



# February 2026

## "Love Changes Everything"

In the month of February, many people turn their thoughts to Valentine's Day. When we were younger, we looked forward to a small party at school to break the "drudgery" of the school day schedule. As we grew older, we may have looked to a romantic dinner or time spent with a loved one. Yes, indeed, our thoughts turn to aspects of love.

Did you know that there was a musical with the title "Aspects of Love?" In this show, the main song is entitled "Love Changes Everything." People throughout the ages have known this; Paul, in his first letter to the Church in Corinth, makes this a focal point of his message. He wrote, "If I speak in the tongues of humans or angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal." He went on to say, "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."

Even Paul knew that "love changes everything." It is such an appropriate message for us in today's world. If we let love guide every action, wouldn't the world be a better place? Imagine how much things would change if we let love rule our thoughts and hearts. I don't mean the mushy kind of love, not that there is anything wrong with that. But love for those we have never met, to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Let us pay attention to how we love for ourselves, each other, and everyone we encounter. The Romans mocked the early Christians as they said, "Look at the little Christians, see how they love one another." Let's have "See how they love one another" as our anthem. Indeed, love does change everything.

Love and peace,

*Paul*

Rev. Paul B. Nesbit  
Pastor



This popular series chronicles the life of Jesus in a manner that is mostly faithful to the Gospels. (They fill in some gaps that are not mentioned in the Bible.) We will watch episodes and hold discussions at the end of the show.

February through April

First Congregational Church of Westfield  
18 Broad Street  
Westfield, MA  
Monday at 10:00 AM



Southwick Congregational Church  
488 College Highway  
Southwick, MA  
Thursday at 7:00 PM



Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome to attend at either church. It is FREE!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OFFICIAL NOTICE

**To: Members of First Congregational Church**

**Subject: First Congregational Church Annual Meeting**

### Special Congregational Meeting

In accordance with the by-laws of the First Congregational Church, Westfield MA., Article VIII, section 2, The Annual Meeting of the Church shall take place during the month of February upon a date designated by the Church Council. This year's Annual meeting will take place on Sunday, February 8th, 2026 with a snow date of Sunday, February 15th. The meeting will take place following worship service. The reports of all Officers, Committees and affiliated organizations shall be made in writing and accepted at this meeting. Officers of the Church and Committees shall be elected at this meeting. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a ballot nominating one person for each position to be filled at the Annual Meeting of the Church. The right of a member to make nominations from the floor shall always be recognized. This ballot shall be accepted by the church at this meeting. At the Annual Meeting of the Church, the members of the Church will vote on the budget as a single intact entity.

Janet St. Jean, Clerk

The Annual Meeting of First Congregational Church is the Church. This year it will occur on February 8th (unless snow forces postponement to February 15).

Church members vote on the most important matters of our governance, including the election of officers and committees for the next year as well as the budget for 2026. Both of these items have been prepared by committees but their ultimate adoption depends on the Congregation's review and approval. Since our Bylaws have a requirement of a quorum in order to act (at least 40 members must be present) it is very important as well as desirable, for as many members to attend as possible.

The meetings are not usually long but are informative as well as important to our Church. And coffee and the other great refreshments can still be enjoyed!

Annual Reports will be available on Feb 1st  
Outside the Office  
Please pick one up!

# 2025

## Annual Report



### February Coffee Hour

**February 1st** Team #8 Carol Whalen, Joyce Bard, Michelle Downs, Martha Scavotto, Karen Lajoie.

**February 8th** Team #1 Bob Brownlee, Steve Pierce, Christina Peirce and Anne Gelinas

**February 15th** Team #2 Tina Dunlop, Linda Hauk, Gwen Newton Denton, and Doug James.

**February 22** Joint Service in Southwick

## Message from the Diaconate

It is that time again when the festive decorations, Christmas music, red and green sparkle of a season filled with hope and good cheer, transitions back to the reality of a cold winter. As I sit down to write this Deacon's corner, I realized it will be my last submission as a Deacon. It's astonishing to think that I have been on the Diaconate for the last six years and held the position of Senior Deacon for the last three. Being a part of this committee has been an honor and working with our Pastor and group of dedicated Deacons, a Blessing.

During my time on the Diaconate, First Church has become a major focus in my life's purpose. My spiritual journey has brought me closer to God and more appreciative of his many gifts. As the world changes, it also reminds me how much we all need each other. Kindness, caring and hope can bring us back to a place of peace and balance, leading us away from fear and ready to serve others.

Over the past six years, I have developed a closer relationship with our church community. I can still feel the joy of assisting with Baptisms plus welcoming in new members as they became part of First Church. I reflect on my sadness, as we supported the grief at the passing of treasured church members and friends. Once again, it was a privilege to assist families with their various ways of honoring these important lives.

Serving Communion, on the first Sunday of the month, has been deeply meaningful, as I reach into my quiet place and feel the presence of a higher level of faith. This simple but touching part of our service binds us together, as we share the symbolic last supper; being one in spirit.

I want to thank all members of First Church for everything they do to make our church the friendly, welcoming place it is today. Thank you for all the signup lists that are magically filled by willing helpers and for the thoughtfulness of all who enthusiastically help create church events that bring us together.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the church in such a meaningful way and know the Diaconate will continue to be a strong supportive cornerstone of our church. My deepest thanks to all who have so willingly served and made the past six years such a meaningful, spiritually rich and enjoyable experience.

With Faith and Love

Senior Deacon     Barbara James

## FAMILY MINISTRIES

February is shaping up to be an exciting month with events hosted by the Family Ministries Committee:

Sunday, February 1 at 4:30

**Youth Group meeting**

Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 PM **Book Discussion with Jennifer Waldorf**

*This is the first of 8 weekly meetings.*

*Books for the discussion group will be available from Janet St. Jean*

Saturday, February 21 at 2:00 PM

**Vacation Movie**

Sunday, February 22 at 4:30 PM

**Contemporary Service**

Saturday, February 28 at 2:00 PM

**Family Board Game Afternoon**

*Bring your favorite board game to share with others.*

*Or simply join in on a game someone else has brought.*

These events are for everyone. Join us and bring a friend. All are welcome!



First Congregational Church  
invites you to

# An Afternoon of Family Games

Connection, Laughter & Fun  
for All Ages

 **February 28, 2026**  
**2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**  
**18 Broad Street, Westfield, MA**

Join us for a warm, welcoming afternoon of:

- Family-Friendly Board & Card Games
- Light Refreshments & Treats
- Lively Conversation & Togetherness

*Whoever you are or wherever you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.*



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
PRESENTS

# Family Movie Vacation

THE WILD  
ROBOT

Free  
Entry

MOVIE  
TIME

SAT. FEB. 21  
2:00-4:00

18 Broad St.  
Westfield, MA,

FREE POPCORN & DRINKS

for more information call: 413-568-2833

# BOOK WORTH Reading

Compassion &  
Conviction

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM  
February 18-April 8

First Congregational  
Church Parlor  
18 Broad Street,  
Westfield, MA

GUIDE TO FAITHFUL CIVIC  
ENGAGEMENT

WHOEVER YOU ARE OR  
WHEREVER YOU ARE ON LIFE'S  
JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

WHERE TWO OR MORE ARE GATHERED

# Worship Night

COME AS YOU ARE—CASUAL, HONEST, SEARCHING. EXPERIENCE A  
WELCOMING, GOD-CENTERED SERVICE WHERE YOU'RE PART OF THE  
WORSHIP, LIFTED UP IN SPIRIT, AND NOURISHED FOR THE WEEK AHEAD.



First Congregational Church of Westfield

02.22.2026  
4:30-5:30PM

18 Broad St Westfield  
(Academy St Entrance)

LIVE SINGING &  
CONTEMPORARY  
CHRISTIAN MUSIC

"WHOEVER YOU ARE OR  
WHEREVER YOU ARE ON LIFE'S  
JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE"

## February Newsletter- World Service Committee

*"Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst." John 6:35*

### Thank You

**Our Community Table/Westfield Soup Kitchen: Thank You** to each person who has baked a dessert, assisted with meal preparation, delivered meals, and/or assisted in serving the meal. We could not serve the community without your generosity and assistance.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING OF YOUR TIME AND RESOURCES

**Westfield Food Pantry: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month:** Each month we bring items for the Westfield Food Pantry. Items that are always needed include Spaghetti sauce, Pasta, Soup, Crackers, Macaroni & Cheese, Rice, Tuna fish, canned veggies: Corn, Green Beans, Peas, Carrots, Cereal, Canned Fruit, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Cooking oil, Juice, Coffee, Tea, and Sugar.

The **2nd Sunday** in each month your WSC will make an announcement for the items that are in short supply at the Food Pantry. Rebecca Hart will be advising WSC each month of short supply needs. This month they were asking for TUNA.

**Our Community Table/Westfield Soup Kitchen 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month:** We will need desserts for the meal. Cupcakes, cookies, brownies, sheet cakes are greatly appreciated by those who share a meal at the soup kitchen. Each donation must serve **24** people. If you are willing to bake a dessert, please contact **Nancy Condon**, Goodie Guru at 413-297-0778 or at [nancy@paddleforwater.net](mailto:nancy@paddleforwater.net). Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> bring your dessert to the church by 2:00pm or take it to the Soup Kitchen at 101 Meadow Street between 4:00 & 4:30. It would be great if you could stay and help. **CALL Cindy or Mayme** to learn how you could help.

**Westfield River Elementary school:** Westfield River Elementary school needed snow boots for some of the Children. Darlene Biggs purchased and donated what was needed for this winter season. Thank you Darlene. No other request yet but your World Service Committee will keep you informed. Nancy Condon is the person the school contacts with their requests. Thank you Nancy.

**HELO Haiti:** World Service Committee is still able to send donations to help the students be able to have an education. Elisabeth Kennedy is our contact at HELO Haiti. Jennifer Waldorf is direct liaison should you have questions about HELO Haiti. Prayers are needed for Peace in Haiti. World Service Committee held a fundraiser on January 10<sup>th</sup> to help HELO Haiti repair some class rooms that were damaged in storms last year. We have the final total of funds raised, \$1540.00. Thank you to all who were able to attend, 22 people and Thank you to all who were not able to attend but still made a donation. God is very much at work in our life and the life of our church.

**Monthly Highlights:** Each month your WSC will highlight one or two of the funds we donate to, this month is SAMARITAN INN.

Samaritan Inn is an emergency shelter for homeless men and women, who can stay for up to 90 days. The Inn provides 2 daily meals and snacks. It offers case management, advocacy, mental health therapy, medical services, some clothing, outside referrals, aid in obtaining health insurance and assistance with finding housing and jobs.

Your World Service Committee is working with Samaritan Inn and Blessed Buys on a voucher system to help those persons that are in need and transitioning out of Samaritan Inn into the community to restart their lives. The voucher system works this way, Samaritan Inn will issue a voucher letter that the person in need will take to Blessed Buys to see if Blessed Buys has what they need. There is no monetary limit set on what they need. The person using this letter must show an ID to be sure the letter has not been sold to another person. Blessed Buys will be reimbursed thru World Service committee. Prayers are always needed as we work to do God's Will.

World Service Committee, Ray Salois, Nancy Condon, Gail Ives, Jean Zimmerman, Dorothy Cichonski, Jennifer Waldorf, Tom Samwell

# First Congregational Church of Westfield

# FEBRUARY 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> 9:30 Am Worship 10:30 Fellowship 4:30 PM Youth Group	<b>2</b> 10:00 The Chosen 12:15 Food Bank Lunch	<b>3</b> 10:30 AM Tuesday Morning Music Club	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10-2 Blessed Buys 12:15 Food Bank Lunch	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10-2 Blessed Buys
<b>8</b> 9:30 Am Worship 10:30 Annual Mtg Fellowship	<b>9</b> 10:00 The Chosen 12:15 Food Bank Lunch	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM Church Council	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10-2 Blessed Buys 12:15 Food Bank Lunch	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10-2 Blessed Buys
<b>15</b> 9:30 Am Worship 10:30 Fellowship Snow Date Annual Mtg	<b>16</b> President's Day Office Closed	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Ash Wednesday 7PM Book Study	<b>19</b> 10-2 Blessed Buys 12:15 Food Bank Lunch	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10-2 Blessed Buys 2:00 Family Movie
<b>22</b> 11:00 AM Worship In Southwick 4:30 PM Contemporary Service--Westfield	<b>23</b> 10:00 The Chosen 12:15 Food Bank Lunch	<b>24</b> 3:00-5:30 PM Soup Kitchen	<b>25</b> 7PM Book Study	<b>26</b> 10-2 Blessed Buys 12:15 Food Bank Lunch	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10-2 Blessed Buys 2PM Family Board Game Afternoon

### Church Security on Sundays and Special Services

The Academy St. doors are unlocked 45 minutes before the start of the service (8:45 AM Sundays). The Broad St. front entry is unlocked 20 minutes before the start of the service (9:10 AM Sundays). The Academy St. doors are locked 15 minutes after the start of the service (9:45 AM on Sundays) while the front entry remains open during the service. The front entry door is locked 10 minutes following the end of worship (or when most people have left the sanctuary) so please use an alternate exit after coffee hour.



# February BIRTHDAYS

02/01 Ellen Prest  
02/03 Stuart Gamble  
02/04 Jackson Thoompson  
02/07 Cailyn Crean  
02/07 Robert Crean  
02/09 Russell Klaubert  
02/10 Kailey Downs  
02/10 Chris Davies  
02/15 James Yesu  
02/17 Daniel Koehne  
02/18 Cindy D'Angelo  
02/19 Darlene Biggs  
02/20 Jim Kinney  
02/21 Judith McClure  
02/21 Jacqueline R. Thayer  
02/24 Billy Balzano  
02/26 Lesley Lorenzen  
02/28 Sandra Chamberlain  
02/28 William Reed

### Christian Fellowship Lite Lunch Wednesday

February 11, 2026  
12 Noon

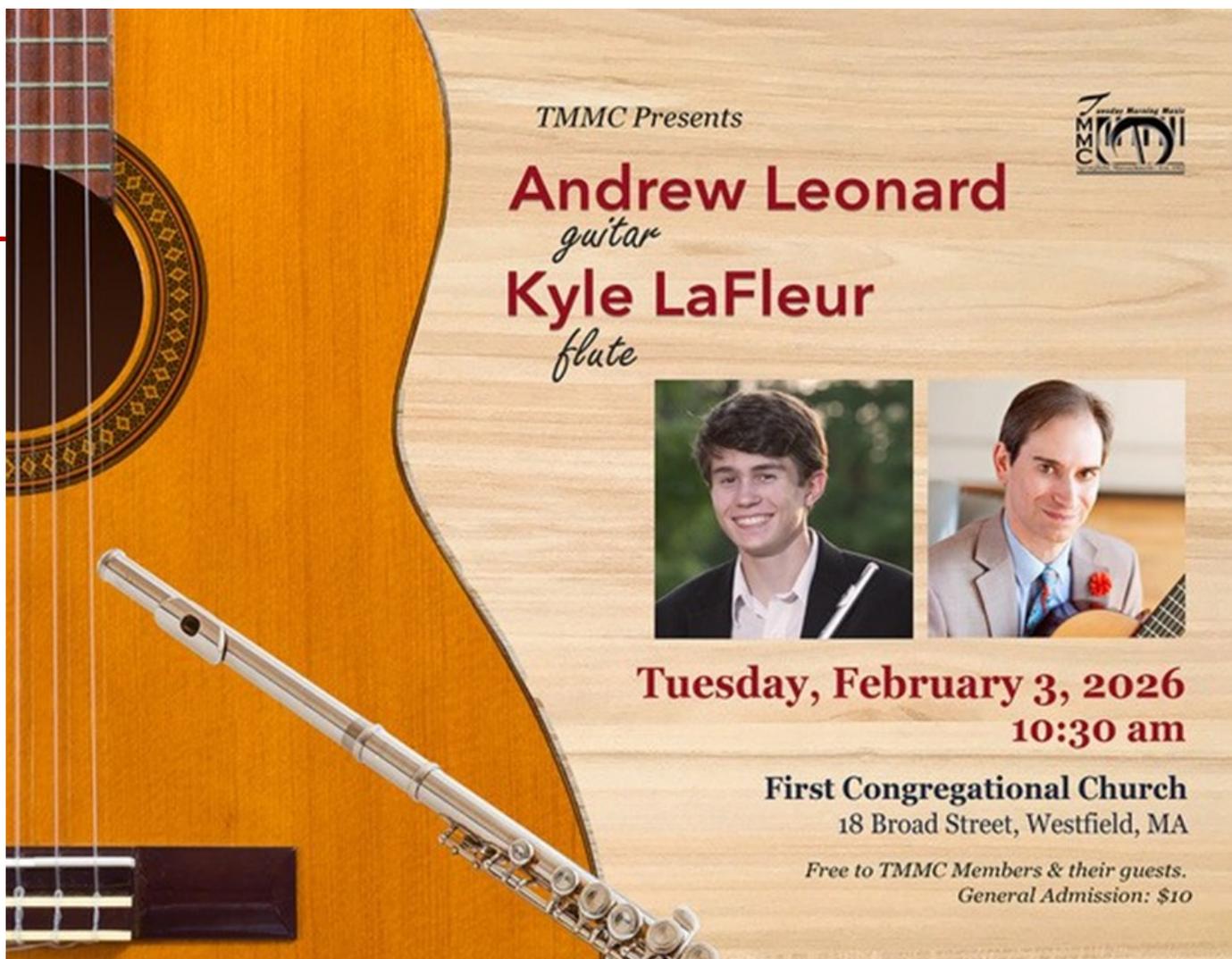
Bring Can or Box of food for  
Westfield Food Pantry

Sign Up on Bulletin Board  
or See Jean Zimmerman at  
Coffee Hour



The Tuesday Morning Music Club is pleased to present its spring 2026 concert season at First Congregational Church in Westfield. Beginning on February 3 at 10:30 a.m., with a performance by classical guitarist Andrew Leonard and flutist Kyle LaFleur, the TMMC offers concerts on March 3 & 17, April 7 & 21, and May 5, as well as Junior Extension performances on February 8, March 8, and April 12. Artists range from pianist Margarita Nuller and baritone Cailin Marcel Manson to First Church's own Allan Taylor and Marc Winer. The cost for a half-season's membership is a remarkable \$20 (for 8 concerts!), and single concerts may be attended by non-TMMC members for \$10.

For more information, visit the TMMC website [www.tuesdaymmc.org](http://www.tuesdaymmc.org)



TMMC Presents



**Andrew Leonard**  
*guitar*

**Kyle LaFleur**  
*flute*



**Tuesday, February 3, 2026**  
**10:30 am**

**First Congregational Church**  
18 Broad Street, Westfield, MA

*Free to TMMC Members & their guests.*  
*General Admission: \$10*