



MESSENGER
of the
**First Congregational
Church**
**United Church of Christ
Melrose, Massachusetts**

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Pastor
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An Easter View of Death

Did you know that there was a funeral director who was famous for signing his letters: "Eventually Yours,"? No mistaking the reality of death with one of his letters. We don't like to think about the reality of death and yet death is just that: an undeniable reality. Easter, however, should change not only our thinking on death, but also how we think about life.

With the truth of Jesus' resurrection we find a window into the beyond. We get a glimpse into a world beyond our own—a world of light, goodness, peace and love that is absent all suffering. Beyond this good news of Easter, Jesus gives us two additional messages to add to this bounty.

The first is that we participate in his resurrection. That is, the world beyond the grave that is revealed through Christ's empty tomb belongs to us as well. Again and again, Jesus says things like: "You are setting your mind on earthly things", or "You are in the world but not of the world". In other words, don't mistake the life you are living for life eternal. What you are now experiencing is a tiny sliver of reality in its totality. Don't mistake the finite for the infinite because you belong to the latter.

"Don't worry" and "Don't be afraid" are also among Jesus' catch phrases. This is because he knows our true home. He knows our ultimate destiny and it is not to be found in the trivial matters of this life or even in the great catastrophes we might endure. We belong to God and God will carry us through any Good Friday to the new life of Easter which is our home.

Secondly, Jesus says that we don't have to wait for death to be resurrected. The heavenly window that is briefly opened by the empty tomb reveals a reality we can live from in the here and now. We can be resurrected people right now, in this moment.

After Christ's resurrection he appears to his disciples telling them what they must do: "Go and make disciples of all nations" (i.e. spread the good news of the Easter reality in the world), and he also counsels them to let the Holy Spirit guide them in their actions. He does NOT say that the meaning of Easter is to do nothing except wait for death to come. Easter is to inspire our living. We are to approach life as new, resurrected

Sunday, April 10, 2010
Renewing the Covenant

8:30 AM – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM – WORSHIP

and Church School Pre-K – 12

11:15 AM – Coffee Hour, Narthex

12 – 5:00 PM – Confirmation Class Spirituality

Retreat at Melrose Highlands Congregational Church

DURING THE WEEK

Saturday, April 10

8:00 AM to noon – Spring Church Clean-up

6:00 PM – Family Pancake Supper and entertainment –

Come and support the Youth Mission Trip!

Monday, April 12

7:30 P – Common Threads at Lisa Jamison's

Tuesday, April 13

3:45 PM – Bread of Life Dinner, St. Paul's Malden

Wednesday, April 14

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal, sanctuary

Thursday, April 15

7:30 PM – Welcome Committee, Lisa & Jim Oosterman's

The following groups meet here regularly:

Boy Scouts – Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the basement

Girl Scouts – Sundays at 5:30 PM, Rm. 1 and lounge, Mon. at 7 PM, Rm. 7/8, Wed. at 6PM, Rm.7/8, Fridays 2:30 and 5PM, 7/8

Pre-PAL – 9 11:30 AM – M, T, Th, Fri, Room 7

PAL – 3:00 PM, Room 7/8

Cub Scouts – Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

Al-Anon – weekdays at 12 noon, Sunday at 1 & 7 PM – Rm. 8

Blue of a Kind – Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Music Room

S.A.R.P. – Tuesdays at 6:30 PM, lounge

A.W.O.L. – Tuesdays at 7:30 PM, 7/8, lounge, Rm. 1

Mothers' Group meets Wednesdays 9-11 AM, lounge, 1, 7/8

CODA – Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, lounge

Vital Cycles - Thursdays at 7:00 PM, lounge

O.A. – Fridays at 7 PM, lounge

A.A. – Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, Fridays at 8:00 PM and Saturdays at 3:00 PM – Rm. 8

people—people who are not tied to the past but who embrace the future with confidence and promise. Our living is to be informed by the Easter reality that this life is linked to the next life. While this is a source of complete joy, it is also the source of our calling to bring those two "lives" or "realities" or "worlds" into alignment. We are to act in such a way that things will be "on earth as they are in heaven".

"Eventually Yours,". Death is indeed part of living. But it is no more than a transitional doorway into an Easter reality of new life. It is a new life that we can begin living today.

See you in church,

Rev. Dominic





Marilyn McComas, Anne Wing,
George Burrell, Bud Pendleton,
Barbara Jones, Rayma Sargent
(Anne Wing's sister).



SATURDAY, APRIL 10th

**8:00 AM to noon –
Spring Church Clean-up**

Come and help us get rid of the remains of fall and winter around our beautiful building.



**SPRING CHURCH
CLEAN-UP**

Buy Spring Flowers!!! Support RIM Clients!
It's that time again...Refugee Immigration Ministry will once again be selling impatiens on Mother's Day! This year you can also purchase pansies! We will be taking advance orders the next few Sundays ...look for the RIM table and buy flowers for all your neighbors, friends and family. This is our biggest fundraiser and we have many financial commitments to clients at the moment so we would appreciate your support.



**Pancake
Supper
- April 10 -**

SATURDAY, APRIL 10th

Family Pancake Supper sponsored by the Youth Mission Trip Team. Come enjoy fresh, homemade pancakes with delicious toppings! Youth will provide musical entertainment!

With this event also comes our **2nd Annual Service**

Auction. Come bid on exciting items such as trained babysitter, tutors, homemade meals and more! Contact Martha Jancaitis for more information or to donate an item.

A Caregivers Support Group geared towards adult children taking care of a loved one meets on the first and third Monday of every month from 6:00 to 7:30 PM at the Dutton Adult Day Health Center at 1117 Main St. in Wakefield. Cal 781-338-7902 for more information.



Don't forget to bring your spare change to church on Sundays for our Coin Jar!