



Steeple Notes

The First Congregational Church of Rowley
United Church of Christ

175 Main Street • P.O. Box 364 • Rowley, MA 01969



Sunday Worship Services
10am*

Reverend Tom Bentley

Sunday, April 3
Holy Communion

Palm Sunday, April 10

Easter Sunday, April 17
6:00 am*

Sunday, April 24

Lenten Series

7pm

Monday, April 4

6:30pm

Monday, April 11

In person or on Zoom

UCC officers share prayer for Ukraine

by UCC Leadership | published on Feb 24, 2022

“There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.”

Proverbs 6:16-19



As the attention of the world turns to the ignored cries for peace from the people of Ukraine, we the officers of the United Church of Christ join our prayers with those of churches and people of faith all over the globe that the attack against Ukraine will cease. As a Just Peace Church, the UCC calls for the de-escalation of violence and a return to diplomatic negotiations, the only true way conflict ever ceases. We urge our members to pray throughout the day for peace and protection against the evils of war for the people whose lives and well-being are in danger.

Holy God,

Hear our prayers for all those who will die today because of war in Ukraine and other war-torn countries all over this world. Grant them an end to the suffering of this world and eternal peace that is only found in You.

We pray for the people of Ukraine, Russia, and all nations — that war and bloodshed can be avoided and a new, just peace can be forged out of this crisis. We ask God grant wisdom to the leaders of nations, calling them to end provocation on all sides and invest instead in “the things that make for peace” as called for in all our faith traditions (Luke 19:41-2). Amen



Easter in Ukraine



On March 3rd The corpus, or body of the crucified Christ, from the Armenian Cathedral in Lviv was removed and hidden in a bunker in case of shelling. Thus began the world's Lenten Journey for this desperate year of 2022.

The photo eerily recalls medieval paintings of the 14th Century "station" where the body of Jesus is taken down from the cross.

Sometimes the divine love of God must hide in a bunker with the suffering and afflicted who are victims of the cruelty of the oppressors who remain on top.

The 14th century was a horrific hundred years of war and deadly plagues. When the pandemic of the

black death toll reached staggering numbers, people began to blame the condition on the Jews, the rich, and even the Catholic Church.

How strange it is that in our current time we hear echoes of the same blame directed at the same parties.

Also, along with this suffering long ago, there emerged a strange narrative which promoted belief in witchcraft.

I suggest our modern equivalent is the explosion of conspiracy theories now filling the social media platforms.

My prayer for these days before the Easter miracle is that in our hiding in the dark passages of our lives we may understand the corruption which is happening on the surface. We are under seige by a legion who must be recognized as Christian fascists. They celebrate the rule of Vladimir Putin. They use Christian language. They condemn globalism and the inclusivity of democracy.

The violence in Ukraine is forcing us to have - as we say - a "come to Jesus moment". Can we see Him in the persecuted people in that war torn country? Can we see their brokenness as His fractured body? Can our hearts melt to lovingly take Him into our care? Can we believe that if we do take custody of His broken body, new life will rise again to champion justice- marked by truth and compassion? Can we as a church have the courage to say on Easter morning "He is risen indeed"...and then climb out of our bunker to live the way He calls us to live?

In due time we shall see...

Grace and Peace to You In the Journey...

Rev. Tom

Fellowship Thrift Shoppe

4 Thrifting Tips

from masterclass.com/articles/hot-to-thrift-shop

1. Sell or donate before you buy. Selling (or donating) a few items that you are no longer using can help you save money for your thrifting and create storage space for your upcoming purchases.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 9 8:00-9:30am

**Fluffy delicious pancakes and toppings,
Bacon, Turkey Sausage
Coffee and Juice**

**\$8
free for
kids
under
6yrs**



2. Dress appropriately. Many thrift stores don't have fitting rooms, so you might need to wear something you can easily slip secondhand clothing over to try on. Secondhand stores usually don't offer refunds, so you want to make sure your clothing fits before you buy it.

3. Give yourself a clear goal. Thrift shopping should be about finding things you need, not meandering around looking to collect items. Take note of the things you already own, then make a mental list of the things you're looking for. If you need to, take pictures with your smartphone to help you remember what you have and what you want.

4. Avoid impulse buys. Thrift stores may have low prices, but it can start to add up if you buy enough items. Set a budget and leave your cards at home. Taking a cash-only approach will help you stick to your list of needs and help you avoid overspending.

Open for Shopping
and Donations

Thursdays 3-6:00pm &
Saturdays 9am-1:00pm

Contact Paul Chang
857-206-0792
about donations.

**April
Office Hours**

**Monday, Wednesday
& Thursday
10am-3pm**

email:
FirstChurchRowley@gmail.com

Facebook and Instagram:
@FirstChurchRowley
#FCRowleyCares



**Happy Anniversary
Billy & Ellie Manning
4/24**

Fundraiser



Jerry Schmidt	4/5
Sara Stafford	4/11
Nicholas Morris	4/16
Les Warren	4/16
Scott Gebow	4/19
Sabba & Sara Whitmore	4/23
Beverly Phillips	4/28
Sean Pyburn	4/28

50% of proceeds to help Ukrainian Missions that Doug Stoddard, a former missionary in Ukraine has vetted.

50% of proceeds to benefit the Missions Fund for local missions.

**Saturday, April 2nd
10am-1pm**

Contact Danby to donate or more info
danbywhitmore@gmail.com

We have some exciting things happening this month. We hope you can join us for an Easter egg hunt on Saturday April 16th hosted by our Missions Committee. All ages are welcome to hunt for eggs, so don't forget your basket! We are also so happy to announce our "Pets Unleashed" Vacation Bible School on Saturday April 30th with Patti Cummings. We will have a bible story, snack, games, a craft, and even adopt your very own special friend to take home! See the attached flyer for more information on this fun program. We hope to see you there!

Below you will find our lesson on Easter as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. See you soon at the church!

Please contact Amy Hanson at aleehanson@hotmail.com or Shawna in the church office if you would like more information about Sunday School or Youth Group.



**Saturday,
April 16**

11:00 am

Bring your basket or bag



Luke 24:1-12

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women were very sad. Jesus had been killed on a cross. They wanted to prepare his body, so very early on Sunday morning, the women went to Jesus's tomb. But when the women got there, they found the stone rolled away.

When they went inside of the tomb, they didn't find Jesus's body. Suddenly, two angels appeared. The women were afraid. The angels said, "Why are you looking for Jesus here? He isn't here. He has risen!" The women ran to the disciples and told them what had happened at Jesus's tomb.

The disciples didn't believe the women. Peter ran to the tomb. When he looked inside, all he saw was the linen cloth. He went back home wondering what had happened.



Saturday, April 30 * 10am-Noon at First Church of Rowley

Vacation Bible School Event

The Bible lesson is from Genesis 1. The story of creation, keying in on God putting us in charge of taking care of all of HIS creatures. Geared towards Pre-K-2nd grade, and all are welcome. The event includes the Bible story, games, crafts, and snacks.

Blessing of the Pets at noon with Reverend Tom

Parents come back with your pets, if you do not have a pet, or your pet is not good around other pets, you can bring a stuffed pet from home or adopt a small stuffed dog at the event (Noontime)

175 Main Street, Rowley, MA

**First Congregational Church, U.C.C.
Rowley, Massachusetts
March 15, 2022**

To: The Members and Friends, First Congregational Church, U.C.C., Rowley, Massachusetts

The 382nd Annual Meeting of the church will be held on Sunday, April 24, 2022 beginning no earlier than 8:30 a.m. immediately before the 10:00 a.m. worship service. A continental breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m.

Items on the agenda for the business meeting are:

1. To hear and act on annual reports of the various officers, boards, and committees from the previous year.
2. To hear and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee (elections).
3. To hear a report regarding the "All Church Meetings"
4. To hear a report regarding the "Monument at the Minister's Woodlot"
5. To hear and act upon any other business which may properly come before the church membership.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Irving
David E. Irving, Clerk

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Whenever there is a need for spiritual support, you are encouraged to call anyone on the Prayer Chain with your concerns and they will inform the others so that our prayers of love and support can be with you immediately.

The Prayer Chain members are as follows:

Patti Cummings(978) 948-8176
Kay Dalzell(978) 948-2674
David & Donna Irving(978) 948-7020
Nicola Pyburn(978) 948-2598
Ken Sanford(978) 948-2847
Jerry & Nancy Schmidt(978) 388-1417
Les Warren(978) 352-7551

Please pray for....

Beverley Phillips, Pat and Steve True
Denise, Mary Hartman
Kim Cyr, Millie Gates
Margaret Niska, Robert Chapman
Joyce Ernstrom

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Boy Scouts 5:30pm	2 Bake Sale 9-2 Thrift Shop 9am-1pm AA 7pm
3 Worship 10am Sunday School	4 COA Exercise 1pm-2pm Lent Series 7-8:15pm	5	6 GTKU Getting To Know US 10am-Noon	7 Thrift Shop 3-6pm Alanon 7pm	8 Boy Scouts 5:30pm	9 Pancake Breakfast 8-9:30am Thrift Shop 9am-1pm AA 7pm
10 Palm Sunday Worship 10am	11 COA Exercise 1pm-2pm Lent Series 6:30-8pm	12 Executive Committee 7pm	13 GTKU 10am-Noon Diaconate Meeting 7pm	14 COA Watercolor 9am Thrift Shop 3-6pm Alanon 7pm	15 Boy Scouts 5:30pm	16 Easter Egg Hunt 11am Thrift Shop 9am-1pm AA 7pm
17 Easter Worship 6:00am	18 COA Exercise 1pm-2pm	19 Compas- sionate Care Network 6:30pm	20 GTKU 10am-Noon	21 Thrift Shop 3-6pm Alanon 7pm	22 Boy Scouts 5:30pm	23 Thrift Shop 9am-1pm AA 7pm
24 Worship 10am	25 COA Exercise 1pm-2pm	26	27 GTKU 10am-Noon Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm	28 Thrift Shop 3-6pm Alanon 7pm	29 Boy Scouts 5:30pm	30 Pet's Unleashed Blessing Thrift Shop 9am-1pm AA 7pm