

the first church in chestnut hill

[UNITARIAN]

26 SUFFOLK ROAD OFF HAMMOND STREET



February 2025

SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:30

Rev. Mark J. T. Caggiano, Minister

VERITAS, CARITAS, ET RISUS

Ash Wednesday is March 5. We have not traditionally marked this day on our church calendar, though to do so would be consistent with our Anglican heritage. It marks the beginning of Lent, a solemn time that commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation.

On Ash Wednesday, one can go to a church and receive ashes. Those ashes are a reminder of the beginning of Lent and the onset of various observances leading up to Easter. The ashes are generally made by burning palm fronds from the prior Palm Sunday and mixing the remains with holy water and oil as a fixative. They are applied in the form of a cross upon the forehead. The one offering the ashes says, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Not the cheeriest of messages, but a reminder of our mortality during a period of spiritual reflection.

On that day, people will often fast generally or refrain specifically from eating meat. This practice might also continue through the Lenten period, often limited to Fridays though some traditions see people refraining from certain foods the whole 40 days. My family would always follow the Friday "meatless" tradition, which is arguably less of a sacrifice in modern times and especially so in my hometown on the ocean. Another Lenten practice is to give something up until Easter. It might be some vice, like gambling, or a favorite food, like candy or desserts. This is another form of fasting and it made Easter morning chocolates even more enticing.

The purpose of such fasting varies by tradition. Sometimes it is a form of penance for sins that have been committed or as an acknowledgement to God of one's sinful nature. If your concept of sin does not include such a way of thinking, or exist at all, fasting can be a reminder of what Jesus went through so long ago. Fasting can also be a way of reorienting oneself by removing one or more distractions or taking on a specific discipline for a set period. Lenten observations can be as simple as giving something up for 40 days or they can be more aspirational.

You might even give up worrying for that period of time. You could abstain from doomscrolling through the news and wringing your hands at every troubling story. Some people equate "staying informed" with civic virtue, but in a time when spectacles and scandals are manufactured to stoke anxiety, the disciplined choice may now be to refrain. Just as children have rationed screen time, it might be an opportune moment to borrow such parenting wisdom for adult mental wellbeing.

God bless,
~Mark

February 2

Sermon: Faith, Hope, and Love
Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30
Scripture Reader: David Brooks
Usher: David Brooks
Coffee Hour: Jennifer Morss Drayton

February 9

Sermon: A Sinful Man
Scriptures: Isaiah 6:1-8, Luke 5:1-11
Scripture Reader: Patricia Schneider
Usher: Lisle Baker
Coffee Hour: The Singh Family

February 16

Sermon: Blessings and Woe
Scriptures: Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 6:17-26
Scripture Reader: Mark Chadbourne
Usher: David Cornish
Coffee Hour: Judith Vanderkay
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Robert Vanderkay, Barbara Vanderkay, and Robert Vanderkay, Jr. by their family.

February 23

Sermon: How Do We Forgive?
Scriptures: Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Luke 6:27-38
Scripture Reader: Bert Dane
Usher: Joe Hicks
Coffee Hour: Deborah and David Brooks

FEBRUARY MUSIC

February 2, 2025

Prelude	Miniature	Peeters
	Sicilienne	Faure
	The Swan	Saint-Saens
	Sarah Freiberg, cello	
Anthem	I Gloria from "Gloria"	Vivaldi
Hymn 381	My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff	
Response	Cheer Up, Faint Heart, Sing Songs, Rejoice	Bach
Offertory Anthem	Give almes of thy goods	Tye
Hymn 217	Lord of All Hopefulness	
Hymn 447	O God of Love, O King of Peace	
Choral Amen	The Lord Bless You and Keep You	Rutter
Postlude	Allegro	Handel
	Sarah Freiberg, cello	

February 9, 2025

Prelude	Prelude and Fugue	Handel
Anthem	Lord that descendeth, Holy Child	Gritton
Hymn 1	Our God, Our Help in Ages Past	
Response	Blessed Jesus, at thy Word	Bach
Offertory Anthem	Laudate nomen Domini	Tye
Hymn 177	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	
Hymn 352	Lift Up Your Hearts!	
Choral Amen	Sevenfold Amen	Stainer
Postlude	Toccata	Buxtehude

February 16, 2025

Prelude	Adagio for Sonata 1 Op 65	Mendelssohn
Anthem	Sicut cervus	Palestrina
Hymn 358	Rock of Ages	
Response	Oh, How Blest Are Yer Whose Toils Are Ended	Bach
Offertory Anthem	O Domine Jesu Christe	Anonymous
Hymn 216	Lead, Kindly Light	
Hymn 391	Be Thou My Vision	
Choral Amen	Twofold Amen	Traditional
Postlude	Antiphon	Chausson

February 23, 2025

Prelude	Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen	Brahms
Anthem	If ye Love me	Tallis
Hymn 348	My Faith Looks Up to Thee	
Response	O God, Thou Faithful God	Bach
Offertory Anthem	Jesu dulcis memoria	de Victoria
Hymn 351	Nearer, My God, to Thee	
Hymn 87	God Moves in a Mysterious Way	
Choral Amen	Threefold Amen	Traditional
Postlude	Fanfare	Lemmens

MUSIC PROGRAM NOTES

On Sunday February 2nd, our dear friend Sarah Frieberg, cello, will join us for service. Not only will she play solos and service music, but she will join the Quartet for the joyous 1 Gloria form the Vivaldi Gloria. It will be a lively and spirited morning.

SNOW POLICY

As a reminder, Newton's winter parking restrictions are currently in effect through March 31st. If Newton announces a parking ban during a snowstorm on any given Sunday, the service will be canceled. Please stay warm and safe.

New this winter: First Church will be included on the list of cancellations provided by WCVB (Channel 5). If services are canceled, a notice will appear both on the WCVB website (<https://www.wcvb.com/weather/closings>) and in the WCVB app.

FCCH IN THE COMMUNITY

Throughout February and March, we'll again be collecting food items to support the Kids' Club program at Newton's Centre Street Food Pantry.

This program, which provides extra breakfast, lunch, and snack foods for local families with children, is a critical tool in helping meet the increasing needs of food insecure families in our community. The food pantry typically distributes ~160 Kids' Club bags every time they are open.

The items needed most this winter are:

- Boxed Breakfast Cereal (10-14 oz only as they cannot use jumbo/family sizes for Kids' Club)
- Boxed Cereal or Granola Bars (5-8 bars per box)
- Boxed Mac 'n Cheese

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!

ART EXHIBITS

Our own Mark Chadbourne has had paintings accepted at two juried art exhibits taking place this winter.

“Mosaic Movement” is on display through February 16 at the Concord Art Center’s Members Juried 1: Painting and Sculpture 2025 exhibit. Concord Art Center is located at 37 Lexington Road, Concord.

“Urban Crossroads” will be shown through April 25 at the Cambridge Art Association’s Members Prize Show. Cambridge Art Association is located at 25 Lowell Street, Cambridge.

We hope you’ll head out to see his work. Congratulations, Mark!

EASTIE FARM BENEFIT CONCERT – FEBRUARY 15

On Saturday, February 15, at 6:30 pm, the First Church in Cambridge will host the University of Toronto’s 80-member Hart House Orchestra for a night of Valentine’s music.

The concert will benefit Eastie Farm, a community-based non-profit pursuing climate justice, food security, and community resilience through urban agriculture, education, and the building of an equitable local food system.

The 90-minute program, which will feature pieces by Mozart, Schumann, and Brahms, will take place at 11 Garden Street in Cambridge.

General admission tickets can be purchased online in advance using a pay-what-you-can model, ranging from \$10 (intended for students) up to \$60. Tickets will also be available at the door with an additional \$5 charge.

For more information and tickets, scan here:



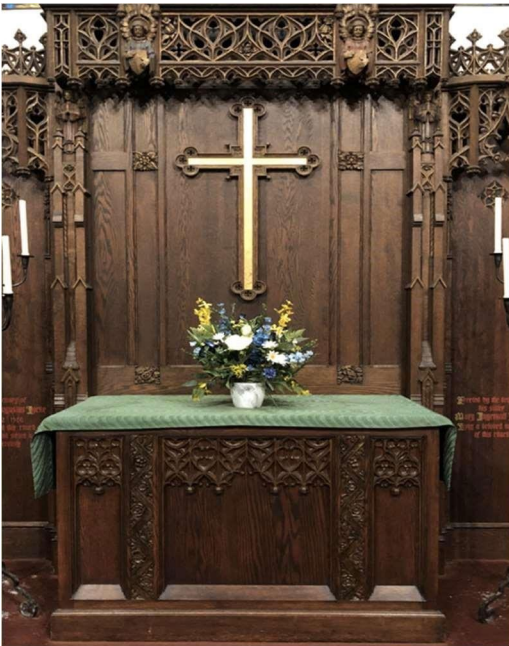
ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Mark hosts bible study at 1:00 PM 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)



Church Telephone 617-566-6237

Parsonage Telephone 617-232-0011

www.firstchurchchestnuthill.org