



The MARCH 2024 Messenger



Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Lee, Massachusetts
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Pastor's Piece Dear Friends,

This month spans most of our Lenten time together – when winter sometimes roars back but so many days are warmer and you can smell the return of spring! I know the bulbs in my front yard think so . . . it is a good time for being quieter, like the trees, regrouping our energy within and building up our strength and resources, attending to what we need to release or renew to become the Easter people Christ calls us to be.

Like the trees, in community we are connected and can share our resources, our sustenance, our hope among our root system of church community and help each other revitalize. Winter means underground rebuilding, as does Lent, and as we get towards the final weeks of March we are, like the buds and bulbs, ready to burst forth into the power of Holy Week and the joy of Easter morning!

We have many ways to walk together these weeks of March – and I hope you find a place for yourself in them:

***Lenten Book study** in person at 3pm and 7pm Wednesdays, on Zoom also at 7pm

Witness at the Cross by Amy-Jill Levine - join us even without the book!

***Daily Devotions** from the UCC – let Tari know at the office and she will send the link to you!

***Holy Week Services** to walk with Jesus together:

Palm Sunday, March 24 10:30am Worship with Palms and the joy of...A baptism! Then we transition into the more sobering events of Holy Week

Maunder Thursday, March 28 7pm A service of Light and Shadow with Communion and Tenebrae. Come early for a special tender prelude from the Eagles Community Trombone Ensemble from 6:45-7pm in the Sanctuary!

Good Friday, March 29 12 – 3pm Vigil of Our Lord Come companion Jesus on the cross with prayer services on the hour of 12, 1 and 2, and devotions with scripture, poetry, hymn and silent observance at the quarter hours.

Easter Sunday, March 31
6:00am in the Church Park – Sunrise Service!

Join us and the first disciples at the tomb in a brief service of scripture and song as the sun rises, and we are the first to see that He is Risen!

10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary – with Choir & Joyous Music!

We greet the new day of our redeeming – He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!

Easter Egg Hunt following the service.

Join us for any of these ways to enter into this Holy season and reach out to me if you can't and would like a visit at home. Our new Pastoral Visiting Team is making calls and visits, and our Deacons want to be in touch to connect you to us. Reach out to me at revmarisaucleechurch@gmail.com

Blessings to all of you this Holy Season,

Pastor Marisa

Rev Marisa's Lenten office hours are Mondays from 10am - 2pm, Wednesdays from 11am - 3pm, or by appointment Tuesdays and Thursdays via Zoom or phone. revmarisaucleechurch@gmail.com

"It is the aim of this church to present a religion as considerate of persons as the teachings of Jesus; as devoted to justice as the Old Testament prophets; as responsive to Truth as science; as beautiful as art; as intimate as the home and as indispensable as the air we breathe."

STATEMENT BY THE FOUNDERS



Rev Marisa Brown Ludwig, Pastor
Tari Wheeler Roosa, Administrative Assistant

First Congregational Church of Lee, United Church of Christ, 25 Park Place, PO Box 395, Lee, MA 01238
413.243.1033 | ucleechurch@gmail.com | www.ucc-lee.org

Jim Morrison, Music Director
Glenn Withers, Sexton



HOLY WEEK 2024

March 24 Palm Sunday 10:30am Worship

We start with a parade of palms to welcome Jesus to Jerusalem, then a contemplative second half shifts us to the trials of Holy Week.

March 28 Maundy Thursday 7:00pm

Service of Shadow & Light

The Deacons lead us in a re-enactment of the Passover night when Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Communion, followed by a Tenebrae service of scripture and candlelight to walk us through the events that led to Jesus' arrest and trial.

March 29 Good Friday Vigil 12-3pm

Come for any part of this vigil to sit with Jesus at the cross – with devotions, scripture, song and poetry every quarter hour, and silence in between for sacred reading or meditation.

March 31 Easter Sunday

6:00am Easter Sunrise Service in the Church Park –

we will follow the disciples going to the tomb on Easter morning in sorrow, and encountering the risen Christ! A simple service of monologues, scripture and music out in the park as the sun rises!

10:30am Easter Sunday Service in the Sanctuary –

we celebrate with hymns of joy and sacred text telling of Jesus' triumph over death and sorrow, arising and equipping those who follow with the good news of the Gospel: He is risen! He is risen, indeed!

Easter Egg Hunt for children following the service.



Skating in the Park

Mission & Ministry News

Daily Lenten Meditations can be found on the UCC website at:

<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>

One Great Hour of Sharing

Every Lent, the United Church of Christ, and many other mainline denominations, take up a special collection for World Mission. The UCC calls this offering the **One Great Hour of Sharing** which is at work all year round. This special mission offering involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration and development ministries throughout the world. When people are displaced, you are part of the response and recovery, helping to provide relief to the most vulnerable.

Collection will take place on Sunday, March 10th and giving envelopes will be available that day. Checks may be made out to the church with OGHS in the memo.



Heifer International

This is the time of our annual collection for Heifer International, a global outreach organization aiding those in poverty.

Examples of what can be purchased include:

- \$120 goat - Source of milk and meat, clears the land
- \$30 beehive - Honey can be sold
- \$20 flock of chicks Source of meat and eggs, which can be sold
- \$275 send a girl to school ... In many places, it is almost impossible for a girl to go to school

Please be generous this Lenten Season.

Checks can be made out the church with "Heifer" in the memo.

Giving jars and calendars are currently available at the church, and the collection will take place on Easter Sunday, March 31st.

Upcoming Concerts:

HOUSATONIC PHILHARMONIC is giving a FREE concert Sunday, March 3rd at 3pm in our Community Room. Come enjoy some Irish fiddling with violin, hammered dulcimer, penny whistle and more. Donations are accepted.

Tired of the
"winter doldrums" ????



then come to the



"Cabin Fever" Bell Concert
&

Corned Beef & Cabbage or Ham Dinner

Saturday, March 16, 2024

at the

**First Congregational Church of Lee
25 Park Place, Lee, MA**

Concert is at 4pm- Free for All

Dinner is at 5:15pm

Adults- \$15

Seniors- \$10

Youth- \$5

Youth under 5- free

Take outs Available

Child does not
like either???
Hotdogs & Mac &
Cheese is also on
the menu



Can come to both or either one- Up to You!

Church is handicap accessible

Church number- 413-243-1033- for any questions

Cabin Fever Concert & Dinner !!!!

Tired of the winter doldrums???? Want some uplifting activity??? The Lee Bell Choir will be playing a "Cabin Fever" Concert followed by a corned beef/ham dinner.

This will be held on Saturday, March 16th at the Lee Congregational Church. The concert will start at 4pm and the dinner at 5:15pm.

The concert is free while the dinner will be done as a fund raiser for the bell choir. People can come to either or both. Tickets for the dinner will be adults \$15, seniors \$10, children 6-12 \$5, and children 5 and under are free. The tickets can be purchased either before the event or that night. Joe Sorrentino will be our chef. Proceeds go toward paying off our recently

acquired hand chimes and the new cabinet to store our foam pads for the bell tables.

So come and enjoy.

Any questions, please ask Judy Olds or Tari Roosa.



From the Music Director

We have entered the season of Lent, some of the most solemn weeks of the Church calendar. Until the pandemic, I was always

away for my 4 weeks during Lent, and thankfully I had Dorothy to fill in and do a great job. I have always understood the meaning of Lent and how important it is in our Christian faith, and why the music for Lent is also important, but it has never been my favorite season in church. The good news is that I have Palm Sunday and Easter to look forward to. And they are two of my favorite Sundays of the year. And I am a patient person.

There are still a lot of changes going on at the church. They are all good changes and necessary. "Live Streaming" changed our world here in the church, and I think we are all doing a good job catching up with the new challenges, regulations and rules. We are taking our lead from Marisa, since she is the most knowledgeable and makes a great leader. The new microphones that the church purchased are working out very well. They should serve this church for many, many years to come. These new wireless mics allowed us to remove all of the mic cables from the altar. The cables are still connected into the 'snake' for the time being and can still be used if we have a problem. John and Tim did a great job running those cables underneath the pew next to the piano. That left me with a lot of mic cable that we are not using, along with 6 Shure SM58 mics that the church owns. A big thank you to Nate for taking two 50-foot cables and two 25-foot cables and running them for me from the Pipe Organ down to the sound board while at the same time making them almost invisible. Great job Nate. So now we have 2 "wired" mics in the organ loft eliminating the need to use two Earth Angels wireless mics every Sunday. I plan to discuss with the church the possibility of using another one of our Shure 58s for the piano mic. Both the Pipe Organ mics and the Piano mics are "muted" in the sanctuary, but necessary for the folks watching at home to hear them.

So thank you all for your patience with the changes that are being made to the music program. It is a "work-in-progress" but we have made significant improvements already, and more to come. I also want to thank the church for having my

friend Bruce Clapper spend some time with us to improve the quality of the sound both here in the sanctuary and in people's living rooms. Since that weekend I have heard nothing but good remarks regarding the improvement. Please know that you have a good team in this church trying to do whatever it takes to improve. Until next month, just waiting for Easter!

Jim Morrison



Donations Sought for Youth Going to Camp

The experience of going to summer camp can change a person's life, especially one based on the Christian faith, like Silver Lake Camp in CT. We have children/ youth who attended last year and there is interest in attending again this year. The cost is over \$500 per week per participant. We are asking for our members to be generous in supporting a Campership Fund for youth from our church to go to Silver Lake this summer. If you can help out, please specify your donation for "Silver Lake scholarships" in the memo or envelope. Thanks for helping to change a youth's life for God!!



Have you moved? Changed phone numbers? New to the church?

Send us your update or edit your own entry in the Instant Church Directory! If you haven't yet submitted a photo, please contact Elaine Scott to take your picture (can't miss her--she's the tall redhead with the Texas drawl).

Not signed on to the directory yet?

To begin, you need to create your account:

Members and friends can log into the Online Member Directory at

<https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>

You can put the app on your phone or iPad (it's really easy):

Apple App Store: Get the iPhone / iPad app [here](#)

Google Play Store: Get the Android app [here](#)

You will be prompted to enter your email address (if it's not the one we have currently listed in the directory, it won't work) and then to create a password. You will then get an email from ICD to confirm that it's you. If you are not able to access the app, please speak with Tari Roosa (church office).



Thank you to Scout Troop 3 for their help during the Scout Sunday church service on Sunday, February 11th.

Order Flowers for EASTER Sunday (March 31)

Orders due to the church office by March 24

___ Lily \$15.00

___ Tulip \$15.00

In honor / memory of: *(circle one)*



From _____

Phone _____

Please specify: *Leave flowers at the church* _____

I will take the flowers home _____

Please write a separate check made out to the church with memo designated "Easter Flowers."

Attach check or cash to your order form and place in the offering plate or mail to:

**First Congregational Church of Lee,
PO Box 395, Lee, MA 01238.**

Questions: Ch Office # 413-243-1033



First Congregational Church of Lee Prayer Ministry

Bible verse of the month: "The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." Numbers 6 verse 26.

The Prayer Ministry meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:00 am in the Parlor to pray for each person whose name appears below. Everyone is invited to participate in this Prayer Ministry. Please take this prayer sheet home. If you have names for the prayer list, complete the request form and place it in the offering plate or give to the church office. Names remain on the list for 2 months unless otherwise advised.

WE PRAY FOR

(updated 2.16.24)

Our Friends and Neighbors:

- Colleen Adams (mother-in-law of Bryan Matarazzo)
- Rev. Dawn Adams (friend of Cheryl Beeman)
- Alice 14 years old (relative of Joyce and Paul Monachina)
- Gloria and John Arnold (members of church)
- Karen Auge (friends of Gail and Jim Morrison)
- Jen Benoit (friend of Jill & Dave Topham)
- Pat Bracco (friend of Laura O'Shaughnessy)
- Carol Bugley (daughter of Robert Bugley)
- Robert Bugley (friend of church)
- Elizabeth Carman (cousin of Sandra Cozzaglio)
- Donna Carnavale (friend of Sandra Cozzaglio and Barbara Mahony)
- Jill Cozzaglio (daughter of Sandra Cozzaglio)
- Karen DiNicola (friend of Margaret Markham)
- Margie Farnham (sister of Judy Morehouse and Marilyn Fennelly)
- Isabel Fassell (member of church)
- Janice Fassell (daughter of Isabel Fassell)
- Marilyn Fennelly (member of church)
- Mary Franchere (relative of Ruth Melbourne)
- Ray Gangloff (friend of church)
- Julie Gian (friend of Jim Morrison)
- Susan Harding (friend of Danna Snow)
- Carol Kerwin (sister of Margaret Markham)
- Alex Kight (friend of Melissa Myers)
- Michael Koperek (friend of Jill and Dave Topham)
- Andrea Lalor Kosowsky (friend of Sandra Cozzaglio)
- Eddie LaDouceur (grandfather of Sarah Hoecker)
- Raven Livingston (friend of Amanda Schenker)
- Lexi Lloyd (member of church)
- Chris Ludwig (mother of Jessica Drenga)
- Peter Ludwig (husband of Rev. Brown Ludwig)
- Betty Massidda (friend of Ruth Melbourne)
- Judy McNutt (member of church)
- Joyce and Paul Monachina (members of church)
- Terri Moore (friend of church)
- Katherine Muchergee (daughter of Joyce and Paul Monachina)
- Rochelle O'Gorman (friend of Monda Driscoll, Melissa and Karl Myers)
- David Ohman (son of Conrad and Margaret Ohman)
- Judy Quakenbush (cousin of Ellen Krupka)
- Elaine Scott and family (member of church)
- Suzanne Sheaffer (cousin of Dave and Margaret Markham)
- Brody Tackus (grandson of Isabel Fassell)

- Lainey Thomas (great niece of Ellen Krupka)
- Brian Tillotson (brother of Larry Tillotson and friend of church)
- Eileen Torraca (friend of Laura O'Shaughnessy)
- John Tucker (brother of Susan Tucker)
- Susan Tucker (member of church)
- Jane Maroni Williams (relative of Sheila Maroni)

Sympathy

- Extended to the family of Gilbert Biron
- Extended to the family of Diana Brown
- Extended to the family of Henry Holt
- Extended to the family of Gerald LePrevost
- Extended to the family of George Schneyer
- Extended to the family of David Stone
- Extended to the family of Nancy Tucker

Our Friends and Members at Care Facilities: Barbara MacNayr and Hank Wingate (Landing at Laurel Lake)

Our Church: My prayer and yearning for this church is _____ (please fill in the blank) Marisa Brown Ludwig and family, our staff, our congregation, ministries, Council, children around the world supported by our church.

Our Local Community: For those who need employment, food, shelter, financial assistance, friendship.

Our Country: For our citizens and our elected officials to have the courage to carry out the message of the gospel of Jesus to trust in God's love to overcome all fears and hatreds; to bring justice to refugees, undocumented immigrants, unaccompanied minors, veterans, the unemployed, and all persons in need.


All Those Who Serve & Protect: Military, police, fire fighters, EMS, and their families.

Our World: For the victims and their families of Covid-19 pandemic, victims of persecution based on sexual orientation and identity, people displaced by ethnic violence, all who are suffering the results of catastrophic climate change, and all those whose lives are affected by war.

PLEASE PRAY FOR _____

Requested by: _____ Tel: _____



Reason for request (will not be printed on prayer concerns):



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

MARCH

The First Congregational Church of Lee, 413-243-1033, on the web: www.ucc-lee.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service & Communion 11:30am Coffee Hour 3:00pm Housatonic Philharmonic Concert 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	4 10:00am M&M meeting 3:00pm Founders Day Meeting	5 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	6 3:00pm Lenten Book Study 7:00pm Lenten Book Study	7 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	8	9 SNEUCC Super Saturday 8:00am AA SOS 
10 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service & Baptism 11:30am Coffee Hour 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	11	12 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	13 3:00pm Lenten Book Study 6:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Lenten Book Study	14 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	15 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	16 8:00am AA SOS Cabin Fever Bell Concert (4pm) and Dinner (5:15pm)
17 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 12:00pm Pastoral Relations Meeting 6:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	18 9:00am Kitchen Rental 	19 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	20 3:00pm Lenten Book Study 7:00pm Lenten Book Study	21 11:00am Prayer Ministry 7:00pm Facility & Finance Meeting 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	22	23 8:00am AA SOS 9:30am Food Pantry
24 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Palm Sunday Worship Service & Baptism 11:30am Coffee Hour 6:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	25 Messenger articles due into office 9:00am Kitchen Rental	26 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	27	28 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:00pm Maundy Thursday service 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	29 12:00 - 3pm Good Friday Prayer Time	30 8:00am AA SOS
31 6am Easter Sunrise Service 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Easter Sunday Worship Service Easter Egg Hunt following the service 11:30am Coffee Hour 6:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	1 9:00am Kitchen Rental 10:00am M&M meeting 3:00pm Founders Day Meeting	2 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	3	4 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	5	6 8:00am AA SOS

If you have a meeting/event to schedule, or would like to rent space, contact the church office.

Worship Attendance: Feb 4 – 53 in person (121 on Facebook)

Feb 11 – 68 (5); Feb 14 (Ash Wed – 21 (104)

Feb 18 – 54 (183); Feb 25 – 64 (146)



Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:30am - 12:30pm

Rev Marisa's Lenten office hours are Mondays from 10am - 2pm, Wednesdays from 11am - 3pm, or by appointment Tuesdays and Thursdays via Zoom or phone. revmarisaucclchurch@gmail.com

Daylight savings time begins, Sunday, March 10. Move clocks AHEAD one hour.

If you forget, you will be one hour late!

Daily Lectionary Readings: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>