Marshfield for 388 years, the gift of engaging in both in-person and online Worship, birth of baby Vera Doherty (Kathy and Jim Doherty's granddaughter), churches in Marshfield: Our Lady of the Assumption; Sunday School and Youth Fellowship; development of COVID-19 vaccines, Blessings for a happy and healthy 2021!

<u>Healing:</u> 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, Katrina, Gloria Chrisman (Georgia's sister-in-law), Mercedes (Eliana Kimball's mother), Jay Prendergast, Krista Gottschlich, Peter Sylvester, Pat Taylor, Dave McGrath Sr, Tom Spear, Lisa Unangot (Sue Taylor's daughter), Brenda Hayden, Tim Boyd (Pastor Joel's uncle), Rick Austin, Joan Morrissey, Joanne Mallet, Malcolm Gale, Doreen Taylor, Chuck Frohnapfel

<u>Comfort:</u> families of Joan Jordan, June Ellingson, Judith McLaughlin, Jean Crane, and Dexter Gasper <u>Homebound Church Family:</u> Roz Novinsky, Marie King, Kathy Bryan, Alberta Bezanson, and Mary Ellingson. <u>Guidance & Protection:</u> Men and Women in the military and our first responders, families struggling with addictions, stigma of mental illness, George Irvin and Barbara Irvin Stovold (Pam Drouin's parents), John Coombs, Stephanie Goodspeed, leaders of our nation, for unhoused youth in Marshfield

PRAYER PALS ON MONDAY EVENINGS



Prayer PALS ... Did you know they are praying for you, our church, community, nation and our world? They gather on Monday evenings 6:00-7:00pm, either in the Parish Hall or via Zoom. If interested, please call Georgia (781-361-1290) or email the office for details or help getting connected to Zoom. One may place a prayer request in the offering plate/box, email Pastor Joel at pastorfccm@gmail.com, or call 781-361-1290. "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us." (1 John 5:14 | KJV) New pals always welcome!

FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

It's that time of year, our NACCC dues are due. The NACCC has helped us in many different ways, including providing funds to help us replace our roofs, and assisting us in finding Pastor Joel. The membership dues are \$15 per a member. We greatly appreciate anyone who can afford to donate toward this association.

2021 PLEDGE ENVELOPES AVAILABLE

The 2021 pledge contribution envelopes will be available in the upper hall of the Parish Hall after the new year. If do not have envelopes and would like them please contact Doreen Taylor, Financial Secretary.

IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICE

-Sundays at 9:30am

NACCC recommendations on indoor Worship indicate that ventilation is key if we are to keep our churches open and safe from COVID-19 virus transmission this winter. Please be advised that in observance of this recommendation, we will be keeping the narthex entry door and the four windows at the front of the church OPEN during Worship for ventilation. The congregation is encouraged to dress warmly and keep hats, coats and gloves on to stay comfortable during Worship as the weather gets colder. The Meeting House thermostat will be lowered to 50 degrees during Worship. This will help with ventilation while also avoid wasting heat. There will be no corporate singing of hymns and bulletins will not be printed and handed out. (You may print you own or access on your mobile device.) Between services an industrial disinfectant sprayer will be used to sanitize the Meeting House. All of our services will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook Live and available for viewing later. While we are very excited about staying open this winter, we are also fully aware of our obligation to ensure the health and safety of all who attend. We will continue to encourage online sign-ups. All are asked to sign up in advance by either calling the church office or sign up online through The Pilgrim email. Note that our capacity will be limited as per state guidelines, and that masks and 6-foot social distancing will still be required (Only two persons allowed per pew, although members of the same immediate household may be seated together). Please bring your own cushion for seating. There will be no fellowship time following service. Childcare will not be provided at this time. All over the age of 5 are asked to wear a mask. Washing stations and restrooms will continue to be made available on the lower level of the Parish Hall. We look forward to joining you in Worship!

OFFICE HOUR APPOINTMENTS

As you know, Pastor Joel and Sarah have been working remotely throughout these months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Parish Hall offices are open for in-person meetings with our staff by appointment only. Kindly contact Pastor Joel or Sarah to set a time during our published office hours and call the office from the parking lot and you will be given access to the Parish Hall. All visitors to the Parish Hall offices must wear a mask, sanitize hands before entry, make sure they do not have a temperature or any COVID-19 symptoms ahead of time, confirm that they have not recently travelled to an area that requires quarantining, and maintain 6-foot social distancing while in the Parish Hall. Please note that while the bathrooms are accessible, with the exception of the offices and front parlor, all other rooms are restricted at this time. For your information, our staff will be cleaning their work area each day, using supplies which meet state guidelines. Published office hours are: M - 9am-3pm, T - 9:30am-12:30pm, W - 9am-3pm, Th - 9am-1pm. Pastoral office hours are: T - 9:30am-12:30pm, W - 9am-noon, Th - 9am-noon. (Mondays are the Pastor's day off). In addition to any in-person appointments made, note that the staff remain fully accessible via phone, email or video conferencing (Zoom) as well.

You can reach the office at: secretaryfccm@gmail.com, pastorfccm@gmail.com, 781-834-7664. Thank you.

UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONALS

We have not renewed our subscription to the printed Upper Room Daily Devotionals. For those of you who miss the devotions, please know that they are available for FREE online at <u>https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals</u>

NEED TO TALK? HAVING TROUBLE DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS?

We are living through an especially stressful and challenging time amid the COVID-19 crisis. While some may be juggling the obligations of career and home schooling children, others may be experiencing a sudden shift in employment, loss of career, or loneliness and isolation. Of course, there is also the fact that some may contract the virus, making it difficult for loved ones to see them. If you feel like you need to speak with someone about these concerns, please know that you can always contact the Pastor. In the event of an emergency, you should call 911. Contact your Town Board of Health for available resources.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL MEETING REPORTS

Boards and Committees are encouraged to start thinking about putting together their reports for the Annual Financial Meeting to be held in Feb. If you need a copy of last year's report, please contact Church Administrator Sarah Fuller in the office for a copy. All reports should be submitted to the office by the beginning of Feb. Thank you.

"FINDING LIFE"

- FCCM 2021 Stewardship Campaign

Thank you so much for all who have submitted pledges as part of this year's Stewardship Campaign, *Finding Life*. Your support is an important part of our mission, even in a time of pandemic, as we continue to faithfully love and serve through unprecedented times at FCC Marshfield. Your pledges help make a difference in the mutual ministries we offer to our community near and far. FCCM's *Finding Life* Campaign directly supports the operating budget of our historic church, blessing the many ministries of our congregation as we grow together in the love of God and neighbor. **If you have not had the opportunity to do so, you are encouraged to submit your pledge card** and either bring it to Worship and place it in the offering, mail to FCC Marshfield (P.O. Box 826, Marshfield, MA 02050) or <u>click here</u> to submit your pledge online. Thank you for blessing God's church.



THE GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND <u>Contact Us</u>: GNFMarshfield@gmail.comhttps:\\GNFMarshfield.wix.com/gnf-website or P.O. Box 826 Marshfield, MA 02050 <u>Donate On-line</u>: 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. **DENOMINATIONS** VENDOR % # ORDER AMT DUE Shaw's Supermarkets \$25.00/\$100.00 4% Roche Bros. Markets \$25.00/\$100.00 3% \$25.00/\$50.00/\$100.00 4% Stop & Shop 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

<u>Food Pantry</u> - 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.

Sowing Seeds - Please donate new socks, good winter clothing and sleepwear.

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

<u>Helping the Homeless</u> - 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. We made a donation to Church World Services for tools to honor of our Dads on Father's Day.

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.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP AT FCCM?

Have you or someone you know been prayerfully considering joining our congregation? Are you interested to learn more about our church and what it means to be a "Congregationalist"? Contact Pastor Joel or a member of the Diaconate to see about participating in our New Member Class and Intro to Congregationalism. This class is open to anyone who wishes to learn more about membership at FCCM. Thank you.

Kids Korner

This is a new section! 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)!

<u>Click here</u> or see below to see if you can solve this Santa Crossword Puzzle made by Judy Johnson

Santa Crossword Puzzle! By: Judy Johnson

Е	G	R	D	Ν	Е	S	Х	F	Q	Ν	Ρ	В	0	V	F
I.	Е	Μ	S	Ν	С	S	Μ	Ρ	А	G	Т	Т	R	А	Ν
0	Μ	А	С	F	В	0	С	С	Н	1	L	D	R	Е	Ν
Υ	Х	R	T	F	Y	Ν	Ν	Е	Ν	F	Е	Υ	Μ	А	Т
W	L	Ζ	R	Ζ	S	Е	0	T	Y	Т	Μ	R	Ν	S	L
L	F	G	С	0	R	1	Е	Ν	С	S	Ε	F	Y	R	S
L	Н	W	G	Ρ	Т	R	L	Ν	Q	Н	Q	L	Н	R	Т
Е	R	S	I	Ε	Ε	В	S	В	S	Т	0	С	0	Ν	Т
L	S	W	D	W	V	В	Ν	Т	Е	Н	Н	L	Ι	0	Н
G	0	Ν	Ν	С	L	Т	F	S	Е	Е	I	А	А	S	В
L	J	Н	Т	D	Ρ	0	S	Н	R	А	S	U	0	S	J
Ρ	Н	1	G	U	А	А	А	0	S	0	Μ	S	Н	Н	Е
0	А	Μ	S	Т	I	S	Ν	Ρ	А	С	L	0	Μ	R	G
Е	Е	Е	Ν	Μ	Ν	1	Т	В	Ν	Μ	Т	0	S	S	G
Ρ	Ν	S	Q	Х	Μ	А	А	В	Х	S	S	I	S	G	L
Ε	D	L.	S	Т	W	В	V	F	U	Α	Т	U	Н	Т	Н

Find the following hidden words:

ASIA	BABA	BISHOP	CHILDREN	CLAUS
FISHERMEN	GIFTS	HOLY	MINOR	MYRA
NICHOLAS	NOEL	SAILORS	SAINT	SANTA



Hanging of the Greens (above)

Youth Fellowship Rock-Paper-Scissors (socially distanced)







Youth Fellowship Live Nativity



THE GREEN SHEET

(A monthly message from our youth team)



Greetings from the FCCM Youth Group! Well, the weather is starting to get a little chillier, and the Youth Group is gearing up and getting excited for the winter! We've got a lot of fun planned.

Things look a little different this year, but we will be meeting in person (with safety measures in place !)

Here's what's coming up:

January's Schedule:

No Meeting on January 3rd - Happy New Year! Sun., Jan. 10 - Regular Meeting – at Parish Hall - 4-5:30pm Sun., Jan. 17 - Regular Meeting – at Parish Hall - 4-5:30pm Sun., Jan. 24 - Regular Meeting – at Parish Hall - 4-5:30pm Sun., Jan. 31 - Regular Meeting – at Parish Hall - 4-5:30pm

Meetings will be held outside (weather permitting) and will include social distancing, hand sanitizer, and wearing of masks. Students will need to have rides to and from the meetings as the Leaders will not be able to give rides.

Looking Ahead:

We are currently saving cans and bottles throughout the weeks. We will be holding a Can Drive on the 4th Saturday of every month. You can drop your cans off at the Parish Hall or bring them to us on those Saturdays. We thank you for your support! These funds allow us to reduce the costs of our retreats and fund our weekly Youth Ministry program.

To start this year, we will be collecting cans and "quarantining" them in the Can Box to be counted later (about one week later)

Further Ahead:

We are continuing to build the Group and are looking for new active members of the Youth Group. We are trying to re-implement our Leaders-in-Training Program which allows High School students to act more as mentors and Junior Leaders. It looks good on a college resume!

Thank you and God Bless!

Your Youth Group Advisors, Scott Rogers, Carrie Sylvester, Josselyn Sullivan and Pastor Joel Boyd