



The Spire

A publication of the Original Congregational Church

March 2024

Inside this issue:

Reminders	2.
Lenten Events	3.
Pastor Ken's Announcements	4.
OCC Announcements	5.
Music "Notes" Justin Kisch	6.
Messages/Friends	7.
Pastor' Page	8.



Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024 10am

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:30pm

Good Friday, March 29, 2024 Noon

Easter Sunday

6:00am Sunrise Service

10:00am Easter Worship Service



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.

Rehearsal for choir are Thursday evenings at 7:15pm with Justin Kisch.

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.

Rehearsals for Bells are now Thursday evenings at 6:00pm with Martha Goodman

Highlight Dates

All are welcome! **The SPIRE is available on our website!!**
Go to the OCC page at www.occhurch.net.

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|----------|------------------|
| March 6 | Kitchen Elves |
| March 20 | Lunch Bunch |
| March 24 | Palm Sunday |
| March 28 | Maunday Thursday |
| March 29 | Good Friday |

“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.

- Easter Sunday
- 6:00 AM Sunrise Service
- 10:00 AM Easter Worship Service



If you need to contact the office to submit anything for the bulletin or Spire, please e-mail the office at office@occhurch.net or call

the office at 508-384-3110. Every effort is made to accommodate your needs.

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!

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.




EGGcellent, EGGciting EGGstravaganza!

March 20th
5-7pm

Come join us for
food, friends
and fellowship!
Stop in or
stay a while,
all ages welcome!

EASTER CRAFTS!

 OCC Church Wrentham
1 East St. Wrentham MA 02093




Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31st

Join us for the
10am Easter Service
Egg hunt to follow!



 Original Congregational Church Wrentham
1 East St, Wrentham MA 02093

Spire Announcements for March 2024

LUNCH & LEARN Sunday, March 10, “Let Go in Lent” We will discuss ways of simplifying our spirit lives as we seek to declutter our material, intellectual and spiritual selves.

Sunday, April 7, “For the Beauty of the Earth” We will present scriptural verses that guide our love and care for Creation, and create a prayer that expresses our wonder and worry for the future wellness of people and the planet.

Sunday, May 5, “Becoming a W.I.S.E. Congregation” In honor of May as *Mental Health Month* we will introduce the topic of how a congregation can nurture a “Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged ministry for those who are affected by mental health challenges.

We hope to have you join us for Lunch and Learn at the OCC!

DAILY DEVOTIONS in Lent

During the season of Lent our daily devotions turn to Lenten themes. We invite you to walk with us in 40 Days of Daily Prayer this Lent. These brief devotions of about 120 words lift up faith questions, offer spiritual encouragement, and close with a brief prayer. These are meant to make spiritual meditation accessible as a discipline to focus on your faith life a little bit more each day. This year, Pastor Ken will be introducing the work of New York Times bestselling author Kate Bowler. In her book *Have a Beautiful Terrible Day* she offers meditations for the ups and downs of life. We will take our inspiration and interact with her reflections in Lent. Can we expand our capacity for courage, love and honesty, while nurturing resiliency on hard days and discovering divine moments on all days? Pastor Ken's daily devotions are posted on the OCC Website, are available by Email, and Printed Copies are placed on the Office Hall Table. Come, let us journey through Lent together in prayer!

FOOD, FUN AND FAITH

We are excited to try a new thing here at the OCC this year! We are seeking to offer a time for folks of all ages to gather in our Fellowship Hall for a time of “Food, Fun and Faith.” We will put supper on the stove like Hot Dogs, Beans and Bingo, or have a Pizza and Play, or Chicken Nuggets and Mac N' Cheese Madness to get families and friends together for a simple and easy meal, and to play Board Games, Bowling for Balloons or Whipped Cream Relay. Our goal is to give folks a chance to be together at church at a time that works for you, meet new friends, share in laughter, and receive a blessing.

For our first gathering we are planning for Wednesday February 28th, from 5:00pm—7:00pm. Grace will be at 5pm and the food will be available throughout the whole event if you arrive later. Please contact Monica Yohn at Mltlove3@gmail.com if you would like to contribute and participate.

Please save the dates!

Wednesday, March 20, 5pm-7pm

Wednesday, April 10, 5pm-7pm



"Mark your calendars for the annual OCC Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast to be held after worship on Sunday, March 24, 2024! There will be a freewill offering to support Doctors Without Borders, an organization that brings medical care to people affected by conflicts, disasters, epidemics, and social exclusion, with humanitarian projects in more than 70 countries around the world."

We are looking for people who like to knit or crochet to join our Prayer Shawl Ministry.



Please get in touch with Pearl Gottberg cell: 508-369-9231 or Sue Schwarm cell: 508-838-4959 if you are interested. We can give you all the directions.

Prayer Shawls are available for anyone you think would benefit from having one. As they are made they are prayed over, once they are done we gather and pray over them again. They each have a small religious charm that is added when they are fringed. Please let Pearl or Sue know if you know someone going through a difficult time and would like to be wrapped in prayer from their OCC family.

THE ORIGINAL CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF WRENTHAM

SPRING YARD SALE
MAY 11 8 AM- 12 PM



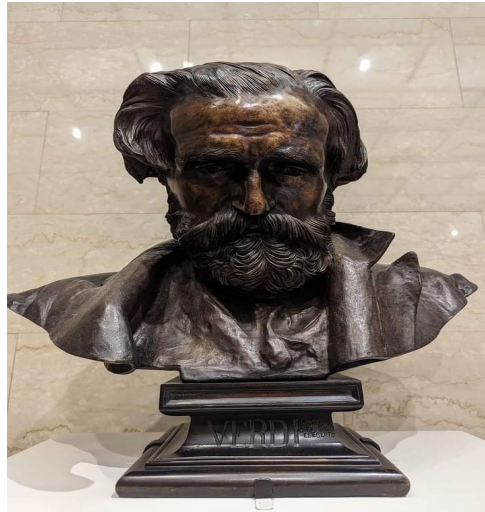
1 EAST ST. WRENTHAM MA 02093
LOCATED IN THE CHURCH VESTRY
WWW.OCCCHURCH.NET 508-384-3110

The OCC SPRING YARD SALE
SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024

The Original Congregational Church of Wrentham Spring Yard Sale will be held on May 11, 2024 from 8 am to 12 noon.

MANY DONATIONS ARE NEEDED to fill up our Attic Treasures area! We are accepting donations from both members and the community so tell your friends. Items may be dropped off in the Vestry or on the bench outside the office starting February 1. Office hours are Tuesday – Friday 9 -3.

We do not accept clothes, books that are not in pristine condition, TVs, computers, large stereos, large furniture, baby furniture, car seats or strollers.



Music “Notes”
Justin Kisch

On **March 3**, the choir sang selections from great **requiems** with guest instrumentalists. “Lacrimosa” from Mozart’s *Requiem*, “Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen” (“How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place”) from Brahms’ *German Requiem*, and “Agnus Dei” from Verdi’s *Requiem*.

The **Wrentham wRingers** will present Lenten selections for handbells on **March 17**. They will also join us for **Easter** worship on **March 31**.

Make sure to join us for **Holy Week**. **Palm Sunday** is March 24. The choir is singing for the **Maundy Thursday** service at 7:30 p.m. on March 28. The **Good Friday** service will be at noon, complete with a special meditative walk. On **Easter** morning there will be a **sunrise service**. The main service will be at 10:00 a.m. with the **choir, Wrentham wRingers** (as mentioned) and **trumpet**.

Upcoming:

Sunday April 28: Spring Concert and Potluck, 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Sunday May 5: Shoreline Ringers Handbell Concert, 4:00 p.m.



Bob would like to thank his Secret Santa for the generous gift that he was given, along with this wonderful note below;

Bob,

Thanks for all your good work at the OCC, and (even more importantly) for doing all that you do with such a positive and caring attitude for others. Your work and cheerful manner are much appreciated and respected by all .

With gratitude,

Secret Santa

February Lunch Bunch



THE ORIGINAL
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

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

Live
Sunday' Mornings
at 10:00am

We're on the web
[www.
occhurch.net](http://www.occhurch.net)



Pastor's Page March 2024

Let Go in Lent

Dear Friends,

At this time of the year the nights are cold and the days grow warm. Standing in the sun can almost feel too hot. Step into the shade and you feel the very real bite of winter's edge. As we make our way from mid-winter to spring, we experience a roller-coaster of weather. This is good for the soul.

In the church, we make our way through the 40 days before Easter Sunday called Lent. It is a time to grow in faith through reading, praying, worshipping and serving. Imitating the example of Christ, we are seeking to follow in the footsteps of the Servant of God. The way might not be easy, but we are surrounded by holiness.

Poet Mary Oliver speaks of this "thin" time of year where we are still in dormancy and far away from the abundance of the growing season. *On Winter's Margin* captures the feel of small birds returning to gardens "famous for their charity" now "vines like tangled veins." "With half a loaf, I am the prince of crumbs." "And what I dream of are the patient deer who stand on legs like reeds and drink the wind—They are what saves the world; who choose to grow/Thin to a starting point beyond this squalor."

The Spirit goes with us in hard times. "Thin" times are places that test the soul and we grow in confidence as to what truly matters, and to what our souls can fully bear into the next season of our lives. Let is a time so many give up something as a daily reminder that we are so much more than our bodily needs and desires. What "squalor" in our culture is overwhelming us?

Our still small voice of God within is best heard in silence, in thin times, when starkness is the feel of the place, not so much human noise. It is a discipline and an art, not so much an immutable law or irrefutable science. What can we let go of from our ordinary day. Can we hold onto the thinness of the winter dormancy just little more before frenetic busyness comes?

We ask ourselves in Lent, what material things clutter my inner space? What phrases and dusty judgments have my intellectual wheels stuck in a frozen rut? What keeps my spirit from finding rest in God's Spirit?

Remember, this is also the season of potholes. Potholes have a way of making us let go of things before we were ready. That is not necessarily a bad thing.
May God bless you in your spiritual journey to a new springtime of living!

Pastor Ken



Senior Pastor: Reverend Kenneth C. Landin
Organist & Music Director: Justin Kisch
Bells Director: Martha Goodman
Church Sextons: Bob and Sandy Cummings
Church Office Administrator: AnnMarie Helmar

THE ORIGINAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
1 East St. P.O. Box 657, Wrentham, MA 02093
Office: 508-384-3110 Website: www.occhurch.net Facebook



lent

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD
