

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## HAMILTON, MA

MARCH 8, 2020

### Jeremy McKeen, our Senior Pastor Candidate

The Search Committee and Elders rejoice to present to you Rev. Jeremy A. McKeen as our candidate for Senior Pastor. We have three remaining Q&A sessions we invite you to attend prior to Candidate Weekend. All meetings will be in the Chapel:

- Sunday, March 8, 6:30 pm
- Saturday, March 14, 10:00 am
- Monday, March 16, 7:30 pm

You may visit [fcchamilton.org](http://fcchamilton.org) to learn more about Jeremy and his family and listen to sermons by Jeremy at his current church website, [truthpoint.org](http://truthpoint.org). Candidate Weekend is scheduled for March 20-22. Jeremy and his wife Lindsay will be available for a meet and greet on Saturday morning, March 21 from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm in Heritage Hall. Childcare will be provided for this event; sign up on the clipboards found by the nursery, or in the church and Ministry Center foyers. Jeremy will preach at both services on Sunday, March 22. There will be a reception after the second Sunday service at 12:15 pm with a light lunch in Heritage Hall. You are invited to share questions and comments via email with the Search Committee at [search@fcchamilton.org](mailto:search@fcchamilton.org). The Elders will be announcing a special congregational meeting to vote on calling our next Senior Pastor. Stay tuned for details!

### Parent-Child La Vida Trip for Students

We are hoping to organize an 8-day Adirondacks trip with *La Vida* for our middle schoolers (age 10-14) this summer, with each student participating with a parent or guardian. Parents and guardians are invited to join us this **Wednesday, March 11 at 8:00 pm in Ministry Center Room 23/24** for a quick informational meeting with *La Vida's* Director of Outdoor Education, Nate Hausman. Join us to learn more about the nature of an Adirondacks trip and share your availability so we can plan with you in mind. The session will wrap up in time for you to pick up your students at MS Youth Group! Contact Chelsea for more info.

### Grief Share is coming to FCCH

Grief Share is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Our team is led by John Clark and assisted by Linda Coonrod, Kristina Martinez, and Yuka Langlais. If you are still grieving, please come Mondays, March 16 through June 15 at 7:00 pm in the Café (no meeting on Memorial Day, May 25). It is not necessary to attend all sessions, as each session stands as its own unit. This is open to all. If you know someone who might benefit from this program, please invite them. For additional info on the program go to [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org).

### Red Cross Blood Drive March 19

Help serve our community by donating blood. Join us on Thursday, March 19 from 2:00 - 7:00 pm in Heritage Hall. Your donation can help save more than one life! To make an appointment, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter sponsor code FCCH, or call 1-800-REDCROSS.

### Welcome Visitors

If you're joining us for the first time today, we're glad you're here! We look forward to connecting with you. Please join us at the Welcome Desk downstairs in Fellowship Foyer today after each service to enjoy a cup of coffee and to pick up your welcome gift.

### WOTO (Women On Their Own)

WOTO are planning a local theatre date, on Saturday, March 21, at 3:00 pm to see *The Secret Garden* at the Hamilton-Wenham Community House. Following this performance, we will have dinner together at a nearby restaurant. Please contact Linda Coonrod by March 13 as tickets will need to be reserved. We welcome all women who are single, widowed or divorced, to enjoy fellowship, faith and friendship.

Linda Coonrod  
[lcoonrod47@gmail.com](mailto:lcoonrod47@gmail.com)

### Life After Fifty (LAF) Spring Retreat

The LAF group will once again be going north to the White Mountain Hotel and Resort in North Conway, NH from April 24-26. Our speaker this year will be Paul Edwards. Look for the fliers posted on the bulletin boards throughout the campus and in the Ministry Center and Fellowship Foyers. You must sign up by March 24. It is your responsibility to call the hotel at 800-533-6301 to make your reservation. After making your reservation, let John Clark know, or if you have any questions, call 978-356-7301, or text 978-375-6329. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Special Needs Ministry Network Meeting-March 26

Join us Thursday, March 26, from 9:30 am-12:30 pm in the Chapel as we explore how to more effectively reach out to families affected by disabilities. Liz Babbitt from Joni & Friends New England will lead the meeting. See Christine Hendrickson if you wish to attend, or if you can serve as a hospitality greeter.

### 2020 Women's Tasty Tea

We are pleased to welcome storyteller and author, Jan Carlberg, who will be sharing *Love Lifts for Sagging Spirits* at this year's Women's Tea, Saturday, March 28 at 1:00 pm. Invitations to share with your friends are in the church and Ministry Center foyers. Online registration is now open or you can register in the Fellowship Foyer on Sunday after the services on March 15 and 22. Bakers are still needed and can contact Kelly Lestage. You can also contact Margot Rox, for any details.

### Mission House Work Day

We are excited that as of May 1, the Mission House will be fully occupied through the end of the year. In walking the property recently, we noticed that the yard needs some TLC. Please join me from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on March 28 as we focus on this property. Rain/snow date is April 4. Hope to see you there!

Phil Best  
[facilities@fcchamilton.org](mailto:facilities@fcchamilton.org)

### New Members Class

If you are interested in becoming a member of FCCH or are interested in learning more about the identity, beliefs, and vision of our church, join us for our next session beginning April 26. The class runs for four weeks during the Sunday School hour in the WC Living Room. Contact the church office at [info@fcchamilton.org](mailto:info@fcchamilton.org) if interested.

Children’s Ministries:

- **Bible Signing for Parents of First Graders**  
 Each year, the church gifts each member of our first-grade class a Bible as part of the *Word Milestone* to help new readers prepare to begin their journey through God’s Word. We invite all parents of 1<sup>st</sup> graders to write a note of love and appreciation for God’s word inside the new Bibles, before we present them to the children in the 8:30 am service on Sunday, May 10. **The Bible signing time will be in the WC Living Room, Sunday, March 22, 9:40 to 10:15 am.**
- **All-Children’s Spring Assembly, March 29**  
Please come to the Children’s Ministries Spring Assembly, Sunday, March 29 at 9:45 am in Heritage Hall. All classes and groups from Nursery through Grade 5 will give a short presentation of their year together. New babies born this year (and their parents) will also be introduced.
- **Collecting Egg Cartons**  
Our Easter Fun Kits need 50 paper/cardboard egg cartons. We will be *eggs-tra* grateful to receive your empty cartons through **March 29**. Collection bins are in the foyer. We will also be collecting 50 dozen hardboiled (white) eggs. These may be dropped off in the Ministry Center refrigerator Sunday through Tuesday, March 29-31. Signup sheets for hard boiled eggs are in the MC and Fellowship Foyers.
- **Easter Egg Decorating Day-April 1**  
Bring your children, grandchildren and their friends to decorate Easter eggs on Wednesday, April 1 from 3:00-5:00 pm in Heritage Hall. Each child will take home their hand-painted eggs in an Easter basket, and receive an Easter Fun Kit. All ages are welcome. Invitation cards are available in the MC and Fellowship Foyers.
- **Early Call for 100 VBS Volunteers!**  
Serve with us in this summer’s VBS, July 13-17, from 9:00 am-12:00 pm. To volunteer, see Jared or Christine.  
Christine Hendrickson, Early Childhood Director  
chendrickson@fcchamilton.org, 978-468-1940  
Jared Larson, Elementary Children’s Director  
jlarson@fcchamilton.org, 978-468-1940

Missions Update

- **Tuesday Morning Missions Prayer**  
Please join us to pray for missionaries and missions organizations supported by FCCH on **March 17**. We meet from 7:45 to 8:30 am In Ministry Center Room 21.
- **Amirah**  
Please Join us for *Amirah's* annual fund raiser, *Voices of Hope*, Saturday, April 4 at 6:00 pm at the Crown Plaza, Woburn, MA. Tickets can be purchased online at amirahinc.org  
*Amirah* is a multi-faceted aftercare organization for survivors of sex trafficking, providing residential, outreach, and education services. *Amirah's* goal is to expand into all of New England. This expansion is a multi-step journey that will bring aftercare to more women than ever before. They currently have two safe houses; one on the North Shore, and a recently acquired one in Connecticut, which is close to their goal of being 100% funded and fully staffed!

Youth Ministry:

- **Youth Sunday School 9:45 am – 10:45 am**  
High School: Barn
  - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Café
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Room 11
- **Laser Quest**  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join us Wednesday, March 25 from 6:40-8:30 pm as we head to Laser Quest in Danvers! The cost is \$15 per student (scholarships available). As always, students are welcome to invite their middle school friends. Online sign-ups are required for this event, and each student must have a 2019-2020 FCCH Youth Waiver on file to participate. Parents are asked to drop off and pick up directly at Laser Quest. Signup at fcchamilton.org
- **Join Us On Summer Trips to Nassau and Portland!**  
Current 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to join us in Nassau or Portland this summer as we learn, serve, and grow together. The priority application deadline has passed, so apply soon in order to make sure you get a spot! This year's Nassau trip will be July 18-25 and is recommended for students in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and up. The Portland trip takes place August 2-7 and is recommended for 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> graders. Our next trips meeting for students and leaders will be Sunday, March 29 from 12:15-2:15 in the Barn.
- **High School Youth Group**  
*Getting you through the week since 2015!*  
Join us Tuesdays from 6:45-8:45 pm for games, food, and Bible discussion for a bright spot in your week! This year we'll be looking at the Book of Exodus to see how God rescues His people. We begin each night in the Ministry Center and end in the Barn.
- **Annual High School Broom Hockey Championship!**  
Help us defend our championship title this Friday, March 13 as we take on our and cross-town (friends) rivals at First Pres Ipswich/Danvers! We will meet at FCCH at 9:00 pm for pizza and games. Leaders will provide rides to the Peabody ice rink for our late-night game. All students must have a 2019-2020 FCCH youth waiver to play or to join us on the sidelines.
- **Middle School Youth Group**  
*The best night of the week!*  
Join us for high-energy games, music, and Bible teaching from 6:45-8:30 pm every Wednesday night! This year we'll be talking about what it means to have new life in Christ through our series *ALIVE!* We begin and end each night in the Ministry Center.  
Chelsea Erickson  
978-468-1940  
ckerickson@fcchamilton.org  
Instagram: @hamilton\_ym



**Follow Us!**  
First Congregational Church of Hamilton on Facebook and @fcchamilton on Instagram.

Place Your Order for Easter Flowers!

If you would like to lend flowers for the altar on Easter Sunday, please place your check (made out to First Congregational Church) along with this order form in the offering plate. Place your order by March 29! Don’t forget to pick them up after the Easter Service on Sunday, April 12.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to lend: Easter Lily (\$11 each) #\_\_\_\_\_ Tulip (\$16 each) #\_\_\_\_\_

Given in honor and memory of: \_\_\_\_\_