

First Congregational Church of Westfield

The Newsletter March 2026

What Did We Say?

I once worked with someone who told me two things about my facial expressions. One was that I had “the map of Ireland” on my face. The second was that I couldn’t hide my feelings for all the tea in China. In other words, people could tell exactly what I thought or felt about what was happening around me. It is something that I have felt compelled to work on throughout my adulthood, especially when I am leading worship. I continue to work on facial expressions.

For those who grew up in the Congregational Church, it was not in your tradition to give things up or “abstain” for Lent. However, an increasing number of Catholics and those from other liturgical traditions have joined our ranks and can relate to such a practice.

I don’t necessarily want us to “give up” or “abstain” from anything during Lent. What I would ask all of us, myself included, is to think about what we say, either with our mouths, our facial expressions, or in writing. While we don’t look to Pope Leo as the leader of our church, (“Christ is the head of our church”) I offer you his words a means of reflection

"I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace." Pope Leo XIV

How do our words, both spoken and written (i.e., social media) reflect our beliefs in the teaching of Jesus? As followers of Christ, who serves as the head of our church, we are called to love the Lord our God with our whole heart and mind. We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is my hope that whatever we say, whatever we write, whatever we convey is all in the name of love for God and neighbor.

Love and Peace,

Paul

Rev. Paul B. Nesbit
Pastor

The “Upper Room”
A Daily Devotional Guide

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Is available from First Congregational Church.

Please pick your copy up outside the church office or ask your Deacon for a Guide

Christian Fellowship

March Meeting

Wednesday March 11th at 1PM

Fellowship and Dessert

All are welcome

Sign up on the bulletin Board or call the church office if you would like to attend.



3/02 Ann Mundy

3/08 Lois Nason, Joey Crean

3/09 Ella Hamel

3/10 Steven Grimaldi

3/12 Elizabeth Cincotta, Albert Reynolds

3/15 Shirley Anderson

3/20 Shay Towart

3/22 Mara Winer

2/23 Ken Longstreeth

3/26 Bonnie Miller

3/30 Regina Holzapfal

Easter Lily and Tulip order form

Each year at Easter our sanctuary is decorated in beautiful flowers in memory of loved ones. Following The Easter Service the plants are taken to friends and members of First Church. The cost of plants this year is \$12.00. Orders need to be placed by **Monday, March 30th**.

I would like to order _____ Easter Plants at \$12.00 each

Given By : _____

In memory/honor of: _____

Please make checks payable to

“First Congregational Church”

Please return form to:

First Church 18 Broad Street, Westfield MA 01085

FAITH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Well, February did not turn out the way we expected. Our first book discussion group was snowed out. Our Contemporary Service was also snowed out.

Happily, on Saturday, February 21, we were able to hold our vacation movie for a small but appreciative crowd of children and adults. We also had a wildly successful snow tubing trip to Butternut Mountain. Jim Yesu and Dan Koehne were our intrepid leaders. Thirteen youth ranging in age from 10 to 21 years joined us for lunch and then took off in a van to attack the mountain. (See the picture).

We do have a full roster of exciting events for the next few weeks. And, weather permitting, we invite you to join us for all of them:

Wednesday, March 4, 11,19, and 25 at 7:00 PM – Book Discussion Group continues.

Sunday, March 8 at 4:30 PM – African Drumming

Sunday, March 22 at 4:30 PM – Contemporary Service

Sunday, March 29 at 4:30 PM – Youth Group Meeting

Stay warm!

Janet St. Jean, Director of Family Ministries



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: 3rd 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 World Service Committee will make an announcement for the items that are in short supply at the Food Pantry. Rebecca Hart will be advising each month of supply needs. This month they were asking for Peanut butter and cereal.

Our Community Table/Westfield Soup Kitchen 4th 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. Tuesday 22nd 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 Tissues, The Committee has purchased some but more are always needed. The tissues can be dropped in the box where we collect Food Pantry items. Ray will get them delivered. 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. God is very much at work in our life and the life of our church.

Monthly Highlights: Each month our committee will highlight one or two of the funds we donate to, this month is the Red Cross:

The Red Cross provides food and shelter in emergencies. Your World Service Committee has Dorothy Cichonski in charge of this responsibility. Dorothy distributes gift cards at the fires or disasters to help those in need.

Samaritan Inn: 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 will work 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. 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 Discretionary Fund. Prayers are always needed as we work to do God's Will.

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

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30 Am Worship Communion Sunday	2 10:00 The Chosen 12:15 Food Bank Lunch	3 10:30 AM Tuesday Morning Music Club 6:00 PM Family Ministries	4 7PM Book Study	5 10-2 Blessed Buys 12:15 Food Bank Lunch 6PM World Service Committee	6	7 10-2 Blessed Buys
8 9:30 Am Worship 10:30 Fellowship 4:30PM Drumming	9 10:00 The Chosen 12:15 Food Bank Lunch	10 7:00 PM Church Council	11 1 PM Christian Fellowship 7PM Book Study	12 10-2 Blessed Buys 12:15 Food Bank Lunch	13 10-2 Prep For Dinner	14 10-2 Blessed Buys 5PM Corred Beef and Cabbage Dinner
15 9:30 Am Worship 10:30 Fellowship	16 10:00 The Chosen 12:15 Food Bank Lunch	 17	18 7PM Book Study	19 10-2 Blessed Buys 12:15 Food Bank Lunch	 20	21 10-2 Blessed Buys
Joint Service Westfield 22 9:30 Am Worship 10:30 Fellowship 4:30PM Contemporary Service	23 10:00 The Chosen 12:15 Food Bank Lunch	24 3:00-5:30 PM Soup Kitchen	25 7PM Book Study	26 10-2 Blessed Buys 12:15 Food Bank Lunch	27	28 10-2 Blessed Buys
Palm Sunday 29 9:30 Am Worship 10:30 Fellowship 4:30 PM Youth Mtg	30 10:00 The Chosen 12:15 Food Bank Lunch	31				



First Congregational Church of Westfield

Annual

**Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
Saturday, March 14th 2026 @ 5:00PM**

**Dine in or Take-Out
Tickets \$15.00 each**

Menu:

**Corned Beef - Cabbage - Colcannon
Boiled Potatoes - Carrots -
Rolls with Butter
Dessert and Beverage**

**Reservations are required.
Please Call the office for tickets
413-568-2833**

**First Congregational Church of Westfield
18 Broad Street
Westfield, MA 01085
Office (413) 568-2833
[Email : fccwestfield@outlook.com](mailto:fccwestfield@outlook.com)**

