

The Spire

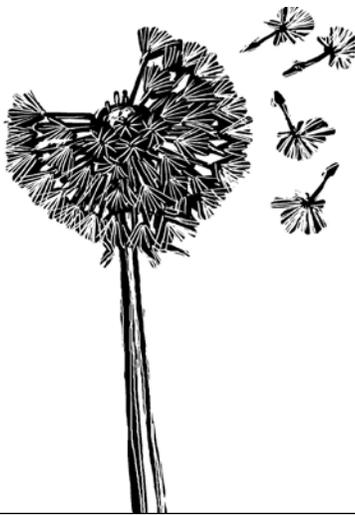
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN WINCHESTER, UCC
An Open and Affirming Congregation

MAY 2016
VOLUME 63, NUMBER 5



Come to the Annual Meeting!

176th Annual Meeting:
'New Beginnings' for an Old Church
Sunday May 1st @11:30-1:30



Please plan to attend this annual gathering of the entire congregation. Enjoy a light lunch and engage in meaningful conversations around a table with your fellow congregants in Chidley Hall immediately after worship on Sunday May 1st. The theme of this year's meeting is "New Beginnings".

The Annual Meeting is for everyone—it is a time to build community, a time to reflect on the year past, a time to celebrate our activities together, and a time to express our hopes for the future. The meeting includes a

slide show highlighting all the meaningful ministries we have collectively engaged in during the past year. Non-members are warmly invited to participate, though we ask that you not take part in any voting.

A fun activity is planned for the children. A special scientific guest is coming—you'll have to come to find out much more—and the children will have their own lunch. Parents can come and enjoy the annual meeting knowing that the children are happily engaged.

Celebration of Service Breakfast

Sponsored by the Deacons

Do you teach, sing, knit, deliver flowers, prepare meals, serve on a committee, organize events, think strategically about the future of our church, volunteer for outreach programs, contribute to the offering, or greet people warmly at worship on Sunday mornings?

Then you are engaged in service at FCCW and we would like to honor you with a delicious breakfast, an excellent speaker, and an engaging program!

The Celebration of Service Breakfast includes all people who give of themselves and care about FCCW's purpose of growing in faith, serving in love, and welcoming all with joy.

The Deacons invite you to **join us** for this special morning on **Sunday, May 15**, featuring Aba Taylor, Executive Director of the Winchester Multicultural Network, and Kaye Nash, Board Member of WMN and church member.



SAVE THE DATE
Celebration of
Service Breakfast

Sunday, May 15
8:15 to 9:45 AM
Chidley Hall

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN WINCHESTER, UCC

An Open and Affirming Congregation

www.fcc-winchester.org

Church Phone Number: 781-729-9180

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The Congregation, Ministers to the World

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Officers

Moderator—**Penny Sparrow**

Treasurer—**Bruce Lauterwasser**

Assistant Treasurer—**Keith Russell**

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Becca Beltz, Ted Lamson

Clerk—**Anne Hoenicke**

Librarian—**Leslie French**

Historian—**Bill McCarter**

Delegates to MBA—**Bill McCarter,**

Laurie Roby, Jena Roy

Spire Editor—**Nancy Kneiss**

Our purpose is to be a Christ-centered, nurturing community, growing in faith, serving in love, welcoming all with joy.

The Spire is Going Digital!

As I mentioned last month, *The Spire* will be migrating into a digital newsletter sometime this spring. A digital newsletter will increase online engagement, deliver news faster and more efficiently, and reduce our resources and production costs. Its a win-win!

But in order to make it work, we need your help to make sure you're included in our distribution list. **If you currently receive emails about the Spire being published and/or weekly news emails from the church, you're all set.**

If you don't receive weekly news emails from the church, please let me know at newsletter@fcc-winchester.org, or contact Sarah Marino at first.congregational@verizon.net or by phone at 781-729-9180 so that we can include you. We don't want you to miss out on all the fun!

For those without online access, **we will produce and mail a limited number of printouts.** If you or someone you would know would benefit from that, please let me know.

Do you have something you'd like to include in next month's *Spire*? Please send your submissions to newsletter@fcc-winchester.org by the 15th of each month. For example, to include an article in the June issue, please submit by **May 15th.** Please note that submissions may be gently edited for length and clarity.

Bulletin and email blast requests should be sent to Sarah Marino, our Office Manager, at first.congregational@verizon.net by **Thursday at 9:00 AM.**

—NANCY KNEISS, EDITOR



Fire From Heaven

On the day of Pentecost, suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came and tongues of fire rested on each of them and all were filled with the Holy Spirit.

—ACTS 2:1-4



The cycle that we began on Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter is drawn to completion this month on May 15th as we celebrate Pentecost together. That strange and sovereign journey that Jesus began by entering into Jerusalem on a Messiah's donkey, allowing himself to be executed as a criminal of the state, and then rising in forgiveness and love, now comes to a remarkable climax.

Christ does not complete his journey by exalting himself upon the throne of God to rule over the world but instead he empties himself. He sends his Spirit, the very essence of Himself, out into

the world to inspire and encourage and embolden his disciples to be, themselves, love-conduits in service to a hurting and confused world.

Pentecost is known fondly as the Birthday of the Church because the central effect that Jesus' Holy Spirit had upon all those who received it was unification. The Holy Spirit drew people together into community, originally called "ekklesia" in Greek, which we eventually translated as "church" in English. Forevermore the Christian spiritual journey would necessarily be a corporate one and

even in the face of rugged western individualism, the church remains a great bastion of the communal life.

We will celebrate this in worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 15th with a festive Time for the Young, a fiery spirit-filled sermon from Rev. Judy and by welcoming a clutch of wonderful new members into our community. We hope you can join us as together we complete the Easter cycle and enter into a new season in the life of the church!

Sincerely,

—REV. WILL BURHANS

Spread the Open and Affirming Word

On Saturday, June 11, the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC will be one of the communities of faith that will be marching (or more like strolling) in the Boston Pride Parade. Our group is a lively and popular part of the parade—with our rhythm band, welcoming chants and a big crowd of marchers. It is a wonderful feeling to proclaim God's love for all people, publicly and with pride. Members of the Ministry team are planning to go and welcome any and all to come along. The march is from 12 PM to 3 PM. There is a worship service preceding the march at Old South Church, which is usually held at 10:00 AM. Details to follow. Want to come? Let Judy know even if you think you will travel on your own, so we can meet up before it begins. Please contact Judy at 781-820-2410 or jarnoldfccw@verizon.net



SAVE THE DATE

**Boston Pride
Parade**

Saturday, June 11



**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
AS YOURSELF.**

MATTHEW 22:39

Summer Preachers Sought

A highlight of our summer worship tradition is the preaching. Members of our congregation share faith experiences and their interpretation of scripture with us. This makes worship an opportunity for church members to get to know each other better and to deepen our faith by hearing about the struggles and triumphs of those who share the pews throughout the rest of the year. These preaching spots are open to anyone in the congregation. Without exception, these sermons have been received with appreciation and encouragement. Perhaps you have a message to share. If you do, call or talk with Judy and we'll find a date that works

Summer Preachers



Call for Summer Musicians

It is time to think of summer at First Congregational Church—rich, unique summer services led by the talents and contributions of the lay congregational community. I am looking for volunteer summer musicians! Summer services are held each Sunday at 10:00 AM. If you would like to contact me directly, I would be happy to add your name to the list of summer musicians for 2016. Otherwise, the traditional sign-up sheet will be available outside the Music Room. Thank you in advance for sharing your time and talents. Keyboards, guitars, vocalists, any instruments will do! Please, please sign up if you are interested in providing music for the services, July 3–September 4. There are 10 Sundays available: 7/3, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31, 8/7, 8/14, 8/21, 8/28, 9/4.

My friend and colleague, Todd Gordon, Music Director of Second Con-

gregational Church and keyboardist extraordinaire, will be available to support the services this summer. Todd will gladly accompany a solo, fill in where/when necessary and in



general, support any of the volunteer musicians who would like to participate. Have you ever wanted to offer a solo or a small amount of music, but

have been overwhelmed by the task of providing all of the music for the service? Todd will give you a chance—you do not even need to rehearse in advance of Sunday morning. He is a *superb* sight reader and will cheerfully help you on your chosen Sunday morning. I understand that a few of you might not need Todd's services - please mark on the sign-up sheet if this is the case (or let me know). Todd is happy to do as much or as little as needed!

Get ready, you will probably hear from me in person as well!

If you have any suggestions or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jringfrank@comcast.net. Thanks!!

—JANE RING FRANK, MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS

The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring.

—BERNARD WILLIAMS

May Men's Group Meeting

The monthly Men's Group will meet on **Sunday May 1st, 7:30-9 PM** in the Palmer Room. All men of the church and their guests are welcome. We discuss matters that are personal and spiritual. Pot-luck beverages or snacks are welcome but not expected. Questions? Contact Chris Noble at chris.noble@yahoo.com



May Ruth Group

The next meeting of the Ruth Group will be held at 7pm on May 22nd at the home of Mary Ann McCall-Taylor, 8 Sanborn Street. We will be discussing *Bright Chards of Someplace Else* by Monica McFawn, a collection of short stories. All women of the church are welcome. If you don't have time to read a whole book this is a great time to join us as you can read just one short story. For further information or for transportation please contact Joyce Mills 617-835-4692 or joycemills1966@hotmail.com.

Rev. Will Burhans Installed as Lead Pastor

On April 10, Rev. Will Burhans was installed as our Lead Pastor in a joyous and moving ceremony. The installation ceremony took place during the worship service and many special guests helped to make it a festive morning. Aba Taylor, of the Winchester Multicultural Network, offered greetings from the wider civic community. Rabbi Cari Bricklin-Small, of neighboring Temple Shir Tikvah, offered a beautiful blessing and recounted the historical connections between our faith organizations. The sermon was given by Rev. Melanie Oommen, a guest UCC preacher from Eugene, Oregon. Rev. Wendy Vander Hart of the Massachusetts Conference guided the service of installation and affirmed the covenant we have made with Rev. Will. Other special guests included Rev. Will's parents. Rev. David Burhans, Rev. Burhans' father, offered prayers for the church and for the world.

Tim Cummings, a guest piper, and pianist Annemieke McLane, both of Vermont, shared their musical gifts with us, along with the choir and our own Jeffrey Mead on organ. The service was followed by a bustling reception in Chidley Hall. Please congratulate Rev. Burhans as we celebrate

the beginning of a new day of ministry at our church!



Wanted: Tree Donor



Can You Fill This Space?

Devoted *Spire* readers may remember that last fall we had to remove a badly damaged dogwood tree from the base of the church's front walk. At its April meeting the Facilities Ministry decided that Spring has finally arrived and we can make plans

to replace this tree. To do that we need to find a generous parishioner (or more than one). The cost will be a function of the tree specie chosen and could range between \$1,500 and \$2,500. The donor can help us decide what is the best replacement—our arborist suggested some alternatives to the Kousa Dogwood that was there which may improve the tree's success in this spot. If you can do this for the church there are a lot of us tree huggers that would be eager to share hugs with you (after we hug the new tree first, of course).

If you are interested in helping or would like to learn more about this please contact Bruce Alexander at bruce_alexander@comcast.net.

WELCOMING MINISTRY

Can You Be a Shepherd?

Looking for a way to serve this year? Please consider welcoming a new member or a new family joining our church by becoming their Shepherd. The first year can be overwhelming for new folks, but by being their Shepherd to answer questions, invite them to church events, or simply making introductions at Coffee Hour in Chidley Hall can make a big difference. The Welcoming Ministry hopes that you will consider this important and loving way to support our growing church community. Contact Lynne Rahmeier, Liz Sayre, Fred Greene, Laura Bailey, Jennifer Richter or Christine Tresselt for more information. We look forward to it!

—THE WELCOMING MINISTRY

Celebration of Service Breakfast

CONTINUED FROM COVER

So that we can plan accordingly for breakfast, we ask you to RSVP to Wendy Procops at waproccops@gmail.com or 617-836-9953. Childcare will be provided.

Yours in faith and service,

—LISA LOUGHLIN, DAVID PERETTI, TOM ROCHE,
TERESA CADER, MARIA FERNANDO, WENDY PROCOPS,
JENNIFER WILSON, JENA ROY, AND ANDY GALLOP



SAVE THE DATES

- 5/7 Car Wash 10 AM-2 PM
- 5/22 Youth Sunday and Rite 13 Ceremony
- 6/26-7/2 J2A Pilgrimage



SAVE THE DATE

New Members Sunday

Sunday, May 15

We will be welcoming new members into the church on Pentecost Sunday, May 15th. Come join us for a festive service and coffee hour following worship!



PLEASE JOIN US AT THE
MEMORIAL SERVICE

FOR

Marilyn White

SATURDAY, MAY 14 AT 11:00 AM

IN THE SANCTUARY

RENO GARDEN

**The Garden
Welcomes All
With Joy!**



As we celebrate the Fifth Anniversary of the Reno Garden this month, we invite you to enter the warmth of this new season by stopping by our own sanctuary in nature to witness all that's right with the world.

“The year’s at the spring
And day’s at the morn;
Morning’s at seven;
The hillside’s dew-pearled;
The lark’s on the wing;
The snail’s on the thorn;
God’s in His heaven—
All’s right with the world!”

—ROBERT BROWNING

OUTREACH

**Mother’s Day Collection
for Moms in Need**

On Mother’s Day, May 8, the Outreach Ministry invites you to bring cosmetics, bath products, little luxuries and items for newborns to the church for delivery to the mothers and mothers-to-be at New Day. New Day is a residential substance abuse treatment programs for pregnant and parenting women with

their newborns. At New Day, residents learn to parent positively in a setting that instills information on child development, nurturing, and behavior management. Women receive prenatal, OB/GYN and pediatric care as they learn to live and parent, alcohol and drug free. Your gift of comfort and luxury add a little lift to the residents who are taking this difficult journey and a reminder of God’s love and mercy. Donations can be placed in the basket in the lobby outside the office.



**SAVE THE DATE
New Day Mothers
Collection**

Sunday, May 8



SAVE THE DATE

Jazz Vespers

Saturday, May 14

4:00 PM

Last one of
the church year!

Begin Afresh

May 15 is Pentecost Sunday, the day on which we celebrate the coming of the Spirit upon each person gathered in Jerusalem long ago. This Spirit offers itself in various iterations of language, heritage, ethnicity, and variety of experience, age, and gender. The gift and challenge of this reality is hard for us to fathom. The idea that the Spirit lives within each of us, and that we each have the power of the Spirit's indwelling is an awesome responsibility, especially since we also have the ability to respond positively to the Holy Spirit, or to close ourselves off to its invitations.

A poem I love to remember at this time of year is "The Trees" by Philip Larkin:

The trees are coming into leaf
Like something almost being said.
Their recent buds relax and spread.
Their greenness is a kind of grief.
Is it that they are born again,
And we grow old? No, they die too,
Their yearly trick of looking new
Is written down in rings of grain.
Yet still the unresting castles thresh,
In full-grown thickness, every May.
"Last year is dead," they seem to say,
"Begin afresh, ...afresh, ...afresh."

We are called to allow the old foundations of our life, our families, and our church to blossom into new possibilities. Remember the story of two caterpillars edging out to the end of a tree branch? Suddenly they see a butterfly flying across the top of them. One turns to the other and says, "You'll never get me up in one of those!"

Often God's plans find us moving into new places that we could have never expected, with which we may find it difficult to cooperate. But if we can welcome new life and



change that is inevitable, we are welcoming the very presence and action of the Holy Spirit in our selves and in our midst. What a glorious possibility is offered!

What if that which is most authentic is not only ancient but also newborn, the living, that of today, the cusp we are only beginning to see? Rebecca Parker writes in "The Greening of God" (*The Center Post: A Journal of Rowe Center*, Spring/Summer 2016) "revelation comes to those who are radically hospitable to what they do not know. The choice to take the next step is an act of holy curiosity... To those who move in the midst of mystery and silence, even when trembling and afraid, the face of God sometimes appears. New ways of speaking of God arise from the luminous dark."

May God help us to welcome the new life growing out of certain endings, which we may find difficult to bear. May the promises of God sustain us as we walk together into the future that God has prepared for us, grounded in hope, faith, and love.

—REV. DR. KEN ORTH, PASTORAL COUNSELING AND SPIRITUAL
DIRECTION AFFILIATE

Revelation comes to those who are radically hospitable
to what they do not yet know.

May 2016

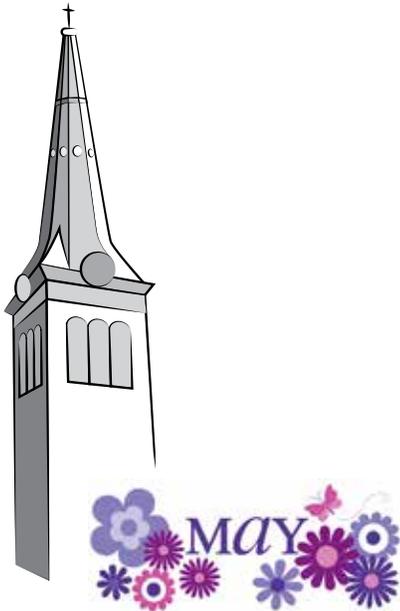
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Walk for Hunger 10:00 AM J2A Class - 9th & 10th Grades 10:00 AM Rite 13 Classes - 7th & 8th Grades 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Stepping Stones (Church School) 11:30 AM Annual Meeting 4:00 PM Girl Scouts 4:00 PM Sounds of Grace 7:30 PM FORUM (High School) 7:30 PM Men's Group	2 7:00 PM Carilloneers	3 7:00 PM Winchester Got Lunch 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	4 8:30 AM Men's Coffee & Conversation 10:00 AM FAN Toddler Playgroup 10:00 AM Ministry Team Meeting 6:30 PM Adult Faith Formation Ministry 7:30 PM Deacons	5 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	6	7 10:00 AM Car Wash~~Youth Fundraiser
8 Mother's Day 10:00 AM J2A Class - 9th & 10th Grades 10:00 AM Rite 13 Classes - 7th & 8th Grades 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Stepping Stones (Church School) 4:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:30 PM FORUM (High School)	9 7:00 PM Carilloneers	10 7:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Mission & Outreach Ministry	11 8:30 AM Men's Coffee & Conversation 10:00 AM FAN Toddler Playgroup 10:00 AM Ministry Team Meeting 6:30 PM Health Ministry 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Facilities Ministry 7:30 PM Personnel Ministry	12 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	13	14 11:00 AM Memorial Service for Marilyn White 4:00 PM Jazz Vespers
15 Pentecost SPIRE DEADLINE 8:15 AM Celebration of Service Breakfast 10:00 AM J2A Class - 9th & 10th Grades 10:00 AM Rite 13 Classes - 7th & 8th Grades 10:00 AM Worship: New Member Sunday 10:15 AM Stepping Stones (Church School) 11:30 AM Leadership Team Meeting 11:30 AM Purpose Forum 4:00 PM Girl Scouts 4:00 PM Sounds of Grace 7:30 PM FORUM (High School)	16 7:00 PM Carilloneers	17 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	18 8:30 AM Men's Coffee & Conversation 10:00 AM FAN Toddler Playgroup 10:00 AM Ministry Team Meeting 7:30 PM Worship Committee	19 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	20 5:00 PM En Ka Street Fair	21 10:00 AM En Ka Street Fair 10:00 AM Memorial Service for Suzy Tourtellot Shelton 5:00 PM The Dwelling Place 7:00 PM Youth Overnight
22 10:00 AM Rite 13 Ceremony 10:00 AM Worship: Youth Sunday 11:30 AM New Members Luncheon 4:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Ruth Group 7:30 PM FORUM (High School)	23 7:00 PM Carilloneers	24 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	25 8:30 AM Men's Coffee & Conversation 9:00 AM Ministry Team Meeting 10:00 AM FAN Toddler Playgroup	26 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Flower Committee Project 11:30 AM Outdoor Church 4:00 PM Girl Scouts	30 Memorial Day Office Closed 7:00 PM Carilloneers	31 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	1 8:30 AM Men's Coffee & Conversation 10:00 AM FAN Toddler Playgroup 10:00 AM Ministry Team Meeting 6:30 PM Adult Faith Formation Ministry 7:30 PM Deacons	2 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	3	4

The Spire

THE FIRST C CHURCH IN WINCHESTER, UCC
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We Need You!

Do you have an hour, an evening, or a weekend to give? Here are a few opportunities to serve your church and community.

Help at the Annual Meeting!

Sunday May 1st @11:30-1:30

Join us for our 176th Annual Meeting and enjoy a light lunch and discussions on "New Beginnings." We are seeking volunteers to help with a variety of tasks, including preparing or serving lunch; welcoming people as they arrive; providing tech support; setting up nametags; and taking down tables and cleaning up.

Habitat for Humanity: New Site!

Saturday, May 21

Join us for work day on **Saturday May 21**, at a new site in Lawrence. Adults and youth 16 years and up, please contact Doug Taylor, 781-729-6258 or mccall.taylor@verizon.net.

Become a Shepherd

Please consider welcoming a new member or a new family joining our church by becoming their Shepherd. The first year can be overwhelming for new folks, but by being their Shepherd to answer questions, invite them to church events, or simply making introductions at Coffee Hour in Chidley Hall can make a big difference. Please see page 6 for more information.



The beginning is the most important part of the work.

—PLATO