



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
200 Main Street, P.O. Box 1300 - Wellfleet, MA 02667-1300
Worship Services – Sundays at 8:30a.m. and 10:00a.m.

The Rev. Jon Elsensohn
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As many of you know, I took a week off in January. It was a chance for me to rest and reset after a very busy year. While Jen was able to join me in taking a few days off, I spent more of that week on my own, working in my wood shop. I had been looking forward to a time such as this for most of the past year. When we moved in, I arranged my tools as best I could, and even completed a few small projects, but for the most part everything was approximately where I had placed it when we first arrived.

So, my week off consisted of putting new handles on old axe and hammer heads, sharpening plane irons and chisels, bringing in new shelves for storage, cleaning and organizing. To some, this might sound like torture: a whole lot of work for very little discernable outcome. But, to me, it meant that all my tools and all of my work surfaces were finally ready to be put to their intended uses.

As I was cleaning, repairing and organizing, I remembered a lesson from my first Tai Chi teacher. When he was instructing our class on the specifics of a certain movement, he would have us practice it over and over. When someone asked him why we weren't moving on to the next movement he replied: *if you don't learn how to do it correctly now, when will you come back and learn how to do it?*

I think this is a useful lesson for us as we continue our Lenten observances. Lent is a season when we focus on our prayer lives, on alms giving, on walking more closely with Jesus during these 40 days. If we let the busyness of our lives get the better of us, we run the risk of not experiencing Lent until Holy Week, when it has almost drawn to a close. For Christians, this coming season is an opportunity to undertake the necessary maintenance that our spiritual lives require. If we don't engage with it now, when will we come back and do the job properly?

Though it seems sudden, the end of our journey is in sight! Holy week is not far off, and with it the celebration of Palm Sunday, the solemnity of Maundy Thursday, the sorrow of Good Friday, and the surpassing joy of Easter. May these remaining weeks of Lent be for us a chance to tend to our spiritual lives, so we may fully experience all that this season has to offer

-Pastor Jon

From the Moderator

Last December, the Congregation met informally to brainstorm about what projects we should take on to repair and improve the church building and grounds. The result was a long list of good ideas.

That list is being turned into a database (an “Integrated Priority List”) so we can start tackling our high priority tasks first. In March, the Trustees and Council will review the draft, then will present it to the Congregation for review and inputs to improve the list. Stand by to see the draft capital improvements list in a few weeks.

Peter Cook
Moderator

LISTENING SESSIONS

We will be continuing “Listening Sessions” here at First Congregational. We will form small groups that will prayerfully consider where we experience joy or challenge within the church, and where we feel the Holy Spirit moving in the life of our community. As each member of the group has a chance to speak, the other participants are encouraged to listen; to hear, through the experiences of others, where God is leading our congregation.

Sessions scheduled this month: Tuesday, March 5th at 4:30pm; Monday, March 11th at 4:30pm and Monday, March 18th at 6:30pm. While meeting in person is best, we will make some zoom sessions available for those who find it difficult to attend in person. This process works best when all are involved, so I strongly encourage everyone to participate in this opportunity to listen and learn.

World Day of Prayer

Circle this date on your calendar

When: March 1, 2024
Time: 1:00 pm
Why: World Day of Prayer
Where: First Congregational of Wellfleet



Lenten Study Group
Wednesdays at 12:30pm
February 21st – March 27th 2024

Lent is a special season in the life of the church, when Christians turn their attention to their individual walk with God. This Lent, we are reading and discussing "Speaking of Sin" by Barbara Brown Taylor. This slim volume provides a wonderful overview of difficult concepts within our faith: sin, damnation, penance and repentance. By engaging with what these terms have meant, and what relevance those meanings have for our lives, we can better understand grace, forgiveness, and salvation. Join us on Wednesdays at 12:30. If you have any questions, please speak to Pastor Jon or the church office.

Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service

On Thursday March 28th, First Congregational Church will host an *Agape* meal prior to our Maundy Thursday service. *Agape* meals were a feature of the early church; a free meal, open to all, served with *agape*, or "charitable love." These meals were one of the ways early Christians spread their message and aided their communities. We will be holding a simple meal of soup, bread, cheese, nuts, and fruit, before our Maundy Thursday service. Dinner begins at 5, the service will be held at 6, and a sign-up sheet for the various parts of the meal will be available in Fellowship Hall and online.

Good Friday - March 29th
At 12:00p.m

Easter Services
6:00a.m. at Newcomb Hollow Beach (parking lot)
10:00a.m. at First Congregational Church of Wellfleet

CONGRATULATIONS TO....

Margaret Tilton who won the quilt raffle this year.

Please join us for our free
Community Lunch
Monday, March 4th - Noon to 1:00pm
(or until soup runs out)



Soup, bread, salad and dessert
Everyone is welcome!

(Lunches will be held the 1st Monday of the month, October-May)

First Congregational Church of Wellfleet

200 Main Street, Wellfleet

508-349-6877

PRAYER LIST

Please contact the church office to add a name or update this list.

“If one member suffers, all suffer together...If one member is honored, all rejoice together.”(1 Cor. 12:26) May the presence of Jesus Christ be with those on our PRAYER LIST and with those who care for them. Pray for:

Carson Campbell
Ann Kelley
Christy Milliken
Gina O'Connor
Todd Roy
Jack Troxel

Gary Cooper
Barbara Knapp
Jere Milliken
David Powers
Carol Spencer
Dennis Ubriaco

John Garran
Rosalind Magill
Weston Moss
Miranda Regan
Tammi Townsend
Fred Vitek

And for those who are chronically ill and confined to their homes, nursing homes and hospitals. **Please notify the Pastor or the church office when family or friends are hospitalized.**

MARCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

3/6 Brad Williams
3/7 Heidi Dyer
3/9 Victor Rubdi
3/12 Rachael Graham
3/24 Mignon Barry
3/27 Karen Cook
3/30 Joan Kirchner



2023 Human Rights Day Award Ceremony held on January 8, 2024

Congratulations to Pancheta Peterson who accepted The Rosenthal Award on behalf of the Nauset Interfaith Council.

The Rosenthal Community Champion Award was named after Irving Leopold Rosenthal – it is given to those in the public sector who are recognized by their peers, community and associates as individuals who have fostered and supported human rights, concepts, and ideals, particularly those who have worked to advance human rights and to eliminate discrimination. Rosenthal Community Champion Award, while similar to the Cornerstone Award, is designated for those in the public sector (law enforcement, elected officials, etc.) particularly those who have worked to advance human rights and to eliminate discrimination against immigrants in Barnstable County. It was named after Irving Leopold Rosenthal who served as Barnstable County sheriff from 1922 to 1933.

<https://www.capecod.gov/departments/human-rights-advisory-commission/calendar/awards/>



Pancheta also received a special award from the Nauset Interfaith Council for her work with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Action Team. Their mission is to address systemic racial injustice by education and building transformative relationships.

Thank you to her son, Jeffrey for the pictures.

Nauset Neighbors Volunteer Opportunity

Want to make a difference in a neighbor's life? Join us at Nauset Neighbors, an all-volunteer non-profit organization, that helps senior stay in their homes and active in their communities. You can help by providing friendly visits, rides to appointments, tech assistance and simple handyman tasks. Volunteering is easy and flexible. Sign up online to help when it fits your schedule.

The members we help live in your communities of Brewster, Chatham, Eastham, Harwich, Orleans, and Wellfleet. We have a waiting list of seniors who need a hand. You can shorten their wait by volunteering with Nauset Neighbors.

Contact us at: nausetneighbors.org or call at 508-514-7067



TELL A FRIEND ABOUT THE FOOD PANTRY!

Open Monday, 3-6; Wednesday 4-6, and Thursday 10-12

Last year the Wellfleet Food Pantry provided food to 185 Wellfleet families, but we know there are more families who could use a little help. Would you help us by telling your friends who live in Wellfleet about the Food Pantry and invite them to come?

The Wellfleet COA delivers food boxes from the pantry twice per month to seniors who no longer drive, please call the COA at 508-349-0313 to sign up or get more information.

Our volunteers thank you for your help.

WELLFLEET FOOD PANTRY - Food for Neighbors

25 Lieutenant Island Road

South Wellfleet, MA 02663

508-349-3036 - Visit our website: www.wellfleetfoodpantry.org

First Congregational Church of Wellfleet – March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AA = Alcoholics Anonymous FMC= Financial Management Comm.	Handicap Accessible MS = Mustard Seed WHS = Wellfleet Historical Society				1 1:00p.m. World Day of Prayer Service	2 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
3 Third Sunday in Lent 8:30am Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship, Comm. 11:15am – Fellowship	4 8-10am – MS 12:00-1:00pm Community Luncheon  4:30pm – Mission & Outreach	5 8:00-11am – MS 4:30pm – Listening Session	6 9:00-2pm – MS 12:30pm – Lenten Study group	7 4:30pm – 300 th Committee mtg.	8	9 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
10 Fourth Sunday in Lent 8:30am Early Svc. 9am -Choir reh. 10:00am Worship 11:15 Fellowship 11:15 Council/Trustees	11 8-10am – MS 4:30pm – Listening Session	12 8:00-11am – MS	13 9:00-2pm – MS 12:30pm – Lenten Study group 1:00pm – Financial Mgmt. Committee	14	15	16 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
17 Fifth Sunday in Lent 8:30am – Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am- Worship 11:15am – Fellowship	18 8-10am – MS 6:30pm – Listening Session	19 8:00-11am – MS	20 9:00-2pm – MS 12:30pm – Lenten Study group 7:00pm - Trustees	21 April Newsletter deadline	22	23 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
24 Palm Sunday 8:30am Early Svc. 9am- Choir Reh. 10:00am Worship 11:15am –Fellowship 11:15 Council mtg.	25 8-10am – MS	26 8:00-11am – MS 10:30am – Care Team	27 9:00-2pm – MS 12:30pm – Lenten Study group	28 Maundy Thursday 5pm Dinner 6pm Service	29 Good Friday 12pm Service	30 Holy Saturday
31 Easter Sunday 6am – Sunrise svc. 8:30am Early Svc. 9am- Choir Reh. 10:00am Worship 11:15am –Fellowship						