



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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From The Pastor's Desk-

At the end of last summer, Jen and I went on a silent retreat. The week before Labor Day, we headed down to a Marianist retreat house in Cape May, NJ, and observed 3 days of silence. It was a deeply relaxing and restorative time for us, as we let go of the busyness of our lives, even for just a little while. We woke in silence, took our meals in silence, went to the beach in silence, and attended chapel in silence.

While such an experience might not be everyone's cup of tea, we both found the experience centering and rejuvenating. By keeping silence, we were more able to listen to the natural world around us, more open to the ways that God was moving in our lives and in the world. To quote either the philosopher Lao Tsu or the composer Claude Debussy (the internet remains divided on the proper attribution): *music is the silence between the notes*. Silence is what enables us, through absence, to perceive that which is all around us.

Starting this month, we are going to begin holding "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.

We will begin scheduling sessions mid-month, and they will run through mid-summer. While meeting in person is best, we will make some zoom sessions available for those who find it difficult to attend in person. We will also schedule sessions at various times of the day and week, to make it easy to find a session that will fit your schedule. This process works best when all are involved, so I strongly encourage everyone to participate in this opportunity to listen and learn. -Pastor Jon

EARLY SERVICE-

Starting on May 7th, we will begin holding an early morning worship service each Sunday. These services will be focused on prayer and scripture readings, and will celebrate communion on the first Sunday of the month. Come join us for a quiet time of prayer and reflection to start your week off right!

VIDEO DISCUSSION SERIES-

Have you ever wondered what our salvation is for? Is it merely to ensure our place in heaven? Is it to welcome Jesus into our hearts? Or is it for something more? Starting on May 10th, we will begin a 7 part video series called “For the Life of the World”. Each of the 15-20 minute videos looks at one aspect of how we live out our lives of faith in the world, with a time for discussion to follow. Currently, we plan to hold 2 concurrent sessions: one meeting in person at the church at noon, and one at 7pm over zoom. Both sessions will progress at the same pace, so participants can move between the sessions as needed, to accommodate scheduling conflicts. Please speak to Pastor Jon if you are interested in participating.

REVIEW OUR CHURCH-

One of the first ways new churchgoers engage with a potential church is online. They may look for a nearby UCC church, one in the town they live or vacation in, or one that is connected to activities such as the CROP walk. Though there are many ways to find our church online, one of the best ways to encourage people to take the step of attending a service in person is through positive reviews. Please take the time to search for our church on Google, rate the church, and write a brief review about the things you value about our congregation. If you have any questions about how to leave a review, please contact the church office.

Pastor Jon



From the Moderator....

Route 6 traffic is growing daily. As Spring comes to the Outer Cape, more people arrive here – enjoying a weekend visit, or perhaps re-opening a summer home they look forward to using during the warm months when the local population grows seven-fold.

Thanks partly to this influx, partly because we are reaching out more, and importantly because we have Pastor Jon guiding our church life, we see more people coming to our church services.

So ... when we see visitors in church, what do we do?

Say hi, ask their names, invite them to Fellowship Hall after the service? Great first steps. Beyond that let's check that our hospitality to visitors is immediate, warm, and genuine. Let's treat church visitors as we would treat guests in our homes. Better yet, like missed family members returning home.

Today's visitors are tomorrow's church members. Helping visitors feel invited is a key to building their interest in joining the life of the congregation. And let's remember that a simple smile of welcome can turn a bad day into a good one – for both the giver and the recipient.

Peter Cook
Moderator

From the Treasurer....

Legacy of Love

For almost 300 years, our church has been kept alive by the faith, hope, joy, and love of it's people. You have inherited this precious gift, this legacy of love.

Join us in considering how your gifts, now, and at the end of your life, can help ensure that this legacy of love continues.

What is planned giving? Everyone has an estate. Planned giving is a way to structure your estate, no matter how large or small, in a way to provide for and support the church which means so much to you. This allows the church to continue to care for our congregation and our community, but most importantly, enables us to bring others into our church, family and experience the joy of Christian community.

Why is planned giving so important? Planned giving is critical to the future of this church. We depend on the generosity of our members through their weekly gifts and through the donations to meet occasional capital needs not addressed by our annual budget.

Planned giving is a way for you to recognize our church and any other institutions that have been important to you during your lifetime and help secure their future financial strength. It is an opportunity for you to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider what you want your legacy to be at First Congregational church of Wellfleet.

How can I leave my Legacy? There are many ways to make a planned gift and some are actually quite simple. They can range from adding the church as another beneficiary of a life insurance policy or IRA, to adding a bequest to your current will through a codicil. It's important to know that planned giving vehicles can be powerful tools in reducing or even eliminating income, estate, and capital gains taxes, and some planned gifts can even pay you an income stream during your lifetime.

Our church has many resources to help you and whoever is helping you with your estate. If you are interested in learning more, let me help connect you. Rob Leatherbee, Treasurer



A message from your Trustees about special donations:

Since we passed the new simplified format for our church budgeting process, we have gotten inquiries about how special donations are handled. Your gifts are always welcome; please remember to specify into which category from the list below you want your gift to be placed. You can note it on you check or Paypal charge. You may also contact the Church Office if you

have questions. All donations are included on your “Record of Giving”, since they are tax deductible. You may also ask the Church Office for a gift acknowledgement letter as a receipt to support your tax return information.

Here are the Designated Funds if you’d like to make a special donation to them:

- Missions and Outreach
- Crop Walk Charity
- Scholarship
- Church Garden
- Acupuncture Mission
- Community Meals
- Sanctuary Flowers
- Settled Pastor Relocation Expense

The Designated Funds listed below are sponsored by and forwarded to the United Church of Christ. They are requested at specific times, and special envelopes are provided.

- Neighbors in Need
- One Great Hour Of Sharing
- Strengthen The Church

There are also special envelopes provided during holidays, and a few other occasions. Donations received in those envelopes help with our church’s needs during those special times.

The Trustees will create (or retire) Designated Funds as needs arise, so please bring us your ideas. Keep in mind that special donations do not fulfill your intended pledge commitment; they supplement it and further the church’s mission to continue the teachings of Jesus Christ and offer a place for worship and community fellowship.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support. May God bless you for your kindness.



Board of Missions and Outreach

Children’s Clothing Swap to benefit the Wellfleet Montessori School. Saturday, April 29 10:00-2:00.

Living Water **Acupuncture** is on **Tuesday from 3:00 to 6:00**. Schedule for May and June: May 2, May 9, May 16, June 5, June 20, June 28th (a Wednesday). Ear acupuncture for substance use recovery, anxiety, depression, PTSD, chronic pain. Clinic assistant volunteers are always welcome – there is a sign-up sheet on Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Please consider being a part of this vital church ministry.

Upcoming Events –

Scallop Dinner fundraiser and social event. Sunday, July 16, 5:00 – 7:00 PM. We are very excited to announce this fun community-wide event tied in with our 300th Anniversary celebration. There will be live music by local fiddler Denya LeVine and friends, delicious grilled scallop dinner from local scalloping family Denice Lapierre and Chris Merl, children's menu items, beverages, and ice cream. All proceeds to church operating expenses. Bring your family and friends (and there will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer!).

Summer **bake sale Monday, July 3, 2023** at 10:00 AM outside church. All baked goods will be offered (not just pies). This is a hugely popular event and goodies are sold out very quickly. Sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall and by email to church members.

Monthly community lunches at the church start again in September! We decided to stick with what has been a successful and manageable model in the past and see where it leads us. Our first lunch is Monday, September 11 at 12:30, after which it will take place on the first Monday of the month through May.

- Menu: soup, usually 3 options, including one vegetarian; salad; bread; dessert.
- Sign-up for volunteers in advance, quarterly, by email appeal and sign-up sheet on bulletin board
- Open to the entire community and to church members. In the past attendance was typically around 20+ people, 2/3 members, 1/3 community guests.
- Soups generally prepared at home and brought in to reheat but can be made in the church kitchen.
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Next meeting is Wednesday, May 3 at 4:30 in Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing this year's Crop Hunger Walk. All are welcome to come and share ideas to help us fulfill our mission as a church.

We express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Jerry Sutton who died on April 15, 2023. A service will be held here on Friday, June 2nd – time to be determined.

“In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!”

PRAYER LIST

Please contact the church office to if you would like to add a name to our prayer list, which is printed in the weekly bulletin or request the names of those on it.

“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.

And for those who are chronically ill and confined to their homes, nursing homes and hospitals.

Let's make our Church Garden thrive again!

The Garden Volunteers faithfully continue to redevelop and tend the church grounds. Your gifts have been and continue to be our lifeline. We are so grateful for your donations over the past three years, and we will rely on your support again this year. We can volunteer our time, and we do, but we need your financial support so that our resources match our ambitions!

As spring moves along and the church grounds bloom into life, please remember what it takes to make all this happen: time, talent and treasure. We hope that you will share some of that “treasure.” Take a moment to look around. You’ll see that your past contributions have been put to good use.

You may give by using cash, check or credit card (Paypal) payments. When you do, please make sure that your gift is clearly designated for the “Garden Fund.” Brad will note it on your Record of Giving (if applicable), and Dan will send you a written acknowledgement on behalf of the Garden Volunteers. Your contribution is also tax-deductible!

Thank you for remembering us; we hope to hear from you soon.

Dan Wexman
Dot Oberding
Charlotte Hands
Ron Boyles
Nancy Vitek
Cyndy Van Hook
Judie Palleschi



MAY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS !

5/1 Cyndy V.
5/6 Bailey S.
5/12 Jean M.
5/21 Peter C.
5/27 Ruth Anne D.
5/31 Ben P.



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!

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.

We're open Monday 3-6, Wednesday 4-6, and Thursday 10-12.

- The Pantry has been serving Wellfleet families since 1999.
- Our only concern is that *everyone* has enough to eat.
- Financial status is not a consideration.

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 – May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AA = Alcoholics Anonymous FMV = Financial Management Volunteers MS = Mustard Seed WHS = Wellfleet Historical Society Handicap Accessible	1 8-10am – MS	2 8:00-11pm – MS 10-12 WHS Mtg. 3-5pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	3 9:00-2pm – MS	4	5	6 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
7 Fifth Sunday of Easter 8:30am Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship, Communion 11:15am – Diaconate	8 8-10am – MS	9 8:00-11pm – MS 1:00pm - FMV 3-5pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	10 9:00-2pm – MS 4:30pm – Mission & Outreach Mtg.	11	12	13 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
14 Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day 8:30am – Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship 11:30am – Moby Dicks' Luncheon	15 8-10am – MS	16 8:00-11pm – MS 3-5pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	17 9:00-2pm – MS 7:00pm- Trustees Mtg.	18 Ascension Day	19	20 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
21 Seventh Sunday of Easter 8:30am – Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship	22 8-10am – MS	23 8:00-11pm – MS	24 9:00-2pm – MS	25 Deadline for Newsletter Submission	26	27 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
28 Pentecost Sunday 8:30am – Early Svc. 9am- Choir Reh. 10:00am Worship 11:15am Council Mtg.	29 8-10am – MS	30 8:00-11pm – MS 10:30am Care Team – Fellowship Hall	31 9:00-2pm – MS	1	2 Service for Jerry Sutton – time to be determined	3 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA