

## Holy Communion

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We celebrate the Lord's Supper (Communion, Eucharist) the first Sunday of the month and you are welcome to participate. During our program year, we serve the bread and grape juice in the pews from trays.

During the summer months and on special occasions, Communion is served by Intinction, where the congregation is invited to come forward to take bread and dip it into the cup of grape juice, and then immediately consume the elements of the Lord's Supper. Rice crackers are provided year round for those who are unable to consume wheat.

Communion is also offered to those participating in church school, and is served to them after the worship service.

We will also provide Communion for shut-ins, those in the hospital, and on request for weddings and funerals.



## Welcoming Statement

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"We the First Congregational Church of East Longmeadow, U.C.C., in response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, strive to be a welcoming community. As an Open and Affirming Church, we accept all people into our faith community, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, physical and mental abilities, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression. We affirm the rights of all persons, just as Jesus affirmed the dignity of every human being as a child of God. Each person is invited and encouraged to participate in all aspects of our church life and ministry and to share in God's love." (adopted 1/7/2018)

First Congregational Church  
of East Longmeadow,  
United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. William R. Wildman, Jr.  
Senior Pastor

Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.  
With Church School and  
Nursery Care provided.

7 Somers Road  
East Longmeadow, MA 01028  
Phone: 413.525.4121

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# Celebrating the Sacraments and Rites of the Church



*We are an  
Open and Affirming  
Christian Community  
where All are Welcome!*

*"God is Still Speaking,"  
come join the conversation!*

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First Congregational Church  
of East Longmeadow,  
United Church of Christ





## Baptism

Baptism is an act of thanksgiving, an expression of gratitude for the gifts of life. It is recognition of the sacred mystery of God's grace which is at the center of life. As such it is understood to be the rite of entrance into the membership of the Church. Baptism is a sacrament of the Christian Church given to us by Jesus' own example.

We see Baptism as a sign of God love and grace, God's renewing power and rebirth in Jesus Christ, and of our welcome into the church of Jesus Christ.

Baptism is recognition of the fact that we are God's children. The congregation has a special responsibility in that all baptized persons are under its care. In receiving the sacrament the person baptized, or parent(s) on their behalf, affirm Christ as their Lord and Savior, and make the commitment to be Christ's faithful disciples in and through the worship and work of Christ's Church.

Baptisms are available for all people of all ages. Persons of age may request Baptism by full immersion, which is available offsite. Please contact the Pastor to schedule a pre-baptism appointment to plan your celebration of God's grace and welcome!

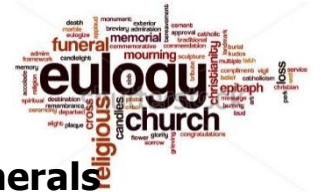


## Weddings

Marriage is a way of life where human love reflects God's love. We perform weddings as a Rite of the Christian Church. Just as God promises to care of us, spouses promise in their wedding vows to be faithful in care and companionship. A wedding at our church is a celebration of God's blessing for a couple that is starting a new life together. We also offer vow renewal ceremonies for couples celebrating a milestone in their relationship, as well as blessings for civil marriages.

At least one or more pre-marital meetings with the Pastor are required. We recommend that couples call as soon as possible in order to book their wedding date and pre-marital meetings. Weddings are not available on Christmas Eve or Day, Holy Week (Palm Sunday through Easter) and Easter Sunday.

Receptions, small and large, are possible at the church in Fellowship Hall. If you are thinking of a wedding reception at the church, make your request as early as possible. Requests for use of Fellowship hall (capacity 160 or 100 seated) are made to the Board of Business and Finance. Please contact us for more information and a fee schedule. Alcohol is currently only allowed for sacramental and worship purposes on church property.



## Funerals

Our congregation is here for you during your time of need. Our church is available for viewings, callings hours, funeral or memorial services, and receptions to celebrate the life of your loved one. Graveside and funeral home services are also available.

Our Pastor is ready to meet with you to plan a service that will both honor the memory of your loved one, as well as help to provide closure and comfort to your family and friends. Pastoral care before, during, and after the death of a loved one is also available.

Bereavement and funeral ministry services are provided by our Pastor to all people, regardless of church or faith affiliation. Please contact us directly or through your funeral director for more information and for a fee schedule.

*God is still speaking,*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

