

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN LONGMEADOW**  
**“Striving to be a Church the World needs Today”!**



**“What’s Going On Here?”**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**  
**April 14, 2024**

☞ *Those who are able, please stand.*

**Prelude** "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" Arr. Cindy Berry

**Welcome**

Rev. Doug Bixby

**Spotlight**

Environmental Justice Team

☞ **Call to Worship**

One: Christ is Risen!

**All: Hope is ALIVE!**

One: God of grace and power; God of surprises imbued with love and hope for a new day; we come to you in prayer this day, rejoicing in all that Christ's empty tomb offers.

**All: We come trusting in the good news that the disciples bear: Christ is with us still and forever.**

One: We can hardly contain our joy. We want to shout out the good news:

**All: Christ is Risen! Hope is ALIVE!**

One: For the risen Christ is living proof that You care about our lives, O God. The Risen Christ offers us hope, even in the midst of our troubles and tears.

**All: The tomb is empty but not quiet.**

One: It proclaims that evil and injustice can and will be overcome by Love and Hope...Peace and Goodwill. It proved that Death will not be the end of God's dreams for us. And so, we burst with joy and the desire to shout...Thank you, gracious and almighty God.

**All: For CHRIST IS RISEN...and HOPE IS ALIVE!**

☞ **Opening Prayer**

**Sharing the Peace of Christ**

☞ **Hymn #459 "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**  
New Century Hymnal (Black) NETTLETON

*"Our LORD is an ever-flowing source of blessings, giver of grace that binds us to Him, leading to a deep, peaceful relationship that ever draws us back to GOD's forgiving Love. I am so thankful for all GOD IS! Singing this song puts me into the Everlasting, Ever-Empowering Arms of my Protector, Savior and Comforter!" -  
Claudia Moore*

**Scripture:** Luke 24:13-35

Liturgist, Karen Rafferty

Reader: God is still speaking.

**People: We are still listening.**

**Children's Moment:** A Message for All Ages

*Children up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are dismissed to Church School upstairs.*

**Sermon:** "What's going On Here?" Rev. Susan Cartmell &  
Rev. Peggy O'Connor

*(HS & MS students are dismissed to the COOP after the Sermon).*

**Anthem** "The Lord Will Be a Refuge" G.J. Webb  
Chancel Choir

*"The Lord will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in time of trouble. And they that know, that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee. For Thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek Thee."*

**Joys, Concerns, and Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer** (debts) Our Father, who 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 and the power and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.

**Prayer Response: "Celtic Alleluia" F. O'Carroll & C. Walker**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 Fine



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

9



The Word of the Lord lasts for - e - ver      What is the Word that is

13 D.C.



liv - ing? It is brought to us through the Son Je - sus Christ.

**Announcements**

Rev. Doug Bixby

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory "Offertoire" Jacques-Nicolas Lemmons**

**☞ Doxology:** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God for all that love has done: Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen.*

## **Prayer of Dedication**

✠ **Hymn #402 "De Colores"**

New Century Hymnal (Black) DE COLORES

*"This hymn always makes me happy. It reminds me of how much I appreciate the colors in nature, whether it is flowers, birds, animals, or humans. What a boring, dismal world it would be without color in our lives." - Jean Cintolo*

## **✠ Benediction**

**Postlude "Lift High the Cross"** Arr. Cindy Berry.

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The flowers on the Altar are in loving memory of Their Mothers.  
by Barbara and Steve Gelling



They were arranged by Anne Landry and Rich Brazeau.

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**First Church of Christ Staff:**

Guest Preachers - Rev. Susan Cartemel & Rev. Peggy O'Connor  
Rev. Doug Bixby – Pastor  
Daniel Rose - Director of Music Ministries  
Marilyn Paul Lewis – Family Ministries Director  
Jared Barklow – Director of Youth Ministries  
Stan Zdonick - Building and Technology Manager  
Noelia Ortiz – Communications Director  
Jill Labonte – Administrator

**Church School Teachers:**

Carolyn McGarr – Church School Teacher  
Elaine Booke – Church School Teacher  
Alexandra (Alex) Zolotor – Pre-K and Nursery Teacher

**Chancel Choir Section Leaders:**

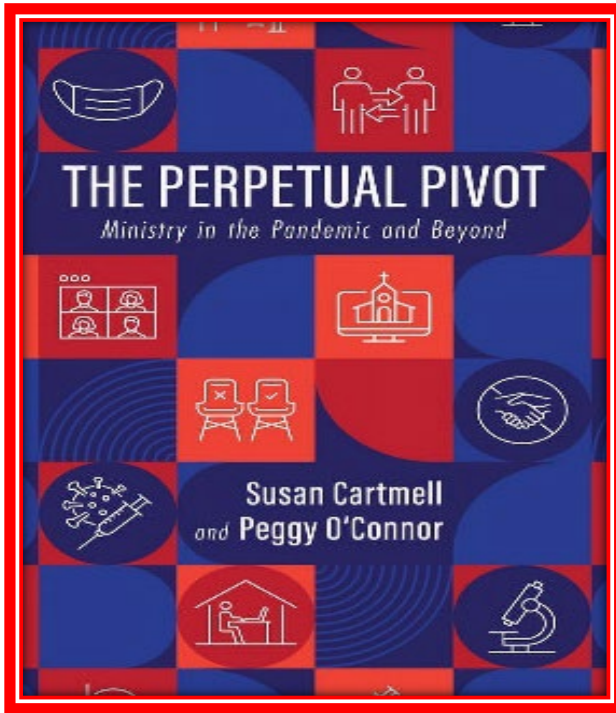
Carey Larsen, soprano  
Sue McNary, alto  
John Thomas, baritone

*Our Mission Statement*

*Embraced by the love of God in Christ, our mission is to love and serve our world. We seek to grow in Christ's family through our journey – inward toward faith and knowledge, outward toward love and justice – always rooted and nurtured in worship.*

**First Church of Christ in Longmeadow**  
763 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA 01106  
413-567-6287  
[office@firstchurchlongmeadow.org](mailto:office@firstchurchlongmeadow.org)

Today in the Buxton Room at 11:30 a.m



Rev. Susan Cartmell has served 4 churches in Massachusetts and 1 in Wisconsin. Rev. Peggy O'Connor has served 5 churches in Massachusetts and she's a spiritual director.

They will be discussing their book and answering your questions at 11:30 in the Buxton Room.

They will also tell some stories from their book, "The Perpetual Pivot: Ministry in the Pandemic and Beyond."

# Vote with the FCC Environmental Justice Team!

## Environmental Voter Project

The FCC Environmental Justice team is seeking people to participate in the Environmental Voter Project by writing three hundred postcards to Nevada voters before their June 11th State Primary. These nonpartisan postcards have been scientifically proven to help turn environmentalists, but currently non-voters, into consistent voters.

Sessions will be held Wednesday, April 17th, at 7:30 pm and again on Sunday, April 21st, at 9:00 am, both at First Church in the Buxton Room.

We will write the postcards following a brief explanation of the process and the expected outcomes. The written message and addressing the cards must

follow the given format. Once you know the technique, you can finish writing the cards at home or stay and write them with the group.

If ten people can write thirty cards each, the task becomes easier. Also, one can help by affixing stamps, recruiting, donating money, etc.

*Dear*



To \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please let the FCC office or Mark Pohlman know at [jmpohlman@comcast.net](mailto:jmpohlman@comcast.net) or 413-567-3054 if you can help or have questions.



**First Church of Christ in Longmeadow, UCC  
763 Longmeadow Street**

**First Church of Christ in Longmeadow cordially  
invites you to attend a Service of Installation  
for Rev. Doug Bixby as our Pastor.**



**Sunday, April 21st  
Ecclesiastical Council 2 pm .  
(All are welcome but only delegates vote.)  
Installation Service at 3 pm  
Reception following**



**To RSVP contact  
[office@firstchurchlongmeadow.org](mailto:office@firstchurchlongmeadow.org)**



## Please Join Our Meeting House Lecture!

### Meeting House Lecture

Witness Stones Project Chair Patricia Wilson @ First Church of Christ

Wednesday, April 24 @ 7 p.m.

*Finding, Celebrating, and Teaching  
America's Hidden History*



Witness  
STONES  
Project™

[Introducing The Witness Stones Project:](#)  
Remembering the History and Honoring the  
Humanity of the Enslaved Individuals from  
Longmeadow, at [First Church of Christ in  
Longmeadow, UCC](#), 763 Longmeadow Street,  
7 pm on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. The lecture  
is free and no pre-registration is required, but free  
will donations will be gratefully received.



The Witness Stones Project is an educational initiative whose mission is to restore the history and honor the humanity of the enslaved individuals who helped build our communities.

Our vision is communities committed to learning their history,  
dismantling current inequities, and building a just future.

## Children's Music Ministry Johnny Appleseed Rehearsal Schedule

**Sunday April 21 - Rehearsal - 11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

**Sunday April 28 - Rehearsal - 11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

**Sunday May 5 – Evening Rehearsal - 6:30pm -8:00 pm**

**Saturday May 11 - Dress Rehearsal – 1:00 -2:30pm, with musicians**

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Please Join the Singles Circle This Month!



The next Singles Circle will meet on:

Thursday, April 25th, at 6:00 pm  
at The Redstone Pasta Company  
642 N Main St, East Longmeadow.

All singles are welcome to join us for good food and  
conversation (<https://redstonepasta.com>).

Please RSVP to Marilyn at [marilyn@firstchurchlongmeadow.org](mailto:marilyn@firstchurchlongmeadow.org)

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# Wilbraham Choral Society

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## **Annual Spring Concert The Wilbraham Men's Glee Club**

or Ann at (413) 374-6824

**Sunday, April 28, 2024, at 4 p.m. First Church of  
Christ 763 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow**

**Join us for a free concert featuring traditional  
favorites, American folk songs, sea chanteys, classic  
oldies and more**



*This program is supported in part by a grant from the Longmeadow Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.*



Exciting news! Attention all cooks!

We are requesting recipes for our own UCC First Church of Christ Longmeadow Recipe Book!

Our goal is to collect 120 recipes from all our wonderful cooks, then format the book for publication in time for the Christmas Fair.

Think appetizers, soups, salads, sauces, meats (beef, pork, lamb and veal), poultry, seafood, pasta, chili, quiches, sides, breads, cookies and desserts! If you have a favorite recipe that speaks to your heritage that would be great. There is no limit to the number of recipes you may submit!

If you are unable to submit via email please feel free to drop off your recipe - using this format - to the church office: Attn: Sandy Turner - or mail to me at 71 Ridge Rd. East Long. MA. 01028

**All recipes should be submitted by Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>!**

#### Recipe Book Submission Format

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Recipe Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Yield: \_\_\_\_\_

Ingredients: Note: Please list ingredients in the order of the steps they are used.  
Please do not abbreviate tablespoon or teaspoon.

Directions:

Comments: (optional) Please limit to one or two sentences.

Any questions: contact Sandy @ 525-4755 or any member of our team:  
Carey Larsen, Ann Smith, Becky Lindsay, Ingrid Shuttleworth, Maria Duncan

Thanking you in advance for your participation!!!



When you sign-up, you will be part of our Prayer Chain Team. You will receive emails after prayer requests are submitted to the church office at [office@firstchurchlongmeadow.org](mailto:office@firstchurchlongmeadow.org) and these concerns will be shared by Rev. Doug, Communications Director, Noelia Ortiz or Jill Labonte, our Office Administrator.





**From The Christmas Fair Committee.....**



## **Fa La La La Spring Cleaning?**



**Please keep us in mind.**

**We've celebrated Easter so now let's get ready for  
Christmas...on the Green!**

**Your Church Fair committee is already at work  
planning our big day in December and while we don't  
expect you to be singing Christmas carols while you do  
your spring cleaning, we do hope you will think of us  
if you have anything particularly nice you're looking  
to clear out.**

**This year, we are especially looking for antique to  
modern high quality home goods and gifts, unique art,  
and designer/high end accessories (handbags, scarves,  
and hats). Of course, we always also welcome jewelry,  
books, new and/or gently loved toys, Christmas  
decorations, and your handmade crafts.**

**We ask you to please consider putting items aside to  
donate to the fair in the fall. If you have some  
particularly fabulous items that you absolutely need  
gone now, we do have a little bit of storage space;  
please call Jill in the office to make arrangements if  
you need to drop things off before September.**

**Your Fair Committee and the community  
organizations that benefit from this event thank you!**

## **CALENDAR TODAY**

10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary  
*Coffee Hour, Bailey Hall, after Worship*  
11:30 a.m. Adult Education, Buxton Room  
Rev. Susan Cartmell and Rev. Peggy O'Connor  
*"The Perpetual Pivot"*

## **CHURCH CALENDAR – THIS WEEK**

Wednesday      1:00 p.m., Finance Team, Zoom,  
10:00 a.m. WBS, Women's Benevolent Room  
7:00 p.m. WBS, Church Fair Meeting  
Benevolent Room  
Thursday      4:15 p.m. Spirit Speaks, Study  
Thursday      6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
Sunday      3:00 p.m. Pastor Doug Bixby's  
Installation Service  
*(Ecclesiastical Council 2 p.m everyone welcome/delegates vote)*

Reception in Bailey Hall following the Installation Service.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Meeting House Lecture, April 24, 7:00 p.m., Bailey Hall  
Singles Circle, Redstone Pasta, April 25, 6 pm, East Long.MA  
Wilbraham Choral Society, Annual Spring Concert,  
April 28, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary  
Johnny Appleseed, FCC Children's Choir,  
May 12, 3 pm, Sanctuary



9/22/02 9/16/07  
2/9/03 1/18/09  
1/15/06 9/24/17 10/15/17  
7/23/06

# Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.

1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
 2 Here I pause in my so - journing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,  
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.  
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe - ly home.  
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,  
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

long D. Shift to Left foot

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.  
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre-cious blood. *STR*  
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.  
John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

# Celtic Alleluia

Fintan O'Carroll &  
Christopher Walker

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 Fine

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

9

The Word of the Lord lasts for - e - ver      What is the Word that is

13 D.C.

liv - ing?    It is brought to us through the Son    Je - sus Christ.

# De colores

(Sing of Colors)

Mexican folk song  
Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1995

A A7 D

1 De co - lo - res, de co - lo - res se vis - ten los  
1 Sing of col - ors, sing of col - ors that o - ver the  
2 Sing, re - joic - ing! Ev - ery crea - ture that breathes raise a

Em

cam - pos en la pri - ma - ve - ra. De co -  
hills in pro - fu - sion are spring - ing; Sing of  
song to the God of cre - a - tion. Sing, re -

A7 A9 Em7 A7(#11) A7

lo - res, de co - lo - res son los pa - ja - ri - tos que vie - nen de a -  
col - ors of the birds that fly out - side my win - dow their can - ti - cles  
joic - ing! Sing to God who so ear - nest - ly cares, who has of - fered sal -

D D A7 D

fue - ra. De co - lo - res, de co -  
sing - ing; Sing of col - ors, in the  
va - tion. Sing the good news! Sing the

This Mexican folk song is known by many Mexican-American churchgoers, and has also been popular among the United Farm Workers.

Tune: DE COLORES  
Mexican folk song  
Arr. Alfredo Morales, F.S.C.

lo - res es el ar - co i - ris que ve - mos sa - lir, Y por  
rain-bow's bright col - ors God's prom - ise of hope we re - call; Sing of  
love of the Sav - ior re - flect - ing the col - ors of all. Man - y

e - so los gran - des a - mo - res de mu - chos co - lo - res me gus - tan a  
col - ors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who cre - at - ed us  
col - ors that shine from God's face, man - y col - ors that tell us God's love to re -

mí, Y por e - so los gran - des a - mo - res de mu - chos co -  
all. Sing of col - ors that make up the earth and give thanks to the  
call. Man - y col - ors that shine from God's face, man - y col - ors that

lo - res me gus - tan a mí.  
God who cre - at - ed us all.  
tell us God's love to re - call.