

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 317 APRIL 2020

FELLOWSHIP IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

When faced with a time of challenge, the Church is called to be faithful and resilient. The challenge of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is no exception. Yet, it can often be easy for one to say how others ought to have responded to, gathered with, cared for, or attended to others in times of crisis long since passed. My prayer is that the focus of the local church be on the God who loves and cares for us so deeply. Rooted in the love of God, the Spirit illumines the ways we may love and care for our neighbor. These Biblical "loves" call us to care for one another and for God's world around us. And so, while we take our cue from those whom God has blessed with the gifts of medical knowledge and care, we also do so with these "loves" as our lens. What does it look like to care for one another in the event of a pandemic? How do safe health precautions bless those around us? How might we have to work at staying connected? Who may be most vulnerable in such a crisis, and how may we be called to tend to their needs, if even from afar? The fellowship we are called to is about more than just being physically together. It's about loving as Jesus taught us, in all times. May God bless our medical professionals and bless you and those you love and serve, that you may be healthy and safe in this season of challenge.

Your brother in Christ, Pastor Joel

FCCM ONLINE WORSHIP

Each Sunday, during the coronavirus crisis, we will have a digital Online Worship service accessible through the church website (www.fccmarshfield.org), church Facebook page, and through the weekly The Pilgrim email. Online Worship will feature links to announcements, prayers, Scripture readings, Sermons, and Worship Music. This is a great opportunity to get involved for all ages of the church! If you would like to join in participating, please reach out to Pastor Joel or a member of the Diaconate, and we would be happy to discuss ways you can get involved in Online Worship at FCCM. The Spirit unites God's people wherever they may be. May God bless you and your family in Christ Jesus.

THANKS FROM THE TOWN

I wanted to thank you for all of your help during the early voting week. Members and staff were so easy to work with and made my job so much easier. Wishes for a great Spring and Easter season.

- Susan Sloane, Town of Marshfield - Elections

FCC 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: Monday 9:00am-3:00pm; Tuesday 9:00am-12:00pm; Wednesday 9:00am-3:00pm; Thursday 9:00am-12:00pm; Friday 9:00am-1:00pm

Pastoral Office Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9am to noon (Mondays will be Pastor's day off). **Cancelations due to storms:** Please watch FOX25 and www.myfoxboston.com. Also you can listen on WATD radio.

"GOD LOVES, GOD PROVIDES"

- New! FCCM Daily Devotionals

In a time when we may easily be tempted to think we're alone, here at FCC Marshfield we want to remind one another that God is always with us, and that we are united by the Holy Spirit, no matter what physical distance there may be between us, no matter what illness may come our way. As an intentional effort to remind us of God's loving presence with His people, we have taken on the spiritual practice of offering what we hope to be daily devotionals from members and friends of our church. Each devotional will include a Scripture, brief 1-2 paragraph devotional, and a prayer. Our theme for these devotionals is "God's love and provision for His people." See the link in The Pilgrim email to view selected Scripture recommendations on this topic. Contact Pastor Joel or a Deacon if you'd like to submit a devotional as part of this effort. Thank you!

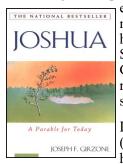
LENT AT FCCM

- Stay Tuned for Potential Updates

Here are some important dates for your Lenten calendar at FCCM: Sun., April 5 - Palm Sunday (Worship & Sunday School Palm Parade - 9:30am, Brunch - 10:30am); Thur., April 9 - Maundy Thursday Worship (7pm); Fri., April 10 - Good Friday Worship (ecumenical service - noon); Sun., April 12 - Easter Sunday Worship (two services: Youth-led Sunrise service - 5:45am TBD, Meeting House service - 9:30am). Hope you can join us!

HEAVENLY BOOKWORMS' MARCH 2020 SELECTION Joshua: A Parable By: Joseph Girzone

Touching on scripture, "Joshua" is a fictional, modern day parable. It is moving, inspiring and



entertains the idea that after 2000 years, the human race may be given a second chance. When Joshua moves to a small cabin on the edge of town, the local people are at first mystified, then confused by him. Who is this simple woodworker who quietly urges all to tear down the walls that separate them. Some are mystified, while others are frightened. In the end, he is confronted by church leaders. . . Girzone's fictional parable is moving and thought-provoking. However, if you want the real thing - read the real thing - His word stands strong, but this book will, perhaps, entice readers into further seeking the Word of God. 271 pages

Discussion for March's book will be Friday 3/27 (7p) at the Chrisman's, 13 Mountain Ash, Kingston (Right off exit 10 of Rt 3 South; left after storage units onto Silver Birch; right on Mountain Ash – 5th house on right).

Questions: 781-361-1290. Book is \$5 (see Georgia) or christianbook.com.

Be a Heavenly Bookworm Couch-Potato!

for those who like to read and are curious about Bookworm selections, but not interested in discussing them! Be a Couch-potato Worm and read, but skip the discussions. Books are inspiring, interesting and sometimes informative. Haven't read any that I did not gain something from. FYI: past books are in our church library.

FROM YOUR DEACONS

Update on Pastor Joel's Vicinage, Ordination and Installation: The Letter Missive has been sent out, MACCC churches have been invited and we already have 7 positive responses for the Vicinage which gives us our required quorum. Don Bliss and Doug Grey have accepted invitations to act as



Chair and Scribe respectively, so we are well on our way. The Deacons and the Pastor would like to thank the Christian Fellowship committee for their generosity. Not only have they offered to help with serving the luncheon and dinner associated with the Vicinage and the Ordination but have also offered \$500 toward those celebrations! This was an answer to prayer and the Deacons and the Pastor are very grateful to the Christian Fellowship Committee for their generosity and their support.

The Deacons are anxious to continue our Lenten celebrations with the congregation. At this writing many of our services have been temporarily amended and some are in jeopardy. Due to the concerns about the Corona Virus we have temporarily suspended any physical interaction during the passion of the peace. Communion will be omitted from our Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday worship and our March 15 worship service in the meeting house has had to be cancelled. The situation is day to day, but the Deacons and the Pastor are in constant communication. We will resume worship service as soon as it is safe to do so. Please know that the safety of our congregation is of paramount importance to us.

In these uncertain times, with the suspension of communion and the canceling of corporate worship we would like you to remember these words of Jesus. "I will build my church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it!" We are the church of Jesus Christ and this virus will NOT prevail against us.

Your Deacons, Michael Rydberg, Judy Johnson, Rick Taylor, Lisa Brown, Kathy Doherty, Jayne Bowman, Frank Wilkins and Alyssa Titus

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

- FCCM Response & Preparedness

This March, Governor Baker declared a State of Emergency for Massachusetts and banned in-person gatherings of 25 people or more (including faith-based events) in response to concerns over the potential spread of the coronavirus (also known as COVID-19). This has been echoed by States, schools, and organizations around the nation, including our Town Board of Health and the federal government. Churches around the country have been making decisions to adapt their Worship liturgy to be especially mindful of the health and safety of members and visitors, limiting or forgoing some aspects in order to contain the virus. Following much prayerful consideration, we suspended all in-person church-related events and services through the end of March. In more recent weeks, we have learned of the continued recommendation to suspend in-person gatherings to encourage what has been called "social distancing," where individuals refrain from coming within 6-feet of one another, and avoid restaurants or any events with larger groups in attendance. Please know that this is a fluid situation, and we are assessing the latest information as it is made available. Our friends in the medical community support this decision. We pray that everyone may be safe. Please see the CDC website for the latest updates on the coronavirus, and stay tuned for more updates from FCC Marshfield.

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.

New! ONLINE LECTIO DIVINA

- Available by April 1

While we regret having to postpone our lectio divina session planned for March 14, we are pleased to be able to offer a new online lectio divina to be available by April 1. 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 through our Facebook page, website, and in our weekly The Pilgrim emails We hope you can join us!

APRIL MUTUAL AND COUNCIL MEETINGS — Tue., April 7

Our Board and Committee Mutual and Council meetings will meet on Tue., April 7 (Mutual meetings 6:30pm; Council meeting 7:50pm). Please see Moderator Steve Hight, Pastor Joel, or a Board/Committee chairperson with any questions or to provide input. 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.





CHRISTIAN RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

- FCCM Lenten Mission Challenge

During Lent, our Missions Committee encouraged us to perform Random Acts of Kindness. Many thanks to all who participated in our Christian Random Acts of Kindness 40-day challenge. There is no doubt that your thoughtfulness blessed many people this Lenten season. Thank you for being a blessing!

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

<u>Thanksgiving/Joy</u>: Christ's faithfulness to FCC Marshfield for 388 years, for our Youth Fellowship, Churches in Marshfield, MACCC, and NACCC

<u>Healing</u>: Kim Callendar, Danny Sheehan, Elizabeth Gledhill, Susan Lizio, Linda Woodman, Stephanie and Daniel and Baby Noah, Chris Lord, John Ritucci, Daniel Duffy, Edy Jones, Carl Titus, Ann, Daniel Duffy, Jack Pattison, John Belanger, Frank Sylvester, Carol Gesner, Kathleen Krane, Aleshia Ellingson, Walter and Marge Zarnock, Ellen Synakwski, Janet Dabrowski, Jon and Steve and baby Gavin, Katrina, Denise, Janice, David McGrath Sr. Comfort: family of Ivy MacCallum, family of Roger Peterson, family of Aldo Mineo, family of Dave Martin

Homebound Church Family: Alberta Bezanson, Velna Roberts, Roz Novinsky, Marie King, Betty Dubois,



Mary Ellingson, Kathy Bryan

<u>Guidance & Protection</u>: Men and Women in the military and our first responders, families struggling with addictions, stigma of mental illness, John Coombs, leaders of our nation, those impacted by coronavirus, for unhoused youth in Marshfield, Tennessee (recent tornadoes), for the Spirit's direction this Lenten Season

PRAYER PALS



Pray Monday evenings 6:30-7:30pm in our Hall with our church's Prayer Pals. THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS; new pals always welcome! If you would like the Pals to pray for you or others, drop a prayer request card (located in the church and Fellowship Hall) into the offering plate, send an email, or call the church office. We will pray for you. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that

man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord...James 1:5-8

FLOWERS for SANCTUARY

Please see sign-up sheet on community bulletin board in the parish hall to celebrate, honor or remember your loved ones by sponsoring flowers for our Sanctuary. *FCCM Flower Committee*

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.

MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - Articles due by Wed., April. 15

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

CELEBRATING CONGREGATIONAL HERITAGE

2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim landing at Plymouth. As a Pilgrim church ourselves, here at FCCM we will be celebrating this momentous occasion in many ways throughout the year. Two Sundays each month we will be featuring a highlighted history of a Congregationalist who has contributed to blessing God's world. These highlights will also appear in our emails, *The Pilgrim*. Many thanks to our friends on the NACCC Plymouth 400 team for putting these informative histories together.

LADIES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY (LBS)

Regular working meetings are April 7, 14, 28 Coffee Hour April 21, 2020 All are welcome at 10am — Phyllis Willis



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 <u>Purchase GL Scrip Gift Cards</u>: GNFMarshfield@gmail.com or First Congregational Church, 1981 Ocean Street, Marshfield, MA Sundays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

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 D	ENOMINATIONS		%	# 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: <u>The Good Neighbor Fund</u>

Name:_____

Address:____

Contact number: _____ Email: _____

MISSION PROJECTS FOR APRIL

Helping others is a year-round mission. Please continue to share in our mission to help and care for everyone here and around the world.

Helping our on-going Marshfield Missions

Food Pantry - This month we encourage you to send a donation to the Food Pantry.

Those that use the Food Pantry need our support/

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

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 interested. Please talk to members of the committee for more information.

"GOD'S PILGRIM PEOPLE"

- Sermon series on Congregationalism: Lent 2020

Join us for a Lenten Sermon series focused on God's gift of Congregationalism as we live into the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim landing in Plymouth. In this series, we will focus on grounding aspects of our identity as Congregationalists, including the three F's of Faith, Freedom, and Fellowship. This series will help identify our defining characteristics as Congregational Christians, and how those traits are a strength for the local, autonomous Congregational church of the future.

Communion Sunday March 1: Sacraments - The Lord's Supper, March 8: Covenant, March 15: Freedom and Responsibility, *All-Family Sunday* March 22: The Way of Fellowship, *Baptism Sunday* March 29: Sacraments - Baptism.

CELEBRATING 400 YEARS OF AMERICAN CONGREGATIONALISM Learn more about our Congregational History at naccc.org

Did you know Mary Brewster...

Mary Brewster was seen by many as the "mother" of the matrons and maidens of Plymouth Colony. She survived the winters of 1621 and 1622. But by Gov. Bradford's report became "weak and decayed state of body". She shared the religious faith and zeal of her husband Elder Brewster. Mary lived until April 17, 1627 dying at age 57. Bradford wrote that "her great and continual labours, with other crosses and sorrows hastened" her death before her time. Settling in "New" England her life was difficult, but she was a blessing to many of the other women. Her married life was fruitful; five of her children lived to maturity and two or more had died in Holland. Her daughters were called Fear and Patience, her sons Jonathan and Love.

...was a Congregationalist?

Historical story by: Rev. Will Lange

Did you know John Winthrop...

In 1630 John Winthrop, a lawyer and layman, preached one the most influential sermons ever preached because of the lasting influence it has had over America's vision of itself. Winthrop was the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

He delivered his sermon on the eve of a voyage that brought 1000 Puritan colonists to the shores of Massachusetts where they founded the city of Boston. Winthrop gave it the title, A Model of Christian Charity. It was intended to inspire and warn the colonists as they were about to embark on this new venture in America.

The sermon set forth the godly vision which the Puritan colonists brought with them to America. Participation in the Bay colony meant that each family had entered into a covenant with God. If they were faithful, God would bless them. If they were unfaithful, they would suffer adversity. Therefore, he said, they must be "knit together" by the "bond of love."

To thrive in their dangerous venture, they must work together to make the Massachusetts Bay Colony a "Model of Christian Charity". They must bear one another's burdens, bound together by one purpose, committed as a whole to the common good rather than chasing after selfish interests. If they succeeded, they would become a shining city on a hill that other nations would admire and imitate. John Winthrop's sermon is one of the greatest examples of Congregationalism's legacy to the American spirit.

...was a Congregationalist?

Historical story by: Rev. Norm Erlendson L



CALLING ALL 2020 GRADUATES and THEIR FAMILIES:

! High School, College & Military Grads !

Please contact Pam Drouin by May 23rd @ (617) 750-8072, E-mail <u>drouinp@cleanharbors.com</u> **or** pop a note in the Christian Education mail slot outside our Church Secretary's office with the name of your graduate, their field of study/concentration as well as the school/program they are graduating from.

For College & Military Grads, please include Degree/Rank earned.

To have your Grad's achievement printed in our Graduation Sunday bulletin, call or E-mail <u>on or before</u> May 31st.

F.C.C.M. Graduation Sunday is June 14th



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APRIL 2020 SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Please see the calendar below with upcoming activities with our Sunday School!

Suiting up in the	SUNDAY SCHOOL				
full Armor of God	SPRING 2020				
March					
22	NO Sunday School or All Family Service ~ due to Town CoVid 19 Mandate				
29	NO Sunday School ~ due to Town CoVid 19 Mandate				
April					
5	Palm Sunday (April 09 = Passover) (April 10th = Good Friday)				
12	Sunrise and Easter Services - No Sunday School / No Nursery Coverage				
19	Regular Classes ~ Helmet of Salvation				
26	Regular Classes				
May					
3	Regular Classes				
10	Mother's Day - All Family Service				
17	Regular Classes				
24	Regular Classes				
31	Regular Classes				
June 7th	Youth Sunday Rehearsal				
Looking Ahead: June 14th	YOUTH Sunday (Children's & Graduation Sunday)				

Sunday School Announcement: For Children of All ages

FLEDGLING COMMUNION 2020

Are you interested in having your child attend Communion Class this Spring?

Please contact Pam *if you would like* 617-750-8072 *or*



to participate: drouinp@cleanharbors.com





Youth Retreat to Camp Berea Feb. 14-16



LBS presentation on Margaret Hall *(Right)*

Youth Fellowship Annual Senior Valentine's Luncheon Feb. 8 *(Below)*







#10

First Congregational Church of Marshfield, Inc.

26 Bam Bible Study 9:30am Worship, S. School, Nursery, 10:30am Coffee Hour	19 8am Bible Study 9:30am Worship, Nursery, S. School 10:30am Coffee Hour, Children's Choir 4pm Youth Fellowship	12 Easter Sunday 5:45am- Youth Fellowship Sunrise Service 9:30am Easter Worship, Nursery (no S. School)	5 Palm Sunday Communion Sunday Bam BCE Meeting 9:30am Worship, Palm Parade, S. School, Nursery 10:30am Palm Sun. Brunch 12pm –3pm Youth Group Homevisits	SUN
27 6:30pm Prayer Hour	20 (Pastor on vacation Thru 4/27) 6:30pm Prayer Hour	13 6:30pm Prayer Hour	<i>6</i> 6:30pm Prayer Hour	MON
28 10am - LBS	21 10am - LBS Coffee Hour Rummage Sale set-up (4/21 - 4/24)	14 10am-LBS	7 10am - LBS 6:30pm Mutual Meetings 7:50pm Council Mtg 7:50pm Council Mtg	TUE
	22 Ipm Bible Study- Winslow Village I	15 1pm Bible Study- Winslow Village I	8 1pm Bible Study- Winslow Village 1 7pm Maundy Thursday rehearsal	1 WED
30 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	23 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	16 6.30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	9 7pm Maundy Thursday Service	THU 2 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir
		17	10 12pm Good Friday Ecumenical Service (Meeting house)	5 3
	25 10am-2pm Youth Group Can Drive 10am-2pm Rummage Sale	18	11	A SAT

Church Office – 781-834-7664 Email – <u>secretaryfccm@gmail.com</u> /pastorfccm@gmail.com

The First Congregational Church 1981 Ocean Street P.O. Box 826 Marshfield, MA 02050-0826

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Senior Minister—Pastor Joel K. Boyd 1981 Ocean Street P.O. Box 826 Marshfield, MA. 02050 Office: 781-834-7664 Church Office Hours: Monday 9:00am-3:00pm; Tuesday 9:00am-12:00pm; Wednesday 9:00am-3:00pm; Thursday 9:00am-12:00pm; Friday 9:00am-1:00pm Pastoral Office Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9am to noon (Mondays are Pastor's day off). Worship Service & Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. All Are Welcome — Nursery Care Provided www.FCCMarshfield.org Secretaryfccm@gmail.com Pastorfccm@gmail.com