



First
Congregational
Church OF BOYLSTON

FIRST CHURCH NEWS

April 2024

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

- 1 Peter 1:3-4



REFLECTING THE MANY FACETS OF OUR LIVES TOGETHER AS A FAMILY OF FAITH

MUSINGS FROM YOUR PASTOR

It is now after Easter and I want to make you aware of two important things in the life of our church, our newest teaching series and our bylaws.

First, death is inevitable. I'm sure you know that. I'm sure that at some point you have had some existential crisis as you ponder your inevitable demise.

We are told to work hard and prosper, and yet we all ask the question, for what?

“Everything is meaningless,” says the Teacher, “completely meaningless!” — Ecclesiastes 1:2

Sometimes, this is exactly how life feels. This is how we feel.

For the next few weeks, we will be listening to the seemingly cynical ramblings of an old Man from the Bible, in a series called “A Meaningful Life.”

I love this book because it is such a brutally honest look at life. I really believe that if we read this book in light of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection we will learn how to find meaning in it all and we will be equipped to bear witness to God's goodness and beauty through it all.

I hope you can be part of this journey with us as we gather at 10 am every Sunday.

The second thing I want to mention is that our church leadership will be evaluating our organizational health and coming up with plans to help us continue to grow in health (spiritually and numerically). We are using the NCD survey, which you will read more about on the next page.

Once completed, we will share the results. The survey results will help us form a strategic plan for the next year or two. We want to bring glory to God the Father, by bringing people to God the Son and being filled with God the Holy Spirit. This is a practical tool that will help us see where we are and pray about where God wants to take us.

I am a strategy geek, so things like this really excite me. You will hear more, but please pray for the process. We want to do everything we can to do what God has called us to do.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Pastor Zac

The Servant Leadership Team Update — April 2024

Following is a summary of some of the things discussed at the Servant Leader meetings:

- National Day of Prayer - Thursday May 2nd Theme: "Lift up the Word - Light up the World". There will be a community event on the Town Common starting at 6:50PM.
- We are bringing back our annual tradition of First Responder Recognition Sunday on April 28th.
- The Safety team met with the Fire and Police chiefs to discuss a safety plan for FCCB.
- Pastor Zac would like to do a Bible directed study on leadership during the Servant Leadership Team Ministry meeting.
- Servant Leaders looked at attendance trends for the past year and discussed how to best utilize seating in the church as attendance grows.

NATIONAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT SURVEY (NCD)

Item E-15/page 13 of the FCCB Constitution and By-Laws states:

"Sometime during each leap year, the Pastor and Servant Leadership Team (SLT) will...lead the church in a thorough evaluation of its spiritual and organizational health resulting in long range plans that will lead the church into ongoing revitalization."

To address this responsibility, we voted and approved the purchase and implementation of the National Church Development Survey (NCD) in the next 90 days. This widely known and utilized diagnostic tool will enable us to precisely assess our present quality and help us identify the area(s) of greatest opportunity for improvement. Surveys will be provided to a sample of church members representing broad, preselected (by NCD) demographic criteria. We look forward to sharing the results of the NCD Survey later this year.

Please participate with us in this year's
National Day of Prayer - May 2, 6:50-7:15pm
Meet at the Gazebo on the Boylston Town Common

Across the country, neighbors will pause and connect in reflection, prayer, and thanksgiving. Families, community leaders, first responders, nurses, teachers and all those who have served, or are currently serving in the military are encouraged to attend! Dress for the weather.



**Text '2024States' to (833) 259-8648
to receive a weekly prayer prompt for
each U.S. state and territory!**

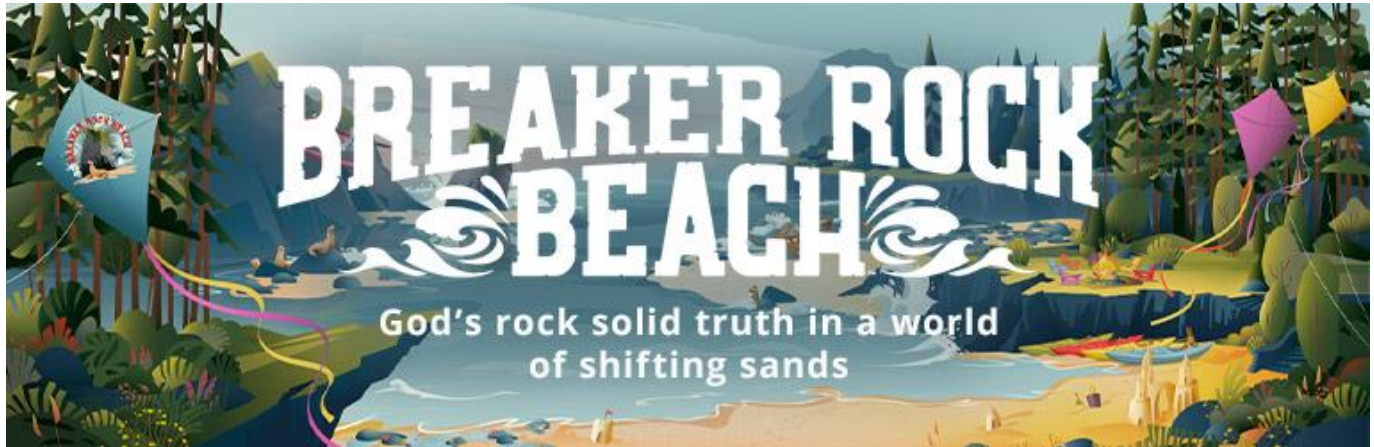


~ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ~

SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Date: July 29th-Aug 2nd

Theme: Breaker Rock Beach- At Breaker Rock Beach, kids will learn to recognize the difference between what the world says is true and what God says is true.



~ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! ~



Formerly known as “Fellowship Coffee Hour” – **Coffee & Community** is the time we gather as a community immediately after our Sunday Worship Service to share something to eat and drink, welcome new people, and check in with friends. For many, this fellowship time feels like an extension of our worship. Each week, we need 3-4 volunteers for set-up, clean-up and to supplement the food. Some folks enjoy making this a bigger affair, and that’s wonderful, but not necessary. We suggest you keep it simple. You’ll need to arrive early, bring and prepare food and beverages for service; refill coffee as needed, and help with clean-up. Additional instructions and guidelines will be provided to you. Please sign up on the board in Fellowship Hall.

BLESS YOU FOR AGREEING
TO SERVE IN THE IMPORTANT “FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY” OF FCCB!



The **Sunday School** teachers are still looking for 1 [CORI checked](#) volunteer per week, excluding Family Sundays, to be a helper for Sunday School. We need an extra set of hands for games and crafts each Sunday. Please sign up on Breeze, on the Sunday School Volunteer Sign-up Board, or talk with one of the Sunday School teachers to volunteer. Thank you in advance!

~ FIRST RESPONDER'S DAY ~

Our church family invites all First Responders and their families to join us on Sunday, April 28th, as we honor you for your service. Coffee & Cake will be served after the service.



~ TRUSTEES ~

Spring cleanup. The church that prays together rakes together.

Saturday April 13 at 9am. Bring a rake, work gloves, leaf blower and join the fun. Kids are welcome as there are branches/sticks to be gathered and taken care of.



~ THANK YOU ~

Thank you so much to the wonderful women of our church who put together a beautiful shower for us on Sunday March 17th. We feel so much love, excitement, and support as we prepare to welcome these two little boys. We are blown away by your generosity and kindness, thank you so much. We can't wait to watch these boys grow up in the faith and family of Jesus Christ.

With love,

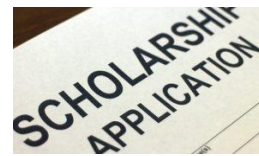
*Ethan and Abigail Borchelt and
Emily and Aaron Pearl*

~ DEACONS ~



If anyone would be interested in serving as **Worship Leader** on a Sunday, we would love to add your name to the list. You can let [Darcy](#), our church admin, know that you are interested and she will include you. Breeze will send out dates by email and you can sign up for a date that fits your schedule. No training required but if you have questions contact one of our Deacons.

~ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS ~



Scholarship Applications are now available from the First Congregational Church Scholarship Fund.

Please look on the bulletin board for a paper application or click [here](#) to download the form. First Congregational Church Scholarship recipients must be students who are both active in the church and church members. Applications are due back in the church office no later than Sunday April 21st.



What's Happening This Month?

April 1	6:00 p.m.	Young Women's Bible Study	April 21	8:45 a.m.	Choir Practice
April 1	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting	April 21	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
April 2	6:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	April 21	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
April 3	10:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study - Morning	April 21	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hour
April 3	6:30 p.m.	SLT meeting	April 21	2-3:30 pm	Girl Scouts Meeting
April 4	10:00 a.m.	Christian Outreach Meeting	April 22	6:00 p.m.	Young Women's Bible Study
April 7	8:45 a.m.	Choir Practice	April 22	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
April 7	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/ Communion/ Family Sunday	April 23	6:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
April 7	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hour	April 24	10:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study - Morning
April 8	6:00 p.m.	Young Women's Bible Study	April 22	Newsletter	Article Submissions Due
April 8	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting	April 28	8:45 a.m.	Choir Practice
April 8	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting	April 28	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
April 9	6:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	April 28	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
April 10	10:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study - Morning	April 28	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hour
April 11	10:00 a.m.	Ladies Benevolent Society	April 29	6:00 p.m.	Young Women's Bible Study
April 14	8:45 a.m.	Choir Practice	April 29	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
April 14	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service	April 30	6:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
April 14	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School	April 30	6:30 p.m.	Deacons Meeting
April 14	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hour			
April 14	11:00 a.m.	Christian Ed Meeting			
April 15	6:00 p.m.	Young Women's Bible Study			
April 15	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting			
April 16	6:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study			
April 17	10:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study - Morning			
April 17	6:30 p.m.	SLT meeting			

APRIL

~ Volunteer Schedules ~



~ April 2024 ~ Volunteer Schedule

~ Lay Reader/Worship Leader~

April 7 - Cheryl Mongeon
 April 14 - Susan Patterson
 April 21 - Peter Haynes
 April 28 - Tom Tasker

 Deacon – Ginny Ekblom



~ May 2024 ~ Volunteer Schedule

~ Lay Reader/Worship Leader~

May 5 - Josh Martin
 May 12 - Karyn Wagner
 May 19 - Susan Patterson
 May 26- Gigi Zepp

 Deacon – Marsha Wagner

The First Congregational Church of Boylston

10 Church Street
Boylston, Massachusetts 01505

Worship Schedule

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Service of Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Zac Stephenson
Ministers: All the Members
Office Administrator: Darcy Gebo
Office Phone: (508) 869-2027
Website: www.fcc-boylston.org
Office E-Mail: admin@fcc-boylston.org
Pastor's E-Mail: zac@fcc-boylston.org
Servant Leaders: servantleaders@fcc-boylston.org

Office Hours:
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Monday - Friday
And by appointment

Our Purpose

The First Congregation Church of Boylston is a welcoming family and community-oriented church inspired by the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ that seeks to present the good news, equip our parishioners with a faith that works in real life, and send them into the world to serve in Jesus' name.

Our Covenant

Having become believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we now, rely on the Holy Spirit to help us live this covenant we make with our Lord and one another. In all we do, we will aim to glorify God.

We make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace by walking together in love and by putting away all bitterness, anger, and hurtful speech. With humility, gentleness, and patience, we will be kind to one another, tenderhearted, and forgiving each other, even as God has forgiven us.

We will carry each other's burdens, rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep.

We will train our children in the instruction of the Lord and strive to live godly lives, seeking to walk in a way that is consistent with the teachings of Christ before our family, friends, and neighbors.

We will gather regularly for worship, prayer, instruction in God's Word, and fellowship with one another and the sacraments of baptism and communion. We will contribute cheerfully and generously to the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the advancement of the Gospel both to our neighbors and the nations.

And when we move from this place, we will partner with another church with whom we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. So help us, God.

The First Congregational Church
Of Boylston
Gathered 1743
10 Church Street
Boylston, Massachusetts 01505



**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY
Department of Criminal Justice Information Services 200**
Arlington Street, Suite 2200, Chelsea, MA 02150
TEL: 617-660-4640 | TTY: 617-660-4606 | FAX: 617-660-5973
MASS.GOV/CJIS



This form is not to be faxed. Please return form to organization.

**Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI)
Acknowledgement Form**

To be used by organizations using consumer reporting agencies to conduct CORI checks for employment, volunteer, subcontractor, licensing, and housing purposes.

_____ is registered under the
(Organization)
provisions of M.G.L. c.6, § 172 to receive CORI for the purpose of screening current and otherwise qualified prospective employees, subcontractors, volunteers, license applicants, current licensees, and applicants for the rental or lease of housing. _____ has authorized
(Organization)
_____ to submit CORI checks
(Consumer Reporting Agency)
to the Massachusetts Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS) on its behalf.

As a prospective or current employee, subcontractor, volunteer, license applicant, current licensee, or applicant for the rental or lease of housing, I understand that a CORI check will be submitted for my personal information to the DCJIS. I hereby acknowledge and provide permission to _____
(Consumer Reporting Agency)
to submit a CORI check for my information to the DCJIS. This authorization is valid for one year from the date of my signature. I may withdraw this authorization at any time by providing _____
(Organization)
with written notice of my intent to withdraw consent to a CORI check. I also understand that this form is a CORI acknowledgement form and I am entitled to additional consumer reporting disclosure forms under the Fair Credit Reporting Act. If I have not received those disclosures, I should contact _____
(Organization)
to request this information.

FOR EMPLOYMENT, VOLUNTEER, AND LICENSING PURPOSES ONLY:

I also understand that the _____, on behalf of
(Consumer Reporting Agency)
_____ may conduct
(Organization)
subsequent CORI checks within one year of the date this Form was signed by me.

By signing below, I provide my consent to a CORI check and affirm that the information provided on Page 2 of this Acknowledgement Form is true and accurate.

Signature of CORI Subject

Date



**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY
Department of Criminal Justice Information Services**
200 Arlington Street, Suite 2200, Chelsea, MA 02150
TEL: 617-660-4640 | TTY: 617-660-4606 | FAX: 617-660-5973
MASS.GOV/CJIS



SUBJECT INFORMATION

Please complete this section using the information of the person whose CORI you are requesting.
The fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required fields.

* First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

* Last Name: _____ Suffix (Jr., Sr., etc.): _____

Former Last Name 1: _____

Former Last Name 2: _____

Former Last Name 3: _____

Former Last Name 4: _____

* Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): _____ Place of Birth: _____

* Last **SIX** digits of Social Security Number: _____ -- _____ No Social Security Number

Sex: _____ Height: _____ ft. _____ in. Eye Color: _____ Race: _____

Driver's License or ID Number: _____ State of Issue: _____

Father's Full Name: _____

Mother's Full Name: _____

Current Address

* Street Address: _____

Apt. # or Suite: _____ *City: _____ *State: _____ *Zip: _____

SUBJECT VERIFICATION

The above information was verified by reviewing the following form(s) of government-issued identification:

Verified by:

Print Name of Verifying Employee

Signature of Verifying Employee

Date