

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

First Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602
www.fcc-worcester.org · Office: 508-752-4635 · Parsonage: 508-459-9085

October 2020



A Word from Rev. Jackson

Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ:

As I write to you on this first day of Autumn, the signs of the season are occurring all around. Leaves are starting to turn, the sun is setting earlier, the days and nights are cooler. It's a great time to watch our creator's handiwork happening in all its beauty. It's a privilege to live in New England at this time of year.

In the midst of these Autumn colors, the media is filled with foreboding news about the pandemic and politics. Fears can overwhelm us if we allow them. So I offer you this verse to consider during these times: "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you." (Isaiah 26:3). These are the times when we especially need to embrace this verse. We are overcome with fear when we lose sight of its message. "Perfect peace" is only found in God and the only one we can always trust is Jesus. Let's pause and reflect: what has been occupying our thoughts recently? Sometimes I think we would be better to shut off the news and contemplate the beauty of an autumn leaf. Let's open our eyes to what God is doing around us and block out the distractions. In these turbulent times, what are we doing to enrich our spiritual health? What scriptures have spoken to your soul lately? Is the fore mentioned verse from Isaiah a reality for you or is it a goal to be strived for?

The changes and challenges of this world will never bring us lasting peace. Only our Lord and Savior can do that! My prayer for each of you in this beautiful but tumultuous season is that our minds would be steadfast on our God. As we pull out our Fall and Winter clothes, let us remember to clothe ourselves in Christ. As our coats, sweaters and hats protect us from the cold, let's remember to put on the garments of Christ for the weather and storms that may be ahead.

On a different note, our church sanctuary has been open since September 13th. We have taken several steps to ensure a clean environment and keep our congregation safe. Masks and distancing are the normal for now. We hope you will join us in worship as God leads. Our mission remains strong in the Tatnuck community and we are committed to making sure that witness continues. We thank all those who have supported us through these difficult times. Your commitment and dedication are helping our light to continue to shine. Thank you!

See you in church. Because He Lives!

Rev. Bob Jackson

Birthdays



October

15 Hampton Bagdasarian
19 Ann Scherdell
19 Armand Thienel
23 Bob Smith
23 Robert Olson
25 Marilyn Mildish

12 Betty Dalbeck
13 Renee Mason
17 Ashley Rucinski
24 Travis Sinclair (Katy's son)
27 Matthew Ahaesy
28 Donald Ansley
29 Katy Chase
30 Ruth Nickerson
30 Andrew Sullivan

November

06 Rita Swett
08 Lorna Cardin

Anniversaries



October

14 George & Jane Boggs
17 Armand & Joyce Thienel

November

09 Greg Waters & Cindy MacLaurin

Fellowship



Due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic, there will be no scheduled meetings in October. We will let everyone know when it is safe to meet once again. In the meantime, continue to keep in touch with and pray for each other. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another..." I John 1:7

Church Mouse



Happy October. Don't you just love the feeling of fall in the air? We are so lucky to be living in New England where we can experience the glorious colors of the season. Perhaps you will pick a pumpkin to grace your front steps. I heard this story about pumpkins. I will share it with you. Did you know that being a Christian is kinda like a pumpkin? God picks you from the patch, He brings you in and washes off all the dirt. He takes off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff, all those seeds of doubt, hate, impurity and greed. Then He carves you a new smiley face and puts His light inside of you for all the world to see. Ezekiel 36:25b-27. Pretty neat. I look forward to hearing your voice in church on Sunday. Blessing and love to all my church family, 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 and for her brother-in-law, Cocoa, who is at St. Vincent's; The Deacons request prayers for Paul Scherdell; prayers for Sally Day; prayers for Marilyn Mildish

DEADLINE:



The due date for the November issue is: **Thursday, October 22, 2020**. If your article(s) are not in by that date, we'll be happy to include it (them) in our December 2020 issue. Thank you!

Happy Autumn!



Board of Trustees Window Project

We are happy to share that we are continuing our project to refurbish and paint the church windows. It has been a while since we attempted to raise funds to paint our windows. Our church windows are in great need of repair and painting.

Would you consider making a donation to this worthy cause? The estimated cost is \$5,000. We have raised about \$1,725 with \$3,275 to go. With your help and God's provision, we can paint and restore our windows for the future. Thank you for your help in the past....we appreciate your help for the future.

