



**First Church Squantum
Congregational**
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**Congregational Mtg.
on the Budget**

Jan. 22 • After Worship

The Trustees have called the regular Congregational Meeting on the Budget for January 22nd, following worship. They will present the Treasurer’s and Financial Secretary’s Reports for 2022, and a projected budget for 2023.

January Birthdays

Bob Ougoorlian

Jan. 4

Leslie Doyle

Jan. 8

Suzanne Lawless

Jan. 21

Clara Sparks

Jan. 21



**From Your
Staff—**

**Pastor Doug,
Clara, Sally,
Miles, &
Stephanie**



We are so grateful for the chance to serve God with you every day and every week :)

The Light

“We know that all things work together for good, for those who are called according to Christ’s purpose.” — Romans 8:28
January 2023

Post-Pandemic U: Going to School for Our New World

by Rev. Doug Gray

Everything is different now. Thom Rainer, in his book, *The Post-Quarantine Church*, talks about moments in our lives when everything changed—JFK’s assassination, MLK’s assassination, Challenger exploding, 9/11, and more—and the folks who lived through those events remember exactly what they were doing and where they were when they happened. In the wake of each of these tragedies, Rainer suggests, one of the things everyone did was gather to mourn and process what had changed. But COVID was different. Instead of gathering, we were told to isolate. Instead of having a concrete moment, we had weeks and then months and now years of the pandemic... and it’s still not over. Instead of having a gathering place for the tragedy, the millions who have died in the pandemic are spread out in time and geography. Our society will feel the ripples for decades to come—children a year or more behind in school, work that has new options, a new baby boom. In some ways, the pandemic seems to have turbo-charged trends that were already at work. For most of January and February, we will explore how our lives are different, how our relationship with God has new possibilities, and how our church has new opportunities in the wake of the pandemic. We will work our way through Thom Rainer’s book, *The Post-Quarantine Church*, and have discussions together about how God might be calling us to deeper, freer, and more meaningful life with Jesus and each other. Can’t wait to see what God does with us!

Worship and Study During January

Jan 1	New Year’s Sunday Communion	Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4–7
Jan 8	Switcheroo Sunday	Isaiah 60:1–9 Matthew 2:1–12
Jan 15	New Worship & Study Series! Post-Pandemic U: Gather Differently and Better	Hebrews 10:19–25 Acts 2:32–47
Jan 22	Post-Pandemic U: Reach the Digital World	Mark 12:28–34 1 Corinthians 9:19–27
Jan 29	Post-Pandemic U: Reconnect with Our Community	Psalm 19 Acts 3:1–10
Feb 5	Post-Pandemic U: Next Level Praying	Acts 4:13–27

Women's Breakfast

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



The Women's breakfast meets weekly on Fridays at 9:30a, starting January 6.

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.

Bible Study Begins January 16 • 6:30p

Because of the holidays and Switcheroo Sunday, Monday Night Bible Study kicks off the New Year at 6:30p on Jan 16 ☺

Christmas Poinsettias...Thanks!

The Flower committee wants to thank all who donated the Christmas poinsettias. They



looked absolutely beautiful and covered the entire altar and the space between the Choir pews. We are grateful to everyone who helped in decorating the altar to make it look so festive. We had a wonder response this year!

Pastor Doug adds: And thanks, Sally Wainwright and Cynthia Gray, for all your hard work this year. Well done!

A Note from the Trustees

We hope that everyone had a good Christmas season and welcome to 2023. We were able to accomplish several items on our to do list in 2022, but there are more that we hope to complete this year.

1. The water issue in the front of the church was repaired this summer.
2. The prep is done for a new sump pump to be installed in the downstairs storage room.
3. The parsonage repairs on the back stairway and porch were completed as well as the front porch.
4. There were some structural issues in the basement of the parsonage that were able to be corrected as well.
5. We now have changing tables and grab bars in the upstairs bathroom and men's room as well as grab bars in the ladies' room.

We welcomed a new tenant this fall, The South Shore School of Theatre, and are hoping to bring in others, as we continue to update our facilities.

The Trustees are currently working on the new projected budget for this year, and hope to present it on January 22, 2023.

We were saddened to lose Jane Benkart and Karen Kinneally in December. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

Switcheroo Sunday, January 8

Switcheroo Sunday is coming! Each January, a number of pastors in our Massachusetts Association switch churches for a Sunday, so Pastor Doug will preach in another church, and another pastor will come to our church to preach in his place. Rev. Andy Stinson from the First Congregational Church of Fall River will "bring the Word" to our fellowship that Sunday. He's an interesting person, a great pastor, and a very able preacher. Pastor Doug will head to The Church in the Cove in Beverly, to preach there. In the evening, the pastors (and their partners) have dinner together.

Sunday School Spends Time with Ruth!

For the next several weeks, Cynthia Gray will take our Sunday School on a journey into the wonderful story of Ruth. It's a wonderful story of faithfulness, doing the right thing, and finding God was with you all along!

**“Trust in the LORD
with all your heart
and lean not on
your own understanding;
in all of your ways
acknowledge him,
and He will make
your paths straight.”**

—Proverbs 3:5–6

I SPY WINTER





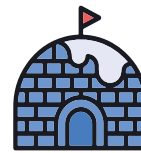












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Published by

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Where We Love Kindness

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Accompanist: Dr. Miles Fellenberg
Moderator: John Smith

Treasurer: Recilla Westerbeke
Chair, Deacons: Leo Bergin
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