



# First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

## Messenger

*Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Pastor*

*Mariko Matsumura, Interim Music Director*

**OFFICE 781-665-2111 - FAX 781-665-8824**

**E-MAIL [info@fccmelrose.org](mailto:info@fccmelrose.org) Website [www.fccmelrose.org](http://www.fccmelrose.org)**

**Rev. Dominic's Cell phone: 781-526-3428**

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### The Pergola

If you haven't noticed already, the pergola has been installed on the front, right lawn of the church! This is a very exciting addition to our church facility and a wonderful addendum to our Capital Campaign!

The majority of the prep work for the installation of the pergola was done by Rick Mockler. Consequently, the structure will be dedicated in memory of him and his wife Becky—both of whom served our church with such commitment and dedication.

It is important to note, however, the pergola itself is only Stage One of the vision for that front, right lawn. A landscape design is underway for that area as well that will include a patio area, seating, vines, bushes and no-maintenance ground cover. So keep an eye on this evolving project over the next weeks and months!

It should also be noted that the front lawn (with the sign) will also undergo rejuvenation. We are working with an organic lawn company (also something Rick had set up) to bring this area back to a grassy, inviting area. The front, left lawn will also see the addition of a bench that is currently under design by members of our church. It will further add a human element and invite people to our church grounds.

These changes are not only important as a means of sprucing up the church, but also as a way of saying that this is a church that invites people to a place of rest, beauty and contemplation. Above all, these changes are to encourage people to "a time apart", a time to reflect and, with just a bit of intentionality, a time to encounter God.

Amid the rush and confusion of life, First Congregational Church is a respite, a sanctuary, an oasis that offers meaning, direction and purposeful living. This is our mission from the inside out and the outside in!

A special thanks to Jim Sugrue and all of those on the Capital Campaign Committee who are seeing this important work, no MINISTRY, to completion!

See you in church,

P A L M

# Sunday



## Sunday, April 9, 2017

- 8:30 AM – Breakfast at First Baptist Church followed by
- 9:00 AM – Palm Procession to the Gazebo at Ell Pond for
- 9:15 AM – Blessing of the Palms at the Gazebo
- 9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal
- 9:20-9:50 AM – Treblemakers rehearsal
- 10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School
- 11:15 AM – Coffee Hour
- 11:15 to 11:45 AM - Treblemakers and all interested children, Easter Sunday rehearsal (starts immediately after the service)
- 11:30 AM - Lenten Adult Education Class, Library
- 6:30 PM – Sunday School Administrative Assistant Search Committee meeting, Library



### DURING THE WEEK

#### Monday, April 10

7:00 PM – Racial Justice Ministry, Library

#### Tuesday, April 11

7:00 PM – Deacons and Trustees, Library

7:15 to 8:15 PM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

#### Wednesday, April 12

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

#### Thursday, April 13 – Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM – Worship Service of Tenebrae at First Congregational, joint with Melrose Highlands

#### Friday, April 14 – Good Friday

Noon to 3:00 PM - First Congregational will be open to anyone who wishes to come and pray or spend quiet time in the sanctuary.

5:15-6:00 PM - Treblemakers and all interested children, Easter Sunday rehearsal

#### Sunday, April 16 – Easter Sunday

5:45 AM - Sunrise service at Mt. Hood

9:20-9:45 AM - Treblemakers rehearsal

10:00 AM - Worship



Lorine Timmermann (mother of Lori), Brian Johnson, Bob Hughes, Ray Luebbe (Betsy Garrett's father), Mary Sakata and Becky Faro (Trish Faro's daughters), Nyal Fuentes, Claire Griffin, Bill Copeland, Merle Copeland, Gem Colvin, Dot Allen, Bob Pierce,

Anne Wing, Ella Boyle, Scott Chisholm.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

High School class will be a Coaching Session: A faithful approach to coaching and working with others. This interactive unit will challenge our high school youth to focus on character development when working with others and will include hands-on application with our church's children.



**Jeff Green is running this year's Boston Marathon, and is raising money for The Lazarus House in Lawrence.**

Since opening its doors as an emergency homeless shelter in 1983, Lazarus House has been breaking the cycle of poverty in Lawrence and the Merrimack Valley region.

Lazarus House is a gospel-based ministry and welcomes all. They provide a continuum of care encompassing, but not limited to: food, shelter, clothing, advocacy, education, work preparation, a listening ear, a welcoming heart and the restoration of dignity and self-respect to people who are poor and in dire need.

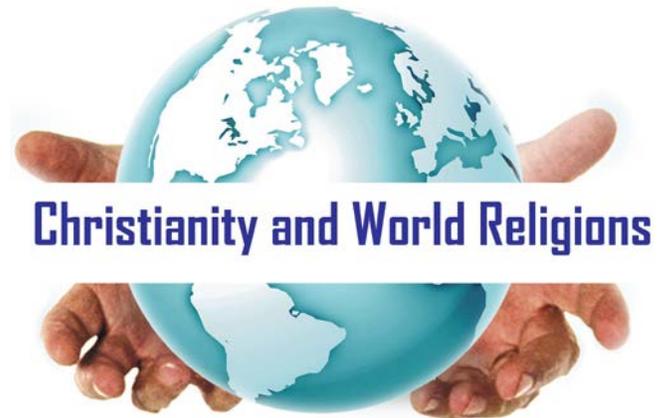
Please consider a donation if you're able:  
<https://www.crowdrise.com/LazarusHouseBoston2017/fundraiser/jeffersongreen>

\*Jeff will be in the narthex after the service Sunday for any questions



**Refugee Immigration Ministry Thanks You!**  
 On behalf of our clients, who are very relieved to have their rent paid, we thank all of you who made financial and in-kind donations. And we thank you collectively as a church for the annual

RIM donation of \$1000! A special thanks to Linda Fennell, who donated three much-appreciated lamps to the family....they need no more lamps but we are still looking for a queen-sized bed frame. We also have two gift cards for Market Basket for \$25 each...if you would like to buy one to help them with their groceries, look for them in the narthex on Sunday. We still owe rent for our E. Boston client so keep those donations coming...and there's always the May rent, so keep those donations coming! It was great to see church people at the inspiring RIM concert last night. Thanks again!



**LENTEN ADULT EDUCATION CLASS  
 CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS**  
 After worship Sunday

Join Rev. Dominic in the Library after worship for the last discussion based class that will look at world religions through the lens of our own faith tradition. While Christianity is the largest religion in the world today, there are billions of people who practice other faiths.

# MUSIC News



The Music Director Search Committee is happy to announce that it has selected three candidates to interview.

In the first 45 minutes of each interview, we are asking the candidates to perform some hymns and provide sample music instruction to those present.

We invite you to be part of this important element of the interviewing process. We ask that you participate only if you can attend ALL THREE interviews so that you'll be able to provide feedback for all candidates.

The candidates are being interviewed:

- Saturday, May 6 at 2:00 pm
- Sunday, May 7 at 1:00 pm
- Sunday, May 7, at 3:00 pm

If you have any questions, please contact one of the committee members:

Ann Ahlin, Tom Foth, Betsy Garrett, Beth Grzegorzewski, Bob Jamison, Lisa Jamison, Michael Leskiw, Jaime McAllister-Grande, Rev. Dominic Taranowski.

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**The following groups meet here regularly:**

- Boy Scouts** – Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the basement
- Girl Scouts** – Sundays, 3:00 to 5:00 PM
- Al-Anon** – weekdays at 12 noon, Sunday at 1 & 7 PM – Rm. 8
- Blue of a Kind** – Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Music Room
- S.A.R.P.** – Mondays 6:30 PM, Lounge
- Tai Chi for Arthritis** – Wednesdays at 10:00 AM, Room 8
- A.A.** – Mondays at 4:30 PM, & 7:00 PM (men), Tuesdays at 4:30 PM, Wednesdays at 4:30 PM & 7:30 PM, Thursdays at 4:30 PM and 7:00 PM, Fridays at 4:30 PM and 8:00 PM and Saturdays at 9:00 AM (men) and 3:00 PM – Rm. 8
- Makam Music Group** – Fridays 7:00-9:00 PM – Lounge and Rm. 1

**Steps to De-Stress Program**

Learn how to successfully relax through a stressful day. At some point, we've all dealt with stress, but having a constant feeling of being "stressed-out" can affect our health and wellness. Join Hallmark Health for this two-class program on **Wednesdays April 26 and May 3 from 5:30 – 7 p.m. (please arrive 15 minutes early on April 26).**

**Learn about:**

- Stress physiology
- Explore how stress affects your body
- Techniques for relaxation
- Easy tips to managing everyday stress

To register, please call 781-338-7561 or email

[CHE@hallmarkhealth.org](mailto:CHE@hallmarkhealth.org)

Registration and payment are required one week prior to class.

Cost for two-class session: \$30 per participant

Janet Perault  
Program Development Coordinator  
Hallmark Health VNA and Hospice, Inc.



**EASTER FLOWERS**

***Easter Memorial Flowers - \$15 per plant***

**Send your order form by April 7<sup>th</sup> to: Darby Drafts, 25 Adams St., Melrose MA 02176, (Last minute orders may be handed to Darby on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.)**

Ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

# of plants ordered \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to First Congregational Church.

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