



GATHERING TIME

Lent is both an individual and a communal time—spend the time before worship in the community of your sisters and brothers in faith.

TIME OF GROUNDING

MUSICAL OFFERING

SHARING OF GRATITUDES

INVOCATION AND OPENING PRAYER

Creating God, Still Center of the world you have made,
We come to you in this season of turning and returning.
We do not know how to seek you with our whole hearts,
But we know you are our source and our destiny.

In the midst of life, We return to you, we turn toward you.
We thank you that you receive even the broken heart,
The troubled conscience, the conflicted spirit.

Seeking you in secret,
May we turn around to honor you among humanity;
Through Jesus Christ, our homeward path to you. Amen.

PRAYERS OF JOY AND THANKSGIVING

Psalm 4:7-8

*You have put gladness in my heart
more than when their grain and wine abound.
I will both lie down and sleep in peace,
for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.
(Time for silent Prayer delighting in God's presence)*

WORD OF GRATITUDE

A reading from GratefulLiving.org

PRAYERS OF CONCERN/BURDEN

MUSIC OFFERING

BRINGING OUR FULL SELVES BEFORE GOD

Psalm 51:6-9

*You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
(Time for silent honesty and fullness)*

ASSURANCE

Psalm 51:10-12

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right^d spirit within me.
¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.*

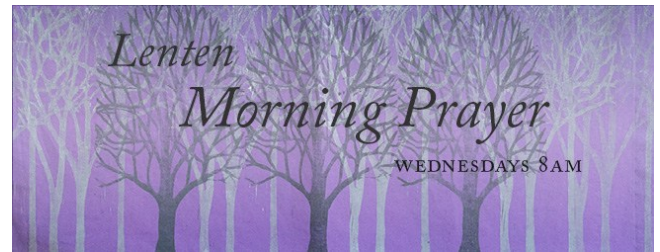
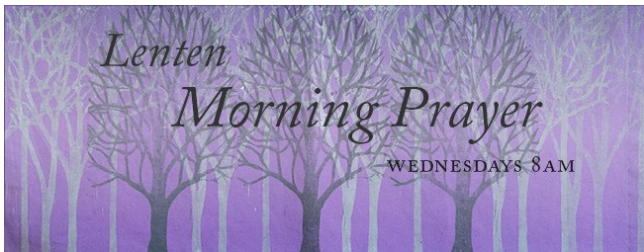
MUSICAL OFFERING

PRAYERS OF HOPE

SENDING BLESSING

**The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be
gracious to you;
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give
you peace.**

SHARING OF PEACE



WELCOME

A place grounded in the love and grace of God...

A diverse and growing Christian community of extravagant welcome...

A church that leans on the Spirit of its history to claim its progressive present reality.

Welcome to the First Congregational Church, UCC, in Stockbridge. Here in our historic New England sanctuary we gather to meet our still-speaking God in new and fresh ways. Our dynamic and relevant worship is the center of our life together. Here we encounter God’s grace and love, discover truth and meaning, and seek to apply our faith to the countless decisions we make every day. We value inspired preaching, glorious music, fellowship that fosters our relationships with God and with each other, and learning and service that deepen our connection to Christ, the world, and one another.

We are an Open and Affirming congregation made up of old and young; gay and straight; married, single and partnered; those who have it all figured out and those searching for where to begin; lifelong Christians and some who are still skeptical of faith; those who are riding high on life and those a little down on their luck. We welcome you no matter who you are and where you are on life’s journey. While our founding dates back to 1734 and names like John Sergeant and Jonathan Edwards grace the pages of our history, we take seriously the church’s call to make the Christian faith our own in this generation. We honor those who have come before while serving those who are in our midst today. We hope that you will learn about us on our website, but even better – come spend time with us at worship, in service or in study!

Sunday Worship—10:00 a.m.
Childcare Available During Worship

Opening the fullness of our lives

**LENTEN
MORNING
PRAYER**

to the fullness of God’s love.

The First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
Stockbridge, MA

stockbridgeucc.org
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