



# The Link



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**First Congregational Church of Stoughton, United Church of Christ**  
*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

**May 2019**

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*Our Vision*

*We are called together to embrace God's transformation of our lives and our world  
by becoming and serving as Christ's disciples.*

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Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter and I pray that the joy we experienced the day of Christ's resurrection will fill our hearts and enliven our relationships in the days to come.

Although Easter Sunday gets all the attention, the period of fifty days that follows it, known as Eastertide, is a gift to the Church. Eastertide, which extends until Pentecost Sunday, invites us to think about what it means to be a community shaped by the dying and rising of Jesus Christ. It provides us the opportunity to reflect on the good news of Christ's extravagant love and to envision our grateful response.

This Easter season, I ask you to imagine how you might express your gratitude to the First Congregational Church of Stoughton – not with your financial contributions (surprised?) but with your time and talents. Those of you who worship with us regularly know that we meet for the second of our two congregational meetings in May. This gathering, the Annual Program Meeting, is a time that we come together seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as we always do in congregational meetings, to vote on nominations to Boards and Committees. This year the meeting will take place after worship on May 19.

Our church needs your help to maintain our current ministries so that we can continue to serve those around us. We several positions to fill this year, including that of Moderator. Please prayerfully consider sharing your faith and your talents with our church. More details will be available on May 5 when we meet for a Project 275 discussion during coffee hour, so please plan to attend. I am grateful for your love for our church and your desire to make it a place where disciples are formed and sent into the world to share the love of our risen Savior.

Resurrection blessings to you and those you love,

Pastor Mary



### BAGS OF HOPE THANK YOU

Dear UCC Stoughton Friends,

The South Shore Interfaith Coalition Against Human Trafficking thanks you for your willingness to host the Bags of Hope (BOH) Workshop on Sunday, March 24th. This event was attended by over 100 individuals, 4 churches/youth groups, and three organizations. We learned about human trafficking from Chelsey, a Human Trafficking Survivor, BOH, from Anita Cunha, BOH Coordinator, and helped fill 105 bags, which will be given to vulnerable women affected by addiction, homelessness, and trafficking. Special thanks to the three confirmants, Marcia Olson, and Rev. Mary Perry for their leadership in organizing this event and to all the members of the congregation for helping at BOH.

Peace and blessings,

Marilee and Frank Cantelmo, Co-Founders of the South Shore Interfaith Coalition Against Human Trafficking  
781-834-4436



Thank you to **Marcia Olson** and all who helped with the spring yard sale and to **Ed and Gale Porter** for the many hours they spent on the church lawn clean-up. Thanks go out to all who donated pillows and linens to Evelyn House and to **Charlene Smith** for delivering it all. We are grateful for everyone who faithfully bakes casseroles, makes cupcakes and salad for MainSpring House and those who served the meal. We thank **Christopher Nickelson-Mann**, the **Chancel Choir**, and the **Grace Notes Handbell Choir** for making our Easter worship service so beautiful, and **Janet Clough** for organizing the Easter flower dedications. We are very blessed!

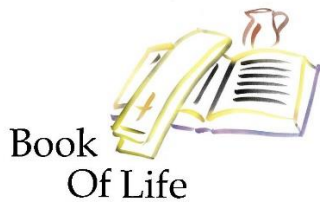


### Please Be Considerate Where You Park

Due to the limited number of spaces in our parking lot, we have signs that say, *“Reserved for Those Requiring Proximity Parking,”* and ask that you leave these for individuals who can only walk short distances. We ask all people who are physically able to consider parking in one of the spots in front of the park on Pierce Street. This frees up spots in the lot for those who really need to park closer to the entrance. Also, we ask you to remember not to park in any spot that has a “No Parking” sign, or in the Fire Lanes. Thank you for your cooperation.



It will soon be time to start planning our community garden and everyone is invited to help out – new gardeners and seasoned ones too. Look for more details in Notes & Notices. We will talk about what worked last year and what we'd like to improve on. What is your vision for our 2019 Community Garden? To be kept up to date on planning for our garden and the dates that we will meet, send an email to Roisin Kirby ([roisin.kirby@gmail.com](mailto:roisin.kirby@gmail.com)) or Marcia Olson ([baglole.olson@verizon.net](mailto:baglole.olson@verizon.net))



#### Baptisms:

Aubrey Allison, daughter of Lindsey and Melissa Allison, and her cousins, Raegan and Michael Costello, children of Mike and Erin Costello, were baptized by Pastor Mary on March 31.

#### Death:

Annie Crawford, whose funeral service was led by Pastor Mary at Farley Funeral Home on March 30.



#### **THANK YOU FROM GYNETH MCGARVEY**

Dear Church Family,

The Caring Committee and those who sent sympathy cards after the death of my sister Dorothy Rogers have my heartfelt thanks. Pastor Mary's call was appreciated. Dorothy had been failing for over a year. She was my role model growing up although she was only six years older than I, and was a devoted wife and loving mother. Please pray for my special needs nephew, Michael, who is deeply missing his mom.

With thanks,

Gyneth McGarvey



*Altar Flowers*

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** If you would like to have flowers on the altar in memory of someone or in honor of a person or event, let us know.

For more information email the church office at [office@uccstoughton.com](mailto:office@uccstoughton.com) or contact Janet Clough at 781-344-3860 | [cloughjr@verizon.net](mailto:cloughjr@verizon.net)

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### PROJECT 275

Our next Project 275 conversation is on **Sunday, May 5**. In anticipation of our Annual Program Meeting on May 19, we will continue our *“What Shall We Bring”* stewardship discussion from last fall and develop a personal ministry portfolio to help us to decide how we can best use our gifts and talents to support the ministries and governance of our church.

We will begin our discussion with prayer in the sanctuary at the end of worship and then move to the church hall for light refreshments and a 30-40 minute conversation.

Our best decisions are made when we make them together. Please plan on attending.

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Please submit any Sunday worship bulletin notices to the church office by **8:30 am on Tuesday**. Articles for the **June LINK** will be due by **May 17**. Contact the church office with any changes or additions to the church calendar.



### What's Happening This Month?

## Faith & Fellowship Opportunities

- **May 2 (Thu):** Please join Pastor Mary in the Fireplace Room at 11:45am for **Lunch with the Pastor**. Bring a brown bag lunch and she will provide beverages and dessert. This is a nice way to share what's going on in our lives. Bring a friend! All are welcome.
- **May 5 (Sun):** Church school classes - **Faith4Life class** for middle school students, led by Mr. Russ Clough will meet in the Fireplace Room just after communion. **Confirmands** should attend the **Project 275 meeting** immediately following worship. Confirmation class will then meet in the downstairs classroom after the Project 275 meeting.
- **May 5 (Sun):** We will continue our Project 275 congregational conversations during coffee hour by discussing the equally important part of being good stewards of our church by developing a personal ministry portfolio.
- **May 19 (Sun): Special Needs Bible Club** meets this month at 3pm. For more information contact Bonnie Bittner or Dottie Rother.
- **May 20 (Mon): Women's Fellowship May 20 (Mon):** Women's Fellowship will hold their annual banquet at the new Tommy Doyle's Pub and Grill at 37 Oak Street in Brockton. Meet at the restaurant at 4:30 pm for the dinner and to end this season of meetings. Flo will contact those who were unable to be at the last meeting. To make sure we can fairly cover the bill, please review the [menu](#) prior to attending and bring with you the exact amount needed for your meal including taxes and tip. Contact Flo Ledin at 781-344-0578 or on Sunday morning and let her know if you plan on attending. All women of the church are welcome!
- **May 25 (Sat): "The Breakfast Club,"** a group of faithful men and women, meets on the last Saturday of every month at 9am at the IHOP at Westgate Mall in Brockton. All are welcome. If you have any questions or need a ride, contact Bob Kuver at 781-341-2751.
- **Project 275:** It's our church's 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and we are looking for volunteers to help plan our celebration. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Mary, John Baglole or Charlene Smith.



### Opportunities to Serve

- **May 20 (Mon): Friendly Service** meets from 10am to 2pm to work on community and worldwide service projects such as quilts for local homeless shelters, school kits for Church World Service, and mending kits for Seafarer's Friend. You can even bring projects to work on at home if you are unable to make our monthly gathering. Many hands make light work. Please contact Janet Clough at 781-344-3860 for more information.
- **May 19 (Sun):** Be sure to attend the **Annual Program Meeting** immediately following worship. Consider prayerfully how you can use your gifts to lift up and support the ministries of UCC Stoughton.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Our group meets every Wednesday at 10am to knit prayer shawls for those who need to feel God's loving care wrapped around them. We also work on knit goods for the church fair. Don't know how to knit? We will be happy to teach you. Please join us.
- **Community Garden:** Look for details in Notes & Notices of how you can help with our Community Garden and share God's bounty with our neighbors.
- **Coffee Hour Hosts:** We all enjoy visiting with friends over a snack and a cup of coffee after worship. Please consider taking a turn hosting a coffee hour and sign up on the volunteer board to cover a Sunday.



### Opportunities to

- **Food Pantry:** Each month on Communion Sunday we collect non-perishable food items to share with our neighbors who are facing challenging circumstances and food insecurity at the Ilse Marks Food Pantry. As we come to the Lord's Table, let us share our blessings with others.
- **Bottles and Cans:** Please donate your clean, redeemable bottles and cans from your holiday events and parties. They can be left in the drop-off box at the bottom of the stairs just before the church office. Monetary donations are always gratefully accepted and the money collected is used for various church ministries and operational needs. Contact Maurine Upton for more information.
- **Needy Persons Fund:** Every Communion Sunday we invite you to make a special donation to this fund through which we are able to offer assistance to individuals in need. Please put your donation in the white offering envelopes found in the pews, which unless marked otherwise, will be placed in the Needy Persons' Fund. Through your generosity, we are able to help many people. *Thank you!* If you are experiencing difficult financial circumstances and could use some help through our Needy Persons' Fund, please speak to Pastor Mary in confidence.



**Annual Program Meeting  
May 19, 2019 at 11:15 AM**

This meeting is open to the entire church family, including members, associate members, and non-members. All members should plan on attending.

The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

1. Opening Prayer.
2. The Annual Report will be distributed.
3. A vote to approve the appointment by Church Council of a task force to review our church governance and recommend changes to our governance and bylaws for approval at the January 2020 annual meeting.
4. A vote to approve the nominations for Boards and Committees as required by our by-laws.
5. Closing Prayer and Adjournment.



**AT HOME, IN NURSING HOMES, AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES**  
***For those who wish to send greetings, the following list is included:***

*Jennifer Alholm*  
 156 Dean Street  
 South Easton, MA 02375

*Wayne Alholm*  
 149 Homeland Drive  
 Whitman, MA 02382  
 (781) 523-1640

*Doris Bamberg*  
 Copley at Stoughton Nursing Care Center  
 380 Sumner Street  
 Stoughton, MA 02072  
 (781) 341-2300

*Walter Bamberg*  
 2330 Central St.  
 Stoughton, MA 02072

*Amanda Cushing*  
 103 Benson Road  
 Stoughton MA 02072

*Fred Dimond*  
 382 Prospect St.  
 Stoughton, MA 02072

*Amy Fowler*  
 The Arbors  
 2121 Central Street  
 Room 219  
 Stoughton, MA 02072

*Maizie John*  
 Bridges by Epoch  
 140 University Ave.  
 Westwood, MA 02090

*Betty Lambert*  
 19 Rose Street Unit #4  
 Stoughton, MA  
 (781) 436-3416

*Rev. Jean Lenk*  
 229 Old Plymouth Road  
 Sagamore Beach, MA. 02562

*Dorothy Dawe*  
 The Arbors  
 2121 Central Street  
 Apt 112  
 Stoughton, MA 02072  
 (781) 344-8367

*Muriel Rowland*  
 92 Cedar Hill Dr. Apt. 202  
 Windsor, VT 05089

*Ruth Scrivens*  
 18 Daly Dr.  
 Stoughton, MA 02072

*James Williamson*  
 Hellenic Nursing and Rehab Center  
 601 Sherman Street  
 Canton, MA 02021



May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28 Pastor Mary off 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 1:00 PM BRC-Sanctuary/2ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen</p>	<p>29 7:00 PM Rel Addiction</p>	<p>30 6:00 AM BRC-FR 8:30 AM N&amp;N Deadline 6:00 PM Project 275 Team Meeting (offsite)</p>	<p>1 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl 11:45 AM Missions/Outreach 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:30 AM Caring Committee 11:45 AM Lunch with the Pastor 7:00 PM AA 8:00 PM BRC</p>	<p>3 6:00 AM BRC-FR 4:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 81007</p>	<p>4 6:00 AM Boston Renewal Church 11:00 AM AA</p>
<p>5 COMMUNION 10:00 AM Faith4Life Class 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 11:00 AM Healing Prayers 11:00 AM Project 275 Conversation 1:00 PM BRC-Sanctuary/2ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen</p>	<p>6 7:00 PM Rel Addiction</p>	<p>7 6:00 AM BRC-FR 8:30 AM N&amp;N Deadline 6:30 PM Cub Scouts</p>	<p>8 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl</p>	<p>9 6:00 AM BRC-FR 7:00 PM AA 8:00 PM BRC</p>	<p>10 6:00 AM BRC-FR</p>	<p>11 11:00 AM AA</p>
<p>12 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 1:00 PM BRC-Sanctuary/2ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen</p>	<p>13 7:00 PM Rel Addiction</p>	<p>14 6:00 AM BRC-FR 8:30 AM N&amp;N Deadline</p>	<p>15 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16 6:00 AM BRC-FR 7:00 PM AA 8:00 PM BRC</p>	<p>17 LINK Deadline 6:00 AM BRC-FR</p>	<p>18 11:00 AM AA</p>
<p>19 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 11:15 AM Annual Program Meeting 1:00 PM BRC-Sanctuary/2ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen 3:00 PM Special Needs Bible Club</p>	<p>20 Pastor Mary off 10:00 AM Friendly Service 3:30 PM Women's Fellowship 7:00 PM Rel Addiction</p>	<p>21 Pastor Mary off 6:00 AM BRC-FR 8:30 AM N&amp;N Deadline 6:30 PM Cub Scouts</p>	<p>22 Pastor Mary off 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl</p>	<p>23 Pastor Mary off 6:00 AM BRC-FR 7:00 PM AA 8:00 PM BRC</p>	<p>24 Pastor Mary off 6:00 AM BRC-FR</p>	<p>25 Pastor Mary off 9:00 AM Breakfast Club - (Pancake House) 11:00 AM AA</p>
<p>26 Pastor Mary off 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 1:00 PM BRC-Sanctuary/2ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen</p>	<p>27 MEMORIAL DAY 7:00 PM Rel Addiction</p>	<p>28 6:00 AM BRC-FR 8:30 AM N&amp;N Deadline</p>	<p>29 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl</p>	<p>30 6:00 AM BRC-FR 7:00 PM AA 8:00 PM BRC</p>	<p>31 6:00 AM BRC-FR</p>	<p>1 6:00 AM Boston Renewal Church 11:00 AM AA</p>