



**First Church Squantum
Congregational**
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**Holy Week
April 10–17
Palm Sunday, 10a**

Great music and worship as Jesus rides into Jerusalem and into our hearts.



Maundy Thursday, 7p

An intimate evening as we remember Jesus' Last Supper and reflect on His Presence with us.

Good Friday, 12–1p

The InterChurch Council sponsors worship at St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church on 1 Linden Street. Our ministers, Doug and Sally, are preaching

Easter Sunday Sunrise, 6:15a

Come to Orchard Beach to watch the sun rise and sing God's praises! After worship, we will have a light breakfast at the church.

Easter Sun. Traditional, 10a

Great music, beautiful flowers, & meaningful worship come together as we celebrate Jesus rising again!

The Light

"We know that all things work together for good, for those who are called according to Christ's purpose." — Romans 8:28

April 2022

Walking Our Road Like Jesus

by Rev. Doug Gray

When I was a teen-ager, I discovered I had a problem. Actually, I probably had lots of problems—I was a teen-ager! LOL But the problem I'm thinking about today had to do with my Mom and Dad. I really wanted to be my own person, but I also wanted to walk in my parents' footsteps. But the things they were good at? I couldn't do all those things, not the way they did. Mom was so good at planning, organizing, and managing. Dad was so good at reading a room, listening to people's hearts, and having the right thing to say. And they both had such different, active faith lives—I just couldn't compete. So what could I do?

I feel like that with Jesus sometimes: I want to walk in His footsteps, but He seems so good and so awesome at everything. I'm not sure how to go about it. Or worse, sometimes I wonder what's the point of trying if I'm never going to get there? Fortunately, we have four, great story-tellers in the Bible—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John—who tell us things Jesus said and did. While we may not be able to physically walk in Jesus' footsteps, or do all the miracles Jesus did, or love as completely as Jesus loved, we can get a sense of the principles Jesus lived by and the character traits Jesus cultivated. Ooooo there's a lot to unpack there! But let me draw your attention to one of the things Jesus did over and over again—Jesus hung out with people his society called broken, useless, wrong, even "dangerous." Jesus asked Matthew—a Roman collaborator collecting taxes—to become a disciple, made friends with prostitutes like Mary Magdalene, and touched lepers and other "unclean" people to heal them. Though Jesus sometimes had dinner with the wealthy and powerful, it seems like He spent more time with the poor and marginalized.

Eventually, I figured out that I wasn't really competing with my parents—that I was me, the way God had made me. Sure, I had flaws, but I also had gifts. I tried to take the best principles, character traits and experiences my parents lived out and follow in *those* footsteps, recognizing that I'm going to do it my way. One of the things I love about Jesus is that it didn't bother Him if people were just beginning, or trying, or unsure, or doubting—His love and compassion always encouraged people. The world tells us if you can't be the best, what's the point? Jesus just wants us to start, start by loving the best we can, start by trusting God with our lives a little more. Better yet, Jesus shows us how our lives change when we go "all in," and trust God with all we are, loving others with all we are. That's how Jesus walked His road...and how I am trying to walk mine. Happy walking!

Women's Breakfast

Come one, come all! A great chance to share faith and fellowship over some good food. Women's breakfast meets Friday mornings at 9:30a.



Fiber Arts

The Fiber Arts Group meets every Tuesday at 9:30a. In addition to working on things for family and friends, this group also donates to help needy children have warm heads and hands.



Interfaith Social Services

Please continue to support this program by donating at least one item per week. A donation box is located in the narthex for your convenience. (Please avoid donating any glass containers.)

April Celebrations Birthdays

Irene Clark Hicks	April 3
John Smith	April 7
Tina Rychalsky	April 8
Bruce Wainwright	April 10
Bonnie Marcel	April 23
Alonzo Portlock	April 28

Anniversaries

Recilla & Jack Westerbeke	April 10
Bruce and Eileen Wainwright	April 22



Worship Schedule for April

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title or Event</u>	<u>Reading/Scripture</u>
4-3-22	Fifth Sunday of Lent Communion The Way: Sinners, Outcasts & the Poor	John 4:4-29, 39-42
4-10-22	Palm Sunday The Way: Final Week	Mark 11:1-11
4-14-22	Maundy Thursday The Way: Lessons in Love	Luke 22:14-53
4-15-22	Good Friday Seven Last Words of Jesus @St. Chrysostom's Episcopal	Various
4-17-22 6:15a	Easter Sunrise Worship @Orchard Beach with breakfast to follow at the church	John 20:1-18
4-17-22 10a	Easter Traditional, 10a The Way: Gotta Get Up and Go	Mark 16:1-8
4-24-22	Second Sunday of Eastertide Holy Hilarity Sunday	TBD
5-1-22	Third Sunday of Eastertide The Meaning of Freedom: The Uniqueness of the Gospel	Galatians 1:1-9

Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

Monday Night Bible Study, 6:30p

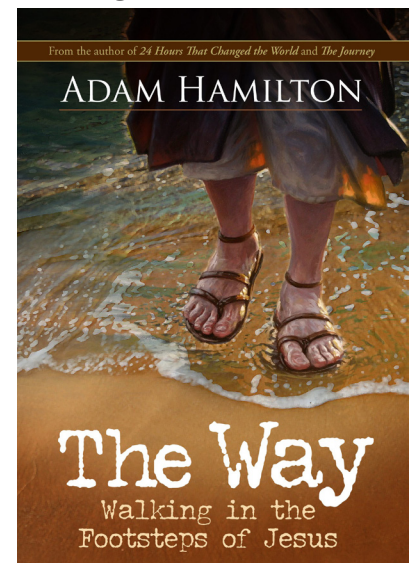
Looking to make your faith-life richer in Lent? Monday Night Bible Study could be the way! All through Lent, we will go deeper into what it means to walk in Jesus' footsteps. Each meeting we will open with prayer, and then a brief video with Adam Hamilton, author of *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*, as he goes to Palestine and Israel, to the very places Jesus may have



walked and laughed, cried and sacrificed.

Then our conversation will take what we learn there and dive into the Bible with fresh perspective. We will meet every Monday night in

Lent, at 6:30p EST. You are welcome to join us in person, or by Zoom. We usually finish up about 7:30p. Hope to see you there!





**New for Lent!
Friday Night Family Fun
finishes Apr. 8, 6-7:30p!**

We have the toe-tapping music and heart-jumping stories of the Roar! Vacation Bible School from a few years ago, and we will add science and games to make a wonderful and fun, God-honoring evening. Each Friday, we have done one of the days of that VBS. For more information or to sign up, get in touch with Tina Rychalsky or Pastor Doug, or register on our website home page.



**Order Your Easter
Flowers Soon!**

Help us make our sanctuary beautiful for Easter this year! This year we have lilies, daffodils, and tulips (pink or purple). Each is available for \$12. The deadline is April 11 at noon. For more information or to order yours, please see enclosed order form.



**Photos from Friday Night Family Fun!
Starting with Lent in March**



**Crocuses
Arrive!**

The first crocuses in the neighborhood (shown left) bloomed on March 8 this year. Love the rich golden color! Thank You, God!



The Congregational Church in Canton, MA (left) hosted the MACCC Spring Meeting, the first in-person since COVID.

Fired Up MACCC Spring Meeting in March

For the first time since 2019, the Mass. Assoc. of Congregational Christian Churches gathered on March 19 at The Congregational Church of Canton. Imagine taking some of the most interesting, Jesus-loving people from our 34 churches and getting them together for worship, story-telling, learning and laughter. We had 54 people from 18 churches at this meeting, and 5 new churches joined our august gathering! One of the new churches is Bethany Congregational Church in downtown Quincy! I find the worship is always great, the seminars meaningful, and the chance to know we share in something bigger for Christ—priceless! —Pastor Doug

We Need New Sound Systems!

Have you noticed a high-pitched screech coming from the speakers whenever it's quiet in the sanctuary? You're not the only one! Over the last several weeks, the sound has become more noticeable, and technicians have identified the amplifier as the problem.* As it turns out, we have been wanting to replace and upgrade the sound system for a while—it's more than 10 years old! We also do not have enough microphones for voices and pick-ups for instruments, the cords running across the stairs are getting to be a hazard, we need better sound for our live-stream, and the old, wireless microphones currently broadcast on what is now an emergency frequency. Pastor Doug and the Trustees are currently seeking bids for new sound systems for



Our sanctuary amplifier, the culprit behind the whine.

both the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall (which currently doesn't have any sound system at all). We would love to hear from you about what you might want in a new sound system. One idea is to add a hearing-assisted device system. You plug in and have clear sound in your ear! If you like this idea or have other ideas about sound in the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall, or if you would be interested in being part of the team that evaluates and oversees this project, please let Pastor Doug or a Trustee know. Will it be expensive? Yes, but our worship of God is the most important thing we do as a fellowship for our community—and the sound should be as excellent as the joy and praise we offer God with our worship!

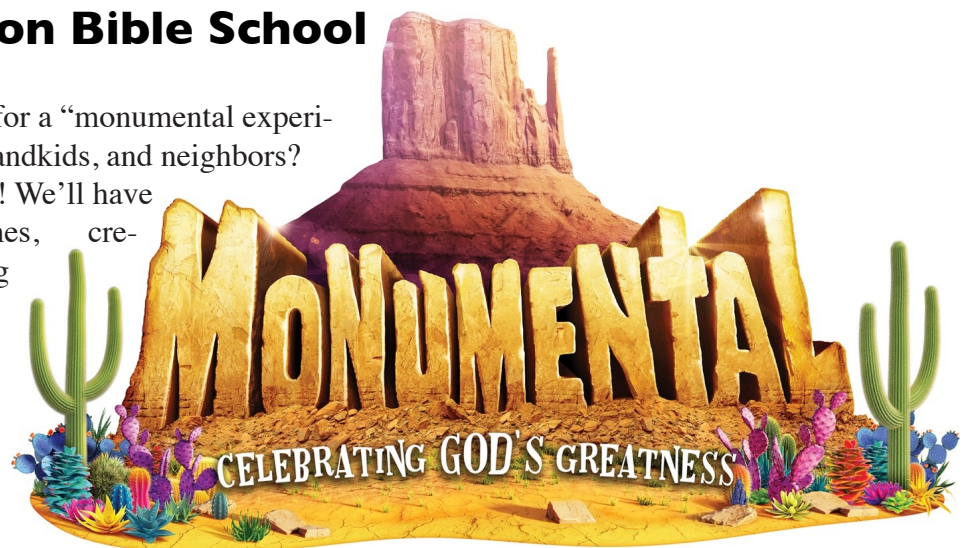
*For the curious, the whine we hear when the sanctuary is quiet is because the current amplifier is not properly shielded against the cellular antenna signal, and does not have noise removal equipment added to "scrub out" unwanted noise.



You can see some of wiring concerns in the front.

Monumental Vacation Bible School August 1-5 Evenings

Planning your summer? Looking for a "monumental experience" of God's love for your kids, grandkids, and neighbors? Have we got something great for you! We'll have catchy music, hilarious skits, fun games, creative science, and, best of all, learning through the Bible how much we are loved by God. Our amazing Director, Tina Rychalsky, is gathering a volunteer team to help lead us all through this transforming experience. If you would like to join the team, or support the kids of our neighborhood attending, you can contact the church office, or reach out to Tina at tinarychalsky@hotmail.com



Easter Egg Hunt Will Be Eggcellent!

On Easter morning, First Church and the Sunday School will host our Annual Easter Egg Hunt! After worship, kids in grade school and younger will have the chance to hunt for Easter eggs. They can keep

whatever they find inside, but we re-use the eggs each year to be environmentally friendly.

We are looking for donations of the “prizes” on the inside:

- No chocolate please!
- Can be small, individually wrapped candies
- Can be small non-food surprises — stickers or small toys for example.
- Because of our growing Sunday School, we will also need some more plastic Easter Eggs this year!

Easter eggs are a sign of the new life of spring, and the transformation of an egg to a chick reminds us of Jesus’ resurrection. Come join the fun and invite a friend to enjoy the Easter story!

Thanks for the Help

Thanks to all those who volunteered with yummy goodies and coffee for our coffee hour this winter.



Your continued support makes this wonderful part of our fellowship possible. Please sign up in the Parlor if you would like to help.

Holy Hilarity Sunday Is Coming!

The Deacons and Pastor Doug have set April 24 as “Holy Hilarity Sunday.” (See ”Churches Resurrect an Old Easter Custom.”) The Sunday after Easter will find us doing worship with a fun and zesty twist. So bring a friend and come prepared to laugh together! We may have time for joke breaks during worship, so feel free to bring a clean joke to share! (No Sunday School this Sunday...the fun will be in worship!) Stay tuned for theme!

Churches Resurrect Old Easter custom

Some American churches are resurrecting an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity — “Holy Humor Sunday” celebrations of Jesus’ resurrection on the Sunday after Easter. For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including “Bright Sunday” (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced. The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. “Risus paschalis - the Easter laugh,” the early theologians called it. In 1988 the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches and prayer groups to resurrect Bright Sunday celebrations and call it “Holy Humor Sunday,” with the theme: “Jesus is the LIFE of the party.”

Easter Flower Order Form

Name: _____

No: _____

I would like to order _____ plants @ \$12 each = \$_____ total

Orders and payment due by Monday, April 11th

We accept cash, check, Venmo and PayPal.

If paying by PayPal, please add \$2 each to cover the transaction

(Please circle one) In Honor of / In Memory of

Name: _____

(Please circle one) In Honor of / In Memory of:

Name: _____

Daffodils # _____

Lilies # _____

(Please circle) Purple or Pink Tulips # _____





Marathon Runner Gets Second Chance

The year was 2020, and Thomas Whitmer was excited to be training for the Boston Marathon! He was running for this great church he found, the First Church of Squantum...and then...COVID. No marathon that year, not really. And we weren't sure that we would ever get a non-profit waiver for a Marathon bib again. The picture at left really captures how different things were then—with the sign and the bush and the old front door.

Fast forward to 2022 and the Trustees were able to get a marathon waiver for the church and Thomas gets another chance to run for our church! How exciting!

Would you like to be part of the marathon this year, but don't have time to train? No problem! Feel free to donate to Thomas' run. You can do so using Venmo or the PayPal link on the church's web page.

We will send out an email with Thomas' bib number, so you can track his progress and cheer him on during the Boston Marathon.

Thanks for all your support and encouragement!

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Published by

The First Church of Squantum, Congregational

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Where We Love Kindness

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Chaplain: Rev. Clara Sparks 617-773-3724

Student Minister: Sally Redondo Padilla

Accompanist: Miles Fellenberg

Moderator: John Smith

Treasurer: Recilla Westerbeke 617-328-8422

Chair, Deacons: Ellen Ogilvie 617-328-0189

Church Office: 617-328-6649

Church Office Hours: Mo–We, Fr, Su 9a – 12p