



Holy Week Schedule



March 20	9:30 AM	Blessing of the Palms on the Common
	10:00 AM	Palm Sunday Worship
March 24	7:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Service & All Night Vigil
March 25	11:45 AM	Good Friday Vigil Closing Service
March 26	9:30 AM	Bagels & Bunnies Easter Egg Hunt
March 27	6:15 AM	Sunrise Service (location TBD)
	9:00 AM	Easter Worship Services
	11:00 AM	
	9:45 AM	Pancake Breakfast

OUTREACH

Special Easter Offering

The recipient of the church's Easter offering this year is More Than Words (MTW). MTW works with youth in the foster care system to empower them to take charge of their lives by taking charge of a business. They challenge their young people with two jobs: the Business Job and the You Job, then provide two years of follow-up through the Graduate Program. The Business Job includes managing an online & retail bookstore in Boston and a bookstore/café in Waltham where the youth train in all aspects of business, facilitate peer-led trainings and team meetings, plan and host store events and track performance and earn promotions.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Anchors Needed

We hope that you will join us on **March 24th and 25th** for the Maundy Thursday overnight prayer vigil and Good Friday closing service. Volunteers are needed to act as "anchors" through the night for the 15-hour vigil. Anchors hold a prayerful presence in the sanctuary, keep watch over the Christ Candle, usually in 1-hour shifts, and serve as a resource to other participants. The sign-up sheet is located in the church lobby.

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN WINCHESTER

An Open and Affirming Congregation

www.fcc-winchester.org

Church Phone Number: 781-729-9180

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Officers

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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!

I am very excited to announce that beginning sometime this spring, *The Spire* will be migrating into a digital newsletter. There are many reasons for this transition:

1. **Increases readership and engagement.** The mobile-friendly newsletter will be conveniently delivered to your inbox each month. There will be shorter stories as well as links to longer stories on our website.
2. **Speedier delivery.** The printed Spire is often several days late due to an unpredictable bulk mail system. By the time it arrives in your mailbox it is often out of date. An online newsletter will mean a more timely delivery of up-to-date news.
3. **Reduces our carbon footprint.** Did you know that each year the church uses 10,395 sheets of 11x17 paper to produce the Spire? It also requires energy to print, collate, address, and mail 3,465 issues annually.
4. **Reduces resources.** Producing the printed Spire each month requires a substantial amount of staff and (ahem) volunteer time. Moving to a digital format will reduce layout and production time.



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 at newsletter@fcc-winchester.org.

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 April issue, please submit by March 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

The Welcoming Prayer

In the Christian tradition, we are heavy on directing people to love and trust God but light on offering practical tools for exactly how to do it. At the end of our Centering Prayer workshop on February 6th, the facilitator, Mark Kutolowski, introduced the Welcoming Prayer to a few participants. It is quite simply a process for loving and trusting God. Consider trying it during the remainder of Lent and note its effects on you and your relationship with God.

There are 4 steps to the prayer that are designed to open us to the presence of God especially when we are in a distressed state. The steps are as follows:

Step 1. Notice where exactly the emotional response is settling or activated in your body. Is it a tightening of the gut or stress in your shoulders or pain in your head? Just stop and note where it is manifesting.

Step 2. Welcome what you are experiencing in your body. It is there for a reason. Say something like: “welcome, welcome, welcome. I welcome and do not resist this feeling. You are welcome here.”

Step 3. Let go by repeating the following sentences: “I let go of the desire for security and safety. I let go of the desire for affection and esteem. I let go of the desire for power and control.” Remember these are all granted to us at a deeper level by God and we do not need to grasp for them.

Step 4. Rest in God for a moment. Breath deeply, let go of all thoughts, and let yourself be in God’s loving presence.

Repeat as necessary!

This can be a one-minute or a longer more contemplative process. Remem-



ber that just as our intimate human relationships require regular times of connection, of uninterrupted listening and responding to one another, so too does our relationship with God. As Lent moves through this month towards Holy Week and Easter, take an opportunity to know again the real presence of God in your life.

Yours in the Journey,

—REV. WILL BURHANS

Special Easter Offering

CONTINUED FROM COVER

The You Job helps youth learn essential life skills (e.g., opening a bank account, finding housing, getting an ID) by participating in workshops, mock interviews and resume building. The focus is on accountability and planning. The role of education in the ‘you job’ is emphasized and the youth are assisted on the path to higher education.

One of the key elements of this program is the commitment to ongoing support. Many youth age out of the foster care system with few skills for navigating independence and self-care. With the support of MTW and the experience gained there, youth are far better equipped to lead successful lives and develop their many gifts.

The week before Easter you will receive a letter with an offering envelop for you to use to support this vital work. We are also asking you to bring in a favorite book—new or lightly used—to donate along with your financial support. Their bookstores sell to all ages—so, this is an opportunity for a child to share their love of reading by sharing their favorite book. The Outreach Ministry thanks you for your always generous support of these special offerings. Empowering at-risk youth—what a great way to foster renewed life!

Leadership Team Picks Up Steam

We opened the latest Leadership Team meeting with passages from Philippians 4:6,7 and Proverbs 3:5,6, as well as a quote from C.S. Lewis around the theme of worry and fret—very apt as we collectively consider next year's budget! We decided one way to stave off worry was to pay close attention to things worth giving thanks for, and at the end of the meeting, we found we had quite a long list!

Elizabeth Cooper presented the great work she and the budget committee embarked on to prepare a draft budget. A quick review of 2015:

- We had the worst winter on record
- A movie was filmed in our sanctuary
- A new form of worship introduced—Jazz Vespers
- We formed and charged a search committee for our lead pastor
- We fully implemented the new staff model in September
- We collected more than \$19K in special offerings allowing us to support worthy outside organizations
- We said goodbye to our Interim Pastor Marlayna Schmidt in August and hello to our new Lead Pastor Will Burhans in September

We are encouraged by the initial results of our strategic initiatives spending and our investment in expanding our ministry team. The news heading into 2016 is positive—we met our \$500K pledging budget, and even increased the number of pledging units by 1 to 124. We were pleased to see that the congregation ratified the draft budget for 2016 after thoughtful consideration.

We owe special thanks to Elizabeth Cooper for her faithful service as Treasurer since 2012. She will be moving on from her post in March. The Leadership Team made an open call for volunteers, took time to define the Treasurer role as currently practiced and carefully considered candidates to invite to serve. We are pleased to announce that we have a wonderful volunteer willing to serve waiting in the wings for the March transition. We are also embarking on a long-range financial modeling exercise to help us think beyond the current calendar year in terms of sustainability, staffing and growth.



Finally, the Leadership Team is working in concert with the Purpose Forum to undertake the creation of a strategic plan, one that ensures we are living fully in to our mission statement and measuring outcomes based not just on traditional measures such as people and dollars, but “sacred happenings”. Ministries will be asked to provide input on their goals and intent for the year as part of their annual report. We'll build upon this visioning with some lively discussion at the upcoming annual meeting around our hopes and dreams for the year. This feedback will be used to develop a strategic plan and a comprehensive church-wide picture of where we are and where we want to be.



Men's Group Discussion

The monthly Men's Group will meet on **Sunday, March 6th, 7:30-9:00 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.

Lenten Prayer

Consider praying this prayer yourself or with your children or your pets sometime during Lent:

Hear our humble prayer, O God,
for our friends the animals,
especially for animals who are suffering;
for any that are hunted or lost or deserted or
frightened or hungry;
for all that must be put to death.
We entreat for them all thy mercy and thy pity
and for those who deal with them
we ask a heart of compassion,
gentle hands and kindly words.
Make us ourselves to be true friends to animals
and so to share the blessing of the merciful.

—ALBERT SCHWEITZER

Where Should We Give?

We have a one-time opportunity to make a significant donation of Outreach money, and we would like your help in deciding how to spend it! We find ourselves with the ability to spend down the Jenks Outreach fund, which has just over \$30,000 in it. This is separate from our regular budgeted outreach monies. We won't bore you with the details in this article about how this came to be, but hope you will join us at an 11th hour discussion on March 13 where we will fill you in and hear your thoughts. Your Outreach Commission has discussed a few options, such as making a donation to a nonprofit where this amount of money will be a significant boost, maintaining some money to fund adult mission trips, and others. We would love to hear about organizations that you are involved in that could benefit from this donation, and any other thoughts you might have about how to proceed.

If you can't join us on March 13, please share your ideas with us in advance and we will make sure they are considered. It is not often we can make an impact like this, and we are quite excited about making the most out of this opportunity.



SAVE THE DATE

Outreach Discussion

March 13
11:30 AM
Palmer Room



You are invited to donate a chancel Easter plant as a memorial or as a gift. Plants will be distributed to our shut-ins following the worship service on Easter Sunday, March 27.

The cost of plants is \$20.00 each. All orders are due by **Sunday, March 20.**

I wish to purchase _____ plants, which will be

_____ In memory of _____ In honor of (please check as appropriate)

Given by _____

Please return this form with a check payable to First Congregational Church, with memo "flowers" to the church office, or place it in an offering plate in an envelope marked "Easter plants"

Pilgrimage to New Mexico

Q: What is the Journey To Adulthood Pilgrimage and how is it different than the mission trip?

A: The Mission Trip is focused solely on service and connecting that service to our faith. The Pilgrimage includes service projects but it also includes opportunities for growth, reflection and discernment. Mission Trips are generally focused on group cohesion and action. While part of the Pilgrimage experience is communal, a major focus is individual.

The Pilgrimage comes when it does—at the end of J2A—because we hope it will be a vehicle for our youth to look back over their church school experience. The energy and resources put into the Pilgrimage are a gift to our youth that reinforces the value of the God-given gifts they each have to give to the world.

When we are in a new and different setting without our familiar pattern of life, we have an opportunity to clarify our identity—sometimes by what we find ourselves doing and thinking; sometimes by what we find ourselves missing and needing. We are hoping to invite questions of identity and purpose in the hearts of our youth on this journey. By its very nature a Pilgrimage is not a fast trip. The very length of it forces surrender and encourages the use of inner resources—perhaps the discovery of inner resources.

SAVE THE DATES Youth Events

3/26	Bagels and Bunnies
3/27	Pancake breakfast
4/15-4/22	Mission Trip
5/8	Rite 13 Ceremony
6/26-7/2	Pilgrimage

One of the most powerful aspects of Pilgrimage happens in the weeks and months after returning. We can only guess at what the long term effect of the

trip will be. One theme we hope will emerge is how faith informs our actions and how our actions can change the world. Next year we will be offering a confirmation class for these students to help them decide to join the church or not. We hope that this journey will be a factor in their decision making process.

The Pilgrimage this year will be from **June 26th to July 2nd** at Ghost Ranch, in Abiquiu, New Mexico. This is a

Presbyterian retreat center and we will be joining them for Youth Week. Our activities will be varied and include art, music, journaling, hiking, service, worship and small groups. We'd like you to think about this trip and your youth. Call or talk with Ben for more information and insight. We are convinced that the nature and timing (in their young lives) of this journey make it particularly powerful. Pilgrimage needs both family and congregational support. We want a good-sized group to go; but we want to be sure that those coming get as much out of it as possible. Part of ensuring that is the preparation, beginning with signing up. The sign up material with dates and details will be arriving via e-mail and snail mail soon.

Children's Chapel Service

As a way to make children more comfortable with Sunday worship, we will be offering a children's service similar to the adult service but geared more towards them. We had our first service in Ripley Chapel on February 21st, and we plan to hold them about once every two months.

The service will happen during the same time that they would normally have class. They will start in the main sanctuary and at the usual Time for the Young they will all be dismissed to the Chapel.

During the service, the children will:

1. Learn a new song to be sung at the beginning and the end of the service
2. Have an offering where children may offer a used book to donate (instead of bringing in money)
3. Learn and sing the Doxology
4. Hear a message from one of the ministers
5. Ask the children for prayer requests (and say the Lord's Prayer)
6. Benediction

Stay tuned for more dates and details!

Being Mortal: A Discussion

The Adult Ed Ministry is a group that has languished but is waking up. We had a meeting the first week in February and got excited about many ideas. This has been a very full program year with the House Communion and the Centering Prayer workshop and dinners. So our plans for a comprehensive education and faith formation program are mainly focused on next year.

We are, however, inviting the congregation to contemplate a few universal human experiences together this spring. The first of these will be on

April 3 when we will watch a Frontline presentation by Atul Gawande, the author of *Being Mortal* and spend some time discussing it. Many of you have read his book. The 50 minute video extends the conversation giving us a helpful glimpse into the medical world and how doctors present (or don't present) the news when treatment has reached its limits. In many ways, the medical world mirrors the way our culture often denies life's end as if it is an anomaly. The questions both the book and the dvd raise are less about dying than they are about how we want to live when we know the end is near. The answer to that question can become a guide for how we make decisions that honor life. The gathering will be about an hour and a half. We will begin at 11:30 and have a light lunch available.



SAVE THE DATE

***Being Mortal* Presentation and Discussion**

**April 3
11:30 AM**



NCIS: New-Comers Inquiry Session

Sunday, March 6, 11:30 AM

New to First Congregational Church? If you'd like to learn more about our community, or are interested in becoming a member, please join us for an informal sharing and informational session immediately following worship on Sunday, March 6th. Please speak to one of the ministers or let Sarah in the office know at first.congregational@verizon.net if you are interested, and if you will need childcare. The gathering will last about an hour. Please join us!

Ever Feel Like Everything is Against You?

Come to the Second Wednesday Bible Study and you'll feel much better. We are reading the book of Job. Job has the familiar experience of facing loss and turning to the heavens to ask why. His friends are sure they know why—he must have done something to deserve it. Did he? Come on **Wednesday, March 9th, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM**, and find out. The Second Wednesday Bible Study is informal, informational and inspirational. No prior knowledge is assumed—neither is certainty about your beliefs or the Bible. What is assumed is that you will get to know the person sitting next to you in the pew and the Bible a little better. We meet in the Health Ministry office. Join us!



SAVE THE DATE

Bible Study featuring the Book of Job

**March 9
7:00-8:30 PM**

Jazz Vespers: A Contemporary Riff on an Ancient Prayer Tradition

March 19, 2016, April 9, 2016 and May 14, 2016
Saturdays, 4:00 PM

Encounter the sacred through a music-shaped, experiential worship service. You are invited to join us for the return of Jazz Vespers on Saturday, March 19, 4:00 p.m., in our Sanctuary, the first of three Spring Jazz Vespers services.

The service represents an eclectic mix of prayer, poetry, scripture, congregational singing, and live jazz. Through these elements, we walk through an ancient service of prayer in a creative, informal, and meditative way. With Rev. Will and Rev. Judy at the helm, our resident jazz band (piano, bass, drums, trombone and flute) leads the way, and members of the choir offer close harmony/jazz arrangements of traditional hymns and sacred songs. There will be moments to sing, moments to listen, moments to read, and moments to pray.



Why Jazz “Vespers?” Vespers is the sunset evening prayer service of the canonical hours or daily office of prayers. This practice is believed to have been passed down through the centuries from the Apostles. Our service will be intimate yet lively, contemplative yet participatory—perfect for modern day seekers—those who are already connected to our church, and those who live in the greater Winchester area! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me! I look forward to seeing you there, and I hope you will consider inviting your friends and neighbors!

In faith,

—JANE RING FRANK, MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS

HEALTH MINISTRY

*God calls us to
abundant Life:
Faith and Well-Being,
mind-body-spirit-
in service to self
and others.*



If the Faith-Health-Healing Connection resonates with you, consider 2016-17 membership on the Health Ministry Commission. Questions? Please contact Kathleen at Kathleenzag@gmail.com



March Ruth Group

The March meeting of the Ruth Group will be held **Sunday March 27th at 7PM** at the home of Susan Sawyer, 15 Sheffield West.

We will be discussing *God Help the Child* by Toni Morrison. All women of the church are welcome and new members are invited to join us. For more information or to arrange transportation please contact Joyce Mills at 617-835-4692 or joycemills1966@hotmail.com

The Ethereal Music of Arvo Pärt

On Sunday, March 13, the Senior Choir presents special Lenten music: Arvo Pärt's haunting and effective Beatitudes, along with a few movements from his serenely beautiful Berliner Messe (Berlin Mass), both written in 1990. An Estonian by birth (September 11, 1935), Pärt's meditative compositional style is the result of a period of struggle and silence. In 1968, after prolonged conflict with the communist Soviet regime, he turned away from the complex, atonal music he was writing and stopped composing for eight years. During the 1970's, Pärt converted from Lutheranism to the Russian Orthodox faith.

This period of monastic reflection and discernment produced something completely different; he returned with music based on triads of notes, the simplest building blocks of Western music. The music was spare—filled with spacious grace and hints of Gregorian chant. He called his new style "tintinnabuli," a reference to the ringing of bells. "Tintinnabuli" embraces an entire system and even a philosophy and theology, embodying the composer's quest for the One behind the many.

Pärt's musical interpretation of Beat-

itudes—taken from the Sermon on the Mount as recorded in the Gospel of St. Matthew—traces a gradual harmonic ascent as each statement is separated by a lengthy pause. The organ discreetly lays a pedal foundation (starting with a low D-flat), working up by half-steps to G-sharp. Glints of dissonance in the homophonic choral writing animate the texture, until the organ harmonizes along with the singers' "Amen" and then proceeds with a separate concluding fantasia.

Pärt's use of chant-like declamation and slow tempos gives the Berliner Messe a stately serenity reminiscent of Renaissance choral music, and his attention to the nuances of the Latin words suggest a conversational tone. In general the work is homophonic with no counterpoint, no word painting of the text, and no palpable pulse. The vocal lines often are in unison or octaves while the accompaniment offers pedal points and high halos of sound. The result is an amalgam of asceticism and ecstasy.

Arvo Pärt's simple, meditative and unabashedly prayerful choral music is a perfect offering as we walk our Lenten journey. When asked about the silence in his music, the composer

tells us: "Silence is like fertile soil, which, as it were, awaits our creative act, our seed." Pärt has often spoken of his work as the interweaving of two currents: one is suffering, the other consolation. One is sin, the other is forgiveness. One is human, the other is divine. One is exile, the other is return. These lines are always discernable, yet always intertwined.

Please join us for worship on Sunday, March 13, as we offer this ethereal and beautiful choral music as a part of our Lenten season. If you have any questions, please contact me.

—JANE RING FRANK, MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS.



Arvo Pärt's simple, meditative and unabashedly prayerful choral music is a perfect offering as we walk our Lenten journey.

Doing a New Thing, Singing A New Song

March continues our journey through Lent, culminating in the events of Holy Week with its shadows and light, losses and triumphs, grief and joy. How is your Lenten practice going? Whatever it may be, it is not too late to take some time each day to reflect upon God's mercy, compassion, justice, and loving care for you.

This year, Holy Week begins on March 20, Palm Sunday, with its triumphal entry of Jesus, surprising us by riding on a humble donkey instead of a glorious steed.

It takes us through the solemnity of the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday where Jesus reveals to us the sacrament of communion with its bittersweet reality of companionship through death itself, and the devastating denial and betrayal that can come when we live truthfully, in concert with our deepest values and God's call.

It takes us to the foot of the cross on Good Friday where we are called to let go of our illusion that "they are the guilty" and we come to recognize our common humanity with all other beings. We must release the self-righteous illusion that "we are the good." We are called to let go of our attempts to establish safety by dehumanizing and "othering" human beings, seeing that these accusations actually make our

world a less safe place in which to live, contributing to violence, not peace.

Then comes the silence of Holy Saturday, in which the proclamation "he descended into hell" confuses us, until we sit in a place of our own abandonment, loss, broken-heartedness,



and desolation. Then the reality dawns that in that place of hell itself, Jesus is not a stranger, and comes to us. To be met in the darkness is an invaluable gift. Jesus meets us there and we wait for the bridge of the Holy Spirit to be built through the witnesses of others. As Rita Brock and Rebecca Parker tell us in *Proverbs of Ashes*, "salvation comes through the presence

of steadfast witnesses. This is a bridge of the Holy Spirit, reaching out to us in the depths of our despair. 'Nothing can separate us from the love of God.' This is our hope in the darkness of the tomb of shame, isolation, abandonment, and loss. We make this affirmation in concert with countless witnesses who affirm the same. For us, there is nothing new in this affirmation, except the newness of coming to know its truth in our own lives—as a living discovery." Others reach out to us across the Holy Spirit bridge.

Thus the door of the tomb in which we waited is opened. Easter transforms death into life. Easter is indeed the time when we carry silently in our hearts the knowledge that the Risen One with the pierced hands has kept us company in the worst that can befall us, and has shown us the way to a hope the world cannot destroy, the way into the heart of God. We are able to proclaim with new liveliness and transformed faith, "All of us go down to the dust, yet even at the grave, we make our song, 'Alleluia! Alleluia!'" God is doing a new thing for us, with us, through us. Amen.

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

The Risen One with the pierced hands has kept us company
in the worst that can befall us, and has shown us the way
to a hope the world cannot destroy,

March 2016

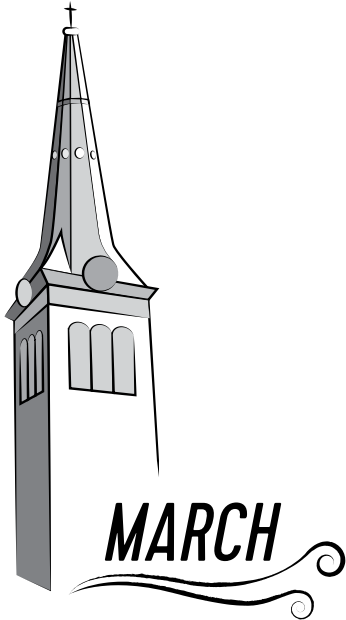
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10:00 AM J2A Class - 9th & 10th Grades 10:00 AM Rite 13 Classes - 7th & 8th Grades 10:00 AM Worship: Health Ministry Sunday and Visitation 10:15 AM Stepping Stones (Church School) 4:00 PM Girl Scouts 4:00 PM Sounds of Grace 7:00 PM Ruth Group 7:30 PM FORUM (High School)	29 7:00 PM Carilloneers	1 6:30 PM Tuesdays with Jesus 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	2 8:30 AM Men's Coffee & Conversation 10:00 AM FAN Toddler Playgroup 10:00 AM Ministry Team Meeting 7:30 PM Deacons	3 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	4	5
6 10:00 AM J2A Class - 9th & 10th Grades 10:00 AM Rite 13 Classes - 7th & 8th Grades 10:00 AM Worship: Communion Fourth Sunday of Lent 10:15 AM Stepping Stones (Church School) 11:30 AM NCIS: New-Comers Inquiry Session 1:00 PM Girl Scouts 4:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:30 PM FORUM (High School) 7:30 PM Men's Group	7 7:00 PM Carilloneers	8 6:30 PM Tuesdays with Jesus 7:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Mission & Outreach Ministry	9 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	10 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	11	12 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
13 Daylight-Saving Time Begins 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 Outreach 11th hour 4:00 PM Girl Scouts 4:00 PM Sounds of Grace 7:30 PM FORUM (High School)	14 7:00 PM Carilloneers	15 SPIRE DEADLINE 6:30 PM Tuesdays with Jesus 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	16 8:30 AM Men's Coffee & Conversation 10:00 AM FAN Toddler Playgroup 10:00 AM Ministry Team Meeting 7:30 PM Worship Committee	17 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	18	19 4:00 PM Jazz Vespers 5:00 PM The Dwelling Place
20  Palm Sunday 9:30 AM Blessing of the Palms 10:00 AM J2A Class - 9th & 10th Grades 10:00 AM Rite 13 Classes - 7th & 8th Grades 10:00 AM Worship Palm Sunday 10:15 AM Stepping Stones (Church School) 11:30 AM Leadership Team Meeting 4:00 PM Sounds of Grace 7:30 PM FORUM (High School)	21 7:00 PM Carilloneers	22 6:30 PM Tuesdays with Jesus 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	23 8:30 AM Men's Coffee & Conversation 10:00 AM FAN Toddler Playgroup 10:00 AM Ministry Team Meeting 7:30 PM Purpose Forum	24  Maundy Thursday 7:30 PM Service of Tennebrae 9:00 PM Maundy Thursday Vigil	25  Good Friday 11:45 AM Vigil Closing Service	26  9:30 AM Bagels & Bunnies
27  Easter Sunday 6:15 AM Sunrise Service 9:00 AM Easter Service 9:45 AM Pancake Breakfast 11:00 AM Easter Service 7:00 PM Ruth Group 7:30 PM FORUM (High School)	28 7:00 PM Carilloneers	29 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	30 8:30 AM Men's Coffee & Conversation 10:00 AM FAN Toddler Playgroup 10:00 AM Ministry Team Meeting	31 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	1 Tentative Vikki Hoeffle Workshop	2 Tentative Vikki Hoeffle Workshop

The Spire

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN WINCHESTER
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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.

The Facilities Ministry Needs You!

Would you like to make our church a more attractive, comfortable, and welcoming place? Please consider sharing your talents and ideas by joining the Facilities Ministry. For more information, please contact John Crabtree at 781-862-3540 or jcrabmail@gmail.com

Vigil Anchors Needed

Can you act as a 1 or 2-hour "anchor" for the Maundy Thursday overnight vigil on March 24? See the article on the cover for more details!

Easter Plant Donation and Distribution

Can you donate a chancel Easter plant as a memorial or gift or help distribute plants to shut-ins following the service on Easter Sunday, March 27? See page 5 for more info.

Health Ministry Team

Interested in the connections between faith, health, and healing? Join the Health Ministry team! Contact Kathleen Zagata for more info at Kathleenzag@gmail.com



Our old history ends with the cross;
our new history begins with the resurrection.

—WATCHMAN NEE