



The Messenger

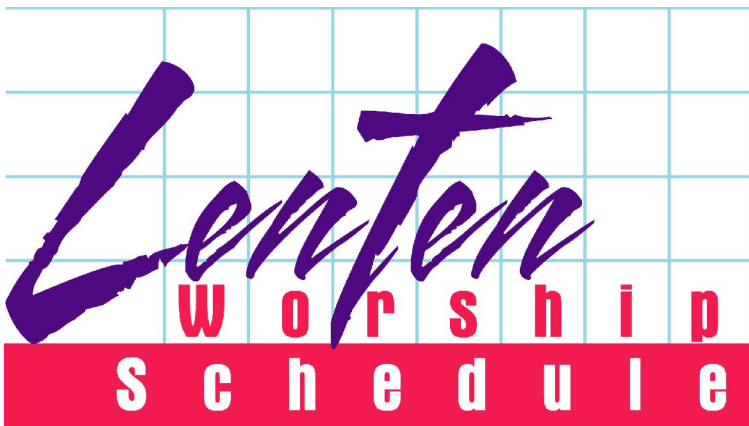
Volume 20, Issue 6

March 2010

First Congregational
Church of Falmouth

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*Friday, March 5 ~ 6:30 p.m. Lenten supper
and Powerpoint presentation*

*Sunday, March 7 ~ 10:00 a.m. Contemporary
worship service*

Sunday, March 21 ~ 10:00 a.m. Choir Sunday

*Sunday, March 28 ~ 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday
and One Great Hour of Sharing offering*

*Thursday, April 1 ~ 5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner
and Maundy Thursday Office of Tenebrae*



A Moment with our Senior Minister



I have four special things to tell you about in this Lenten season.

1. When people hear about Jesus they often hear about locales associated with his life, such as Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Capernam, and Jerusalem. When you hear about such places, can you visualize them in your mind? Or, do you mostly come up with a blank?

Back in the 1990's my wife, Chris, and I led two Holy Land pilgrimages to Israel on which some of our parishioners joined us. It was a deeply moving experience to visit special places associated with Jesus. And ever since, the mental images we formed of those places have enriched our faith. This Lent I'd like to share some of those special places with our congregation, so even individuals who've never been to Israel can form meaningful images of them too. Thus, with the help of Tom Ryan, I am offering two Powerpoint slide presentations in conjunction with suppers, as follows:

Friday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. Potluck supper hosted by Nancy Smith and others. That night we will view locations associated with Jesus' ministry prior to his final journey to Jerusalem. You need to sign up for this event on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall lobby, indicating whether you will bring a casserole, salad, or dessert.

Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 5:30 p.m. Meal hosted by our Deacons with Greg Contos overseeing its preparation. That night we will view locations in Jerusalem associated with Jesus' passion and resurrection and enjoy supper together. There is no charge for this meal, but a free-will offering will be received. Then at 7:30 p.m. we will gather in our sanctuary for our Maundy Thursday worship service. **Note: Reservations for this meal must be made by the time of our worship service on Palm Sunday, March 28.**

To illustrate each of my presentations I will largely use professionally-made, high-resolution slides of Holy Land sites which are suited to our modern technology.

2. The Falmouth Jewish Congregation is sponsoring a **Community Passover Seder** on Tuesday, March 30 at Falmouth's Coonamessett Inn from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. Rabbi Elias Lieberman has indicated that this *seder* "will be conducted utilizing a user-friendly haggadah (Passover text) and, at each table knowledgeable members of the Falmouth Jewish Congregation will be present to make guests feel comfortable and involved. It will be celebratory, festive, and fun for all ages!"

The cost is \$38 per adult and \$18 per child 13-years-

old and younger. Seating is limited; the reservation deadline is March 23. Call 508-540-0602 or email FJCOffice@comcast.net.

More information can be found on our church's Fellowship Hall lobby bulletin board and at www.falmouthjewish.org.

3. At our **9:30 a.m. Easter service**, an **Easter Pageant** I have created will be presented with considerable help from many others in our church. I particularly thank Laura Abbott, our Director of Christian Education, for overseeing and costuming our pageant figures; Jan Hull for her help in the creation of our "empty tomb;" and our young people and choirs for their participation in this service. This pageant is based on the account of the first Easter found in the *Gospel According to John*. It is a special family service. Our 11:00 a.m. Easter service will be a traditional service.

4. Our church is now in the process of moving to the ***Hymns of Truth and Light***, a new hymnal which is an intentional successor to our present *Pilgrim Hymnal* [copyright 1958] and a strong proponent of our Pilgrim/Congregational heritage. This new hymnal contains almost all of our congregation's favorite *Pilgrim Hymnal* hymns. It is the hymnal of choice of some of our sister UCC churches which cherish their Congregational heritage, such as the Church of the Pilgrimage in Plymouth and the West Parish church in West Barnstable. This new hymnal received its name from the words of counsel given by Pastor John Robinson in 1620 to members of his congregation — the Pilgrims — who were then leaving Holland to come to our shores.

We will order these hymnals when individuals have purchased a sufficient number of them for our church. Our church will need 400 of them. Orders must be received in a timely manner so our church can enter a contract on June 1 to receive those hymnals when they are printed in September. Otherwise, we likely would have to wait until a spring 2012 printing to receive them. Individuals may also buy copies of this hymnal for themselves, but those will not be counted in the 400 copies needed by our church.

The cost of this hymnal is **\$20 per copy**, which includes a customized, 32-page supplemental section of hymns and readings specially bound in the hymnal. The

(Continued on page 3)

Choir Notes

March comes in each year and brings with it the thoughts of spring flowers, longer days, and sunshine. Sometimes we also get snow — lots of snow. But March is also the time of year when we celebrate Lent and take time to thoroughly reflect and meditate on the ministry of Jesus. Some Christians celebrate the forty days of Lent by giving up something they enjoy. It could be chocolate, or shopping trips, or almost anything, but in doing so they are able to recall that Jesus and his disciples gave up many things in order to spread the good news, the GOSPEL, to all who would hear it.

In March the choirs will sing for the contemporary worship service on March 7. The Senior Choir and Bell Choir will provide music on March 14. On March 21 the Senior Choir will provide the music and lead the worship for our Lenten

Choir Sunday service. On March 28 the choirs will provide music for Palm Sunday. It's a very busy time of year with some new music and a time of calm reflection leading to the joyous celebration of Easter Sunday on April 4.

As we move into March, the hymnal committee will be finalizing the selections for the supplement for our new hymnal and sending them off to be digitized and prepared for printing. It's exciting for us to have a change to look at lots of hymn suggestions and then see our work come to fruition with an exciting new hymn book.

Children's Choir meets on Sundays after church about a half hour. We would like to see more young people participate. Likewise, our Senior Choir meets on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. I hope you can join us by joining one of our choirs. If I don't see you in rehearsal, then... I'll see ya in church,

Howard



The Men's Cancer Support group invites all men to the 13th Annual Prostate Cancer Symposium to be held on Saturday, May 8 at the Marriott Quincy Hotel from 8:30 to 1:30. All newly-diagnosed men, survivors, and other concerned people are invited, including women. A group from our church will meet to car pool to Quincy. Breakfast and lunch are included at no charge. Please call Walt Mitchell at 508-540-3287 for more information.

Women's Union

A quick reminder to attend **World Day of Prayer** on March 5, 1:00 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church.

The Wednesday Morning Circle will meet on March 10 at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The business meeting will be followed by a brown-bag lunch; dessert and beverage are provided.

The program will be a DVD presentation of the 1980 Church School Children's Day production of *The Life of Christ*. The original slide and audio tape presentation was recently converted to a DVD. Ellie Noyes, the Director of Christian Education at the time, will discuss the project.

Come join us to watch this 30-minute video which should be of interest to many.



Couples' Club

All couples in the church are invited to the next meeting of the Couples' Club—Friday, March 19 at 6:00 p.m. Following the casserole supper we will enjoy a presentation by Melissa Lowe, Adult Program Coordinator for the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary about attracting butterflies and wild birds to your garden. She will also talk about plants and shrubs that are indigenous to the Cape. Sign up on the clipboard on the Opportunity Table. Plan to bring a donation of a casserole, salad or dessert. Cost is \$10 per couple and guest are welcome. Please sign up by Wednesday, March 16.

intention is to secure these hymnals primarily through subscriptions and Memorial Funds, without drawing on our operating budget.

Hymnals may be purchased "in memory of" or "in honor of" individuals. Our church office will provide a suitable bookplate for such hymnals. A purchase sheet is included in this *Messenger*. Please send it with your check to our church office. If you have any question, don't hesitate to contact me or any member of our Hymnal Committee: Karin Bohr, Gail Petersen, Joanne Blum-Carnevale, Fay Hamre, or Evelyn Johnson.

Yours in Christ's Service, Doug

In Memoriam

Carolyn Fachon
Dorothy Svenning
Dorothy Sandlin
Jean Ammerman
Joseph Flagg
Frances Eastman



Church School Crier

Rotation News

The rotation for this month is *Crucifixion and Resurrection*. The children will learn about Holy Week, the Easter story, and the New Covenant. They will learn all of this in the following workshops:

- Computers — Using *Life of Christ*, the children will take a tour through Jerusalem during Holy Week and then create a drawn representation of the empty tomb experience.
- Art — The children will discover the history behind a variety of crosses and then make a cross to show their understanding of the covenant.
- Cooking — They will make Empty Tomb Buns or cookies to communicate the message of the New Covenant.
- Puppetry — They will enact the story of *The Tale of Three Trees*.
- Maps — The children will create a visual display about the geographical location associated with one or two biblical covenants.
- Teen Program — During March, the Teen program will focus on preparations for our Easter Sunday service. They will complete the set preparations and finalize costume selections. They will meet on March 14, 21, and 28 during Church School. The Teen Program is open to all high school-aged youth.

Youth Group

The Youth Groups will be bowling after church on March 28 as a social activity. They will meet during this social outing to discuss plans for the dodge ball tournament to benefit the Dana Farber Institute that will take place on April 11.

Calendar

- ◆ March 7 — *Crucifixion and Resurrection* rotation begins
- ◆ April 4 — Easter Sunday — Special family Easter service to be held at 9:30 a.m. and immediately followed by an Easter Egg hunt.
- ◆ April 18 — No Church School, Childcare offered
- ◆ April 25 — Special Church School Event!

Help Needed!!!!

Do you have four Sunday mornings to donate to the Church School? Co-teachers are still needed for the final rotation, *Joseph and his Brothers*. Please check the sign up sheets on the Opportunity Table for workshop descriptions and sign up for whichever workshop you choose. All lesson plans and materials are provided and set up for you, so all you have to do is be here to teach!

Board of Deacons

Last fall we set up a committee to review possible new hymnals for our sanctuary. The committee proposed that we adopt *Hymns of Truth and Light* as our new hymnal. Please see the insert in this issue of *The Messenger* for more details. The Board of Deacons considered changing to the New Century Hymnal several years ago, but decided against it because many of the traditional hymns, including *America the Beautiful*, were significantly changed. We met with the Hymnal Committee in late January and endorsed the change which was presented at the Annual Meeting.

Doug will be leading a contemporary worship service on March 7. We are doing this as an experiment to attract our young people and young families to the church. Please let a Deacon know your thoughts and any ideas for improving this type of service.

We are now into the Lenten season. The Deacons are sponsoring a dinner before the Maundy Thursday service on April 1 at 5:30 p.m. as we did last year. Doug will make a presentation on locations in Jerusalem associated with Jesus' passion and resurrection. There is no charge of this meal, but a free-will offering will be received. At 7:30 p.m. we will gather in our sanctuary for our Maundy Thursday worship service. Reservations for the meal must be made by the time of our worship service on Palm Sunday, March 28. Earlier in the month, Jay and Nancy Smith will host a potluck supper on March 5 at 6:30 p.m. That night we will view locations associated with Jesus' ministry prior to his final journey to Jerusalem.

The early service on Easter Sunday will begin at 9:30 a.m. It will be a Youth Service depicting the Easter story. The later service, beginning at 11:00 a.m., will be a traditional service.

John Honey, Chairman



Board of Christian Outreach

This year the One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be taken March 28, Palm Sunday. The OGHS offering, administered by the Wider Church Ministries, is the refugee, relief and development fund of the United Church of Christ. It provides support to people in more than eighty countries.

The 2010 OGHS theme is inspired by John 21:15-17 when Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" If you are familiar with this scripture, you may know that after Peter confesses to loving Jesus, Jesus tells him, "Feed my sheep." We too are called to care for all who are in need, just as God cares for each of us. Envelopes for your donations are included in this *Messenger*. Please make checks payable to the church and earmarked OGHS.

Again this year, the Outreach Committee will distribute OGHS coin boxes on Sunday, February 28 along with a "Sharing Calendar" as a guide for giving in preparation for the Palm Sunday OGHS offering.

Rummage Sale Time!!

Spring is around the corner! This is a great time to prepare for the all-church Rummage Sale, May 1, from 9AM to 2PM. Please check closets and cupboards for clean clothing, jewelry, white-elephant items, linens, workable small appliances, tools, radios, bikes, vacuum cleaners, beach chairs, and books, but no large furniture, TV's computers, magazines, Reader's Digest books or encyclopedias. Please note: There are **NO** children's toys or clothing again this year, but children's books are welcome.

For the plant table, please start now! Flower, herb and vegetable seedlings, especially tomatoes, need to be started now. In April, plan to dig up or divide and pot perennials

and shrubs. Be sure to label each pot with the plant name and color. Please, no house plants.

Most of all, remember...a thing someone doesn't want becomes someone else's treasure!





Hymns of Truth and Light

We invite you to use the order form in this Messenger to purchase copies of this new hymnal for our church. Please send or bring the form and your check to our church office.

400 hymnals are needed. As of February 16 we already have orders for more than 100 hymnals. We're on our way. Individuals may order copies for themselves, but those will not be counted in the 400 copies the church needs.

Hymnals cost **\$20** each. Please make your check out to our church and earmark "hymnals."

Highlights:

- 1) Contains almost all the favorite hymns our congregation sings in the present Pilgrim Hymnal.
- 2) Includes folk and contemporary hymns that will add variety to our services.
- 3) A supplement [up to 32 pages] may be added to include our favorite hymns, brief history of our church, readings, etc. that are not already in the hymnal.
- 4) Hymnal cover may be customized to be special for our church. For example, the cover may have a line drawing of our church, or bell, or whatever we choose.
- 5) The language in the hymns has minor (tasteful!) changes to reflect current language.
- 6) Emphasizes our Pilgrim/Congregational heritage.

Hymnals may be dedicated "in memory of" or "in honor of" special persons with a book plate affixed inside the front cover with the person's name. Hymn books will not be ordered until enough preliminary orders have been received.

-----Order Form-----

Name:
Email:

Phone number:
Date made out:

Total Number of Hymnals purchased:

#1. Given by _____
In Memory of (In Honor of) _____

#2. Given by _____
In Memory of (In Honor of) _____

#3. Given by _____
In Memory of (In Honor of) _____

#4. Given by _____
In Memory of (In Honor of) _____

#5. Given by _____
In Memory of (In Honor of) _____

Online Messenger Supplement

Church Calendar:

Our Church Calendar, for our online readers, is now on our website where it is always up-to-date. [Click here](#) to access the calendar.

First Congregational Church of Falmouth
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Sunday Schedule

10:00 a.m.
Worship Service
and Church School

Our Staff

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Organist

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Sexton

Rick Hendricks

Elected Officials of the Church

Moderator—Jan Hull
Clerk—Marilou Whitmore
Treasurer—Dick Meyer

Board/Committee Chairmen...

Trustees—Walter Slaboden
Deacons—John Honey
Christian Education—
Lise McGillicuddy
Christian Outreach—
Sue Anttila/Carole Lyons
Music—Karin Bohr
Stewardship—John Farrington
Nominating—Evelyn Johnson
Reception—Gretchen Partridge

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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