

# Welcome to Fort Square Presbyterian Church!



Fort Square Presbyterian Church has long been known for its warm welcome to visitors, its love for God, its unashamed sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and its generosity and caring for one another and those in our community. Our pastor has retired, and we are prayerfully seeking someone who will continue the ministry here in Quincy, MA.



## Our Community



Fort Square Presbyterian Church is located ten miles south of Boston at **16 Pleasant St. in the City of Quincy** on the east coast of Massachusetts. The manse is next door to the church at **28 Pleasant St.**

The most recent Quincy census records over 100,000 residents, a diverse population a third of which are Asian.

There is also a sizeable Albanian presence. Quincy is the most populous of all the cities that make up what is known as the “South Shore” which extends along the coast to Cape Cod. A densely populated urban area, Quincy is composed of ten neighborhoods characterized by its early history: Adams Shore, Germantown, Hough’s Neck, Merrymount, North Quincy, South Quincy/West Quincy, Squantum, Wollaston, and Quincy Center.

Quincy is called the “City of Presidents” and “Birthplace of the American Dream.” It is the birthplace of the second U.S. President, John Adams, and his son John Quincy Adams, the sixth President, as well as legendary patriot John Hancock. Visitors from around the world come to visit the Adams National Historic Park and the Adams Homestead “Peace-Field” (Summer White House), the Church of the Presidents (final resting place of John and Abigail Adams and John Quincy Adams and his wife Louisa), the Hancock Cemetery, The Adams Academy, and the Quincy Historical Society.

Two colleges make their home in Quincy: Eastern Nazarene College, a liberal arts college, and Quincy College, a two-year community college. Quincy is also within a 15-mile radius of more than thirty colleges and universities, including Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Boston College.



Commuting in and out of Quincy is easy. There are four MBTA subway stops linking the city to Boston and to areas north, south, and west. Bus service provides transportation throughout the city and surrounding communities.

The City of Quincy boasts twenty-seven miles of shoreline and numerous municipal beaches as well as many other private, neighborhood beaches. Marina Bay, the largest marina in the northeast, is a picturesque destination with its boardwalk restaurants and shops and beautiful views of the Boston skyline.



Quincy is a culturally and historically rich community. The Quincy Choral Society, The Quincy Symphony Orchestra, and the Quincy Art Association all present opportunities for involvement and enjoyment. Popular festivals include the Annual August Moon Festival, the Christmas Parade, the Flag Day Parade, and the Lunar New Year Celebration.

(Information from City of Quincy, Tourism;  
<https://www.quincyma.gov/>;11.1.21)

## Our History

Fort Square Church has been a presence for the Gospel for over 120 years in Quincy. On July 28,1896, the church organizes with forty members and chooses First United



Presbyterian Church of Quincy, Massachusetts as its name. Meetings are held at Wilson Hall, 110 Hancock St. The church joins the Presbyterian Church of North America. On May 13,1897: The church purchases its current property at 10 cents/square foot. Construction of a church building at 16 Pleasant St., Quincy is authorized at a price not to exceed \$6,000. The new church basement with kitchen, large hall and classroom space is dedicated on September 9,1926.

The basement is dug out and built by members. On October 21,1941 ground is broken for the new educational wing. The manse is built next door to the church in 1950.

On July 14,1957 Session recommends that the church support the merger of the denomination with the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA). The church is renamed Fort Square United Presbyterian church on January 18,1961 so as not to conflict with the existing First Presbyterian Church in Quincy. On January 22,1992: The church votes to drop "United" from its name, now known as Fort Square Presbyterian Church.



Rev. John W. Culp is called as the tenth Pastor on March 25,2012.

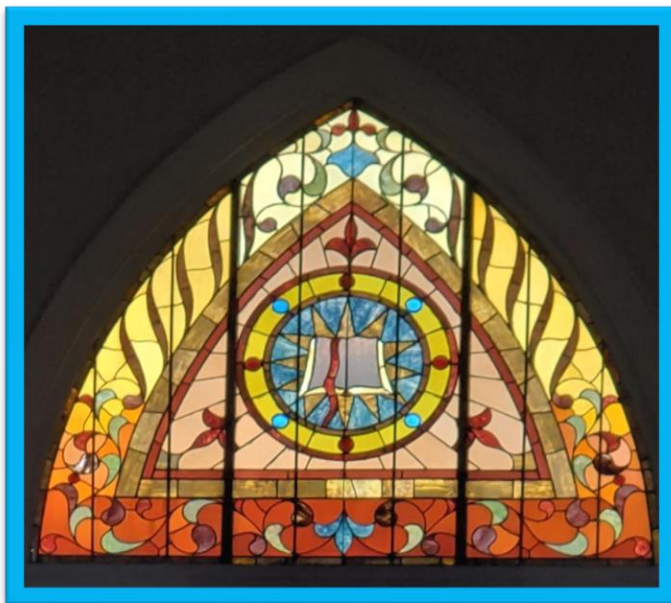
On November 23,2015, the Presbytery of Boston dismisses Fort Square Presbyterian Church from the PC(USA) to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO).

**Rev. John W. Culp retires on June 30, 2022.**

## Our Beliefs

We recognize that there are essential Bible doctrines upon which faith itself must be grounded. These are such doctrines as are evident in the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed, and others found in the ECO Confessional Standards. We believe the following:

- We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the fully inspired Word of God, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and practice.
- We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- We believe that the Holy Spirit personally indwells every child of God, and that He empowers believers to be conformed to the “image” of God’s Holy Son.
- We believe that Jesus was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
- We believe that man, created in the image of God, rebelled against his Creator, and thereby incurred spiritual death, which is separation from God; and that all are sinners and share in the common consequences of sin.
- We believe that eternal life is the free and gracious gift of God, made possible by the redeeming blood shed in the death of Christ on the Cross; and that faith in the finished work of Christ at Calvary is the only means of salvation.
- We believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord; and in His ascension into Heaven where He now serves as High Priest and Advocate for all believers.
- We believe in the existence of Satan, archenemy of God, and in the reality of spiritual warfare.
- We believe in the imminent return of Jesus Christ to claim His Holy Bride, the Church.
- We believe in the sacrament of the New Covenant of Grace, given by our Lord, namely baptism and the Lord’s Supper.
- We believe the Church to consist of those who have received Christ’s saving grace and that together we represent His presence in the world. Our role, like His, is to manifest the Father in word and deed.



- We believe that as the local church it is our privilege to make disciples of all nations, by proclaiming His Word and demonstrating His love.
- We believe God's design for sexual intimacy is to be expressed only within the context of marriage. God instituted marriage between one man and one woman as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society. For this reason, we believe that marriage is exclusively the union of one man and one woman. (*Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9*)
- We believe that God created all human beings in His image. Therefore, we believe that human life is sacred from conception to its natural end; that we must honor the physical and spiritual needs of all people; following Christ's example, we believe that every person should be treated with love, dignity, and respect. (*Psalms 139:13; Isaiah 49:1; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 22:37-39; Romans 12:20-21; Galatians 6:10*)



## **Our Church Today**

Staff: Our Pastor's position is full time. Part-time staff include the Music Director, Sexton and Nursery worker. We are currently seeking a part-time Youth Leader. The Secretary position, also part-time, has been vacant since 2018 and the responsibilities have been taken up by the Pastor and volunteers from the congregation. We plan to hire a part time secretary once we have a new pastor.



## **Leadership:**

- Session is comprised of nine elders who oversee the ministries of the church and the spiritual well-being of the congregation. They are committed to praying for one another on a regular basis seeking guidance from God as they serve as leaders.
- The eleven-member Deacon Board extends the love of Christ by caring for the physical and emotional needs of the congregation. The Deacons' Fund addresses very practical concerns, particularly for those who are most vulnerable in our congregation, such as widows, single moms and their children, and those who are unemployed.
- The Trustee Board with eight members oversees the buildings which consist of the church, manse, and the grounds.
- Other officers include the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and the Auditors.
- Volunteers engage in leading or participating in the life of the church in the following areas: Session committees, choir, the audio/visual team, teaching Sunday school and serving at fellowship events.



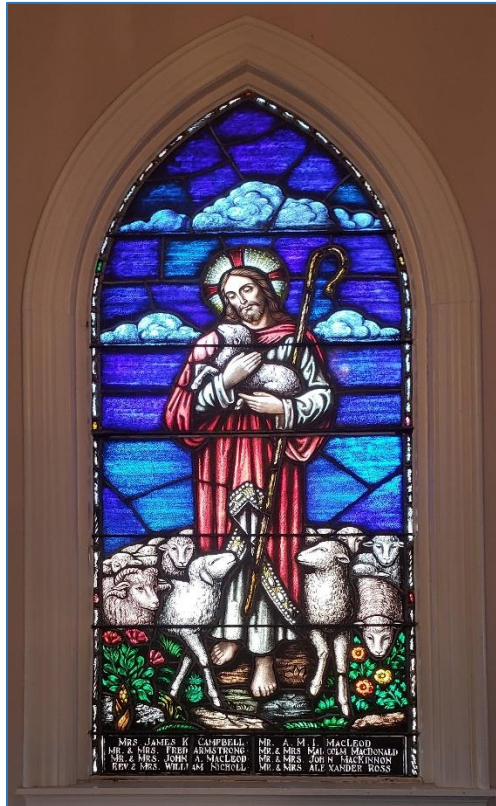
**Congregation:** Fort Square Church has a culturally diverse congregation consisting of eighty-six covenant partners fifty-eight of whom are active. The average Sunday worship attendance is fifty with another twenty-five joining us on live stream and forty or more watching at various times. It should be noted that prior to the pandemic we were averaging seventy-two congregants at Sunday worship.

**Finances:** Our annual operating expenses are \$208,000 and missions giving is \$43,000. Our assets consist of the church, manse, and the land they stand on. We have received one endowment of \$100,000 to be used for missions which currently has a balance of \$30,000. We have no long-term liabilities.

## Our Worship

Visitors at Fort Square Church always receive a warm welcome. Our church is fully handicapped- accessible (doorway ramps and chair lifts) with a sound reinforcement system. Our service begins at 10am. and is live streamed for those unable to attend. It is also available on our Facebook page which can be accessed on our website at [fortsquare.org](http://fortsquare.org). Announcements, scripture, and words to hymns and songs are projected on three large digital screens.

*"Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God."* Psalm 147:1. At Fort Square we believe in making "a joyful noise to the Lord." Both traditional and contemporary music can be heard as well as instruments including piano and organ.



Communion is celebrated monthly using individual prepackaged elements. Any baptized Christian is invited to share with us in the sacrament.

Prayer is central to our worship. We believe that God hears and answers our prayers. A portion of the service is dedicated to sharing both joys and concerns.





## Our Congregational Care and Evangelism



Jesus' greatest commandment was *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind; the second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* He also said: *"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation."*

Fort Square Church believes that loving God, loving others, and sharing the Good News is at the core of who we are as

individuals and corporate members of the Body of Christ. This is expressed through programs and events coordinated by the Congregational Care and Evangelism Committee. Goals for the coming 2022 year include the continuation of the following ministries:

- ❖ Journeying Through Grief
- ❖ The Evangelism Tools Table
- ❖ Provide the Evangelism Tools table for city polling at the church during 2022
- ❖ Church Family Calling: caring calls made to congregants who have been missed at worship
- ❖ Jesus Meant It! Part of the mission of the **Congregational Care and Evangelism Committee** is to do what we can to help promote strong loving and caring relationships within our church family. To that end, each month we provide a suggestion of a practical, concrete way every member of our Fort Square family can obey Christ's commandment to us
- ❖ Special fellowship events: Our Cameroonian members often host luncheons at their homes to which church members are invited.

**Plans under consideration include the following:**

- The development of a Spiritual Growth Ministry that would involve the commitment of the church family
- Small Group Bible Studies in the fall and spring; topics to be determined by a congregational survey
- Church family luncheons/ brunches during the year; Fall Rally Day and special events
- Participation in Quincy City parades/events to spread the Gospel by handing out tracks and information (door hangers) about our Fort Square Church events
- Continued development of outreach programs in the Quincy community.

Other ongoing ministries and projects include Friendship Circle, a Free Clothing Ministry and Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child. The church also has over thirty-five years sponsorship of AA and Al Anon groups.



The church maintains a Prayer Chain where volunteers pray for concerns or requests submitted by members.



## Our Christian Education Programs

Fort Square Church has always valued Christian education for children, youth, and adults. We believe it is imperative that we grow in our knowledge of the Bible and in our relationship with Christ. By providing opportunities for study, we equip our people for the challenges of today's world. We encourage the sharing of one's faith and the hope that is found in Jesus alone. Free nursery care for infants and toddlers is available during Sunday School (9:00am – 9:45am) as well as during morning worship (10:00 – 11:15am).



At present we offer Sunday School classes for children in Pre-K to Grade 5 on Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 9:45am before the worship service and a confirmation class for youths Grade 6-12. A class for adults is held at the same time. A twice monthly Children's Church Program for those in Grades K to 5 is scheduled during the sermon portion of the worship service. It offers a children's Bible message and corresponding craft time. Plans for the Youth Group are underway. All Fort Square teachers, volunteers, and caregivers are trained and certified in child safety. In addition, those who work with children have completed a CORI check.

Our church also has a state-of-the-art video camera security system designed to allow us to monitor every area of our church building.

## Our Outreach to Albanian Immigrants

The world is coming to Boston. Like other major cities, the capital of Massachusetts has become home to many thousands of new Americans from around the globe. Immigrants from Albania are well represented in that number. Recognizing that reality, and already having several Albanian families in our congregation, Fort Square Church answered God's call to reach out intentionally to this significant population, in Quincy and other nearby communities on Boston's South Shore. On March 3, 2020, the church's Albanian Outreach Ministry was established under the leadership of Filip and Valbona Nikolla. Several different activities have been at the heart of ministry throughout the past years. Since sharing the Gospel is such a deeply personal matter, building relationships has been the key thread tying each of these strategies together. These gatherings are focused on building relationships through Bible studies, sharing meals, and having fun together.



## Our Missions

Fort Square has had a long tradition of not only supporting missionaries but also sending them out. Fort Square has faithfully prayed for missionaries since it was founded and continues to have a heart to spread the gospel across the globe and in our local community. Our Missions budget for 2021 is \$33,300 plus \$13,080 for our Albanian Outreach Ministry.

Missionaries sent out from Fort Square and currently supported by the church include:

- Paige & Mario Miño (Guatemala), in service for last 20 years
- Gregg & Jayne Yarian (Togo), in service for last 25 years
- Judy Richie (MIT InterVarsity), in service for the last several years



Other ministries that Fort Square Church currently supports include:

### International:

- Faith's Orphan Fund Zambia
- D.M. Stearns Mission Philippines Grace Christian Mission (GCM) Ms. Arsenia
- Action International Ministries, Anne & George Harper
- World Gospel Mission Bolivia, Donna & Mike Brown
- CrossWorld France, Randy & Sandy Moyer
- Ministry of Jesus Togo, Gregg & Jayne Yarian
- SIM Senegal Cory & Katie Garrett Presbyterians Protecting Life

National: Boston Center for Pregnancy Choices, Teen Challenge, Brockton, MA, and Presbyterians Protecting Life

## Vision Statement for the future of Fort Square Church

*Our Vision for the future is that we would be people*



- *who love Christ and whose lives genuinely reflect changes as a result of obedience and submission to Him.*
- *who make a commitment to grow in our faith through worship, Bible study, reflection, and prayer.*
- *who demonstrate our love for others both inside and outside the church family.*
- *who are eager to share our love of God and the Good News of Jesus with others relying on God's Spirit to draw them into a relationship with Christ and His church.*
- *who are willing to commit to serve in the church and the community.*



Evangelical  
Covenant  
Order  
OF PRESBYTERIANS

ECO is committed  
to growing and planting  
flourishing churches  
that make disciples  
of Jesus Christ.

## Our Pastor

### Pastoral Ministry Expectations

We are seeking a pastor who is an ordained minister in ECO, the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians or who is seeking ordination in ECO. This person must affirm all ECO's Essential Tenets and be committed first to Jesus Christ. The pastor will teach the Word of God and lead the congregation as it seeks to carry out its purpose of obeying the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Prayer will be central in worship, leadership, and decision-making.

Our ideal pastor will encourage both personal and corporate growth and will promote engagement with the community in service and Christian witness. The pastor will actively support the church's vision statement and have a heart for evangelism, outreach, and missions. This person would work well with all age groups and would give compassionate pastoral care and counseling to the congregation.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new pastor to Fort Square Church!

Interested candidates please contact Pastor Nominating Committee Chair:

Bill Slaven: [billslaven@comcast.net](mailto:billslaven@comcast.net)

Include curriculum vitae and statement of faith. (PDF files)



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