

Today!

10:00am Worship in the Sanctuary, Zoom, and Live Stream
10:15am Sunday School (following Holy Communion)
11:00am Coffee Hour and Social Time in Fellowship Hall
12:30pm Boston Renewal Church Worship and Gathering

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATIONS

A **Memorial Service** to Celebrate the Life of Marion Nelson will Be held in the sanctuary of East Congregational Church of Milton, on Zoom, and Live Streamed on **Friday, February 9 at 11:00am**. A collation will follow the service in Fellowship Hall.



NOURISH is our collaborative weekly shared meal and program for adults, youth and children on Wednesday evenings co-hosted by East Congregational and First Congregational Churches of Milton. We typically alternate locations and will be finalizing those soon!

SAVE THESE DATES FOR NOURISH

WINTER

WED. FEB. 28 @ 6:00pm
WED. MARCH 6 @ 6:00pm
WED. MARCH 13 @ 6:00pm
WED. MARCH 20 @ 6:00pm

We will take following four weeks, including Holy Week off, and then offer another four-week session:

SPRING

WED. APRIL 24 @ 6:00pm
WED. MAY 1 @ 6:00pm
WED. MAY 8 @ 6:00pm
WED. MAY 15 @ 6:00pm

COMMUNITY FORUM

Sunday, February 4, 3-5:00 pm
Pierce Middle School, 451 Central Ave, Milton, MA

In collaboration with MICA (Milton Interfaith Clergy Association), Celebrate Milton, Milton for Peace, and many engaged citizens.

How Do We Dwell Together in Peace?

Addressing the Turmoil of Perspectives on the War in Gaza and Surrounding Territories

We invite participants to bring your questions, your openness, and your willingness to respect differences. This is not a time for answers, pronouncements, or divisive judgment. It is a time to listen, to be heard, and to reach toward mutual abiding and shared dignity.

We will frame this beginning conversation with these values:

- The horrors of war and tactics of terrorism create devastating repercussions.
- The practice of peace begins with ourselves.
- Diversity flourishes in respectful learning environments.

Please bring your courage, your curiosity, your grief, and your honesty as we engage in this complex and painful situation.

OUR EAST CHURCH STAFF

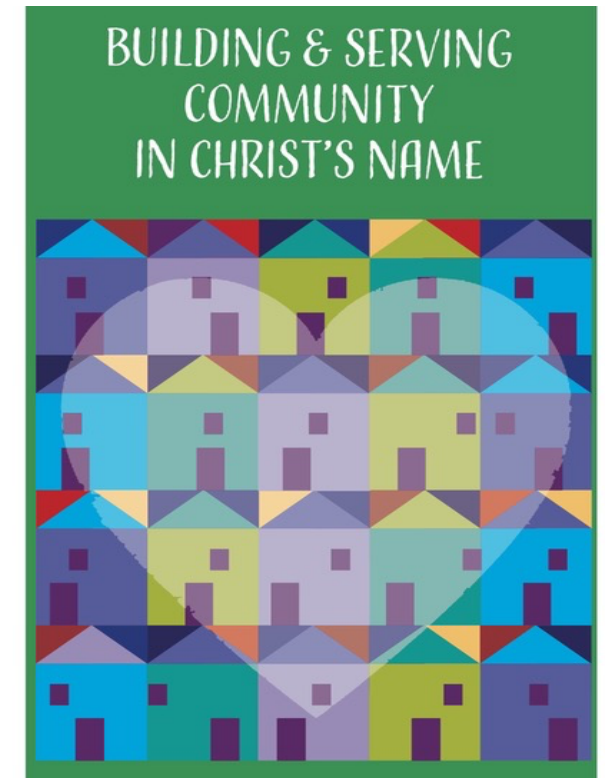
Rev. Shelly Davis, *Pastor*
available anytime by phone or email:
215-264-6332, pastor@eastchurch.org

Lynn Salmonsens, *Organist & Choir Director*
Beth Olson, *Director of Christian Education*
Helen Duncan, *Nursery Attendant*
Stephen Natale, *Caretaker & Sexton*
Catherine Hill, *Office Manager*

610 Adams Street, Milton, MA
617-698-0270
www.eastchurch.org

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 28, 2024



EAST CHURCH UCC

610 Adams Street, Milton, MA

www.eastchurch.org

The (*) is an invitation to rise in body or spirit as you are able.
For Prayers and Responses in **BOLD** we lift our voices in unison.

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Bethany Southbridge

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATIONS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God of our hope and our blessing,
ALL: we gather this morning as your church.
One: Bless those who are absent, but not from our hearts.
ALL: Bless those who are distant, but not from your love.
One: Bless each of us as we gather now,
that we may kindle justice in our spirits,
ALL: draw kindness from the wells of our souls,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

*HYMN All Beautiful the March of Days Black 434

*OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

The luminous God shines in our places of shadow.
We join our voices now in confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,
in Christ you call us to unity of mind
and purpose,
yet we confess that our hearts
are often turned toward separation and division.
We quarrel; we encourage rivalries;
we tear down our neighbors in faith.

Help us to remember that we are baptized as one body
into Christ’s death and resurrection. Teach us to hold
fast to the promises that draw us together in the Spirit,
so that we may proclaim the power of Christ’s life and
ministry, and God’s grace and love, with our many gifts
and your one Spirit. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Hear and receive this good news: there is no place,
not even in our hearts, where the love of God cannot
find a way in. God is around and among us, healing,
restoring and calling us to new life as one body,
united in Christ.

*A SIGN OF UNITY AND RECONCILIATION

Words and gestures of peace are shared as we rise, in body and spirit,
in the sanctuary of our building and in the sanctuaries of our homes
through the Zoom chat.

A MOMENT FOR ALL AGES

Our children and teachers now depart for Sunday School
as we all sing:

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
In my love’s baptismal river, I have made you mine forever,
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

WE ENCOUNTER GOD’S WORD

ANTHEM My Lord, What a Mornin’ Arr. Helvey

SCRIPTURE Psalm 111
Mark 1:21-28

SERMON Possessed Pastor Shelly

*HYMN Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant Black 539

WE OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

AN OFFERING OF GRATITUDE

OFFERTORY Praise the Lord! Sing Hallelujah Arr. Leavitt

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from who all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

WE PRAY TOGETHER

SHARING OUR JOYS, SORROWS, AND UNCERTAINTIES
(through our Zoom chat and in person, on our green prayer cards)

God is good. All the time. All the time.
All the time.
God is good.

PASTORAL PRAYER

OUR LORD’S PRAYER (saying Debts and Debtors)
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, for ever. Amen.
We have come to know God and the kingdom of God by many different
names and images. Please use the ones that speak from your heart today.
(e.g. Father, Mother, Creator, God...Kingdom, New Earth, New Realm, Kin-dom...)

*HYMN In the Midst of New Dimensions Black 391
(verses 1, 2 & 3)

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Toccata Jubiloso Peterson

IN OUR PRAYERS

Prayers of sympathy and love continue for Mark, Joe & Kendal
& Callum, and Liz, as they mourn the passing of their daughter,
sister and aunt, Melissa.

Prayers of healing and wholeness for Helga, and for Pablo,
Christian, Elsa, and Andreas as they surround Helga with their
love and care.

Prayers without ceasing for Ann and Peter.

Prayers for all the people of, and peace in, Gaza, Israel, The
West Bank and throughout the Middle East.

Prayers of healing and wholeness for Tom and Betsy and Mike.