

# *the first church in chestnut hill*

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[UNITARIAN]

26 SUFFOLK ROAD OFF HAMMOND STREET



March 2025

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SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:30

Rev. Mark J. T. Caggiano, Minister

## VERITAS, CARITAS, ET RISUS

One winter, a few years ago, I lost my cell phone while shoveling. It was perhaps in a snow bank somewhere, hibernating until spring. I did not know for certain. Losing a cell phone can often be a major headache. Phone numbers and photos gone, notes and memos missing. And of course, no one can call you.

No one can call you...no calls, no texts, no emails. No news alerts. No one asking for money or demanding a few moments of my time.

I did not intentionally lose my phone, mind you. Replacing it was a pain. But the loss of constant contact can be its own strange comfort. When I have my phone with me, I find myself fretting and fiddling with it. Then there is the expectation that one have a phone at all times in case of something or other. And yet, I managed most of my life to exist without one in my pocket. Communication is important. Access to information is certainly useful. But the ever present use of cell phones means that those who use them are often expected to be ever present. There is no rest for the weary or the wired.

The season of Lent represents a period of anticipation and preparation before Easter Sunday, much like Jesus fasting in the desert for forty days. Fasting and prayer prepared Jesus for what came next. And so, Lent is a memorial period recalling his spiritual efforts and sacrifice. I needed a new phone, of course. I need to be able to call when I am running late and to check email when I am away from my computer. I need to have ready access to a calendar and to be able to get directions. I am not sure that I need much more than this, though. Knowing the capital of Botswana can wait until I am back in the office.

Fifty-two years ago, before the cell phone was invented, the world managed to keep turning without all these flickering machines serving as the gatekeepers of our lives. We somehow fumbled along with only NASA having computers. Perhaps Lent can be an occasion for rediscovering the lost discipline of less and the forgotten joy of quiet. At least, for a time...

God bless,  
~Mark

March 2

Sermon: Transfiguration  
Scriptures: Exodus 34:29-35, Luke 9:28-36, Psalm 99  
Scripture Reader: Bert Dane  
Usher: Bert Dane  
Coffee Hour: Vicky and Westy Saltonstall

March 9

Sermon: It Will All Be Yours  
Scriptures: Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Luke 4:1-13, Psalm 91  
Scripture Reader: Lisle Baker  
Usher: Lisle Baker  
Coffee Hour: Carol and Werner Lohe

March 16

Sermon: Making a Covenant  
Scriptures: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Luke 13:31-35, Psalm 27  
Scripture Reader: David Brooks  
Usher: David Brooks  
Coffee Hour: Mark Chadbourne

March 23

Sermon: Without Price  
Scriptures: Isaiah 55:1-9, Luke 13:1-9, Psalm 63  
Scripture Reader: Sally Baker  
Usher: Joe Hicks  
Coffee Hour: Linda and Joe Hicks  
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Sandy Belfer by her husband Myron Belfer.

March 30

Sermon: A Sign from God  
Scriptures: Isaiah 7:10-14, Luke 1:26-38, Psalm 45  
Scripture Reader: Patricia Schneider  
Usher: David Cornish  
Coffee Hour: Judie Wyman

## MARCH MUSIC

March 2, 2025

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Prelude	Prelude and Fugue	Handel
Anthem	God is a spirit	Kopylov
Hymn 222	Jesus, Priceless Treasure	
Response	Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide	Bach
Offertory Anthem	O God, we pray	Arensky
Hymn 150	O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High	
Hymn 8	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	
Choral Amen	Threefold Amen	Traditional
Postlude	Andante	Bach

March 9, 2025

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Prelude	The Thrush in the Bush Lark in the Clear Summer Sky Josephine's Waltz <i>Ellery Klein, Fiddle</i>	J. Keegan
Anthem	O come, let us worship	Palestrina
Hymn 153	Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days	
Response	All Men Living Are but Mortal	Bach
Offertory Anthem	Surely he hath borne our griefs	Lotti
Hymn 148	Forty Days and Forty Nights	
Hymn 7	Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise	
Choral Amen	Fourfold Amen	Barrow
Postlude	Splendid Isolation Paddy Fahey's Reel <i>Ellery Klein, Fiddle</i>	McGlinchey Fahey

March 16, 2025

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Prelude	Adagio from Sonata 1	Mendelssohn
Anthem	Lord that descendeth, Holy Child	Gritton
Hymn 1	Our God, Our Help in Ages Past	
Response	From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee	Bach
Offertory Anthem	Laudate nomen Domini	Tye
Hymn 101	There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	
Hymn 104	Comfort, Comfort Ye My People	
Choral Amen	Old Irish Blessing	Agay
Postlude	Antiphon	Chausson

March 23, 2025

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Prelude	Voluntary	Greene
Anthem	Sicut cervis	Palestrina
Hymn 70	Let Us With a Gladsome Mind	
Response	In God, My Faithful God	Bach
Offertory Anthem	O Domine Jesu Christe	Anonymous
Hymn 363	A Mighty Fortress is Our God	
Hymn 352	Lift Up Your Hearts!	
Choral Amen	Twofold Amen	Persichetti
Postlude	Toccata	Sweelink

March 30, 2025

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Prelude	3 Miniatures	Peeters
Anthem	Adoro te devote	Gregorian Chant
Taize Chant 4	Ubi caritas et amor	
Response	Draw Us to Thee	Bach
Offertory Anthem	The Lord's Prayer	Stone
Taize Chant 5	Bless the Lord	
Taize Chant 2	Wait for the Lord	
Choral Amen	Sevenfold Amen	Stainer
Postlude	Invention #8 in F	Bach

MUSIC PROGRAM NOTES

On Sunday March 9 we will enjoy the talents of Fiddler Ellery Klein. She is on the Faculty of the Powers Music School.

It will be fun to hear Irish music in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

## 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

Our food drive to support the Kids' Club program at Newton's Centre Street Food Pantry continues through March.

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 EXHIBIT

New grandfather Mark Chadbourne has a painting on display in Cambridge throughout the month of March and into April. "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, both for the new addition to the family and the painting in the show!

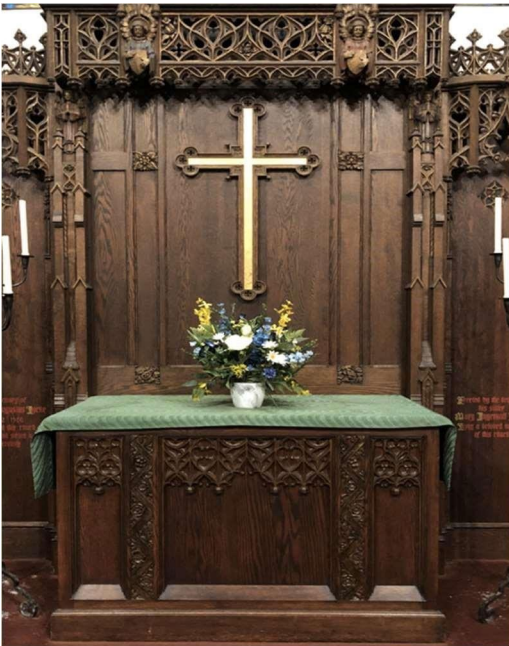
## ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Mark hosts bible study at 1:00 PM on Wednesdays on Zoom. We are studying the Book of Exodus. 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 ([ctryoen@mfa.org](mailto:ctryoen@mfa.org)). This is a rewarding opportunity to be part of our Sunday services.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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**to** .....  
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*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](mailto: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](http://www.firstchurchchestnuthill.org)