



Steeple Notes

First Church of Rowley United Church of Christ
175 Main Street • P. O. Box 364 • Rowley, MA 01969



Plant it Forward

They arrived yesterday by special shipping six feet long. The narrow box lay flat-side down across my front steps buttoned up with a ton of copper staples. Inside were a Bartlett and an Anjou pear tree. The Bartlett will grace my front yard along with my three peach trees, single cherry tree, and apple. The Anjou I will espalier against the southern foundation of my house. Someday its outstretched branches will lay against a trellis gracing this sunny alcove that faces Brown's Pond here in the Wheeler's Point section of Gloucester. Hopefully they will bear fruit in 3 to 5 years. I wonder if I will still be bearing fruit by that time. It seems crazy to be planting fruit trees as an old man. Measuring out the distance for the trellis lines, I imagine how the tree branches would twist, and turn as they grew. Suddenly, to my memory came the image of Christ on the cross as painted in the Isenheim altarpiece now displayed in the Unterlinden Museum in Alsace France. In this painting by Matthias Grünewald the arms of Jesus were painfully contorted with palms nailed upward toward the sky. Did he not bear fruit for centuries to come? Our little time measures short in the eternal season of God. Nonetheless, I will plant for future generations – even if they refuse to tend my fruit trees, and even if they cut them down. Easter comes by faith alone. That is its blessed harvest.

*Grace and peace to you all,
Rev. Tom*

Holy Week Services and Other Important Dates to Save!

- Maundy Thursday Service - Thursday April 6, 7 pm
- Easter Pancake Breakfast - Saturday April 8, 8-9:30 am, followed by Easter Candy Hunt, 10 am
- Easter Sunrise Service at Rowley Town Landing - Sunday April 9, 6 am
- Easter Worship Service - Sunday April 9, 10 am
- Marriage Workshop Part 1, April 15, 9 am -12:30 pm
- Community Dinner, (Pork Tenderloin), April 22, 4:30 & 6 pm seatings
- Monthly Community Café, April 26, 8:30 -10 am
- Marriage Workshop Part 2, April 29, 9 am -12:30 pm
- Annual Meeting April 30, 8:30-10 am
- Mother/Daughter Tea, May 13, 11 am - 1 pm
- Annual Plant Sale, May 20, 9 am-1pm

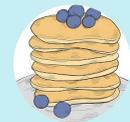
"We are a church that lives by faith, is known by love...A VOICE OF HOPE SERVING THE COMMUNITY"

Sunday Worship Service

10am

Reverend Tom Bentley

Pancake Breakfast April 8, 8-9:30am



Followed by
Easter Candy Hunt
10:00 am

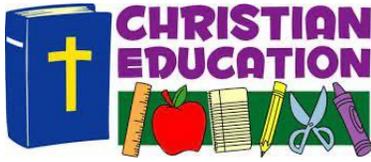


Community Dinner
(Pork Tenderloin)
April 22, 4:30 & 6 pm
seatings

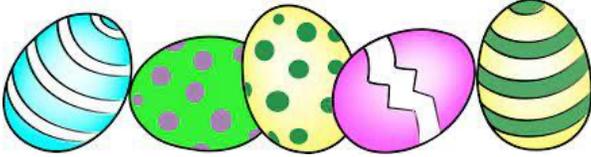


Community Cafe
April 26, 8:30-10:00 am





Annual Easter Candy Hunt . . .



We hope you will join us once again for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt along with the Missions team on Saturday April 8th at 10:00 am.

Sunday school classes will be held on April 2nd and April 30th this month. Save the date! For our Childrens Sunday celebration on May 21st. Please note this correction to the Sunday School schedule. We will have a slideshow presentation honoring our Sunday School class followed by an ice cream social for all to enjoy. We hope you can join us.

The CE committee is currently seeking new members as well as a chairperson as current members have fulfilled their terms of service. If you are interested in bringing new and creative ideas to our Sunday School and Youth Group programs, please reach out to Amy Hanson or Patti Cummings for more information on the Christian Education program. We could really use your help to continue to grow our roster as well as to provide our children with a fun and enriched Sunday School experience. Please contact Amy Hanson at aleehanson@hotmail.com or Christine in the church office if you would like to register for Sunday School or Youth Group. See you at the church!



Hours: Thursdays, 3 - 6 pm & Saturdays, 9 am - 1 pm



Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday: Music is such an important part of our worship services! If you've ever thought about singing with the choir, this is a perfect opportunity to join the friendly members of the Inspirational Singers to share the joy by singing on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Please speak to any member of the Inspirational Singers if you'd like to join us for a week or two...or longer! We're also thrilled to share that Marge Thurston and the Butler family will be adding beautiful instrumental music on Easter Sunday.

*Get ready for summer at the
First Church of Rowley's*

Plant Sale

Saturday, May 20, 2023
9:00 am-1:00 pm
Kick off the summer with beautiful plants for your garden!
Enter our raffle to win a beautiful hanging plant!

Getting To Know Us- Women's Study Group
Meets every Wednesday morning 10 am - noon



MEETING REMINDERS

Cabinet Meetings - The first Wednesday in the following months: March, June, September December

Annual Meeting - The last Sunday of April. This year it's April 30th, 8:30 am.

Semi Annual Meeting - The first Sunday in November

The Executive Committee - The first Wednesday of the month between Cabinet Meetings.