



NEWSLETTER

THE ORTHODOX CHRONICLES

Sundays in March

1st - Second Sunday of Lent - Communion Sunday

8th - Third Sunday of Lent

15th - Fourth Sunday of Lent - New Member Sunday and Annual Meeting

22nd - Fifth Sunday of Lent

29th - Palm Sunday

Church Calendar



- Choir Practice, Wednesdays 7 pm
- 3/1 - Advanced Directives Worship 11:30 - 1:00 pm in the Vestry
- 3/8 - Service of Release and Celebration of Area Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Patty Kogut at 2:30 pm Second Church Attleboro (rsvp 3/1)
- 3/15 - Church Annual Meeting and Potluck 11:30am in the Vestry
- 3/10 & 3/24 - Intentional Discussions 7pm via zoom
- 4/2 - Tenebrae Service 7 pm in the Sanctuary

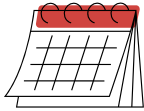


ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



Save the Date

Church Annual Meeting & Potluck
March 15th 2026 @ 11:30am in the Vestry



We are looking for readers for the Tenebrae Service
Thursday April 2nd @ 7pm
If you are interested in participating please reach out to Pastor Marissa
pastor.marissa@occmansfield.org





ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Hope Fundraiser

We're excited to kick off our annual New Hope Easter Basket Fundraiser! Each year, our Sunday School children create Easter baskets for women and children at the New Hope Shelter, and we're grateful for the congregation's generous support of this tradition. You can participate in two ways: purchase items directly from the New Hope Basket Amazon Wish List (see QR code below) or a monetary donation that will be used to purchase wish list items.





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



Lent arrives like a thin place.

In the language of Celtic Christianity, a thin place is where the veil between heaven and earth feels almost transparent. The wind off the sea, the cry of a curlew, the standing stones worn by prayer, creation itself becomes a cathedral. Lent invites us to step into such a place, not by traveling across the Irish Sea, but by turning inward.

The monks of Iona and Lindisfarne did not flee the world; they sanctified it. They prayed with the Psalms while tending fields, copying manuscripts, welcoming strangers. Their spirituality was earthy, embodied, and attentive. Imagination was not fantasy, it was a holy faculty. To imagine Christ in every task was to begin seeing Him there.

During Lent, we are invited to let our imagination be baptized. Imagine your kitchen table as an altar. Imagine your workplace as a monastery. Imagine the person who tests your patience as Christ in disguise.

This is not denial of reality; it is deeper sight. The Celtic saints believed that every sunrise was a fresh annunciation, every stranger a possible angel. When we engage our imagination in this way, repentance becomes more than regret, it becomes re-vision. We begin to see differently, and therefore to live differently. Active discipleship grows from this vision.

Lent is not only about giving things up; it is about taking up the way of Christ. Like Saint Brigid of Kildare, we kindle small flames of hospitality in cold places. Like Saint Columba, we cross boundaries, geographical or relational, to carry peace. The imagination fuels courage: if Christ walks the hills ahead of us, then no road is godforsaken.

So this season, walk slowly. Bless what you see. Fast from indifference. Feast on mercy. Let the ordinary shimmer with the nearness of God. And when the wind moves through bare branches, hear it as prayer, a reminder that even in stripping and waiting, the Spirit is at work, making of your life a thin place where heaven touches earth.



Emma Ceurvels, Music Director

It has been a tricky start for the choir this year with all of this snow and cold weather! Due to illness and travel we have had smaller numbers in our choir the past few weeks. Which means it's a great time to remind you, as always, that we welcome you to join the choir!! Rehearsals are not just a time of music making, but also lots of laughs and stories. The season of Lent is a wonderful time to join us, as we prepare for our Easter service and singing the Hallelujah Chorus! Come join us on Wednesdays at 7pm at Sundays at 9am.

Praying that the month of March is one of joy and rest for each of you, and that we don't get any more snow or freezing weather!

With love,
Emma

Sunday School/Children's Ministry



Sunday School Schedule

March 1st: Communion / Intergenerational Sunday — No Sunday School

March 8th: Sunday School

March 15th: Sunday School

March 22nd No Sunday School

March 29th: Sunday School



Meghan Rego, Children's Ministry

Hello families,

We are excited to kick off the our yearly New Hope Easter basket fundraiser in which the Sunday School children will make Easter baskets for women and children living at the New Hope Shelter. We appreciate the Congregations generous support for this yearly tradition. This year the Congregation can support this fundraiser in 2 ways, buy purchasing Easter basket items directly through the New Hope Basket Amazon Wish list linked below or donate directly to the children who will be collecting monetary donations during Sunday service and coffee hour. Money collected will be used to purchase items from the wish list. Thank you for your continued support of the Sunday School class!

https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/XJ42LECUHHCW?ref_cm_sw_r_cp_ud_ggr-subnav-share_KTTDX1CRHX4MC65V3DZ8_1

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

Leadership Communication

As we move through this new program year, we are aiming to provide streamlined communication for the congregation to our leadership team. Please refer to the following contact information if you need to contact a member of our leadership team.

Leadership Preferred Method of Communication Contact information Update

Pastor Marissa Rapoza - pastor.marissa@occmansfield.org or
508-207-7803 (cell)

Office Admin/Music Director, Emma Ceurvels - office@occmansfield.org
To schedule an event at the church, order flowers for the communion table, sign up for coffee hour, and anything music related, please contact Emma using the office email to ensure all information is in one place.

Council Officers

Church Moderator, Peter Ham - peterwham@comcast.net
Treasurer, Kim Greenberg - kim.greenberg12@gmail.com
Clerk, Rick Haines - jalama23@gmail.com

Ministry Leadership

Head Deacon, Eric Greenberg - greenberg.eric101@gmail.com
PRT Co-Leader, John Partridge - partridge_john@wheatoncollege.edu 508-243-0019 (cell)
Prayer Team, Mary Hourigan - Omahourigan@yahoo.com
Sunday School, Meghan Rego - meghanrego233@yahoo.com
Hospitality, Annie Schwehm - annieschwehm@gmail.com

Trustees

For all building related issues, please contact a trustee

Carol Sosman Ham - Sosham@comcast.net 774-266-6220 (cell)
Nicole Reynolds - 508-951-2036 (cell)
Dick Kelsay - dickkelsay@yahoo.com