



Steeple Notes

The First Congregational Church of Rowley, U.C.C.
175 Main Street • P.O. Box 364 • Rowley, MA 01969
(978) 948-3993 • www.firstchurchrowley.org

Church Office first.church@verizon.net

Rev. Tom Bentley, Pastor bentleyconsulting123@gmail.com

MARCH 2020



Worship Watch for March

Worship at 10:00 AM every Sunday

Sunday, March 1st – 1st Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5: 12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Sunday, March 8th – 2nd Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Genesis 12: 1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5,13-17
John 3: 1-17



Sunday, March 15th – 3rd Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Exodus 17: 1-17
Psalm 95
Romans 5: 1-11



John 4:5-42

Sunday, March 22nd – 4th Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Exodus 24:12-18
1 Samuel 16: 10-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9: 1-41

Sunday, March 29th – 5th Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Ezekiel 37: 1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11: 1-45



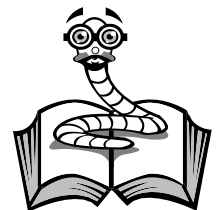
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4th
CABINET MTG. 7:00 PM



Saturday,
March 14th
8:00 – 9:30 AM

Bookworm Café

Saturday, March 21st
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



SENIOR DINNER



SUNDAY,
March 29th
2 – 4 PM

DEADLINE for articles for April
issue of STEEPLE NOTES is
Wednesday, March 15th

“And the Darkness Has Not Overcome It”

I love daylight savings time. I know a lot of people really despise it and find it inconvenient. Yes... in the coming day of March 8 I will feel tired on that Sunday morning because I “lost” an hour of sleep.

Still, It's the whole idea of the thing I like. It affirms somehow, we can manipulate the daylight. Somehow, we can squeeze a day for more.

This really is good guidance for all of us. Darkness is not our friend. From earliest existence it was the place of threat and death. In all spiritual traditions, light in contrast is associated with the divine.

In scripture The Psalmist says:

“Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,”

But then the Psalmist proclaims about God

“even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.”

We are free creatures, and we can bring light into the darkness of life anytime we choose. Even in the times of greatest suffering the light of God's love can shine in our hearts, if only we are willing to turn and receive that gift.

In college I was known as a night owl. I loved staying up all night and watching the sunrise. I never felt like I lost anything doing this, because I was so alive and curious every hour was filled with daylight in my soul.

Over the decades maybe this has faded away a bit. However, in sharing this message with you I have reconnected as to just how much daylight I can save and share with others- and even with myself.

Grace and peace to you all.

The warmth and light of spring is on the way! And in faith it's already here and now.

Rev. Tom



Stop by the Thrift Shop and check out our new items as well as the winter sales. Our inventory is always changing, especially now as we prepare for the “changing of the season.”

We welcome your donations of new and gently used clothing, household items, linens and other non-electronic items.

**Shop hours: Tuesday 9:00am – 1:00 pm
Thursday 3:00-6:00 and Saturday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm**



All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast!

Saturday, March 14, 2020

8:00 am – 9:30 am

**Pancakes • Toppings • Bacon • Heart-Healthy Turkey
Sausage • Coffee • Juice • More!**

\$9 Adults • \$6 Children & Seniors

First Congregational Church of Rowley • 175 Main Street (Rt. 1A), Rowley, MA 978-948-3993

BOOKWORM CAFÉ

Saturday, March 21st

9 AM to 2 PM

First Congregational Church of Rowley

We hope you will plan to join us for a delicious lunch!



The Café will have:

- ❖ Muffins
- ❖ homemade soup or chowder
- ❖ fresh bread
- ❖ Coffee / Tea / water
- ❖ assortment of yummy dessert choices!



You can even enjoy shopping at the Fellowship Thrift Shop, downstairs!

Annual Senior Dinner

Sunday, March 29th

2:00 – 4:00 PM

MENU:

Assorted Appetizers
Baked Stuff Chicken
Rice Pilaf
Fresh Veggies
Assorted Desserts
Coffee / Tea / Punch



\$ 5 / person

Reserve by March 20th, Please!
Games/Prizes

*Sponsored & served
by our Youth Group*

*YG family members are
Welcome!*

FCCR Missions Committee

The Missions committee is very grateful for the participation at our dinner in which we explored issues of immigration and our laws affecting the border. With Reverend Tom facilitating, we were able to spark interesting conversations at each table that brought forth a number of queries and thoughts regarding immigration. We are hoping to further explore these with the Congregation in the coming months through a number of different avenues starting with the invitation to a coffee hour discussion every Sunday when a Missions member is present.

This country has been seen as a beacon of hope and freedom and opportunity to people all over the world for centuries. It is an idealist view, we know that we have not always treated people well who looked to us to save them from a very uncertain fate, and we have not treated our own citizens with the greatest of kindness. But our ideal has been the Christian thought of treating those less fortunate with kindness, helping out the stranger, doing all we can to make the world a better place as we were given this chance at life to do good. Our national government is drifting far from that ideal and it is up to us to speak up and remind them of who we are. That is why thoughtful discussion is needed. That is why we must educate ourselves as to what is happening to our neighbors and what could happen to us. The church is the foundation of community and we invite you to participate with us as we explore our faith in this time of challenge in our nation. Truth matters, justice matters, loving one another matters. The old testament said this, the new testament says this. As we live our daily lives we need to try as best we can to lead with love, and not let the fear of someone we don't know or can't relate to allow us to make decisions that are detrimental to them and ultimately to ourselves. Please join us as we take a journey of self-reflection and understanding of our church in the world.

Mame was kind enough to join me at the Wenham Church for a *Family Promise* host night. It was great to have her company again! We have another week coming up in April in which we hope to participate. There are trainings coming up if anyone is interested. Speak to Danby if you want more information.

Following are links to the Ted Talks that were presented at the dinner. They are worth looking at. If you interested in being active in seeing our immigration laws being re-vamped we suggest taking a look at Julian Castro's plan.

https://www.ted.com/talks/luma_mufleh_don_t_feel_sorry_for_refugees_believe_in_them

https://www.ted.com/talks/erika_pinheiro_what_s_really_happening_at_the_us_mexico_border_and_how_we_can_do_better

<https://issues.juliancastro.com/people-first-immigration/>

Thank you for your support of Missions. We hope to see you joining us at coffee hour in the coming weeks.

The Missions Committee.

...And always remember...

Your support produces returns that multiply over and over.

...Every little bit helps fulfill God's Will.

Thank you all for your support...



Music Legend

Ken Medema

Live, In Concert

Palm Sunday
4/5/2020 at 4 p.m.
Meet & Greet After

"Ken's songs are uplifting,
healing, and make you believe
anything is possible."
- Reverend Ross Varney

Join us for a powerful
and inspired performance by
Ken Medema on Palm Sunday.

Ken, a blind singer songwriter,
has been performing interfaith
musical experiences for over
40 years!

Don't miss your chance to see
the former "Hour of Power"
regular, and a storytelling
and musical experience like
no other!



Tickets available through
BrownPaperTickets.Com
\$20, Regular
\$15, Students and Seniors

Belleville Congregational
Meetinghouse
300 High Street
Newburyport MA

Why Go To Church?

A Church-goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now... In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing... God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!



2019 Easter Flowers Order Form



Please return this completed form to the Church Office
by Sunday, April 5

Any Questions? – Please contact the Flower Committee

Joyce Ernstrom (978) 948-2254 jernstrom3@icloud.com

Robin Kay (978) 948-2517 kayrobin@comcast.net

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ email: _____

NOTATION FOR BULLETIN (i.e. "in memory of..."; "in celebration of..."):

Type of Flowers:

Easter Lily: \$10.00 _____ Daffodils: \$8.00 _____

Hyacinth: \$ 8.50 _____ Pink or Blue _____

Tulips: \$ 8.00 each Red _____ Pink _____ Lavender _____ Yellow _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to FCOR with memo "Easter Flowers"

☐ I will be taking the flowers home. ☐ I wish the flowers to go to a shut in.



BIRTHDAYS

Geneva Merry	3/2
Chrissy Laudenslager	3/2
Don Thurston	3/4
Madison Butler	3/6
Barbara Friend	3/8
Karen Barry	3/12
Heidi Somers	3/15
Chard Stevens	3/15
Donna Warren	3/22
Deb Flate	3/23
Daniel Faircloth	3/24
Jessica Nickless	3/25
David Irving	3/27
Kirsten Merry	3/28
Janice Goss	3/29

ANNIVERSARIES

Les & Donna Warren	3/6
Deb & Neville Flate	3/16

*Have we missed a birthday or anniversary?
Do we have your name correct?
Please contact the church office to help us keep
our list up to date. Thank you!*

LAY READERS – March

March 1	Penny Hurley
March 8	Marge Thurston
March 15	(Youth)
March 22	Karl Schmuck
March 29	Don Thurston

CHURCH'S ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE APRIL 26TH

*GET YOUR ANNUAL REPORTS
TO THE CHURCH OFFICE NOW!*



Storm Cancellations

In the event of a Saturday night or Sunday morning snowstorm or blizzard this winter, you can check the following TV & Radio stations, as well as their websites, for worship service or event cancellation notifications.

WBZ-TV 4 / WBZ News Radio 1030 (AM dial)
/ website: boston.cbslocal.com/tag/school-closings/

WCVB-TV 5 / website: www.wcvb.com



Weekly Hosts:

March Hosts:
Finance / Trustees

April: Diaconate

PLEASE do not adjust the thermostats in the church – most of them are pre-programed based on our schedule of use.

If you MUST adjust the temperature for any reason NEVER hit 'hold' as the heat will not revert back and we send \$\$\$\$ out the windows!

THANK YOU!

MARCH 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10 am Worship & Communion Sunday school	2 10 am COA Exercise	3 9 am-1pm Thrift Shop 7:30 pm Music rehearsal	4 10 am COA Exercise 10 am GTKU 7 pm COUNCIL MTG	5 3-6 pm Thrift Shop 7:30 pm ALANON	6 10 am COA Exercise 7 pm Scouts	7 9 am-1 pm Thrift Shop 2 pm EAGLE Ceremony 7 pm AA
8 10 am Worship Sunday school 	9 10 am COA Exercise	10 9 am-1pm Thrift Shop 7pm Scout Ldrs 7:30 pm Music rehearsal	11 10 am COA Exercise 10 am GTKU	12 9 am NE Area Peer Support Team 3-6 pm Thrift Shop 7:30 pm ALANON	13 10 am COA Exercise 7 pm Scouts	14 8 am PANCAKE BREAKFAST 9 am-1pm Thrift Shop 7 pm AA
15 10 am Worship Sunday school	16 10 am COA Exercise	17 9 am-1pm Thrift Shop 7 pm CE Board mtg. 7:30 pm Music rehearsal	18 10 am COA Exercise 10 am GTKU 7pm Diaconate	19 3-6 pm Thrift Shop 7:30 pm ALANON	20 10 am COA Exercise 6 pm Scrappers 7 pm Scouts	21 9 am-1pm Thrift Shop BOOKWORM CAFÉ 9 AM – 2 PM  7 pm AA
22 10 am Worship Sunday school	23 10 am COA Exercise	24 9 am-1pm Thrift Shop 7:30 pm Music rehearsal	25 10 am COA Exercise 10 am GTKU	26 3-6 pm Thrift Shop 7:30 pm ALANON	27 10 am COA Exercise 7 pm Scouts	28 9 am-1 pm Thrift Shop 7 pm AA
29 10 am Worship Sunday school 2 – 4 pm SENIOR DINNER	30 10 am COA Exercise	31 9 am-1pm Thrift Shop 7:30 pm Music rehearsal				

Use of church building

A reminder to our church family and friends. If you plan to be in the church building for any reason and are not already part of a planned activity; please be sure that the church office knows of your use BEFORE you arrive! All use of the church MUST be approved by the church office.

Church Office:
978-948-3993

FIRST CONGREGATION CHURCH OF ROWLEY, U.C.C.
OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES & STAFF
JUNE 2019 – May 2020

Church Email:
first.church@verizon.net

STAFF:

Minister..... Rev. Tom Bentley.....call the office
Sexton..... Roger Merry.....978-265-5064 ©
Bookkeeper..... Ashley Pyburn
Youth Leader Lisa Stevens..... 978-373-9192
Music Director Karl Schmuck 978-948-5062

OFFICERS:

Moderator..... Kay Dalzell (20)..... 978-948-2674
Treasurer..... Mike Blouin (20).....
Financial Secretary..... Eric Gundrum (20)..... 978-432-1082
Assistant Finance / Treasurer..... Sara Stafford (20)..... 617-212-9296 ©
Clerk.....David Irving (20).....978-948-7020
Historian.....Donna Irving(20).....978-948-7020

BOARDS:

Diaconate

*Mike Blouin (20).....
*Kay Dalzell, Emeritus (20)..... 978-948-2674
Patti Cummings (21)..... 978-948-8176
Ken Sanford...(21).....978-948-2847
Dennis Ward (22)..... 978-432-1021
Penny Hurley (22)..... 978-948-1242
Nicola Pyburn (23)..... 978-948-2598
Les Warren (23).....978-352-7551
David Irving, **Emeritus**.....978-948-7020
Donna Irving, **Emeritus**..... 978-948-7020
Nat Dummer, **Emeritus**

Jr. Deaconess: Katie Blouin

Jr. Deacon: Cameron Cummings

Finance / Trustees Board

*(Trustee)Sean Pyburn (20)..... 978-609-0835©
Stuart Dalzell (20)..... 978-948-2674
David Flodman (21)978-948-7902
Lisa Nestor.....508-397-4798©
*(Finance)Gary Confalone (22)978-948-8405
Glen Pyburn (22)..... 978-948-2598

Board of Christian Education

Amy Hanson (20)..... 978-366-0501
Paula Traicoff (20)..... 978-927-5336
* Lori Flodman (21)..... 978-948-7902
* Patti Cummings (21)..... 978-948-8176
James Kay (22)..... 978-948-2517
-vacancy (22)

Delegate – Northeast Association

Judy Robillard (20).....978-948-2007
Doug Phillips (20)..... 978-462-4249

Delegates – MA Conf. UCC

Nancy & Jerry Schmidt (20)..... 978-388-1417

COMMITTEES:

Executive Committee

Officers: Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer,
Board Reps: Finance/Trustees, Diaconate, CE
Staff: Interim Minister and Admin. Assistant

Missions Committee

Helen Dobbins (20)..... 978-948-3484
*Danby Whitmore (21).....978-317-3601
Mary-Ellen Dixon (22)978-578-6110

Memorial

Marge Thurston (20)..... 978-948-7040
-vacancy- (21)

Music Committee

*Karen Schmuck (20)..... 978-948-5062
Marge Thurston (20)..... 978-948-7040
Liz Butler (22) 978-948-7627

Member-at-large

Don Thurston (20)..... 978-948-7040

Flower Committee

*Joyce Ernstrom (20).....978-948-2254
- vacancy (21)
Robin Kay (22)..... 978-948-2517

Fellowship Thrift Shop (no term limits)

* Jerry Schmidt.....
James Kay..... 978-948-2517
Marge Thurston.....978-948-7040
Robin Kay..... 978-948-2517
Merle Phipps..... 978-948-7443
Sharon Emery.....

Pastoral Relations

David Irving, Kay Dalzell, Penney Hurley, Ken Sanford, & Jen Loring