

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 318 MAY 2020

REVEALED FOR OUR SAKE

Just because things may be hard for us to grasp with our imagination doesn't mean they're not in place for our benefit. Hey, any parent, grandparent, or teacher can tell you that. Maybe it's the bedtime routine. Maybe it's the biannual dental appointments or the vacation time which does not roll over. We have many things around us that are set in place for the benefit of our health, be it mental, emotional, or physical. In 1 Peter 1:20, we are reminded that Christ was chosen before the creation of the world, but that He was revealed in these last times for our sake. Even though Christ, in His divinity, precedes all we can possibly imagine, it does not necessarily follow that His incarnation, passion, resurrection, and ascension have not all been for our great benefit. Indeed, they have. So, as we continue to live through these disconcerting times amid COVID-19, may we hold fast to Jesus. For we haven't been renewed through something fleeting, but from the eternal, living and enduring Word of God. Jesus is *for* you.

Your brother in Christ, Pastor Joel

FCCM ONLINE WORSHIP

Each Sunday, during the COVID-19 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.

ANNUAL REPORTS

- Due by May 10

It is that time of year again... Please submit the annual report for your Board, Committee, or Group to the office by Sun., May 10. If you need a copy of last year's report, please contact the office. Thank you.

FCCM CONTACT INFORMATION

(Note: Staff are working remotely during the COVID-19 crisis)

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 are Pastor's day off). **Cancelations due to storms:** Please watch FOX25 and www.myfoxboston.com. Also you can listen on WATD radio.

MAY 2020

"GOD LOVES, GOD PROVIDES"

- 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 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." For recommended Scriptures or to submit a devotional, please contact Pastor Joel at pastorfccm@gmail.com. Thank you!

I will not fear My STORY OF ALTHERINA OF BUILDING PAITH UNDER PIER MELBA PATTILLO BEALS

HEAVENLY BOOKWORMS' MARCH AND MAY 2020 SELECTION

I Will Not Fear; by Melba Pattillo Beals

In 1957, Melba Beals was one of 9 African American students chosen to integrate Central High School in Little Rock. While her white schoolmates were planning their senior prom, Melba was being threatened with lynching-and outrunning white supremacists. Only her faith in God sustained her and enabled her become a civil rights warrior, a television news reporter, a magazine writer, a professor, a wife, and a mother.

In *I Will Not Fear*, Beals takes readers on an incredible journey through terror, oppression, and persecution, highlighting the kind of faith needed to survive in a world full of heartbreak and prejudice. You will see how the deep faith one develops during our most difficult moments can change us, our families, our communities, and even the world. Encouraging and inspiring, Beals'

story offers readers hope that faith is the solution to hopelessness in our current culture.

I AM GOING TO THINK POSITIVE and plan the discussion for May's book to be Friday 5/29(7p) at the Chrisman's, 13 Mountain Ash, Kingston (Rt.3 South to exit 10; turn right to head north; then (after storage units) turn left onto Silver Birch; then right on Mountain Ash – 5th house on right). SHOULD WE STILL BE IN SELF-QUARANTINE, we will hold our discussion on ZOOM. Questions: 781-361-1290. Book is under \$5 (see Georgia) or order from Christianbook.com.

Are You a Couch-Potato who likes to Read?

If that is the case...why not read Bookworm selections on your couch. If you are not interested in discussing them, don't! You could be a Heavenly Couch-Potato Worm reading the books, but skipping the discussions. Books are inspiring, interesting and often informative. You will be surprised on what you will gain. They will take you all over the world, introduce you to amazing people and broaden your horizons. Past books are in our church library on counter. Borrow one!



FROM YOUR DEACONS

Update on Pastor Joel's Vicinage, Ordination and Installation: Due to the uncertainty surrounding the Corona Virus pandemic the Deacons have proposed, and the Council has approved new dates for the Vicinage, Ordination and Installation. The new dates are: Saturday September 19th 2020 at 10:30 am for the Vicinage and Sunday October 18th at 3:00 pm for the Ordination and Installation. We have sent a "heads up" e-mail to all of the invited churches and will follow up with a Letter Missive in July if these dates still seem doable. Again, we would like to thank the Christian Fellowship Committee for their generous offer to help with the luncheon and dinner associated with those celebrations. We thank Pastor Joel for his leadership during difficult time. Due to his efforts the congregation did not have to miss even one of our Holy Week Services! Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday were all offered online. The Deacons had the honor of participating in the Maundy Thursday service. We hope that you enjoyed those services and will continue to attend each Sunday service as it is offered online. Pastor Joel was supposed to be on vacation April 26 and June 28th but has postponed those as he leads us through this crisis.

Thanks to Deacon Rick Taylor the Deacons continue to meet online via Zoom until we can meet again in person. We are trying to figure out how and when that can happen and what changes will have to be made. This is a work in progress, and we appreciate your patience and flexibility. We are working on updates to the website and preparing for the Annual Meeting in whatever form it takes.

We urge everyone to participate in the online Worship by following the links provided on the website, Facebook page and The Pilgrim e-newsletter. We can track the number of views each service gets and it gives us great encouragement to get as many views as possible. Please continue to support your church by sending your weekly offerings in the mail. "Keep a Christian from entering the church sanctuary and you have not in the least bit hindered his worship. We carry our sanctuary with us. We never leave it" A.W. Tozer.

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

COVID-19 UPDATE

- FCCM Response & Preparedness

In response to COVID-19, Governor Baker declared a State of Emergency for Massachusetts and <u>issued an advisory</u> stating that residents stay at home and that all non-essential business be closed by noon daily. The advisory includes a further restriction to ban in-person gatherings of 10 people or more, including faith-based events (previously the ban had been for gatherings of 25 or more). On April 21, Governor Baker <u>extended the school closure</u> through the rest of the academic year, and childcare facilities are closed through June 29. Baker has also recently extended the stay-at-home advisory and non-essential business closure to May 18th. Churches around the country have continued to make decisions to adapt their Worship liturgy and outreach, taking into account the health and safety of members and friends, in order to contain the virus. Following much prayerful consideration, we have suspended all in-person church-related events and services for the immediate future. 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. Visit the CDC online for the latest updates on COVID-19. <u>Click here</u> or contact the Town for the March 29th statement from the Town Board of Health. We are pleased to be holding **Online Worship services on Sundays** and our **Daily Devotional**, both of which we encourage participation in from members and friends. Thank you.

SENDING IN OFFERINGS

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!

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.

ONLINE LECTIO DIVINA - New Date! Wed., May 27

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* on Wed., May 27 at 7pm. *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 and offered via Zoom video call. **Please email pastorfccm@gmail.com to sign up.**

JUNE MUTUAL AND COUNCIL MEETINGS — Tue., June 9

Boards and Committees will be holding their April mutual meetings online via video conferencing on Tue., June 9 at 6:30pm. The Diaconate will be meeting via Skype and the Trustees will be meeting via Zoom. Council will meet via 7:45pm. Zoom at pm. Please contact Boards/Committees, Pastor Joel, or Moderator Steve Hight 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.





ANNUAL MEETING - New Date! Sun., June 28

Mark your calendars and plan to join us online for our Annual Meeting to be held via video teleconferencing (most likely Zoom) on Sun., June 28 at 11am.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

<u>Thanksgiving/Joy</u>: Christ's faithfulness to FCC Marshfield for 388 years, medical professionals, Churches in Marshfield, MACCC, and NACCC, Betty Dubois as she celebrates her 100th birthday

Healing: Those battling COVID-19, Kim Callendar, Danny Sheehan, Susan Lizio, Stephanie and Daniel and Baby No-ah, 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, Charlie Sylvester, Dave McGrath Sr., Nancy Kiesman (Pastor Joel's Aunt), Gloria Chrisman (Georgia's sister-in-law), Ellen Synakwski, Janet Dabrowski, Jon and Steve and baby Gavin, Katrina, Denise, Janice, Dorraine Porter, Carol Spooner, Karen Campbell, Kendall Smith, Jayne Bowman, John Coombs

<u>Comfort</u>: Jordan and Evie Phinney; families of Ivy MacCallum, Roger Peterson, Aldo Mineo, Dave Martin, Frank McGee, Elizabeth Gledhill, Linda Woodman, Betty Crowell (grandmother of Darren Segrini), and Roger Bousquet (Doreen Taylor's cousin)

<u>Homebound Church Family</u>: 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, leaders of our nation, unhoused youth in Marshfield, students, teachers, and families now at home, unemployed and underemployed, medical teams working to keep us safe



PRAYER PALS

... DURING THIS STAY-AT-HOME time, we are Couch-Potato Prayer Pals, holding prayer via internet (Zoom) Monday evenings 6:30-7:30pm. You too can be join us. If interested, please let Georgia (781-361-1290) know and she will help you get set up. New pals always welcome! If you would like the Pals to pray for you or others, drop a prayer request card into the offering plate (when we are group worshipping) or call 781-361-1290. "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us. 1 John 5:14 | KJV

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.

JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - Articles due by Fri., May 15

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

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. Click here or contact the Town for resources available through the Town Board of Health.

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.



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.

VENDOR	DENOMINATIONS	% o	# OKDEK	AMII DUE
Shaw's Supermarke	ets \$25.00/\$100.00	4%		
Roche Bros. Market	ts \$25.00/\$100.00	3%		
Stop & Shop	\$25.00/\$50.00/\$100.00	4%		
Whole Foods Marke	ets \$25.00/\$100.00	3%		
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MISSION PROJECTS FOR MAY

Loving and caring about others is a year-round mission. 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 spring clothing, new 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 have received thanks from Church World Services for our support and that they have been able to supply blankets and items to many needy people in need. The Missions Committee will be sending a donation to honor the mothers again this year.

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.

MAY 2020

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

Did vou know Richard Mather...

The Mathers were the First Family of the Massachusetts Bay Colony during the first century of its existence. Richard Mather was the family patriarch who came to the Colony in 1635. He was the father of Increase Mather, and the grandfather of Cotton Mather.

Richard trained for the ministry at Oxford and was ordained in 1618. In 1634 he was removed from his parish and forbidden to preach due to his congregational convictions. He decided to move his family to the Bay Colony and quickly became one of its leading ministers. Mather was one of the ministers who, in 1640, produced The Bay Psalm Book, the first book published in the Colonies. The Psalms were translated to be sung to the meter of familiar English tunes for use by the churches in worship.

Richard Mather's greatest contribution to American Congregationalism came when he was chosen by the Cambridge Synod to write the first draft of the Platform of Congregational Polity and Discipline. The Synod abridged and modified Mather's draft, but the final product which the Synod adopted in 1648 was largely his. The Cambridge Platform is the clearest statement of American Congregational polity that has ever been written. It affirms the independence of each congregation, but equally affirms that a strong cooperative bond exists between them that creates an affectionate family of sister churches. Local churches are related to each other to promote their common good. They recognize each other's members, and consult on matters of mutual concern.

...was a Congregationalist?

Historical story by: Rev. Norm Erlendson

Did you know Elizabeth Tilley...

Elizabeth Tilley was orphaned when both of her parents died during the first winter in the New World. Elizabeth then lived in the Carver household until it was broken up by death. Then she lived with the Howlands.

She was different than many of the women in that she could write her own name. She married John Howland who wrote many letters and records of the colony.

Elizabeth's mother was likely Dutch, a Bridget Van De Veldt. John Howland, who she later married, was one of the signers of the Mayflower Compact and was one of the "ten principal men" chosen to select a site for the colony. The Howlands had ten children. Elizabeth lived more than ninety years, staying her last days with her daughter Lydia Howland Brown in Swanzey in 1687. Among the things mentioned in her will are many religious books, skeins of silk and buttons.

...was a Congregationalist?

Historical story by: Rev. Will Lange

Did vou know Priscilla Mullins Alden ...

Priscilla Mullins became an orphan the first winter in "New" England, but she survived. Priscilla became celebrated in romance and poetry. She was said to be well-born. Her father at his death was called "a man pious and well-deserving endowed with considerable outward estate."

Priscilla was about twenty years old when she came to Plymouth. She was called handsome, witty, deft and skilful as spinner and cook. John Alden, a cooper (barrel maker), joined the Pilgrims at Southampton. He promised to stay a year in the colony. John brought a Bible, printed in 1620.

The poet Longfellow, a descendant of Priscilla (Mullin) Alden, wrote down the story of Miles Standish's asking John Alden to be his proxy in asking for Priscilla's hand. Priscilla chose Alden instead: "Why don't you speak for yourself, John?" Their daughter Elizabeth, son Jonathan and nine other children were born to Priscilla and John.

...was a Congregationalist?

Historical story by: Rev. Will Lange

Youth Fellowship News

Due to the COVID-19 virus Stay-in Advisory, there are no in-person meetings; HOWEVER... We are meeting digitally through **Zoom on Sundays, starting at 4pm**.

Contact Scott Rogers, Carrie Sylvester, or Pastor Joel for more information! carriesyl@gmail.com, scott012962@gmail.com, pastorfccm@gmail.com

MAY 2020

CALL TO ACTION FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Attention FCCM Members and Friends! The Nominating Committee is seeking individuals to fill vacant positions on a number of Boards and Committees and we need your help. Do you have a desire to make a difference in the daily life of the church? Are you someone who has some talents to share? Are you willing and able to make some time in your schedule to serve? Is God tugging at your heart to serve the church in a new way?

Nominating Committee members are reaching out but we would love to hear from anyone who feels inspired to serve in a particular area. If you are asked to serve, or continue to serve, please prayerfully consider how serving can benefit you as well as your church family!

If you are interested in helping to fulfill the mission of FCCM please contact Bonnie Conant 617-686-4987, fcc.clerk@gmail.com; Greg Prendergast 781-724-2154 misterp44@comcast.net; Jennifer Fields 617-852-1505 gjfields@verizon.net; Mary Ellingson 781-640-5746 ellingsonmary@comcast.net or Pastor Joel Boyd 781-834-7664 pastorfccm@gmail.com

Open Positions

Clerk

Assistant Treasurer Assistant Financial Secretary Diaconate Trustees **Christian Education** Missions and Community Outreach Stewardship Christian Fellowship Endowment Flowers **Nominating** Church Council at Large

WATCH "THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS" ONLINE

- Free Online Movie!

Good Neighbor Fund

Based on the original Paul Bunyan classic book, this new animated movie version of *The Pilgrim's Progress* is available to view for free through Christianbook. Click here to view The Pilgrim's Progress online (contact Pastor Joel or Pam Drouin with any questions). For all ages.



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 listed in our Graduation Sunday bulletin, call or E-mail on or before May 31st.

F.C.C.M. Graduation Sunday is June 14th (Tentatively)



Sanctuary Flowers from our Flower Committee





Sanctuary Flowers from our Flower Committee



The First Congregational Church

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

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THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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).

(Note: Staff are working remotely during the COVID-19 crisis) Worship Service & Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

All Are Welcome — Nursery Care Provided

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