

The Spire

A publication of the Original Congregational Church

February 2022

Annual
CONGREGATIONAL
Meeting

Into the Deep

Blessed Friends,

Grace and Peace to you!

When we think of Jesus' ministry around the Sea of Galilee we think of abundance. In the days he first met Peter, James and John and called them to follow him as disciples, they were in the boats fishing. Working all night long they caught nothing. In Luke 5:4 Jesus instructs them, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." This time they hauled in so many fish that the nets began to break and the boats barely stayed afloat. The abundant catch represented all that would happen for the faithful. Trust in God's power to encourage, instill, and persist, lean into God's conviction and confidence, and your life will be full.

They say that "St. Peter's" fish is a kind of tilapia. Today it is still a crowd favorite at the seaside restaurants in Tiberias along the banks of the Sea of Galilee. Goes great with a little lemon and an order of fries. Everyday food for everyday people. Church life is like that. God grants us so many wonderful moments to share in ordinary ways abundantly. We pray for that abundance of time together after two years of a global pandemic.

We look forward to making church life happen again. Jesus says after a thin time, "Put out into the deep." For us that means taking extra time to get to know each other, to walk with each other, to connect and reconnect. We are going deep in our relationships as we enter the boat with Jesus as our guide.

It's 51° along the banks of Galilee today. Let's go fishing!

*May God bless us all as we work through this time and keep hauling in a great catch!
Amen.*

ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday January 30, following a major snowstorm, we did hold our Annual Meeting at the OCC, conducting our faith work and service as we have for 329 years since 1692. We had about a dozen attendees in person in the sanctuary and over 20 persons online through Zoom meeting. Moderated by Steve Tiller, we affirmed our budget for 2022 and voted in all our volunteer officers and team members. Annual Reports are plenty available through the office. Thank you all for your thoughtful, generous, and abundant support of the OCC!

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR RETURNS

Given the stormy weather, and continued covid cautions, we will again offer Virtual Coffee Hour by Zoom Meeting. Worship will be live-streamed and recorded on YouTube beginning at 10:00am each Sunday. At the conclusion of the live-cast, we will switch over to Zoom and invite all who would like to chat with each other just like coffee hour. Grab a goodie and cup of coffee and say hello to friends! Look for the Zoom Meeting Invitation by email to go out on Thursday afternoons. Email the office at office@occhurch.net to be added to our updated 2022 list.

Inside this issue:

Activities/Calendar	2
Outreach / Yard Sale	3
Music	4
A Thank You	5





The Ladies Breakfast Club, is planning to resume, and meets the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month, and 5th when there is, 9:30am at the Village Griddle in Plainville. Contact Emmie Foster or Sue Schwarm if you plan to attend. **Stay tuned for updates.**

The Kitchen Elves, meet the first Wednesday of each month to prepare and deliver meals to members in need. Preparers and drivers are always welcome. **Elves are cancelled for February 2022.**

Chancel Choir is cancelled until February 17th, 2022 . Bells are rehearsing.

Rehearsal for Chancel Choir is Thursday at 7:30pm.

Rehearsal for Bells is Monday at 7:15 pm.

All are welcome!

*Join Pastor Ken and friends for Bible Study by Zoom, Tuesday mornings at 10am
See our web site and Facebook page as well until further notice .*

Lunch Bunch meets at noon in Fellowship hall the 3rd Wednesday of each month for a light lunch of soup, sandwich, desserts and beverages. There's always an element of fun with friends. **Lunch Bunch is cancelled for February...**

The SPIRE is available on our website!!

Go to the OCC page at www.occhurch.net.

Highlight Dates

- 10am Worship Service
- *Fellowship hour is by Zoom only until further notice.**
- * Sunday School is cancelled until further notice.**

“Today's flower's are dedicated”

Any given Sunday you can dedicate the altar flowers to anyone in your life. Notify the office of your chosen day and you can make a donation to the Flower Fund, or bring in an arrangement yourself. For further information contact Donna in the office.

NEWCOMERS WELCOME

If you would like to become a member of our church, which affirms your regular participation in our worship life and support of our work and service to the wider community, please be sure to contact Pastor Ken or Donna in the office at anytime. We have a few families and individuals who are interested in being a part of our next service of Reception of New Members. See details at the worship hour and in the worship bulletin. We look forward to growing along with you in your spirit journey!



If you need to contact the office to submit anything for the bulletin or Spire, please e-mail us at office@occhurch.net or call the office at 508-384-3110. Every effort is made to accommodate your needs.

Facebook is used for information purposes. Messages are checked randomly and it is not a recommended way to connect for anything important.



Thank you for your cooperation.

CWS BLANKETS for FEBRUARY

Envelopes for CWS Blankets will be in the pews during the month of February. It has been a while since we have collected for the CWS Blankets, but the need is always there. Their slogan this year is “Blanket the world with love.” All donations go toward blankets to be provided to those in crisis situations throughout the world; hurricanes, tornadoes, battlefronts.... wherever comfort is needed.



In 2021, congregational gifts provided over 183,000 CWS Blankets and Kits to families impacted by hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and other crises (including homelessness and poverty). This year, we here at original Congregational Church, will be joining in this humanitarian effort.

February 27th will be our Blanket Sunday. By taking a designated envelope and adding what you can will be our way of providing hope to those who may feel they are in a hopeless situation. Every \$10.00 provides one blanket, either the lightweight or heavy-weight, depending on the location of the need. CWS envelopes will be collected with the morning offering that Sunday.

Your gift supports two types of CWS Blankets: The heavyweight woolen blankets are water-resistant and flame-retardant. They are extremely durable, warm and great for frigid temperatures or other extreme weather conditions. The lightweight blankets are for warmer climates, these fleece blankets are water repellent, durable, warm and soft. These blankets keep families covered without adding bulk.

SPRING YARD SALE

2022 Spring Yard Sale...The 2022 spring yard sale is scheduled to be held on May 21st, 2022, from 8 am to noon. Donations may be dropped off in the Vestry. Call Mike Foster if you need assistance. As usual, **do not bring any clothes, books** that aren't in pristine condition, **TVs, computers, large stereos, or large furniture.**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU....

To “Santa’s Special Helper” for a thoughtful and generous gift given to Sandy and Bob Cummings. We sincerely appreciate you!

Music in February

February 6

First Sunday of the Month - Though no bread or wine will be served, Pastor Ken will celebrate the communion liturgy. Lorri Cetto visits and sings the music of Vaughan Williams, Peter Amidon and James Taylor.

February 13

“Let bells peal and ding dong merrily on high”

The Wrentham wRingers Return.

Pianist, Daniel Goldsmith visits.

February 20

MLK2 AND THE CHOIR COMEBACKETH

The Chancel Choir is back at worship with Black History Month favorites.

February 27

Ups and Downs: The Feast of the Transfiguration vs. The Coming of Lent - from light to darkness.

Looking ahead...

Wintering

That's an ancient word: wintering.

Nature's diminuendo from Fall's glory.

Birds leave. Leaves crinkle.

Quiet hibernation. A bracing stasis.

“Earth stood hard as iron; water like a stone.”

We are wise to welcome wintering for humans winter too. Intuitively, we rest during the cold ebb. Cyclical self-care. It counsels us to bide our time, even wait. This year, we've doubly wintered, sequestered by the pandemic's spike and February's chill. Lastly, wintering wishes, and dreams of March, April and May.

Teddy

THE ORIGINAL
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

1 East Street
P.O. Box 657
Wrentham, MA
02093

A THANK YOU FROM THE LANDINS

On behalf of my family and loved ones, I would like to thank all of you who have expressed condolences to us on the recent passing of my beloved mom, June Macurdy Landin, at the close of 2021. In your cards, emails, texts, and conversations on phone and in person, your thoughtfulness, kindness, and outpouring of support truly added a grace note for this time of grieving, remembering, and giving thanks for a life well lived. On a sunny afternoon in January, we held a private committal service at the National Cemetery in Bourne, MA, following a walk along a favorite local beach. My mom was a great church friend. She would always tell you the truth in no uncertain terms and then with great conviction encourage you to know, “we will get through this.” May God grant you the confidence and encouragement and compassion of great life companions on earth and in Spirit.

Pastor Ken

We're on the web
www.
occhurch.net



To reach us by e-mail: office@occhurch.net Pastor Ken Landin: revkenlandin@gmail.com
508-384-3110