

# *The Messenger*

March 2019

The First Church of Monson, Congregational/UCC

5 High Street, Monson MA 01057

413-267-3312

[office@firstchurchmonson.org](mailto:office@firstchurchmonson.org)

[www.firstchurchmonson.org](http://www.firstchurchmonson.org)

[www.facebook.com/firstchurchmonson](https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchmonson)

The Church Office is usually open on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays  
from 9 AM to 1 PM. Other times are available by appointment.

Please visit our website and calendar at [www.firstchurchmonson.org](http://www.firstchurchmonson.org).



**Sunday, March 3, 2019 – Lenten Meditation booklets available**

**Wednesday, March 6 – Ash Wednesday Service, 6 p.m.**

**Sunday, March 10 – Girl Scout Sunday**

**Daylight Saving Time begins – Spring forward!**

**Saturday, March 23 – St. Patrick's Dinner, 5 p.m.**

**Administrative Assistant on vacation – March 4 through March 8**



## **2019 is underway and it is going to be a great year!**

Our 257th Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, February 3, and to say it was a success would be an understatement! At the meeting, our treasurer reported that 2018 finished in the black (what a blessing!) and our Stewardship Committee presented a nearly balanced budget which reflected increased pledge offerings and continued fundraising successes (another blessing!). In addition to encouraging financial news, the Nominating Committee presented a promising slate of officers and Board and committee members for the 2019 church year. Many thanks go to the thirty-plus church members who pledged their commitment and dedication to the business of First Church. And for those of you who would like to get your feet wet in church leadership, there are a variety of still-open positions available for someone just like you! (Trust me; it is more fun and fulfilling than it is work!)

A variety of new and exciting things are already planned for this calendar year. Some of the highlights include a new and updated church website, a New Member class, and a bylaw revision. Each of these activities will be unique, special, and could use your insight and input. Have photos of church events or special anecdotes to share? Those can be included on the new website! Have a friend or relative or even yourself who would like to join First Church? Keep an ear out for the New Member classes' spring start date! Have ideas about changes that you'd like to see made to church policy or procedure? We want to hear from you!

And what is listed here is just the beginning! Like I said, it is going to be a great year!

Blessings and Peace to you all as we enter the Season of Lent.

-Liz, Moderator

## Getting to Know Each Other



**Become  
Part of  
*Our*  
Church  
Family**

In the past several months, First Church has been blessed to welcome several individuals and families into the church. We would like to invite folks who have been attending church, or who have returned, to a brief after-church gathering to get to know each other and to talk about the possibility of joining the church. Pastor Peter and other Covenant Members will be there to meet you. Childcare will be provided.

If you are interested in finding out more about the church, please speak with Pastor Peter. We will set up a date for our meeting and be in touch with possible dates.



If you wish, you may order Easter flowers through the Church Office. Plants will be delivered for the Easter worship service on Sunday, April 21, 2019. To order, contact Lee at 413-267-3312 or [office@firstchurchmonson.org](mailto:office@firstchurchmonson.org). Quantities are limited; orders must be received by Sunday, March 31. Thank you!

Choices are as follows:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Daffodils (6" pot, 3-4 bulbs) @ \$8.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Easter lilies (single stalk) @ \$8.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Easter lilies (double stalk) @ \$15.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinths (8" pot, 6 bulbs) @ \$8.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tulips (8" pot, 9 bulbs) @ \$13.00

Plants may be given "in memory of" or "in celebration of."

Plants may be taken after the worship service or given to a shut-in.

Prices include taxes. Checks should be made payable to the First Church of Monson.



On Saturday, March 23, at 5:00 p.m. the OFW Men's Club will sponsor a St. Patrick's Day dinner at the First Church of Monson. This Irish FunFest will feature all the traditional foods, including corned beef, cabbage, and all the fixings. A special "green" dessert will be served along with coffee and tea. Ken LeCours will provide music and entertainment. Prizes, raffles, and a silent auction will be featured. All proceeds go to the First Church of Monson Repair and Restoration Fund. Tickets are \$25.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children under 10. For tickets, contact the First Church Office at 413-267-3312 or [office@firstchurchmonson.org](mailto:office@firstchurchmonson.org) . No tickets will be available at the door.

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### **Hearts Willing Club**

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

7 p.m.

*"Song and Spirit"*

with Pastor Peter



What a wonderful way to spend an evening!

Guests are welcome! Bring a friend!

Refreshments will be served.

## March's Fruit of the Spirit: Self Control



“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.” (Acts 1:8)

Self control, in Greek, is *egkrateia*, translates as “power or strength within.” When we “keep our eyes fixed on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2) we become more like Him and bear the fruit of self control.

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**Spring 2019 Super Saturday**

**March 16, 2019**

**Registration: 8 to 9 a.m.**

**Program: 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.**

**Minnechaug Regional High School**

**621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA**

**Featuring: Rebekah Anderson from CTCUCC**

**Registration Deadline: March 2, 2019**

**Cost is \$54.00 per person which includes lunch**

**For more information or to register, please go to**

**<https://www.macucc.org/supersaturday>**

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



The Dorcas Society H. Leonora Stiles Thomas Educational Trust is offering scholarships to members or affiliates of the First Church of Monson who meet the following qualifications:

1. Member of a current high school graduating class who has been accepted at a school of higher learning,
2. Member or affiliate of The First Church of Monson who has provided some type of meaningful service to the programs of The First Church of Monson.

All applications must be completed and returned to a Dorcas Society Trustee by **11:00 am on the second Sunday of April**. Scholarship payments will be made in two equal parts. Part one will be paid upon receipt of student's first semester college grades and part two will be paid upon receipt of student's second semester grades.

Applications may be obtained from First Church's website <http://www.firstchurchmonson.org>, in the *Messenger* mail slot, or from one of the Dorcas Trustees.

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**One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** is a special offering of the United Church of Christ (UCC) which involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. The suggested date to receive 2019 donations is Sunday, March 31.