



APRIL 2026

THE SPIRE

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

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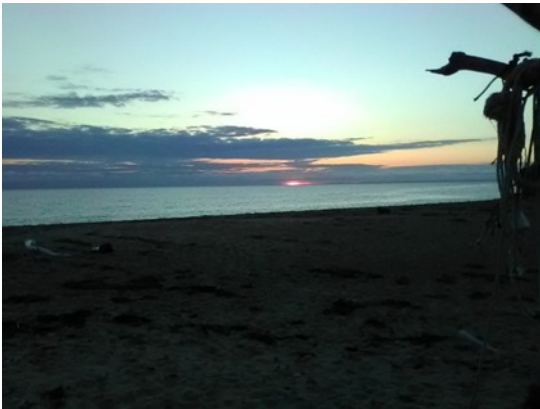
Website: www.firstchurchspringfield.org

www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield/

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

Pastor's Message April 2026

"(Jesus said) Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20



Jesus' final words to his apostles in the gospel of Matthew can bring a great comfort to us as we go through Holy Week to begin April. With the sorrows of Good Friday bearing down on us, the reassurance that Christ is with us even after his physical presence has left has the ability to give us the courage to speak our faith to others, to live out our faith as we go through life and interact with our neighbours. What a firm foundation this must have been for the apostles as they began the early church, "teaching all nations and baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (*Matthew 28:19*).

This promise of Jesus' presence in our lives is much like the promise of spring each year. We know instinctively that winter doesn't last forever, and still the first buds of spring, the greening of the landscape and the changing sounds of the world bring a thrill and a bit of wonder. The recounting of Jesus' ministry in the gospel of John, which is this year's lectionary focus for Lent, has brought some of that wonder for me as I reflect on the stories of Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, Lazarus and others whose lives were touched so profoundly. Just as winter turns to spring, with its promise of new life, so Jesus offers new life, better life, to those who follow.

What a lively time of year spring is in the church! We'll be marking Palm Sunday the 29th of March, followed at 4:00 in the afternoon by a concert with Gypsy Reel and our very own Jon Clinch. To start April, there'll be our monthly Acoustic Worship sing-along on April first (no joke). The following day we'll have a special service on Maundy Thursday at 5:00, giving us a quiet time to set the mood as we remember the somber events leading up to the glorious resurrection on Easter. And of course, we'll celebrate with joyous worship on Easter Sunday.

May the Peace of God be with you always,

Michael Mario, Pastor

Happy
Birthday

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS!

April 10th - Joan Lewis
April 16th - Claire Trask
April 24th - Harold Lombard

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE IN
THE MONTH OF APRIL!**



CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

April 14th - Walter & Beth Dodd
April 20th - Kathryn & Ronald
Westney

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO EVERYONE
IN THE MONTH OF APRIL!**



KIDS KITS FOR CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Our Quilting Group, The Piece Makers, are working on making the kid friendly cloth bags we fill with school type supplies and deliver to Church World Service late April. We will be handing out the bags Sunday, April 12th to be returned by Sunday, April 26th. We will have some items left over from last year for you to add to your bag as available on the 12th.

List of needed supplies:

One box of 12 colored pencils
One 2-pocket folder
One glue stick
One pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip; remove packaging)
One 70-page spiral notebook (no loose-leaf or filler paper)
One 12" / 30 cm ruler
One hand-held pencil sharpener (remove packaging)
One large eraser (no pencil-cap erasers)
Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers (remove pencils from packaging; secure with a rubber band)
One box of 24 crayons (must be 24-count)

Thank you in advance for your support!

Diane Holme, Outreach Ministry

Piece Makers

First and Third Thursdays of each month

Are you looking for company to craft with or just some social time with new and old friends? The quilt group is changing a bit and evolving into a group called Piece Makers in an effort to reach the needs of more people, whether members or friends.

Just come to chat, or bring a project like quilting, knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, or something else you enjoy. Our fellowship time is a very important part of being together and in support of each other when needed. The coffee pot is on and bring your own lunch.

Come join us on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The door is open 9:30-3:00 in the Vestry room at church. We break for the summer after June 4 and begin again in mid-September. Please come. We will love to see you!

Beth Dodd
802-886-8290



Congregational Church Choir.

The choir will be singing March 29 and again on April 5th for Easter Sunday. Practice is at 9:00 AM on Sunday morning before worship services. We welcome anyone that would like to join us. Kyle Washburn will be playing for us on those Sundays. Please join us!



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF SPRINGFIELD INVITES YOU TO...

Welcome Spring with Gypsy Reel

and their special guest, Jon Clinch

SUNDAY
MARCH 29
4:00 PM

77 MAIN STREET — SPRINGFIELD, VT
FREE WILL OFFERINGS ENCOURAGED

LET'S CELEBRATE SPRING WITH A GYPSY REEL CONCERT

On Sunday, March 29, you're invited to join Gypsy Reel for a celebration of spring at First Congregational Church in Springfield. Featuring Camille Parker on mandolin, Claudine Langille on banjo, Graham Parker on fiddle, and special guest Jon Clinch on guitar, Vermont's favorite Celtic band will arrive with a season-changing and spirit-raising mix of songs and tunes to clear the skies and blow your winter

It'll be an afternoon of songs celebrating the warm and bright days ahead—including traditional favorites like "Wild Mountain Thyme," and the band's usual selection of stirring instrumentals. Plan on a great afternoon out with family and friends.

The fun begins at 4:00 pm at the First Congregational Church, 77 Main Street, Springfield, and is supported by a good will offering

Diane Holme, Outreach Ministry

TREASURER'S REPORT
(as of Feb. 28, 2026)

YTD income \$ 14,704.
YTD expenses \$27,094.
Difference (\$12,390.)

Total Liquid Assets \$246,357.
Restricted Funds \$161,895.
Avail. Liquid Assets \$84,462.

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 services are shown on Sunday at 10 AM and Wednesday at 4 PM. There is at least a one-week delay.



COMING EVENTS LEADING TO EASTER

Sunday, March 29th - Palm Sunday followed by a Spring concert with Gypsy Reel at 4 pm. Featuring Camille Parker on mandolin, Claudine Langille on banjo, Graham Parker on fiddle, and special guest Jon Clinch on guitar, Vermont's favorite Celtic band will arrive with a season-changing and spirit-raising mix of songs and tunes to clear the skies and blow your winter blues away. Good will offering.

Wednesday, April 1st -Acoustic Worship at 4 pm. - A service that connects scripture and folk song. Pastor Michael leads the service with guitar, banjo and autoharp. If you love to sing tunes with a history and a message, please join us.

Thursday, April 2nd-Maundy Thursday Service at 5 pm.- Rev. Karen Oehl and members of the Methodist church will be joining us in this special service.

Easter Sunday, April 5th - Sunrise service at Hoyt's Landing at 6:15 am. led by Rev. Karen Oehl. Pastor Michael Mario will lead a special service celebrating the GOOD NEWS OF EASTER beginning at 10 am at the First Congregational Church. Coffee hour will follow!



First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

77 Main Street

Springfield, VT 05156

885-5728

E-mail: fccucc@vermontel.net

Website: www.firstchurchspringfield.org

www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield/

Michael Mario, Pastor

885-5728

Sheila Turner, Admin Assistant

Todd Murray, Sexton

Church Office Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Pastor's Hours

Wednesday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM