

Welcome to First Congregational Church



APRIL 28, 20224

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Questions for today: What do you think about the Resurrection? How does the concept of resurrection live in your life? What does the resurrection say about God?

EMERGENCY BUCKET Item for April: Each bucket needs 18 reusable, lightweight multipurpose dry-cleaning towels (No terrycloth, microfiber, or paper towels.)



You are invited to an
Open House Celebration
Of
Phil Kimball's 90th Birthday
April 27 & 28 1:00 - 4:00
Come by 65 Ray Road, Dunbarton NH
for food, drink, birthday cake
and conversation.
He'd love to see you!
Remember: Your presence is his present!

Pastor Emilia will be away for most of the month of April. (If you need pastoral care during April, please contact the church office.) From April 1-22 she will be on vacation. [However, she WILL be at Jazz Sanctuary on Sunday, April 21st to celebrate the Jazz of Outdoor Ministries] She will be away from April 23-30 at her Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI) week-of-learning. This year she is completing certification training to lead Forest Bathing.

To find out more, visit: <https://www.theforesttherapyschool.com/>

Welcome to First Congregational Church
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
April 28, 2024
Welcome Rev. Gayle Murphy

***Please stand if you are able**

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Annie Papinsick

SETTING OUR INTENTIONS FOR WORSHIP - Praise and Wondering

PRAISE: "Experience" Brother Geoffrey Tristram and response by Gayle Murphy

One Voice: God's Holy Spirit cannot be grasped, contained, comprehended, controlled, manipulated or possessed.

All: **God you are too big for words, too wonderful to take in, too much to understand. We stand in your mystery!**

One Voice: God's Spirit grasps us, possesses us. Like fire, it is alive and free!

All: **We are grateful that God initiates in our relationship, hopeful that it is not just on us. Come to us, o God!**

One Voice: Like the wind which touches our faces, we can feel God's movement upon us as move through life.

All: **But if we try to grasp this Spirit of God, hold it in our hands, it is lost. God grant that we may patiently await You.**

WONDERING: An Untitled Poem by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Well, the day has come and gone, but I have not been thrust from the tomb.

Honestly, I am not much changed from Friday.

Like seeing the flash of a distant explosion but the shock wave hasn't hit me yet.

I have seen the light of a mystery working within me, far beneath my senses, my understanding, even my faith.

In that mystery I trust.

Every day is Easter, they say;

They should say: Sometimes it is still before that dawn, fear and guilt still echoing, pain is real, death still clinging --

though the miracle I shall see fully only later is unfolding already.

OPENING HYMN #233

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

1 Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Mortal tongues and angels say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2 Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!

Where's your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

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3 Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

WISDOM FROM OUR SCRIPTURE

John 15:1-6 (Message Translation)

Sara Nichols

Romans 6:1-9 (Message Translation)

Sara Nichols

DIALOG ABOUT THE WORD FROM GOD

SONG OF REFLECTION #283

"Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.

TIME TO BE IN PRAYER TOGETHER

Prayers of the People Please share your joy or concern with God,
ending with the phrase - "**God of the Resurrection**"
and the Congregation will respond with, "**Hear of our prayers**"

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

TIME OF GENEROSITY

Share experiences of receiving gifts from God or sharing your gifts with others
Invitation to Give your financial offerings.

Prayer of Dedication: **Gracious God, You have given us so much and for that we are grateful. Help us use the talents and love we hold to benefit others. Accept this offering to support the work of this, Your church. May our actions, our gifts, our offering be a witness to our commitment to You and a hope to the world. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn for every darkness
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see

GOING FORTH FROM WORSHIP

Setting our Intentions for the week In silence,
with an invitation to share Words of Blessing

POSTLUDE