

WEEK OF APRIL 19 2026



From Woody: In case you weren't at church yesterday, I wanted to let everyone know that we will have a special guest on September 20. I was thinking about a special speaker on our country's 250th and came across a phone number I had for Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, the first child of Robert and Ethel Kennedy. I had driven her once from a 1984 George McGovern Rally in Copley Square to her car, which was parked on Beacon Hill. It was a great honor for me, and she apparently gave me her phone number. She came on my radio show several times. I had no idea if she still had the same number. She did, and after a couple of conversations, she said she could come on September 20 so it will be an exciting day at our church. I could use some help in working out her flight schedule and hotel reservation so if anyone would like to help with that, please let me know. I can't think of any family which has been at the center of our history during my lifetime more than the Kennedys. It is a great honor that she is coming. I still am working on a special service either the Sunday before or the Sunday after the 4th of July. And please remember our need to get some additional gifts toward making it possible to ring our Paul Revere Bell at the beginning of the parade on the 4th.



Sewing Classes: Interested in learning basic sewing skills? Then please join Kristi Citak and Judy Hull on Saturday, April 25 9:30--12:30pm in the Dignard room. We would love to hear what you want to learn as well. Some of you may learn how to make dresses for our Dress a girl dress making. HOW exciting would that be?

For more information, contact Kristi Citak (kris_kreations@comcast.net)



Paul Revere Bell: We are now trying to get our Paul Revere Bell fixed for the 4th of July. The estimated cost is \$25,000 and we have received a generous gift of \$10,000. Other gifts would be gratefully received. You can donate by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/donate-to-help-restore-the-community-church-of-new-bostons-paul-revere-bell-and-bell-tower>

\$25,000 seems like a lot of money, but read below for a description of all that is involved in getting the bell ready to be rung on July 4th:

In 2023, members of the Community Church of New Boston reported hearing vibrating noises and noticing small movements from the wall at the front of the church when the bell was rung. It was determined that the swinging of the bell was introducing significant lateral loads to the structure and that it should be addressed. After some research the church decided a striker system should be installed. Upon further

inspection, the members of the Trustees of Expenditures found the cradle that holds the nearly 2000lb historic, genuine Paul Revere bell and yoke was very old and should be replaced.

The church Trustees and members of The Session have contracted McShane Bell, an old American bell manufacturer in Maryland Heights, Missouri (<https://mcshanebell.com/work/>) to replace the bell cradle and install a bell striker system to resolve these issues. In addition the church is working with Glenn Dodge, owner of Dodgeco Contracting Services (<https://dodgeco.com>) to define the best materials and implementation strategy so the church can get a contractor to properly replace the bed / platform roof that surrounds and protects where the cradle sits.

A custom steel powder coated cradle is going to be fabricated by McShane Bell and sent to the church for installation. McShane Bell will then send technicians that will use a lift rented by the church to go up to the bell platform area, jack up the bell off of the old cradle, replace the old cradle with the new custom cradle and dispose of the old cradle. The roofing company will install the new platform roof around the new cradle in coordination with McShane Bell.

All this is being done with the intention to have the bell ringing again after more than two years of silence in time for the July 4th celebration in New Boston in honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States. If all goes as planned the historic church bell will not need further attention for many, many years...



Quilt Raffle: Carolyn Ferguson-Wilson has generously sent us 2 quilts to raffle off. Proceeds will be donated to the bell repair. She is also willing to make a custom quilt. More information next week.



Peace Quote: Jesus told us, "Blessed are the peacemakers." But woe to those who manipulate religion in the very name of God for their own military, economic, or political gain, dragging that which is sacred into darkness and filth...*Pope Leo*



QR Code: You can use the QR code to pay your pledge or other contribution—or click on the link: <https://www.zeffy.com/enUS/donationform/e47ab025-f0b0-40b4-90e6f262bb1a29e1>