



**First Church Squantum  
Congregational**  
164 Bellevue Road  
Squantum, MA 02171  
617-328-6649

Email:

firstchurchsquantum@gmail.com

Website:

www.firstchurchsquantum.org

**Congregational Mtg.  
on the Budget  
February 6, 2022  
Following Worship**



The Board of Trustees has officially called for the Congregational Meeting on the Budget for February 6, 2022.

At this meeting, the Trustees will present an update on the church's finances for 2021, propose the 2022 budget, and take questions, comments and suggestions. If changes are needed, this is the time we want to make them! We also need to elect a three-person Nominating Committee, to bring a slate of officers and board members to the Annual Meeting in May. Given the current pandemic situation, this meeting will be available via Zoom, but our By-Laws do not provide for remote or proxy voting going forward! A link will go out in the week ahead of the meeting.

# The Light

*"We know that all things work together for good, for those who are called according to Christ's purpose." — Romans 8:28* February 2022

## Can God Penetrate Our Daily Rhythms?

by Rev. Doug Gray

It happened again last week! I was going through my day. Made my list first thing—here are all the things I am going to do today. I started working my way through the list—'cause I had a lot to do! I was a couple hours into my day when I realized God and I hadn't spoken yet, hadn't had any "face time"—God had not entered my thoughts even once. Dang! I was just working my plan, living my dream, being my best self...except I wasn't being my best self. My best self always has Jesus front and center. I realized I had crowded out Jesus Who gave everything for me, Who guides me in my darkest times, and breathes joy into my life through the love I receive and show. Something had to change. Is it like that for you sometimes?

One of the hallmarks of the great ones in the faith is that they find ways to keep God at the center of their lives. Moses gave his people this advice: "Hear, O Israel! The Lord, your God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." (Deut. 6:4-7) Jesus lived and prayed so well, the disciples asked Jesus to teach them only one thing: how to pray! (Luke 11:1) Jesus added, "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:31-33) God first!

That's what I was missing! Since I like lists, I always remind myself to add something prayerful or mindful or compassionate to my lists—devotions, prayer time, quiet time, focus on love, love first—lots of different ways to approach it. The important thing is allowing God to penetrate the rhythms of our lives with the message of the Cross and Jesus' words, "Not my will, but Yours be done."

## In-Person Worship and Sunday School Resumes February 6!

The surge of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 seems to be on the decline, but we aren't quite "out of the woods." We will stay remote for the last Sunday of January, but be back in-person (masked!) for Worship and Sunday School on February 6. Thanks for your patience as we try to be compassionate and wise together! Hopefully, this is the last time we will have to do this.

## Women's Breakfast

Come one, come all! A great chance to share faith and fellowship over some good food.



Women's breakfast meets Fri mornings at

9:30a. They will hopefully begin again as soon as COVID calms down.

## Fiber Arts

The monthly Fiber Arts Group meets every Tuesday at 9:30a.



In addition to working on things for family and friends, this group also donates to helping needy children have warm heads and hands.

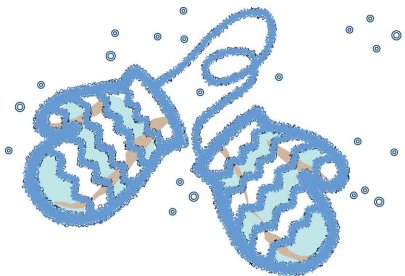
## Interfaith Social Services

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

## February Birthdays

Caleb Gray Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Anthony Greenwood Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>



## Worship Schedule for February

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title or Event</u>	<u>Reading/Scripture</u>
2/6	<b>Fifth Sunday after Epiph</b>	Isaiah 6:1–8 Luke 5:11–11
2/13	<b>Sixth Sunday after Epiph</b>	Jeremiah 17:5–10 1 Cor. 15:12–20
2/20	<b>Seventh Sunday after Epiph</b>	Genesis 45:3–15 Luke 6:27–38
2/27	<b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> Last Sunday before Lent	Exodus 34:29–35 2 Cor. 3:23–4:3
3/6	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> This Is The Way: Walking with Jesus through Temptation	Luke 4:1–13

## Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

### 2022 Lenten Series by Adam Hamilton

During our Lenten series this year, we will try to “walk” where Jesus did, tracing His life and ministry. In his book, *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*, Adam Hamilton walks in Jesus’ footsteps, following Jesus from place to place, mostly in the Gospel of Mark. He uses his on-the-ground experiences in the Holy Land, his comprehensive research into Jesus’ time, and his deep reflections on Jesus’ life to help us get closer to Him. Like we did for Advent, we will synch up worship, Sunday School and Monday Night Bible Study, so all of these will lead us and our families deeper together. On each Monday night, Bible Study will benefit from a brief video, in which Adam Hamilton literally takes us to the places that Jesus may have been, so we can see it, imagine it, and then share together how our lives might be different because of Jesus. We start this exciting series with worship and Sunday School on March 6!

## Gerson Lynch Healing at Home

### Tim Resigns from Trustees

The good news is Gerson is on the road to recovery after more than a month in the hospital! Whew! Many of us were very concerned for Gerson and Tim and praying hard for healing and strength for both of them. And God came through! Thank You, God!

The good news for Gerson and Tim is that Tim is going to put his focused energies into being there for Gerson for what could be an extended recovery. It’s definitely the right thing to do. The bad news for our fellowship is that—in order to do that—Tim needs to step down from his duties as Trustee. Tim has served as Trustee (and Chair!) for several years, guiding our fellowship through some of our visioning, major repairs and the first phase of our building project. His strong leadership, thoughtful wisdom, and great heart have really put our fellowship on a much better footing. Though we may be sad that this needs to happen, we can be very grateful for the blessing of Tim’s hard work and able guidance. Thank you so very much, Tim, and we wish you and Gerson the very best and a strong recovery.

## Snow Reminders Worship Is Always On!

My aunt from Houston, TX called me. She was seriously freaked out that I was in tremendous danger because the Weather Channel is talking about Jan. 28–30 storm non-stop. Let's remind ourselves:

1. **Be wise.** Prepare so that you are safe and warm inside and don't have to go out when it's nasty.
2. **Remember God is at work.** If we have done what we can, then we leave the rest in God's hands. General worrying won't help us.
3. **Look after the people who might need it.** Most of us know people who might need some looking after. Why not check in to make sure they're ok. If you have been worrying (See 2 above), this is a great way to channel your concern into a blessing for neighbors, friends and family.
4. **We will always, always, ALWAYS have worship of the Living God on Sunday morning!** Don't ask if we are cancelling worship, 'cause we are always on!

There will always be reasons to argue for to stay home when worship is in view—snow, COVID, too much to do, just want to sleep—but sometimes we just have to praise God for His Presence in our lives, and the gift of Jesus Whose love changes everyone it touches! In-person or online, you will find me in worship on Sunday morning. Hope to see you there too!  
—Pastor Doug



## Lent — What Is It and Why?

by Rev. Doug Gray

Where does Lent come from? It turns out to have something to do with baptism and church membership. As early as the second century AD, we have records of churches baptizing people primarily on Easter Sunday. This general practice would continue for centuries, and the time before baptism—as much as six weeks—was seen as a season of soul-searching, repentance, fasting, and discipline. From early times, the figure of 40 days of preparation for ministry was used, reflecting the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness after His baptism, preparing for His ministry. That's how we have a 40-day season of preparation leading up to Easter Sunday.

Longing for a way to draw closer, to turn away from what hinders us and to turn toward God is still a deep yearning for many of us in the Church today. For those who want to live and love like Jesus does, what changes everything for us is Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross and His resurrection from the dead. So Lent can be for us a time of soul-searching, repentance, fasting, and discipline. Some people "fast" or give up something (a food, a habit, or something that is trying to take the place of God or is destructive in our lives. I find that if I am going to take something out of my life—even for a season—I have to put something positive in its place that draws me closer to God. So lots of people add some devotional time, or a prayerful walk, or a habit that will help them go deeper in their life with Jesus. If you want something more to read for Lent, the Deacons make Lenten devotionals available. They will be available the last Sunday in February.

However you choose to approach the season of Lent, my prayer is that you would find yourself reflecting on the meaning of Jesus' death for you, and how His death and rising again might change everything in how you approach your life, your relationships and your calling to be a blessing to other people. May the Lord Who loves You speak words of love and change in Your life!

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**“I can do  
all things through  
Christ who  
strengthens me.”**

— Philippians 4:13

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Published by

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### Where We Love Kindness

**Pastor:** Rev. Doug Gray 608- 436-6263

**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–Tu, Th–Fr, Su 9a – 12p