



First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Messenger

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An Easter People's Lamentation of Hope

As we continue our journey in the Easter season, I offer here the Easter Message from our United Church of Christ General Minister and President the Rev. John C. Dorhauer. May we find hope in his words during these challenging times.

See you in church,

--Rev. Dominic

We are an Easter people. Shaped by the experiences of death, the wells of our enduring faith spring up and speak to us of the eternal. This fundament, this bedrock, it grounds us.

And, as Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians – we therefore do not grieve as those who have no hope.

I can't tell you how many times over the last year and a half I have had to remind myself that we are, in the end, an Easter people. No death we experience will be allowed to offer the last word. Hope will always abide in the shadows that come with grief and loss.

Let us, then, speak of grief and loss - the collective ennui we share with a suffering planet that is smeared with our toil.

We see tens of millions of refugees swarming the globe. We see decades of advances in social justice being erased by a global shift to the political fringes. We watch nations and their leaders play war games with big and very destructive weapons. We know children are being trafficked, women are being violated, and black and brown bodies are continuously treated with disdain by whites.

My mood has shifted and I am not alone. Say what you want about the current political climate in America, but something has happened to our shared narrative.

Sunday, April 15, 2018
Baptism Sunday

9:30 AM – No Choir Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM – Worship and Sunday School
11:15 AM – Coffee Hour

Immigrants are enemies.

Unarmed black bodies are gunned down with impunity.

Women's bodies are trivialized as solely the object of men's passions and desires.

Fascism is on the rise, creeping into the light after decades lurking in the shadows.

Children go through 'code red' exercises that have them rehearsing live shooter drills, wondering not if, but when.

We talk without shame about arming teachers.

I'm looking for my Easter hope. I'm asking if this is the dying beyond which God has nothing more to say. And...

God is not silent. God's speech resonates not from beyond the madness, but from within it.

On a street corner in St. Louis, a woman preaches at the opening of a child wellbeing center. The preacher has an Easter story to tell. She was left abandoned on that very street corner when she was 9 months old.

In a sanctuary in Madbury, New Hampshire the Maranatha Indonesian United Church of Christ celebrates 14 years of shared life and ministry. They have their own Easter story to tell. Many in the room just weeks ago were detained and threatened with deportation. One pastor's intervention and dogged determination affected their release. On this Sunday, much more than an anniversary is celebrated as families are re-united.

In the aftermath of one of the most violent and ugly chapters of our collective narrative, teenagers produce their own Easter hope by calling a nation to recognize that our love affair with gun violence is destroying the hope of children. Their fierce resistance has an entire nation marching for our lives.

The tomb is empty. Oh, to be sure, death has its sting. There was a body. But the body rises.

God speaks, and beyond the seemingly impenetrable tomb a new word is heard. Let those who have ears to hear, hear.

May the joy of an embodied resurrection call you to see through grief, listen beyond lamentation, and know beyond a shadow of doubt, Jesus lives. We do not grieve as those who have no hope. Our grief is altered by Easter.

Jesus is risen. He is risen indeed.

-- Rev. John C. Dorhauer

DURING THE WEEK

Monday, April 16

Patriot's Day – office closed

Tuesday, April 17

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

Wednesday, April 18

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Thursday, April 19

3:30 PM – Bread of Life Dinner, Salvation Army
213 Main St., Malden (**Note new location**)

Sunday, April 22

10:00 AM – Worship and Sunday School

11:30 AM - Reflect and Respond, Library

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

Makam Music Group – Sundays 4:45-6:30 PM – Lounge

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. – Sundays 5:30 PM, Library, 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 8:00 PM and Saturdays at 9:00 AM (men) and 3:00

PM – Rm. 8



Ryan Chisholm, Marilyn McComas, Bill Albright, Anne Wing, Bob Hughes, Mary Sakata and Becky Faro (Trish Faro's daughters), Merle Copeland, Bob Pierce.

Adult Education Class: Baptism Next Sunday--April 15

Join Rev. Dominic after worship in the Library for an exploration of this important Sacrament. We will explore the biblical basis for baptism and modern debates about this historic tradition. Note: this class is NOT only for anyone exploring baptism for themselves or their children but rather for EVERYONE who is interested in learning more about this ritual and what it means for the church and our discipleship today.



Upcoming Adult Education Opportunities

Please join us after worship in the Library on the following Sundays for stimulating conversation on relevant topics of faith formation.

Sunday, April 15--Baptism--Tradition or Necessity?

Sunday, April 22--Reflect and Respond--What was intriguing to you about the worship service?

Sunday, May 6--Communion--Commemoration or Connection?

Sunday, June 10--Reflect and Respond--What was intriguing to you about the worship service?

All classes are hosted by Rev. Dominic. Please let him know if you would like child care. All are welcome!



SUNDAY SCHOOL:

We will have a Family Service this week.

Nursery care is always available, but Sunday School classes will not be held.

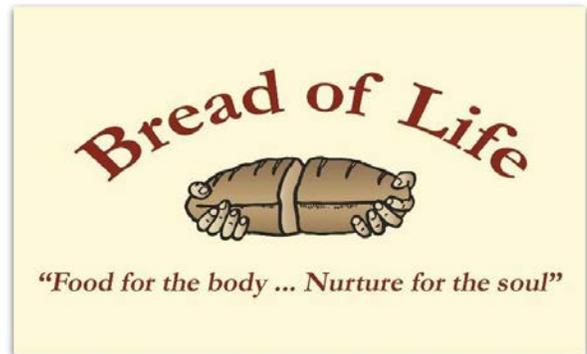
MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

May 6 -Teacher and Sunday School Volunteer breakfast

June 3 - Graduation Sunday

June 10 - Church School Sunday

Family Worship services will take place on April 15, May 27, and June 17.



Bread of Life meals are moving!

The location of the Bread of Life meal that we serve on the Third Thursday of the month is now:

Salvation Army
213 Main St.
Malden, MA.

Volunteers can park on Main St. or side streets (both available during serving hours).

Serving hours remain the same, **3:30 – 7:00pm.**

If you want more information about joining other members of FCC in serving on

Thursday, APRIL 19,

contact Sallie Klemm at shklemm@verizon.net



**PASTA PARTY APRIL 29TH
BE SURE TO SIGN UP THIS SUNDAY!**

Did you know that pasta did not originate in Italy? Food historians have determined that pasta almost certainly had its start in central Asia as noodles and eventually spread across the continent, and to Italy, which is the place that many associate with pasta.

On Sunday, April 29th Fellowship will host the first-ever Pasta Party for all the church, right after the worship service, in the Narthex. The menu includes pasta and sauce with meatballs, garlic bread, and tossed salad and cookies brought by the parishioners. (To see whether you need to bring salad or cookies, see the signup board.)

This is our Spring Fellowship get-together and a great opportunity to have lunch made for you at church and have time to chat with fellow members and friends. Take advantage of it and sign up on Sunday!

Your Fellowship Deacons



**YARD SALE – Save
the Date!**

All-Church Yard Sale and
Bake Sale

May 5, 9am – 1pm
Mark your calendars!!!

Yard sale items can be
dropped off beginning Sunday, April 29.



**This coming Sunday, April 15,
will be a no choir Sunday**

The choir gets a needed break for this week. If you would like to participate in the no choir choir, come to a rehearsal at 9:30 AM on Sunday and learn a song! No permanent commitment, just for one Sunday. See how rewarding that it is to help to make worship special.

**AN OPENING SOON IN THE CASPAR
MONTHLY MEAL GROUP**

If you've been thinking it would be nice to help provide meals for a shelter in the area, this opportunity might be for you.

For years a group of six families have cooked meals once a month, for 120 people, at the CASPAR shelter in Cambridge. All families make the same recipe, and one of those families delivers everyone's food to the CASPAR shelter. Delivery duty rotates each month.

Our church's CASPAR meals are very much relied upon for people who have nowhere to go, or have serious problems such as substance abuse. If you would like to know more about this important church ministry, call Donna Miner at (781) 662-6697. This opening is available in May 2018.

Thank You Dunia!

Dunia Velez, our Administrative Assistant for Sunday School and Youth, has moved on to other avenues in her life. We thank her for her commitment to our ministries for children and youth and the time and creativity she devoted to this staff position. We wish her well!

Hallmark Health VNA and Hospice to hold annual fundraiser event on Wednesday, April 25th at Giggles Comedy Club at Prince Pizza, 517 Broadway (Rte.1 S) in Saugus.

The event will include live and silent auction, raffles, unlimited pizza, a comedy show and more. There are sporting tickets, theatre tickets, weekend get-a-ways, jewelry items and so much more! Come join in a night of fun to help support a worthy cause. All proceeds will go to their Maternal/Child Health Program and their Palliative Care Program. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased online at www.hallmarkhealthhomecare.org (click on fundraiser icon) or by calling 781-338-7902. For more info, please call 781-338-7902.



PUZZLE

RESURRECTION HOPE


 Romans 6:5 reveals the hope we have because
 Jesus rose from the dead on Easter.
 

Directions: First solve the math problems. Then put the corresponding words in the blanks; for example, the word next to the answer "1" goes in the first blank, the word next to the answer "2" goes in the second blank, and so on.

2+2 = ___ united	2x3 = ___ death	7+6 = ___ resurrection
3x3 = ___ certainly	18-16 = ___ have	4-1 = ___ been
0+1 = ___ if	2x4 = ___ we	13-1 = ___ him
2+3 = ___ in	20-6 = ___ like	2+5 = ___ his
2x5 = ___ be	8+3 = ___ with	

"For we
 1 2 3 4
 with him a like ,
 5 6 7
 will also united
 8 9 10
 in a
 11 12 13
 his." Romans 6:5, NIV
 14

Answer: For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:5, NIV