

# *the first church in chestnut hill*

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[UNITARIAN]

26 SUFFOLK ROAD OFF HAMMOND STREET



May 2025

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SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:30

Rev. Mark J. T. Caggiano, Minister

## VERITAS, CARITAS, ET RISUS

In various professions, the work is often shrouded in jargon. Lawyers ponder expressions like *res ipsa loquitur* and *sine qua non* (“It speaks for itself” and “that which is absolutely necessary”). Physicians discuss jejunum and myocardium, a part of the small intestine and the muscular tissue of the heart. Latin is a time-honored way of making something seem important.

Religion is no different. I recall sitting in my first class at divinity school. The professor began to explain the basic shape of an introductory course. Unfamiliar words began to fall like rain. Hermeneutic, soteriology, exegesis: respectively, a theory of interpretation, a doctrine of salvation, and an explanation of a text. My particular favorite is “historicity” meaning “historical authenticity” – not merely historical, but *really* historical. Special words imply special knowledge and, therefore, warrant special people to pay special attention. I do not mean this as a criticism, though the hail of specialty words can get out of hand.

Another word unique to religion is liturgy, which means form of worship. Liturgy is how we do church, the order and the flow. First Church uses a prayer book, so that order is pre-determined. This liturgy derives from the King’s Chapel prayer book (1785). In the Preface to that 1785 edition, there is a note about liturgy: “The Liturgy, contained in this volume, is such that no Christian, it is supposed, can take offence at, or find his conscience wounded in repeating. The Trinitarian, the Unitarian, the Calvinist, the Arminian will read nothing in it which can give him any reasonable umbrage.” The hope seems to have been to present an unobjectionable form of worship, even across these varying theologies. And while I wonder what “reasonable umbrage” looks like, I can appreciate the sentiment offered.

Liturgy is a pattern, from Sunday to Sunday. It is a pattern that, strangely enough, is meant to be broken. Advent and Lent come along with different services. Communion peeks through from time to time, turning morning praise into a remembrance of the Last Supper. Worship itself is intended to break the normal flow of the week, to open up those gathered to something else, something beyond the mundane. The sacred is found, not lying neglected in a pew, but as a sense of awareness to what has been with you all along. Worship gets us to pay attention differently, to realize what is with us always.

God bless,  
~Mark

### May 4

Sermon: Paul  
Scriptures: Acts 9:1-6, John 21:1-19, Psalm 30  
Scripture Reader: David Brooks  
Usher: David Brooks  
Coffee Hour: Jennifer Morss Drayton  
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Dorothy and John Brooks by Deborah and David Brooks.

### May 11 (Music Sunday)

Sermon: Chichester Psalms  
Scriptures: Acts 9:36-43, John 10:22-30, Psalm 23  
Scripture Reader: Lisle Baker  
Usher: Lisle Baker  
Coffee Hour: Susan and John Welch  
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Alice deV. and Lewis F. Perry by their children.

### May 18

Sermon: Who is Saved?  
Scriptures: Acts 11:1-18, John 13:31-35, Psalm 148  
Scripture Reader: Carol Lohe  
Usher: Werner Lohe  
Coffee Hour: CeeCee and David Cornish  
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Walter and Madeline Van Tassel by their family.

### May 25

Sermon: The Sabbath  
Scriptures: Acts 16:9-15, John 5:1-9, Psalm 67  
Scripture Reader: Joe Hicks  
Usher: Joe Hicks  
Coffee Hour: Patricia Schneider  
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Sandy Belfer by her husband Myron Belfer.

## MAY MUSIC

May 4, 2025

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Prelude	Fughetta on 'Herzlich tut mich verlangen'	Pachelbel
Anthem	Make me a channel of your peace	Temple
Hymn 10	Before Jehovah's Aweful Throne	
Response	Soar, My Soul, to God on High	Bach
Offertory Anthem	With a Voice of Singing	Shaw
Hymn	Amazing Grace	
Hymn	Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire	
Choral Amen	Twofold Amen	Traditional
Postlude	Canzona	Buxtehude

May 11

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Prelude	Allein Gott in der Hoh' sei Her	Coe
Anthem	Et in terra pax hominibus	Vivaldi
Hymn 7	Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise	
Response	God Gave to Us This Glorious Day	Bach
Offertory Anthem	O Christ, O Blessed Lord	Wagner
Hymn 84	The Lord's My Shepherd	
Sermon	Chichester Psalms	Bernstein
Hymn 80	The King of Love My Shepherd Is	
Choral Amen	Old Irish Blessing	Agay
Postlude	Nun freut euch, lieben Christen	Bach

May 18, 2025

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Prelude	Schmucke dich, o liebe Seele	Brahms
	Adagio e dolce	Bach
Anthem	O Almighty God	Barcrofte
Hymn 13	Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him	
Response	The Will of God is Always Best	Bach
Offertory Anthem	O Christ, who art the light and day	Whyte
Hymn 87	God Moves in a Mysterious Way	
Hymn 104	Comfort, Comfort Ye My People	
Choral Amen	Threefold Amen	Perischetti
Postlude	Toccata	McGrath

May 25, 2025

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Prelude	Voluntary	Greene
Anthem	Lord, I trust	Handel
Hymn 38	Morning has Broken	
Response	Abide, O Dearest Jesus	Bach
Offertory Anthem	These are They Which Follow the Lamb	Goss
Hymn 429	Eternal Father, Strong to Save	
Hymn 443	Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory	
Choral Amen	Sevenfold Amen	Stainer
Postlude	Toccata	Froberger

MUSIC PROGRAM NOTES

On Sunday, May 18, we welcome Mary Jane Rupert as a substitute for Kathryn. Mary Jane Rupert has been an organist in the Boston area for the past 30 years, and currently shares a position at All Saints Church in Belmont, MA. She is also a free-lance harpist and pianist and has toured the Eastern US as a member of Americasmusicworks, playing in Ensemble Aubade and with Peter Bloom in "2". Mary Jane has taught harp at Wellesley College, Boston College, and Tufts U.

## FCCH IN THE COMMUNITY

Our May Drive for kitchen kits continues. The Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center, a partner of the UU Urban Ministry, helps settle unhoused families in Boston, Worcester, and Lynn. Once housing is secured, the families need basic items like the following:

- Cooking utensils (spoons, ladles, tongs, spatulas)
- Pots and pans
- Bowls and plates
- Eating utensils
- Oven mitts
- Kitchen towels
- Mugs and cups
- Grocery gift cards

Please consider donating new or gently used items from this list. You may have extras in your cupboard that would be essential for these families setting up their households.

Please drop off your donations in the parish hall or on the Baker's side porch at 137 Suffolk Road. Thank you.

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Once again, we will participate in the weed pull in Houghton Garden (at the end of Suffolk Rd.), sponsored by Newton Conservators. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, May 4 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

All you need are a pair of garden gloves and enthusiasm to rid the area of garlic mustard, an invasive species. Please speak to Rev. Mark or email Sally Baker ([sallybbaker@comcast.net](mailto:sallybbaker@comcast.net)) if you can participate in this community project. Note: we usually finish the job in less than two hours.

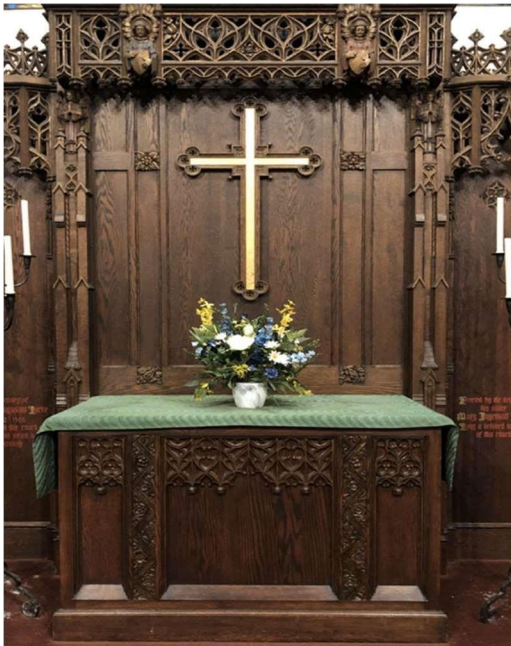
## ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

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**.....  
.....  
*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)