



By: Erica deWaard

When I reached it,
something was wrong.

The stone had been moved.

Tomb stones are not light things that a grieving woman rolls aside on her way to work. The stone had been carefully placed across the entrance two days earlier. Roman soldiers had even been posted there afterward, and the chief priests had sealed it so no one could tamper with it.

Yet the stone was not where it should have been.

I ran back to the city.

Peter and the other disciple came with me, and they ran ahead faster than I could manage. By the time I arrived they had already looked inside the tomb. They saw the linen cloths lying there and the burial cloth that had covered His head folded up separately. Then they left again, returning to the city still trying to understand what had happened.

I stayed.
The garden had grown quiet again by then. The men were

gone. The soldiers were gone. The tomb was open. And I stood outside it crying.

Grief is strange that way. Even with the stone rolled away and the tomb empty, my heart still thought the worst had happened. I could only think that someone had taken Him. That the last small act of love we had left, caring for His body, had been stolen too.

Eventually I bent down and looked inside the tomb again.

Instead of darkness and an empty stone bench, there were two figures sitting where His body had been laid. One sat where His head had been, and the other where His feet had rested. Their clothing shone in a way I cannot easily describe, like light itself had settled into fabric.

They asked me why I was crying.

I told them the truth. They had taken away my Lord, and I did not know where they had laid Him. Then I turned around. ➡

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*Blessed be the God
and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ!
According to his great
mercy, he has caused
us to be born again to a
living hope through the
resurrection of Jesus
Christ from the dead.*

1 Peter 1:3

HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP AND EVENTS SCHEDULE



PALM SUNDAY

March 28th
WORSHIP at
10:45 am



SEDER MEAL

April 1st
Passover
6:00-8:00 pm



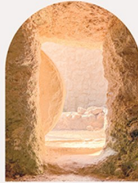
MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2nd
Tenebrae &
Communion
7:00 pm



GOOD FRIDAY

April 3rd
Silent Prayer
12-6:00 pm



EASTER SUNDAY

April 5th
Sunrise Service
6:00 am
Breakfast 6:30
Worship 10:45

He's Alive continued...

Someone was standing behind me in the garden.

At that moment nothing about that seemed unusual. The tomb was in a garden after all. Someone had to care for it. Joseph was a wealthy man, and gardens do not keep themselves. The man asked the same question the others had asked.

“Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?”

Through my tears I answered the only explanation my mind could form. I assumed he was the gardener.

“Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”

Looking back, I do not know how I planned to carry a grown man’s body by myself before sunrise. But grief does not spend much time thinking about practical things.

Then he spoke again.



Our church observes the Seder because we love connecting with the roots of our faith in a meaningful way.

The Seder is a beautiful tradition that helps us remember the story of the Exodus and appreciate God’s deliverance. By celebrating together, we deepen our understanding of scripture, enjoy community, and reflect on how these ancient traditions point us to Christ.

Please join us on Wednesday, April 1st | 6-8pm.

There is a signup sheet at church or you can call Jane Ingersoll-Mahoney at 508-498-0823.



The Maundy Thursday Tenebrae is a special church service marking Jesus’s Last Supper by sharing Communion.

It helps us identify with the darkness and loss felt by Jesus’ followers as they experienced his death. Candles are gradually put out to show the darkness of his betrayal and death, and there are readings and prayers reflecting on sorrow. At the end, everyone leaves quietly to think and prepare for Good Friday.



“Mary.”

Just that.

My name.

The voice was the same voice that had once called me out of darkness and restored my life. The voice that had driven the demons from me. The voice that had spoken truth with authority that even the wind and the sea obeyed.

I looked at him again.

Really looked this time.

And the gardener was gone.

“Rabboni,” I said, which means Teacher.

I reached for Him because everything in me wanted to hold on and never let go again. But He gently told me not to cling to Him yet, because He had not yet ascended to the Father. Instead, He gave me a message.

He told me to go to His brothers and say to them that He was ascending to His Father and our Father, to His God and our God.

So I ran again.

Only this time I was not running in fear or confusion. I ran back to the disciples with the words bursting out of me before I even reached them.

I had seen the Lord.

And the tomb we had come to mourn beside at dawn was no longer a place of death at all. It was simply the place where resurrection had begun. ♥



Easter

YOU'RE INVITED

TO CELEBRATE EASTER WITH US

Looking for hope, peace,
or a fresh start this Easter?

Whether it's been a while or this would be your first time, it's a perfect opportunity to find your way back, or experience something new.

Come and discover with us the hope and beauty of this day. Join us at sunrise, for breakfast, or for our worship service, or even all three as we celebrate hope, renewal, and new life!

Sunrise Service at a NEW location!
April 5, 2026 at 6:00 am

Directions to the Sunrise Service are on the right with a map below.

Then join us for Breakfast...
at 6:30 am in Fellowship Hall immediately following the Sunrise Service for a pancakes, coffee, and fellowship.

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE
April 5, 2026 at 10:45 am
Come Celebrate the Risen Lord!

Directions to the
Sunrise Service at
19 Waite Corner Road
North Brookfield

From the church:

Go west on Summer Street from the center of North Brookfield.

Take a slight left onto Bigelow Road at the "Y" intersection and proceed down the hill.

At the bottom of the hill, stay straight onto Waite Corner Road, past Bennett's Hill on the right.

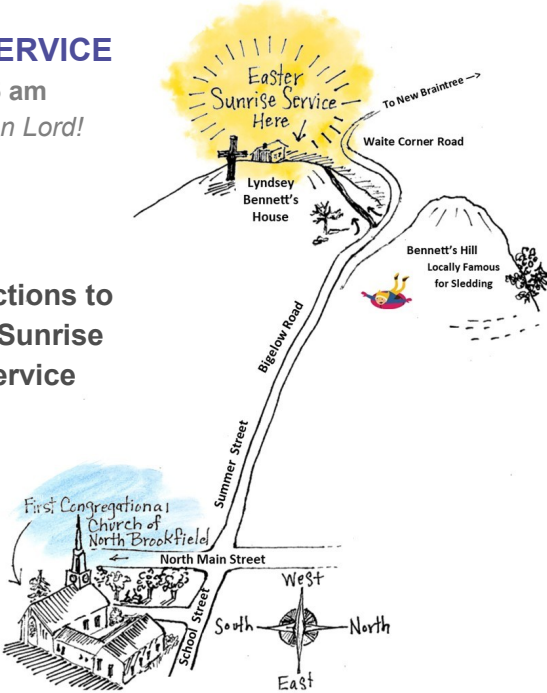
Your destination will be at the top of Bennett's Hill on the LEFT.

There is parking across the street on the right and along the road.

Follow the driveway to the top of the hill for the service.

NOTE: Parking for those who need easier access is available up the driveway, near the house.

Directions to
the Sunrise
Service



Please join us for a
90th
Birthday Party
Honoring
Pauline Dwelly

Monday, April 6th, 6:00 pm
Potluck Dinner in the church
Fellowship Hall

Kindly RSVP to Sharon Combs
by 4/4 at 774-452-6839





For those 65+

Andy Caron	April 1
Carolyn Carlson	April 4
Pauline Dwelly	April 6
Paul Berry	April 6
Maria Evans	April 6
Bob Downie	April 13
Linda Hamill	April 16
Susan Jorritsma	April 25
Mike Palumbo	April 28

Let us know your birth date!

APRIL Dates

Passover Seder Meal: Wed. April 1st, 6-8 pm
Maundy Thursday Service: April 2nd, 7-8 pm
Good Friday: Church Prayer, April 3rd, 12-6 pm
Easter Sunday: April 5th (Sunrise Service 6 am)
Birthday Party for Pauline Dwelly: April 6th
Cabinet: April 9th at 6:30 pm
Men's Breakfast: April 11th at 8:30 am
Diaconate Retreat: April 10-12th



Chet Lubelczyk & Celia Daniels - April 5
Andy & Sue Caron - April 26

April 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



1
Passover
Seder Meal
6:00-8:00 pm

2
10-12 Food
Pantry
**MAUNDY
THURSDAY**
7:00 Tenebrae
Service &
Communion

3
10:15 -12:00
Prayer Group
**GOOD
FRIDAY**
12-6 pm
Church Open
for Prayer

4
9:30 Bible
Journaling

5
**EASTER
SUNDAY**
6:00 am
Sunrise
Service
10:45 Worship

6
9:45 Women's
Bible Study
1:30 Grace
Bible Study
6:00 Pauline's
Birthday Party

7
6:15 Men's
Bible Study

8

9
10-12 Food
Pantry
6:30 Cabinet

10
10:15 -12:00
Prayer Group

11
8:30 Men's
Breakfast
9:30 Bible
Journaling

12
10:45 Worship
3:30-5:30 Spark
& Ignite

13
9:45 Women's
Bible Study
1:30 Grace
Bible Study
6:30 Prayer
Shawl Group

14
6:15 Men's
Bible Study

15

16
10-12 Food
Pantry
6:30 Prayer
Meeting

17
10:15 -12:00
Prayer Group
Diaconate
Retreat

18
9:30 Bible
Journaling
Diaconate
Retreat

19
10:45 Worship
3:30-5:30 Spark
& Ignite
Diaconate
Retreat

20
9:45 Women's
Bible Study
1:30 Grace
Bible Study

21
6:15 Men's
Bible Study

22

23
10-12 Food
Pantry
6:30 Prayer
Meeting

24
10:15 -12:00
Prayer Group

25
9:30 Bible
Journaling

26
10:45 Worship
3:30-5:30 Spark
& Ignite

27
9:45 Women's
Bible Study
1:30 Grace
Bible Study
6:30 Prayer
Shawl Group

28
6:15 Men's
Bible Study

29

30
10-12 Food
Pantry
6:30 Prayer
Meeting



Please notify Deb at the church office for any calendar changes.
Articles, photos, and news items may be sent to deb@firstchurchnb.org
OFFICE HOURS: Tues, Wed, Thur, 9:00 am—1:00 pm

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NORTH BROOKFIELD
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Pastor Joe Shea 508-873-2838