

# *the first church in chestnut hill*

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[UNITARIAN]

26 SUFFOLK ROAD OFF HAMMOND STREET



November 2023

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SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:30

Rev. Mark J. T. Caggiano, Minister

## VERITAS, CARITAS, ET RISUS

In generations past, church was a given, one of the common threads of society. If you did not go to church, you were missed, both in good and bad ways. People worried if something was wrong or they worried about what was wrong with you. Both perspectives, the charitable and the intrusive, arise from a place of concern because church was important.

Sunday was built around the notion of church-going. As I child I remember that there was nothing to do on Sundays – this meant that there was only one thing to do. We went to church. We visited with family and had dinner together. Then the day was done, the Sabbath over.

Now there are many things to do. The stores are open, the ballfields filled, the calendars crammed. Church always had to compete with the newspaper and a cup of coffee, but now it competes with errands, tournaments, and other matters. Families with children have swapped one mandatory performance for many others. Some people work because they need to do so and some work because they feel they need to do so. Others have options and so they travel, to far flung family or to bucket list venues.

I do not mean to suggest that any one of these choices is bad, but there are tradeoffs. Something will be lost. Church is about building a community of people who care about the sacred. The sacred includes God and the scriptures, but it also should include family and fellowship. If choices lead to more and better time with family and friends, enriching one's life, then the choices are good. But if those choices seem to make life go faster and faster, restlessly and endlessly, then those choices might be worth careful consideration.

There is a saying that no one ever looked back upon their life and thought they should have spent more time in meetings. How we spend our time may not always be a matter of choosing, but when we get to choose it is worth taking some time to discover what we truly hold sacred.

God bless,  
~Mark

November 5

Sermon: All Souls Communion  
Scriptures: Revelation 7:9-17, Matthew 5:1-12, Psalm 34:1-10, 22  
Scripture Reader: Mark Chadbourne  
Usher: David Brooks  
Coffee Hour: Deborah and David Brooks  
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs Morris LaCroix and William Paine LaCroix, by their family.

November 12

Sermon: Feast of Fools  
Scriptures: Amos 5:18-24, Matthew 25:1-13, Psalm 70  
Scripture Reader: Bert Dane  
Usher: Mark Chadbourne  
Coffee Hour: Sue Butler  
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of C. Herman and Doris S. Welch by their family.

November 19

Sermon: The Talents  
Scriptures: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, Matthew 25:14-30, Psalm 90:1-12  
Scripture Reader: Carol Lohe  
Usher: John Welch  
Coffee Hour: Mark Chadbourne  
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Sandy Belfer by her husband Myron Belfer.

November 23

*Thanksgiving service will be held at the Church of the Redeemer at 10 AM this year.*

November 26

Sermon: The Least of These  
Scriptures: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Matthew 25:31-46; Psalm 100  
Scripture Reader: Lisle Baker  
Usher: Sally Baker  
Coffee Hour: Pauline Ho Bynum  
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Joan Cave by her family.

## NOVEMBER MUSIC

November 5, 2023

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Prelude	Ricercare	Palestrina
Anthem	Christus factus est	Bruckner
Hymn 311	Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand	
Response	All Depends on Our Possessing	Bach
Offertory Anthem	The Lord's Prayer	Arensky
Hymn 352	Lift Up Your Hearts	
Hymn 289	Father We Thank You Who has Planted	
Hymn 306	For All the Saints	
Choral Amen	Twofold Amen	Traditional
Postlude	Allegro from Concerto No. 13	Handel

November 12, 2023

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Prelude	Pastorale	Bach
Anthem	Adoramus te, Christe	De Lassus
Hymn 7	Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise	
Response	If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee	Bach
Offertory Anthem	Locus iste	Bruckner
Hymn 8	Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	
Hymn 429	Eternal Father, Strong to Save	
Choral Amen	Threefold Amen	Traditional
Postlude	Andantino	Haydn

November 19, 2023

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Prelude	Prelude and Fugue	Handel
Anthem	Sicut cervus	Palestrina
Hymn 114	Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates	
Response	Now Let Us Come before Him	Bach
Offertory Anthem	Unser Lieben Frauen Traun	Reger
Hymn 37	Still, Still with Thee	
Hymn	Jerusalem	Parry
Choral Amen	Threefold Amen	Traditional
Postlude	Offertoire	Franck

November 26, 2023

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Prelude	Andante with Variations	Mendelssohn
Anthem	Gott ist mein Hirt	Schubert
Hymn 478	All Things Bright and Beautiful	
Response	Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow	Bach
Offertory Anthem	O salutaris Hostia	Rossini
Hymn 456	All Beautiful the March of Days	
Hymn 485	This is My Father's World	
Choral Amen	Fourfold Amen	Barrow
Postlude	Fugue	Bach

### MUSIC PROGRAM NOTES

On **Thursday December 14** at **7 pm**, the Quartet and myself will host a *Messiah Sing*. Please bring your scores and plan to join in singing this magnificent work.

On **Sunday December 17**, we will have a musical sermon featuring the choruses from the *Messiah*.

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us.

### QUICK REMINDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

#### *Thanksgiving Morning Service:*

We will once again be joining the Church of the Redeemer on Thanksgiving morning at 10 a.m. for a service. I will be giving the sermon this year and Rev. Mike Dangelo will be our celebrant. If you are able, please take a moment to gather with our neighbors and think back on the blessings of this past year.

#### *PFLAG Workshop*

*Save the date:* on Wednesday, December 13 at 6pm, we will be having an online Zoom training with a PFLAG facilitator to consider the basics of LGBTQ+ awareness in our ongoing effort of becoming a Welcoming Congregation. Founded in 1973, PFLAG is the first and largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and their families. We hope to have a good showing. Please contact Rev. Mark for further details and to sign up for the session.

## SNOW POLICY

As a reminder, as we head into another winter season here at First Church, Newton's winter parking restriction go into effect beginning on December 1<sup>st</sup> and continues through March 31<sup>st</sup>. If Newton announces a parking ban during a snowstorm on any given Sunday, then the service will be canceled. Please stay warm and safe.

## FCCH COMMUNITY OUTREACH

It's November, so please be on the lookout for a bright orange flyer, signaling the Fourth Phantom Thanksgiving Fair. At this time of year, we continue to raise money to support two local food pantries, The Brookline Food Pantry and The Centre Street Food Pantry in Newton. While the traditional in-person Fair is no longer feasible, the need to provide groceries to the food insecure in our community is greater than ever. Please consider making a donation by sending a check in the envelope provided in the orange flyer.

This month we're also collecting needed items for the Centre Street Kids Club bags, distributed to school age children for weekend provisions. The items needed are:

Cereal (including oatmeal)  
Jam/jelly in plastic jars  
Mac n Cheese (boxes)  
6 or 8 - pack applesauce cups

Please bring your donated items to the church on a Sunday or drop them off on the Baker's side porch any time at 137 Suffolk Road. Thank you!

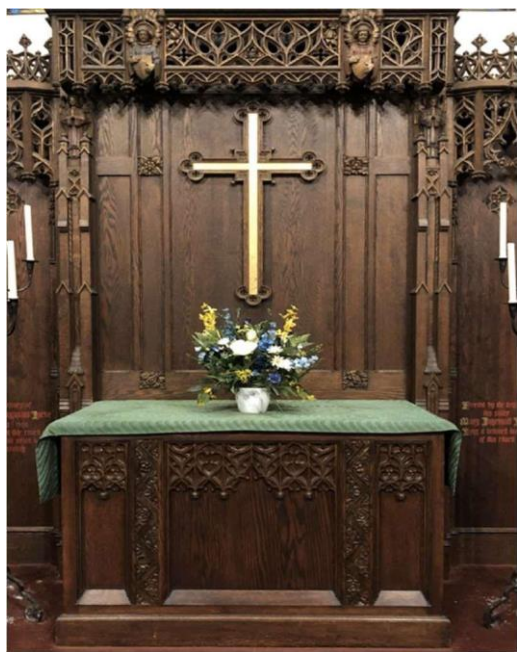
## ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Mark hosts bible study at 10:00am on Wednesdays on Zoom. We are studying the Book of Ezekiel, which is perhaps the weirdest book in the Bible. Contact Rev. Mark at [mjtcaggiano@gmail.com](mailto:mjtcaggiano@gmail.com) to be included on the Zoom invitation list. All are welcome.

## DONATIONS

Collection has returned to its traditional format during the service. If you wish, you may also make your donation via Zelle or mail a check to the church, Attention: Treasurer, 26 Suffolk Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467. Many thanks for your anticipated generosity.

## ALTAR FLOWERS



Attention flower donors: please contact Dana Flynn (617-680-0702) to coordinate the delivery of your flower donation. He will meet the florist (or you) at the church on the Saturday prior to your date. If you prefer, we also have tasteful silk arrangements which can easily be placed on the altar.

If you would like to donate flowers, multiple dates are still available for the year. Please contact Victor Strama if you are interested at [26suffolk@gmail.com](mailto:26suffolk@gmail.com).

## VOLUNTEER SCRIPTURE READERS

If you would like to join the group of volunteer scripture readers, please contact Carol Lohe ([ctroyen@mfa.org](mailto:ctroyen@mfa.org)) This is a rewarding opportunity to be part of our Sunday services.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*.....*  
**to** *grow spiritually*  
*foster community*  
*.....*  
*serve others*

ORGANIST and MUSIC DIRECTOR  
Kathryn Rosenbach, 617-821-0385

SEXTON  
Dana Flynn, 617-680-0702

ADMINISTRATOR  
[26Suffolk@gmail.com](mailto:26Suffolk@gmail.com)

## FOR THOSE IN NEED THIS MONTH

Please contact Rev. Mark at the church or via email  
([mjtcaggiano@gmail.com](mailto:mjtcaggiano@gmail.com))



Church Telephone 617-566-6237  
Parsonage Telephone 617-232-0011  
[www.firstchurchchestnuthill.org](http://www.firstchurchchestnuthill.org)