



First Church Squantum Congregational

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New for Lent! Friday Night Family Fun begins Mar. 11, 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 will do one of the days of that VBS. For more information or to sign up, get in touch with Tina Rychalsky or myself, or head to the registration button on our website.

The Light

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

March 2022

Walking in Jesus’ Footsteps

by Rev. Doug Gray

When I was a kid, I remember going for a walk with my Dad in deep snow. Because the snow was deep and I was small, Dad went first, and then I followed in his footsteps. Or I tried to. His legs were longer, so sometimes I had to hop a little to go from footprint to footprint. Once I fell, and the snow was too deep for me to get myself out. At first I was worried, but then my dad laughed and came back. I rolled over and snow went everywhere as I flailed around, and then my Dad was there, helping me up, and we were back on track.

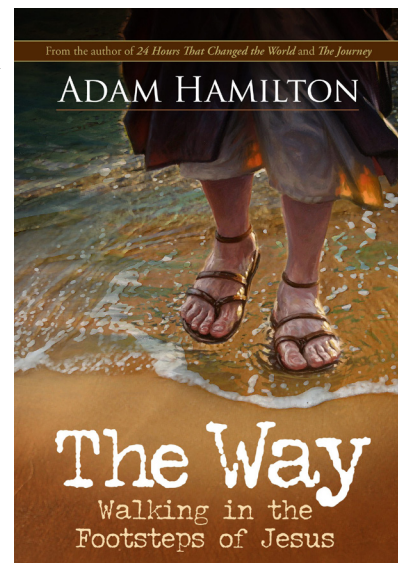
This Lent, we are going to explore what it means to follow in Jesus’ footsteps, using Adam Hamilton’s book, *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*. Each week, we will explore essential elements of Jesus’ life and teachings to understand and follow Jesus better. How was Jesus tempted? How did He overcome? What about Jesus’ healing ministry? Did you know that Jesus healed mental and emotional illness as well? Each step of our journey, we will pray to draw closer to Jesus.

The best part? Not only are we “Walking in Jesus’ Footsteps” in worship, but in Sunday school and Bible Study too! That way we can help our kids and our kids can help us, as we try to get closer to Jesus together.

In Bible Study, we will start with a short video with Adam Hamilton — all



shot in the Holy Land. You’ll find other great ideas and devotions for Lent in the rest of this issue. I sometimes think of walking in Jesus’ footsteps, like trying to follow in my Dad’s. Jesus is far more capable of spirit and body than I am, far more able to stride forward in faith, far more steady on his spiritual “feet.” At times, I really struggle to follow Jesus, even fall down. With laughter and patience, I find Jesus is a ready help to me, and I long to follow in His steps. What I’m praying for this Lent, is that God would raise our hunger and longing for Jesus, so that we will lean in to this great season of preparation.



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.)

March Birthdays

David Stohlberg

Mar. 6

Jack Westerbeke

Mar. 8

Timothy Lynch

Mar. 14

Gene Bolden

Mar. 24

Harry Marcel

Mar. 31



Worship Schedule for February

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title or Event</u>	<u>Reading/Scripture</u>
3/6	First Sunday in Lent/Communion Walking in Jesus' Footsteps: Temptation	Luke 4:1-13
3/13	Second Sunday in Lent Walking in Jesus' Footsteps: Healing Ministry	Mark 1:21-28
3/20	Third Sunday in Lent Walking in Jesus' Footsteps: Proclaiming the Kingdom	Matthew 13:44-53
3/27	Fourth Sunday in Lent Walking in Jesus' Footsteps: Calming the Storm	Mark 4:35-41
4/3	Fifth Sunday in Lent/Communion Walking in Jesus' Footsteps: Sinners, Outcasts and the Poor	John 4:4-29, 39-42

Monday Night Bible Study



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!

Masks Optional at Long Last!

February 27 was the first Sunday of "masks optional." On Monday, February 28, Governor Charlie Baker lifted the indoor mandate for masks, though some places (like the T, airports and hospitals) will continue to require them. The Deacons are encouraging unvaccinated people and those who have the sniffles or other cold-like symptoms to wear a mask to protect the rest of us. If you just feel more comfortable with a mask on, that's fine too.

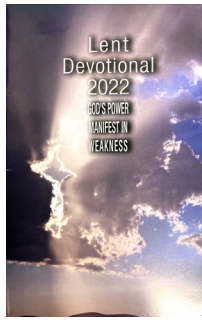


"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

— Philippians 4:13

Devotionals for 2022: God's Power Mani- fest in Weakness!

Want to get closer to God this Lent? Why not add a few minutes to focus



on God each day? This year the Deacons have purchased Lenten Devotionals from the National Association.

These Lenten devotionals feature a brief scripture, message and prayer to help your day have more of God in it. You can find these devotionals on tables in the entryway, or feel free to ask the office to send one to you. These are free for anyone to take or to give away.



Easter Flowers Are Coming Soon!

Help us make our sanctuary beautiful for Easter this year! With Easter so late (April 17), we are still waiting on the pricing. Keep an eye out for order forms and announcements



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 100s 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 for 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 too. 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. See the article on this page.

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!

Celebrating Rev. David Wood's Re- tirement, Feb 27

The last Sunday in February, our fellowship was honored to welcome back Rev. David Wood. Rev. Wood was the pastor for this fellowship from October 2001 thru June 2006. As of the end of April, he will retire from the ministry and move to Florida. The Deacons wanted to invite him in to celebrate the good he did with us and to wish him well in his retirement.





Praying through Ukraine and Other Tough Times

A lot's going on in our world right now! We are experiencing a level of turmoil—from the pandemic to politics, from the first war in Europe since World II to rising inflation, from inequities in our society to grave concerns for coming generations—all at the same time! How do we pray our way through? How do we stay faithful in the midst of all of this?

First, keep our eyes on Jesus. The world and its concerns can cloud our vision and make us anxious. Jesus says, “Come to me all you who are weary and heavy burdened and I will

give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for my yoke is easy and my burden light.”(Matthew 11:28) Or again, “Seek first the Kingdom of God and God’s righteousness, and all these will be added to you.”(Matthew 6:33) If we love like Jesus would, if we care for the least of these, if we allow Jesus to show us what we can do to make God’s love more part of our world, we are in the right place...and we will have more clarity and purpose.

Second, trust that God has our back. Proverbs says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all of your ways, acknowledge God and God will make your paths straight.”(Proverbs 3:5–6) If we look only at our problems, they get bigger and bigger. But if we look to God, focusing and resting in the immensity and abundance of God’s power and love, we begin to realize that God’s “got this.” We can easily feel helpless with all that’s happening in the world beyond our control. So let us remind ourselves and others Who is really in charge!

Third, spend more time in the Bible. What? How does that make things better? Because faithful people have been dealing with turmoil and trouble for thousands of years, trying to figure out where God is in all of this, trying to understand how God can change us and the world around us. I recommend reading the Psalms in hard times. The writers—David wrote some of them, other people wrote some too—were people like us, and they had good days and bad days, and they went to God with everything they were facing and feeling. Here is what I was reading on Monday, from Psalm 37: “Do not fret because of evil men, or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this...” God is with us in everything, and God will show us the way through...just stay faithful, stay prayerful, and do the next right and loving thing.

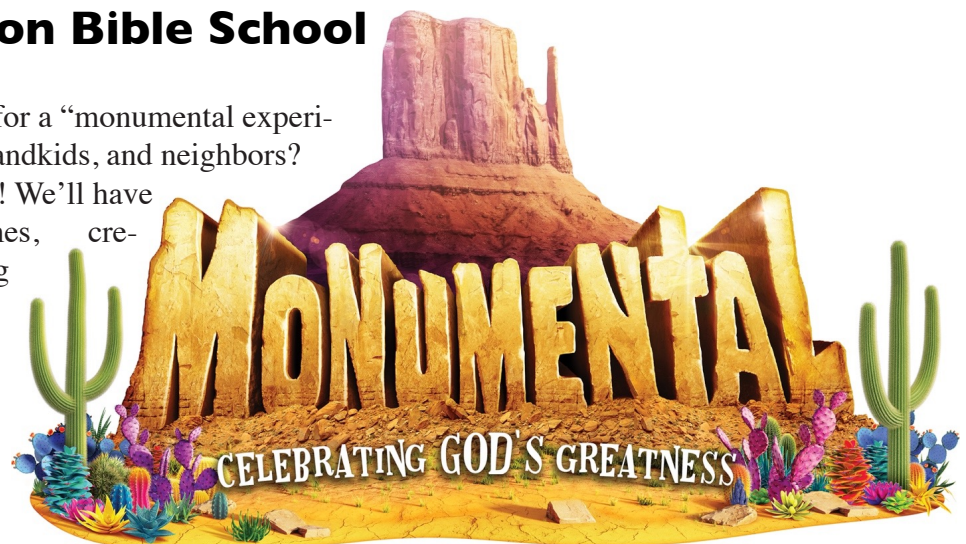
Monumental Vacation Bible School

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



**Massachusetts Association of
Congregational Christian Churches**

2022 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, March 19, 2022

9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Congregational Church of Canton

1541 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021

Welcome Back! Welcome New Members!

The focus of our meeting will be the formal welcoming of new congregations, and significant life changes for some of our members. We are just so grateful for the opportunity to gather in fellowship and praise. See old friends and make new ones!

Registration/Coffee	9:30-10:00
Worship	10:00-10:30
Business Meeting	10:45-11:15
Celebrate, Renew and Share	
Our Covenant	11:15-12:00
Luncheon	12:00-1:00

Registration cost \$12, request registration materials and additional info at contact@stillfaithful.org.



Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,
I am excited about the Spring that is upon us! We are called by the by-laws of our organization to gather yearly in the spring, and it looks like this is the year to come back together to celebrate so many things. As the writer to the Hebrews exhorted: ***“let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*** (Hebrews 10:25).

Massachusetts Covid numbers are significantly lower than at any time in the past two years. It definitely feels like the time to emerge from, what seems like, a long and deep slumber as a community of faith. We have so much to celebrate – primarily that **“MACCC is back!”**

In the past two years, there have been new Pastors in our churches, and we have had to say goodbye to some others. Just as we acknowledge the faithful service of those retiring, we recognize the call of the Lord upon new disciples, who seek to serve new pulpits. We are also blessed to recognize new communities of faith in our state that wish to come alongside us in the Congregational Way.

We yearn to reconnect with old friends without telling them that they are still muted! Therefore, I call you to the Congregational Church of Canton, on **Saturday, the 19th of March, at 9:30** in the morning to rekindle the flame of Congregationalism according to the time-honored vision of the Cambridge Platform – to “preserve communion one with another, because [we] are all united into Christ.”

Sincerely,
Rev. Don Bliss
Moderator
Massachusetts Association of Congregational-Christian Churches

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Published by

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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