



The Congregational Church in Wilmington, MA

February 2023



Mustard Seed

Mark Your Calendar

- March 12** Chili Cook off
- March 13 & 27** Mom & Me
- March 3 & 24** Couple's Study

Reminder

March 12 Daylight Savings



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Lighten Your Load



Keeping sabbath, not just on Sundays but throughout the entire week in an integrated way, keeps us sane, says Donna Schaper. While our culture pushes us to move faster, work harder and acquire more money and stuff, sabbath observances promote play, rest, love and worship.

"Sabbath — time for God — is a gift in its origin and in its keeping," Schaper writes in *Sabbath Keeping* (Cowley Publications). "It is not another must; it is a may. God invites us to keep sabbath; God does not demand it."

The commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy, she notes, "is an invitation to a party, not to a hanging. Sabbath keeping is not one more thing to add to our already long lists. [It] is lightness, not heaviness."

You have received this email because you signed up to receive notice of Events & Newsletters from the Congregational Church in Wilmington. To update your preferences, visit www.wilcong.org/unsubscribe

Red Cross Blood Drives

February 23, 2023 2-7 PM

April 20, 2023

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give>



Community Outreach

Fun on the Fourth

Yes, that's right - snow is falling and we are thinking about summer heat. The 4th of July is right around the corner and we have filed our application with the town to have our church booth on the common for the festivities. This year's dates are Thursday, June 29 through Sunday, July 2nd. Information and signup sheets will be coming later - help will be needed with everything from booth set up and baking to donating beverages and selling the food at the booth.



Mom & Me group

February 27, March 13, MARCH 27, April 24 and May 8 2023
at 9:30 - 11:00 AM

for Moms and children ages 0-5.

Moms will have refreshments while the children play

Let Mom's with young children know about this great time

Contact Courtney at cmeaney1985@hotmail.com or

Bianca at gracesmiles@me.com



Chili Cook Off!

We are excited to once again be able to invite our friends and families to join with us for our Annual Chili Cookoff. On Sunday, March 12 at 3pm we will gather in Fellowship Hall to eat and vote for our favorite chilis.

If you are interested in bringing a chili, please let us know so that we can prepare the electrical outlets.


In accordance with Chapter 230 of the Acts of 2014, this is a potluck event for our friends and families. Neither the food nor the facilities will be inspected by the state or by a local public health agency for this event.



Bible Quiz

As Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, crowds praised him loudly. When Pharisees told him to silence the people, what did Jesus say would shout if his followers didn't?

A. Stones
 B. Palm branches
 C. Trees
 D. Hillsides



Answer: A (See Luke 19:40)

Couple's / Young Family Bible Study on Friday nights at 6pm.

- **March 3**
- **March 24**
- **April 28**
- **June 2**

Connect with Bianca at gracesmiles@me.com
 For more information

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Worship

April 2, 2023 10:30 am

Community Good Friday Service Noon

Please check on website end of March for details where

EASTER SUNDAY

Mom & Me Egg Hunt 9:30 AM

*Resurrection Sunday Worship Service
 10:30 am*



Review of Fall Events



fall fair

Trunk or Treat This fall, on October 30th, we held a community-wide Trunk-or-Treat event in our church parking lot. Church members donated candy and many brought their cars which were decorated in various themes. Home Depot made a very generous donation of wooden grade stakes and yellow caution tape which were used to make a 60' x 75' corn-less corn maze on our back lawn. The maze took four people four hours to construct following an idea and plan from the internet. We promoted our event heavily on Facebook in multiple community groups. The day came and the weather was beyond perfect – very warm temperatures for the end of October – and it didn't rain! The event was scheduled for 3:00-4:15 and shortly after 2pm guests began arriving. Complimentary refreshments of cider, hot cocoa, and donuts were set up and families enjoyed visiting the decorated cars, the maze, and sitting on the lawn enjoying their time and snacks. Impromptu parking attendants needed to spring into action as the crowds kept coming – cars were parked on any available lawn space that could be found. Over 250 children were in attendance, and we were very pleased to have an opportunity to host a community event.

Church Fair It was very exciting to open our church doors again this fall and welcome the public into our building for our annual fair – our last fair was held in 2019. We weren't sure what to expect for community attendance and despite the town meeting being held the same day, there was a steady stream of traffic. The Cookie Walk was very popular and at one-point cookies were selling at an alarming rate – it was feared they would run out before Noon! We sold over 1400 cookies and over 900 pieces of fudge – that's a lot of baking! Visitors remarked numerous times about how wonderful everything was and that they could not wait to come again. Even the weather was cooperative so the corn-less corn maze was able to be enjoyed by some. The Proceeds were donated to the Wilmington Food Pantry and also put towards the purchase of a generator for a church in Ukraine. A small amount was given to the church operating fund to cover the cost of heat. It's never too early to think about the next fair – we collect white elephant items year-round, and they can be placed in the closet in Fellowship Hall.

Found on Our Website

Website Our www.wilcong.org website is ever-changing, and we want to highlight the Upcoming Events page as a quick reference page for church members to see what is upcoming. If you have suggestions or comments, please don't hesitate to let Sharon know.

Live Stream The weekly church services continue to be available for viewing live on our YouTube channel every Sunday at 10:30am. You can find our YouTube channel easily by visiting our website www.wilcong.org and clicking the Watch Live link.