

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 340 May 2022

TO YOU, FROM PASTOR BARTLETT

The Easter message is that Jesus gave Himself for us, paying for our sins and failures on the cross. There is no change for us, unless we are drawn by the Holy Spirit to recognize our sin and failure when our lives are compared to the life of Jesus. We have been taught by society at large that Christianity is not the center of our existence, but rather an optional way of life that may or may not help us on our way.

The Biblical message, ranging over thousands of years and pointing to the beginning of time, has an entirely different emphasis. It shows that there have been alternating cycles of Godliness and depravity, depending upon the obedience of humankind to the revelation of God.

The Book of Romans 1:20 states ".... the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"

This is not a localized, personalized, belief or viewpoint subject to the evaluation of human beings. It is the obvious evidence of the unseen God who has created all things, including ourselves. The vastness, the power, and the longevity all point to the God who demonstrates His love for us in Jesus Christ.

The life provided by Christ is not for a few, but for all. It is a life of love for which we were designed. It is the tragedy that many will not receive that life when it is offered to them.

The life of Christ does not take away from our human enjoyment, but rather removes the impediments to that perfect life and love so that we can experience the fullness of joy, even in the throws of the negativity that so easily besets us.

The Easter message is also about the resurrection. We all die physically, but the life that Jesus provides is everlasting, beginning now but continuing beyond death to the eternal glory of heaven.

There is no experience in this life that can compare with what we are offered in Christ. It is a delusion and deception that would point us away from the truth to a lesser temporary existence that results in death.

Our receipt of Christ makes us brothers and sisters in His body of believers, the Church. We are united to proclaim His life in the acts of combined love through the corporate efforts of all. As a local church, we are part of the larger Church for which Jesus will return in order to bring the entire Church with Him to glory.

May there be new life for all of us this Easter Season and into the years that follow!

Richard Bartlett Interim Minister

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

May 8th: Special Meeting (10:30) to vote on moving forward with fundraising and replacing the Sanctuary Windows. May 15th: Annual Meeting (11am) in the Parish Hall

FCCM CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Email: pastorfccm@gmail.com; secretaryfccm@gmail.com; bookkeeperfccm@gmail.com; On the web: FCCMarshfield.org - On facebook: facebook.com/FirstCongregationalMarshfield

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

May 2022

FROM YOUR DEACONS

What an exciting Lenten season and Holy Week we have had! Our Lenten Bible study had a record number of participants over the 7 week period. Our Palm Sunday worship service had a record 64 participants not including the 10 participants in the Palm Parade! We celebrated Maundy Thursday with a Communion Tenebrae service and brought back the Good Friday Ecumenical service after a two-year hiatus.

We are seeing our attendance numbers rise as Covid begins to lose its grip. On April 10th we reinstated the traditional passing of the peace. The Covid situation continues to be closely monitored, but for now we stand ready to welcome everyone back to worship.

Our report for the Annual meeting of the church in May has been submitted.

On May 22nd we welcome Reverend Bob Jackson back to our pulpit. Reverend Bartlett will serve as worship assistant for that Sunday. Reverend Jackson will help celebrate our 2nd baptism of the year on that Sunday as he baptizes Josselyn and Matt Sullivan's son Killian. We hope to see many old friends return for this service.

Thank you to everyone who comes to our worship services and who join us online. Your presence is a great encouragement to 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

Well this month we have spent a lot of time going out for bids for the windows and installation for replacing the Sanctuary windows. We will present our findings and recommendations at the special meeting on May 8th following service in the Sanctuary right after service. Please make every effort to attend so we can vote on moving forward with this project – kicking off fundraising and ordering the windows.

We have fallen behind on our financial position, we now have a loss of \$6,267 year to date with several annual insurances and extra costs of plowing combining to drive this figure.

We applied for the One Heart many hands program to have students come help us with some cleanup on Friday April 29th. Let's pray for a nice day and fellowship with some of Marshfield High School students.

Kind regards,

Your Trustees - Doreen Taylor, Greg Prendergast and Donna McCue

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE:

The Church Council convened on April 5, 2022 and voted unanimously to call the **2022 Annual Meeting** to be held on Sunday, **May 15, 2022** (the third Sunday of May, per the FCCM By-Laws) at 11 AM in the Parish Hall for the transaction of any business properly coming before such meeting, including:

- Review of and questions pertaining to the written Annual Reports of the Church Council, the Officers of the church, the Pastor, and all church organizations; and
- Elections for all open positions on church officers, boards and committees.

Stephen A. Hight Moderator

LADIES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY (LBS)

Ladies Benevolent Society continues to meet on Tuesdays at 10am in the Parish Hall! New members are always welcome!

Every third Tuesday of the month, join us for Coffee Hour at our meetings!

This Month, Coffee hour is on 5/17! All are welcome!



MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Chrisman family is planning a memorial service at FCCM for their son Corey on June 6 at 10:00 am. They would love to have you join them, if you are able.

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

HAVE A BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH?

If you have a birthday this month we would like to suggest or challenge you to donate your age's dollar amount to the Endowment Fund, Good Neighbor Fund, or to one of our ministries this month! A few members of our congregation have been doing this for years and wondered if others were up to the challenge!

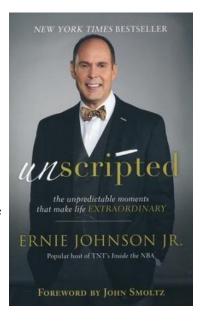
HEAVENLY BOOKWORMS: MAY 2022

Unscripted: The Unpredictable Moments That Make Life Extraordinary By: Ernie Johnson Jr.

In this heartfelt, gripping autobiography, the 3-time Sports Emmy Award-winner and popular host of TNT's Inside the NBA, provides a candid look at his life on and off the screen. From his relationship with his sportscaster father to his own rise to the top of broadcasting, from battling cancer to raising six children with his wife, including a special needs child adopted from Romania, Ernie has taken the important lessons he learned from his father and passed them on to his own children.

This is the untold story, the one Ernie has lived after the lights were turned off and the cameras stopped rolling. Sports fans, cancer survivors, fathers and sons, adoptive parents, those whose lives have been touched by a person with special needs, or anyone who loves stories about handling life's surprises with grace--Unscripted is for all of these

Discussion for this book is on Friday 5/27/22 (5:30pm) @ the Chrisman's, 13 Mountain Ash Drive in Kingston. Dinner too! Books for those attending the discussion are \$5 and can be picked up from the book counter (near front) in our library. Please place payment in the envelope provided. Call Georgia @ 781-361-1290 to rsvp, for directions, or to purchase a book for \$1 after May 27.





BOOKWORM COUCH-POTATOES

Become a Couch Potato Bookworm if discussions are not your "bag." Enjoy all of the books that "Heavenly Bookworms" read for less than half the cost. Note that earlier selections can be borrowed from our church library and returned at your leisure. However, if you want to "own," a few copies of this book will be available after the discussion, for only \$1!

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 390 years, the gift of engaging in both in-person and online Worship, churches around the world; development of COVID-19 vaccines,

Healing: Those impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, including the medical teams and officials working to keep us safe. Edna Robie, Kim Callendar, Carol Spooner, John Coombs, 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, Derek Pugh, Joan Chubbs, Anne Sylvester, Ed Zadrozny, Glen Ellingson, Faith Jean, Louise Nelson, Theresa Cooke, Natalie Graham (Jean Hight's sister), Chris Conant, Brad Willis, Bob Christopher, Tedd Harribine and Karen Eubet (Amy Minns' neighbors), Ethlyn, Chuck, and Susan Balkam, Michael Curran, David Fields (Jennifer Fields' son), Doreen Prendergast, Scott Rogers, Kimberly Polvere (Brad and Phyllis Willis's daughter), John Ritucci, Sr., Sue Ritucci, Jean Hight, Carol Tubman, Mary Handy, Gail (Audrey Titus' sister), Susan (Jamie Lopes' friend), Donald Devine, Terry Honerlaw

Homebound Church Family: 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, leaders of our

nation, our unhoused youth in Marshfield, a time of transition here at FCC Marshfield, for people of Ukraine, Patricia Bean's son (US Marine), our troops and their families, Bob and Kathy Sachs (Shaun Robinson's sister and brother-in-law)



PRAYER PALS ON MONDAY EVENINGS

Join them on Monday evenings 6:30-7:30 in the church library; God loves to hear from us! After a brief devotion and discussion; they share prayer needs with God and give thanks for blessings. Join Pals weekly or whenever able. If you need a prayer for yourself or others, place a request in the offering plate, the Prayer Box (Hall parlor), email to secretaryfccm@gmail.com, or call 781-361-1290. "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Jeremiah 29:12

IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICE

-Sundays at 9:30am

We are ready to welcome everyone back to worship! As vaccination rates soar and Covid hospitalizations plummet we are ready to reinstate the traditional Passing of the Peace. You will no longer be required to stay in your pews but are free to roam and greet people. Masks will still be available for those who desire one and we will continue to review our practices to keep current with the changing Covid situation, Please plan on joining us for "Fellowship Hour" in the Parish Hall after worship. All our services will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook Live and available for viewing later. Childcare is not available at this time, but our nursery is being cleaned out in preparation for offering childcare in the near future. We look forward to joining you in Worship!

JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

- Articles due by Sunday, May 15

Please submit any articles/submissions for the June 2022 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!

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.

May 2022



THE GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND

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

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

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

Good Neighbor Fund Gift Card Order Form

Help our communities PURCHASE YOUR GIFT CARDS TODAY! Buy gift cards to use at the Grocery stores that you normally shop for all your daily needs!

Contact us at GNFMarshfield@gmail.com. % # ORDER AMT DUE VENDOR **DENOMINATIONS** 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 MAY

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.

CANNING JARS FOR MISSIONS

Hi all from Missions! Huge kudos to all who helped to make our holiday giving to Samaritan's Purse boxes and our socks, underwear, hats, and mittens such a great success!

In preparation for an upcoming participation project we're in need of canning jars: common sizes with standard mouth size. Hoping we can kick this project off soon, so check your pantries to see if you have any to spare. Please leave any jars upstairs in Parish Hall.

Thanks!

Confirmation

CONFIRMATION UPDATE

This year our confirmands have been looking at the evidence of Jesus' existence, his resurrection, and his divinity. They have been shown the evidence; what's left is getting to know Him. We will make the introduction at their weekend retreat in May. In the meantime, they will continue their study of Lee Strobel's, "*The Case for Christ.*" Here is some of the evidence they have seen:

<u>Chapter1:</u> Atheist and reporter, Stroble, tries to disprove Jesus was the savior described in the scriptures. <u>Chapter 2:</u> "Did Jesus really Think He was God?": After an exhaustive investigation, he concluded Jesus emphatically said.

<u>Chapter 3:</u> "Was Jesus Crazy to Claim he was God?" Stroble, along with world-renowned psychologists, acknowledged Jesus did not fit the psychological definition of being mentally ill, nor exhibit even one of the clinical criterium for such.

<u>Chapter 4</u>: "Did Jesus Match the Identify of the Messiah?" There were dozens of prophecies of Jesus' birth, birthplace, crucifixion, resurrection, etc., and the probability of anyone matching even 8 is *one* in 100 million (100,000,000,000,000,000)! Scriptures written 700+ years before His birth give a detailed description.

Chapter 5: "Can you Trust Christ's Biographies?" The 1st four books of the New Testament have withstood the scrutiny of scientist and Biblical scholars to be certified as ancient, historical documents. 1) They were written by people who knew him. 2) Not one of countless living eye-witnesses discredited any of their writings. 3) Inaccuracy could not account for the radical trans- formations of myriad people who met Jesus. 4) In more than 24,000 ancient transcripts, the number of variations were negligible, minor, and non-material. ALL concluded Jesus was the Son of God. 5) The Bible is an accurate copy of the originals. 6) The Bible is the "go to" reference for historians, then and now, for its near-perfect accuracy historically, archeologically and geographically.

<u>Chapter 6:</u> "Is There a Case for Christ outside the Bible?" Jewish and Non-Jewish historians, believers and non-believers, validated the Bible. No archaeological evidence, to date, has disproved any of it. Sir William Ramsey, an atheist and renowned archaeologist, spent years trying to disprove the book of *Acts*, but concluded that its author Luke was one of the most accurate historians ever. So impressed, he became a Christian. Luke's references of 32 countries, 54 cities and 5 islands are completely accurate.

<u>Chapter 7:</u> "Did Jesus fake his Death?" Who would survive a severe flogging with a 2-3 leather thong whip, woven with metal balls and razor-thin bone fragments designed to cause deep lacerations, shredded flesh, muscle tears, loss of blood, and exposed organs. And then crucifixion, where one is nailed to a cross for hours with large bolt-like nails driven into wrists and feet. Then, to make sure he was dead, his side was pierced with a spear. After suffering flogging, trauma of the cross, dehydration, catastrophic blood loss, oxygen deprivation, and piercing of his side, it is almost impossible he would be alive. After all, the goal of crucifixion is death. Strobel and medical professionals through the ages believe he died on the cross. Jesus did not fake his Death.

SUNDAY SCHOOL- 3RD STOP: PHARAOH'S PALACE

After learning the good news of the cross, we will return to Moses, who has found his way to Egypt with his brother Aaron, and it is about to get really exciting!

Apr 24: "The Duel Begins" – God's more powerful than anyone or anything

May 1: "The God of Light & Life" – God takes care of us

May 8: Mother's Day - Kids worship with their parents in the Sanctuary

May 15: "Stand Off at the Red Sea" – God has our back

May 22: "Mumble, Grumble" – God wants us to trust Him for our daily needs May 29: "Carried on Wings of Love" – God has lovingly brought us to Him

June 5: "The Covenant" – God gave us love to guide and protect us

Sunday School **IS** children's church, where kids learn, on their level, that **our** God is **their** God too.

Parents & grandparents, look for coloring pages and activities in the monthly Bell; download, print and enjoy with your kids! Use these as an opportunity to reinforce the lessons learned!

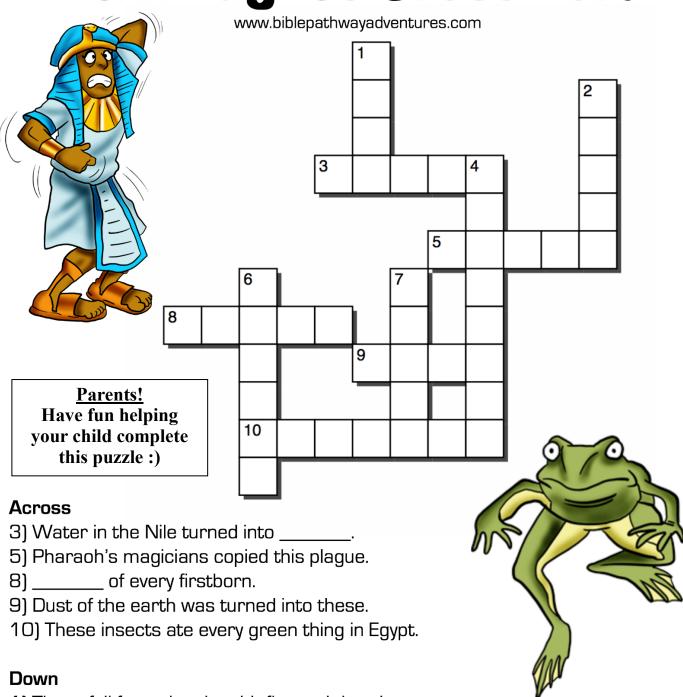
Continued blessings from Miss Georgia, Miss Pam, Miss Liz, Miss Emma & Miss Leah



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)!

Ten Plagues Crossword



- 1) These fell from the sky with fire and thunder.
- 2) The magicians could not stand because they were covered in these.
- 4) This covered the land for three days.
- 6) All of these died that belonged to the Egyptians.
- 7) Swarms of these insects were sent on the Egyptians.

First Congregational Church of Marshfield, Inc.

25
18
11
WED

Office Hours: Tuesday: 9a-3p; Wednesday: 9a-2p; Thursday: 9a-2p
Pastoral Office Hours: By Appointment Only
Church Office — 781-834-7664 Email — secretaryfccm@gmail.com (pastorfccm@gmail.com

THE GREEN SHEET

(A monthly message from our youth team)

Let it Shine!

Greetings from the FCCM Youth Group!

Well, the weather is getting warmer!, and the Youth Group is gearing up and getting excited for some Spring Adventures!

Here's what's coming up:

May's Tentative Schedule:

Sun., May 1 - Regular Meeting – at Parish Hall - 4-5:30pm

Sun., May 8 - Regular Meeting – at Parish Hall - 4-5:30pm

Sun., May 15 - Regular Meeting – at Parish Hall - 4-5:30pm

Sun., May 22 - Regular Meeting – at Parish Hall - 4-5:30pm

Sun., May 29 - Regular Meeting – at Parish Hall - 4-5:30pm

Looking Ahead:

We are currently saving cans and bottles throughout the weeks. We will be holding a Can Drive on the 4th Saturday (but not always) 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:

During the winter, 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 Reverend Bartlett

The First Congregational Church

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

Address Service Requested TIME DATED MATERIAL



Interim Minister—Rev. Richard Bartlett
1981 Ocean Street P.O. Box 826 Marshfield, MA. 02050 Office: 781-834-7664

NEW! Church Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00am-3:00pm; Wednesday 9:00am-2:00pm;
Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm
Pastoral Office Hours: By Appointment Only.

Worship Service & Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. All Are Welcome — Nursery Care Provided

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