

## Worship

March 10<sup>th</sup>  
Fourth Sunday in  
Lent

March 17<sup>th</sup>  
Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 24<sup>th</sup>  
Palm Sunday

March 28<sup>th</sup>  
Maundy Thursday  
Worship at First Con-  
gregational Church  
7:00pm

March 31<sup>st</sup>  
Easter Sunday  
Easter morning Sun-  
rise Service: 6:30 am  
at Mount Hood Golf  
Course



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Dear church,

I hope you are doing well! I am so happy to be able to write this note after your Candidating Weekend with Pastor Chris! I know good-byes are not easy, but I feel so much better saying good-bye to MHCC knowing you are in such caring, able, and faithful hands. I am so excited to see what ministry you all do together!

One of the blessings of pastoral transitions in UCC churches is what it makes abundantly clear about churches like yours: the church is not about, for or by the pastor, but the people. The congregation is what makes the church the vibrant place it is. YOU are who makes MHCC so special. YOU are who ensures this church engages in meaningful ministry in the world and sets an example of what

*continued*

## Worship

April 7<sup>th</sup>  
Second Sunday of  
Easter

April 14<sup>th</sup>  
Third Sunday of Easter

April 21<sup>st</sup>  
Fourth Sunday of  
Easter

April 28<sup>th</sup>  
Fifth Sunday of Easter



“church” can be. Yes, to be sure, the pastor helps inspire, provides vital support, feedback and spiritual leadership, but a church would be nothing if it were just a building and a preacher. Can you imagine how sad that would be, a church with no people?!

And it is YOU who makes saying goodbye from this side of the pulpit a sad task to undertake! It is YOU who have made my time serving as your interim minister so meaningful. This church has blessed me as surely it has blessed you with so many incredible memories: our silly movie nights, spirit-filled baptisms, sudsy Beer + Bites, sincere confirmation class and significant MLK Day of Service, and so much more.

As I leave you to continue my work in interim ministry in Wellesley, I know that MHCC will keep being the great place it is because YOU are there! And while I will no longer be with you in worship on Sundays, providing visits or connecting on Facebook, know that I am with you in prayer as a sibling in faith. For even when not together in mutual ministry, we are of the same body of Christ, and together in spirit to bring God’s love, mercy, justice and grace into the world.

With prayers of gratitude, hope, love and faith,  
Pastor Katie



Welcome to MHCC, Pastor Chris! Here Pastor Chris Lyman Waldron, Moderator John Swanson and Treasurer Anne Carlson Moore sign the church call agreement.



### From the Desk of the Moderator

What a year ... and it's only March! It was truly moving and gratifying to see us all speak clearly and emphatically in support of Chris Lyman Waldron as our next Settled Pastor. The Congregational Meeting vote was overwhelming, and capped off a busy Candidating Weekend that included an ice cream social on Saturday and a Sunday service that Chris led brilliantly.

Katie will be with us for a couple more weeks, and while it's clear that she will be sorely missed, we can now take comfort in knowing that we have chosen the right person to take us forward in the days, months, and years ahead. It's a transition that we've worked long and hard to achieve (another shout-out to the Transition Team and Search Committee for their tireless efforts!), so let's dive in with joy, enthusiasm, and faith!

There's still plenty going on. Katie's farewell celebration will follow her final service on March 17th. Chris's first official service as our Pastor will be on the 24th (Palm Sunday), followed by Easter on the 31st. And then we keep our foot on the gas for Beer + Bites on April 6th.

So yeah, there's a lot to look forward to (don't forget stewardship!), and our efforts now will serve us well in the future -- a future that's looking brighter and brighter every day!

Warmly,  
John Swanson

## Service and Outreach

### Birthday Wishes Collection in April

Mark your calendars, MHCC will again be building Birthday-in-a-Box kits for Birthday Wishes in April. We are seeking donations of specific birthday party supplies to build each box. Each Birthday Box will be given to a child living in a homeless shelter to help them celebrate their birthday. Keep your eye on the enews for the link to sign-up to donate party supplies. Thank you!

### A Servant's Heart Food Pantry

Due to an increase in donations and partnerships with local organizations, A Servant's Heart has asked us to prioritize to **non-edible items** that they are need of. All donations are important, however, these would have the most impact:



- Toilet paper
- Dish and laundry detergent
- Paper towels
- Shampoo
- Kitchen trash bags
- Air freshener

If you would like to donate **edible items** to the food pantry, here are most needed items at this time:

- Cereal, (no sugar cereal) Special K original, Raisin Bran, Rice or wheat Chex's etc
- Snack pack pudding, or Jell-O
- Mayo
- Snack pack fruit. 4pk or 6pk
- Cooking oil
- Popcorn
- Ground coffee
- Brownie mix
- Tea (small boxes)

Currently, they are overflowing with pasta, canned vegetables, canned beans, tuna, ravioli, and soups and would prefer to not accept donations for those items at this time.

Donations can be brought to church on any Sunday or dropped off at Faith Evangelical Church (200 Franklin St. Melrose). You can enter the driveway on the Albion St. side of the church and locate a wooden shed to place your items. Thank you for your continued support!



## Service and Outreach Continued

### **The Frederick Douglass Project for Social Justice**

The Frederick Douglass Project for Social Justice was founded in 2019 by Georgetown law professor Marc Howard. The Project brings outside community members to a jail/prison for a facility tour and meaningful conversation with a group of incarcerated individuals to highlight everyone's shared humanity. Ninety-five percent of incarcerated people will eventually return to society, and public perceptions perpetuate stigma and undermine opportunity and stability upon release. The goals of the program are to decrease recidivism, enhance public speaking and self-advocacy skills for prisoners, create greater empathy in community members with those who have been in prison in order to promote prison reform that reflects reality. To read more about the program, visit their website: [douglassproject.org](http://douglassproject.org). The program is currently running at ten locations in seven states. One of the locations is the Middlesex House of Corrections and Jail in Billerica, Massachusetts.

Members of MHCC, their friends, and colleagues, have the opportunity to participate in this program. The format for the program at the Middlesex House of Corrections is as follows:

- 1) Sign up in advance to reserve a date and to allow time for a CORI background check.
- 2) Arrive in Billerica at 4:30 pm on the scheduled day.
- 3) Introductory presentation in a conference room (personal items are to be left in the conference room, which will be locked).
- 4) Pass through a metal detector before entering the jail proper.
- 5) A tour of the facility.
- 6) Dinner and conversation with prisoners. Visitors and prisoners will be pre-assigned to small groups. The small groups will have dinner and conversation (conversation prompts are provided to get the ball rolling, but they have found that in many cases these aren't necessary).
- 7) Wrap-up with the entire group seated in a large circle, finishing about 7:30 pm.

Available dates for the program are April 17, May 15, June 5, and July 17. We already have five people interested in the June or July dates. If you are interested in going as part of a group, please let Anne Gilbert know which date(s) work for you. We can send groups on more than one date. Also, you can sign up individually, if you prefer, on their website. You are welcome to invite friends and colleagues to join our group. The maximum size for a group on any one day is 18 people. To sign up or ask questions, please contact Anne Gilbert, 781-367-9508, [annegilbert45@comcast.net](mailto:annegilbert45@comcast.net).

## Sunday School News

As we scroll through the rest of the Sunday School year, please make note of the following Sunday activities:

- \*March 10<sup>th</sup>            Sunday School: Moses Parts the Red Sea
- \*March 17<sup>th</sup>            Sunday School: Moses and the Ten Commandments
- \*March 24<sup>th</sup>            Palm Sunday
- \*March 31<sup>st</sup>            Happy Easter: Children In Worship and Egg Hunt
  
- \*April 7<sup>th</sup>              Communion: Children In Worship
- \*April 14<sup>th</sup>            No Sunday School – Patriots Day Weekend

COMMUNION CLASS BEGINS!!! Children receiving First Communion this year will participate in four Communion classes with Michelle Tallman.

Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

Your child's "1<sup>st</sup> Communion" will be Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

There will be a baking activity with the new pastor at some point before June 2<sup>nd</sup> (not Memorial Day Weekend). Please be prepared to have your child attend all Communion classes and activity whenever possible.

Those kids who have already taken Communion will be led during this time by Val Bowden – as we study some clean water initiatives and participate in other earth-friendly activities in preparation for our upcoming Heifer Marketplace.

**Heifer helps many families install treadle pumps, practice water conservation and use organic fertilizers to protect drinking water to improve their health.**



## Sunday School News Continued

### **Matthew 10:42**

“And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

This year's MHCC Sunday School season has focused on two primary Bible stories – Jonah & The Whale and Moses. What do these two stories have in common? WATER. Jonah was thrown overboard into the ocean – and swallowed by a whale. Moses was sent as a baby in a basket down the Nile River – and later went on to part the Red Sea to let the slaves of Egypt free.

In thinking about our Heifer initiative this year, it felt like a good year to launch a 2-year Heifer initiative for clean water. Clean water is rare in many parts of the world where Heifer works. Families wake well before dawn and travel long distances to haul water back home. This chore is typically left to the women and young girls, which keeps them from going to school. Often the only water they can find is unsafe and unsanitary. Now Heifer International is changing all that by building solar-powered wells that bring life-sustaining water right to families' own backyards.

With better access to water, families are also able to water their crops and livestock. This in turn leads to greater yields that the family can sell, and their income increases tremendously.

By spreading the gift of clean water through a gift of a solar-powered well, water kiosks, irrigation systems, or treadle pumps, your Heifer donation can help more families!

Fundraising goal: \$750 (remember this is a 2-year plan – our last donation to Heifer was over \$1200)

### ***How can you help?***

There will be many opportunities to help us hit our fundraising goal. Can you spare us some loose change? Please put loose change on Sundays in the water jug that will be clearly marked. Purchase something at this year's Heifer Marketplace (June 9<sup>th</sup>). Perhaps a whale planter painted by one of MHCC's own Sunday School students is just what your windowsill needs this summer?

Stay tuned for various updates along the way to help us reach this goal.

Thank you,

Julie Fauvel, Valerie Bowden, Jolyn Kitteredge, Kate Fazio  
MHCC Sunday School  
[www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)



## Cub Scout Pack 615

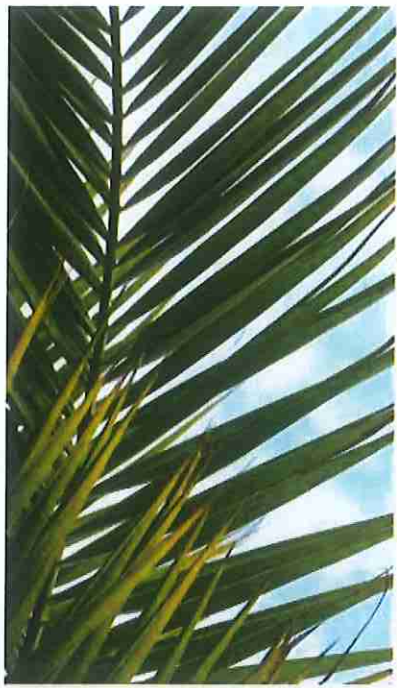
Cub Scout Pack 615 is so grateful to MHCC for supporting two of our biggest events of the year! On February 9th, we had our "Blue and Gold" Banquet to celebrate the birthday of Scouting and the crossing over of our 5th graders to the Boy Scout Troop. Over 150 people enjoyed potluck dinner, decorating cupcakes, face painting, and a magician -- all in Fellowship Hall!



On March 2nd, we had our annual Pinewood Derby in Fellowship Hall. This is a chance for the kids to learn a little bit about physics, express a lot of creativity, and have a lot of fun on race day! It requires a lot of work from parent volunteers, but the space MHCC provides makes it all possible!

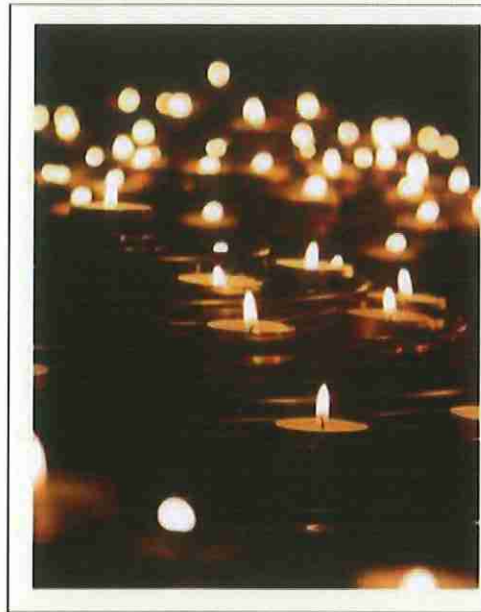






## **Palm Sunday (3/24)**

Breakfast and Procession with Melrose Churches:  
breakfast at First Baptist Church at 8:30am  
followed by procession to Ell Pond. Return to  
MHCC for 10:00am worship



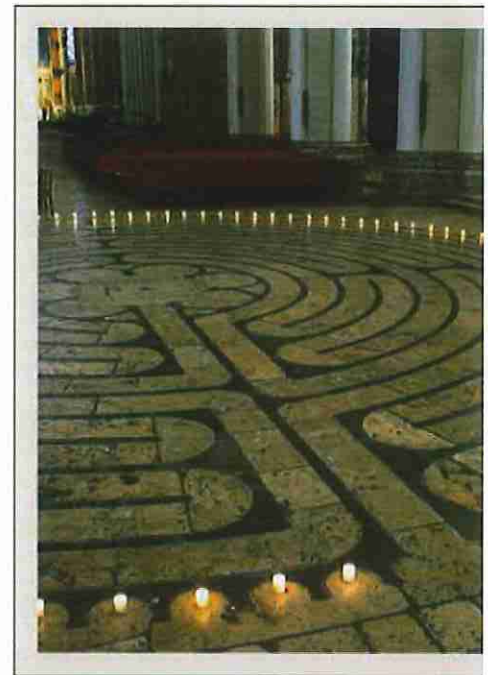
## **Maundy Thursday**

Joint worship at First  
Congregational  
Church, 7:00pm

# *Holy* **WEEK**

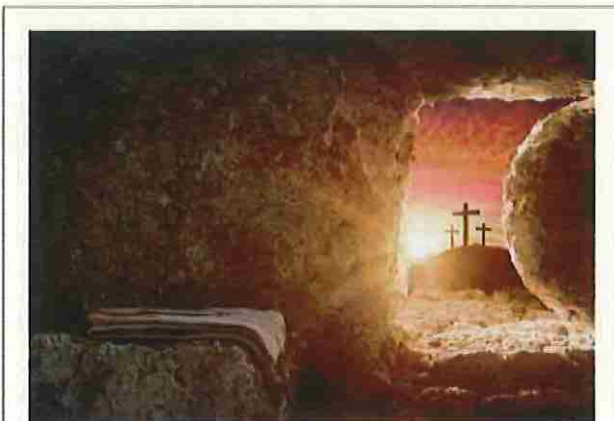
## **Good Friday**

The Labyrinth in Fellowship Hall  
is open from noon - 3:00



## **Easter Sunday (3/31)**

Sunrise service at 6:30am at Mt. Hood  
golf course with Melrose churches.  
A joyful celebration at 10:00am worship  
at MHCC





*Please join us in praying for God's comfort and guidance in their lives and this world, as well as for all those whom you know need God's love and caring.*

*Please call or email the church office to add a name to our prayer list.*

Nancy Chappel  
Christyne Cheney Daley  
Mary Edwards  
Mary Steele Hartung  
Laurie Lowman  
Lois Mackey  
Jack McLeod  
Jill Steeper  
Rachel Steeper  
Carol Trout  
Andy Wescott  
Ana Wescott  
The Andrews Family

Our Sunshine List: *Please send cards, visit and hold in your prayers.*

Barbara Kenworthy, The Fitch Home, 75 Lake St., Melrose, MA 02176

Charlotte Swan, Greenwood Nursing & Rehab Center, 90 Greenwood St., Wakefield, MA 01880

Janice Blanchard, 90 Greenwood St., Wakefield, MA 01880

Beverly and Michael Harrison, Steele House, One Nason Ave., Apt. 514 Melrose, MA 02176

Judy McSween, Woburn Rehab, 18 Frances St., Woburn, MA 01801



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 10am - Worship 2pm - Pack 615 - FH 5pm - Hope &	26 7:30pm - Outreach Team 7:30pm - Outreach Team	27 12pm - Bible Study 6:15pm - Polymnia -	28	29 5pm - Pinewood Derby 7pm - Choir - Sanctuary	1 Pinewood Derby Pack	2 8am - Pinewood Derby
3 10am - Holy Communion 10am - Worship 2pm - Pack 615 - FH	4 12pm - Bible Study 6:15pm - Polymnia -	5 12pm - Bible Study 6:15pm - Polymnia -	6 7pm - Choir - Sanctuary	7 7pm - Choir - Sanctuary	8	9
10 10am - Worship	11 7pm - EC meeting	12 12pm - Bible Study 6:15pm - Polymnia -	13	14	15	16
17 10am - Worship 2pm - Pack 615 - FH	18	19 12pm - Bible Study 6:15pm - Polymnia -	20 7pm - Finance Team	21 12pm - TM Pasta Diner	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 10am - Worship	25 7:30pm - Outreach Team	26 12pm - Bible Study 6:15pm - Polymnia -	27 6:30pm - Cricklewood	28 Maundy Thursday at First	29	30
31 Easter Sunday 10am - Worship	1 7pm - EC meeting	2 12pm - Bible Study 6:15pm - Polymnia -	3 7pm - Choir - Sanctuary	4 7pm - Choir - Sanctuary	5	6

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 <b>Easter Sunday</b> 10am - Worship	1 7pm - EC meeting	2 12pm - Bible Study 6:15pm - Polymnia -	3	4 7pm - Choir - Sanctuary	5	6
7 10am - Holy Communion 10am - Worship 2pm - tentative	8	9 12pm - Bible Study 6:15pm - Polymnia -	10 7pm - tentative	11	12	13
14 10am - Worship	15	16 12pm - Bible Study 6:15pm - Polymnia -	17 7pm - Finance Team	18	19	20
21 10am - Worship 12pm - Rev. Taranowski	22 7:30pm - Outreach Team	23 12pm - Bible Study 6:15pm - Polymnia -	24	25	26	27
28 10am - Worship	29	30 12pm - Bible Study 6:15pm - Polymnia -	1 7pm - Choir - Sanctuary 7:30pm - tentative	2	3	4