

# Boards & Committees

|                                |                         |  |          |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|----------|
| <b><u>Board of Deacons</u></b> |                         | <b><u>Board of Trustees</u></b>            |          |
| Colby Olson                    | Senior Pastor           | Catherine Muller                           | 2021     |
| *Steve Johnson                 | 2021                    | Karl Besse                                 | 2021     |
| 774-263-8252                   | swestleyj60@gmail.com   | Jeff Harrison                              | 2022     |
| Judy Stoltenberg               | 2021                    | Richard Cutler                             | 2023     |
| 508-763-3274                   | stoltenbergj@aol.com    | Rob Inglis                                 | 2023     |
| Roxanne Costa                  | 2022                    | <b><u>Board of Christian Education</u></b> |          |
| 508-763-3792                   | costafamily@comcast.net | Marilyn Melanson                           | 2021     |
| Diane Sullivan                 | 2022                    | Charlie Tate                               | 2021     |
| 508-789-9304                   | dsullivan1102@yahoo.com | *Beth Inglis                               | 2022     |
| Bonnie Hartley                 | 2023                    | Gina Souza                                 | 2023     |
| 508-763-2582                   | bonhart25@gmail.com     | Donna Rosinha                              | 2023     |
| Ron Stafford                   | 2023                    | <b><u>Missions Committee</u></b>           |          |
| 508-317-0141                   | fallguytwo@gmail.com    | Bunny Mogilnicki                           | 2021     |
| <b><u>Church Officers</u></b>  |                         | Ellen Hardy                                | 2022     |
| <b>Moderator:</b>              | Chuck Kantner           | *Nancy Sutcliffe                           | 2022     |
| <b>Clerk:</b>                  | Yvette Beaumont         | Mike Daniel                                | 2023     |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>              | Kris Stoltenberg        | Blaine Young                               | 2023     |
| <b>Financial Secretary:</b>    | Spence Smith            | <b><u>Nominating Committee</u></b>         |          |
| <b>Historian:</b>              | Betty Beaulieu          | Chuck Kantner                              | 2021     |
| <b>Head Usher:</b>             | Patricia Davis          | Michelle Vinagre (member at large)         | 2021     |
| <b>Sunday School</b>           |                         | <b><u>Vision Overseers</u></b>             |          |
| <b>Superintendent:</b>         | Noelle Johnson          | Steve Johnson                              | Heart    |
|                                |                         | *Spence Smith                              | Soul     |
|                                |                         | Catherine Muller                           | Soul     |
|                                |                         | Scott Muller                               | Mind     |
|                                |                         | Diane Sullivan                             | Mind     |
|                                |                         | Nancy Sutcliffe                            | Strength |
|                                |                         | Jim "Sully" Sullivan                       | Strength |

\* Denotes board or committee chairman



## First Congregational Church, Rochester, Massachusetts March and April 2020

### "Embracing Change Together" by Steve Johnson

As we all work together to advance God's church forward, we are sometimes met by brothers and sisters carrying ideas that we dislike. New things are difficult and change is a challenge, as in our worldliness we often view change as the enemy of the older, more comfortable things we have come to love. Those things with which we are familiar give us warmth, peace, and security, while new endeavors may seem cold, brash, confusing, and out of place. We want our church to grow, but we don't want it to change, and I humbly suggest that these two things cannot both simultaneously be true. We need to embrace change in God's church, while ensuring that the messages of Christ-centered worship and fellowship remain steadfast. Believe it or not, there is a small part of Congregationalism's history that almost completely owes itself not only to change but also to people's willingness to embrace it.

In 1949, Henry Wilder Foote wrote an essay called *The Significance and Influence of the Cambridge Platform of 1648*, and in it,

he gives a richly detailed history of the founding of Congregationalism. There is one small part of this history though, that strikes me as a gentle and beautiful example of what can happen when we open ourselves to new things and different ideas. With a humble nod to Henry Wilder Foote's work, I'd like to share that part of the story with you here.

We first should understand a couple of basic things about our history that sometimes get confused, the first of which is that when we read about the original Puritans, we're reading about a different group of people from the Pilgrims. The Pilgrims, as we all know, came to North America in 1620 while the Puritans arrived about a decade later. The Pilgrims, in Foote's book, "*represented the extreme left wing of English Puritanism. They believed that Church and State were separate realms, that the civil ruler had no authority over spiritual affairs.*" The Puritan group that had settled in 1628 had not only an inherent distaste for the corruption in the Church of England, but also a distrust of the

"radical" Pilgrims. We often forget that, as the unforgiving winter season bore down on these settlers as 1628 gave way to 1629, there was not one colony in New England, but two. As luck would have it though, even though both groups of people were at odds religiously, economically, and civilly, a gentle friendship developed over that winter season. The blending of these folks would go on to establish the foundations of New England

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**FIND THE LAMPLIGHTER!** Somewhere hidden on the pages of this edition of The Lamplighter is a small silhouette of a lamplighter like the one pictured here. The first three people to find the lamplighter and inform the church secretary where he can be found will each win a cool prize!



**LAMPLIGHTER**  
**ARTICLES ARE DUE BY**  
**4/20/20 FOR**  
**MAY/JUNE 2020**  
**CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE !**  
**WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/**  
**FIRSTCONGREGATIONALCHURCH**  
**OF ROCHESTER**



# Jesus Lives!

*Let us rejoice!*

## **Palm Sunday, April 5**

**Cantata: "Then Came the Morning"**

10:30 am

## **Maundy Thursday, April 9**

**Service of Tenebrae & Holy Communion**

7:30 pm

## **Good Friday, April 10**

**Reflection Gathering & Holy Communion**

7:30 pm

## **Easter Sunday, April 12**

**Sunrise Gathering on the Church Green**

7:00 am

**Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall**

(Immediately following the Sunrise Gathering)

**Easter Worship Gathering**

9:30 am

(one hour earlier than usual 10:30 am worship time)

No Sunday School



**Easter Flowers Order Form**  
**Deadline to order: March 29**  
**Cost: \$10 each**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Lilies: \_\_\_\_\_ # Daffodils : \_\_\_\_\_ # Tulips: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please write how you would like the listing to appear in the bulletin:

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Circle one)* In honor of *or* In loving memory of

\_\_\_\_\_

Please remit this form along with payment to the church office or mail to:  
Flowers, First Congregational Church of Rochester  
P.O. Box 98  
Rochester, MA 02770

Make checks payable to First Congregational Church of Rochester

Flowers will be placed in the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday, April 12,  
and may be taken home after the service.

**NEW MEMBERS**  
**INFO SESSION**  
**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH**  
For more information, please speak with one of our deacons

Sunday  
March 15  
9:00 am

Vestry  
(2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

## “Embracing Change Together” by Steve Johnson (continued)

Congregationalism and, as history tells it, the basis for their reconciliation and appreciation for each other would be in large part the work of one man.

Samuel Fuller was originally a clothmaker in London, and a deacon in the church in Leyden, the city in Holland from which the Pilgrims departed for the new world. Fuller had studied medicine in Europe, came to America aboard the Mayflower, and humbly looked after the medical needs of the Pilgrim colonists. Evidence suggests that Dr. Fuller was a kind, gentle, devout man and that he was beloved by almost everyone.

As the winter of 1628 set in, a significant bout of scurvy beset the Puritan colonists in Salem. Already weak and small in number, the Puritans were suffering and Governor John Endecott wrote a desperate letter to the colonists in Plymouth, pleading for their aid. Dr. Fuller was chosen to go help the poor Puritans and over the course of ministering to their needs during that long, hard, winter season, his gentility and Christian compassion seemed to have won over the Puritans and cured them of their prejudice toward the Pilgrims.

Subsequent to this endeavor and seeing the fruits of Dr. Fuller’s loving service, Governor Endecott again wrote to Plymouth, and this, in part, is what he wrote: “*God’s people are all marked with one and the same mark, and sealed with one and the same seal, and have for the main, one and the same heart, guided by one and the same spirit of truth; and where this is, there can be no discord, nay, here must needs be sweet harmony...I acknowledge myself much bound to you for your kind love and care in sending Mr. Fuller among us, and rejoice much that I am by him satisfied touching your judgments of the outward form of God’s worship.*”

Later, in August of 1629, when the Puritans ordained the first two ministers of the Salem Church, Pilgrim delegates arrived from Plymouth to love and support their Puritan brothers and sisters, and to extend the hand of fellowship between the churches. As the Puritans went on to form new churches in Boston, Charlestown, and Watertown, they did so by organizing them based on the Salem model, extending and reinforcing the gentle influence of the colonists in Plymouth, and blending the two into what would become New England Congregationalism.

Herein are a few examples for us as God’s church in Rochester begins another chapter in its long and fruitful life. First, there may be no more true example than this of the Congregationalist principle of one community church supporting another. Thanks to Dr. Fuller and to the softening of the Puritan hearts, the life of a church and most all its members were literally saved. Let us look to the other churches and gatherings of believers in our own community, and seek out ways to minister and be examples to them. When programs and events are developed in our own church, let us remember to invite believers around us to join us and participate and extend to them the hand of fellowship.

Second, let us remember to be gentle and open to changes in God’s church. In 2 Corinthians we read, “*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come,*” and in 1 Corinthians 15:51, Paul writes, “*Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.*” While the Lord remains the same “yesterday, today, and forever,” His church must change, but still stay true and faithful to His word. While the changes we make together may not save the lives of an entire congregation, they are no less important to the growth of our church.

Our Christian practices have a long history here in New England. As stewards of our own history, we must be respectful in honoring our traditions, but not at the expense of forward progress and growth. Similarly, we are called to defend against growth-at-all-costs, or progress that dilutes either God’s message or the visions of God’s church. We must support the church in thoughtful change by lending to it our talents and our gifts, and in the absence of those, at least avoid being the selfish and unmoving enemies of that Christ-centered change.

As we move forward, embracing thoughtful change together, may God continue to bless each and every one of us. May He continue to keep his hand on our church, and may we each be convicted to deepen our individual commitments to each other and to our church family.



## ANNUAL LADIES LUNCHEON SATURDAY, MAY 2 12:00 - 2:00 pm



*Come for lunch and learn about the 8 most important women of the Bible who inspire, not only because of how they lived but also because of their rock-solid faith, even in some of the toughest of circumstances*

### Confident Women Inspiring Lives Fearless Faith

Advance registration is necessary. Tickets are \$10 per person. Financial assistance is available so that all are included (see Gina Souza). Please call the church office for reservations.



Sunday, March 8

### LAMPLIGHTER INFO

#### DISTRIBUTION

The Lamplighter is printed every other month and is distributed in PDF form via email. Hard copies are available in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall or will be mailed to you upon request by contacting the church office at [rochestercongregational@comcast.net](mailto:rochestercongregational@comcast.net) or 508-763-4314.

#### BIRTHDAYS

If you wish to have your birthday printed on The Lamplighter calendar, please provide your information to the church office.

## Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Meetings

When: Every Thursday

Time: 6:00 pm

Where: FCCR Fellowship Hall

**Come as you are, but don't expect to stay that way!**

For more information, contact Luis Rivera at 774-634-6374 or [rivera6374@gmail.com](mailto:rivera6374@gmail.com)



**Entry Fee**  
One canned good  
per person for  
Damien's Pantry

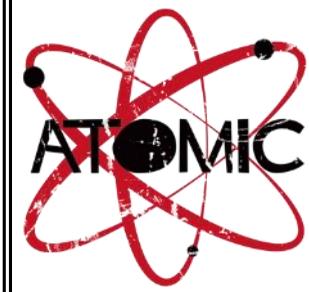
# EASTER COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

Rain or  
Shine!

**Saturday**  
**March 28, 2020**  
**12:00 – 2:00 pm**

Carnival games with LOTS of prizes & candy-filled eggs, bouncy house, fun foods & face painting, balloon animals, and the Easter bunny!

**at First Congregational Church of Rochester**  
**11 Constitution Way, Rochester**  
508-763-4314 ▪ [www.rochestercongregational.com](http://www.rochestercongregational.com)  
**Pre-register at [vbspro.events/p/eastercarnival2020](http://vbspro.events/p/eastercarnival2020)**  
Brought to you by FCCR with help from Rochester's Lions Club, Women's Club, Police and Fire Departments, Joseph H. Plumb Memorial Library, Matt's Blackboard, Friend's Marketplace, The Hair & Body Solution, Lloyd's Market, Fieldstone Farm Market, Captain Bonney's, Coastal Gardens, and Creative Little Leaders



## Youth Ministry UPDATE

The ATOMIC youth and leaders were grateful for another awesome **Monadnock Encounter** in January. No two Encounters are the same, but they always get *more than they pray for!*

**Sisterly Support:** Eleven ATOMIC family members are proud and honored to serve those in attendance at the Spaghetti Fundraiser Dinner in support of Geneva and her upcoming missions trip.

**New Meeting Location:** The ATOMIC family is very happy with their new meeting home. They love being awesome together on the second floor of the Vestry!

Mark your calendars! This summer's **Free To Be Me Camp** will be held on **August 3-7** from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.



## EXPLORING BIG QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD

Equipping kids with a ready defense for questions that challenge their faith. Published by Focus on the Family®

Next time you cross a parking lot, notice the variety of vehicle designs. Now notice how much they have in common: four wheels, windows on all sides, and a hood covering the engine. These shared traits make sense. While vehicles may have different strengths and abilities, they are all used to transport passengers from one place to another.

Think of the differences you see in creation. Notice how different birds and fish look from human beings — and from each other. But look closer at how much they have in common with each other and with us. Most have eyes with a mouth or beak underneath. Just as different vehicles have some common tasks they need to accomplish, so do

fish, birds, and humans. We all need to eat — and to see what we eat!

Similarity between designs doesn't mean that one creation came from another. It just means they have some things in common. Christians believe God is responsible for these common design traits, just like a human designer who uses the same techniques and styles across multiple works.

**Bible Verse: Genesis 1:26**

*Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." (NLT)*



## “A View From the Pew”

### Proverbs 20:9

By George Smith

Once upon a time, a church building was in dire need of a paint job. The fellow who was the low bidder was very dishonest. He purchased only cheap paint and even watered it down. He started at the steeple and worked his way down until the job was completed. Suddenly a big black cloud formed over the church, and the heavens opened up with a torrential downpour washing all of the cheap paint from the church. Then a loud, demanding voice came from behind the cloud saying, “Repaint, and thin no more!”

Remember the words of Jesus? When he said, “Repent, and sin no more,” it wasn’t a joke as he spoke with the woman who was caught in adultery (John 8:1-11). There are a few interesting things about this passage of scripture. One question is: Where is the man who also was guilty? Leviticus 20:10 states they both must be put to death. This was the law the Pharisees were throwing at Jesus. Then there was the Roman law that forbids the Jews to exercise capital punishment. Either which way Jesus answered, they figured they had him. When Jesus said, “If any of you is without sin, be the first to cast the stone,” they slithered away one after another knowing their trick backfired. Jesus turned to the woman and said, “Woman, where are

they? Has no one condemned you?” “No sir,” she replied. “neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now. Repent and sin no more.”

What does that mean? Was the woman to remain sinless for the rest of her life? Can any one of us be sinless for the rest of our lives? Or does it mean to come out of that lifestyle? In Romans 3:23 Paul reminds us, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Some Christians will put the blame on Adam and Eve. Oh, if they hadn’t fallen for Satan’s evil trick there would be no sin in the world today. I cannot heartfully agree with that statement. I think Satan would have found someone else who was vulnerable. One fact is certain: When sin came in, so also came sickness and death.

Genesis 19:24 tells us God rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah, destroying them completely. No evidence of those cities was ever found. They were reduced to dust, and we know what happens to dust when the wind blows. Some may say, “This is the New Testament and God is a God of love.” Yes, He is, but He is also a God of wrath who detests sin. In Revelation 21:8 we are reminded that the cowardly, the

unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be the fiery lake of burning sulfur. It was burning sulfur that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and the same will be the fate of those mentioned above.

Just because as Christians we don’t participate in certain sins doesn’t mean we are off the hook if we condone them. Jesus made it clear in Matthew 5:27-28 when he said, “You have heard it said do not commit adultery. But I tell you that if anyone looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” 1 Chronicles 28:9 reminds us that God searches every heart and understands every motive behind our thoughts. So then, we should never agree with sin but pray for the sinner by showing our love for them and even helping to ‘gently’ turn them from their ways.

Remember, we have no right to judge anyone. Leave that up to Jesus when he shall come to judge the living and the dead. As Christians, we aren’t perfect yet. That will come when we go to be with Jesus. Until then, we also need to repent when sin knocks on our door. Jesus is that great High Priest who sits at the right hand of God, and He is not simply twiddling his thumbs there. He is our heavenly lawyer who pleads to his Father on our behalf. He earned that right by shedding His blood on the cross of Calvary to negate the sins of all who put their faith and trust in Him. All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Him (Matthew 28:18).



**MISSIONARY TRIP FUNDRAISER**

Help support Geneva Smith (ORR '19) on a missions trip in Central Asia while enjoying a family-fun spaghetti dinner!

Tickets can be purchased at First Congregational Church of Rochester at 11 Constitution Way or by calling 508-763-4314 between the hours of 8-1 on Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Fri. Tickets must be purchased no later than Thursday, March 12th

**MARCH 14, 2020**

**ADULTS: \$10 5PM TO 6:30PM**

**KIDS: \$5 OPEN SEATING**




## BROTHERS & BACON

A mostly monthly men’s breakfast\*

Come share food, faith, and fella-ship

Held the last Sunday of most months\* at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall at First Congregational Church of Rochester  
11 Constitution Way, Rochester MA • rochestercongregational@comcast.net • 508-763-4314

\* The following exceptions apply: July, August, some Novembers, and December

# iPhone Moments

**"A Moment to Yourselves"  
Valentine's Day Babysitting Event**



**Paint Day!**



**The Fellowship Hall looks fantastic with a fresh coat of paint. Thank you to all our helpers!**



**MONADNOCK 2020**



**Read me another bedtime story, please!**

# MISSIONS UPDATE

## Ditty Bags Are Ready For Delivery

The ditty bag drive for the Seafarer's Friends Society has been a success! Your monetary donations were used to augment the items that were donated so that 50 ditty bags were equally filled! A date will be chosen for sometime in March to deliver the bags to the Seafarer's Friends Society in Chelsea, MA. If you are interested in driving into Chelsea for this occasion, please see Nancy or any member of the Missions Committee. The Missions Committee would like to say "Thank you!" for your generous support for this mini-mission endeavor. Special thanks go to Jo Ann Deschamps and Patsy and Charlie Tate for making the bags and to the Guild for their donation to purchase the materials needed to make them. This was a wonderful mission project with many participants.



## Backpack Drive Volunteers Needed



Once again, the Missions Committee will be working with local schools to collect used backpacks for the homeless. Mobile Ministries received 45 backpacks last year. The committee is looking for six people to be the liaisons between the schools and the Committee. The schools have been contacted, and you would only need to pick up the backpacks at the time designated by your school liaison. Please see Nancy Sutcliffe or a Missions Committee member if you are interested.

## Future Mission Projects

The Missions Committee is seeking suggestions/ideas from the congregation for future missions work. We would like to hear from you as to what is needed locally, nationally and internationally. It could be a mini-mission involving different church groups, like the ditty bags, or support of a specific mission. The Missions Committee meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the church vestry. You are invited to attend these meetings and bring forth your ideas for discussion!