



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
Sunday March 27, 2022



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich declares itself to be open and affirming; open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment, and affirming of all who wish to join us as children of God. We continue to give thanks for God's guidance in our journey of faith.

We welcome you this day and are glad you made the choice to join us for this worship service. May it be a blessing to you.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP



*God puts the wiggle in children
and calls it good... and so do we!*

At First Church, we believe that the way we welcome children in worship directly affects the way they respond to God, the church, and to one another.

To welcome children as they are in worship, we've created the **PrayGround**, located in the front of the chapel (right side of the Meetinghouse) where children and others can engage in worship through movement and prayerful play.

The **PrayGround** offers space for movement and sensory materials for all ages to worship with and through. The presence of all God's children is a gift to the church, which offers hope for all.

Using your smartphone messaging app, text **FCCOG Donate** to **73256** or click [HERE](#) to access the online giving webpage.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

PRELUDE

Gavotte

G. B. Martini (1706-1784)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Reverend Patrick Collins

One: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

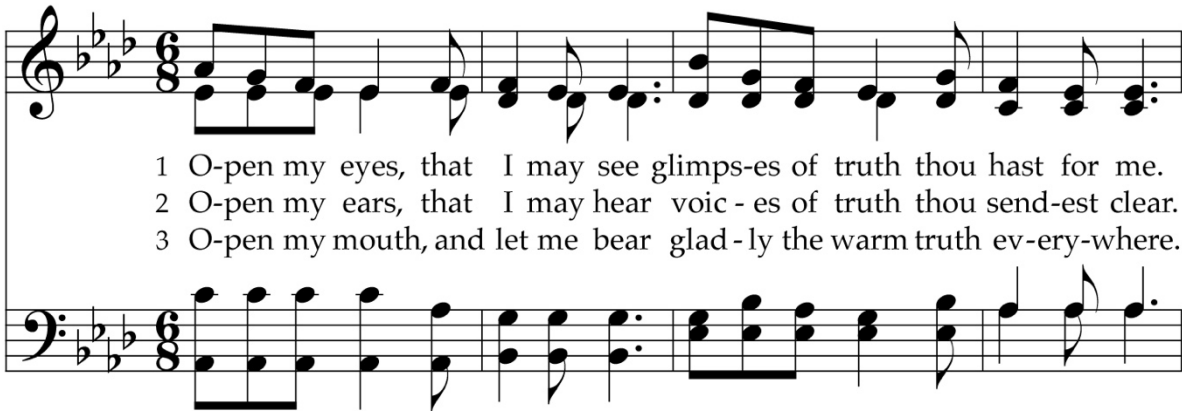
All: **For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.**

One: Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

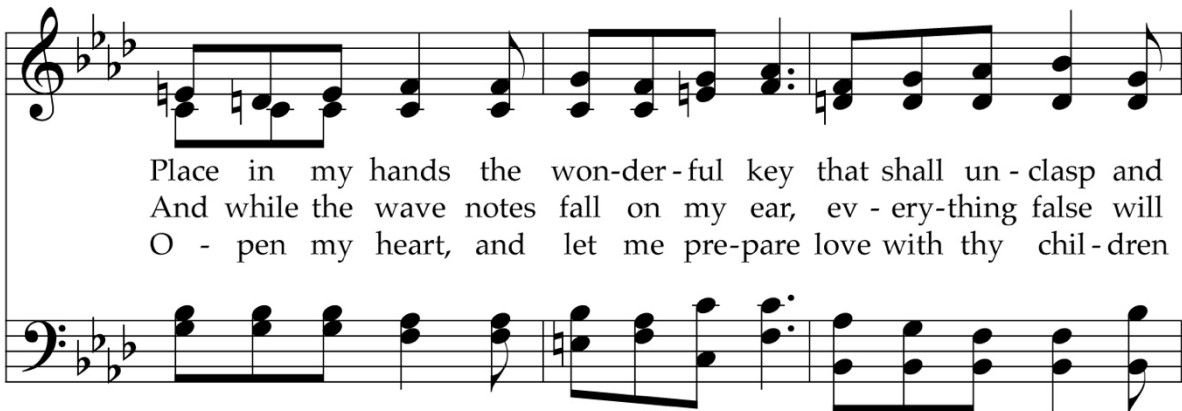
All: **We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!**

One: Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

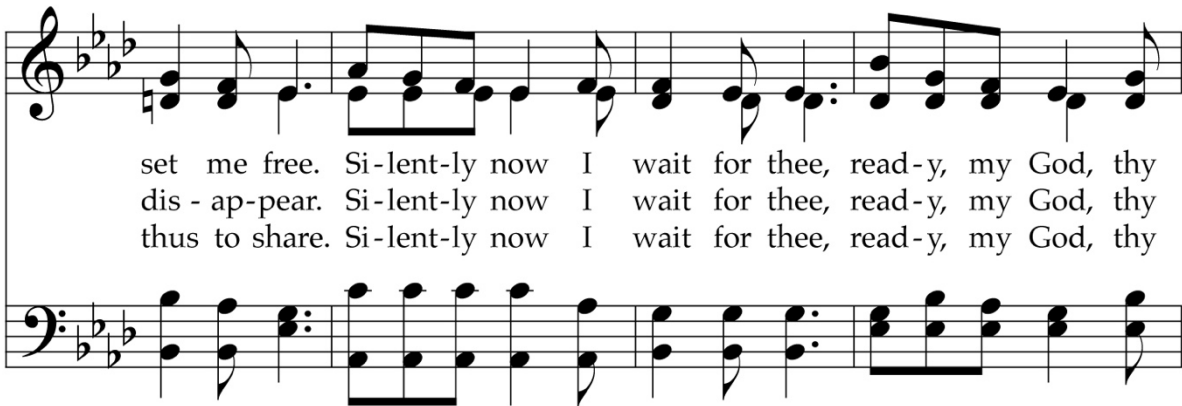
All: **AMEN!**



1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
 2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send-est clear.
 3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un - clasp and
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery-thing false will
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 dis - ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy



will to see. O-pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!
 will to see. O-pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!
 will to see. O-pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!

GATHERING PRAYER

God of wonder and glory, this world around us is awesome. You created it! You continue to hold it together, even as we threaten to tear it apart.

We come to you just now thirsting for your living water. Guide us to the streams of your wonder and glory, your justice and righteousness, your grace and mercy, that we may drink and be satisfied, renewed for our continuing journey with Jesus. Amen

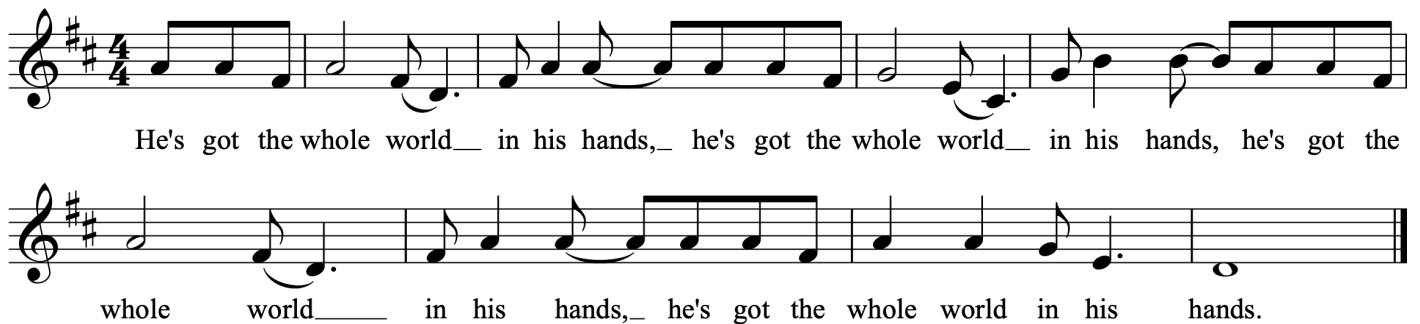
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

During the sung response, children will depart for Church School

RESPONSE

He's Got The Whole World



FIRST LESSON

Luke 15: 1-10
The Message
Joe McBride

By this time a lot of men and women of questionable reputation were hanging around Jesus, listening intently. The Pharisees and religion scholars were not pleased, not at all pleased. They growled, “He takes in sinners and eats meals with them, treating them like old friends.” Their grumbling triggered this story.

“Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and lost one. Wouldn’t you leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the lost one until you found it? When found, you can be sure you would put it across your shoulders, rejoicing, and when you got home call in your friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Celebrate with me! I’ve found my lost sheep!’ Count on it—there’s more joy in heaven over one sinner’s rescued life than over ninety-nine good people in no need of rescue.

“Or imagine a woman who has ten coins and loses one. Won’t she light a lamp and scour the house, looking in every nook and cranny until she finds it? And when she finds it you can be sure she’ll call her friends and neighbors: ‘Celebrate with me! I found my lost coin!’ Count on it—that’s the kind of party God’s angels throw every time one lost soul turns to God.”

ANTHEM

Fill-A-Me Up
Pepper Choplin (b. 1957)
The Chancel Choir
Carol Woodman, soprano

*Fill-a-me up, come-a Holy Spirit, fill-a-me up to the top of my soul.
Fill-a-me up, come-a Holy Spirit, fill-a-me up now and take control.
So many things try to take control. So many things try to weigh me down.
Fill-a-my heart now until you stay and chase the other things away.
Now my heart is an open door. Here your spirit is welcome, Lord.
Fill-a-my heart and let it grow and change my life so all will know.*

SECOND LESSON

Luke 15: 11-24
The Message

Then he said, “There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, ‘Father, I want right now what’s coming to me.’

“So the father divided the property between them. It wasn’t long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to feel it. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn-cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

“That brought him to his senses. He said, ‘All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I’m going back to my father. I’ll say to him, Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.’ He got right up and went home to his father.

“When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: ‘Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’

“But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ And they began to have a wonderful time.

MESSAGE

Come Join The Party
Reverend Patrick Collins

O-pen the eyes of my heart, Lord. O-pen the eyes of my heart;

I want to see you; I want to see you;

to see you high and lift - ed up,

shin-ing in the light of your glo - ry. Pour out your

pow-er and love as we sing "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly."

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, I want to see you.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

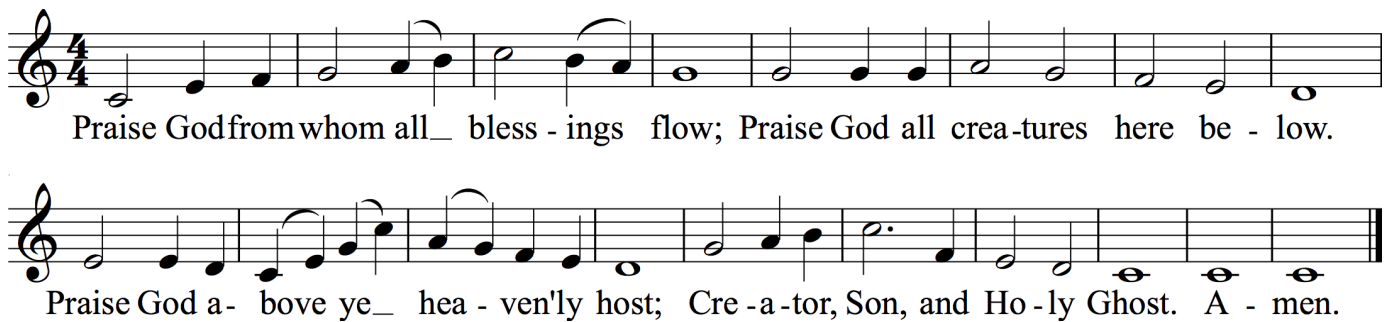
CALL TO OFFERING

Barbara Norrgard

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sing A Song Of Joy
Jane Marshall (1924-2019)
The Chancel Choir

DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all_ bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low.

Praise God a- bove ye_ hea - ven'ly host; Cre - a - tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
2 I'm gon-na work so (work so)
3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -

where, Lord, an - y - time!
(an - y - time!)
I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na

live so (live so)
work so (work so)
pray so (pray so)
sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -

where, Lord, (my Lord,) an - y - time!
(an - y - time!)

BENEDICTION

DANCE PARTY

Celebrate
Kool and the Gang

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COVID-19 MASK POLICY UPDATE

WORSHIP:

The Re-Opening Task Force met recently and determined **we will continue to wear masks during the worship hour.** From the beginning of the pandemic, the Re-Opening Task Force decided to wait 30 days after any changes were made to community wide policies and procedures out of an abundance of caution. We are following that protocol on masking guidance in addition to taking into consideration that our youngest church members can still not be vaccinated. The task force will meet next week and decide on the use of masks during worship. We look forward to seeing everyone's beautiful faces during worship, singing and praying to our God and Creator, which we sincerely hope will be soon.

NON-WORSHIP:

The Re-Opening Task Force recognizes that the groups using our spaces during the week and on the weekends serve populations who are eligible for full vaccination, which is our best tool for protection from the virus. **As such, the task force determined it was safe to follow the community protocols to go mask optional.** All committees, groups, and outside organizations now have the choice to mask while in the building.

TODAY'S EVENTS



Community Hour in the auditorium is back!
During our time of fellowship masks are optional.
Please participate as you feel comfortable.

Children begin in church with their families and will go to their classes after the Children's Message. Church School Task Force members and teachers are in the hallway to help children find their classrooms.



Children will return to the Meetinghouse for the Last Hymn for a special musical "event" at the end of the service. Teachers and Task Force members will help direct the children back to the meetinghouse.

Don't forget to participate in the Peace Dove Project. Supplies and directions will be in the back of the church and in Community Hour.

Next Sunday **we will be in Church School** even though it is a Communion Sunday.

REHEARSALS FOR CHERUB, CHILDREN, & YOUTH CHOIRS

After an extended pause for Omicron, our youngest choirs have resumed rehearsals. All staff and participants are masked. During this winter/early spring session, this is a perfect opportunity to explore a bit of singing with these groups.

Cherub Choir Kindergarten – 2nd Grade: Carol Woodman, director;
Silver Room (lower level/preschool area) 11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Children's Choir 3rd Grade – 6th Grade: Craig Symons, director;
Music Room (3rd floor/choir room area) 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Youth Choir 7th Grade – 12th Grade: Danny Young, director;
Choir Room (3rd floor) 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

LENT AT FIRST CHURCH



NEXT WEEK IN WORSHIP

Sunday, April 3

Every Sunday in Lent we will experience an element of worship using our bodily senses. Next Sunday we will join in the ritual celebration of communion with an added anointing element.

LENTEN DINNER

Tuesday, March 29, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Auditorium

Join us this Tuesday for a community meal hosted by the Caring Ministries. Following our meal everyone is invited to walk the labyrinth in the Meetinghouse.

LENTEN PROJECT 2022 - APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

Uniting in prayer, action, and giving - please join in supporting our 2022 Lenten Project, The First Congregational Church Appeal for Ukraine. We are asking for donations to relieve the emergency needs of those affected by the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and neighboring countries. Donations will be divided among three highly respected agencies. They are:

Americares

International Rescue Committee

United Church of Christ - Ukraine Emergency Appeal

To give to the First Congregational Church Appeal for Ukraine, go to My First Church and select Appeal for Ukraine from the drop-down menu. You may also send a check to First Church with "Appeal for Ukraine" in the memo line, or text FCCOG UKRAINE to 73256.

Because of the immediacy of the need, we will make an initial allocation of funds as soon as we have raised a meaningful amount. Please give this your prompt prayerful consideration.

We stand as a people of faith in love and compassion with the people of Ukraine and all who are affected.

Questions? Please contact laurenghaffari@gmail.com

Easter Flowers and Brass

The Deacons invite contributions for flowers & brass in the Meetinghouse this Easter. You may give to one, the other, or both. Any amount is welcome. Any amount is welcome.

Please deliver this completed form with your check to the Church Office
(payable to *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*)
on or before **Sunday, April 10.**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Please accept my contribution to the (check one or both):

_____ Easter Flower Fund

_____ Easter Brass

In MEMORY of:

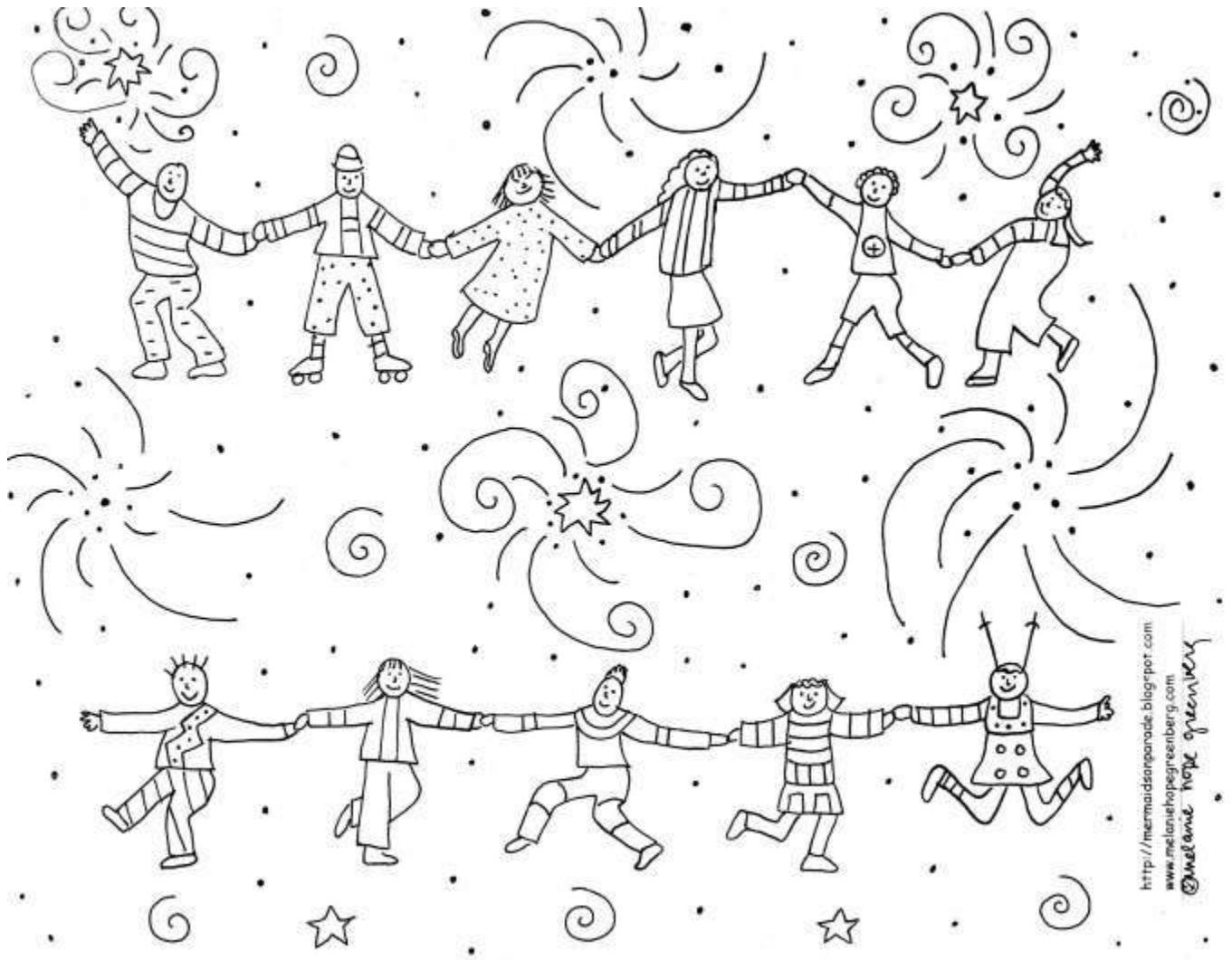
In HONOR of:

By:

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____

(Please print names legibly to minimize spelling errors.)

COLORING PAGE



<http://mermaidsongparade.blogspot.com>

www.melaniehopegreenberg.com

Melanie Hope Greenberg

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

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Associate Pastor
Minister of Music
Faith Formation and Education Coordinator
Parish Nurse
Church Office Coordinator
Director of Public Relations
Livestream Director
Audio Technician
Database Administrative Assistant
Sextons
Sunday Sexton
Director of Preschool
Pastors Emeriti

Reverend Patrick Collins
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke
Dr. Craig Scott Symons
Rosemary Lamie
Susan Asselin, RN
Wendy Spezzano
Stephen Lucin
Daniel Lepoutre
Bob Small
Sue Wilder
Curtis Gay, Qasim Hussaini
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a just world for all