



The Messenger

Volume 57 No. 2

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

March 2008

The First Congregational Church

34 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA
02719

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www.firstcongfairhaven.com



Pastor

Rev. Bette McClure
508-990-7513
bettemc2@juno.com

Administrator

Sharon M. Dorian

Music Director

Mr. David Touchette

Organist

Ms. Jackie Maillet

Office Hours

Mon thru Fri
8:30am - Noon



God is Still Speaking,

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Schedule for Holy Week

Palm Sunday Brunch to benefit Heifer International
Sunday March 16th, 11:00 a.m.

Donation: \$6.00 Adults \$3.00 Children 12 & under

Holy Communion & Service of Tennebrae
Thursday, March 20th, 7:00 p.m.

Confirmants serve at Market Ministries
Friday, March 21st, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Good Friday Prayers
The sanctuary will be open for personal prayer time.

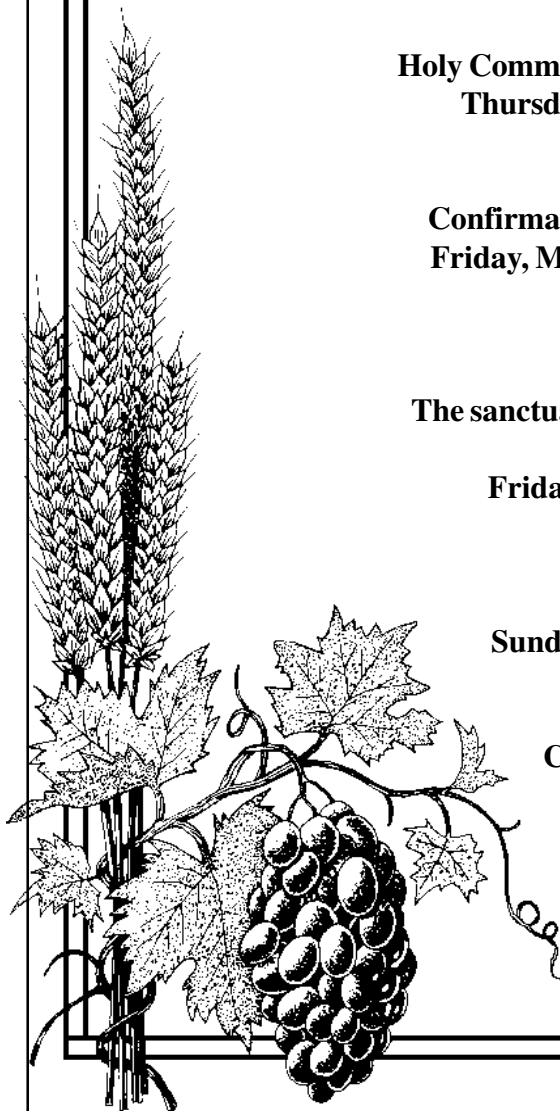
Friday, March 21st, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, March 23rd, gather at 6:30 a.m.

(Sunrise @ 6:41)

Fort Phoenix, Fairhaven
Continental Breakfast to follow in
Maddaford Vestry.

Easter Sunday Worship
Sunday, March 23rd, 10:00 a.m.





Those in Service

Sgt. Jonathan M. Rice, ARMY,
Drill Instructor, Ft. Benning, GA

P.O. Christopher H. Rice, NAVY,
NAS Iraq

Betty Monk's Grandsons

Lt. Marc Lavoie, RCC 94th Iraq

son of friends of Ann & Jim Cochran



Lenten Programs

Chocolate for Lent - Monday March 3, 7-8:30

Using prayer, scripture, meditation and, of course chocolate, we will create space for deeper insights into self-discipline, conversion, acceptance, and maturing in Christ. Delving into the delicious depths of humanity, Chocolate for Lent uses themes from the 2000 Academy Award nominated film *Chocolat*. (You might want to watch the film prior to this program – but come even if you haven't seen it)

Holy Week through the Eyes of Artists - Thursday, March 13, 7-8:30

Recount the events of Jesus' last week by reflecting on various artists' renditions of Jesus as he walks toward the cross.



-Rev. Bette McClure-

Dear Friends,

Are you ready for Easter? This year Easter falls on March 23rd, the second earliest date that it can occur. The last time we celebrated Easter this early was in 1913 and it has not

fallen on the earliest date (March 22nd) since 1818. You will have to wait until 2160 to attend another Easter Service this early. In case you are wondering how the date of Easter is determined, it occurs on the Sunday following the Paschal Full Moon (PFM) date for the year. In June 325 A.D. astronomers approximated astronomical full moon dates for the Christian church, calling them Ecclesiastical Full Moon (EFM) dates. From 326 A.D. onward the PFM date has always been the EFM date after March 20 (which was the equinox date in 325 A.D.). If that is more than you wanted to know, just be assured that Easter can fall anywhere from March 22 to April 25. So, this year Easter is very early!

Are you ready for Easter? I don't mean - have you bought a new Easter hat and shoes (this year we may need snow boots and ski caps). Nor am I asking if you've planned your Easter dinner or started dying eggs. And although all the stores have them in stock, I'm not wondering if you've brought in your supply of chocolate bunnies and marshmallow chicks.

Are you ready for Easter? Are you ready to set aside logic and "common sense" and embrace the mystery of the resurrection? Are you ready to look for signs of new birth in the still frozen ground - and in the frozen parts of your life? Are you ready to embrace possibility and hope? Are you ready to joyfully shout alleluia even when clouds obscure the sun - confident that the Rising Son will break through the grayness? Are you ready for Easter?

Easter Blessings,
Bette

"Our mission is to provide opportunities to experience God's presence and in humble and caring ways to use all of our resources to welcome, love, challenge, and equip each other for Christ's ministry in our community and the world."



On February 10th -- In loving memory of **Mary Evelyn Rogers** from her family.
On February 24th -- In loving memory of **Lucy Bobola** and **Dolores Bobola** from the family.

Our Deepest Sympathies

The Family and Friends of Muriel Burr -- Muriel, the mother of Norman Burr, died on February 23rd.



Women's Fellowship

There is No Women's Fellowship meeting in March, BUT we will be having an evening of enjoyment on April 11th. The FHS Drama

Club is presenting "Oklahoma" on that week-end. Mabel Filipek (508-994-6665) has volunteered to get the tickets so as we can attend in a group, She would like your name by April 1st so as she will know how many to order. (There is a chance that she can "add-on" until April 8th). A light supper is planned to be served in Maddaford Vestry before the show. There will be a minimal charge for this.

At this point in time, the Old Colony Women's Fellowship will be meeting near the end of March. Date and Place will be forthcoming.

Thank you to our church family for all your support for my journey to Australia as a "People to People" student ambassador. I am getting closer to my goal every day.

Please consider purchasing a quilt raffle ticket for a 42" x 52" lap quilt handmade by Kristine Daniels. It features jumping dolphins in hand-dyed batik fabric. Tickets are \$2.00 each

Meghan Dorian

Memorial Book

Last call for anyone who made a contribution to our Capital Campaign and would like to dedicate their gift in memory or celebration of someone or something. The book is being assembled and will be sent out April 1st. Please call or e-mail the church office.



Coordinator Needed for Spring Fair and Plant Sale

The Church Council would like to hold a Spring Fair and Plant Sale sometime in late May or early June. We need a person or persons to step up to coordinate this special event. The coordinator reports to the Church Council, but is fairly free to design an event as he/she sees fit. Please think about how you can contribute your time and talent to running a great fundraising event.

Sign up sheets are now available for purchasing memorial/celebration Easter flowers. You can sign up at coffee hour or you can phone the church office. The prices this year are:

Lilies	\$8.50	Hyacinths	\$6.75
Tulips	\$6.25	Daffodils	\$6.75

You may pay for the flowers when you order or put your payment in the collection plate on any Sunday prior to Easter.



Spring Musicals

The Hastings Middle School Drama Club will present "Give My Regards to Broadway" on Thursday, March 27th. The Fairhaven High School Drama Club will present "Oklahoma" on April 10, 11, 12 & 13. Several of our youth are participating in these productions. Please support them!



Bible Adventures Sunday School

We continue to seek teachers for upcoming Sundays. The curriculum is easy to follow, all supplies are set up for you, and

you are guaranteed to have FUN!

See Pam Kuechler, Stacey Burr, Janet Desrochers or Bill Fields if you can help.

March 2, 9,

"The 40 year Campout

March 16 & 30

"All About Easter"

(Focus on the Easter Story)

April 6, 13, 27 & May 4

"Mothers and Others"

(Ruth, Naomi, Hannah & Samuel)



Youth Groups

Kid's Supper Klub

4th & 5th Graders - Sundays 4-6 p.m.

March 16th

April 27th

May 18th

Youth Group

Middle & High School - Sundays, time varies

March 2nd

March 9th

May 18th

April 13th

June 29th

Confirmation Schedule

March 2	Class
March 16	Palm Sunday Brunch
March 21	Serve at Market Ministries
April 27	Class
May 4	Class
May 11	Confirmation Sunday



Fairhaven Community Concert Series

<http://fhvnccs.googlepages.com/>

Scheduled Concerts for Our 5th Season! 2007-2008

April 13, 2008 7:00 p.m.
The Brentwood Brass
Dinner 5:30

Concert tickets are \$10. Children are
FREE with an adult.
Dinner tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5
for children.

Don't forget to add Figri, our foster child, to
your Easter greetings list.

Figri Abdyansayah
132/340204/00154
Proyek Panti Nugeraha 3795
P.O. Box 1364
Jakarta 10013 - Indonesia



The Women's Fellowship John & May Dampman Scholarship

is available to any High School Senior with ties to our church. It is given at the beginning of the 2nd semester in college. Applications can be obtained from Ms. Millicent Allen, Mrs. Mabel Filipek, Mrs. Betty Monk or Sharon at the Church Office. Deadline is May 1st.



FCCS Arts Scholarship

A \$600 scholarship will be presented to one graduating member of the Fairhaven High School class of 2008 who will be entering a college program to major or concentrate in music, dance, art, drama or education directly related to one of these areas.

Interested applicants should send a letter explaining their interest and need to The Fairhaven Community Concert Series Scholarship, 34 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719. Complete information is available from the church office or FHS.

Seminarian Scholarship

Offerings for the Seminarian Scholarship were collected on February 24th and total \$409. If you still wish to make a contribution you can send it to the office at any time. Please be sure that your check is clearly marked Seminarian Scholarship in the memo line.

UCC Undergraduate Scholarships are available for college Sophmores, Juniors and Seniors. Please direct requests for application materials to: scholars@ucc.org or call the toll free number (866) 822-8224, ext. 3848. All application materials must be received in the PLL office no later than May 18th.

See brochure at <http://www.ucc.org/assets/pdfs/undergrad.pdf>

The Matthew Richard Summer Study Scholarship Fund continues to grow. The funds will be awarded this summer to youth of our church for instrumental, vocal or drama/vocal lessons, workshops, or camperships. **Student Musicians should begin thinking about ways this scholarship might help you this summer. Applications will be available in April.**



February Donations

American Red Cross (Lawrence Fires)	\$250.00
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$207.65

The Food Pantry was used **8** times in January and February. Several bags of donations came in during this time as well. We gratefully accept and welcome your donations at any time of the year.



Multiplying Talents

-from the MACUC's Inspiring Generosity February e-mail.

In the parable of the talents, Jesus praises the servant who invested ten talents and made ten more. Here is a real life story from Daniel Kelleher, a member of First Church in Weymouth:

"My name is Daniel Kelleher. I live in Weymouth, Mass. My way of living up to my tithing is to put on an Italian dinner. I pay for all the food (around \$500 worth) and cook it all myself. We charge around \$10 for adults with price breaks for kids and families. ALL monies from the ticket sales go to the Church - 100%. Last year that \$500 of food fed 160 people and made \$2500 for the church. This year will be my third year and be held on 2-23-08 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. I do this because it does make the money grow more. I could just write a check for \$500 but that is all the church would get. By doing this they not only get the money, people from the community come and see what the church is all about and hopefully want to come some more.

Can you think of a way your talents might multiply?



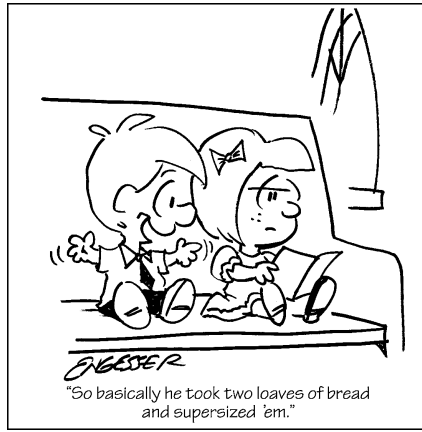
Thanks & a Tip of the Hat to...

To **all** who have offered their painting skills in February.

To **Bob Heskett and Molly Bobola** for their service as Layleaders in February.

To **Linda & Lexi Ferland, The Arbec and Kuechler Families, The Mello Family, Dot Bungert and Bob Doucette** for greeting and hosting coffee hour in February.

To the **Concert Committee** for their successful Mardi Gras Dinner under adverse weather conditions.



*Annual Reports from
committees and
organizations are
due
March 31st!!*



Church Women United WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR GUYANA

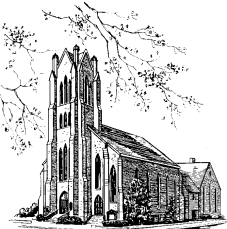
Friday, March 7, 2008 at 7:30 PM
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church,
Rivet Street, New Bedford



Next Messenger Deadline: March 24th

The Messenger

First Congregational Church
34 Center Street
Fairhaven MA 02719-2931



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