

First Congregational Church Weekly Newsletter

East Longmeadow, MA

September 10, 2025

PASTORAL REFLECTION

Dear Friends,

The great violinist Fritz Kreisler once heard someone playing a violin in a music shop. He fell in love with the instrument's tone. When he inquired about buying the violin, Kreisler was told that it had been sold to an Englishman who was not a musician but a collector of old violins. When he learned that, Kreisler was furious. He exclaimed, "This is not a violin merely to look at. It is an instrument with which to bless the world."

For several weeks, Kreisler pleaded with the Englishman. He implored the collector to sell the instrument to him, but was unsuccessful. Finally, one day the Englishman allowed Kreisler to play the violin. The great violinist said that he played that violin as one condemned to death would play to gain a ransom. When Kreisler finished playing, the Englishman said, "I have no right to keep this instrument. It belongs to the world. Take it into the world and let it be heard."

Like that beautiful instrument, our Christian faith must be taken into the world. Faith is too precious to be kept inside a church building. In houses and apartments just a stone's throw from the church live men and women who are longing for the kind of love our faith has to offer. Our faith is to be shared and heard.

As we move toward autumn, let's be on the lookout for ways we can share our faith, in actions as well as words, with a world badly in need of the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Elva



Sunday School starts this weekend
Hope to see you there!

YOUTH GROUP Crop Walk on October 5

Register for our Crop walk team:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/first-congregational-church-of-e-longmeadow-youth-group>

If you would like to donate to the crop walk, please scan the QR code on the poster to the right.

Thank you!!



MEAL PACKAGING OUTREACH

End Hunger NE Event in fellowship hall on Saturday, September 27.

In recent years End Hunger NE has worked closely with St. Mark's Episcopal church gathering our local churches to come together in the fight against food insecurity by organizing Meal Packing events.

This year, the East Longmeadow Rotary Club is heading up the Meal Packing event and aiming for \$8000 in fundraising. Our Church is happy to support The Outreach Program (End Hunger N.E.), by giving a \$500 donation and the use of our Fellowship Hall to assemble the meals. If you are interested in actively taking part in this event, you can sign up at the link below.

Sign up to help local Rotary Clubs, Churches and Organizations package 20,000 meals for our Western MA food pantries! Families, Sport Teams, Organizations - ALL Welcome

Volunteer Registration Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJH75ADEp7d7_W9KmuzsDyKVNXdqyeGGKINC7CjneJTe5W3A/viewform?usp=header

Note: There are hourly blocks but anyone can sign up for longer.

- 7:15-8:15 (set up)
- 8:15-9:15
- 9:15-10:15
- 10:15-11:15
- 11:15-cleanup is done.
- Other time (write-in)

One of the great things about this organization is that all the meals packaged are able to go to Western MA food pantries. The local pantries distribute these meals directly to people in our communities!

Many thanks to all the volunteers and to the East Longmeadow Rotary Club for heading up this event.

YOUR COFFEE HOST FOR SEPTEMBER IS TEAM 2

Team 2 includes the following people, Donna , Julius, Rose, Dawn, Bob, Alice, and Charlene.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayers and Joys

- Joy and gratitude to have Larry and Terrie here with us today.
- From Bev: the family of Kate, who died this past week
- From Marge: my granddaughter, recovering from surgery
- From Julius: A way of doing and going by time management as I go through my final three semesters I have left and this current one as well.
- From Pastor Elva: the family of my friend and colleague Shirley, who died.



First Congregational Church

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