

NEWS FROM THE CENTER

Church and Community News



March 31, 2023

The First Congregational Church of Shelburne, on the Mohawk Trail, welcomes you.

The "**News from the Center**" has been around for a while, we're not sure how long, but a while. We understand the intent has always been to share information about upcoming events happening in the Shelburne area with a focus on "the center" or "downtown" or "rural" area of town, and it has been presented in a variety of ways - in print, as an email attachment, or plainly in an email like this. Because the email originates from the First Congregational Church much of the information is about what is happening at the church, however, if you have other events and activities that benefit the local community feel free to send it our way. These emails are not on a particular schedule so there are no "deadlines" but remember to send information well in advance if possible since there is no particular schedule.

Upcoming activities:

March 31st 5:30PM Community Meal at the Trinity Church in Shelburne Falls

April 2nd 11AM Palm Sunday Service at the Church

April 6th 7PM Maundy Thursday Worship at the Church

April 9th 6:15AM Sunrise Service at Apex Orchards (new store), followed by breakfast at the Hall

April 9th 11AM Easter Service at the Church

April 30th 9:15AM Combined Sunday Service with United Congregational Church of Conway (at Conway)

The religious services and other activities are open to all. Bring a friend or neighbor.

Remember to **check out the church [website](#)** with more information, announcements, and worship resources. There is also a [calendar](#) of activities at the Church and Fellowship Hall.

Our Church helps to support the **weekly community meal** provided at Trinity Church in Shelburne Falls. If you wish to assist with food preparation, serving, or planning you are invited to reach out to [Diantha Wholey](#) to volunteer. If you can lend financial support for the project you can send a donation to the First Congregational Church of Shelburne, 21 Church Common Rd, Shelburne MA 01370 and indicate on the check that your contribution is to support the "community meals" program.

Some have expressed their frustration, hopelessness, and feeling of helplessness to respond to the many disasters and tragedies that have impacted people around the world: tornadoes in the southern US, the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, the school shooting in Nashville, the deaths of migrants trying to flee wars and poverty, and the list goes on. Consider the words of the Psalmist: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling." (Psalm 46:1-3) In addition to the power of prayer, you, we, can do things to help and **great things can happen when many work together** to make positive change. Here are some of the many resources and cooperative efforts ongoing at the United Church of Christ:

[Talking with Children and Teens about Tough Issues](#)

[UCC Global H.O.P.E.](#) (Humanitarian. Opportunities. Progress. Empowerment.)

[Justice and Peace Action Network](#)

Locally, **Rev. Marianne MacCullagh** is available to share your thoughts, ideas, joys and concerns. You are welcome to reach out to her by phone 413-335-6595, by [email](#) or visit at her Wednesday office hours from 11AM until 4PM at Fellowship Hall. Pastor Marianne is also available at the United Congregational Church in Conway on Tuesdays from 11AM until 4PM if that works better for you. All are welcome.

Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)

**5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
6 Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
7 rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the form of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
8 And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!
9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Creator.**