

First Community Church

Newsletter

Celebrating 150 Years of Christian Worship

April 2014



Our Mission Statement

We are a community of faith believing in the power of prayer and seeking earnestly to deepen our spiritual life and share the love of God with others.

The Pastor's Message

Easter, which we celebrate on April 20 this year, is the high point of the Christian year. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is a celebration of God's love and its ultimate triumph over sin, evil, and death. Resurrection is not simply the return to life of a good man who suffered innocently and died an undeserved death. It is rather the experience in this broken world of God's ultimate promise and purpose for all – fullness of life in communion with God.

The gospel story, the account of Jesus' passion and victory, begins with Palm Sunday, with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The story goes down hill from that point, and it goes downhill very quickly. Following the Last Supper Jesus leaves his disciples and goes off alone into the Garden to pray. There he is betrayed by one of his followers. The following day he is sentenced to die. He is mocked, scourged, and crucified between two thieves. Then his body is laid to rest in a borrowed tomb.

You might think that this is the end of the story – but it isn't. Pain, suffering, and death do not have the last word. They do not have the last word in Jesus' life, and they do not have the last word in our life. If we believe, if we have faith, they can be transformed into new life.

Easter is the story of the empty tomb. No container is big enough to hold Jesus, to constrain his spirit. Mary Magdalene and the other disciples not only discover that the tomb is empty; they discover that their Lord still lives. Once their eyes are opened, they discover him in many different ways and places. They begin to realize that, although he has changed form, he has not left them. He will be with them always, even to the end of the age.

The Easter season comes to a joyous culmination in the celebration of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit comes to the disciples as their promised "helper," and the Christian church is born. We, too,

celebrate God's Spirit in our midst and we celebrate the gifts of the Spirit that we have each been given, gifts, which the apostle Paul tells us, are meant to be shared "for the common good."

In a few short weeks we will celebrate the Resurrection. However, if we do not rediscover Jesus in our lives and in the world, just as the disciples did, we will be missing an important part of what it means to be a Christian, what it means to be a disciple of the Way. If we can rediscover the risen Christ who dwells within us, we will be led past the cross, past even the empty tomb to experience the healing power of God's presence in our lives.

May the spirit of Easter and the presence of the risen Christ be with all of us in this special and sacred season!

Faithfully yours,
Reverend Paul D. Sanderson

Adult Bible Study



We continue our study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the church at Rome. This book presents the foundation for much of our Christian theology as Paul tries to understand the role of Christ in salvation. It also provides us with guidelines for living the Christian life both as individuals and as a church.

The Adult Bible Study group meets on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of every month from 9:15 – 10:30 AM in the Vestry. Bibles are provided.

United Parishes Lenten Series

The United Parishes Lenten Series continues into the month of April for the last two of the four series of "Christian Characters and Their Complex Selves." The Tuesday evening sessions begin at 6:00 PM with a brief worship service in the host church's sanctuary. Dinner is served at 6:15 PM followed by a presentation by one of the town's clergy at 7:00 PM. This is followed by small group table discussions based on three questions and concludes at 8:00 PM.

Our church will be co-hosting the dinner at Pilgrim Church on April 1. See the Women's Fellowship article in further into the Newsletter for details regarding the dinner.

The schedule is as follows:

DATE	HOST CHURCH	SPEAKER
April 1	Pilgrim Congregational Church Co-hosted by First Community Church	Chaplain Stephen Hebert
April 8	St. Mark's Episcopal Church	Rev. Barbara Talcott

A Service Of Tenebrae



On Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 7:00 PM, we meet in the sanctuary to participate in the remembrance of the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples. The word “maundy” comes from the Latin “mandatum novum” or “new commandment” that you *love one another*.

Our communion service is followed by an observance of the Office of Tenebrae, an early (4th century) office of worship. The word “tenebrae” means darkness. The gradual extinguishing of the candles following the recitation of the events of Holy Week symbolizes the betrayal, the approach of Jesus’ enemies, the moments of aloneness in the Garden, and the dark night of the soul. The moment of near total darkness recalls the three days our Lord was in the tomb. The relighting of the single candle is the prophecy of the resurrection soon to dawn.

For the first time on this somber evening, the Diaconate will be providing a simple dinner of soup and bread before the service begins. All are welcome to come at 6:00 PM at no charge.

*Come – Listen – Feel the Words Spoken – Share the Last Supper
Leave with the Passion of Christ*

Easter Sunrise Service

“He is risen, He is risen indeed”



Arise early and dress warmly to see the sunlight glistening off the water and listen to the variety of bird songs joyfully filling the air all around.

Join us at Hopkinton State Park on Easter Sunday morning, April 20 for our annual Sunrise Service sponsored by the Lay Council of The United Parishes of Southborough. The service will begin at 6:30 AM at the end of the parking lot next to the marina. In case of steady rain, the service will take place at First Community Church.

Rev. Paul Sanderson will be delivering the Easter message. The “gathering music” will be provided by instrumentalists from area churches.

Missions Offering

PREVENTING
HUNGER
 IN CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS



Our Mission Offerings for April will go to benefit the Worcester County Food Bank. Worcester County Food Bank (WCFB) is the largest anti-hunger organization in Central Massachusetts. They service the Hunger-Free Network of 145 partner agencies in the 60 towns across Worcester County to bring relief to 100,796 individuals while educating and advocating for a hunger-free community.

Our Mission Statement

The Worcester County Food Bank's mission is *“To engage, educate, and lead Worcester County in creating a hunger-free community.”*

The Worcester County Food Bank is a certified affiliate of Feeding America, the nation's network of food banks and food rescue organizations.

Who We Are

Providing over 70 million pounds of help and hope since 1982.



- ❖ The Worcester County Food Bank is a wonderful collaboration of local non-profit human and social service providers, donors from the food industry, corporate, government, civic and private sectors, and individual volunteers whose support and partnership is focused on “providing relief from hunger” to friends and neighbors in Central Massachusetts.
- ❖ Since its incorporation in 1982 the Worcester County Food Bank has collected and distributed more than 70 million pounds of food and grocery product through a network of local shelters, food pantries, senior centers, residential rehabilitation programs, soup kitchens, after-school programs and neighborhood centers that help feed hungry people of all ages in 60 communities in Central Massachusetts.
- ❖ The base of operations for the Worcester County Food Bank is a 37,000 square foot facility located at 474 Boston Turnpike (Route 9), Shrewsbury, MA.
- ❖ The Worcester County Food Bank is a member of Feeding America, the nation's official network of food banks and food rescue organizations. To learn more visit www.feedingamerica.org.

What We Do

- ❖ The Worcester County Food Bank collects, inspects, and stores donated food and grocery product and distributes it through a network of 178 partner agencies to help feed hungry people living in 60 cities and towns in Central Massachusetts.
- ❖ The Food Bank serves as an advocate for agencies providing hunger-relief services. The Food Bank also offers resources such as nutrition education and safe food handling and maintenance information.
- ❖ In addition to food acquisition and distribution, the Worcester County Food Bank provides the following programs:

Second Serving Food Rescue Program

This program rescues prepared and perishable foods from local restaurants, supermarkets, and farms and delivers directly by refrigerated truck to local shelters and meals programs.

Nutrition Education Program

This program features workshops and nutrition training for staff and clients of our partner agencies. Regional workshops are presented quarterly at a partner agency location. This year's regional workshop is "Hands On Nutrition." ServSafe training and certification are also offered to Food Bank and partner agency staff and volunteers.

Nutrition Center Kitchen

The Nutrition Center Kitchen prepares and delivers delicious, nutritious meals to Kids Café programs serving children at youth centers in Worcester during the school year.

Our Services

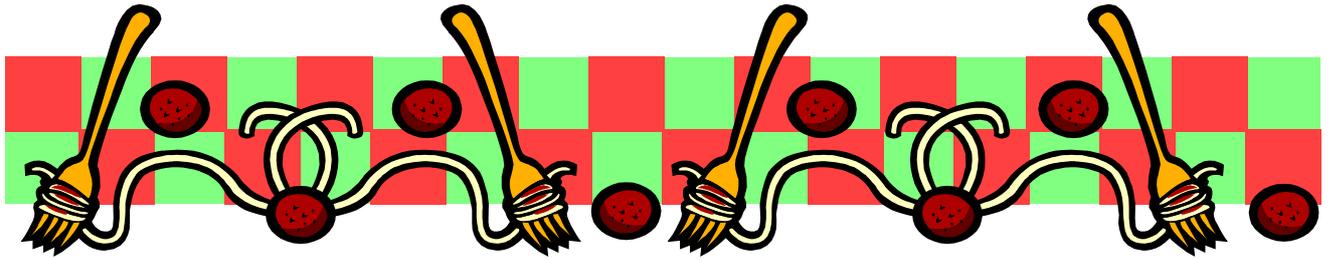
- ❖ Worcester County Food Bank is the largest anti-hunger organization in Central Massachusetts. We service the Hunger-Free Network of 145 partner agencies in the 60 towns across Worcester County to bring relief to 100,796 different individuals while educating and advocating for a hunger-free community. For a list of programs in the Hunger-free Network that you can contact directly either for help or to help, visit our website.

Contact Us

The Worcester County Food Bank is staffed by more than 20 full and part-time employees.

You are invited to contact us for information about Food Bank operations and services, or for information about hunger-relief programs and services throughout the region. You may call us directly at 508-842-3663.

We are open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM. The Worcester County Food Bank is conveniently located at 474 Boston Turnpike (Route 9), Shrewsbury MA, adjacent to Borders Bookstore. The Food Bank is approximately one-half mile from Route 140, and two miles from I-290.



Spaghetti Supper

Be one of the first to get your place at the table to attend the First Community Church Spaghetti Supper. Sponsored by the Board of Trustees, it will be held on Saturday, May 10 at 6:00 PM sharp.

Back by popular demand is the world famous maker of meatballs and spaghetti sauce – Skip Willman! Also on the menu -- salad, bread, apple crisp & ice cream for dessert, as well as coffee, tea, and soft drinks.

Tickets are \$10.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children 5-12, and no charge for children under 5. The tickets are on sale now and may be purchased from any of the Trustees.

This is the day before Mother's Day, so anyone who would like to treat Mom to a fabulous meal, warm ambience and fellowship, all at a great price, this is your opportunity! Restaurants on Mother's Day are overrated - overcrowded and expensive – We offer a promising alternative.

Spiritual Exploration Reading Group

Tuesday Afternoons with Rev. Sanderson

The theme of our Tuesday afternoon Spiritual Exploration Reading Group this spring will be “Rediscovering Jesus.” We will read and discuss the provocative short work by the Protestant theologian Marcus Borg entitled *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*.

Marcus Borg is Hundere Distinguished Professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State University and the author of *Jesus: a New Vision*, *The God We Never Knew*, and *The Heart of Christianity*. Borg, a former member of the Jesus Seminar, challenges us to think about the picture we have of Jesus and how that picture may be limited or inadequate or perhaps even false. He invites us to return to scripture to rediscover Jesus, to experience him anew. One of the reasons I like this book so much, and why we have chosen it for our group discussion this spring, is that it places the primary emphasis on our relationship with Jesus. It is not primarily about knowing more facts about Jesus; it is about knowing Jesus. It is about meeting him, getting to know him better, and inviting him to be a more central part of our life.

Publisher's Weekly has described this book in the following: “In this small, but eloquent and learned book, Borg directs his readers, especially those who have found no meaningful image of Jesus, away from confessed doctrines about Jesus (what the gospels and the churches say about Him) and toward a relationship with the Spirit of God.”

The Tuesday afternoon study group meets every Tuesday from 2:30 – 4:00 PM in the Vestry. Everyone is welcome!

A Blast From The Past

125 Years Ago

1889 – April

- ◆ April 14th: The Church and congregation passed the following vote: We gratefully accept the donation of \$25 from Mrs. N.J. Bigelow of Southboro and express to her, our hearty thanks both for the gift and the sympathy and good will that prompted it.
- ◆ Mrs. Mary Fay and Albert B. Tyler were chosen delegates to the Conference to be held at Sherborn Tuesday April 16th.
- ◆ April 30th - Letter read from the Cong. Church of Industry, Maine of which church Rev. Truman A. Merrill is a member recommending that gentleman to the 2nd Congregational Church of Southboro of which he wishes to become a member in accordance with the bylaws, which says, "The Pastor shall be a member of this church." Voted to receive Rev. T.A. Merrill as a member of this church at next communion.

100 Years Ago

1914 – April

- ◆ Rev. C. Sturgis Ball of Stony Creek, CT, filled the pulpit at the Congregational Church last Sunday. He is the fourth candidate to occupy the pulpit since the resignation of Rev. S. Carlisle Schaeffer who went to Kansas City, MO. on April 1. Rev. Mr. Ball will probably be engaged to conduct services next Sunday as it is said he is looked upon with favor by the pulpit supply committees.
- ◆ Southville: Rev. A.W.L. Nelson of Westboro, who has for the past three years been pastor of the M.E. Church here, has been transferred to the pastorate of Warren M.E. church. He will also be pastor of the Methodist Church at West Brookfield.
- ◆ At the New England Methodist Conference in Malden, Rev. H.A. Hanson was assigned to be pastor of the Methodist Church here.
- ◆ Improvements are underway at the Carbone's restaurant, Cedar St., Federal Hill, Hopkinton.

75 Years Ago

1939 – April

- ◆ 1 May: Ruth Hayward (joined 4/21/1935) dismissed to First Church of Christ, Springfield, MA.
- ◆ The monthly supper and entertainment of the Southville Federated Church was held in the vestry on Tuesday evening in charge of the men, under the direction of Ralph Clark, chairman. The entertainment included hurricane pictures shown by Manager, Kenneth Picard of the Marlboro telephone exchange.

50 Years Ago

1964 – April

- ◆ Board of directors gave choir permission to sell the old organ.
- ◆ The first Church newspaper was originated.
- ◆ The Women's Fellowship invited surrounding churches to be guests of their April meeting. The guest speaker was Mr. Arthur Flager Fultz, RMT, who was State Music Therapy consultant and acting director of the Boston YMCA Counseling Service. His main premise was that "behavior influences music" and he places the making of music for all purposes in a new and scientifically valid perspective.

25 Years Ago

1989 – April

- ◆ During the year, the trustees installed a new foundation under the oil tank. The Sanctuary chandelier was rewired. Bob Nelson completed repairs of the windows in the sanctuary and altar alcove. An outside faucet was installed. A proposed parking lot is still in their future plans.

10 Years Ago

2004 – April

- ◆ A Palm Sunday breakfast was prepared by the choir.
 - ◆ Kimberly McKeen and Clark Bilawchuk were married 24 April.
-

Report Of The Diaconate

At our first meeting after the February Annual Meeting, we elected officers for the upcoming year -- Garcia Passley, Chairperson; Dianne Simmons, Secretary; and Sandy McKeen, Treasurer.

It was brought to our attention that the church organ, which gives us such beautiful music every Sunday, is in need of repair. David Crane is looking into the costs and logistics of the repair process. We need to maintain our organ in order to continue to have the music that we all so dearly love.

Pat Grogan has volunteered to organize the purchase and delivery of the special flowers to beautify the sanctuary for the celebration of Easter. Order forms have been placed in the Sunday morning bulletins and are available in the Narthex.

Our traditional Maundy Thursday Service will be held on April 17 at 7:00 PM. This year we will be offering a simple dinner of soup and bread at no cost to anyone who wishes to come. All are welcome and we do hope you will come. The dinner will be ready at 6:00 PM.

Choir Appreciation will be held on Sunday, April 27. You can be sure that the choir will be warming up their voices with David and Michael to share some special music with us. Laity Sunday will be held on May 4 instead of the traditional Sunday after Easter. Due to the two communion services held in April, (the first Sunday in April and the Maundy Thursday Service) there will be none in May.

Our mission for April is the Worcester County Food Bank. David Crane has copies of Rev. Sanderson's sermons on CD. If you or someone you know would appreciate listening to them, please contact David Crane.

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, April 3 at 6:30 PM.

Women's Fellowship

"The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and he delivers them." Psalm 134:7

We met on Thursday, March 20 to make plans for the next few months. First on our list, were the dinner plans for the Lenten Series that we co-host with the Pilgrim Church on Tuesday, April 1. Beverly Lees is coordinating the dinner with them, and it will be centered around a Mexican theme. We are responsible for salad and desserts for approximately 80 to 100 people. We are asking all our bakers to help with lots of desserts -- bar cookies, regular cookies, breads, cakes, etc. The salad will be taken care of by Beverly Lees and company. Please sign up to bring a dessert. We will also need to help with setup and/or cleanup after the program.

The Women's Fellowship will be displaying more of Shirley Hutchinson's artwork at the Yard Sale to be held on June 7. This an ongoing effort to raise funds for the church and show more of Shirley's beautiful artwork.

We are planning a wonderful program for our meeting on Tuesday, May 29. We have invited Mr. Doug Peck, a Certified Senior Advisor (CSA) with "Seniors Helping Seniors" to come and present one of three seminars to our group. We chose "Staying Home - A Guide to Living Independently for Seniors and Their Caregivers." Mr. Peck is a life long area resident with 25 years of experience as a corporate Human Resource Executive. Please come to be informed at this special program. It is open to all members of our church and community. An email invitation will be sent to our sister churches.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 15 at 6:30 PM. Helen Varney will be leading devotions and Beth Hook will be providing refreshments.

Mattie Cummings, Secretary

Spring Is Here

It's that time of year to clean out the closets, the cellar and the kitchen drawers!

The Stewardship and Growth Committee is sponsoring a Spring Yard Sale on Saturday, June 7 at our church.

Toys, clothes, shoes, household items and furniture are on the list. We will **not** be accepting TV's, computers, VCR's, or any "old" electronics and/or small appliances.

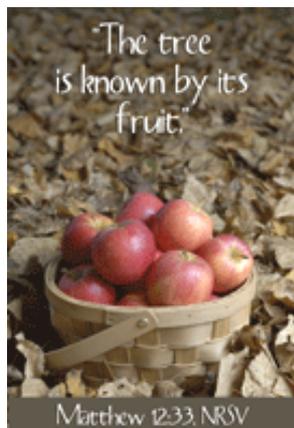


More information will be provided in the May Newsletter. If you have any questions please see any one of our committee members.

2014 Stewardship & Growth Committee

David Crane, Cheryl Holmes, Darlene Sanderson, David Sickles, Dianne Simmons and Sharon Willman

Stewardship & Growth Committee Report



The Stewardship and Growth Committee is now dedicating the first half hour of every meeting for the remainder of the year, to make plans for our 150th Anniversary Celebration. Anyone interested in the planning is welcome to come to the meetings that begin at 6:15 PM. At our first planning session, Dave Crane volunteered to be the “Project Manager.”

The Stewardship and Growth Committee continues to put the finishing touches on the tri-fold brochures that will hopefully encourage members of the greater community in towns surrounding Southborough to “check out” our church. The committee is still looking for volunteers who will help to distribute the brochures. Please contact any member of the committee if you are interested in either helping or learning more about what we are looking to do.

Save the date for our annual Yard Sale – Saturday June 7. We will keep you posted on the details.

The next meeting of the 150th Anniversary Celebration planning and the Stewardship and Growth Committee will be Tuesday, April 22 at 6:15 PM. If you cannot make the meeting and have some ideas, please let us know – we want your input on this important event.

Report Of The Trustees

The new 2014 Board of Trustees has met and has a task list ready to work on.

Some of the pending issues are as follows: the water & ice control near the kitchen; wiring the new light at the front door; paint the vestry walls after ceiling leak is fixed; carbon monoxide detectors for kitchen/vestry; soundproofing the vestry (acoustic tiles in ceiling and sound absorber on the walls).

In progress at this time are soundproofing the Pastor's office, rewiring the vestry walls, and updating our yearly checklist.

The repainting of the bathroom walls & floorboards is under discussion.

And last but not least, is the work that has been completed and or is being worked on at the current time: the wall removal work continuing to get to the source of the vestry ceiling leak; the organ tuning; the repair/replacement of the Exit sign & emergency lights; and the cleanup of the storage room near the stairwell. A very big thank you to David Crane, Bob Farmer and Skip Willman who work tirelessly to get all these projects done.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Spaghetti Supper on Saturday, May 10. See the article elsewhere in the Newsletter for more details.

Our next scheduled meeting is Sunday, April 6, after Sunday Morning Worship.

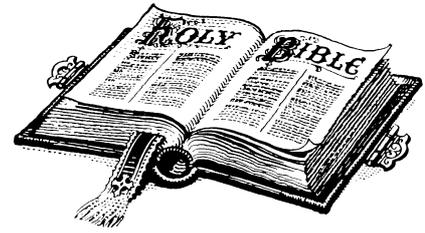
2014 Board of Trustees

Karin Farmer, Pat Grogan, Joyce Harrington, Beth Hook, Roy Pinnock, and Skip Willman

Words Of Wisdom

I am sure we all have our favorite Bible Verses. Verses that touch us with their message or the memories they invoke.

The 23rd Psalm brings back memories of the 6 year old me sitting in our upstairs hallway (in Pennsylvania) leaning against the wall, reading aloud. Besides Dick and Jane, it is my earliest memory of being able to read.



Exodus 2 - Moses in the Basket, favorite Sunday school story ever. Frankly, I just wished our family could have found a baby brother in a basket.

For today, however, I wish to talk about the following complimentary verses:

Romans 12:6 - Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.

1 Corinthians 12:4-9, 12 - There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone, it is the same God at work.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit.

Just as a body though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

Rev. Paul Sanderson read these verses fairly recently and I was reminded of how much these touch me. All churches rely on the collective talents of their members and friends, but in a small church such as ours, digging deep into ones talents/gifts is an oft repeated, um, adventure... or as Paul said recently, a labor of love not a job (I paraphrase).

When I muse on these teachings, I am comforted, joyous and sometimes, uneasy. I've been a member of the Trustees for 3+ years and I've not nailed one nail, installed outside lights, or plowed snow. And sometimes, only sometimes, things feel like, a job. So at times, I feel inadequate.

I must remember, there are different kinds of gifts. I've been in the choir and Women's Fellowship for approximately 30 years (yikes). I may have served 100 or more coffee hours, and baked, and baked, and baked. Whew, guess I feel better.

I look around at all of us, and I see some who are musical, handy, office/secretarially inclined, good with money, good with visiting our ill or homebound, good at keeping our sanctuary beautiful with flowers and seasonal decorations, good at lawn cleanup, good at.....

I for one am thankful for the gift of us all, the gift of our church and the gift of our God.

I'd love to hear what your favorite verses are.

Beth Hook, Guest Columnist



“Just The Facts, Ma’am”

Dave Crane, our Website coordinator, would like to share the facts of our Church Internet Ministry activity for the weeks of January 1 to March 26, 2104.

States	Total Visits	New Visits*	Number of Pages Visited
Massachusetts	96	45	4.53
Ohio	26	17	1.42
Illinois	15	14	2.73
Florida	7	7	3.00
California	3	2	1.33
Indiana	3	1	2.67
Texas	3	3	1.67
(not set)	2	2	2.00
Arkansas	2	1	10.00

Cities in Massachusetts	Total Visits	New Visits*	Number of Pages Visited
Marlborough	27	9	7.56
Needham	11	1	2.27
Northbridge	6	0	3.50
Boston	5	5	1.60
Shrewsbury	5	1	2.60
Westborough	5	5	2.20
Framingham	3	2	1.33
North Reading	3	0	2.33
Southborough	3	1	4.00
Worcester	3	2	9.00

*Visits by persons who have not visited our site since Feb. 1st

Visits From Countries			
Country/Territory	Visits	% of New Visits	New Visits
United States	176	62.50%	110
Brazil	7	100.00%	7
United Kingdom	5	100.00%	5
Canada	3	100.00%	3
Germany	3	100.00%	3
India	1	100.00%	1
	200	67.00%	134

VOICE (AUDIO) RECORDINGS OF SERMONS LISTENED TO			
Sermon Title	Publish Dates	Total Downloads	Last 30 Days
Lent #4 - The Cleansing of the Temple	3/23/2014	1	1
Lent #3 - The Theme of Suffering	3/16/2014	5	5
Lent #2 - It's Not A Religion - It's A Relationship	3/9/2014	4	4
Lent #1 - The Journey Begins With Repentance	3/2/2014	0	0
It's Our Call	2/23/2014	0	0
How To Change the Future	2/16/2014	5	0
An Artist With the Canvas of Life	2/9/2014	2	0
What a Friend We Have In Jesus	2/2/2014	2	0
The Power of Prayer VII: Turn Around	1/26/2014	4	1
Do You Need New Glasses?	1/19/2014	2	1
Just For Today	1/5/2014	5	1

Choir Notes

Sunday, April 27 has been designated as Choir Appreciation Sunday. Come and hear the choir as they are “warming up their vocal chords” for this special occasion.

The Choir is always looking for new members to join the group and share their love for music in praise to God. In particular, we are looking for some men choir members. If you have given it some thought and are having a tough time making the decision, here are some good reasons for taking the plunge and joining us each Sunday morning.

The top ten reasons men should join the church choir:

- 10 Rehearsals are every Tuesday night. Which means that for those few hours, you will significantly reduce your risk of contracting tendinitis from nonstop operation of a television remote control or computer mouse.
- 9 Because you wear a choir robe every Sunday, you are liberated from a task many men find quite challenging: finding clothes that match properly.
- 8 From your special vantage point every Sunday, in which you look out at the entire congregation from the choir seats, you will develop interesting new hobbies. Among these is a little guessing game called "Who's Praying, Who's Sleeping?"
- 7 On the other hand, sitting in full view of 400-500 people on a weekly basis makes it much less likely that you yourself will give in to a chronic lack of sleep. Although it has been known to happen.
- 6 If you think your singing in the shower sounds good now, just wait till you've been singing with us for a few weeks.
- 5 Singing in a choir is one of the few activities for men that does not require electronics equipment or expensive power tools. This could be good for the family budget.
- 4 For the fitness buffs, singing in the Choir is not only heart healthy, it's soul healthy. But there are no monthly membership fees, and it's a lot easier on the knees than jogging.
- 3 If you think you've done everything there is to do, and there are no great challenges left in life, try singing with us guys and staying on pitch.
- 2 Choir rehearsal lasts half as long as a professional football game, but is at least twice as satisfying. This is especially true if you are a long-suffering fan of the Miami Dolphins. (Don't worry, though, the rehearsals are on Tuesday, not Monday Nights.)

And the number 1 reason men should join the choir:

- 1 When people ask you whether you've been behaving yourself, you can say with the utmost sincerity, "Hey, I'm a Choir Boy."

Our Gifts We Bring

Our Missions Offerings are donations made above and beyond our gifts of the Pledges that we make to support the First Community Church of Southborough's General Operating Budget.

Bob Farmer, our Treasurer, has provided us with an update of what we have collected and donated as of March 24, to the Missions that we have chosen to support this year.

  <p>Tenzin Dekyi Our adopted child</p>	<p><i>Pastoral Counseling Centers of Massachusetts</i></p> 	<p>S O U T H B O R O U G H F O O D P A N T R Y</p> 
<p>JANUARY</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p>	<p>MARCH</p>
<p>\$360.00</p>	<p>\$200.00</p>	<p>\$100.00</p>

From The Editor

The deadline for the May 2014 Newsletter is **Monday, April 28, 2014**. Remember to include any dates for meetings or events you would like listed on the calendar. Articles may be submitted to Cheryl Holmes by:



(508) 460-0142



244 Flanders Road
Westborough, MA 01581



caholmes@charter.net

Thank You

From Our Missions

To the First Community Church of Southborough,

On behalf of the Pastoral Counseling Centers of MA and the many folk it benefits, we give heartfelt thanks for your donation this month. As a non-profit center, we could not operate without contributions such as yours, giving critical assistance to the folks who come here for counseling.



Our therapists continue to offer pastoral counseling services to all people, regardless of religious affiliation or financial means. Drawing on the rich traditions of both psychology and spirituality, we respect every person's journey as he or she faces difficult life experiences.

The center exists because many people are in need of it and it exists also because many others are called to help provide for its operation. Thank your for caring to be part of the providing of this center. It is appreciated by many!

Sincerely

Mary Taaber
Executive Director

With Our Special Thanks To –

- ◆ The D&D Dynamic Duo, Darlene Sanderson and Dianne Simmons for sharing their culinary talents to host another successful “dinner out” evening for those lucky enough to get their tickets early. Meant to be a time of good food and fellowship, the dinner evenings have helped to raise money for the General Fund.



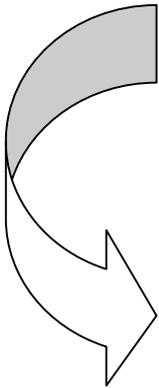
Overflowing With Thanks

LOOKING AHEAD

Spaghetti Supper
Saturday, May 10

Spring Yard Sale
Saturday, June 7

Bottles & Cans for Cash
Wednesday, June 25



Write down these dates!!



Birthdays

Lou Dundin	1 st
Ron Sickles	7 th
Roy Pinnock	13 th
Skip Willman	17 th
Gloria Sadler	30 th

Anniversaries

Sandy & Scott McKeen	29 th
Garcia & Roy Pinnock	30 th



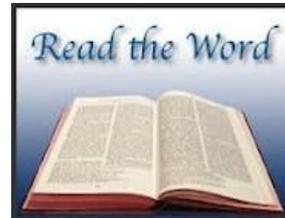
CELEBRATIONS



"then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind." *Philippians 2:2*

Lay Leaders

April 6 - Bob L'Heureux
April 13 - Joyce Harrington
April 20 - Cheryl Holmes
April 27 - Sandy McKeen



Greeters

April 6 - Dianne Simmons
April 13 - Helen Varney
April 20 - Sharon & Skip Willman
April 27 - Beverly Lees

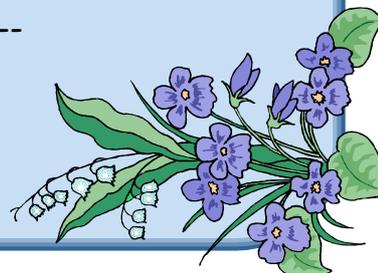
Coffee Hour Hosts

April 6 - Karin Farmer & Helen Varney
April 13 - Martha Hubley
April 20 - No Coffee Hour - Easter Sunday
April 27 - Marlene Joe



Memorial Flowers

April 6 - Dianne Simmons
April 13 - --
April 20 - Easter
April 27 - --



Deacons for April

Dianne Simmons and Jim Holmes

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Missions Worcester County Food Bank		1 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 6:00 PM United Parishes Lenten Series held at Pilgrim Church Co-host First Community Church	2	3 6:30 PM Diaconate Meeting	4	5
6 <i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i> 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service <i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> Coffee Hour following Worship Service Trustees Meeting following Worship Service	7	8 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM United Parishes Lenten Series held at St. Mark's Church	9	10 7:00 PM Church Council	11	12
 13 9:15 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service	14	15 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Women's Fellowship	16	 17 <i>MAUNDY THURSDAY</i> 6:00 PM <i>Soup & Bread Supper</i> 7:00 PM <i>Tenebrae Service</i>	 18 <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i>	19 <i>HOLY SATURDAY</i>
20 Easter Sunday  6:30 AM Sunrise Service 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service No Coffee Hour	21  Patriot's Day	22 2:30 PM Spiritual Exploration Reading Group 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:15 PM 150 th Anniversary Celebration Planning Meeting & Stewardship & Growth Committee	23	24	25	26
27 <i>CHOIR APPRECIATION SUNDAY</i> 9:15 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Service	28 May Newsletter Deadline	29	30			