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Lenten Opportunities

During Lent there will be two great options on Tuesday nights to engage the season as we prepare for Easter. If not one of these options, I encourage you to find a way to slow down and act in more intentional ways. Consider how you speak to each other and strangers, how you spend your time and energy, and the ways in which your resources and responsibilities often control your lives more than they should.

Remembering 400 - Tuesdays at 6:00pm (3/10-3/31)

The first is a short series called *Remembering 400* (2020 is the 400th year of Congregationalism in North America). This discussion series will focus on four aspects of early Congregational history. The first will look at how the early Congregationalists thought about themselves as the Body in Christ. The second will consider the central place of importance the Bible held in their lives and community. The third will reflect on their connection to European colonization and their relationships with the Wampanoag people and other Native

American communities. The fourth will draw a connection between what it meant to them to be Congregationalists and what we can learn about being Congregationalists today. This will not be a history lecture! There will be different types of resources to help our discussion. Hopefully there will be something of interest for just about everyone to take with them.

Roots of Joy: Creating Quiet - Tuesdays at 7:00pm (through Lent)

The series of Roots of Joy is quite a bit different than what we have done so far. There is less of everything. This series will focus on the different ways we interact with and our impact on the world around us. We start with a gathering prayer, then share a communal prayer. After that people are invited to move around the sanctuary during the mix of silence and reading creative stories about animals and how they move and interact with their world. Silence, stories, warm lighting, and light music flow in and out of the service. It is a very relaxing hour spent in the quiet of the sanctuary.

Blessed Lent,
Rev. Jacob Poindexter



Message from the Moderator

March has arrived with its gift of snow. Saint Patrick's Day will be here on the 17th, and as you know Lent started Sunday.

Lent is the 40 days from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. Lent is often described as a time of preparation and a time for personal reflection of our hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter. We think of it as a time to give something up, but maybe we need to think of doing something good for others. This is a way to respond to God's grace, generosity and love. For example, spend time volunteering or donate money that you would normally use to buy something for yourself, like that

special morning coffee. Spending time during Lent praying, fasting and giving can make Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter even more meaningful.

On the 8th of March the clocks change. They spring up, so be sure to be at church on time.

We still have small jobs that we need volunteers for at church. Many are one time jobs. So just ask what you can do.

Have a safe, healthy and happy month and keep shoveling.

-Louise Smith



"Voting is like alchemy – taking an abstract value and breathing life into it."

Your Crucial Role in Our Church

As Congregationalists, we have a role in governance that is unlike most other faith communities, especially mainline Christian congregations. No other people or bodies make our decisions for us: how to spend our money, our administrative structure, even who we invite to serve as our Senior Minister. We try to make most of our decisions by consensus, but because we are a legal entity, we do have to hold formal votes. Since we have created an organization that includes electing representatives to our various positions and ministries, one such vote is coming up at the Spring Semi-annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2020, immediately after the worship service.

You will receive Moderator Louise Smith's Call to Meeting letter in a Daily Update soon. Be sure to

mark your calendar and plan to attend the Meeting. If you won't be able to attend, you can fill out a proxy form that's available on the Narthex table. You can also contact Krystal to request a form.

To me, this quote from Sharon Salzberg expresses why I believe your vote at the April 19th meeting will be so important: "Voting is like alchemy – taking an abstract value and breathing life into it." As participants in the First Congregational Christian Church of Anchorage, we breathe life into a vision of a faith community that is based on our covenant with each other and with a commitment to living our lives guided by Jesus' teachings. So, I hope you'll make your brunch reservation for a bit later on April 19th, and stay to join with other alchemists as we vote our values.

-Kate O'Dell, FCC Clerk



First Congregational Christian Church

Rev. Jacob L. Poindexter, Senior Minister

March 9, 2020

Dear FCC Member,

I will convene the **Spring Semi-Annual FCC Congregational Meeting** shortly after the worship service on **Sunday, April 19, 2020**. Our agenda will include:

- Annual reports from FCC ministries and committees
- Elections
 - Nominating Board report: This report establishes the slate of nominations received so far. Since it is a committee report, it constitutes a motion but does not need a second.
 - Nominations from the floor.
 - Elections
- Action item: Sending FCC books to the Congregational Library in Boston to be archived.
- Other business as needed.

We must have a quorum to conduct our business, so please do everything you can to clear your calendar and stay for the meeting. If you know you will not be attending, you can fill out a proxy form and make sure the administrative assistant, Krystal Poindexter, gets it before the meeting begins. Proxies are available in the Narthex, or you can contact Krystal to receive the form by email or USPS mail.

If you have anything that should be added to the agenda, please see me or Krystal Poindexter by Friday, April 17, 2020.

Cordially,

Louise Smith
FCC Moderator

2610 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4119

Email: office@fccak.org Website: www.fccak.org

(907) 272-8363; FAX (907) 272-5124

Outreach Ministry

We're having a special brunch at church on Saturday, April 4. It's called the Grandfamilies Brunch, meaning families where grandparents are raising their grandchildren, but it's not ONLY for Grandfamilies. We appreciate you, congregation members who've been coming to the brunches for months or years and contributing your talents.



To see how you can help, watch the sign-up sheets in the Narthex. If you want to come and just sit and talk, that's fine too! The brunch runs from 10 a.m. to noon.

-Carolyn Rinehart, Outreach chair

April Aires; We Need You!

It's time to do some serious thinking about how you can help people have fun this spring. We're talking about YOU being an "act" at April Aires on Sunday, April 26th. Think about it!!

Do you sing, play an instrument, read aloud, act, or otherwise do something that might entertain at April Aires? Please let us know as soon as possible, and definitely before Sunday, March 22.

Artsy craftsy help is needed for April Aires as well – Do you create arts or crafts, and/or would you like to help on April 26 to display arts and crafts made by FCC people? If so, or if you want to learn more about how you could help, please contact the Thursday "Soup Group."

Talk to Caroline Valentine or Lynn Barber, April Aires co-chairs, or leave a message with the church office; office@fccak.org or 907-272-8363.

April Aires is an enjoyable way to showcase a talent or skill—both serious and silly expertise are wanted!

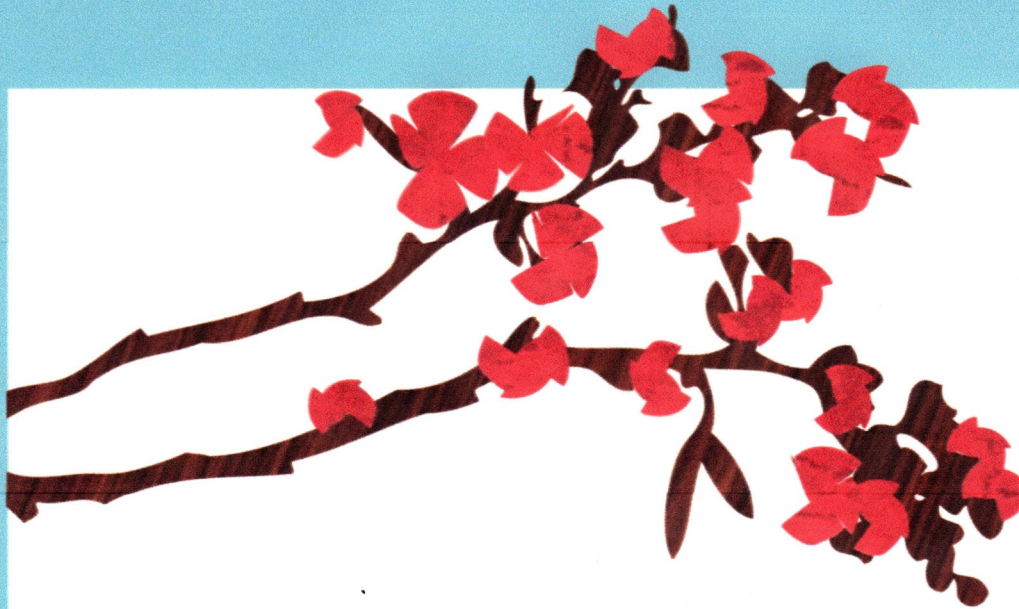
Life & Learning Ministry

The school year is flying by and Spring is on its way! The youth have been busy learning about Wisdom during Sunday School with Marcie. They'll be wrapping up their lessons and preparing for Youth Sunday soon. Pilgrim Fellowship has two outings left this year, a hiking trip in March and the Akeela House drive delivery in April. Please consider supporting their drive to help those in need.

There will be no Sunday School on either end of the week of Spring Break- March 8th or March 15th.

Thank you for supporting the FCC youth this year- it's been a wonderful year of fun, learning, and fellowship.

-Erin Binek, Chair



An afternoon of music and art
April Aires
at First Congregational Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020

ART & MUSIC BEGINNING AT 2PM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANCHORAGE
2610 E. NORTHERN LIGHTS BLVD
ANCHORAGE, AK 99508

Admission is free

Donations will be taken for

Hospice of Anchorage

There will be a reception following the acts

For more information or to contribute to the program, contact

Caroline Valentine or Lynn Barber,

or call the church office at 272-8363

EMAIL: OFFICE@FCCAK.ORG

NACCC Annual Meeting

Join us for our 66th Annual Meeting! As we Congregationalists commemorate 400 years of history this year, Maine celebrates 200 years as a state this year. The Congregational Christian Churches of Maine and the Massachusetts Association of Congregational Christian Churches hope you choose to be a part of our gathering this year, and we hope historic and beautiful Maine is exciting fun for you. Aside from all our meeting has to offer this year - especially our lecturers, Rev. Dr. Greg Mobley and Rev. Dr. Mimi Biedron - we are right next to the Old Port of Portland, filled with restaurants, shops, microbreweries, and history.

-Seth Jones, 2020 Host Committee Chair



The Great Crossing
1620-2020

NACCC
PORTLAND, MAINE
JUNE 27-30, 2020

Value Village Fundraiser

There have been some questions regarding what we will be collecting for our Value Village Fundraiser.

Please see the poster included in this newsletter. If you have any questions or need help in transporting items to the church, please ask.

We will start gathering items at the church Sunday, March 22 – they can be dropped off

in boxes or trash bags during that week.

The final day to bring items will be Saturday, March 28th when we gather them for transport.

Please let Sharon know if you can assist in transporting everything to Value Village on March 28th, mid day. Contact Sharon Higgins with any additional questions.

What we accept

All items must be in good, clean, & sellable condition.

Clothing: Men's, women's and children's

Shoes: Men's, women's and children's

Textiles: Towels, sheets, blankets, pillows, curtains, tablecloths

Other items: Hats, mittens, scarves, ties, socks, purses, wallets, backpacks, bags, CD/DVDs, electrical items, toys and games, kitchen items, knick-knacks

We Cannot Accept

Mattresses, baby gear, appliances, large furniture, auto parts, building materials, cleaning products, tires, flammable materials

FUNDrive®

savers value village

What we accept

All items must be in good, clean, and sellable condition.



CLOTHING Men's, women's and children's



SHOES Men's, women's and children's



TEXTILES Towels, sheets, blankets, pillows, curtains, tablecloths



OTHER ITEMS Hats, mittens, scarves, ties, socks, purses, wallets, backpacks, bags, CD/DVDs, electrical items, toys & games, kitchen items, knick-knacks

We cannot accept:

Mattresses, baby gear, appliances, large furniture, auto parts, building materials, cleaning products, tires, flammable materials



You are Invited

Bob & Claudia Kniefel's

50th
Wedding Anniversary
Celebration

Saturday, March 21, 2020
7:00 pm, Cary Mead Hall
Coffee, Tea, & Desserts

The Census is Important!

**You Count!
Be Counted!**

For an individual:

- The Census brings \$3.2 billion dollars in funding each year for schools, hospitals, roads, public safety, and more in Alaska. Be counted for our communities.
- The Census is confidential and asks for less personal info than a PFD application. Friends help friends get counted!
- Taking ten minutes to answer ten questions means ten years of support for Alaska. We need all the resources we can get - be counted.

For an organization:

- The Census is critical for Alaska's communities -- it brings in \$3.2 billion dollars in federal funding each year for schools, hospitals, roads, public safety, and more. Being counted is an investment in our future.
- The Census generates data that's the backbone of our economy. Whether you're trying to grow a business, deliver services, or measure success, we all need data to do it. Give Alaska's economy a boost: be counted in 2020.
- The Census is confidential. No one can have access to your answers, including landlords, employers, or government agencies including law enforcement or immigration. Help Alaska without sacrificing your privacy. Be counted!



First Congregational Church of Anchorage

2610 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99508

Phone: 907.272.8363

Fax: 907.272.5124

Email: office@fccak.org

Website: www.fccak.org

*Member of the National Association
of Congregational Christian Churches*

FCC Monthly 2020 Calendar Weekly Recurring Events

Sundays

10:30 am – Worship/Sunday School

11:30 am – Fellowship Hour

Mondays

6:00 pm – Community Bell Choir

Tuesdays

10:00 am – Lectio Divina

6:00 pm – Remembering 400 Years Class

7:00 pm – Roots of Joy Service

Wednesdays

5:15 pm – Handbell Rehearsal

6:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays

10:00 am – Soup Group

People of First Congregational Church

Senior Minister

Rev. Jacob L. Poindexter

907.272.8363

jacobp@fccak.org

Organist; Director, Northern Lights Ringers

Caroline Valentine

907.272.8363

Director, Chancel Choir

Lori Wasko

907.272.8363

Administrative Assistant

Krystal Poindexter

907.272.8363

office@fccak.org

FCC Sexton

Scott McClure

907.272.8363

Wedding Coordinator

Sandra Skaggs

907.622.1777

Serving the NACCC

Year Round Delegate

Sharon Higgins

Board of Directors

Claudia Kniefel

Serving the PNACCC

Year Round Delegate

Kate O'Dell