

# The Spire

*A publication of the Original Congregational Church*

April 2022

WORSHIP IN HOLY WEEK, Save the Dates!

As we move through the season of Lent, we are making preparations for our special holy days in worship.

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**Sunday, April 10** at 10:00 Palm Sunday with a large Palm procession and Pancake Breakfast at 11:00am.

**Thursday, April 14** at 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Readings of the Passion, Music and the Last Supper.

**Friday, April 15** at 12:00 noon Good Friday Prayer Service reading the Seven Last Words of Christ

**Easter Sunrise Sunday, April 17** at 6:00am.

Gather at the Fellowship Hall, we greet Easter with Flowers and Prayer.

**Easter Worship Sunday, April 17** at 10:00am

Easter Celebration in the Sanctuary with Music and Message.

Please join us through Holy Week and bring along family and friends.





**The Ladies Breakfast Club**, is meeting on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month, and 5th when there is. We meet at 9:30am at the Village Griddle in Plainville. Contact Emmie Foster or Sue Schwarm if you plan to attend.

**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 have resumed.**

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

*Join Pastor Ken and friends for Bible Study in person and by Zoom, Tuesday mornings at 10am in our beautiful parlor.*

**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 has resumed.**

Rehearsal for Bells is Monday at 7:15 pm.

All are welcome!

**The SPIRE is available on our website!!**  
Go to the OCC page at [www.occhurch.net](http://www.occhurch.net).

## Highlight Dates

- April 10 Palm Sunday**  
**Pancakes for Peace**
- April 14 7:30pm Maundy Thursday**
- April 15 12:00pm Good Friday Service**
- April 16 8:30am Spring Clean Up**
- April 17 6:00am Easter Sunrise Service**  
**10:00 Easter Worship Service**
- April 24 ONA Open Forum III**

### **“Todays 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 the office at [office@occhurch.net](mailto: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.



## HELP FOR UKRAINE

It seems realistic that the war in Ukraine will be with us for quite awhile into this year. Thankfully, we have identified several ways we can support the Ukrainian people as they struggle to maintain their homeland.

The Outreach Team has chosen the IRC (International Rescue Committee) to receive our “Ukraine Relief” donations. An initial donation of \$2000 was sent to them in March. The IRC has been helping displaced people for the past 90 years. Their work began in Germany, as German citizens began to flee the tyranny of Adolf Hitler. Since then, they have responded by helping people affected by humanitarian crises to survive, recover and rebuild their lives. The IRC has stood with people in some of the toughest places on Earth, including Yemen, Syria and Somalia.

The IRC is on the ground in Poland, and working with local partners in both Poland and Ukraine. Working with partners allows them to bolster the crisis response of people who have already been active in the community and are experts on the local context.

In the initial phase of their response, the IRC is working through partners to provide critical information services, legal counseling, and psychological support to some of the 1.2 million people that have arrived in Poland from Ukraine. They are also procuring medical supplies and essential items such as sleeping bags and blankets for distribution at reception centers on the Ukrainian/Polish border.

In Ukraine, the IRC is working with partners to provide blankets, sleeping bags and warm clothes to people who have been displaced. They are also providing cash so people in need can purchase what they need the most.

During the Easter season, the Flower Committee has chosen the UCC Ukraine Relief Fund to be this year’s Easter Flower Honors Recipient. All donations for Easter flowers will be sent to the United Church of Christ Ukraine Relief Fund, which will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. It also will help refugees and asylum seekers from African, Middle Eastern and other countries who had sought refuge in Ukraine and now are twice displaced, as well as other citizens of more than 125 countries living in Ukraine.

Finally, a portion of the Easter Morning offering will be sent to the WCK (World Central Kitchen). In support of refugees escaping the violence in Ukraine, WCK began serving hot, nourishing meals in Poland within a day of the initial attack, and are now set up at eight border crossings, as well in Przemyśl - a city receiving many refugee families.

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While their Relief Team continues to explore the safest and best way to provide meals beyond the entry points in Ukraine, WCK is currently providing remote support to restaurants inside the country cooking meals for anyone in need. Currently, WCK meals are being distributed in five Ukrainian cities, including in Lviv where they're supporting a Catholic charity, sending them flour to bake their daily bread. Recently, the charity was able to expand their efforts up to the border crossing.

We will continue to accept donations from the congregation as long as the need is there. Checks can be made out to the Original Congregational Church, with Ukraine Relief Fund written in the memo.

**GOT SPARE CHANGE? Toss it in the big labelled jar at Coffee Hour!**

**It will add up!**

## MUSIC

### *Music in April*

**April 3** - The Chancel Choir sings Spirituals for Lent, and the Bell Quartet plays a Ukrainian Folk Song.

**April 10** - A Processional Hosanna is sung for Palm Sunday.

**April 14** - Maundy Thursday - Flute and Choir make this Passover Feast memorable. Lorri Cetto sings "The Crucifixion" by Samuel Barber and "Erbarme Dich" from Bach's St. Matthew Passion.

**April 17** - Trumpets, Chancel Choir and the Wrentham wRingers exult the Resurrection in joy.

**April 24** - Lola Richardson, guest pianist



**PANCAKES FOR PEACE- PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST - APRIL 10th.**

This fantastic brunch features pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit, juice, milk, coffee and tea. There is no charge, but there will be a freewill offering to support the relief efforts of the International Rescue Committee who provides care for the Ukrainian refugees. We will need a head count, so Please sign up outside Fellowship Hall.

**SPRING CLEAN UP....** Join us with your work gloves, rakes, leaf bags or tarps on **Saturday, April 16th** starting at 8:30am, for our annual Spring clean-up of the grounds of the OCC. Any amount of time you can give is welcomed.

**2022 SPRING YARD SALE...**The 2022 spring yard sale is scheduled to be held on **Saturday, 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.**

**WELCOME TO THE CARD TABLE AT COFFEE HOUR!**

We were thrilled to see many of you stopped by the Card Table March 27 to jot a quick note to some of our members who are at home for various reasons.

We'll do this again on **Sunday, May 22nd**. If you have any "thinking of you" cards or get well cards that you would like to bring, please do. We do have a card ministry that Becky Cuoco has been doing for some time. She sends cards every month. If you have any extra cards that Be my could use, please put in an envelope, mark for Becky Cuoco and put them in the Pastoral Care basket in the Church Library. This is one of the many Pastoral Care Ministries here at OCC. We also have the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Elves, the Lunch Bunch, the Prayer Chain, to name a few. Please speak to Pearl Gottberg or Sue Schwarm if you are interested in joining.

**ONA UPDATE RE: OPEN FORUM III, TBA**  
**Save the Date: ONA Open Forum III, Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**



Open Forum III will be held after the church service on  
 Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>



(yes, the Sunday after Easter)! Charlie Oliver of Second Congregational Church in Attleboro will share with us what his church experienced after it joined the ONA Coalition some years ago. If time permits, after Charlie has spoken and answered questions, there will be an open discussion of ONA matters. The ONA Team hopes to see you all on the 24th.

Below is the “Covenant and Welcoming Statement” as presented by the Open and Affirming Task Team. We hope that this statement makes clear that the mission of ONA is to proclaim publicly an unqualified welcome to *all* people at the OCC. This statement expresses what is at the very heart and core of the ONA movement. Try reading it aloud to yourself – it is a very powerful statement! Any questions or comments? Please see Leesa Burke, Charlotte Capone, Jenn Chace, Jane Claffey, Ned Ligon, Joan Mello, or Walter Spencer.

Welcome to The Original Congregational Church in Wrentham! Because we believe all people are created in God’s image and thus blessed and loved equally by God, and because love is the unifying and strengthening force of our Christian faith, we the members of The Original Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, hereby declare ourselves an Open and Affirming Christian community, expressing Jesus’ inclusive embrace of all people.

We welcome all who have no church home, seek strength, and want to follow the teachings of Jesus.

We welcome believers and non-believers, doubters and questioners, and questioning believers. We welcome new visitors and old friends.

We welcome grandparents, mothers, fathers and children.

We welcome single and partnered people.

We welcome people of all ages, colors, cultures, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions.

Here at The Original Congregational Church, Wrentham, we believe that **whoever you are, and wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.**

Portions adapted from Bethany Church, Foxboro, MA, and United Church, Walpole, MA

THE ORIGINAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH

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## Easter Eggs

Dearly Beloved,

As soon as we get past this quick 20<sup>0</sup> cold spell to end March, we hope April comes in like a lamb as we welcome and embrace the Easter Holiday. April will bring spring showers and spring flowers! It will be good to spend time in the garden.

One of our most cherished traditions at Easter time is helping the kids decorate Easter Eggs, and then go hunt for them in the yard. Since ancient times, the Slavic people in Eastern Europe decorated eggs with wondrous and intricate designs to celebrate new life after long cold winters. Birds were seen as having divine powers as they could fly high into the sun sky, and eggs represent the magic and wonder of new life.

The Easter Egg in Ukraine is called “pysanky” in their language. This means “to write” or “to inscribe.” Using beeswax, beautiful colors and patterns are created on eggs using the batik method. Today eggs are painted raw, to hold them down in the dye, and the insides are blown out afterward. When Christianity came to these cultures before the year 1,000 the people ascribed faith meanings to the ancient art.

The Easter Egg represents not just the renewal of the earth, but also the new birth of humanity. Just like Jesus was laid in a dark tomb and rose on the third day, a new chick bursts forth from the shell to new life in the sunshine. On this Easter, with all the current destruction and loss of life in Ukraine, the symbols of faith, hope, love and peace are even more keenly felt by all.

In the Gospels, we hear a young person in a white robe say to Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome “Do not be alarmed, you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised, he is not here...he is going ahead of you to Galilee, there you will see him.”

We see Christ’s love in the beauty and fragility of an Easter Egg. We see Christ’s love in the eyes of children at play, and those fleeing from war. Jesus told us, “How I loved you as a hen gathers up her brood.” When we decorate our Easter Eggs this year, let us pray together.

*Dear God, may new life emerge from the old, may hope once again burst forth into the light of day this Easter Season for all your precious children everywhere. Amen.*

Pastor Ken



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[www.  
occhurch.net](http://www.occhurch.net)

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