

First Congregational Church Weekly Newsletter

East Longmeadow, MA

March 12, 2025

Join us for Soup & Bread Luncheons and Partners for Sacred Places Webinars during Lent!

On Wednesdays, March 19th and April 9th – 12:00 PM

We'll gather at Noon, in Fellowship Hall, for soup and bread, and at 12:30, we'll watch a video presentation by Partners for Sacred Places, which will help us move forward with the work you have already done related to sharing our facilities with groups and organizations in the wider community. You may join us for any, or all these dates. We'll have brief discussion following each presentation. The topics will be:

Session 2: DIY Space-Sharing Policies – Wednesday, March 19th

We'll learn about reviewing our current policies and creating new ones which will serve us in designing effective partnership agreements.

This will be a hands-on workshop, including addressing such questions as: What content is acceptable in which spaces? Where should visitors be more mindful of the space? What about event decorations, like glitter and balloons? What happens when it snows or there is an emergency in the building? What food and drink policies do we need to have in place?

Session 3: Successful Communication – Wednesday, April 9th

We'll learn the best ways to work with our space-sharing partners to prevent and navigate potential (inevitable) misunderstandings and disagreements. We'll also explore some generational differences in terms of communication styles, venues, finances, and expectations.

As we use this Season of Lent to think creatively, and also practically, for the new life that God is creating in, through and with our church and congregation, YOUR thoughts and ideas are most welcome!!

There is a sign-up sheet in the Breezeway, to let us know how much soup and bread to prepare each week!

If you would like to help Denise host these luncheons, please let her know, by calling her at 860-471-7727 or by emailing her at pastor@churchontherotary.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP in the sanctuary or livestream link: <http://www.facebook.com/churchontherotary/>

YOUTH GROUP IS STARTING UP!!!



Kickoff Event: Sunday March 16, 2025

What: Meet at the church for food, games and activities. Planning of events
(including service projects for the remainder of the year).

When: Arrive Sunday at 6:00 pm. We should wrap up around 7:30pm.

Where: First Congregational Church 7 Somers Rd. East Longmeadow

*** Parents are invited to come in at the beginning of the meeting, to get any of your questions answered. ***

First time youth group families: Please fill out this online registration form for your child here

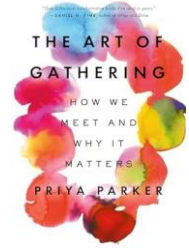
<https://tinyurl.com/firstchurchYG> ***

YOU'RE INVITED TO A BOOK DISCUSSION DURING LENT

Please plan to join me after worship, from 11:30 – 12:15, in the youth room during through Palm Sunday, April 13th, for a lively discussion of the book “The Art of Gathering: How We Meet, And Why It Matters,” by Priya Parker.

Sign up on the sign-up sheet in the breezeway at the church, or by calling or emailing the church office.

Looking forward to sharing the season of Lent with you all! Denise



TECH TIP CORNER: Watching the Church services on-line

We recently upgraded our capabilities so that people can watch our Live-Stream church service even if they don't use Facebook. You can now access our live stream at 10:00 every Sunday morning at any of the following locations:

- On our church Website: www.churchontherotary.org/sermon
- On our church YouTube page: www.youtube.com/@churchontherotary/live
- On our church Facebook page: www.facebook.com/churchontherotary

Be sure to add a bookmark or add to your favorites so you can find your preferred page in the future. Any questions just reach out to Dean any time!

SUMMER CAMP

2025 Summer Camp registration is open now!

Download the 2025 Summer Camp Calendar flyer (PDF) at
www.silverlakeect.org

We run 1-week sessions (Sunday-Saturday) for campers entering grades 4-12. Plus, half-week family camp programs for all ages. An Open House will be held on - Saturday, May 17, 2025; 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Also, applications are open now for Summer Staff, and Volunteers.



KENSINGTON FOOD PANTRY

Thank YOU!

Once again you have given generously to our mission that feeds hungry children. I can't think of a better way to show God's love. Our church has certainly done that and I see it in children's faces each week. Ron and I (along with the Duffy, Rose, Sprofera and Steele families) are so blessed to be able to help with this project.

We leave each week knowing that we have helped five families thru another week. Our shelves are stocked and full now thanks to all of you so that we can continue to do this. My faithful team of volunteers has helped to sort and stock those shelves. I am so grateful to them and to this church for supporting this mission project for several years. You are a light that does shine out from the big white church on the rotary. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.



First Congregational Church

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