



FRIENDLY MESSENGER

First Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602
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A Word from Rev. Jackson

Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ:

As we move into the middle of Summer, we can increasingly see the need to remain rooted in Christ Jesus. Our world appears to be turned upside down this past year. The waves and storms of life are very violent and unstable. Too often we find ourselves looking for solid ground, a rock that will not constantly shift position. Life as we knew it, is in flux.

In an effort to stabilize our faith, I would like to make the following suggestions:

1. Shut off the television! T.V. stations make money by selling bad news and sensationalizing everything. Their purpose is no longer to give you news – it is to make money by advertising. There is extremely little on general television that will enrich your life....quite the opposite.
2. Minimize social media – their goal is the same: make money by trying to sell you products you don't need. Social media can be addictive – don't fall for the trap.
3. Enjoy and spend a lot more time in nature. This year in particular, Carolyn and I have noticed the wildlife in our own backyard! Robins, Mourning Doves, a Robin's nest, 5 bunnies, birds in the bird bath and all kinds of flowers. As we rush through life, we don't always notice these little gifts from God....right in our own space! Slow down and take it in.
4. Find a place to be still and quiet and breathe. One of the greatest feelings in life is to shut off the noise and listen for God's voice. God is a gentleman and He will not force His way in. We need to open the door, shut off the distractions and listen for His voice. He most likely has some important things to say to us.
5. Plant something – anything and watch it grow. As I water the geraniums on our back deck, I love taking in their color and growth. Good soil helps also and it gets our mind off our troubles.
6. Set aside some time for prayer. Any amount of time will bless your life. Tell Jesus your joys, what you are thankful for, your plans, troubles or worries. Lay them at the foot of the cross and watch what He does! Don't carry these burdens around from day to day. God still works miracles, and you will see His hand at work when you look for it. Seek and you will find.

7. Read the bible. God's word is God's love letter to you. Of all the things we should take into our soul, this should be the main thing. If there is something you don't understand, make a note of it. I would be glad to explore some possible answers with you. There are some very good commentaries online that can be helpful with this as well.

I hope you enjoy this Summer and all it has to offer. Try a few or all of these steps and let me know what happens.

I look forward to seeing you at church. Until then...God bless!

Because He Lives,

Rev. Bob

Birthdays



July

01 Carolyn Jackson
 10 Brittany Hinson
 11 Judy Nally
 11 Cody Hill Johnson
 13 Erika Vecsey
 18 Paul Scherdell
 19 Nancy Dalbeck
 28 Richard Trzcinski

29 Rev. Bob Jackson

August

03 MaryKay McGrail
 05 Kahlan Plant
 05 Judy Mitchell
 06 Dolores Trzcinski
 11 Chelsea Mason
 17 Mark Mason

19 George Boggs
 25 John Waters
 26 Mac MacInnes
 31 Theresa Andes

September

04 Clarissa Nigro
 04 Matthew Andes, Jr.
 11 Ronald Taylor, Jr.
 27 Gordon Cross

Anniversaries



July

29 Matt & Dawn Ahaesy

August

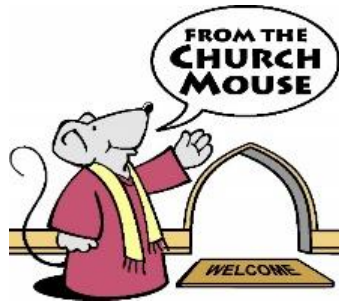
09 Donald & Sheila Ansley
 13 Steven & Linda Ann Coy
 14 Jim & Deborah Mirick
 16 Sue & Norm Anderson

September

05 Scott Yonker & Bill Condon
 10 Matthew & Theresa Andes

Please note: On Wednesday, June 17th on a telephone church council meeting, a motion was made to: "Conduct services outdoors as long as the weather supports doing so." The vote was seven in favor, one opposed, with no abstentions.

A Note from the Church Mouse



Hi everyone. Happy Summer! It has been so nice to see everyone gathered on the lawn for Sunday morning services. I have missed seeing my church family and friends. I noticed that you have changed your gathering place to take advantage of the shade as the sun moves around the yard. It is uplifting to hear the prayers, the message and the music. Wishing you a pleasant summer. I hope the restrictions will be lifted soon so you can all spend time with your families and friends. We all need to share a few big smiles and hugs. It is good to praise the Lord. Psalm 149 says, "Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful!" That's us, the assembly of the faithful! God bless you. In Christian love, Nick, your faithful church mouse

Prayer Requests



Hampton Bagdasarian requests prayers for June Kemp; Sue Cardin requests prayers for David Siam; Sue Carow requests prayers for her brother, Michael Curran; Connie MacInnes requests prayers for her niece Linda; The Deacons request prayers for Paul Scherdell & Rev. Natalie Maynard, former interim minister at our church; prayers for Sally Day; prayers for Marilyn Mildish; prayers for Melanie Anderson; Beth Robinson asks to please pray for the healing power in GOD'S peace for our deeply divided nation.

DEADLINE:



The due date for the September issue is Friday, August 21st. If your article(s) are not in by that date, we'll be happy to include it (them) in our October 2020 issue. Thank you!