



The Spire

April 2025

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church of Hanover, United Church of Christ

Rev. Peter Johnston

Senior Pastor

Chad Weirick

Minister of Music

Megan dePontbriand

Director of Christian Education

Susan Vetterlein

Office Administrator

Valerie Fink

Bookkeeper

OUR VISION STATEMENT

We strive to be a church that welcomes all and empowers all in Christ to share their God-given talents.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are a community of inclusive love that has no walls or barriers, where all who enter are loved, respected, and accepted for who they are, reaching beyond social class, gender, race and sexual orientation, welcoming all into our circle of love. We are a community of growth and transformation that is not content with the status quo but a community filled with the love and compassion of Christ, and an overwhelming desire to share that love. We are a community committed to not only praying together, on Sunday mornings, but putting our faith into action daily.

Friends,

I'm writing on the first day of spring! On my way to the office this morning, I ran into this rather industrious little guy on the parsonage lawn. American robins primarily migrate in the fall and spring, moving south in the fall to find food and warmer temperatures, and returning north in the spring.



As spring arrives, so too does the joyous celebration of Holy Week and Easter, a time filled with hope, renewal, and the promise of new beginnings. For Christians around the world, Easter represents the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a cornerstone of the faith that symbolizes victory over sin and death.

The resurrection of Jesus is celebrated as an affirmation of faith, reminding believers of the transformative power of love and redemption. It's a time to reflect on the core message of Christianity: that hope is always possible, even in the darkest of times. Easter also serves as a reminder of the resilience of the human spirit. It's a time for individuals to reflect on their own personal journeys, embracing the possibilities of redemption and transformation. This is especially meaningful in a world that often faces challenges and uncertainties.

As we approach Easter, let us embrace the joy and hope that this season brings. Whether through spiritual reflection, community gatherings, or cherished traditions, may this time inspire us to renew our faith, extend love to those around us, and celebrate the beauty of new beginnings.

Please join us each week as we journey toward Easter!

Peace,

Reverend Peter Johnston, Senior Pastor



April 16 Crafts with Moonlighters Women's Group

The Moonlighter's will meet in Riley Hall on Wednesday, April 16 at 6:30 pm. In addition to working on crafts for the fall fair, we will discuss plans for a fundraiser.



Potluck Supper, April 11

Back by popular demand: The Potluck Supper! Save the date: Friday, April 11 at 6:30.

We all know the power of coming together as a Church community. Let's come together for a time of food and fellowship over a potluck dinner on Friday, April 7 in the church vestry.

~ Ginny Hunt at hesterbp2@comcast.net

Volunteer and Give Dignity



Through volunteer power Father Bill's & MainSpring work to end homelessness and create a safer way to people to live.

Grab a buddy and volunteer to provide a meal in June. You may drop off the meal on either Saturday or Sunday at the shelter in Brockton.

Outreach & Service will reimburse you for a portion or even the total meal.

Sign up in the church coat room or contact Dayna Scribi @ dscribi23@yahoo.com

Minister's Tea Wednesday April 9 at 3 pm

You are invited to tea with Rev. Peter Johnston on Wednesday, April 9. The Tea takes place in the vestry (under the sanctuary) from 3:00-4:30 p.m. This is a time when members of the church can sit and enjoy delicious treats with good company.



Please plan on joining us, and feel free to bring a neighbor!



Thank You for Your Warmth

Outreach & Service committee would like to extend their gratitude to the congregation for their generous support of donations for CWS Blankets. In February 66 blankets were purchased for Church World Service! Thank you for helping to provide warmth, shelter, and support to many who are experiencing natural disasters or home insecurity.



One Great Hour of Sharing

OGHS is a special mission offering, which supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. In May there will be special envelopes in the bulletins. We ask you to prayerfully consider a gift so that our local church can help people in need around the world.



Thrift Shop in April

The Silver Street Thrift Shop is a welcoming place! Come in and shop for wonderful Easter and Spring decorations.

Donations are appreciated.



Youth Group

April 17 Maundy Thursday

May 2 at Riley Hall

Youth Fellowship are encouraged to attend the Maundy Thursday service of Light and Shadow in the sanctuary on April 17.

The group will be cooking for MainSpring in May. Save the date of Friday, May 2 from 6-9 pm at the Riley Hall kitchen.

All Middle School and High School Students are welcome in the Youth Group. You are also more than welcome to bring a friend! For more information, please reach out to Jenn Bunar (jenno1234@hotmail.com) or Nicole Conti (nicole2_3@yahoo.com)



Desserts Needed

Our Youth Group & Confirmation Class are going to provide the meal for MainSpring on May 3rd. Thank you, kids and advisers!

We are looking for the congregation to provide desserts (brownies, cookies, etc.). If you are interested in contributing, sign ups will be after church on April 6 and 13. Any questions, please see Dayna Scribi or any member of Outreach & Service. ~ Thank you!

Dayna Scribi (dscribi23@yahoo.com)



Weathervane Update

The weathervane restoration and reinstallation on the Spire has been completed. Burgess Steeplejacks were able to restore the original damaged mast and had the Sandwich Glass Museum blow a replacement red globe. Take a moment in the coming weeks to look up and admire the beautiful weathervane that tops our steeple!

Dean Larson,
Trustee



Office Demo Prep for New Lift Project

The demolition crew completed the final phase of the volunteer work needed for the new lift project. Thanks go out to Don Morrison, Dave Vaughn, Bob Meader, and John Matson for their work preparing the church office in record time.

At a meeting with 101 Mobility and Redman Construction it was determined that general construction for the lift will continue into April. The current schedule may have the lift equipment installation starting the week of May 12, with project completion well before Memorial Day. This is almost a full month earlier than expected.



CWS Hygiene Kits Provide Hope and Dignity

During the month of April we will collect hygiene kits for CWS. Donate your completed kits in the

church vestry or at the church office in Riley Hall. These hygiene kits offer a refreshing daily boost for people who are forced to abruptly leave their homes because of emergencies. The items requested are very specific and should be placed in a zip locked bag. **Please do not include any extra items!**

Washcloth

Toothbrush (in original packing)

Fingernail or toenail clipper (packaging removed)

Bath-size bar of soap (in original packaging)

Travel-size deodorant (3.4 oz. or less, non-aerosol)

Travel-size lotion (3.4 oz. or less, fragrance-free, NEW only)

Travel-size shampoo (3.4 oz. or less, NEW only)

Travel-size toothpaste (3.4 oz. or less, expiration date of 1 year)

Sturdy wide-tooth comb (6" minimum teeth, packaging removed)

The specific list of items can be found on the forsythia tree in the vestry.

~ Thank you from the

Outreach & Service Committee!



A Message from the Moderator:

The Cabinet met on March 5. Patti MacLennan, FCC's new Field Education student, was welcomed. Confirmation

Class started March 9 with five confirmands enrolled. Two additional college students have shown an interest in being confirmed and will meet over the summer. A new membership class will be held soon.

The Trustees have 20 applications for the sexton position. Peter had 30 more to give the Trustees after advertising with Idealist. Michelle McGrath will continue as the church's PR media specialist. If anyone has photos of activities taking place in and around the church, please send them to Photos@fcchanover.org. Michelle can use them for media posts, spreading the word and work of our church.

Committees are still in need of members. It has been difficult to recruit since many members are already serving on more than one committee. All committees continue in the work of the church. More members have been encouraged to participate in the worship service. Another holiday concert is being scheduled. Maintenance projects are being addressed and contracts have been signed for the lift project. Our youth continue in educational and social activities related to the church. Opportunities for giving and helping others beyond a weekly pledge helps others. We may be a smaller congregation, but we are an active church.

The carillon has not worked for many months now. Dean reports that the screen is now black. He was able to adjust the time when it was an issue causing confusion in the Historic District. The international global system that addresses fluctuations in time seems a problem. Suggestions include calling the company to either repair or purchase a new carillon, or let it sit as it is for now.

Members of the Cabinet agree this is the time to start planning for the 300th anniversary of the church. To all members, please start thinking about activities that might help us to celebrate this important landmark in our church's history. It was mentioned that there are disks containing the history of the church. If anyone knows where they are, please contact Ava Sigsby or Ginny Hunt.

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1:00pm - 3:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Tai Chi	2 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop 7:30pm Big Book AA	3 6:00pm AA	4 Yard Sale Set Up	5 8:30am - 9:30am Tai Chi 9:00am - 2:00pm Indoor Yard Sale 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop 1:30pm Cub Scouts
6 Fifth Sunday in Lent 9:30am - 10:30am Worship 10:30am - 11:30am Coffee Hour	7	8 6:00pm Tai Chi 6:30pm Trustees	9 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop 3:00pm - 4:00pm Minister's Tea 7:30pm Big Book AA	10 6:00pm AA 7:00pm Finance	11 6:00pm - 7:30pm Pinewood Derby Setup 6:30pm PotLuck in Vestry	12 8:30am - 9:30am Tai Chi 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop 2:00pm - 4:00pm Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby
13 Palm Sunday 9:30am - 10:30am Worship 10:30am - 11:30am Coffee Hour 10:45am Confirmation Class	14	15 6:00pm Tai Chi 7:00pm - 8:00pm Diaconate	16 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop 7:00pm Moonlighters 7:30pm Big Book AA	17 6:00pm AA 7:00pm - 8:00pm Maundy Thursday	18 Good Friday	19 8:30am - 9:30am Tai Chi 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop
20 Easter Sunday 6:00am Sunrise Service 9:30am - 10:30am Worship	21	22 6:00pm Tai Chi	23 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop 7:30pm Big Book AA	24 6:00pm AA	25	26 8:30am - 9:30am Tai Chi 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop



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First Congregational Church of Hanover
United Church of Christ
17 Silver St., Suite 201
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Holy Week and Easter at First Congregational Church of Hanover

Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 6, Patti MacLennan,
preaching; Sacrament of Holy Communion

Palm Sunday, April 13, celebrating Jesus'
triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Rev. Peter,
preaching

Maundy Thursday, April 17, Service of Light and
Shadow. Sacrament of Holy Communion; Tenebrae
service

Easter Day, April 20

6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service, Patti MacLennan,
leading

9:30 a.m. Celebration of Christ's Resurrection,

