

The Herald

A Publication of the First Church in Salem, Unitarian Universalist

APRIL 2019

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Get Involved!

Easter Flower Order 10

In the Interim: From Rev. Terry Sweetser

We use a thematic approach for worship and Religious Education at First Church lifting up the precious gift of our community: Each month we explore a different aspect of building and fortifying this beloved community through its people and possibilities.

In April we ponder what it means to be a people of the wholeness. We ask ourselves what we dare and how we can trust each other, to live the lives we wish we could. Wholeness is about, and this is our message for the month, wholeness is about finding the cracks in life that Illuminate what needs to be done for love.

What Does It Mean To Be A People of Wholeness?

Let's say that we're skeptical about rushing in to fix things.

We Unitarian Universalists understand the urge to restore what once was. It's human nature. Who doesn't want to reverse the damage? Who doesn't hold on to the Humpty Dumpty hope that all can be put back together again? But our faith teaches us that this is just not how the world works. Transition and change rule the flow of life. There is no going back. The current of time is just too strong.

And so the wholeness offered us is not that returning our lives to their original state but working with what remains to make something new. The shards are not pieces of a puzzle that needs put perfectly back together, but building blocks for molding into a yet to be imagined form. To be made whole again is to be reorganized, not restored.

Another way to put this is to say that there is freedom in the breaking. The cracks make room for creativity. That's not to minimize the pain. And it's certainly not a way of justifying tragedy as "part of God's plan." Rather, it's a call for us to perceive the broken pieces of our lives as more than just a pile of worthless and ruined rubble. "Look closer," says our faith, "that ash, if worked with, can give birth to a Phoenix."

So, what piles of rubble in your life need revisiting? What longing for what was needs let go so a new wholeness can emerge?

And how might you break open even further? Because that's part of this too, isn't it? "Your broken pieces are more than rubble" is not the only counterintuitive thing our faith tells us about wholeness. It also urges us to "Crack wider!"

As odd as it sounds, we were meant to be broken, broken open to be exact. Over and over again, our faith reminds us that protecting our wholeness is only half the game. The equally important part of life's journey is about letting in the wholeness of the world!

It's about cultivating cracks on purpose. It's about becoming exposed. As Leonard Cohen famously put it "Cracks are how the light gets in."

Broken hearts hurt but they also let in and allow us to connect with the pain of others. Protected hearts may seem safe, but our armor only ends up being a prison. It's one of the most critical but paradoxical spiritual truths there is: Broken people end up being more significant people.

So, in the end, maybe that's our most important "wholeness question": How are your cracks inviting you to become larger? What cracks do you need to cultivate on purpose?

See you in worship.

Reverend Terry

"We can make ourselves miserable or we can make ourselves strong. The amount of effort is the same. Right now we are creating our state of mind for tomorrow, not to mention this afternoon, next week, next year, and all the years of our lives." - Pema Chödrön



The Herald, April 2019

April Schedule of Events

Mon, April 1

7pm HR Committee Meeting

Sun, April 7 Easter Flowers Order Due

9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Choir Service

Tue, April 9

7pm Standing Committee Meeting

Fri, April 12

9am-12pm Garden Clean Up 6:30pm OWL at UUCGL

Sat, April 13

9am Choir Rehearsal

Sun, April 14: Palm Sunday

9am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Archives Committee Meeting 10:30am Choir Service Easter Egg Dying After Service



Thu, April 18

7:30am Breakfast at Maria's 7pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Communion Service

Sat, April 20

9am Choir Rehearsal 9am-12pm Easter Decorating

Sun, April 21: Easter

9am Choir Service 10:30am Choir Service Annual Easter Egg Hunt After Service! 4:45pm Lifebridge Dinner Team



4pm Salem Pantry Bagging

Fri, April 26

6pm Henny Penny Art Show



Sat, April 27

9:30am Salem Pantry Distribution 4:45pm Lifebridge Dinner Team

Sun, Apr 28

10:30am Candidate Service

Around the Parish

Last month **Religious Education** held a Hootenanny for Family Fun Night! The evening included songs, s'mores and evening a camp "fire". Thank you **Deb DiGiulio** and the RE Volunteers for putting together such a wonderful event!







We are sad to share that First Church member and MSC member **Katherine Palmer**'s mother, Ruth, passed away recently. Ruth was a longtime District of Columbia resident, beloved mother and grandmother who had a distinguished career as a journalist and passed at the age of 96. We send our loving thoughts and prayers to **Katherine** and **Steve** and their daughters **Alison** and **Hannah**.

In May long time members **Don Glover** and **Tommy Leon** will be saying goodbye to Salem as they hit the road for lowa as Don has an amazing opportunity with Dobson Pipe Organs. Don served as our Interim Music Director just before our current MD began, and Tommy is finishing his tenure on the Ministerial Search Committee. We're sad to see them go but we've been assured there will be many visits in the future.

We're always on the lookout for news for the **Around the Parish!** Please feel free to email Church Administrator Catherine Bertrand with anything you'd like included. firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com

Thank you!



A P R I L 2 0 1 9						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 7pm HR Committee Mtg	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:30am Service 11:30am New Member Info Session 11:30am Stewards of Hope Luncheon	8	9 7pm Standing Cmte Mtg	10	11	9am-12pm Garden Clean Up 6:30pm OWL at UUCGL	13 9am Choir Re- hearsal
14 Palm Sunday 9am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Archives Mtg 10:30am Choir Service 11:30am New Member Info Session 11:30am Egg Dying	15	16	17	18 7:30am Breakfast at Maria's 7pm Maundy Thursday Service	19	9am Choir Re- hearsal 9am –12pm Easter Decorating
21 Easter Sunday 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Choir Service Annual Easter Egg Hunt! 4:45pm Lifebridge	22	23	24 25 4pm Salem Pantry Bagging		26	9:30am Salem Pantry Distribution 4:45pm Lifebridge
28 10:30am Candidate Service	29	30	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4
May 5 10:30am Candidate Service	Candidate Week: April 27 — May 5: Stay tuned for details!					

Become A Steward of Hope! Make a Financial Pledge to First Church. Stewardship Sunday, April 7, 2019

400 Years of Hope

We are the Stewards of hope planted here in Salem 390 years ago by thirty folks who believed they could perfect themselves and the world. To improve life, these brave people agreed to "To Walk together..." and decide together by democratic vote. A radical idea then and worth supporting now.

The church they founded, our church, was and is the first congregationally governed congregation in North America. They were an independent-minded

group standing against the British governors by insisting on compensating Native Americans for land and by questioning the power the colonial government over the local church.

As we head toward celebrating 400 years as the oldest free church in America, we have an opportunity to imagine how we can keep the hope alive, how we can be stewards of freedom into the future.

[Find more details on the next page!]



Our Stewardship Goal is Simple!

Make a Financial Pledge to First Church ● 100% Participation ● Everyone Becomes a Steward of Hope

How?

The Details:

Signature

- Fill out a pledge Card
- There you tell us how much you can give
- First timer? Consider starting at \$25 a week, more if you can, less if you can't.
- Already generous? Consider raising your pledge \$10 a week, more if you can.
- Get your filled out card to church by Sunday, April 7.
- Pick up your STEWARD OF HOPE tee-shirt!



2019 - 2020 PLEDGE			
(July 1, 2019– June 30, 2020)	First Church in Salem, Unitarian Universalist		
Name(s):			
Address:			
City:	State: Zip:		
Phone: Email(s):			
[See Below for Giving Chart] Pledge Amount Weekly \$	Pledge Amount Annually \$		
☐ I would like to give PER MONTH by Electronic Funds Transf	fer (Please form below.)		

\$1 PER WEEK is \$4.33 PER MONTH AND \$52 ANNUALLY
\$5 PER WEEK is \$21.66 PER MONTH AND \$260 ANNUALLY
\$10 PER WEEK is \$43.33 PER MONTH AND \$520 ANNUALLY
\$15 PER WEEK is \$65 PER MONTH AND \$780 ANNUALLY
\$20 PER WEEK is \$86.66 PER MONTH AND \$1040 ANNUALLY
\$25 PER WEEK is \$108.25 PER MONTH AND \$1299 ANNUALLY
\$30 PER WEEK is \$130 PER MONTH AND \$1560 ANNUALLY
\$35 PER WEEK is \$151.55 PER MONTH AND \$1819 ANNUALLY
\$40 PER WEEK is \$173.20 PER MONTH AND \$2078 ANNUALLY
\$45 PER WEEK is \$194.85 PER MONTH AND \$2338 ANNUALLY

ELECTRONIC GIVING FORM

(Please fill above as well.)

lame	
Bank Name	
Bank Routing Number	
Bank Account Number	
Amount of Withdrawal <u>Per Month</u> \$	
ignaturo	

The Herald Vol. 19, No. 8

Views from the Garden



"Flower god, god of the spring, beautiful, bountiful,
Cold-dyed shield in the sky, lover of versicles,
Here I wander in April
Cold, grey-headed; and still to my
Heart, Spring comes with a bound, Spring the deliverer,
Spring, song-leader in woods, chorally resonant;
Spring, flower-planter in meadows,
Child-conductor in willowy
Fields deep dotted with bloom, daisies and crocuses:
Here that child from his heart drinks of eternity:
O child, happy are children!"



- Robert Louis Stevenson, Flower God, God of the Spring, 1890

Rumor has it that by the weekend, we will see temperatures approaching 60 degrees. I am too much of a New Englander to be unaware of the possibility of snow in April, but for the moment, I am optimistic. The snowdrops have popped, the crocuses are blooming on the berms, and the monochromatic planters on the steps of the Church call out for color and spring blooms. Easter is late this year, so we will have to be patient, but believe me, there is much work to be done in preparation. Below is a menu of tasks and commitments and garden committee activities. We invite you to participate in anything that strikes your fancy. No experience is necessary, and we can accommodate all levels of mobility.

1. Friday, April 12th, 9-12: Pre Easter clean-up

This session will entail a light clean-up throughout the yard. New growth is delicate and easily disturbed, so raking will have to be done very carefully.

2. Saturday, April 13th, 9-11: Clean-up rain date

We will finish any tasks not completed as well as (depending on the weather,) adorn the planters with palms) and arrange the interior displays. We are grateful for the generosity of the Truong family for providing funding for the palm fronds.

3. Saturday, April 20th, 9-12: Easter planters, interior arrangements and altar.

There will also be opportunities to give the grounds a last once-over prior to Easter.

As is our tradition we are again soliciting donations from the congregation for the Easter altar flowers (which you may take home after the service) as well as unrestricted funds for the planters throughout the Churchyard and interior displays (excluding the altar.) An order form is provided, or you may call Catherine at the Church office. We buy wholesale from Nunan's Landscaping and Nursery. Nunan's is definitely not the least expensive, but their plant material is excellent, and many of the plants are grown locally. Please consider buying your Easter flowers through us.

Lastly, I would like to thank Mark Stevens and Valentina Burbank for providing altar flowers in March. We are grateful for your generosity.

At the risk of overselling I will end by quoting Edgar Guest from his poem, Plant a Garden,

If it's drama that you sigh for, plant a garden and get it
You will know the thrill of battle fighting foes that will beset it if you long for entertainment and for pageantry most glowing,
Plant a garden and this summer spend your time with green things growing.



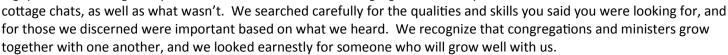
Jan Eschauzier for the Garden Committee: Mary Collari, Brenda Marean, & Lynn Taggart

From the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC)

Just imagine!

By the time you read this, the search committee will be talking with our final candidate about becoming the settled minister at First Church in Salem. We are very, very excited.

We had the opportunity to spend an entire weekend with this person, asking and answering questions; talking in depth about what was said in the congregational survey and the



There was a great deal of interest in First Church amongst searching ministers, and we conducted many interviews. Listening to the various candidates, several repeating themes emerged, causing us to imagine possible next steps for this beloved community. They are ideas worth considering as we move into this next phase of First Church history.

Vision and Mission: Can we articulate why we come together in the form of a shared vision and mission? Can we use that agreed-upon vision and mission to inform and guide decisions of all kinds – from budgeting to social justice activities, from fellowship to social gatherings? How can we live out our deepest values?

Shared Ministry: Every candidate we interviewed talked about shared ministry. The strength of a church community derives not just from the minister; the congregation plays an essential role in ministering to one another and to the world. That kind of ministry can range from simple things like how we interact with and treat one another to bigger things like how we structure and implement pastoral care, religious education and social outreach. How can we at First Church minister to one another and the world? How can we best nurture lay leadership and inspire widespread participation in church life? How do we create a "shared ministry" that by its very nature is simultaneously nurturing and bold, loving and courageous?

A Culture of Abundance: What does it mean to live in a culture of abundance? To recognize and make decisions from an awareness of and gratitude for all that we have? Do we at First Church operate from a perception of scarcity -- that there's never enough of something? Not enough time, money, or love? And if so, how does that affect our thoughts and behavior in things both small and large, from interpersonal interactions to long-term decisions? What happens when one sees glorious opportunities and assumes they're possible rather than seeing the opportunities and assuming there are insurmountable obstacles (like a lack of time, money or love)?

What an exhilarating time to be part of First Church! So much food for thought! Far from feeling daunted by the questions raised in the search process, MSC members are eager to begin the next phase of our walk together with all of you.

As the search comes to a close, it's time to prepare for your part in calling our new minister. We urge you to make Candidate Week a priority and join us for as many events as possible. You will have two opportunities to see our final candidate lead worship and preach: **Sunday, April 28 and Sunday, May 5**. Please try to attend both. Other events will be organized throughout the week so that the candidate is able to meeting with staff, families and committees; we'll release the schedule for the week as soon as it is finalized; please be watching the Friday eHeralds and Sunday Orders of Service for those details.

Please note that our bylaws allow votes only from those present at the time of the election; proxy or absentee ballots will not be accepted. Also in accordance with our bylaws, voting members "appear on the records of the Treasurer to have made monetary contributions to the Society for the year which is concurrent with that of the relevant meeting of the Society."

On May 5, 2019, immediately after the service, we will honor our nearly four centuries as the first American church ruled by congregational polity, and we will vote on whether to call our new minister. Just imagine!

Nicole McLaughlin, for the Ministerial Search Committee

Members: Joe Bayne Theodor

Nicole McLaughlin

Theodora Burbank Katherine Palmer

Jessica Kane

Tommy Leon

Lynn Taggart



Religious Education

Palm Sunday is April 14. Our students will assist in distributing the palms during the Time for all Ages. After the service we have our Family Egg Dying event. Families can bring one dozen hard boiled eggs or email me ahead of the event and I will supply Certified Humane white eggs boiled and ready to decorate. All other supplies are provided. This is a long-standing and fun tradition here at First Church. Every year we try to add a new decorating technique or some other creative twists. This event takes place after Fellowship in Willson Hall. This is a family event and parents should plan on accompanying children.

Sunday, April 21 is Easter Sunday and we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt. This is a noncompetitive fun egg hunt. Everyone leaves this event happy!! Our secret ingredient for making this event noncompetitive is in the eggs, or rather in the amount of eggs! We collect a very generous amount of filled plastic eggs and roll them all out on the lawn next door. The result? Children not feeling the need to



"compete" for the goodies. Older students help younger students, every one shares and we all smile a lot. And if the sun is shining this day makes for truly fantastic photo opportunities to treasure a lifetime!

Thanks to the entire congregation for always pitching in so generously with filled plastic eggs. It takes a village to stage a fabulous Egg Hunt! And we have a fabulous Egg Hunt!

In faith,
Deb DiGiulio
Director of Religious Education

Henny Penny

The Fifth Annual Henny Penny Art show will take place in the Cleveland and Barnard Rooms on Friday April 26th at 6pm. Feel free to join the Henny Penny families as they walk among preschool masterpieces! The pieces chosen range from Kandinsky-inspired concentric circles, self-portrait collages, oil pastel resist seahorses, illustrations with dictated stories, "A House for Hermit Crab" clay sculptures, watercolor butterflies, and more. The gallery will be open until 7:30pm.

Enrollments for September 2019 are being accepted. We have limited 2-day, 3-day & 5-day schedules available. If you or anyone you know are searching for a quality half-day preschool program, please send them our way to learn more about Henny Penny. Thank you to the First Church Members, and to the Standing Committee for your continued support of our small but important early childhood program.



Mr. Michael from Top Secret Science visited us with some fun hands-on experiments for the children. The children were given small bottles of water and added a drop of food coloring. Their eyes were wide as they watch the food coloring slowly flow and branch out in the water. Next Mr. Michael squirted a drop of mica and the children shook the bottles and created a swirling ocean tide simulator in a bottle. They were so excited and engaged with the results of the experiment! Other experiments were taking clear glass marbles and changing them to cracked marbles, and creating lick & stick packing peanut sculptures. Everyone loves when Top Secret Science visits!

We are excited about warm weather around the corner, so we can resume our visits at the Salem Council on Aging. During the first three months of school the children made monthly trips to the Senior Center to have "Stories, Songs & Snacks with the Seniors." The children are excited to visit the seniors in the new Council on Aging building on Bridge Street, as we have yet to connect with them in their new home.

The Henny Penny Teaching Team: Tricia Pini, Lisa Charest, Stacey Dupuis and Barbara Hermann

Events and Goings on At and Around First Church

From Lifebridge Dinner Team

In an effort to stretch their food budget, the Lifebridge Dinner Team is currently accepting ongoing donations of non-perishable food items. First Church prepares meals twice a month according to a fixed menu of baked ziti and salad, so the following specific items are requested:

- -Ziti Pasta (any sized boxes)
- -Plain tomato sauce, tomato puree, or crushed tomatoes (28 oz cans)
- -Olive oil
- -Minced garlic (small jars)
- -Croutons (ideally vegan-friendly)
- -Caesar salad dressing
- -Vegan-friendly salad dressing (no dairy, cheese or anchovies; small bottles)
- -Spices—Oregano, parsley flakes, dried basil
- -Iced tea mix (size sufficient to make 2 gallons of beverage)

Each Sunday you may place the items in one of the well -marked blue plastic bins located outside the Barnard Room. PLEASE DO NOT BRING THESE ITEMS DIRECTLY TO THE LIFEBRIDGE SHELTER.

Thank you,

Paul Marquis, on behalf of the Lifebridge Dinner Team

Message from the Membership Committee

New Member Information Sessions

On <u>April 7th and 14th</u>, there will be short, informal meetings after church in the meeting house for those who wish to find out more about becoming a member of First Church. In addition to the Interim Minister, Terry Sweetser, there will be representatives from the Membership Committee to talk about their history with the church and to answer any questions you may have. If you are interested in joining the church, we will be welcoming new members during the annual meeting on May 12, immediately following the service. Please contact Mary Krigbaum of the Membership Committee (mwartree@comcast.net) or the Church Office with any questions (firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com/978-744-1551).

Archives Committee Meeting

Sunday, April 14 at 9:30am

Everyone interested is invited to the meeting of the Archives Committee, April 14, 2019 from 9:30 to 10:00 AM in Wilson Hall, Room #8 or in the Archives office. Our regularly scheduled meetings are held at this time on the second Sunday of each month. Advanced



notice is not required. Just show up!

Random Acts of Breakfast

Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 7:30am

For all those First Churchers who would like to gather socially in simple ways, Ben Waxman, past chair of Standing Committee, offers the following standing invitation: Every Third Thursday of the month, anyone so motivated can come to Maria's in Salem (10 Jefferson Ave) to join others for breakfast and casual, upbeat chat. There will be no kvetching at these gatherings! (Well, maybe there will be a little kvetching since we are New Englanders.)

General guidelines: Starts at 7:30 am. No RSVPs necessary. Everyone pays their own way. Sometimes there may be just 2 of us and other times maybe we'll have 12 of us. No pressure to show up or stay long. Just an opportunity for us to gather, have pancakes, eggs and coffee, lighten our days, and get to know each other a bit better.





Get Involved/Thank You!!!

Lifebridge Dinner Team Next Dinners: Sun, April 21 & Sat, April 27 at 4:45pm



The Lifebridge volunteer teams of the First Church shop for, cook and serve

dinners at 56 Margin Street on the third Sunday and the fourth Saturday of every month. You can sign up on the clipboard in the Barnard Room on Sundays or using the link in the weekly e-Herald or on the website. You can also join the Lifebridge Team of First Church in Salem, UU Facebook page or send an email to Amanda (roedermusic@gmail.com) to be put on the email list. Thank you to some of our February volunteers: Holly Chase, Nick & Aon Colcernian, Beth Gillett, Sarah Jacobson, Jim Ognibene, and Diane Smith & John Pydynkowski – Shoppers. And to our March volunteers Lucy Bland, Holly Chase, Annabelle Drayer, Amy Imhoff, Elena Imhoff, Ivy Kleinman, Edie May, Shreya Narayanakumar, Amanda Roeder, Livie Thomas, Maria Voss, Doreen Beauregard, Al Freskow, Richard L'Heureux, Paul Marquis, John Pydynkowski, Nese Satirli, Diane Smith, Linda Stark and Peter & Jan Eschauzier – Shoppers.

Fellowship Committee

Next Potluck Fellowships: April 7 and April 21: Easter Fellowship!

March Fellowship was a truly a group effort! In addition to Fellowship hosts, Sarah Blodgett and her beautiful rainbow themed Fellowship, Claire Donaldson, Valentina Burbank and Stephanie, our community donated delicious treats for our Stewardship Luncheon. There are hosting opportunities available in April(please sign up: http://bit.ly/fellowship2019spring) and upcoming potlucks. Your generous contributions to our weekly coffee hour are very much appreciated!



Meeting House Flowers

Flowers beautify the spaces of our church and are a gift to those who attend our worship services. A contribution of altar flowers also provides an opportunity to honor or memorialize a loved one or to celebrate an event. The Garden Committee invites you to participate in this meaningful tradition. Thank you to the Fritz Family for providing flowers during the month of January.

For details about pricing and to sign up online go to

http://bit.ly/2019flowersspring

There is also a signup sheet is available in the Barnard Room or or you may email Catherine in the office at firstchurchinsalem@gmail.comor or contact Jan Eschauzier directly at 978-969-1820 or janeschauzier@gmail.com.



Coming in May: Trustees Presentation

Sunday, May 19 at 12pm

The Trustees will be hosting an information session focused on the First Church endowment on Sunday, May 19th at 12 noon, immediately following Fellowship Hour. Our portfolio managers from Cabot Wealth Management will make a 15 minute presentation, then be available to field questions. They will review the investment process, and then discuss more deeply the manner in which we screen our portfolio. The presentation will also include a handout. We hope you can join us!

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316 Essex Street

Salem, Massachusetts 01970

Phone and Fax: 978-744-1551 Email: firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com www.firstchurchinsalem.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Interim Senior Minister: Reverend Terry Sweetser

Director of Music: Michael Kraft
Director of Henny Penny: Tricia Pini

Director of Religious Education: Deb DiGiulio

Administrator: Catherine Bertrand

Sexton: Billy McCarthy

Chair of the Standing Committee: Marlene Warner

Chair of the Deacons: Eric Kenney





Easter Flowers 2019

Carrying on a longstanding tradition, Easter Flowers are provided entirely by donations received from members and friends of the parish. It's a lovely way to remember or honor a loved one or commemorate a special event. Your generosity will be gratefully acknowledged in the Easter Sunday Order of Service.

If you wish you may take your flowers home with you after the service. You may also prefer to make a seasonal gift toward a spring arrangement for one or more of the six planters on the front steps of the church.

Name	
Email	
Phone	
Given in	honor/memory of/for special event:

Flower	Price	Quantity	Total
Lily 6" Pot: Single Stem	\$7.50		
Lily 8" Pot: Double Stem	\$17.50		
Lily 8.5" Pot: Triple Stem	\$27.50		
Daffodil 6" Pot	\$6.75	-	
Daffodil 8" Pot	\$14.50		
Daffodil 10" Pot	19.50		
Hydrangea Blue	\$25.00		
Hydrangea White	\$25.00		
Azalea White 8" Pot	\$20.00		
Front Step Planters	\$50.00		
Donation to Garden Committee			
TOTAL			

Orders due: Sunday, April 7

You can leave the form and payment in the FLOWER ORDERS folder outside the Church Office or email the order to:

firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com