

the first church in chestnut hill

[UNITARIAN]

26 SUFFOLK ROAD OFF HAMMOND STREET



November 2024

SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:30

Rev. Mark J. T. Caggiano, Minister

VERITAS, CARITAS, ET RISUS

The month of November is the semi-official month for gratitude. Thanksgiving is a day of celebration of family, the season, and perhaps even football. And yet its stated purpose is to consider what one has to be thankful for in the past year. It is in the name.

It is thought of as a uniquely American holiday, though the Canadians may have something to say about that. It is thought of as a secular holiday, though the Pilgrims would certainly have had something to say about that. And it is thought of as the innovation of those same Massachusetts colonists and their Wampanoag co-celebrants, though...you get the idea. The first American Thanksgiving is said to have been held by 38 English colonists on December 4, 1619 in what would become the Commonwealth of *Virginia*. Sorry, Plymouth.

Days of Thanksgiving were well known to members of the English Reformed tradition. The number of holidays and festivals celebrated by the Church of England had dropped from 95 before 1536 to 27 afterwards. The Puritans however wished to eliminate all such holidays, including Christmas and Easter. Instead, there would be Days of Fasting and Days of Thanksgiving called in response to various events, such as plagues or floods versus good harvests and safe journeys. Not a festive bunch, the Puritans.

Thanksgiving was originally intended as a religious day for gathering and expressing one's gratitude to God for specific blessings in a moment of time. We now celebrate Thanksgiving as an annual reminder to be thankful more generally. That does not mean that a year has been free from difficulties or that there are no problems on the horizon for the coming year. Instead, it is an opportunity to think back over the past twelve months and to consider what good things have happened. To look at the joys for a moment and to place the sorrows in the wider context of all the rest.

I do not mean to overcomplicate turkey, even with all the trimmings, but it is worth counting our blessings from time to time. I give thanks for my children, Nick and Alyssa, and my granddaughter, Lily. And I give thanks for my 15 years of ministry with you all. Many thanks.

God bless, Mark

Movies Series – Extended

We will be screening more movies in November and December.

November 6 – *Glory*

November 13 – *Rear Window*

November 20 – *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*

November 27 – *No Movie (Happy Thanksgiving Eve)*

December 4 – *Miracle on 34th Street*

December 11 – *It's a Wonderful Life*

God bless,

~Mark

November 3 (All Souls)

Sermon: Coco
Scriptures: Revelation 21:1-6a, John 11:32-44, Psalm 24
Scripture Reader: David Brooks
Usher: David Brooks
Coffee Hour: Sarah and Andrew Welch
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of George Maliff from his friends at First Church.

November 10

Sermon: Wherever Thou Goest
Scriptures: Ruth 1:1-18, Mark 12:28-34, Psalm 146
Scripture Reader: Bert Dane
Usher: Werner Lohe
Coffee Hour: Sally and Bert Dane
Altar Flowers: In gratitude for the volunteers of First Church.

November 17

Sermon: Birth Pangs
Scriptures: Daniel 12:1-3, Mark 13:1-8, Psalm 16
Scripture Reader: Joe Hicks
Usher: Mark Chadbourne
Coffee Hour: Patricia Schneider
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of William and Irene McCandless by the Welch family.

November 24

Sermon: Alpha and Omega
Scriptures: Joel 2:21-27, Matthew 6:25-33, Psalm 93
Scripture Reader: Susan Welch
Usher: John Welch
Coffee Hour: Pauline Ho Bynum
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of John Munro Morss by the Drayton family.

November 24 (Thanksgiving Day)

Sermon: Rev. Michael B. Dangelo from The Church of the Redeemer
Scriptures: Joel 2:21-27, Matthew 6:25-33, Psalm 126
Scripture Reader: Lilse Baker
Usher: Lisle Baker

NOVEMBER MUSIC

November 3, 2024 (All Souls)

Prelude	Vesper Voluntaries	Elgar
Anthem	Hear My Prayer, O God	Arcadelt
Hymn 311	Ten Thousand by Ten Thousand	Bach
Response	Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Prince of Peace	Arensky
Offertory Anthem	The Lord's Prayer	
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	Gavotte	Wesley

November 10, 2024

Prelude	Priere du Matin	Jongen
Anthem	Rejoice in the Lord always	Purcell
Hymn 17	Praise Thou the Lord, O My Soul, Sing Praises	
Response	Lord Jesus Christ, My Life, My Light	Bach
Offertory Anthem	Grant me true courage, Lord	Bach
Hymn 87	God Moves in a Mysterious Way	
Hymn 456	All Beautiful the March of Days	
Choral Amen	Threefold Amen	Traditional
Postlude	Voluntary	Stanley

November 17, 2024

Prelude	Prelude	Schmitt
Anthem	Filiae Jerusalem	Gabrieli
Hymn 26	O Be Joyful in the Lord	
Response	Now Let Us Come before Him	Bach
Offertory Anthem	In Thee, O Lord, have I trusted	Handel
Hymn 251	Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty	
Hymn 381	My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff	
Choral Amen	Threefold Amen	Traditional
Postlude	Toccata in C	Seixas

November 24, 2024

Prelude	Souvenir	Dupre
Anthem	Now God be praised in heav'n above	Vulpius
Hymn 7	Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise	
Response	Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow	Bach
Offertory Anthem	Now with hands to God uplifted	Lotti
Hymn 21	We Gather Together	
Hymn 8	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	
Choral Amen	Fourfold Amen	Barrow
Postlude	Partite sopra l'aria della Folia di Spagna	Pasquini

November 28, 2024 (Thanksgiving Day)

Prelude	3 Miniatures	Peeters
Anthem	Now Thank We All Our God	
Hymn 21	We Gather Together	
Response	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	
Hymn 236	Life of Ages, Richly Poured	
Hymn 352	Lift Up Your Hearts!	
Choral Amen	Twofold Amen	Perischetti
Postlude	Now Let Us to God, the Lord, Give Thanks	

MUSIC PROGRAM NOTES

Save the Date: The Quartet and I will perform a *Messiah Sing* on **Thursday, December 19th at 7 PM**. All are invited to bring their scores and sing along in the choruses. It will certainly be a fun evening!

FCCH IN THE COMMUNITY

It's November, so please be on the lookout for a bright orange flyer, signaling the Fifth 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.

Also this month we'll wrap up our drive for "always needed" items requested by The Brookline Food Pantry. They are:

- Gluten-free snacks
- Low-sugar (diabetes-friendly) snacks
- Dried fruits
- Snacks for kids

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!

BROOKLINE INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Please join Rev. Mark for the Brookline Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship service on **Sunday, November 24, at 4 PM, at Temple Ohabei Shalom (1187 Beacon Street, Brookline)**.

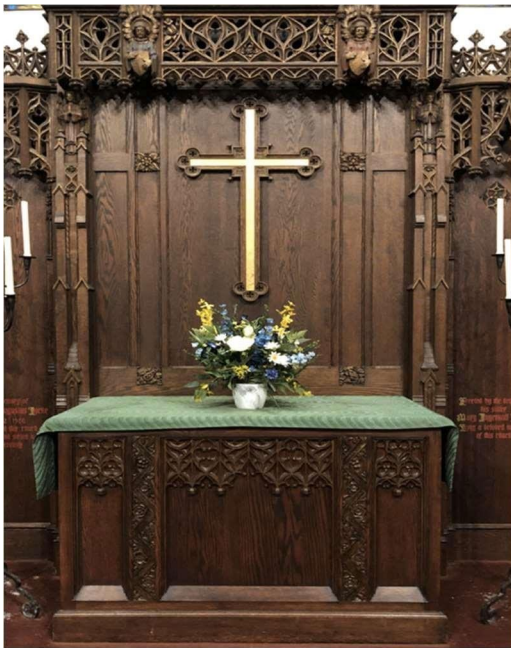
ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Mark hosts bible study at 1:00 PM (*note the new time*) on Wednesdays on Zoom. We are studying the Book of Genesis. Contact Rev. Mark at 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.

VOLUNTEER SCRIPTURE READERS

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

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CHOIR

Kathryn Rosenbach, 617-821-0385

Christina Grandy de Oliveira, Soprano

Becca Allen, Mezzo Soprano

MinSun Im, Tenor

Guanghao Yu, Baritone

SEXTON

Dana Flynn, 617-680-0702

ADMINISTRATOR

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