

The Newsletter
First Congregational Church of Westfield
April 2026

From Death to New Life!

April is an interesting month as the secular calendar interacts with the liturgical calendar. This year, we start off the month with Holy Week and our Maundy Thursday service on April 2 at 7:30 PM at First Congregational Church of Westfield. Then, we celebrate the Resurrection event on Easter Sunday in both First Congregational Church of Westfield at 9:30 AM and Southwick Congregational Church at 11:00 AM. This is followed by the liturgical celebration of a fifty-day feast of the Easter season that reaches its conclusion on Pentecost Sunday. The church celebrations are beautiful and often regarded as the most special of the year.

I encourage our church communities to participate in both the Maundy Thursday service and Easter Sunday service. The commemoration and celebration of both are vital for the spiritual life of our churches. Those present benefit from the spiritual support of members as well as our visitors. Please note that our visitors or “some timers” are most welcome to join us. Your presence adds to these services and we feel your support. It allows us to feel alive and to truly be enlightened in our faith.

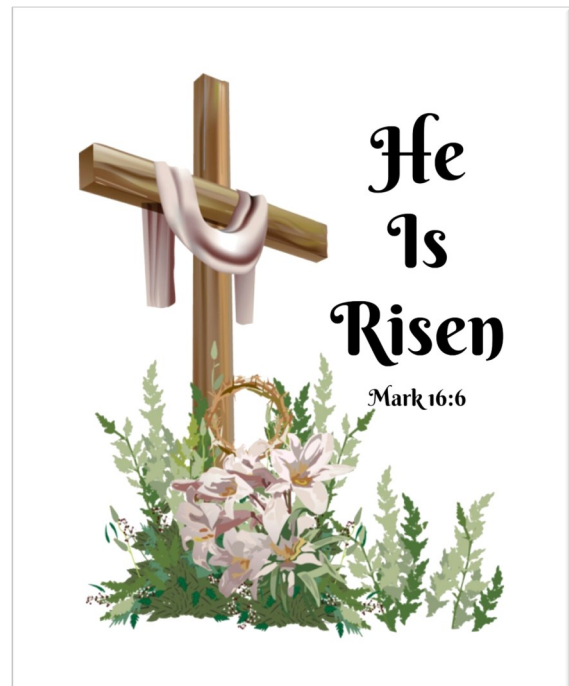
In the past few weeks, we have basked in increased light as the hours of daylight grow longer. We see the initial signs of Spring that awaken and cause Mother Earth to rise again in all her splendor. The earth awakes from its slumber and echoes the Resurrection! This is also a reason to celebrate, despite any allergies, that the warm months of summer are soon to arrive. As we head into the spring and Easter season, it is my hope that we can all be together each week to get the support and spiritual boost we need to get through these trying times.

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed!

Peace and love

Paul

Rev. Paul B. Nesbit
Pastor



Family Ministries

April Newsletter

Family Ministries continues to offer exciting events for First Congregational Church and the greater Westfield Community:

Our **Youth Group** includes members from First Congregational Church of Westfield, Southwick Congregational Church, Church of the Atonement, and Feeding Hills Congregational Church. On Sunday, March 29, from 3:00-5:00, the group and their friends will gather at Spare Time Bowling in Northampton. If you enjoy bowling, please join us!

On Saturday, April 11, the entire congregation is invited to attend **The Thunderbirds Game** in Springfield, MA.

Sunday, April 12 will be an exciting time for in the sanctuary AND Fellowship Hall. The Tuesday Morning Music Club is sponsoring a concert to benefit Open Pantry Services. Highlighted performers are internationally acclaimed drummers Massamba Diop and Tony Vacca. Following the concert, at 4:30, Massamba and Tony will join us at our Drumming **Workshop** in Fellowship Hall. It is an afternoon not to be missed!

Finally, on Sunday, April 26, at 4:30, we will be holding our last **Contemporary Service** of the spring in Fellowship Hall.

Janet St. Jean,
Director of Family Ministries



Youth Group Bowling Afternoon

Sunday, March 29, 3pm-5pm

Spare Time Bowling, Northampton, MA

Sponsored by First Congregational Church

Free Admission



**FIRST CONGREGATIONANAL
CHURCH OF WESTFIELD**

HOCKEY NIGHT

April 11th at 6:05PM



- Please join us for a fun night out.
- Group can participate in Pre-game Fanboni Ride or 2nd intermission Tunnel Team!
- Order tickets by March 28th to guarantee group seating.
- Discounted tickets start at \$21

A TMMC Fundraising Concert



“IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD...”

A Concert to Benefit Open Pantry Services



Massamba Diop



Tony Vacca

April 12
@ 2pm

First Congregational Church
18 Broad St. Westfield, MA

Presented by the Junior Extension and Senior Club
of the Tuesday Morning Music Club

Free and open to the public
Recommended Donation: \$10 and/or non-perishable food items.

First Congregational Church
18 Broad Street, Westfield, MA
presents

an afternoon of
PRAISE & WORSHIP

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.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26
4:30 PM TO 5:30 PM

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

April 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: April 19, 2026 – 3rd Sunday of each month: Each month we bring items for the Westfield Food Pantry. Items that are requested 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 the committee each month their supply needs. In March, they were asking for oatmeal and cereal.

Our Community Table/Westfield Soup Kitchen – April 28, 2026 -4th Tuesday of the month. Call the church office to learn how you can help 568-2833.

Westfield River Elementary school: Westfield River Elementary School with double the students opened January 6, 2025. Your World Service Committee has continued to be in touch with the school office to see what First Congregational Church can do to help with the teachers' and student needs. Thank you for your support for this mission project. Should there be any questions you can contact Nancy Condon or Ray Salois who are the direct liaisons to Westfield River Elementary school or any member of the World Service Committee.

HELO Haiti: World Service Committee is still able to send donations to help the students at the HELO Haiti School. Elisabeth Kennedy is our contact at HELO Haiti. Elisabeth's last update let us know that the students were able to celebrate Christmas and New Year's with a traditional Haitian soup called Soup Joumou, despite food insecurity in many parts of Haiti. Jennifer Waldorf is direct liaison if you have questions about HELO Haiti. Prayers are needed for Peace in Haiti. Check the bulletin board for the latest pictures.

Monthly Highlights: Each month we highlight one or more of the missions we support.

HELO Haiti mission is to provide Home, Education, Love, and Opportunity to orphaned and abandoned children in Haiti. They provide homes, proper nutrition, education and love so that the children can become literate and learn a trade to sustain themselves after leaving.

EASTER OFFERING: World Service Committee has mailed out donation letters for the Easter offering. We will also have donation envelopes in the pews. These donations allow your mission projects to be filled each year. Please pray about what God leads you to do this Easter.

World Service Committee: Spring donations are sent to the following organizations: BHN Kamp for Kids, Our Community Table, Our House, The Westfield Food Pantry, and HELO Haiti. Thank you for your continuing support for First Congregation Church's Mission Projects.

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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is defined as using Time, Talents and Treasures for God's Will to be done on Earth.

Let's think about TIME!

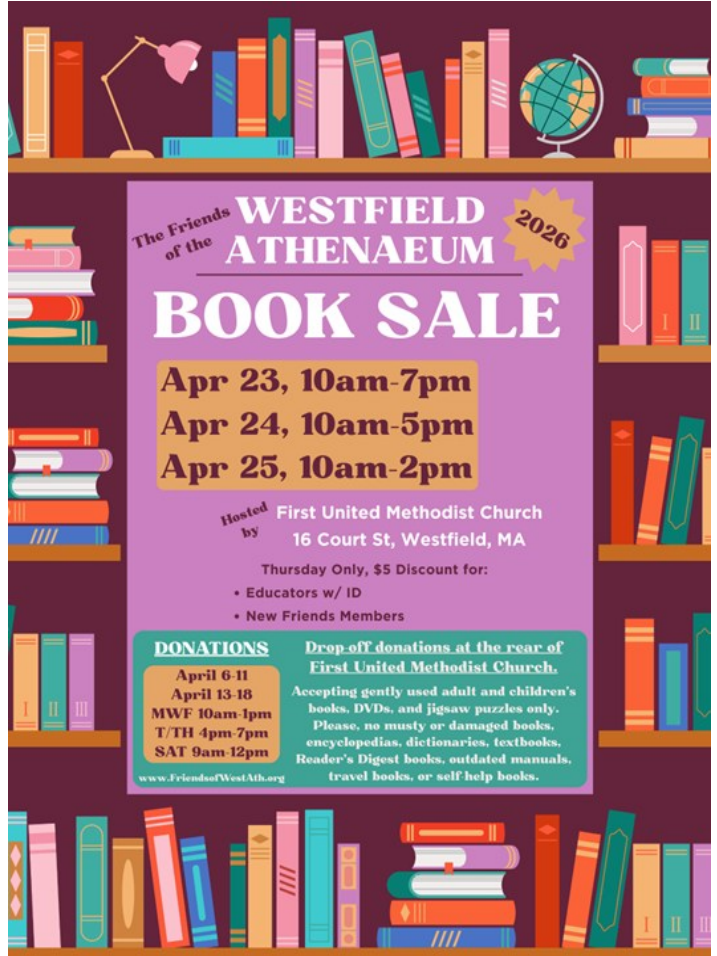
Time can be used in:

Prayers

Sharing of your Time helping others mentally and physically with your smile and kind words

Donating your time to an organization like your church, local food pantry or any other organization that promotes God's will and your desires to do God's will.

"Like good Stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." Peter 4:10



The Friends of the **WESTFIELD ATHENAEUM** 2026

BOOK SALE

Apr 23, 10am-7pm
Apr 24, 10am-5pm
Apr 25, 10am-2pm

Hosted by **First United Methodist Church**
16 Court St, Westfield, MA

Thursday Only, \$5 Discount for:

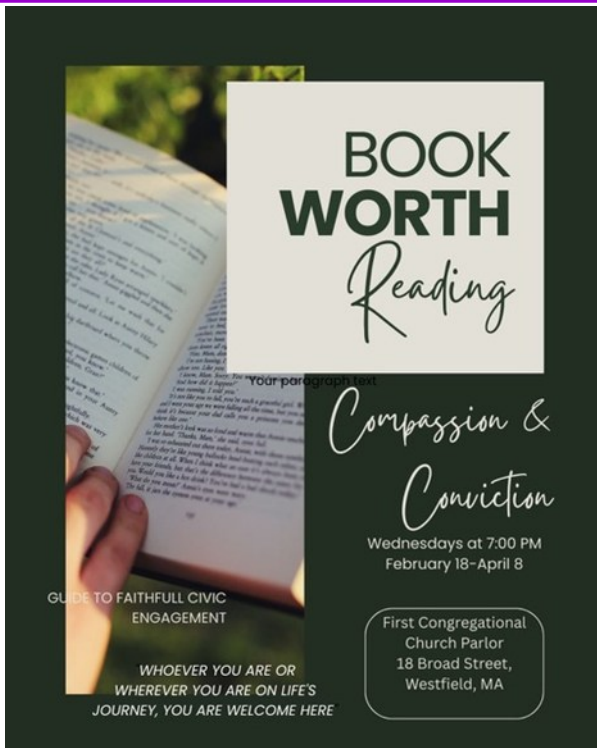
- Educators w/ ID
- New Friends Members

DONATIONS

April 6-11
April 13-18
MWF 10am-1pm
T/TH 4pm-7pm
SAT 9am-12pm

Drop-off donations at the rear of First United Methodist Church.
Accepting gently used adult and children's books, DVDs, and jigsaw puzzles only.
Please, no musty or damaged books, encyclopedias, dictionaries, textbooks, Reader's Digest books, outdated manuals, travel books, or self-help books.

www.FriendsOfWestAth.org



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



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!

PCRC

The Pastoral Congregational Relations committee's (PCRC) purpose is to facilitate open communication and the resolution of major issues of concern within the congregation. It functions as a liaison between the pastor and the congregation and conducts an annual review of the pastor.

We welcome any issues that are of concern. You may bring them to any member of the committee and we will address them.

Presently we are unaware of any issues and feel that we are fortunate to have the strong leadership we are experiencing.

Mayme Lajoie, Matha Roman
Lynn Brownlee, Jim Yesu
Darlene Biggs.



First Congregational Church of Westfield

Continuing Education Fund

The Committee for the Bishop, Seher, Swartz and Taylor,

Moore Continuing Education Fund is now accepting applications for the **2026-2027** school year. Please obtain an application from the church office. Completed forms may be returned to the church office. All applications must be returned by **5/31/26**.

Also, should anyone desire to make a gift or bequest to the scholarship fund, please see Cindy LaPlante, or you may pick up an information pamphlet outside the church office.

Cindy LaPlante, Daniel Koehne, Gail Ives

Memorial Flowers



Each Sunday our Sanctuary is decorated with fresh floral arrangements on the Altar.

There are many people

and several groups in the Church who give flowers as a memorial, special celebration or holiday remembrance. After each service, the flowers are made into smaller bouquets which are given to sick, bereaved and shut-in members. If you would like to give Altar flowers for a particular Sunday, Please call the church office 568-2833. The cost of an arrangement is \$25.00.

Nominating Committee

We are looking to fill some vacant spots on committees and will be contacting members soon. If you would like to serve on a committee please see Jim Kinney or Cindy LaPlante. I list of committee is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship hall.



Easter Lily and Tulip orders form
Each year on Easter the Church is decorated with
Beautiful Easter Lilies, and Red and Yellow Tulips
Following worship the flowers are delivered to
Church Members

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 Congregational Church

18 Broad Street Westfield MA 01085



First Congregational Church of Westfield

April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7PM Book Study	2 10AM-2PM Blessed Buys 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service –Westfield	3	4 10AM-2PM Blessed Buys
5  9:30 AM Worship Easter Sunday Celebration	6 10AM The Chosen	7 10:30 AM Tuesday Morning Music Club 6:00 PM Family Ministries	8 7PM Book Study	9 10AM-2PM Blessed Buys	10	11 10AM-2PM Blessed Buys 6:10 PM Hockey Night
12 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Coffee Hour Team #1 2:00PM TMMC 4:30 PM Drumming	13 10AM The Chosen	14 7:00 PM Church Council	15	16 10AM-2PM Blessed Buys	17	18 10AM-2PM Blessed Buys
19 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Coffee Hour Team # 2	20	21 10:30 AM Tuesday Morning Music Club	22	23 10AM-2PM Blessed Buys	24	25 10AM-2PM Blessed Buys 2:00PM Day of Discernment
26 11:00 Am Worship in Southwick 4:30 PM Contemporary Service	27	28	29	30 10AM-2PM Blessed Buys 6:30 PM Diaconate		

Phone: 413-568-2833, Email: fccwestfield@outlook.com , website: www.firstcongregationalchurchwestfieldma.org



Blessed Buys Thrift Shoppe

Thursday and Saturday 10AM-2PM

Donation's of Spring and Summer items are needed.
Our Grand reopening in the Church Basement is set for
May 9th and 11th.

Please watch for more information

Please call the Church office for
information and arrangements to drop off your donation .
568-2833



Safe Church Training

Safe Church Training is being planned. Michelle Winer and Martha Roman will begin this in April on Sundays after church.

Attention Committee Chairs

Committee Chairs are reminded to put your meeting dates on the church calendar, check your mailboxes each week and make sure lights are out and doors are locked after your meeting . Please remember the newsletter deadline is the 18th of each month.

Hearing Devices are available for your use during the worship service. If you are missing any words of our service we suggest you give it a try. Just ask an usher for one. We are sure it will make the service much more enjoyable.



April Birthdays

- 4/03 Gwen Newton-Denton
- 4/05 Libby Dillingham
- 4/06 Anne Houlihan
- 4/07-Ardelle Zych
- 4/10-Sтивен Downs
- 4/12 Nick Platt
- 4/13 Paul Nesbit
- 4/14-Martha Roman
- 4/15-Nancy Bush
- 4/19-Mark St. Jean
- 4/30-Julia Kraus





Palm/Passion Sunday
Service
March 29th 9:30AM
First Congregational
Church of Westfield



Maundy Thursday Service
First Congregational Church
Of Westfield
April 2nd 7:30PM



Easter Sunday Celebration
April 5th 9:30 AM
First Congregational
Church of Westfield

First Congregational Church of Westfield

18 Broad Street
Westfield, MA 01085
Office (413) 568-2833

www.firstcongregationalchurchwestfieldma.org



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