



The Congregational Church of Topsfield InSpire Weekly News & Updates

March 27, 2025 / Issue 220

Join Our Mailing List

Visit our website



Sunday Morning

Join us for
worship online
and in person.

View the

Zoom link for the Sunday
Service [here](#) and Sunday's
bulletin [here](#).



Celebration of Martin's Ministry!

Please join us on June 22nd, 2025
5pm-7pm
in the Emerson Center
Fellowship Hall



Lent and Easter Calendar

**Palm Sunday and Confirmation of
Everett Miller and James Love Jr.:**
Sunday, April 13th
9:30am in the Meetinghouse

Maundy Thursday Service:
Thursday, April 17th
7:00pm in the Meetinghouse

The church will celebrate Rev. Martin Riekert's time and ministry with us. This will be a church celebration with festivities, a dinner and speakers. Please join us and wish Martin (and Christa) the best, as Martin retires and enters a new phase of his life. Don't miss it, so mark your calendars now!

Easter Sunday–Sunrise Service:
Sunday, April 20th
6:00am Sunrise Service at:
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
(87 Perkins Row, Topsfield)



Easter Service:
Sunday, April 20th
9:30am in the Meetinghouse
Easter Egg Hunt After Service:
In front of the Meetinghouse Church
Lawn
~All children and youth invited!

Coffee Fellowship

March 30: Spring Fling Potluck
April 6: Leslie Voss and Meg Moran
April 13: Ellie and Walt Losee & Doug Wills
April 20: Easter coffee in the narthex and Easter Egg Hunt on the Meetinghouse church lawn after service

~Thank you to everyone who signed up to host Coffee Fellowship this Spring. We are all set through Easter, April 20th!



Sunday School Schedule Sunday, March 30th

(Pre-K–6th Grade)
Meet with Ms. Julie and Ms. Joyce in the Emerson Center Orange Sunday School Room.

Children will attend the Sunday service at 9:30am with their families and an announcement will be made to meet in the narthex (lobby).

All visitors are welcome to attend!

~A special thank you to the parents and families of our congregations' youth who contributed the refreshments for Sunday's Family Service. What a nice tradition. If you would like to host coffee hour please try our SignUp Genius or you may reach BCC board members ~ Ellie, Dolly, Sallie, Meg or myself. Thank you again,
Nancy

Coffee Fellowship Sign Ups Take on a New Look!

As promised, the Board of Community and Communications will be rolling out a new and improved method to allow for easy sign ups for coffee hour. As we continue to try and build community, we appreciate everyone's help in chipping in to make coffee hour a meaningful time of connection for us all.

To access the sign up sheet, please use the following link: [Here](#)

As you can read in the description on the web page, you can sign up to host coffee/tea, snacks or both. Everyone is encouraged to sign up with a friend to make the load a bit easier. Please be specific in the comments of what you will bring for food. If you sign up, it's important to stay for clean up. Members of the Board of Community and Communications will be happy to offer individualized and/or group tutorials on the coffee



This Sunday, March 30th CCoT Spring Fling Potluck!

Details:

- Drop off food at the Emerson Center kitchen before service
- Please feel free to bring anything
- Please label all dishes when dropped off in the kitchen
- List ingredients or any foods like nuts, peanut butter, etc..
- Be considerate of special diet needs i.e vegetarian, gluten-free, low-carb, and/or sugar-free
- Please advise if the food should be warm or chilled

Thank you for your participation and hope to have you join us on the 30th!



The Walk Presented by the Women's Ministry

Facilitator: **Charlotte Melling**

Date: **April 5th**

Time: **9:15am**

(Breakfast will be served)

Following breakfast will be a discussion focusing on a spiritual practice to help us during these times of stress and uncertainty. Time will be given for your own walk or for a time of solitude.

All women of the church are invited to join in fellowship for breakfast as we learn more about the spiritual practice of creating contemplative space in our lives.

RSVP:

Email Dolly McIlvaine at:
mciltopsfield@comcast.net
by March 31st



Spring Service Sunday On Palm Sunday, April 13th

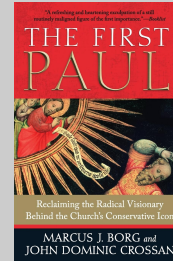
This year for our Spring Service Sunday, the Board of World Missions has an Intergenerational Service Project. This Project is to fill Easter Bags for Incarcerated Youth on the North Shore. These Youth are part of

maker, set up and clean up, including operating the dishwasher!

Please also note that there will be no coffee hour offered on select Sundays falling on holiday weekends.

Please consider signing up for a slot or two so that coffee hour and fellowship can continue!

Many thanks,
Members of the Board of Community and Communications



The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan

For our next Adult Education offering we will meet in person after our Sunday worship service in the Parlor of the Emerson Center. The book focuses on the apostle Paul. The following outline and proposed schedule for our study provides an appetizer. Please order your own copy of the book.

Scheduling of studies following worship services:

3/30 (4th Lent)

Chapter 6: "Justification by Grace through Faith"

4/6 (5th Lent)

Chapter 7: "Life Together "in Christ"

4/13

Epilogue: The Death of an Apostle
(Palm Sunday & Confirmation Sunday)

Please let Jim Barnes or Martin know if you want to participate and order your own copy of the book. If you have any questions, difficulty ordering it, or cannot afford it, please let Martin know.

Board of Deacons and Martin

one of our Mission Partners work. Please view link [here](#) to learn more and to sign up to help purchase Easter items.

Straight Ahead Ministries has been supporting incarcerated Youth since the mid 80's and is known around the country as a tried and true organization that can truly make an impact with Youth that are a part of the Criminal Justice system. The Easter bags will be assembled on **Palm Sunday after worship in the Fellowship Hall** and distributed before Easter to Youth on the North Shore at either the Middleton or Lawrence facility.

The Board would like to thank the Congregation for their continued support of our Mission Partners!



Easter Plant Orders!!
Order your plant now
until April 13th

Please help glorify our Easter Sunday worship service with colorful, springtime Easter plants by placing an order. The cost of tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths are \$10 each and the cost of Lilies is \$12 each. Learn more [here](#).

Please feel free to contact Ruth Bortzfield at: ruthbortzfield@gmail.com if you have any questions.



CCT Masking Policy

Preserving the Health of the Congregation During Worship

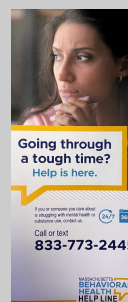
Masking at worship remains voluntary. Worshippers are always welcome to wear a mask.

Careful hand washing or use of hand sanitizers is effective in preventing the spread of and acquisition of disease.

Please do not come to in-person worship if you are feeling ill. Instead, watch the service on Zoom or Boxford Community TV.

Keep your vaccinations against respiratory pathogens current.

Sincerely,
The Board of Deacons



The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line

Learn more [here](#)

Parish Care Ministry

View the Prayer Listing [page](#) and March birthday [page](#)



SNEUCC—
Southern New England
Conference—UCC [page](#)

MOVIE NIGHT



HOSTED BY
TRI-TOWN COALITION

DATE & TIME
THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025
6:30 PM DOORS OPEN
7:00 PM FILM
8:15 PM Q&A WITH PANEL

LOCATION
MASCO AUDITORIUM

MOVIE
SCREENAGERS: UNDER THE INFLUENCE

REGISTRATION & MORE INFO



This is a **free** event for parents/caregivers and kids grades 6-12.

Screenagers examines the impact of the digital age on youths' decision-making in relation to vaping, drugs, alcohol, gaming, and more.

The film explores the latest research and personal experiences of teens and families navigating the changing landscape of substances, offering solutions on empowering youth as they face decisions about what they will and will not be influenced by.



YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

LEARN HOW TO SUPPORT THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE

Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adolescents ages 12-18. You'll build skills and confidence you need to reach out and provide initial support to young people who are struggling. You'll also learn how to help connect them to appropriate support.

Join the more than
2.6 MILLION
First Aiders who have chosen to be the difference in their community.

Learn how to respond with the Mental Health First Aid Action Plan (ALICE):
Assess for risk of suicide or harm.
Listen nonjudgmentally.
Care reassurance and information.
Encourage appropriate professional help.
Incourage self-help and other support strategies.

AFTER THE COURSE, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO:

- Recognize common signs and symptoms of mental health challenges, including anxiety, depression, eating disorders and attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD).
- Recognize common signs and symptoms of substance use challenges.
- Understand how to interact with a young person in crisis.
- Know how to connect a young person with help.
- Better understand trauma, substance use, self-care and the impact of social media and bullying.

Scan the QR code to register or go to tritowncouncil.org/events



Questions? Contact Meredith Shaw at: mshaw@tritowncouncil.org

Register today for this FREE 2 day in-person training!*

DATE: April 29 - 30th (must attend both days)

TIME: 9 - 1PM

LOCATION: Trinity Episcopal Church, 124 River Rd. Topsfield

INSTRUCTORS: Windi Bowditch & Erin Clasby, Northshore Education Consortium

*Training qualifies for 8 PDP's through Northshore Education Consortium. Please note: Must attend both sessions to qualify for PDP's and to receive a Youth Mental Health First Aid training certificate.

Youth Mental Health First Aid training is generously funded by the Town of Boxford's Opioid Abatement Settlement and van Otterloo Family Foundation.

The Congregational Church of Topsfield | 9 East Common Street | Topsfield, MA 01983 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!