



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

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Friends,

2025

Easter Sunday was April 20 this year, and every Sunday in May is Easter. Go figure. Easter Sunday is such a festive Sunday celebrating Christ's resurrection. In our part of the world, Easter also arrives around the same time as spring. This year it seemed like winter would hang on forever, didn't it?

Let's not reduce a season to a single day! Savor new life! Did the somber reflective days and days of Lent lead you to any revelations? Any resolve? A few years ago, I wrote a prayer to help me focus on the very special season we now enjoy.

May your Easter season be full of wonderful surprises.

In Christ,
Richard

A Prayer for Eastertide

Creator of all,

For the ageless reliability of turning seasons

We thank you.

For new blossoms, singing birds, budding trees,

We thank you.

For the gift of human love that speaks to us of you,

We thank you.

We pray that in our life and ministry together, you will

Sustain us.

We pray that our ancient faith and traditions will

Guide us.

As we face new times, new challenges and opportunities

You will inspire us.

In the name of Christ, who triumphs over death,

In whom we hope and pray,

Amen.

In Christ,
Richard Malmberg

Welcome to Spring!!

We have much to celebrate! The recent activities of our Church. At the risk of missing some names, I would like to recognize a few individuals that helped to make the Holy Week special.

Appreciation and thanks to Richard and the deacons for a moving Maundy Thursday and Tenebrae service. The meal really helped us identify with the Last Supper and share in Jesus' last meal. A lovely solo by Ellie Shaw added to the solemnity of the occasion. It was a somber and beautiful service.

The Easter Sunrise Service was highlighted by Eric Graff on the saxophone, always a delight to hear.

The Easter Service was very special with good attendance, and wonderful music. Kathy Yardley played beautifully on the bells, and Anna Dunn provided an exuberant postlude on the trumpet, accompanying herself on a pre-recorded piano piece. Everyone left the service in high spirits and optimism for the future.

Thanks also to all who donated pies and helped with the Finance Pie Sale on Saturday. Champion pie-maker Minna Good donated 17 pies!! We made over \$600.

And to those who donated food and helped with the Easter breakfast, Tom Murray who brought eggs and sausage, Betty Prentiss, Deb McCollister, Linda and Joe Graff, Kathy Yardley, Minna Good and others I may have missed donated sweet rolls, some casseroles and fruit. A hearty thanks you to all.

Let us keep the good spirit alive as we go forward into Spring.

Sue

News from Our Council

There is so much to celebrate and look forward to as spring finally arrives in full bloom. As usual, the church family has shown up in spectacular fashion for gatherings and other events. The Easter service was beautiful, and I'm grateful to Kathy Yardley for her performance on the bells and Anna Dunn's trumpet postlude.

I'm sure others will mention upcoming events, but I know my calendar is marked for the rummage sale on May 31. And Old Home Days are coming up fast!

I'm grateful for our church community. Your fellowship is deeply valued.

Marilyn Shriver
Church Council Co-Chair

Deacons

The deacons hosted a moving service on Maundy Thursday. A meal of lentil soup, unleavened bread, fruit, cheese and water was served in Fellowship Hall followed by the sacrament of Communion.

At the end of those ceremonies the deacons and Pastor Richard lead the Tenebrae service with readings from the bible telling the story of the night Jesus was betrayed. It is always a moving and emotional service ending with the snuffing of twelve candles. The deacon of the month for May is Peter Graves.

Pastor Richard will be away May 6-9. Susan Kershaw will cover any pastoral emergencies.

Becky Pearson

Anniversaries In May

Austin and Sandy Pickering May 9

Birthdays in May

Joe Graff	May 17
Mark Perry	May 18
Eric Graff	May 20
Bennett Shriver	May 20
Ann Winnen	May 20
Marjorie McGill	May 20
Marilyn Shriver	May 23



Sunday, June 29, 2025
First Congregational Church of Walpole
15 Washington Square

Take out ½ Chicken or Chicken Dinner
(Chicken, potato salad, bean salad, roll,
Lemonade or iced tea, and a brownie)

Tickets are available at Galloway Real Estate
or call Betty Prentiss at 603-313-4801.

Missions

The Mission and Action Committee sent \$350 to the Walpole Schools for our March donation as well as \$500 to Church World Service.

Missions is sponsoring The Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 31, from 9 am to 1 pm (\$5 bag sale starts at noon. We welcome clean, gently worn clothing — all seasons. No underwear, no shoes. Tag sale items also, but no electronics and nothing with a cord. Drop off times are Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 10-6. Linda Smith is running the food table and there are sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall. The tables will be set up on Sunday, May 25 after church. **ALL HANDS-ON DECK.**

On June 8, Pentecost Sunday, we will collect a special Strengthen the Church offering. This offering supports the expansion of the ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfil its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.
Jane Malmberg.

Stewardship

May and June are the last two months of our fiscal year. Not only will this be the opportunity for everyone who loves First Congregational to continue financially supporting the church, but it is also the opportunity to prayerfully reflect on your pledge for the next fiscal year.

Pledging is becoming increasingly important. Our endowment has been hit by the tariff turmoil. We're coming out of a cold winter with increased fuel costs. And of course, insurance costs are rising. We must count on everybody pitching in financially to keep our church on solid footing.

We have a dedicated core of members. What we need is for EVERYBODY to participate.

Peace,
Chuck



The Mission and Action Committee will sponsor a Rummage/White Elephant/Food Sale on May 31, 9 am to 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. We need everyone to contribute by going through your closets and storage areas and bringing in clothes that you no longer wear. We will accept items from every season—All items must be clean and in good condition!! Miscellaneous white elephant items will be offered and are always popular, so keep that in mind as you do your spring cleanup. (Please no items with plugs and no books) The church will be open on Tues., Wed., and Thursday the week of the sale for your drop off convenience.

Church Calendar May 2025

Sunday, May 4	Worship Service w/ communion in the sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Saturday, May 10	Church Council in Fellowship Hall	8:30 am
Saturday, May 10	Community Potluck Suppers	5:30 pm
Sunday, May 11	Worship Service in the sanctuary and on Zoom, Mother's Day!	10:00am
Wednesday, May 14	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5pm
Sunday, May 18	Worship Service in church or on Zoom	10:00 am
Wednesday, May 21	Bible Study on Zoom	4-5 pm
Sunday, May 25	Worship Service in the sanctuary and on Zoom	10:00 am
Saturday, May 31	Rummage Sale Please help either setting up, cleaning up or help during the sale.	9-1 pm
Church Office Hours:	M-F 9 am – 12 pm	
Monday, May 26 Deadline	June Parish Visitor	



First Congregational Church
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