



**First Church in Ludlow**

**APRIL 2017**

FROM THE PASTOR:

Congregationalist, Public Worship, and Town Meeting.

In 1774, the first church in Ludlow, later named The First Congregational Church, and renamed The First Church in Ludlow, was constituted in order that the township could be formed. This may not seem like a reason to form a congregation but in 18<sup>th</sup> Century New England, by law, there could not be a township without a church. In most cases, it had to be a Congregational church.

The town and the congregation were the same people. It was expected that everyone would attend public worship. In some locations, attendance at public worship was required by local ordinance. The people of the town, the congregation, would build a “Meeting House” in the town square. The Meeting House served a dual purpose, the place for public worship and the place to hold town meetings.

We Congregationalist are the people of the “Meeting House.” The business of the congregation was the business of the town. In the town meeting, the finances of the church were voted upon. In some New England towns, as recently as 2007, the town voted upon the church budget given the original charter of church and town, until amended.

So, when questions come up about combining our Annual Business Meeting with worship, in the worship space, we Congregationalist have been doing that since the mid 1600’s. For those not familiar with Congregationalism and some of its peculiar ways, combining worship with “business” may seem a bit odd or even offensive.

But Congregationalist have always understood that this is God’s world, all of it, and that it is our responsibility to manage it responsibly, all of it, worship, finances, the environment, civic relationships, and government.

We see all space as sacred space. The “Meeting House” is not sacred because of the building itself, it is made sacred when folks meet in it. The meeting of folks in it is what makes the building sacred, not the building itself. The space is made sacred by the meeting.

So, when we do worship and the business of the congregation in the same hour, in the same space, we are reaffirming our Congregational roots.

The Town of Ludlow continued to use the “Meeting House” as a Town Hall and a Place of Worship until 1833.

**Reverend Winston Baldwin's** cell phone number is 413-531-6248. Please feel free to contact him by phone, text or email ([wbaldwin15@comcast.net](mailto:wbaldwin15@comcast.net)). The most direct way to contact him is by phone or text. Winston will be sharing office hours between Grace Union and First Church Ludlow.



## **DEACONS REPORT**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 12th at 6pm. If you have any concerns, please contact one of us.

Marianne W.



## **NOTES FROM THE TRUSTEES**

Ron F. Wisner has been voted as Chairperson of the Trustees.

1. Solar opportunities for the church will be researched by Betsy Marble.
2. Reminder for all church committees and members to have spending approved by Trustees.
3. New microphone to be purchased with \$900 raised through the Lasagna to Go fundraiser.
4. JoAnn Wrona to have Church School create a Jacob's Ladder to be set up in Fellowship Hall.
5. Voted to approve tune up of tractor in April/early May
6. Fellowship Hall will need a smoke detector upgrade within the next year



**April 13<sup>th</sup> – Maunday Thursday  
6:30 p.m. Worship & Light Meal**

**April 14<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday  
12-6 p.m., Sanctuary will be open for meditation  
The Labryinth will be set up in Fellowship Hall**

**April 16<sup>th</sup> – Easter  
8:45 a.m., Easter Sunday Worship Service**



From The Fund Raising Committee

In **March** we enjoyed Terry Soderstrom's and Nancy Martin's Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner. It raised \$1587.91

We want to thank everyone that helped with the dinner. We were fortunate to have had helpers from Grace Union. They were a big help and it was nice to work side by side with them. We hope to help with their Italian Dinner on April 8th.

Correction to the February Lasagna Drive-Thru dinner, It raised \$907 not \$742 as previously reported.

Our next event will be the April **Rummage and Bake Sale** on April 21st and 22nd. Donations will start to be accepted the 17th the 20th. You can drop off donations on:

**Monday** and **Wednesday**: 9am to noon

**Tuesday**: 9am to noon **and** 4pm to 7pm

**Thursday**: 9am to 7pm

As usual, we will accept clean, gently, used clothing, household goods, small appliances and small furniture. NO TV's or electronics. Please ask if you are not sure about an item you want to donate.

On Saturday, [May 6th](#), we will enjoy the Victorian Tearoom and Quilt Show.

The Tearoom is in need of volunteers. They need wait staff, bakers, kitchen staff, and clean-up help. Please consider offering to help in any way you can. Contact Syd Snyder at:

413-467-9139 or via her email: [SydandChip@gogtt.net](mailto:SydandChip@gogtt.net) or Etta Brockney at: 413-583-2913

Any questions regarding the Quilt Show please contact Betty Jaciow at: 413-583-9683

Thank you, Elaine Hodgman,

Committee chair 413-583-6949



From The Decorating Committee:

Please note that I am planning to be at the church to take Easter plant orders, both before and after the service, on April 2nd and 9th.

You may order traditional white lilies and/or an assortment of bulb plants. These plants are used as a decoration for our Easter Sunday service. You have the option to loan your plant, which you would retrieve right after service, or donate it for delivery to one of our at home members.

Please contact Marie Chartrand with any questions 589-1841. As always, thank you for your continued support!



The Spring Clean-Up dates are April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Volunteers are needed. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for helping to make our church grounds beautiful.



The Victorian Tea Room and Quilt Exhibit  
 May 6, 2017 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Antique, vintage and newly made quilts will be featured at the annual Victorian Tea Room and Quilt Exhibit. As part of the exhibit, appliqué quilted items will be featured. If you are a quilter or know of a quilt collector of handmade quilts who would like to exhibit, please contact Marianne Waszkelewicz at 413-250-1711 or by email at [mwaszky@yahoo.com](mailto:mwaszky@yahoo.com) or Betty Jaciow at 589-9683 or my email at [b.jaciow@yahoo.com](mailto:b.jaciow@yahoo.com) Space is limited so early submissions are suggested.

Syd is looking for help with the tea room.

Needed: help moving the upholstered furniture out of the upstairs parlor and library on Wednesday, May 3rd; the loan of card tables to be dropped off by Wednesday (10 needed in total); help setting up the tea room and moving chairs from the choir room and back of the church to the "tea room" on Thursday morning, May 4th; needed, too, baked goods/finger sized desserts; donations of the following items: 3 large jars of strawberry jam, 6 loaves of white sandwich bread, 6 loaves of wheat sandwich bread, 5 loaves of raisin bread, 2 large cans of whipped cream, 1 quart milk, 1 quart half and half (all which may be dropped off on Friday morning, May 5); sandwich makers on Saturday morning between 8:00 and 10:00; help in the Deacon's Kitchen and wait staff day of the tea room. Also needed, help with clean-up and returning upholstered furniture to the parlor and library and chairs to the choir room and back of the church at 3:00 when the event ends.

Please contact Syd at 413-467-9139 or at [SydandChip@gogtt.net](mailto:SydandChip@gogtt.net). Etta Brockney is assisting with scheduling wait staff so if you are able to help wait table, please contact Etta at 583-2913.

There will once again be a raffle. If you wish to donate to the raffle you may contact Syd at the above telephone number or email address.



## MEMORIAL GIFTS

The members of First Church, along with her family, mourn the death of Roberta Smith, a life-time member. She will be missed.

We are pleased, however, that they chose to remember First Church with their memorial contributions. To date, we have received over \$4,500.00 which are designated for the General Fund. This is much appreciated and goes a long way in helping the deficit in our 2017 budget.

Many thanks to all the Smith family and friends for remembering us.

Anita Allen  
Memorial Gifts Committee

## Holiday Fair 2017



Spring has arrived according to the calendar even as nature continues to waver between winter and spring. And at this time of year, animals who have hibernated all winter are awaking, but such is not the case with the unique bears we have been creating. We have made six bears which will now hibernate awaiting time to re-awake in time for the Holiday Fair. Meanwhile the Welcome Workers have working on door draft dolls which will also soon take a nap until next fall.

The Holiday Fair dates are set for another two days of new and exciting surprises — so save the dates — Friday, November 17th from 1 - 7 pm and Saturday, November 18th from 9 am until 3 pm. Once again are reaching out to all church members to become involved. Next month we will begin asking for donations for the ever popular theme baskets and will have some suggestions and signup sheets to help you with that. But there are other ways that you can help too.

Do you have any special talents or suggestions for something new and different? Any and all suggestions are on the table for discussion. We will be meeting on a regularly the last Tuesday of each month at 1 pm. Anyone is welcome to come and suggestions are always welcome.

Gift cards are always appreciated and add so much to the Theme Baskets that Barbara Wisner so beautifully puts together. So when you are picking up gift cards or even Big Y cards, consider getting one or two extra and designate them for the fair. Let Karen or Dave Robison know when you are ordering, and they will set them aside for us. This would be a win-win for the church!

The Cookie Walk is always popular and will be back again on Saturday only! The smaller sized cookies are a big draw as individuals select the types of cookies they will purchase to fill their hand decorated canister. Do you purchase coffee in one pound cans? We could use them to decorate for the cookie canisters. If you have any questions about this, talk with Judy Snyder our resident artist who does a great job decorating them. So all you bakers, get ready to make some of those half-dollar sized cookies. Cookies really freeze well and if space is a problem, let us know and we can help with that if you make them. But if you find those hard to master, we will be looking for bakers to fill the tables in the Sweet and Bake Shoppe. Are you someone who makes jam or jelly each year as fresh fruits become abundant or do you make your own relish or put up pickles? Consider making an extra jar or two or three for the fair. You simply can't beat homemade goods! And we will again have that delicious fudge but we also hope to expand that with some special holiday candies.

Do you have or know someone who might have some old barn boards? Or how about heavy duty cardboard tubes such as used with paper towels or toilet paper but heavier duty? Each of these would be greatly appreciated and would be used from some neat items with Thanksgiving and Christmas themes.

Getting the word out may perhaps be our biggest challenge and competition can be pretty stiff with so many fairs during November and December. We will once again print some posters. Are you able to put up posters where you work or at a business or club where you frequent on a regular basis? As we did last year, we will take advantage of regular updates in the Crier and Sunday bulletins, Facebook, Craig's list, and e-mail, but spread the word. Talk up the fair; sometimes word of mouth does so much more. It is never too early to spread the word. Last year we were able to get some yard signs out, and we plan on increasing our visibility with more signage. So if you are willing to put a sign on your property a couple weeks ahead of the fair let us know. We have some volunteers who will put the signs up and even collect them after so that we can re-use them next year.

**At any time we would love to hear from you.  
Your Fair Co-chairs: Diane McCarthy & Betty Jaciow**



Church Cookbook: First Church is again creating a cookbook. Recipes are welcome from all members of the community. To submit a recipe, the preferred is to e-mail Betsy Marble: [eamarble@yahoo.com](mailto:eamarble@yahoo.com). The subject line should be: cookbook. The preferred method is an MSWord document as an attachment to the email, so it can be copied/pasted. Handwritten or machine copied recipes will be accepted, preferably on standard-size paper, legibly written (as they will need to be retyped into the cookbook format), with name(s) as to

who the recipe(s) is from. They can be given to Betsy during Sunday Service or mailed to: Betsy Marble, First Church in Ludlow, 859 Center St., Ludlow, MA 01056. Deadline for recipes is **April 15, 2017**. Advertising costs (checks made payable to First Church Ludlow, noting it is for cookbook advertising)

one-line sponsor name = \$10

business card = \$25

½ page ad = \$50

full page ad = \$100



**THE FLOWER CHART** is up in the Narthex, please consider signing up for a Sunday, you may dedicate the flowers in honor or memory of someone special to you.



**GRACE UNION CHURCH**



# ITALIAN DINNER NIGHT

SATURDAY  
APRIL 8, 2017  
AT  
5:00P.M.

Pasta, Meatballs/Sausage, Italian/Garlic Bread,  
Salad, Beverage, and Dessert.

Adults \$10.00 & Children (under 10) \$5.00

For Reservations call:  
Gayle at 596-3936

GRACE UNION CHURCH  
10 CHAPEL STREET  
WILBRAHAM, MA 01095

TAKE OUT DINNERS AVAILABLE



STEWARDSHIP/NOMINATING COMMITTEE -

**Stewardship:** As of March 21, 2017, **56 pledges totaling \$62,624** had been received. This amount represents **84% of the \$75,000 in pledge receipts that was approved for the 2017 budget.** Four pledges were received after the follow-up letter was sent during the week of January 9, 2017. Thank you cards/receipts were sent to all who have pledged.

**Nominating:** Officers and committee members for 2017 were elected at the First Church Annual Meeting on January 29, 2017. Nominees are still being sought for the Personnel Committee (2 members) and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (3 members). Please contact Marianne Waszkelewicz if you would like to be a nominee for either of these committees.

The new members of the Stewardship/Nominating Committee are Mike Dowd, Nancy Pierce and Marianne Waszkelewicz, Chair.

Submitted by Rachel Tierney



**PLEASE SHARE THE HARVEST** We continue to collect non-perishable food items on the first Sunday every month and deliver them to the Survival Center.



#### Prayer List Update

We have realized that our prayer list on the back of the Sunday bulletin gets out of date and out of control. When you request a name it will be published for 2 weeks unless we hear from you to keep the name on for longer. Folks forget to let us know when issues are resolved or folks have passed. For the email prayer list; we would appreciate notification when issues change as well.

You can reach me at my email: [mwaszky@yahoo.com](mailto:mwaszky@yahoo.com) or by phone: 413-250-1711.

A message for Cher in the office can also be left. Church phone is 413-583-3339 and 413-583-6834. Email is [office@ludlowfirst.com](mailto:office@ludlowfirst.com)

Thank you, Marianne Waszkelewicz



CALLING ALL LADIES

We have had an invitation from the ladies at Grace Union to explore the possibility of forming a

Women's Group. I have no details yet; we are simply investigating whether there would be interest. I can be reached at 413-250-1711 or by email at [mwaszky@yahoo.com](mailto:mwaszky@yahoo.com) or when you see me at church.

Thanks, Marianne Waszkelewicz



### **GIFT CARDS**

Buy gift cards to use for your own shopping or to give to others. For every card you buy...You get full value....and First Church gets a donation in return because we get the cards at a discount. This program runs year round with cards being ordered on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of every month so every month you can add a donation to the Church's general fund. See or call Karen

Robison 413-237-4062 if you have any questions.



FROM OUR LIBRARY

## **Peace Like A River**

By Leif Eger and

A heroic quest, a tragedy and a love story. . .the journey unfolds like a revelation, and its conclusion shows how family, love and faith can stand up to the most terrifying of enemies, the most tragic of fates.

## **Abraham**

By Bruce Feiler

The powerful story of one man's search for the shared ancestor of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Provocative and uplifting.

## **Chicken Soup**

We have several assorted Chicken Soup books – a compilation of short stories – inspirational and hope giving true stories.

**Come see our updated library! Some new books and some old favorites.**



Sunday School News

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS** 😊

The trip to Heifer farm was cancelled because of weather, and the forecast is not too bright for the near future. So I'll keep you posted, it may be that we'll go in May. Collecting for Heifer each Sunday, April 23 will be our last week.

**WANTED EASTER CANDY, IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO DONATE EASTER CANDY FOR OUR EASTER EGG HUNT, PLEASE SEE TO IT THAT THE WELCOME WORKERS GET IT BEFORE THEY MEET ON APRIL 6, Candy has to be small and individually wrapped ex: Gum, Kisses, tootsie rolls. Thank you JoAnn**

April 2nd Youngsters will be coloring eggs, an extra hand will help, volunteer?

April 8th Grace Union is having their Italian Night, and are looking for volunteers? Our Youth Group could lend a hand.

April 9th Easter Egg Hunt - Volunteers ?

April 16th Easter (no Class)

April 30 Intergenerational Day after service, Pick a partner of any age except your own, and play a game of cards, puzzles, checkers, the sky's the limit> Learn a new game, teach an old game> make this an annual event. Make your church a community, where people of all ages can worship together, and know their names.

April 30 Mother's Day project

May 6 Saturday Quilt Show/Tea Room. Bring your daughter, your granddaughter, treat someone special in your life with a little bit of your time. Also looking for some teenage volunteers for 2hr blocks of time.

Peace JoAnn



***Prayers for those in the Military. . . .***

*+Emily, Niece of Nancy D-Army Doctor+*

***Prayers for those seeking healing . . .***

***Members:***

*Dolly B., Karla D., Helen P., Doris H.,  
Woody S., Ian S., Yolanda S., Lillian G.,  
Bob & Eileen A., Eileen M., Harold S.,  
B. Louvitakis  
E. Wilson, M. Page*

***Friends:***

*+Ray P.~ friend of the church, husband of member  
Suzanne, Mark, Cody  
relatives & friends of Ray and Mimi Page  
+ Nancy ~ friend of Robin Grimes  
+Jon D. – friend of Sandy T.  
+Brian Q. – friend of Judy & Frank Snyder  
+Susan – friend of Nancy J.  
+Emma – friend of the Breslin Family  
+Joyce – family friend  
+Josh – friend of the S. Snyder family  
Gloria & Lucy – family members of Y. Snyder  
Mary B. – friend of K. Robison*

***WHEREVER YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY,  
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!***



APRIL 2017



						1
<b>2</b> 8:45am Worship Service  Communion  Church School Choir	<b>3</b>  7:00pm Bible Study	<b>4</b>  6:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>5</b>  7:30pm AA	<b>6</b>  9:30am Welcome Workers	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>  8:45am Worship Service Church School Choir	<b>10</b> 4:30pm Girl Scouts  7:00pm Bible Study	<b>11</b> 5:30pm Trustees  6:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>12</b> 6:00pm Deacons  7:30pm AA	<b>13</b>  10:00am First Elves  6:30pm Worship & Light Meal	<b>14</b>  Sanctuary Open 12-6pm Labryinth in Fellowship Hall	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>  8:45am Worship Service Choir	<b>17</b> Rummage Sale Drop Off 9-12  7:00pm Bible Study	<b>18</b> Rummage Sale Drop Off 9-Noon 4pm-7pm  6:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>19</b> Rummage Sale Drop Off 9-Noon  7:30pm AA	<b>20</b> Rummage Sale Drop Off 9am-7pm  9:30am Welcome Workers	<b>21</b> 9:00am-3:00 pm RUMMAGE SALE	<b>22</b> 9:00am-3:00 pm RUMMAGE SALE
<b>23</b> 8:45am Worship Service Church School Choir	<b>24</b> 4:30pm Girl Scouts  7:00pm Bible Study	<b>25</b> 1:00pm Holiday Fair Meeting  6:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>26</b>  7:30pm AA	<b>27</b>  10:00am First Elves	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00-Noon Spring Clean Up