

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 worshipping 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 319 JUNE 2020

RE-GATHERING FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Over the last couple of weeks, our church Boards, Committees, and groups have prayerfully considered the Governor's plan and how it relates to our ministries here at FCC Marshfield. In particular, we have carefully considered the ways our approach to re-gathering in-person Worship may both be glorifying to God and keep His people safe.

On Tue., June 9, with the recommendation from the Diaconate, the Church Council voted to hold in-person Worship outdoors beginning Sun., July 5 (weather permitting). Online Worship will continue to be available, now offered through Facebook Live. I invite you to see below for more details on how we will approach the service.

Thank you for your understanding and support during this unique time in the life of our church. FCC Marshfield has continued to love and serve throughout this pandemic. God bless you and your families.

In Christ,
Pastor Joel

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We will begin to hold in-person Worship services outdoors starting Sun., July 5. Worship will be held in the parking lot of the Parish Hall at 10am (weather permitting). All who attend are requested to bring a mask and lawn chair with them. In observance of state guidelines for safety amid the COVID-19 pandemic, those attending service will have access to the restrooms on the lower level of the Parish Hall for handwashing. All will be asked to sign-up in advance (more on this soon), and we kindly ask that early arrivals park in the Town Hall lot, leaving east side lot open for those who need it. Childcare will not be provided, and all over the age of 5 are asked to wear a mask. Since July 5 is when we typically celebrate Communion, we will do so with pre-packaged elements as recommended by the guidelines. Look for more details to follow soon!

ANNUAL MEETING - This Month! Sun., June 28th

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.

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).

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

JUNE 2020

"GOD LOVES, GOD PROVIDES"

- Thank you! Daily Devotionals

Thank you so much for all who contributed to our online Daily Devotionals throughout the COVID-19 pandemic closures. Here at FCC Marshfield we wanted 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. We began the spiritual practice of offering these devotionals as an intentional effort to remind us of God's loving presence with His people. Our theme for these devotionals was "God's love and provision for His people." As we look to approach resuming in-person ministries, we'd like to thank everyone who participated in these devotionals while announcing that they have been concluded as of June 9th. Thank you and God bless you!



HEAVENLY BOOKWORMS' JUNE 2020 SELECTION

Children of the Storm by Natasha Vins

An Autobiography

Natasha's father is a leader in the underground church of the Soviet Union. When Georgi Vins is forced to spend time in hiding and in prison, Natasha looks to her beloved grandmother for spiritual guidance; but in her teens Natasha reaches a spiritual crossroads. In a homeland that demands embracement of communistic ideals and denial of the existence of God, will she follow Christ into a life of poverty and hardship, or will she renounce Christ for the opportunities the communist state will afford for those that do? A great book on how Christians were, and are to this day, persecuted. *Children of the Storm* reminds us to be thankful for things we take for granted. A great book especially when times are tough.

The discussion for June's book will be Friday 6/26 (7p) on Zoom - call Georgia for simple instructions. SHOULD SELF-QUARANTINING BE LIFTED, we will meet at the Chrisman's - Call for directions: 781-361-1290. Book is \$5 (see Georgia) or order from Christianbook.com.

Are You a Couch-Potato who likes to Read?

Then...read Bookworm selections on your couch! If you are not interested in discussing the books, don't! As a Heavenly Couch-Potato Worm one can read the books and skip the discussions. All books are inspiring, interesting and often informative. You will be surprised on how good they are. Bookworm books will take you all over the world, introduce you to amazing people, and broaden your horizons. Earlier selections are available on our church library's counter. Borrow some!



FROM YOUR DEACONS

Update on Pastor Joel's Vicinage, Ordination and Installation: As reported last month our new rescheduled 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. So far our "Heads up e-mail" has yielded our Moderator and one of the 7 churches necessary for a quorum. Next month a written Letter Missive is planned to send out.

The Diaconate has given approval to the Trustees to remove the Name Tag Board in the Narthex and put up in its place a rack for informational brochures that will be edifying for the congregation and to visitors. The name tags will be retained for those who want to use them. For the time being we have cancelled our subscription to the Upper Room devotionals. We will renew when we start meeting again.

The Deacons have prepared and submitted our report for the June annual meeting. Our own June meeting will be held via Zoom. Our main focus is how and when we are going to offer in-person worship now that the Governor has allowed us to meet. We will continue to offer online services for the time being. Please be patient and pray for our discernment on this issue. Watch the weekly Pilgrim e-mail for updates.

Just because we are not meeting together does not mean that we cannot worship together. We urge everyone to participate in the online worship by following the links provided on the website, Facebook page and Pilgrim Newsletter. 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

ONLINE LECTIO DIVINA - New Dates Coming Soon!

Thank you to all who participated in our online *lectio divina* on Wed., May 27. *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. Look for more dates to follow soon for our next online *lectio divina*.

FROM YOUR TRUSTEES

The Trustees have been busy with finishing up the Pastor's office ceiling and walls. We are now taking care of the grass saving us landscaping costs. Todd and Greg helped the area behind the Parish Hall. Greg painted the chair rail in the hall and stained and repaired some thresholds in the Parish Hall. Thank you to Frank Wilkins for repairing and replacing the plexiglass on our sign.

Upcoming projects: painting the two signs in front of the Parish hall and church. Grinding and painting the wrought iron railings.

Projects needing funding:

Paint Sunday school room ceiling and walls, we are estimating this project to cost \$300-\$400.

Build a shed for the lawn mower and snow blower under the wheel chair ramp. Estimating \$500-\$600.

Please consider donating to one or both of these projects to help us move forward.

Update! FCCM ONLINE WORSHIP

Each Sunday, during the COVID-19 crisis, we have been offering a digital Online Worship service accessible through the [church website](#), church [Facebook page](#), and through the weekly The Pilgrim email. Online Worship has featured links to announcements, prayers, Scripture readings, Sermons, and Worship Music. In-Person Outdoor Worship services will begin on Sun., July 5 at 10am in Parish Hall parking lot. We will continue to offer Worship in an Online format, moving to a livestream through Facebook Live as of July 5. The 10am service will be accessible via the church Facebook page. If we can work out the details, it will also be available later through our website, Facebook page, and weekly The Pilgrim email. The Spirit unites God's people wherever they may be. May God bless you and your family in Christ Jesus.

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!

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.

JULY MUTUAL AND COUNCIL MEETINGS — Tue., July 7

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

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.



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NACCC VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING - Sat., June 27

The NACCC Virtual Annual Meeting will take place on Zoom on Saturday, June 27, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Registration is free. While Pastor Joel and Judy Johnson will be attending as delegate and alternate, all are welcome to attend. [Click here](#) or visit naccc.org for more info and to register online.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Thanksgiving/Joy: Christ's faithfulness to FCC Marshfield for 388 years, medical professionals, Churches in Marshfield, MACCC, and NACCC, blessings of new life as Rev. John and Edna Robie welcome their new granddaughter.
Healing: Those battling COVID-19 including the medical teams and officials working to keep us safe, Kim Callendar, Danny Sheehan, Susan Lizio, 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, Charlie Sylvester, Dave McGrath Sr., Nancy Kiesman (Pastor Joel's Aunt), Gloria Chrisman (Georgia's sister-in-law), Ellen Synakowski, Janet Dabrowski, Jon and Steve and baby Gavin, Katrina, Denise, Janice, Dorraine Porter, Carol Spooner, Karen Campbell, Kendall Smith, John Coombs, Mercedes (Eliana Kimball's mother), Dave Chrisman, Krista Gottschlich
Comfort: families of Jayne Bowman, Elizabeth Gledhill, Linda Woodman, Betty Dubois, Velna Roberts, Jordan Phinney, Dave Martin, Frank McGee, Betty Crowell (grandmother of Darren Segrini), Roger Bousquet (Doreen Taylor's cousin), Pat Vaillancourt (Steve Vaillancourt's mother), Barbara Winokur, Lizzy Blake, and Stephan Hochstin
Homebound Church Family: Alberta Bezanson, Roz Novinsky, Marie King, Mary Ellingson, Kathy Bryan
Guidance & Protection: Men and Women in the military and our first responders, families struggling with addictions, stigma of mental illness, unhoused youth in Marshfield, students, teachers, and families at home, unemployed and underemployed, medical teams working to keep us safe, we pray for peace, healing, and justice in our nation during this time of unrest.



PRAYER PALS

DURING THIS STAY-AT-HOME time, we have become Couch-Potato Prayer Pals, holding prayer via Internet (zoom) Monday evenings 6:30-7:30pm. 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.

JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - Articles due by Mon., June 15

Please submit any articles/submissions for the June issue of *The Bell* newsletter to the church office by June 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.



THE GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND

Contact Us: GNFMmarshfield@gmail.com <https://GNFMmarshfield.wix.com/gnf-website> or P.O. Box 826 Marshfield, MA 02050

Donate On-line: <https://GNFMmarshfield.wix.com/gnf-websiteGoodNeighborFund.net>

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

Good Neighbor Fund Gift Card Order Form

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Buy gift cards to use at the Grocery stores that you normally shop for all your daily needs!

Contact us at GNFMmarshfield@gmail.com.

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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 JUNE

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

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.

In early May, we sent another \$200 to the Food Pantry to help with the current needs here in town.

Sowing Seeds - Please donate new socks, good spring/Summer clothing and sleepwear.

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.

We have received thanks from Church World Services for our support and have sent them \$400 for blankets in honor of our mothers on Mother'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

JUNE 2020

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

Did you know John Eliot...

Our Puritan forebears maintained good relations with the Native Americans until the time of King Philip's War in the 1670's. John Eliot was pastor of the Congregational church in Roxbury, Massachusetts, who had a deep concern for these natives, wanting them to come to know the Lord Jesus. Somehow he became convinced that the American Indians were really the ten lost tribes of Israel.

In 1646, he began mission work among the Mohicans, establishing villages that were ruled by the standards of the Old Testament. Eliot taught the natives to farm, using agricultural methods and carpentry skills that came from Europe. Wanting his native parishioners to read Scripture, Eliot invented an alphabet for their language and translated the Bible into the Mohican (or Algonquian) language. His American Indian Bible was the first Bible published in America, even before there was an edition of the Scriptures in English or in any other European language.

Eventually, Eliot founded fourteen towns for his converts, who became known as the "Praying Indians." Each of the villages included a Congregational church, and their government was similar to that of the English-speaking Puritan communities. Inspired in part by Eliot's work, the British Parliament in 1649 would incorporate the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in New England. That organization was still in existence and able to help Jonathan Edwards in his work among the Native Americans more than a hundred years later.

...was a Congregationalist?

Historical story by: Rev. Robert Hellam

Did you know Increase Mather...

Increase Mather was the most brilliant Puritan clergyman and public figure of his day. He graduated from Harvard at 17 and earned a master's degree from Trinity College in Ireland. Upon his graduation he was offered a professorship but declined the post. When the Puritan Commonwealth in England was replaced by the Monarchy in 1660 he returned home to become the pastor of Boston's North Church.

While pastor there, he also served as the president of Harvard College. Mather came of age as the leadership of the Bay Colony was passing to the second generation which experienced the most tumultuous and challenging period in its history. It was largely Increase Mather who shepherded the Colony through it, both spiritually and politically. Increase Mather was a prominent participant in the Reforming Synod of 1679-80. Its delegates called for Colony-wide repentance and rededication to Christian zeal and holiness in churches and society.

The Colony faced its greatest political crisis in 1684 when the king revoked its Charter and imposed direct royal rule, which abruptly denied the colonists any voice in their governance. Edmund Andros was sent as the king's governor to enforce royal decrees which the colonists resisted as tyranny. Increase Mather sailed to England in time to witness the "Glorious Revolution" of 1688 in which James II was deposed. Mather was able to negotiate a new Charter that restored limited self rule to the Bay Colony. Increase was also a voice of reason that brought an end to the Salem witchcraft trials.

...was a Congregationalist?

Historical story by: Rev. Norm Erendson

Did you 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?

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



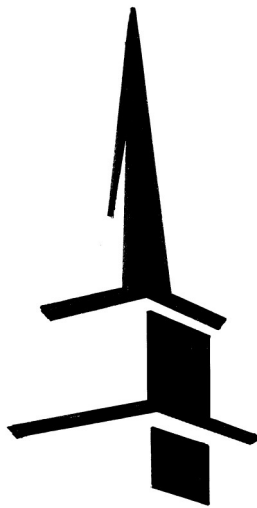
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THE BELL

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. (see inside for details)

All Are Welcome — Nursery Care Provided

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