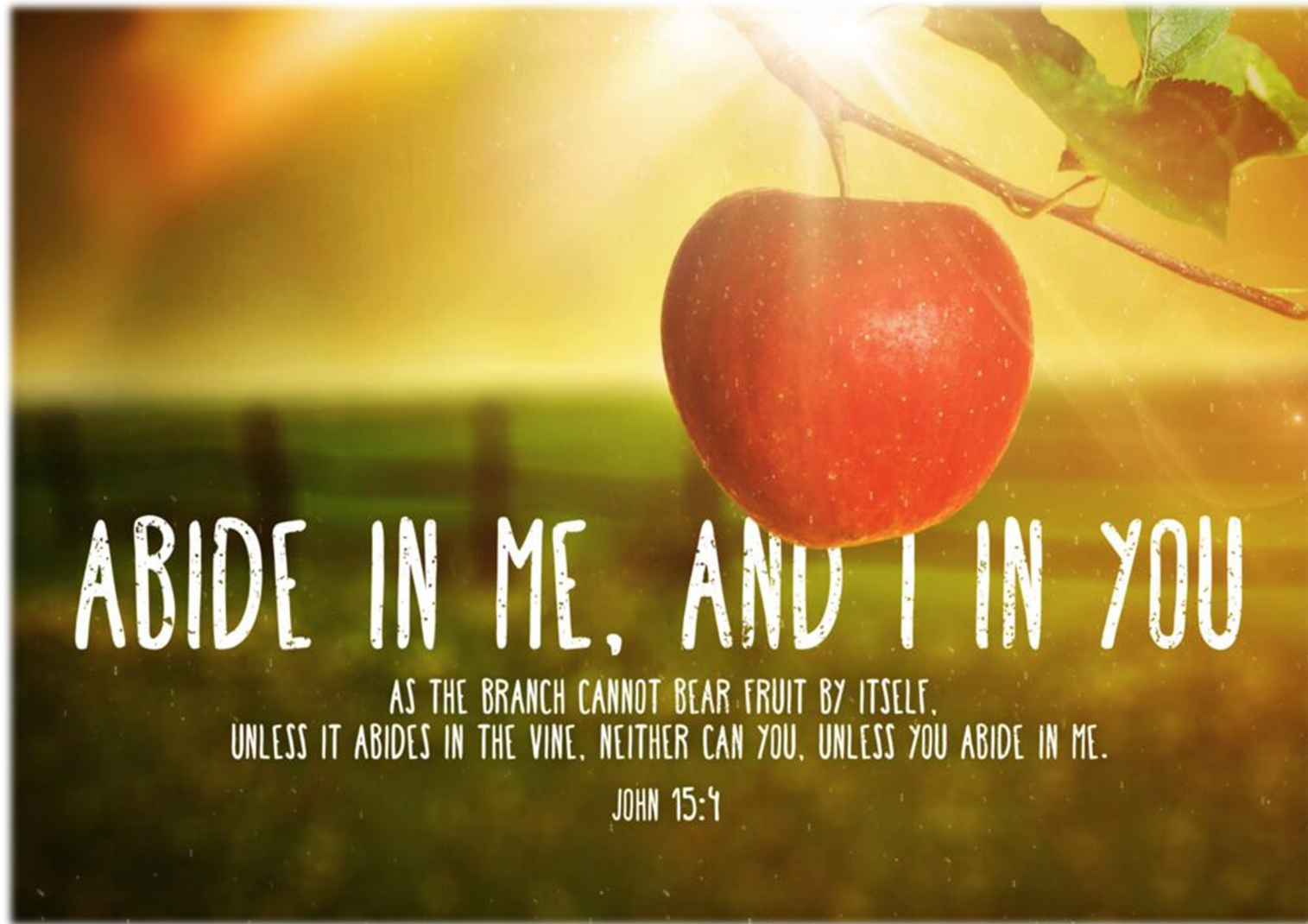




# First Congregational Church

282 Rock Street, Fall River, MA

Sunday, April 28, 2024



## The Church Covenant

*“I believe in the Way and Spirit of Life, as revealed by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, and I do solemnly vow the best efforts of my soul to walk this way of life in His spirit and to help others to do the same.”*

## Welcome to First Congregational Church!

It is the mission of the First Congregational Church to be a worshipping community of faithful, participating Christians who respect the natural environment; to reach out to all people, inviting them to engage with the Bible to unite with us through the power of the Gospel and to share, one and all, in the work of this church in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

### Welcome to Church

If you are visiting with us please take a moment to complete a welcome card in the pew. If you have any questions or need any assistance please see one of our **Deacons with purple name tags**. We are so happy you have joined us today.

### Parent's Information

It is our tradition that children are invited forward for the children's message and then go downstairs for Sunday School. You're welcome to accompany your child downstairs, or your child is welcome to stay with you the entire service.

### Parent's Room

If your little one needs a moment; a room is available (*Bogle Chapel*). It is the first room on the right as you walk out of the church building. Sound is piped into the room to enable you to hear the service. Changing tables are available in both restrooms.

### Facilities

Restrooms are located to the left side of the building as you walk out of the Church.

Wi-Fi is available Network: FCC (guest) Password: 282Rock1

*Please silence your cell phone and/or other devices during the service.*

## **SERVING THE CHURCH TODAY...**

**Rev. Andrew Stinson**

Senior Minister  
revandy@fccfallriver.com

### **Ushers-Committee**

Ken Lanyon, Ken Ward, Bob Guinen, & Gary Fernandes

### **Greeters**

Doris Thornton & Bonnie Braga

### **Our Staff**

**Judith Conrad**  
Music Minister

**Henry Parker**  
Sexton

**Cheryl Foley**  
Bookkeeper

**Ivette Alarcon**  
Church Administrator

**Shirley Parrott**  
Religious Ed. Coordinator

### **Contact Us**

**Phone**  
(508) 672-5862

**Email**  
churchoffice@fccfallriver.com

**Website**  
<http://fccfallriver.com/>

**Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/Fccfallriver](http://www.facebook.com/Fccfallriver)

**SoundCloud**  
<https://soundcloud.com/FCCFallRiver>

**Spotify**  
<https://open.spotify.com/show/7Cavtolj585E4sjhXdI6xT>

# *First Congregational Church*

## *April 28, 2024*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *As We Gather at Your Table* #528

Call to Worship

One: Come and worship Jesus Christ, who forsook no one  
All: **but was forsaken by the closest of friends,**  
One: who committed no crime yet was sentenced to a criminal's death,  
All: **we enter your presence in awe and adoration.**  
One: He was not killed but laid down his life for his friends  
All: **and he refused to betray the purpose for which he had been born.**  
One: He came into the world to love God and neighbor, overcoming all that would stand in his way, even death itself.  
All: **Lord, teach us the meaning of life with you and in your kingdom**  
One: and help us to lay down our lives and take up our cross  
All: **that we may abide with you.**

\*Opening Hymn: *Gather Us In* #553

\*Unison Prayer of Invocation and Lord's Prayer

God of life, we praise you for the miracle of Easter. We pray for great joy for ourselves and for all who come to worship today. We celebrate Jesus' resurrection and in it our life in and with and through you, connected as a blossom to its branch, praying as you have taught us saying: Our Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Children's Message

Baptism of Milayna Rose Boudria

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Pastoral and Silent Prayers

Prayer Response *Lead Me, Lord* #402

\*Sermon Hymn *God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale* #32

New Testament Scripture Reading: **1 John 4:7-21**  
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Gospel Scripture Reading: **John 15:1-8**  
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.



**\*Gloria Patri** #558  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

**Sermon:** *Natives of Heaven* Rev. Andrew Stinson

**Call to Offering**  
**Offertory:** *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree* New Hampshire 1780

**\*Doxology** #562  
Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Sending Hymn** *When the Saints Go Marching In* #475

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*\*You are invited to stand for the singing of the hymns*

Thank you for worshipping with us this week. This bulletin is meant not only to guide you through worship but to be a source of continued meditation.

Some questions to think about or pray on throughout the week:  
What was the most important part of the message for you today?  
Take a few minutes this week to read/hear the scriptures again, does anything jump out at to you?

Is God calling you to do something as a result of this message?

You can listen to this weeks message at <https://soundcloud.com> and search for FCC Fall River and YouTube under FCC of Fall River MA.

May your week be filled with Peace and Grace.

Upcoming Meeting

**Scholarship Meeting** Tue- Apr 30, 2024 @ 4:00 PM  
**Staff Meeting** Tue- May 07, 2024 @ 10:00 AM  
**Deacons Meeting** Wed- May 08, 2024 @ 6:00 PM  
**Prudential Meeting** Thu- May 09, 2024 @ 6:00 PM  
**Church Council Meeting** Wed- May 15, 2024 @ 7:15 PM

**Save the Date**  
**Saturday May 4th, 5:30 pm**  
It will be a  
**50 Year Family Feast!**  
Let's celebrate the 50 year Anniversary of the union of Bogle Street Church & First Congregational Church, with dinner, fellowship, entertainment and memories; for more information contact Susan Lanyon -774-644-3626.  
**Tickets sold now through April 28th.**  
(All profits to benefit the Scholarship Fund)  
**\$10 each or \$25 per family (under 4 free)**  
God Bless! Your Scholarship Committee  
This event is sponsored by the Scholarship Committee

**Spring Bling Event**  
**May 05, 2024**  
**@ 11:00 am-1:00 pm**  
**Join us!!**  
FMI: contact [sparrott-fccre@fccfallriver.com](mailto:sparrott-fccre@fccfallriver.com)

Please come and join us for our **Spring Bling Event!**

This event aims to show you just how much we love and care for you! Just as Christ loves and cares for you. This is a free event to celebrate your family with a day of fun! We will have a variety of activities to choose from!

Gardening, Interactive Arts, Animal face painting just to name a few and prizes! Save the date May 05th from 11am-1pm! I hope to see you al there!

**TACOS WILL BE SERVED!!!**

Baptism of  
Milayna Rose Boudria

Daughter of Maia & Bryan Boudria  
Goddaughter to Sarah Carvalho & Kerry Travassos  
Born December 03, 2023 at Fall River MA

## A Service of Baptism

### Words of Welcome

The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting...  
for the promise is to you and to your children...  
to everyone whom the Lord our God call to Him.

### Call of Baptism

One: We gather this morning to present Milayna Rose Boudria to the church and the Lord in the sacrament of baptism.  
All: We ask God's blessing upon her as we welcome her on the pilgrim's path.  
One: Let us hear now the teaching of the Lord:

### Scripture

These words which I command you this day shall be upon your hearts. You shall teach them diligently to your child. You shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?" And calling to Him a child, He put that child in the midst of them and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven. Whoever received one such child in My name, received me... It is not the will of My Father who is in heaven that one of this little ones should perish."

"Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child, shall not enter it." And He took that child in his arms and blessed him.

The Address  
Questions to Parents

### Question to the Congregation

I ask that all the members of this congregation, and any others committed to the spiritual nurture of these child, *please stand*.

Will you live your life in such a way that Milayna Rose Boudria will see, reflected in you, the ways of God, and will have every opportunity to respond to God's call upon her life? We will.

### Prayers for the Gathered People

God, grant to Thy servants grace to perform as they have promised through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### The Act of Baptism

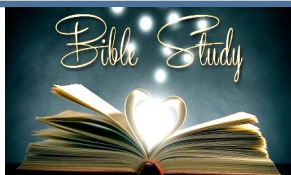
### Presentation of Certificate and Flower

### Prayer of Blessing

Welcoming  
Milayna Rose  
Boudria







## Bible Study

Starting  
Tuesday April 9, 2024  
@ 7:15 PM

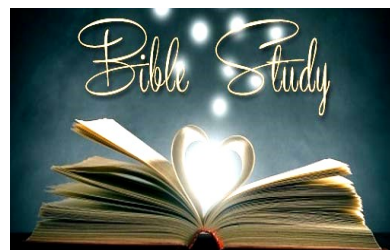
*Reading the Gospel of Mark  
for Easter-tide!*

After Easter every Tuesday night starting on the 9th at 7:15 we will embark on a journey through the Gospel of Mark.

This will be an invitation to read the gospel of Mark in its entirety and gather once a week to discuss the past week's reading. We will end right around Pentecost. If you wanted to deepen your understanding of the story of Jesus this is your opportunity.

Our first session will be orientation on the 9<sup>th</sup> April Feel free to contact Rev. Andy with any questions.  
508-672-5862  
churchoffice@fccfallriver.com

□ Wed	1:1-13	□ Sun	Rest.
□ Thu	1:14-34	□ Mon.	10:1-16
□ Fri	1:35-45	□ Tue	10:17-34
□ Sat	2:1-17	□ Wed	10:35-52
		□ Thu	11:1-11
		□ Fri	11:12-33
□ Sun	Rest.	□ Sat	12:1-17
□ Mon	2:18-28		
□ Tue	3:1-19	□ Sun	Rest.
□ Wed	3:20-34	□ Mon.	12:18-34
□ Thu	4:1-20	□ Tue	12:35-44
□ Fri	4:21-41	□ Wed	13:1-13
□ Sat	5:1-20	□ Thu	13:14-37
		□ Fri	14:1-26
		□ Sat	14:27-42
□ Sun	Rest.		
□ Mon	5:31-43	□ Sun	Rest.
□ Tue	6:1-29	□ Mon	14:43-65
□ Wed	6:30-44	□ Tue	14:66-72
□ Thu	6:45-44	□ Wed	15:1-20
□ Fri	7:1-23	□ Thu	15:21-41
□ Sat	7:24-37	□ Fri	15:42-47
		□ Sat	16:1-20
□ Sun	Rest.		
□ Mon.	8:1-13		
□ Tue	8:14-26		
□ Wed	8:27-38		
□ Thu	9:1-13		
□ Fri	9:14-32		
□ Sat.	9:33-50		



## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Refrigerator Reminders:

### Today:

- ♦ Worship Service @ 10:00 AM

### Monday Apr 29:

- ♦ Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:00 PM  
All are welcome - no knitting skills necessary.

### Tuesday Apr 30:

- ♦ Yoga Class @ 6:00 PM
- ♦ Scholarship Meeting @ 4:00 PM
- ♦ **Bible Study @ 7:15 PM**

### Wednesday May 01:

- ♦ **M O P S Meeting @ 6:00 PM**

### Thursday May 02:

- ♦ Yoga Class @ 6:00 PM

### Saturday May 04:

**50 Year Family Feast!**  
Dinner @ 5:30 PM  
Tickets on Sale Now!!

### Sunday May 05:

- Communion Sunday
- ♦ Worship Service @ 10:00 AM

*Spring Bling Event*

@ 11:00 AM-1:00 PM  
**New Members Class**  
@ 11:30 AM

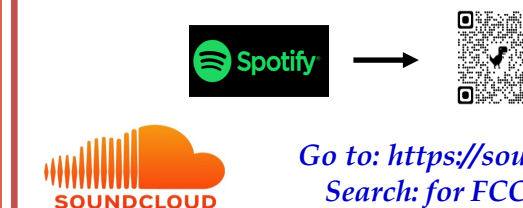
### Monday May 06:

- ♦ Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:00 PM  
All are welcome - no knitting skills necessary.



Please join us every  
Tue-Wed-Thu for:  
**11 Minutes at 11:11 am**

with Rev Andy-on Facebook Live  
<https://www.facebook.com/FccFallRiver>  
Also available in Spotify & Sound Cloud



Go to: <https://soundcloud.com>  
Search: for FCC Fall River

## First Congregational Church

**Free Yoga Classes**

**@ 6:00 PM**  
**282 Rock St.**  
(Please use Cherry Street door)

**Every Tuesday & Thursday**

Free and open to the public  
(13yrs and up)

**All levels welcome!!**

Please refer to our  
Facebook page for  
cancellations



First Congregational Church of Fall River

# NEW MEMBERS CLASS

**Sunday**  
**May 05, 2024**  
**11:30 AM**

FMI: 508-672-5862  
churchoffice@fccfallriver.com



This has been a very worthwhile endeavor that our church has embraced and we need volunteers to help with the preparation as well as serving.

## SOUP KITCHEN

Upcoming dates:

**May 07, 2024**      **Jun 04, 2024**

Please plan to be at church by 2:00 PM