

Today!

10:00am Worship in the Sanctuary, Zoom, and Live Stream
10:15am Sunday School (*following A Moment for All Ages*)
11:00am Coffee Hour and Social Time in Fellowship Hall
12:30pm Boston Renewal Church Worship and Gathering
6:30pm **Light the Way:** Milton's Annual Vigil Remembering
Lives Lost to Overdose and Substance Use Disorder
(at the Gazebo near Milton Town Hall, 525 Canton Ave.)

IN OUR PRAYERS

Prayers of healing and wholeness . . .

- for Hilary's dad, David, and all who love him, as he transitions from this life into the next
- for Kristine as she receives immunotherapy for melanoma
- for Paula's friend, Diane, now hospitalized with a muscular illness, and for Diane's sons Brendan and Emmett
- for Tom and Betsy and Mike

Prayers without ceasing for Ann and Peter.

Prayers for all the people of, and peace in, Gaza, Israel,
The West Bank and throughout the Middle East.

Prayers of comfort and solace for Holley's sister's friend Patty's family and friends as they mourn Patty's passing, especially Holley's sister Heather.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATIONS



NOURISH is our collaborative weekly shared meal and program for adults, youth and children on Wednesday evenings co-hosted by East Congregational and First Congregational Churches of Milton.

THREE MORE SPRING SESSION DATES!

WED. MAY 1 @ 6:00pm @ First Congregational
WED. MAY 8 @ 6:00pm @ First Congregational

WED. MAY 15 @ 6:00pm @ East Church
*Our Season Finale with Special Guest Song Leader
The Rev. Laura Ruth Jarrett!*

BETTER TOGETHER UPDATE

"Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off."
Proverbs 23:18

Greetings from our Better Together Team!

We have now had five joint meetings with First Congregational Church and it's been an encouraging time of getting to know each other, exploring our hopes – and our fears and uncertainties – around a possible consolidation, and opening honest and sincere dialogue about the future. It will take time to begin to imagine what a "new" church could look like and whether we want to move forward together. We need to be patient as we allow this process to unfold.

Meanwhile, the BTT is continuing to look at and distill the many values you shared in our Check-ins. (More on that soon.) We continue to examine other potential partners, although, in fairness to all, we will postpone reaching out to other churches for now as we explore further with First Congregational Church.

We are also planning conversations with several churches who have already consolidated to learn from their experiences.

Reminder that we're now in the midst of our Spring *NOURISH* season and we encourage you (if you haven't already) to attend at least once as a wonderful (and fun) way to get to know the members of First Congregational Church. No matter where this process leads us, let's all get to know our neighbors!

*Our Better Together Team,
Vicki, Dwight, Linda B., Jean, Holley, Steve N., Sharon*

OUR EAST CHURCH STAFF

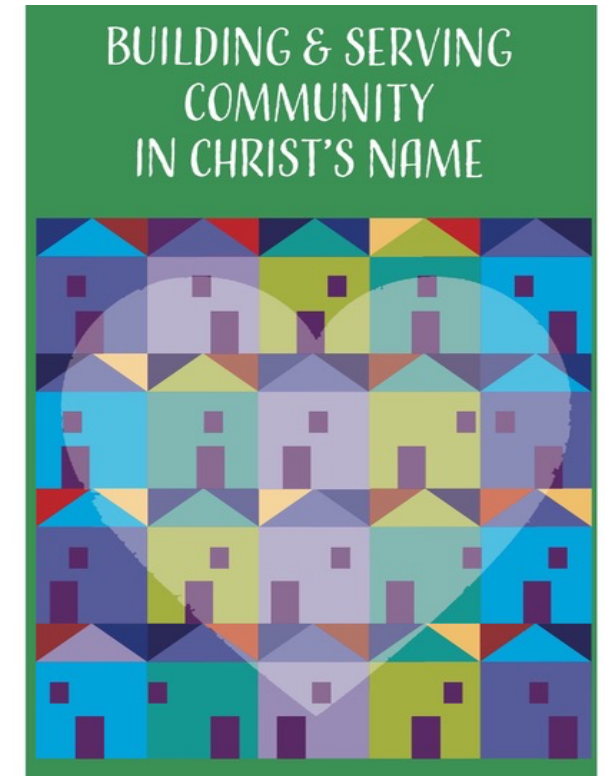
Rev. Shelly Davis, *Pastor*
available anytime by phone or email:
215-264-6332, pastor@eastchurch.org

Lynn Salmonsens, *Organist & Choir Director*
Beth Olson, *Director of Christian Education*
Helen Duncan, *Nursery Attendant*
Stephen Natale, *Caretaker & Sexton*
Catherine Hill, *Office Manager*

610 Adams Street, Milton, MA
617-698-0270
www.eastchurch.org

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024



EAST CHURCH UCC

610 Adams Street, Milton, MA

www.eastchurch.org

The () is an invitation to rise in body or spirit as you are able.
For Prayers and Responses in **BOLD** we lift our voices in unison.*

WE GATHER

PRELUDE *What Brought Us Together* Burkhardt

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATIONS

***OUR EASTER ACCLAMATION**

One: Christ is Risen!

ALL: Christ is Risen indeed!

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Beloved, let us love one another,
 because love is from God;

ALL: everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

One: Whoever does not love does not know God,
 for God is love.

**ALL: We gather for worship in love, the love of God,
 that calls, claims, and charges us:**

One: To abide in love, to abide in God,

**ALL: And to love one another,
 because love is from God.**

***HYMN** *Morning Has Broken* Red 29

***OPENING PRAYER**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We come now to confession; we break open
the tombs of our lives in the bright light of God’s love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Awesome God, we confess that we have allowed fear to
rule our lives. We have allowed fear to keep us from
loving our neighbors who are different than us. We have
allowed fear to close our doors, our minds, our hearts.
But You are Perfect Love, and You cast out all fear. Help
us let go of what holds us back and be open to Your Spirit,
to love freely, and to love deeply. We pray in the name of
our Risen Christ, who, in love, showed us how to love,
even unto death, and beyond. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,
and God abides in them. Thanks be to God!

***A SIGN OF UNITY AND RECONCILIATION**

*Words and gestures of peace are shared as we rise, in body and spirit,
in the sanctuary of our building, and in the sanctuaries of our homes
through the Zoom chat.*

A MOMENT FOR ALL AGES

*Following the prayer our children and teachers will depart
for Sunday School.*

WE ENCOUNTER GOD’S WORD

ANTHEM *Steal Away* Arr. Helvey

SCRIPTURE John 15:1-8 and 1 John 4:7-21

SERMON *Beloved . . . To Be Love* Pastor Shelly

***HYMN** *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* Black 489

WE OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

AN OFFERING OF GRATITUDE

OFFERTORY *Shenandoah* Arr. Memley

***DOXOLOGY**

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

WE PRAY TOGETHER

SHARING OUR JOYS, SORROWS, AND UNCERTAINTIES
(through our Zoom chat and, in person, on our green prayer cards)

God is good. ***All the time.***
All the time. ***God is good.***

PASTORAL PRAYER

OUR LORD’S PRAYER *(saying Debts and Debtors)*

**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, for ever.
Amen.**

*We have come to know God and the kingdom of God by many different
names and images. Please use the ones that speak from your heart today.
(e.g. Father, Mother, Creator, God...Kingdom, New Earth, New Realm, Kin-dom...)*

***HYMN** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Black 43

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Gagliarda* Frescobaldi

WORSHIP NOTES

Today’s *Prayer of Confession* is adapted from a prayer written by
Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell who posts a variety of worship
resources @ rev-o-lution.org.

GRATITUDE & GENEROSITY

*Please accept our deep gratitude for all pledges for Church
Support and Benevolence Giving that we have received to
date.*

This is also a gentle reminder that we need to receive
all pledges, *if at all possible*, ***TODAY, Sunday, April 28***
to help us build our Mission Spending Plan
(aka our budget) for the coming year.

Thank you again!

Your Stewardship Team, Dwight and Paul