



The APRIL 2024 Messenger



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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. (1 John 3:1,2)

Dear Members and Friends,



**FROM OUR
PASTOR**

This April newsletter comes on the very threshold of our Easter celebration – so we can faithfully proclaim: “Jesus Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!” And this is the joy of our faith: that we have the comfort of Jesus, in whom we believe that the one God, creator of all things, came near to us in our very own flesh and joined us in the struggles of this life, even as far as a death like ours, that he might meet us and transform us there. May we glimpse how great a gift this is – to perceive the nearness of God and the love that is expressed even now through the mission and ministry of Jesus, the power of the Holy Spirit.

This month we will hear about the early days after Jesus’ resurrection, when he appeared to the disciples in locked rooms and along country roads, and the earliest forming of the church began to happen. The weather will warm and our own surroundings will transition into the greening and flowering of spring, the promise of new life after the austerity of winter. May we greet all these things with stirrings of wonder and hope, no matter where we find ourselves in our lives.

As I am getting to know more and more of you, I want to help make myself accessible to you in days to come. Please know, when you called me as your pastor, we knew I lived at a farther distance from Lee than both you and I might hope, but we agreed to work together creatively to make it possible for me to be a visible sign for all of you and the Lee community. Below are my general hours on different days, and please know I can do calls and zooms even when I can’t be in Lee in person. I look forward to connecting with each of you many times in the days to come!

Leaning into the Light of Easter,

Pastor Marisa

Pastor Marisa’s General Schedule

Sundays – in person at the church 9:30 – 1:00pm (and more as needed)

Mondays and Wednesdays - in person at the church 9:30 – 4:30pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays – working from home, available by zoom and phone

Fridays and Saturday – Sabbath days of rest except in time of pastoral emergency!

My email: revmarisaucleechurch@gmail.com

My cell #: (413) 575-4497

“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; Jim Morrison, Music Director;
Glenn Withers, Sexton; 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



Holy Week

March 28 - Maundy Thursday 7:00pm Service

- Shadow & Light

Re-enacts the Passover night and the Sacrament of Communion, then with a Tenebrae service of story & candlelight

March 29 - Good Friday Vigil 12-3pm -

Come sit with Jesus at the cross – with scripture, song and poetry every quarter hour, and sacred silence.

March 31 - Easter Sunday

6:00am Sunrise Service in the Church Park –

Scripture and music with the disciples at the tomb as the sun rises!

10:30am Easter Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary –

We celebrate with hymns of joy and sacred text telling of Jesus’ triumph over death: He is risen! He is risen, indeed!

Easter Egg Hunt for children following the service.

Children are invited to participate in an Easter egg hunt following the church service on Easter Sunday, March 31st. Containers will be provided.



Heifer International

We will have our annual collection for Heifer Easter Sunday, March 31st. Donations may be left on the back table

next to the collection plates. Heifer International is a global outreach organization aiding those in poverty. Please be generous this Lenten Season. All monies will be doubled by an anonymous donor to Heifer. Checks can be made out the church with “Heifer” in the memo.

A Special Invitation to April 7 Coffee Hour

Listen, Learn and Share

Please come hear *brief* reports from our Church attendees of the Super Saturday Leadership Training event, sponsored by the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ (SNEUCC)

Hello all. I am grateful to serve as one of your delegates to SNEUCC (you can look me up in our church directory).

Attending Super Saturday was very exciting for me from start to finish! I enjoyed the worship, the workshops and connecting with and learning from the four other Lee Church attendees and people from other UCC Churches in MA, CT, and RI.

To get a taste of what inspired me, please take 14 minutes and view the keynote address from Rev. Darrell Goodwin. He is a thoughtful, energetic speaker, and he embodies why I enthusiastically embrace being a member of the UCC!

Click any of these links to view Rev. Darrell:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10985416/video/925507545>

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10985416>

<https://www.sneucc.org/newsdetail/super-saturday-keynote-show-up-and-make-a-difference-18303191>

I hope to see you after church on April 7.

Elaine Gross, SNEUCC Delegate



Coffee Hour: Do you enjoy having coffee and refreshments available after Sunday morning church services? We like to offer

beverages and a LIGHT snack each week, BUT... we need your help. Please consider signing up for one, two or three Sundays to serve.

It doesn't take a lot of time and is enjoyed by many.

You can team up with another person as well.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board near the church office or contact Wanda Klahn, organizer. 413-243-3269

Church Supper Fundraiser

Saturday, April 20th

This year's first Church Supper Fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, April 20th. The menu is Lasagna, Salad, Bread and Brownie Sundaes for dessert. Jane Gleason will have a list of food items needed to prepare the meal as well as teams needed for cooking, set up, serving and clean-up. Your donations and participation will help make this event a success.

Tickets are: Adults -\$15.00
Children (ages 5-11) - \$7.00
Under 5 – Free.



We celebrated two baptisms this past month: Brooklyn Jo (March 10) & Autumn Grace (March 24).

From the Treasurer

Below is our income and expenditures through March 15, 2024

Financial Recap through March 15, 2024		
	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD
Income		
Pledges & Donations	\$20,091.00	\$32,346.00
Fundraisers	\$12.00	\$3,312.00
Rental Income	\$2,139.00	\$4,083.00
Missions & Misc.	\$840.00	\$498.00
Memorial Donations	\$920.00	\$249.00
Investment Transfer	\$0.00	\$6,999.00
Prior Year Carry Forward	\$24,000.00	\$24,000.00
Total Income	\$48,002.50	\$77,487.00
Expenses		
Payroll & Benefits	\$37,700.00	\$42,126.00
Facility & Finance	\$9,421.00	\$10,062.00
Mission & Ministry	\$1,911.00	\$4,632.00
Total Expenses	\$49,032.00	\$56,920.00



As I sit here in my music office on the eve of Palm Sunday writing my monthly newsletter, I remember how I looked forward to Palm Sunday as a little kid in Sunday School. Not that I was a big fan of Palm Sunday since I probably wasn't really sure what it was all about. But I knew that I would get to hear my dad sing the "Holy City" in church and I was always excited to hear him sing. But I was most excited (sorry Dad) since Palm Sunday almost always marked the beginning of spring vacation from school. Sometimes vacation would begin the Monday after Easter, so after Palm Sunday, we had 4 more days of school since Good Friday was always a day off from school. And the day after Easter usually coincided with the 1st day of fishing season! What a great time of year! We all got new clothes for Easter, Dad would solo for 2 Sundays, no school and EVERYBODY went to church! Next, entire families would then gather at Grandma's house for a big Easter Feast. And let's say 80% of the time, the weather was nice, the tulips and daffodils were blooming, and we were all happy that it was Easter. And full disclosure, after the Easter service, there was not a whole lot mentioned about God and WHY we were all having this great day together. But as I grew older, I came to realize that God had arranged these reunions with the resurrection of Jesus. Without that, there would be no Easter, no singing in church, no new dress clothes, maybe even no 1st day of fishing season and definitely no Good Friday and a day off from school! That was then, and it was great. But this is now.

As most of you know I am a pretty busy guy. Have been my entire life. So whenever I see an opening for a day to escape, I talk to Gail, call Maria and we decide what we want to do with our "day off". We do a lot of different things with those days, but always something fun, relaxing or both. So about a week ago I called Maria and asked her what she wanted to do on Good Friday. There would be no school since nobody goes to school on Good Friday, so the day was ours. You cannot even imagine the

look on my face when she said, “We can’t do anything. You and Gail have to drive the school buses”. I repeated that it was “Good Friday” and she repeated yes and you have to work. Expecting to prove her wrong, I looked it up on the school calendar and sure enough, we had to work Good Friday. My next thought was it must be a typo? But after asking around a little, the answer seemed to be that the administration decided to eliminate a holiday and they decided on Good Friday. My concern is that everyone reading this newsletter understands that the future of our church and almost all churches is the youth. And that holds true for all faiths. It makes me feel like our young people are not allowed to hear about God in our schools – any God. So we shall reap what we sow and maybe, just maybe, somehow God will be able to make everything right someday. At least I pray for that. And I hope all kids get Good Friday off again, so maybe like me, they will ask their parents, “Why do we get Good Friday off from school”? And again, hopefully, their parents will know.

Happy Easter!

Jim Morrison

“Thank You” from the Bell Choir

On behalf of the Lee Bell Choir, I would like to “THANK YOU SO MUCH” for all of your support and encouragement. The “Cabin Fever” Concert with the Corned Beef/Ham Dinner was such a wonderful success.



I have to say Joe Sorrentino is an amazing chef and person. Also, I hope you enjoyed the selection of songs that we did. So far, the total is over \$1,100. I am so blessed!! We have wonderful members of the choir, which include both the singers and the congregation. I also am extremely thankful for Jim Morrison, Maria Colli and Tari Roosa for all their help. Some churches that have bell choirs only have members of the church. It is wonderful that this choir is ecumenical.

We were able to finish paying for the new handchimes and put money towards the new cabinet for the bell foam.

The bell choir has planned to be the main “instrument” on Mother’s Day for the Sunday, May 12th morning service. Please come and enjoy.

Peace, Judy Olds, Head Ding-A-Ling

Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Lee, Massachusetts, United Ch



SNEUCC Women’s Connection Spring Gathering

April 27, 2024, 9am – 3pm

**First Congregational Church,
554 Main St., Portland, CT**

The Role of the Church in Mental Health Care and Ministry

Rev. Dr. Ciarán Osborn, UCC Minister, will be the guest speaker and participants will gain knowledge about basic mental health and explore the variety of roles the church can play to create awareness and reduce the stigma of mental health challenges. See Tari in the church office for more information and registration form.

Come watch Dorian in the performance of:

INTO THE WOODS

music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by James Lapine

Wahconah Regional High School,
150 Old Windsor Rd, Dalton MA

Fri, April 5 at 7pm; Sat, April 6 at 1pm & 7pm

Adults: \$14

Students: \$12

(Note: performance contains adult themes particularly in Act II)



Bible verse of the month: "Commit thy way unto the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Palms 37 verse 5. 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 3.21.24)

Our Friends and Neighbors:

- Colleen Adams (mother-in-law of Bryan Matarazzo)
Rev. Dawn Adams (friend of Cherryl Beeman)
Alice 14 years old (relative of Joyce and Paul Monachina)
Gloria and John Arnold (members of church)
Karen Auge (friend 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)
John (friend of Maddy Tremblay)
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)
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 Emilia J. Bassett Francesso
Extended to the family of Gilbert Biron
Extended to the family of Gerald LePrevost
Extended to the family of Dick Lindsay
Extended to the family of George Schneyer

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, 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:
PLEASE PRAY FOR _____
Requested by: _____
Tel: _____
Reason for request (will not be printed on prayer concerns):

APRIL

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 6:00am Easter Sunrise Service 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Easter Sunday Worship Service Easter Egg Hunt 11:30am Coffee Hour	1 Rev Marisa is out of the office today 3:00pm Founders Day Meeting	2 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's 6:00pm Walking Our Talk Women's Circles	3	4 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	5	6 8:00am AA SOS
7 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service & Communion 11:30am Coffee Hour 11:45am Super Saturday Info Session by Delegates 2:00pm DAR Good Citizenship Essay Awards 6:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	8 10:00am M&M meeting	9 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's 6:00pm Walking Our Talk Women's Circles	10	11 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	12	13 3:00pm Birthday Party 8:00am AA SOS
14 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 6:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	15 Tari & Jim away	16 Office open 10-12 Tari & Jim away 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00pm Walking Our Talk Women's Circles	17 Tari & Jim away	18 ** Office open 10-12 Marisa, Tari & Jim away 11:00am Prayer Ministry 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	19 ** Marisa, Tari & Jim away	20 Marisa, Tari & Jim away 8:00am AA SOS 5:30pm Fundraiser Dinner - Lasagna
21 Marisa, Tari & Jim away 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service with Guest Preacher 11:30am Coffee Hour 6:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	22 Messenger articles due into office	23 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's 6:00pm Walking Our Talk Women's Circles	24	25 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	26	27 Coffee House 8:00am AA SOS 9:30am Food Pantry 9am -3pm UCC Women's Connection, Portland, CT
28 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 6:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	29	30 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's 6:00pm Walking Our Talk Women's Circles	1	2 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	3	4 8:00am AA SOS

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

**** Tari and Jim out of the office the week of April 15th – 21st. The church will be open for limited hours Mon – Thurs of that week.**

Worship Attendance (Facebook count):

- Mar 3 – 68 (110)
- Mar 10 – 66 (128)
- Mar 17 – 59 (127)
- Mar 24 – 72 (161)

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

Daily Lectionary Readings: Copies may be picked up in the church office or visit the Vanderbilt Website at: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>



Do you have someone graduating this spring?

Please send the information to the church office for publication in the June Messenger.

Please include name, school graduating from, any honors, and future plans (college or work). We would like to pray for them and bless them in worship in June.