



MARCH 2026

THE SPIRE

**First Congregational Church
77 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont**

Phone: (802) 885-5728

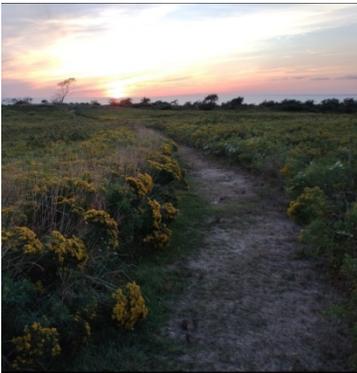
E-mail: fccucc@vermontel.net

Website: www.firstchurchspringfield.org
www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield/

“We are a community in Christ, called to act with love toward our neighbors.”

Pastor’s Message March 2026

“Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me’ ” Matthew 16: 24



March – the depths (or heights, if you like) of Lent. Many of us follow Jesus’ instruction to deny ourselves during this season, as we symbolically follow him on his path toward Jerusalem, his suffering, death, and triumphant resurrection. Denying ourselves something – sweets, snacks, limiting our time on social media – helps us focus on something a little different. It removes us from our usual everyday existence, reminding us, in a small way, of the suffering that Jesus went through. It helps prepare us for the celebration of Easter, making the Holy Day that much sweeter.

In the same passage from Matthew, followers are encouraged to “take up their cross.” In addition to the giving-up of something, the addition of a “cross” of some sort deepens the meaning of Lent for many of us. Perhaps it’s the addition of extra prayer time, or a healthy activity which has been neglected during the ordinary business of life. Lent can improve our ability to think of those parts of life that matter, that may fall by the wayside sometimes, shaping us into better followers of Christ as we give more attention to His journey, his teachings, and the miraculous new life that He brings. Is there a “cross” which you may pick up for the season, to carry as we follow Jesus’ on his road?

As the days lengthen, as Spring nears and Easter looms with the first Sunday in April, I pray that you may find meaning in the quieter, austere time of Lent. As recounted in Matthew 11, Jesus also reminds us to “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me...For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

One thing I don’t give up for Lent is...music! Please join us on Wednesday, March 4th, for our monthly sing-along Acoustic Worship in the vestry at four o’clock as we make a joyful noise.

Peace of God be with you

Michael Mario, Pastor



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS!

- Mar. 02 Ellen Wheelock
- Mar. 15 Roger Mayott
- Mar. 19 Joan Robison
- Mar. 21 Jocelyn Zezza
- Mar. 26 Jim Ballard

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE IN THE MONTH OF MARCH.

SPECIAL BELATED WISHES FOR THE FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

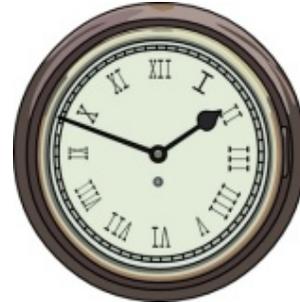
- Feb. 10 Joy Regan
- Feb. 10 Carol Richardson
- Feb. 23 Garet Richardson

TREASURER'S REPORT

(as of Jan. 31, 2026)

YTD income \$ 5821.
 YTD expenses \$17,308. Includes \$4361. for 4 years snowplowing
 Difference (\$11,487.)

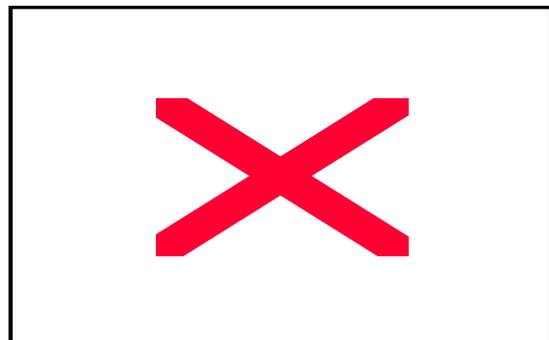
Total Liquid Assets \$247,705.
 Restricted Funds \$163,614.
 Avail. Liquid Assets \$84,091.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 8th, 2026

Church services will continue to be live streamed on Facebook each Sunday at 10:00 and the services can be viewed anytime through the church website.

Sunday church services are also recorded on DVD for SAPA TV to be shown at a later date. The present channels are 160 for VTEL TV and 1077 for Xfinity Comcast and serves are shown on Sunday at 10AM and Wednesday at 4PM. There is at least a one week delay.



**Announcing the theme for the Annual Meeting of the Vermont
Conference United Church of Christ for May 1-2 in St. Johnsbury.**



THANK YOU

Thank you for your donation of \$100 to Springfield Hospital. We will apply this donation to our new annual campaign for 2025-2026. This campaign is raising funds to update vital endoscopy equipment and expand access to screening, so patients get answers when they need them most.

Thank you for being a community partner!

Tonia Flemming, MBA, CFRE
Director of Marketing and Planning

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response.

“We give because our hearts are touched as we witness God at work in ourselves, in one another and throughout the world. Our response to God’s love for us is to love others, near and far. We are agents of grace when we choose to give, trusting that God’s Kingdom/Kindom is being built through us and among us. We cannot be in all of the places where our love offering will eventually go, but our gifts will bless the world far beyond what we can imagine. OGHS is your, our, love offering to and for the world. Let us share generously and cheerfully.”

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



GO TO THE LINK BELOW TO CHECK OUT OUR VERMONT CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER. IT IS GOOD TO REMEMBER WE ARE A PART OF A MUCH LARGER COMMUNITY IN CHRIST.

<https://vermontucc.org/>

Go to "I'm New" on the banner and choose the E-Kit Newsletter. You can also subscribe by clicking on the upper right circle on the web site.

EASTER is Sunday, April 5th, 2026

Each year your generous contributions provide lovely spring flowers that adorn our sanctuary on Easter Sunday and then are shared with FCC-UCC family and friends who are ill or on our homebound list. Suggested donation is \$25. Please complete the form below and return to the church office by Monday, March 23rd.



ENCLOSED IS MY EASTER GIFT FOR FLOWERS
(Please Print)

In loving memory of _____

Or

In honor of _____

Given by _____

Please mark your check for "Easter Flowers"

Checks should be made out to: First Congregational Church UCC



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885-5728

E-mail: fccucc@vermontel.net

Website: www.firstchurchspringfield.org

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Michael Mario, Pastor
Sheila Turner, Admin Assistant
885-5728

Todd Murray, Sexton
885-5728

Church Office Hours
Tuesday & Wednesday
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Pastor's Hours
Wednesday
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM