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First Church of Christ in Lynn
Congregational
LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS
Gathered, Sunday, June 8, 1632

Lenten Season 2014

A Message from the Pastor

As I write this message for the newsletter, we are waiting for our 8th snowstorm of the new year. It certainly has been a winter to remember, or maybe, to put out of our minds. It is pretty and difficult at the same time. But just around the corner is spring, and I think most of us are looking forward to that.

In the spring comes also the season of Lent, culminating in the celebration of Easter. This is the highest Christian holiday of the year and if there is one thing that stands out in this season it is the concept of love. I see the cross as representing, not the death and agony we often assign to it, but rather the life-giving portrait of a man given to love who gave love that we might have love. Even when Jesus walked what was later referred to as 'the way of the cross', and death was a reality to Him, He realized that nothing could ultimately destroy His life or ours.

In this story, we come to recognize something profoundly moving, a power that touches us, creating in us a new life and we are driven to say, "God was in that life." You see, Jesus first reveals the source of life and then empowers us to enter it.

Love, that creative essence in all of us cannot grow unless given away and is present in all

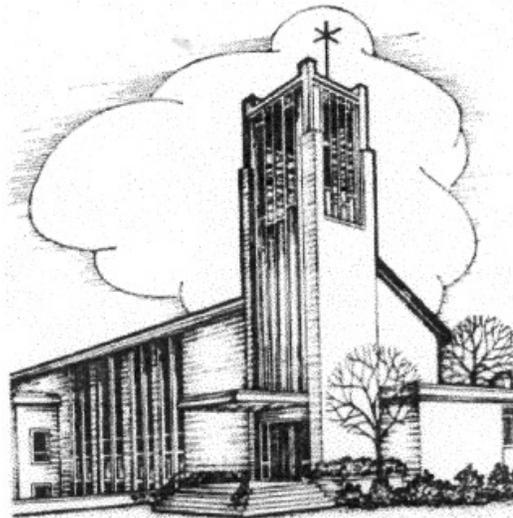
of life. Notice how a cat will lovingly wash its kittens or two adult cats wash each other, or a bird works tirelessly to build a nest for the young or two doves couple in a life-long partnership. It is a life-giving and affirming love in all of nature. This love expands even more profoundly in the human experience, the absence of such is often fatal where its presence is the source of life and growth. It calls us into being, to explore life, transcends barriers, unites and enhances life. If life is holy and sacred, which I believe it is, and if love enhances and expands that love, then love is holy also.

The Easter story, then, as I see it, is an invitation to love life in all its glory and even its difficulties, to expand your life right now where you are regardless of age, economic position or health and to recognize our God as the ground of all that is; the giver of life and love to His son and then it gets passed on to us. Jesus then invites all people to step into the power of living fully, loving wastefully and having the courage to be all that we can be. To that end, may we experience God in our lives, in our church, family and in all experiences of life.

God bless all during this very special season,
Alan

**The First Church of Christ in Lynn, Congregational
678 Lynnfield Street
Lynn, MA 01904**

The Steeple News



**First Church of Christ in Lynn
Congregational
LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS
Gathered, Sunday, June 8, 1632**

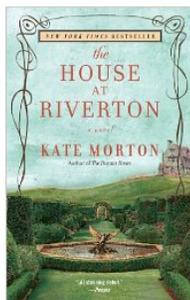
**All are
Welcome!**

Location:
8 Farm Avenue,
Peabody



Please let Eileen Ferguson or Kelly Chatterton know if you would like to join us.

March 30, 2014



The House at Riverton is a gorgeous debut novel set in England between the wars. Perfect for fans of *Downton Abbey*, it is the story of an aristocratic family, a house, a mysterious death and a way of life that vanished forever, told in flashback by a woman who witnessed it all and kept a secret

for decades.

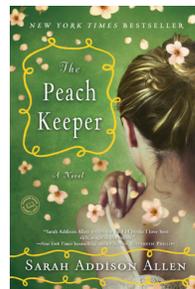
Grace Bradley went to work at Riverton House as a servant when she was just a girl, before the First World War. For years her life was inextricably tied up with the Hartford family, most particularly the two daughters, Hannah and Emmeline.

In the summer of 1924, at a glittering society party held at the house, a young poet shot himself. The only witnesses were Hannah and Emmeline and only they -- and Grace -- know the truth.

In 1999, when Grace is ninety-eight years old and living out her last days in a nursing home, she is visited by a young director who is making a film about the events of that summer. She takes Grace back to Riverton House and reawakens her memories. Told in flashback, this is the story of Grace's youth during the last days of Edwardian aristocratic privilege shattered by war, of the vibrant twenties and the changes she witnessed as an entire way of life vanished forever.

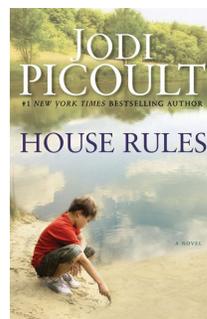
The novel is full of secrets -- some revealed, others hidden forever, reminiscent of the romantic suspense of Daphne du Maurier. It is also a meditation on memory, the devastation of war and a beautifully rendered window into a fascinating time in history.

April 27, 2014



It's the dubious distinction of thirty-year-old Willa Jackson to hail from a fine old Southern family of means that met with financial ruin generations ago. The Blue Ridge Madam—built by Willa's great-great-grandfather and once the finest home in Walls of Water, North Carolina—has stood for years as a monument to misfortune and scandal. Willa has lately learned that an old classmate—socialite Paxton Osgood—has restored the house to its former glory, with plans to turn it into a top-flight inn. But when a skeleton is found buried beneath the property's lone peach tree, long-kept secrets come to light, accompanied by a spate of strange occurrences throughout the town. Thrust together in an unlikely friendship, united by a full-blooded mystery, Willa and Paxton must confront the passions and betrayals that once bound their families—and uncover the truths that have transcended time to touch the hearts of the living.

June 1, 2014



When your son can't look you in the eye . . . does that mean he's guilty?

Jacob Hunt is a teen with Asperger's syndrome. He's hopeless at reading social cues or expressing himself well to others, though he is brilliant in many ways. But he has a special focus on one subject—forensic analysis. A police scanner in his room clues him in to crime scenes, and he's always showing up and telling the cops what to do. And he's usually right.

But when Jacob's small hometown is rocked by a terrible murder, law enforcement comes to him. Jacob's behaviors are hallmark Asperger's, but they look a lot like guilt to the local police. Suddenly the Hunt family, who only want to fit in, are directly in the spotlight. For Jacob's mother, Emma, it's a brutal reminder of the intolerance and misunderstanding that always threaten her family. For his brother, Theo, it's another indication why nothing is normal because of Jacob.

And over this small family, the soul-searing question looms: Did Jacob commit murder?

EASTER MORNING PANCAKE BREAKFAST



April 20, 2014

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Cost: \$5.00 Adults
 \$3.00 Children (Under age 6)

Join us for good food and Christian fellowship as we celebrate Easter. At the same time, you will be helping the Youth Group achieve their goal of attending the annual conferences held each June.

Tickets will be on sale Sunday, April 6th,
and Palm Sunday, April 13th.

Palm Sunday will be the last day to purchase tickets.
No tickets will be sold at the door.

See Joanne Simpson to purchase your tickets or call
her at (978) 531-1502.

St. Patrick's Dinner

The First Church of Christ in Lynn,
Congregational
678 Lynnfield Street in Lynn
(781)599-3170
fstchrch@verizon.net

Saturday, March 15, 2014 6:30PM
Tickets: \$10/Adults
\$5/Ages 6-12
Free/5 and Under

Please call Mr. Hazen Ward at
(781)598-6886 to make your
reservation by March 9th.

Dinner includes: Corned beef,
potatoes, veggies, rolls, & dessert.



The Nominating Committee is beginning its search to fill all committee and officer positions for the coming year. We cannot effectively operate the Church without everyone's participation. Please contact one of the following members of the Nominating Committee if you are interested in serving the Church in some capacity.

Robert or Nancy Burnham, Robin Prendergast, Ken Soper, Marjorie Stier, Margaret Tattersall.



Agape Jars will be available in the Narthex starting the Sunday prior to the start of Lent (March 2nd).

Please help the Missions Committee to raise money throughout the Lenten season to help the hungry of the world.

All funds will be used to purchase animals through one of our Missions to help those in need.

Αγάπη (AGAPE)

The Greek word for love. Fill this jar during Lent as an act of love toward the hungry of the world.

From Marjorie Stier -

To my church family,

Many thanks for all the prayers lifted for me, and also for the many cards.

I am now at:

Rosewood Nursing Home & Rehab
22 Johnson Street
Peabody, MA 01960

From Claire Cooke -

Thank you for your prayers and cards following my surgery & rehab. I'm happy to say the operation was a success and I'm now home. I'm trying to get my strength back. I miss being at church and hope to see you all soon. Claire Cooke

The First Ladies are busy getting ready for the annual Spring Craft Faire, to be held on Saturday, May 3rd from 9am -3pm. We would greatly appreciate any donations you can give for the raffle, craft, and bake tables. As we did at the Dickens Faire, we will be featuring gift baskets and a Gift Card Wreath on the raffle table. A list of items needed will be posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. We would welcome any gift cards or monetary donations as well.

Please use the Craft Faire flyer enclosed and display it wherever you are able. Bulletin board at work, at a store you frequent, in your apartment, senior center, day care, etc. If you are able to put this flyer up somewhere, please feel free to advertise. If you'd like more flyers, please see one of the First Ladies.

Lenten Schedule

Wednesday, March 5th 6:30PM
Ash Wednesday Potluck & Informal Service
– Church Hall

Wednesday, March 19th 6:30PM
Potluck & Informal Service – Church Hall

Wednesday, April 2nd 6:30PM
Potluck & Informal Service – Church Hall

Sunday, April 13th 10:00AM
Palm Sunday

Tuesday, April 15th 6:30PM
Celebration of Seder, Reservations required

Thursday, April 17th 7:00PM
Maundy Thursday Service – Church Hall

Friday, April 18th 12:00PM- 3:00PM
Interfaith Service – Washington St. Baptist

Sunday, April 20th Easter
8:00AM - Pancake Breakfast
10:00AM – Worship Service

Youth Notes

The youth group at First Church continues to be very active. We exist to serve Christ and become more like Him, and all of our events are designed to accomplish this goal.

February was a busy month for us with a number of activities. We started the month with our spaghetti luncheon which was a huge fundraising success. The Youth group got together on Saturday before the luncheon and spent a few hours in the kitchen making the meatballs and after we finished we hit the lanes and had some fun at the bowling alley. We also had a movie night in February and a game night.

More important than all of this is that we have continued our youth group nights on Wednesdays. This month we focused on the importance of daily devotions to our spiritual health.

We look forward to the coming spring months which will contain many more events like the above and of course our pancake breakfast on Easter where we will celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,

Andrew Walton
Youth Coordinator



Kensington Bailey Wells (Kensie) was born to Karen & Neil Wells on January 2, 2014 at 9:49am. She weighed 7 lbs, 10 oz, and was 20 inches long. Connor and Grayson are the proud big brothers, and Bob and Nancy Burnham are the excited grandparents.

January

2 Kensington Wells
4 Ed Chatterton
6 David Greenburg
6 Grayson Wells
11 Lois McCormick
12 Carol Fannon
14 Judy McCarthy
14 Melanie Ward
15 David Loehle
21 Clara Weston
28 Helene Sawyer

February

1 Connor Wells
5 Terri Scavo
8 Renee Loehle
19 Eileen Ferguson
19 Robyn Prendergast
24 Jane Meehan

March

2 Joanne Simpson
5 Michael Donaher
6 Shirley St. Louis
8 Neil Wells
14 Dorothy Hodsdon
18 Amy Hanson
20 Allan Hanson
22 Barbara Morrison
25 Fran Spinney
31 Marie Keating

April

4 Sarah Jones
4 Max Loehle
16 Andrew Walton
19 Grace Walton
22 Ryan Prendergast
24 Marjorie Stier
24 Miriam Stier

May

4 Gertrude Olson
7 Jerilyn Cole
8 Nancy Burnham
13 Anne Buxton
17 Judy Geary
17 Keith Soper
20 Jean Soper
23 Abigail Ward
24 Heather Berns

June

6 John Geary
7 Ron Prendergast
10 Nicholas Corbett
14 Cory Ward
15 Lorraine Conway
20 Ken Soper
22 Brenda Chapman
25 Elizabeth Hand
27 Helen Alexander
28 Phyllis Falls
28 Diane Donaher
28 Kim Ainsworth

July

1 Paul Nguyen
5 Christopher Cole
5 Matthew Cole
9 Joshua Ward
10 Harold Soper
16 Aaron Prendergast
23 Allan McCarthy
30 Brayden Walton

August

3 Bob Hanson
4 Hazen Ward
13 Alan Ferguson
13 Katie Laferriere
13 Nan McCarthy
18 Matthew Chatterton
20 Claire Cooke
20 Donna Hanson
26 Betty Crowe

September

9 Elaine Curtis
10 Mary Kane
12 Margaret Tattersall
15 Bob Burnham
15 Rev Roberta Chapman
20 Kenneth Loehle
22 Janette Shearer
22 Gail McCarthy
22 Ken Joyce
22 David Nguyen
23 Walter Hand
25 Anne Ward

October

2 Anna Corbett
4 Walter Ainsworth
5 Mary Ramsay
8 Lenore Prendergast
11 Sandy Dedrick
16 Nicole Dedrick
15 Virginia Feeney
23 Ben Geary
26 John Chapman
27 Tim Geary
29 Alice Gosselin
30 Melynda Corbett

November

1 Evelyn Cahill
11 Jason Corbett
12 Kelly Chatterton
15 Paul McCarthy
17 Mildred Simpson
17 Bridget Walton
21 Shaun Hanson
25 Edward Chatterton
30 Susannah Geary

December

2 Amanda Meehan
11 Danny Soper
14 Frank Cole
15 Barrie Wagenfeld
16 Karen Wells
23 Emily Ward
25 Gerald Meehan
27 Deborah Cardano
30 Nathanael Ward





March Calendar

Sun Mar 2 10:00AM Worship
 After church Christian Ed Mtg
 Mon Mar 3 7:00PM A.A.
 7:00PM Bible study
 Tues Mar 4 7:00PM A.A.
 Wed Mar 5 6:30PM Lenten Potluck Service
 Thur Mar 6 7:00PM Choir Reh'l
 Fri Mar 7 7:00PM Gambler's Anonymous
 Sun Mar 9 10:00AM Worship
 After church Deacons' Mtg
 Mon Mar 9 7:00PM A.A.
 Tues Mar 10 7:00PM A.A.
 Thur Mar 12 7:00PM Choir Reh'l
 Fri Mar 13 7:00PM G.A.
 Sat Mar 15 6:30PM St. Patrick's Dinner
 Sun Mar 16 10:00AM Worship
 After church Mission Comm. Mtg
 Mon Mar 17 7:00PM A.A.
 7:00PM Bible Study
 Tues Mar 18 7:00PM A.A.
 Wed Mar 19 6:30PM Lenten Potluck/Service
 Thur Mar 20 7:00PM Choir Reh'l
 Fri Mar 21 7:00PM G.A.
 Sun Mar 23 10:00AM Worship
 After church Finance Comm. Mtg
 Mon Mar 24 7:00PM A.A.
 Tues Mar 25 7:00PM A.A.
 7:00PM Cabinet Meeting
 Thur Mar 27 7:00PM Choir Reh'l
 Fri Mar 28 7:00PM G.A.
 Sun Mar 30 10:00AM Worship
 Mon Mar 31 7:00PM A.A.
 7:00PM Bible study

April Calendar

Tues Apr 1 7:00PM A.A.
 Wed Apr 2 6:30PM Lenten Potluck/Service
 Thur Apr 3 7:00PM Choir Reh'l
 Fri Apr 4 7:00PM G.A.
 Sun Apr 6 10:00AM Worship
 After church Christian Ed Mtg
 Mon Apr 7 7:00PM A.A.
 Tue Apr 8 7:00PM A.A.
 Thur Apr 10 7:00PM Choir Reh'l
 Fri Apr 11 7:00PM G.A.
 Sun Apr 13 10:00AM Palm Sunday Worship
 After church Deacons' Mtg
 Mon Apr 14 7:00PM A.A.
 7:00PM Bible Study
 Tue Apr 15 6:30PM Seder Dinner, Res. Req
 Thur Apr 17 7:00PM Maundy Thursday Ser.
 Fri Oct 18 12:00PM Interfaith Service @
 Washington St. Baptist
 7:00PM G.A.
 Sun Apr 20 8:00AM Pancake Breakfast
 10:00AM Easter Worship
 After church Mission Comm. Mtg
 Mon Apr 21 7:00PM A.A.
 Tue Apr 22 7:00PM A.A.
 Thur Apr 24 7:00PM Choir Reh'l
 Fri Apr 25 7:00PM G.A.
 Sun Apr 27 10:00AM Worship
 After church Finance Comm Mtg
 Mon Apr 28 7:00PM A.A.
 7:00PM Bible study
 Tue Apr 29 7:00PM A.A.
 7:00PM Cabinet Mtg

**Every Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00AM – 3:00PM
 EMS Training in Fellowship Hall**

Christmas 2013



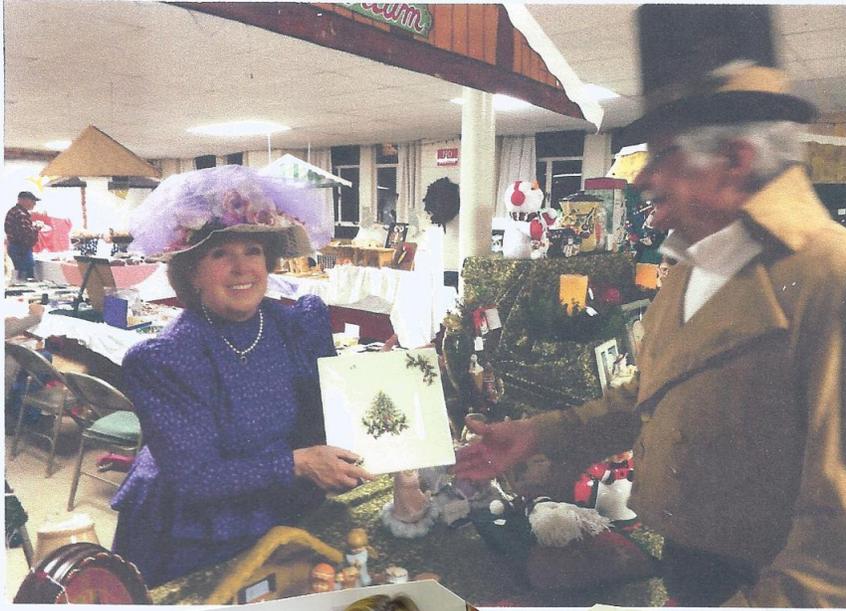
Cookies
Cookies &
More Cookies



Santa his friends



Dickens's Faire







SPRING CRAFT FAIRE

**Saturday, May 3, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**BAKED GOODS
LOBSTER ROLL LUNCHEON
HANDMADE GOODS
MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS
AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!**

**First Church of Christ in Lynn, Congregational
678 Lynnfield Street Lynn, MA**

