



First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Messenger

Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Pastor

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We Need Easter!

Maybe it's just me, but it feels like we need Easter this year more than we have needed it in recent times.

We have had a series of large funerals in our church, the most prominent being for our friend and fellow servant Rick Mockler. While his funeral service was weeks ago now, this wound is still very real for us. We have felt the weight of Lent a little too dramatically for our liking.

Speaking of the weight of Lent, many in our church have felt it in a new way this year as we have tried to make sense of the chaotic new direction our country has taken following the election last fall. I know deep emotions of fear, anxiety and disarray have understandably plagued many of you these recent months.

The bottom line is: We Need Easter!

This Easter Sunday we do indeed come to the tomb of our loss and pain but let us remember that we come as followers of the Resurrected One. We come wounded and find that despair, anger, disillusionment, and death itself have been defeated. We come to Easter morning to proclaim that love wins! Life wins! Hope is fulfilled and the world does bloom again because of the power of our loving God!

The truth is that because of Easter, there are no dead ends. Because of Easter, our journey always continues. Because of Easter, goodness and mercy, justice and peace, love and life will be triumphant!

That is the spirit that infuses not only Easter but First Congregational Church itself. We are people of the resurrection and each week we are part of the light-and-life-proclaiming truth of Easter that no darkness can defeat.

See you in church,



Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017

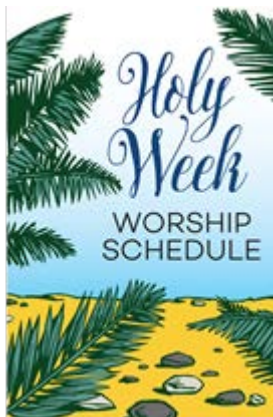
5:45 AM – Sunrise service at Mt. Hood

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



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

DURING NEXT WEEK

Monday, April 17

Patriot's Day – Office closed

Tuesday, April 18

6:00 to– 8:30 PM – RIM meeting, Library

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

Wednesday, April 19

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Thursday April 20

4:00 PM – Bread of Life Dinner, American Legion,
368 Pleasant St., Malden

Sunday, April 23

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:

Sunday school classes as usual, middle and high school will be combined

Happy Easter!
Lisa and Sherri



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.

THE CLIMATE MARCH TAKING PLACE IN BOSTON ON SATURDAY, APRIL 29, FROM 12-3 WILL BRING TOGETHER MANY ENVIRONMENTAL, FAITH-BASED AND JUSTICE GROUPS TO STAND AS ONE COMMUNITY TAKING ACTION FOR THE SAKE OF OUR EARTH AND THOSE WHO INHABIT IT.

Whether you are concerned about the threatened cuts to the EPA, the greenlight given to the Keystone XL pipeline, or other climate news stories, the Climate March will give you an opportunity to make a strong and vibrant presence to stand up for stewardship to our earth.

The UCC Council for Climate Justice and the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries are official co-sponsors for the Washington DC March. Knowing that many of you would have trouble getting to DC, we are also organizing a local contingency to attend the Boston sister-march also on April 29. Please contact Lori Timmermann if you would like to attend (MelroseSolarCoach@gmail.com). Logistical details soon to follow.

With gratitude that you are willing to join me for making a difference in the future of our planet, the safety of our communities and the health of our families.

Best, Lori



Free program on managing chronic pain

Is living with chronic pain affecting your life? Chronic pain may cause sleep loss, increased stress and loss of motivation around everyday activities. Learn to manage pain and continue living a fulfilling life through this FREE six-session program. On Wednesdays, May 10 – June 14, 2017 from 9:30am to 12 noon at Hallmark Health Medical Center (right off route 128) 30 Newcrossing Rd, Reading MA; Sponsored by Hallmark Health. Registration is required **SPACE IS LIMITED**. Please call 781-338-7823 to register.

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

Easter Memorial Flowers

In Memory of	From
Fred & Amy Spollett Dick & Prilla Williams	Martha & Keith Williams
Tonya Williams	Richard Williams & Tammy Garcia
Rudolph & Laverne Clemens Wallace & Ruth Jamison	Bob & Lisa Jamison
All who live in our hearts forever	Ahlin/Krueger families
For those always in our hearts	Cinella family
Mother, Father & Brothers S. Richard Boyson, Husband & Father	Marilyn Boyson & family
Loved ones	Barbara Dannbauer
Loved ones	Nancy Schurian
Our Circle sisters	Circle 12
Marjorie E. Thayer Helen Thayer Harry & Eula Gilbert	Donald Thayer family
Our family who are no longer here with us	Bill & Joan Chetwynd
Beloved family members	Karen Friedman
My parents, Annie G. & Leonard W. Stevens Nanna Boyington	Nancy A. Mader
David R. Wing Mickayla Taylor	Anne Wing
Douglas & Connie Robinson	Andrew Robinson & Susan LeFave & family
Loved ones	Jim & Penny Muschett
Bruce & Elsa Jay	Carol Bergeron
George & Eugenia Miner Bob & Dianne Snyder	Miner family
Loved ones	Emelie & Bud Burnham
Our parents Rick Mockler	Toney/McGill family
Our loving parents & our son, Toby Andrew Amirault	Vic & Glenda Amirault
Our parents	Debbie & Steve Anderson
Loved ones	John Curtis
My parents, Rick & Becky Mockler	Sarah Mockler
Loved ones	Joan Potter
Charles & Lila Davis Fred and Glenys Lamson	Bud Lamson
Doris Figueira Gloria O'Brien	Kim Figueira & Terrie O'Brien
Tom McLaughlin John Murphy & Jim McLaughlin	Joe & Judy Murphy
Loved ones	Faro family
Dorothy Luebbe Nancy Morgan	Betsy Garrett
Sean Drennon Amara Drennon & Baby Caleb	Drafts-Johnson family

