



NEWSLETTER

THE ORTHODOX CHRONICLES

February

1st - Fourth Sunday of Epiphany 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

8th - Fifth Sunday of Epiphany Malachi 3:1-4

15th - Transfiguration Sunday 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

18th - Ash Wednesday Service

22nd - First Sunday of Lent Matthew 4:1-11 and Jeremiah 29:1-9

Church Calendar



- Choir Practice, Wednesdays 7 pm
- 2/10 & 2/24 - Intentional Discussions
- 2/18 - Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm in the Vestry
- 3/1 - Advanced Directives Worship 11:30 - 1:00 pm in the Vestry



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter Weather Reminder

To ensure our congregation's safety during inclement weather, if necessary, services will take place on Zoom. During the winter months of January - March, in-person services will be canceled if a winter storm with a forecast of 4 inches of snow or more is projected. Decisions will be made by the church leadership including the Council, Deacons, Trustees, and Pastor. An email will be sent out to the congregation before 2 pm on the Saturday before service. Weather cancellation notices will also be posted on all social media platforms.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7757368812>
Meeting ID: 775 736 8812

Celebrating Peter Ham

Peter Ham has been selected to receive the Distinguished Service to Safety Award on Wednesday, February 4th!

This special council honor recognizes individuals who go above and beyond to ensure the safety and well-being of every Scout. Peter's dedication to thoughtful planning, responsible leadership, and creating safe, meaningful adventures has made a lasting impact on countless youth.

With 12 years in Scouting as a youth and 23 years as an adult volunteer, Peter continues to serve our community through the Council Executive Board and as the Chartered Organization

Representative for Cub Scout Pack 13 and Scout Troop 17 Mansfield, MA.

One highlight of his Scouting journey includes leading a winter snowshoeing trip atop Mt. Cardigan, where Scouts successfully camped and cooked in subzero temperatures thanks to careful preparation and guidance—an incredible example of safety in action!





ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holly Fair 2026



Grandma's Attic:

It's *never* too early to think about the Holly Fair! With the new year upon us, many of us are organizing and cleaning out—and the Holly Fair Committee wants to remind you that we need your stuff! We are happily accepting good-condition, unwanted items to help make Grandma's Attic a success. If you have items you'd like to donate, please email **Amy Pierce** at AmyC1013@verizon.net or text 617-512-0991 to arrange a convenient drop-off day and time.

Crafters Wanted!

We would love to support our craft table by adding new, handmade items—and we need your help! If you are a crafter by trade or simply enjoy crafting as a hobby, we invite you to join us. We are hoping to host a monthly Fellowship Craft Night at the church. These gatherings will not only help us create items for the craft table (which supports church fundraising), but will also provide a fun, social evening to connect and get out of the house during the season. As the saying goes, *many hands make light work*—so let's come together and enjoy a creative night out! If you're interested in hosting a craft or would like more information, please contact **Amy Pierce** at AmyC1013@verizon.net or text 617-512-0991.

Raffle Baskets:

It's never too early to start thinking about raffle baskets! Have you ever received a gift and wondered, "*What will I do with that?*" Unused or unopened items can be the perfect start to a great basket. Do you know someone with a small business or a crafting talent? We would love some help gathering donations—whether it's an item or a gift card. Even clearance sections at stores can spark ideas for creating wonderful baskets while saving money! Baskets can be any theme, any holiday, and for all ages and interests.

We are blessed with so many creative, talented, and generous people in our church. Let's work together to make **Holly Fair 2026** a great success! We would love to welcome more committee members and volunteers of all ages.

If you would like more information about the Holly Fair, please reach out to **Nicole Reynolds, Kerrie Schlager, Dick Kelsay, Andrea Kelsay, Kathy Harsh, Jane Conley, Annie Schwehm, or Amy Pierce,**

Thank you for supporting the Holly Fair—we truly appreciate your generosity! ♥



DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Winter/Spring Intentional Discussions

Join us as we journey through the powerful stories in 2 Samuel, a book filled with courage, calling, and God's hand at work in the lives of unlikely people.



Advanced Directives Lunch & Learn

Note Date Change Sunday, March 1st 11:30 am - 1 pm

Pizza and drinks will be provided.

Please join us after the Worship Service for a lunch and learn informational seminar with Peter Ham L.M.H.C. Associates in Behavioral Health, LLC and Matthew Hollingshead L.N.H.A. Vice President, NewBridge on the Charles

The primary focus will be on the necessity that all individuals (18 years and older) should have with others regarding their legal wishes for health care treatment should they not be able to advocate for themselves.

This interactive seminar will discuss advanced directives for health care and will include a discussion on:

Massachusetts Health Care Proxy
Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST)
Comfort Care/Do Not Resuscitate Order (CC/DNR).

Copies of these documents and reference materials will be provided.

Pastor Marissa Rapoza



The Will to Dream: Hands, Feet, and Heart in Lent

It's hard to believe how quickly we are approaching the season of Lent. Lent invites us into holy restraint, not to shrink our hope, but to sharpen it. In a world quick to declare what is "realistic," God keeps whispering dreams. The will to dream is not escapism; it is faith with imagination. God's hands still shape possibility out of dust and despair, kneading mercy into the ordinary clay of our lives. When we dare to imagine a more just, more loving world, we participate in God's ongoing creation.

During Lent, we will focus on the Work of the Imagination and what that means in light of our Will to Dream. The Work of Imagination is Lenten work. It asks us to look honestly at what is broken and still believe transformation is possible. God's feet are on the move in the modern world, walking hospital corridors, crossing borders, standing in protests, pacing classrooms and courtrooms.

Each step taken toward compassion is a refusal to accept suffering as inevitable. Imagination gives us the courage to follow those footsteps, even when the road leads through wilderness.

And at the center is the heart of God, aching, expansive, fiercely tender. Lent draws us closer to that heart, where grief and hope coexist. As we fast from indifference and feast on love, may we trust that God's hands are not finished, God's feet are not weary, and God's heart still beats for this world. May we dream boldly, imagine faithfully, and offer our own hands, feet, and hearts as living prayers.



Emma Ceurvels, Music Director

Happy February!

As always, we welcome new choir members and would love for you to join us! We meet Wednesdays at 7pm in the music room and Sundays at 9am. It's hard to believe that in just a few weeks we'll begin preparing music for Lent and Easter! If you would like to join us, even just for "a season", we would love to have you. The ability to read music is NOT a requirement!

In addition, please let me know the songs that are meaningful to you and that you would love to hear in an upcoming service. If there is a hymn that resonates deeply with you or a piece you would love to hear the choir do, we'll try to make it happen! You can email these requests to office@occmansfield.org.

With love,
Emma

Sunday School/Children's Ministry



Sunday School Schedule

February 1st: Communion / Intergenerational Sunday — No Sunday School
February 8th: Sunday School
February 15th: No Sunday School (February Vacation Week)
February 22nd: Sunday School



Meghan Rego, Children's Ministry

Hello families, it's hard to believe that Easter is right around the corner! With that in mind we will start planning for our annual New Hope Easter Baskets Fundraiser with the kids.

We are looking for volunteers to help with Sunday School for March, please be on the lookout for the email later this month.

Meghan Rego

Church Council and Ministry Leaders

Council

Moderator - Peter Ham
Treasurer - Kim Greenberg
Clerk - Rick Haines

Deacons

Chair - Eric Greenberg
Nate Adkins
Kerrie Schlager
Deb Svenson
Dick Kelsay

Parish Relations Team

Co-Chair - John Partridge
Co-Chair - Peter Ham
Laurie Geminiani
Krista Young
Will Reynolds
Kerrie Schlager

Ministry Leaders

Christian Ed. - Meghan Rego
Hospitality - Annie Schwehm
Prayer Team - Mary Hourigan
Missions - Dick Kelsay, Kathy Harsch,
Rick Haines

Trustees

Nicole Reynolds
Carol Ham
Dick Kelsay

Staff

Office Administrator - Emma Ceurvels
office@occmansfield.org
Sexton - Ed O'Connell

Electronic Ways to Give
QR Code (paypal)
E-Giving (forms in office)



The Congregational Church of Mansfield
An Open and Affirming United Church of Christ Congregation