

First Congregational Church Weekly Newsletter

East Longmeadow, MA

May 27, 2026



REFLECTION

Pastor Thomas is on vacation this week so instead of the pastoral meditation below is a devotion.

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

Springfield YWCA - 5th largest in the country

The Springfield Y exists to fulfill its mission of eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. The Y provides safe places for women and children in crisis. It provides shelter, support services, and tools for self-sufficiency for women and girls in our community. It operates an 11-acre campus in Springfield that provides shelter to battered women and their children in a modern facility with state of the art computerized security.

- Full size -NEW - soap, body wash, body moisturizer, mouthwash, toothbrushes and paste,
- ***shampoo and conditioner, etc. from brands: Shea Moisture, Pattern Beauty, Mielle, Camille Rose, Curl Mix, CURLS, The Doux, Miss Jessie's,
- feminine hygiene products,
- baby wipes & disposable diapers (especially large)
- coloring books and crayons,
- board games and cards
- GENTLY USED books for children, teens and adults

Please leave your donations in the breezeway **until May 31**. Thank you for your continued support of this truly life-saving agency right in our own back yard. We can really help out these families in crisis.

A MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE: KEEPING THE MUSIC ALIVE!

Music is a core part of our spiritual experience each week, and we owe a huge thank you to Beth Costello and our dedicated music search team. Behind the scenes, a tremendous amount of planning, organizing, and scheduling goes into bringing beautiful, sacred sounds to our weekly services.

Over the past few weeks, we have been blessed with a wonderful variety of musical talents and styles. Thank you so much for showering our guest musicians with such warm praise and hospitality—they have truly felt the love from our church family!

Our Search for a Permanent Musician

At the same time, we are actively searching for a permanent, part-time musician. We created a detailed job description and have cast a wide net across our region to find the right fit. Our outreach has included:

- Professional Guilds: Posting with several Massachusetts and Connecticut chapters of the American Guild of Organists (AGO).
- Faith Communities: Sharing the opening with local seminaries, social media networks, and the Southern New England Conference UCC.
- Job Boards: Listing the position on Indeed to reach a broad audience.
- Personal Networks: Reaching out to dozens of musicians who have played with us in the past to ask for recommendations.

Addressing a Common Question

Many of you have asked if one of our wonderful fill-in musicians might join us permanently. While we would love that, each of them has expressed a preference to remain independent for the flexibility it offers. We deeply appreciate their ongoing support as guest artists!

Looking Ahead

We have received a few inquiries, and the search team is currently talking with interested individuals to evaluate their skills and see how they align with our community's needs.

While we are still hoping to find someone who can play our organ, we are finding that this specialized skillset is increasingly rare these days. Trained organists have been declining for years, while pianists are much more abundant. Rest assured, the search team will continue working hard on behalf of our entire church family.

How you can help: Please keep this search in your prayers and continue to spread the word! If you know of anyone who might be a good fit, please send them our way.

THANK YOU NOTE



First Congregational Church

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