

APRIL 2020



What's new at
**FIRST CHRISTIAN
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**



“A Church Where Faith Is Active In Love”

Greetings Friends in Christ!

What an absolutely amazing Sunday I had with all of you! My heart is so completely full from all of the worship and fellowship experiences that we had. I was so grateful for all of you who were able to watch the worship service and be together with me in praise to our God. I'm grateful for all those who were live with me on the Facebook and those who took a peek at it afterwards to see what we talked about. I am more than impressed with the number of people who jumped into the Zoom fellowship gathering. The willingness for so many of us to jump into the world of virtual connection with such short notice is a testament to how important God is in our lives and how essential worship is to keep this congregation together. We will only get stronger, the participation will only get bigger, and we will find more and more and more ways to build our relationship from such a great distance.

This week will be full of more opportunities to try our hand at building this virtual connection. For those of you who are already on Facebook, you will find a few videos on the church Facebook page throughout the week talking about things like how to create a worship space in your home for these next few months of virtual worship together, little 30 second reminders of God's love, dinner live with me Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm and so much more. For those of you who do not yet have Facebook and might be willing to explore what it means to do so, I hope to be able to have a conversation about what Facebook is; why it is so beneficial as an Internet medium, how easy it is to have and how much control you have over what you do, and if you try it and don't like it how easy it is to delete it. For the videos that I am able to offer through the YouTube option, I will send those links out with Deb's help as well. Also, the next time that you are viewing a worship service, click on the subscribe option for my YouTube page, and you will always be able to see anything that I put there. For those of us who did not get the chance to try any of the worship or fellowship opportunities, or had some issues connecting or figuring it out, let's touch base together this week so I can offer some assistance, or if you have some super brilliant techie persons in your household, maybe you could arrange a date with them to learn some more.

Don't forget, join me for dinner this, and every, Thursday. Pop on the church Facebook page at 6:30 pm and then, join in on the Zoom with me at 7:00 pm using the following link or phone number...

Join Zoom electronically by clicking this link

<https://zoom.us/j/685820775?pwd=MkRSODIEY2MxMjBmMFRtR1FSaDJsdz09>

-OR-

Call and join in using this phone number and meeting ID

1 253 215 8782 Meeting ID: 685 820 775

To be able to sit in my home and in your homes all at the same time to worship and fellowship is beyond anything I could've imagined just a few short weeks ago. God is indeed in the midst of what is happening in the world and has called the church out of his comfort zone and into a place of curiosity, bravery, and love. Thank you so much for being a part of this new journey. During the worship service I challenged all of us to find a way to continue to be the ones who earnestly seek one another – in such a virtual world as this has become, it is a new and exciting endeavor. Let us seek with our keyboards, let us seek with our telephones, let us seek with our prayers as we find puzzle pieces like ourselves and bring God's people together just the way we were created to do.

Blessings,

Rev. Holly

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

The Church Building is closed due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak until at least May 4th, at which time we will assess the situation. However, we are still able to receive your generous giving whether you choose to give online, drop it in our mailbox that has a drop slot or mail it in during this stay at home advisory.

If you have any questions about worship, about giving or you just want to speak with Pastor Holly, please call 808-371-4701 anytime and she will be able to help.

Also feel free to reach out and call Deb Gray at the church office, 508-673-7179 or Danielle Avery-Desmarais at 508-844-9611 with any questions or concerns you may have.

Remember, church is not the building, WE ARE! Let's stay strong, church – together.

Due to the Church Closure, there will be no in person worship services, meetings, Thrifty Shoppe openings, Dunkin' Ministry, or choir rehearsals taking place in April.

Virtual Week March 29th – April 4th

April 2nd

6:30 pm: Virtual Check in – LIVE on Facebook

7 pm: Zoom Check in – look for the link in email and on Facebook

Also! Look for surprise LIVE pop-ins on Facebook of Pastor Holly (and family sometimes) throughout the week!

Palm Sunday Communion

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, and we begin our Holy Week journey together. You will find the worship and fellowship schedule below for Holy Week. This Sunday is also communion Sunday, and I am so excited to celebrate the Lord's Supper with you. In preparation for communion together, please consider finding time this week, perhaps with your family, to bake or cook something specifically for communion. On Sunday, I will ask you at the beginning of service to bring what you have prepared to your sacred space for worship, and when we celebrate communion during the worship, you will bless the elements along with me and partake, and perhaps serve one another. You can cook, bake, or prepare anything that you would like - communion is not about WHAT we use, it's HOW God blesses. So, anything that you intentionally prepare, or designate, and pray over, is fit for God's grace. It can be bread and juice, a musubi and guava drink, poke and water - anything you like! Get creative! The important thing is you either prepare it intentionally, or choose it and designate it. Let's build some anticipation for our first communion together as Pastor and Congregation as we explore what it truly means to be a community of believers.

Virtual Holy Week April 5th – April 12th

April 5th

- 9:00 am: Sunday morning worship – look for link
- 11:30 am: Virtual Coffee Hour – LIVE on Facebook
- 12:00 pm: Zoom Coffee Hour – look for link in email and on Facebook

April 8th

- 12:30 pm: Lunch with Pastor Holly LIVE on Facebook
- 1:00 pm: Zoom Lunch with Pastor Holly – look for the link in email and on Facebook

April 9th

- 6:00 pm: Maundy Thursday worship available – look for the link

April 10th

- 6:00 pm: Good Friday worship – look for the link

April 12th

- 6:00 am: Easter Sunrise Celebration – look for the link
- 6:30 am: Virtual Easter Fellowship – LIVE on Facebook
- 9:00 am: Easter Worship! – look for the link
- 10:00 am: Zoom Easter Fellowship – look for the link

We are all trying to get the hang of our virtual community. If you have any questions about the worship or fellowship opportunities, please reach out to Pastor Holly for help:

Call or Text: 808-371-4701 -OR- Email: hollynorwick@gmail.com

Dear Church Members,

I am not going to talk about the Corona Virus. The warnings and precautions are everywhere, in this newsletter, on the radio, in newspapers, on the internet and TV of course. I have never watched so many Governor and President updates before. Please follow them as best you can. I am going to talk about the effects of the stay at home orders on our Church.

I am very blessed to be working. The plant I work at still needs to make chemicals for industry and personal care needs. Not all of our friends, families, neighbors, and/or co-workers are as fortunate. Many of them are without jobs and the prospects are not good for the rest of the spring. The anxiety must be overwhelming. A lot of us say Health is the most important thing. Now, more than ever, that is true. Mental and physical health are both important. On Facebook I am a member of a Submarine group. We chat and joke about being isolated, running out of toilet paper, out of food and long hours of boredom. We were built for this we say, however, we didn't have our families in the next quarters. They were at home doing normal things. My cellar game room has become a work out Gym to keep Abigail in shape as her basketball, softball, cross fit and school gym has all stopped. We all have to keep busy. All the time being isolated has a draining effect the longer it goes on without knowing when we can get together again; it just builds and builds. Please take a walk, read a book, catch up on some bible verses, do some chores, call your family; do anything but sit at the TV all day watching updates.

I pray our Virtual Online Services are as comforting to those folks as it is to me. Pastor Holly, Danielle and Deb Gray put a lot of time, energy and resources into them. If you're able, please follow the links to get to them. We have struggled on how to help folks that do not have a laptop or iPad to worship with us. We have had some ideas about extra devices to hand out. If you have such a need, let us know; we will figure something out.

Lastly (here comes the Treasurer part, you knew it was coming), without the use of the building and the loss of tithes, rental income, and fundraisers, our income upon which we rely to maintain our expenses has diminished. We still have bills coming in, staff to pay, and needy repairs to make. Please, if you're working, stop by and put a check in our mailbox, submit a donation online using our website: theoldewhitechurch.org, or mail a check to the office at 1113 GAR Highway, Swansea, MA 02777 so we can continue to serve you. We understand if you are not working you need to take care of yourself. If you are working and have some extra coming in, please consider supporting your Church. We have put off some bills and staffing to May. It is my prayer every morning to get together then. Everyone take care, stay at home and be safe.

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well."

- 3 John: 2

Love you all,
John Chace & The Finance Team
First Christian Congregational Church

Music Update...

As you know, in response to Corona Virus concerns, we have switched to “virtual worship”. This has posed some unique challenges for music ministry, both with sound quality as well as copyright law as it pertains to the broadcast of music. On the advice of the UCC conference, we have obtained two reprint and broadcast licenses through companies that specifically focus on church music ministry. This allows us to use music from participating publishers/composers in online worship. I have attended numerous webinars, sought out new resources, and stayed in close contact with members of the UCC Musicians Association who I met through last summer’s conference.

Fortunately I have both an organ and keyboard in my basement, and my wife Shannon is willing to continue to sing for us. I am also looking into additional resources and ideas that may allow us to engage more participants from separate locations in the future.

I thank you for your patience as we troubleshoot sound quality issues and navigate this new world of online worship. I pray that, technical issues and all, you are able to find connection and comfort through music.

Sincerely,
Danielle Avery-Desmarais
Director of Music Ministry
508-844-9611 -- danidandco@yahoo.com

**The Olde White Church
Welcomes New Faces to our
Family!!**

**Janina Asselin
Cheryl Hordern
Gregory Hordern**

Electronic Share!

During the zoom fellowship, we had some fruitful conversation about recognizing that not all of our congregants have the technology necessary to connect with us in this way. We talked about organizing an “electronic share.” I know that if I take a look around my home taking in consideration my kids and the technology I’ve needed to work over the years, I can think of at least two devices that I have that I no longer use.

Perhaps some of you have a device that you don’t use too much or have a duplicate of such as an older computer, an older Smart phone with Internet capability, an iPad or Kindle, and other such devices. We wanted to try and gather some of those devices and loan them out during the pandemic to members of our congregation who do not have any technology so they might participate with us as well.

If you have any such devices and you are willing to share them with others in the congregation, please let me know. I will coordinate with the care team to disseminate them.

Pastor Holly

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU,
THANK YOU!!!**

- To Bob Paige, John Correia, Janina Asselin and all the wonderful volunteers who helped with the delicious Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner enjoyed by all on March 7th. Their efforts helped the church net a profit of \$570 to our church’s general funds!
- To Pastor Holly, Danielle Avery-Desmarais, Shannon Avery-Desmarais, Haylie Scharzenbach, Kacie Scharzenbach, and Amberly Scharzenbach for their parts in our virtual worship services in March.

The Sunday School Scoop

Hurray for Us! We now have a Coordinator for the Children and Youth Ministry. The CYM support team has been working diligently since last September to bring this about. While at first we were looking into developing two positions; one for care of infants and toddlers and the other for a director of children and youth ministry, a better understanding of the church demographics, and our particular needs led to the creation of a position for a coordinator encompassing both. (Once we are able to again be in our building, infant/toddler care will be available from 9:45 am until the end of services year round.) Notice that the title of the position has been changed from director to coordinator. Is God nudging you to be part of the volunteer staff?

By January, the job description was finished and applications were being sought. The team read the applications and invited 2 persons to be interviewed. Questions for the interviews were then prepared. After his interview the team decided unanimously to offer the position to our own Evan Colbert. Evan sees one of his strengths as his energy level. He also feels he can build group consensus. He sees the children's ministry as a possible engine of growth for the church. If after reading his letter in this newsletter, you want to learn more about his qualifications you may check the CYM notebook in the office to see the application he submitted, the interview questions, and the notes of the interviewers. We are looking forward to developing an excellent program of ministry under his leadership. His official starting date is May 1.

During the pandemic, please listen with your children to Rev. Holly's message and help them follow through on any activities she suggests for them.

Toosie Margolies,
for the Children and Youth Ministry Team

Welcome, Evan Colbert!



Dear Church Family,

Over my past two decades working with children and families, I've felt God gently knocking on my heart to teach and lead His kids. Every time there's been an unmet need or an open question for children's' ministry, I've heard a quiet voice suggest "Why not you?" This time I said, "Ok Lord, Show me how."

I believe God is still speaking. He shows Himself in small ways every day and we see the thread of that message woven through all we do. The church's youth ministry program helps our children discover how God speaks to them in their lives and through His Word. I believe that when we are following God we are moving toward love. I'm guided by this belief when I ask myself how I am either sliding towards fear and cynicism, or challenging myself to know God better. In a ministry position, I hope to show children how to follow God's loving direction for their lives as I hold space for them to talk about difficult things in a safe and Godly setting.

Our faith community has a beautiful relationship with its children. It was obvious, when my wife and I walked through the door four years ago, that I could trust this congregation and ministry team to take care of my daughter and help her grow in her faith in ways that aligned with our beliefs. I hope that I can be a big part of helping current and future families continue to feel the same.

Love in Christ,
Evan Colbert

IN OUR PRAYERS:

- Prayers are going out to everyone affected by this very changing time, particularly those who are isolated the most during this time of self-quarantine. Please feel free to reach out by phone to your friends, members, and neighbors in need.
- **Annie, Evan and Niamh Colbert**, on the passing of Annie's father, James Lee Adkisson on February 29th. Our thoughts and prayers are with Annie, Evan & Niamh and their family during this difficult time. Cards of condolence may be sent to 19 Logan Avenue, Swansea, MA 02777.
- **Nancy and Ken Bosworth**. Nancy fell once again and broke the other hip, had surgery, and is now at Saint Elizabeth's Home, One Saint Elizabeth Way, East Greenwich, RI 02818. Nancy is accepting cards and calls at 401-471-6060.
- **Niamh Colbert**, who recently struck a pole while on her bike, fractured her skull and spent the night in the ICU with a brain bleed and a broken arm that needed to be re-set. Niamh is recovering but she has some mild head trauma and her arm may require surgery.
- **Rev. Dr. John & Joyce Wilson**. Rev. Wilson continues to recuperate at a facility near his daughter until his ankle heals fully. The cast will be coming off this week and then the hard work begins as he learns how to walk normally again. John & Joyce are receiving cards at Brookdale West Bay, 2783 West Shore Road, Warwick, RI 02889.
- **Bob Eddy**, who is at Fall River Healthcare, 1748 Highland Avenue, Fall River, MA 02720, for continued medical care.
- **The Family of Barry G. Lyne**, who passed away on March 13 at the age of 63. Barry was the son of our longtime member, Bill Lyne.
- **The Family of Lorraine Viveiros**, who passed away on March 6, 2020 at Clifton Rehabilitative Nursing Center. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lorraine's family and friends.
- **Lorraine Barboza, Lloyd & Shirley Kenyon, Gerrit Sanford, and David Lundquist**
- **Continued prayers for Bernice Church, Rosemary Marshall, Becky Chace, Edna Cartin, Dot Wiggins, Hope Douglass, Betty Stiles, and Wallace and Diane Lake.**

Pastor Holly Ongoing Scam

We have been alerted once again that someone is posing as Rev. Holly and sending out scam emails in her name. The most recent emails are being received from president@barbfoundation.org with a message of BLESS YOU and are asking for your help. PLEASE, remember that all emails from the "real" Rev. Holly would only come from her email of hollynorwick@gmail.com and Rev. Holly would NEVER ask you for money or to help her in this way. Stay safe everyone!



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Applications for the **Harland O. McNeill Memorial Scholarship** are available at the church office. To be eligible for the scholarship, an applicant must be a member in good standing of the First Christian Congregational Church of Swansea, MA and currently enrolled in or accepted by an accredited college or university as a full time student. The completed application must be returned to the church office no later than May 15, 2020.

One scholarship of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** will be awarded each year if there is a qualified candidate. Payment usually will be made directly to the school involved at the beginning of the second semester after the recipient has successfully completed at least one semester.

Selection of the recipient in any given year shall be the responsibility of a committee of five members: the Treasurer, one Executive Council member, one Deacon, one member of the Board of Religious Education, and a member-at-large. High School Seniors, college undergraduates and adult church members are encouraged to apply. Please call the church office at 508-673-7179 if you would like to receive an Application.

Scholarship Committee

Dear Family and Friends of Carolyn A. Sampson,

Thank you for your previous gifts to the Carolyn A. Sampson Memorial Scholarship. As you may know, it has been eleven years since Carolyn passed. In her memory, we have been awarding a memorial scholarship to a qualified Case High graduating senior for ten years. Usually, the scholarship is presented by Renee or JonCarl Bernier or myself at the Case High Senior Class Awards Ceremony.

I have participated in the selection of a qualified graduating senior from the Case High senior class. The Carolyn A. Sampson scholarship is given to a Case High graduating senior who plans to continue their education at a professional, technical, or vocational institution, not always a four-year academic institution. We look for students who have been actively involved in music or theatre programs at Case High School, and we are partial to students who have participated in marching band and/or theatre productions, as well.

Previous recipients of the Carolyn A. Sampson Memorial Scholarship include: Kirsten Gonsalves (2010); Taylor DeMoranville (2011); Brittany Costello (2012); Samantha Hussey (2013); Lauren Dunn (2014); Amanda Feno (2015); Samantha Coffey (2016); Haylie Schwarzenbach & Alyson Tavares (2017); Madisyn Ferreira (2018); and Henning Anderson (2019). Eleven awardees have been given a \$500 scholarship since the first year of the Carolyn A. Sampson Memorial Scholarship, based on the interest earned by the Case High Scholarship Trust. In the first year, we were only able to award a scholarship of \$450.

I wanted to remind everyone that it is once again time to consider making a gift to the Carolyn A. Sampson Memorial Scholarship. I want to thank you and acknowledge that you are part of Carolyn's Memorial Scholarship team, so that's why the names of past awardees has been included. Gifts to the Carolyn A. Sampson Memorial Scholarship are welcome until April 10, 2020.

I apologize if you have already sent in your gift to the Case High Scholarship Trust. I have not received an update on gifts that have been received in 2020.

If you are considering to make a contribution to the Carolyn A. Sampson Memorial Scholarship, you can send your gift to: Treasurer, Case High Scholarship Trust, Inc. The mailing address is: P.O. Box 33, Swansea, MA, 02777. Checks should be made payable to: Case High Scholarship Trust, Inc.

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Carolyn A. Sampson Memorial Scholarship.

Sincerely,
Martha H. Curtis
CAS Scholarship Coordinator
Martha.H.Curtis@Gmail.com

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*** All April services will be on Facebook or on Zoom through a link that will be sent to your email***			1	2 6:30 pm Virtual Check In 7:00 pm Zoom Check In	3	4
5 Palm Sunday 9:00 am Sunday Morning Worship 11:30 am Virtual Coffee Hour -- Live on Facebook 12:00 pm Zoom Coffee Hour	6	7	8 12:30 pm Lunch with Pastor Holly Live on Facebook 1:00 pm Zoom Lunch with Pastor Holly	9 Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship	10 Good Friday 6:00 pm Good Friday Worship	11
12 Easter 6:00 am Easter Sunrise Celebration 6:30 pm Virtual Easter Fellowship – LIVE on Facebook 9:00 am Easter Worship! 10:00 am Zoom Easter Fellowship	13	14	15	16 6:30 pm Virtual Check In 7:00 pm Zoom Check In Finance Team Meeting via Zoom Time TBD	17	18
19 9:00 am Sunday Morning Worship 11:30 am Virtual Coffee Hour -- Live on Facebook 12:00 pm Zoom Coffee Hour	20	21 Newsletter Deadline	22	23 Executive Council Meeting at 5:30 pm via Zoom 6:30 pm Virtual Check In 7:00 pm Zoom Check In	24	25
26 9:00 am Sunday Morning Worship 11:30 am Virtual Coffee Hour -- Live on Facebook 12:00 pm Zoom Coffee Hour	27	28	29	30 6:30 pm Virtual Check In 7:00 pm Zoom Check In		

First Christian Congregational Church

The Olde White Church

1113 GAR Highway
Swansea, MA 02777



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2020**



First Christian Congregational Church

"A Church Where Faith is Active in Love"

1113 GAR Highway
Swansea, MA 02777

Church Phone: 508-673-7179

Email: swanseawhitechurch@meganet.net

Website: www.theoldewhitechurch.org

Facebook: [FirstChristianCongregationalChurch ofSwansea](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianCongregationalChurchofSwansea)

Twitter: @Pastor_Holly

The Reverend Doctor Holly Norwick, Pastor

Pastor Holly's Phone: 808-371-4701

Worship Service at 10:00 am

Sunday School and Child Care provided

Coffee and fellowship following worship

Church Office Closed during April

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

All are Welcome!!

Palm Sunday, April 5th	9:00 am Sunday morning worship 11:30 am Virtual Coffee Hour –Live on FB Noon om Zoom Coffee Hour – look for link
Virtual Check in	Thursday, April 2, 16, 23 & 30 6:30 pm Virtual Check in – Live on FB 7:00 pm Zoom Check in – look for link
Lunch with Pastor Holly	Wednesday, April 8 12:30 pm Live on Facebook 1:00 pm Zoom Lunch – look for link
Maundy Thursday Service, April 9th	6:00 pm worship – look for link
Good Friday, April 10th	6:00 pm worship – look for link
Easter Sunday	6:00 am Easter Sunrise Celebration 6:30 am Virtual Easter Fellowship – Live on Facebook 9:00 am Easter Worship – look for link 10:00 am Zoom Easter Fellowship – look for link
Finance Team Meeting	Thursday, April 16 via Zoom – time TBD
Executive Council Team Meeting	Thursday, April 23 at 5:30 pm – via Zoom