

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

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



A Word from Rev. Jackson

Greetings and love in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It seems appropriate that we celebrate the birthdays of two presidents this month who had a deep *love* for people and put it into practice. Jesus and the apostle Paul stressed over and over that love is the greatest gift of all and should be the primary indicator of our faith. While the Valentine's Day holiday usually addresses the romantic side of love, it also can show us the importance of loving one another beyond those who are closest to us. This month of February also marks the beginning of the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. So the themes of sacrifice, service, and love all converge within a seven day period this year. Marking the Lenten season is best proven by our willingness to sacrifice and serve one another through compassionate love. Presidents Washington and Lincoln showed their love by sacrificing their entire lives for their country. President Lincoln was also known for his compassion and mercy throughout and at the end of the Civil War. President Washington encouraged those around him when they were discouraged and feeling overwhelmed during the Revolutionary War.

As we enter into Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season, what are some ways we could lift spirits and show love for others through compassion and mercy? How can we further the mission of our church in these areas?

On February 11th, we will gather for our Annual Meet-ing. Let's remember that it's not just about us. Rather, let us move forward to the higher goal of loving and serving others in Jesus' name. God has blessed our church in so many ways. Let's make sure we are good stewards of what He has given us, using every corner of our building for His glory. May we dedicate our time, talent, and treasures to further the work of His Kingdom, while we can. May His Holy

Spirit cause our faith's roots to deepen through love, service, and sacrifice.

See you in church! Because He lives!

Rev. Bob

Ash Wednesday Service Reminder!

Our Ash Wednesday service is Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to attend this meaningful and very moving service.

MACUCC Dues

Dues for the MACUCC will be collected during Sundays in February. These monies help to support common ministries and cover the cost of Association and Conference programs and activities. Membership dues for 2018 are \$21.15 per member; the Conference portion is \$19.50; and the Association portion is \$1.65. FCC will remit only funds received. Please use the envelope included in the weekly bulletin or send a check to the church office. Checks may be made out to "First congregational Church," with "UCC Dues" on the memo line. Thank you.

The Stewardship Committee

FRIENDLY MESSENGER DEADLINE:

The *hard and fast cut-off* date for the March issue is Thursday, February 20th. If your article(s) aren't in by that date, we'll be happy to include it(them) in our March, 2018 issue. Thank you!

February Birthdays

04	Richard Mason
05	Molly Frances Andes
08	Beth Letourneau
20	Scott Yonker
21	Laura Waters
23	Doug Perkins, Jr.
26	Marisa Halper
27	Connie MacInnes

January Anniversaries

14	Doreen Mitchell & Bijay Gainedy
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Prayer Requests

Hampton Bagdasarian requests prayers for June Kemp; Sue Cardin requests prayers for Helga Siam and David Siam; Helen Wronski requests prayers for Josephine Morrow and Elaine Wronski; Susan Anderson requests prayers for her daughter, Melanie, and for Justin and Catherine; Sue Carrow requests prayers for her brother, Michael Curran; Sally Hetfield requests prayers for Karen, Erin, and Donna; and prayers are requested for Dawn Ahaesy's father, Francis Lajoie; Bruce Kabasinsky, for the healing of his leg; Roland Fournier, husband of Maryann and son-in-law of Wes and Betty Dalbeck; Murdock Snair; Mary Kay McGrail's Aunt Shirley and Uncle Roy; Sis Prefontaine; Ronald Taylor; Charlotte Perry's nephew, Peter; Sally Day; and Helen Wronski.

Concordia's Closet

A special "Thank You" from Concordia Lutheran Church was received for the members of First Congregational Church:

Dear Members of First Congregational Church:

Thank you for your generous donations to Concordia Lutheran Church of clothes, scarves, and blankets. We greatly appreciate your partnership in serving the poor and homeless of our area. Your gift will be warmly received by them. We thank you for this generous donation.

The Rev. Ann Burgdorf, Pastor

A reminder... Our church will again be collecting your donations the entire month of April! Watch for reminders.

Laundry Love



The next collection deadline for delivery is Thursday, February 4th.

January donations from FCC totaled 11 large jugs of detergent, 1 dryer sheet box, 3 large boxes of alcohol wipes, 2 boxes of hand sanitizers, and \$5 in quarters.

Remember to check out the Dollar Store for the first-aid zip bag needs, along with the pocked-sized hand sanitizers and hand creams. These are necessary to help our friends battle the long cold and flu season.

Keep Rev. Ward in your prayers while she takes a special trip to Israel. She will return on February 10th to continue her outreach to the South Main neighborhood.

Bulletin Cover Donations

If you'd be interested in donating a Sunday bulletin cover for a special occasion, please stop in the office to pick one out from one of the many flyers we have available. The cost is only \$12!

Life Line is Coming !!!

Life Line Screening will be here Tuesday, February 20th, at approximately 8:30 a.m. through 5:30 p.m. See the information on the bulletin board or on the table in the Narthex, and call 1-888-653-6450. Remember, this number is for you to register for your screening. We cannot register you through the church office.

Carty Cupboard Sends a Big Thanks !

Dear First Congregational Church Folks:

Thank you so very, very much for your donations to Carty Cupboard Food Pantry. Thank you also for your continued support of our mission. We could not do what we do without it!

*Sincerely,
Nancy Spencer*

MSPCC/Eliot Sends One Too !

Thank you so much for your generosity this past holiday season. Here are a few messages our staff heard from the gift recipients:

- A teen mother was so thankful for her and her child's gifts; she said that everything they got was useful to them. She even reported that she would not have to buy her little one a dress for Christmas, because she received one from the donors.*
- A family who has been having a difficult month due to a family member being in the hospital was so thankful for their gifts and stated how thoughtful it was of everyone and that the thoughts were very appreciated.*

There were many more similar responses. Your kindness goes a long way and is much appreciated!

*With warm thanks,
MSPCC/Eliot, Worcester*

Visitation Office Hours

Some of you were wondering when is a good time to stop in for a visit? My visitation office hours will be Wednesday and Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., as a general rule.

Inevitably, situations do arise that would call me away from the office. However, I will usually be present in the study during these times. As always, if you'd like to secure an appointment, please call me at 508-410-1585, and we can reserve a time.

Thank you, Rev. Bob

Coupon News

Great news from "Couponville" as Sally Day is getting stronger every day. Let's help make her days go by quicker by filling the coupon box in the Narthex for Elon School.

Check those bags and boxes before you toss them, and remember to drop them off when you're at church.

History Room

"Changes are Good... Ours Were Great!"

That's the heading for the History display case, showing some of the major changes and improvements that have been made at our church. Over the years, much has been done to our building to keep it in good condition and to make it a safe and welcoming place for our church family.

Samples used went back to the 1930s, showing the formal "Ladies Parlor" with its tiled marble-like floor to new rugs and paint; the sanctuary with its traditional-formal look to the modern feel of today. The kitchen, with a wide, open ceiling and high cupboards is shown, contrasted to the new look with its modern-day appliances that meet the new safety standards. Our wiring was antique to say the least, with twist fuses now replaced by breaker boxes throughout in 2011.

Thanks to Mac MacInnes for preserving the hinges from the old Tower Door; we can appreciate the beauty of a time gone by.

As our building matures and more improvements are made, let us always have a special memory of what the building looked like then, and how we strive to preserve those feelings while meeting the needs of today's congregation.

Annual Meeting To Be Held !

The church's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11th, following the 10:00 a.m. service. Please get your 2017 Annual Reports to Don Ansley. The best way to submit them is via e-mail (clerk@fcc-worcester.org). February 2nd is the latest Don can accept inputs and still get the report printed.

A Postcard from Nick the Church Mouse

Hi, everyone! Happy February! Brrrrr, bet it's cold back in Worcester. Enjoying my time in the south. Going to celebrate Mardi Gras with my cousin, Minnie, and her beau, Mickey. "The Lord is compassionate, and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." Psalm 103:8. I think that's my new favorite verse. Sending y'all blessings, hearts and flowers, joy, peace, and love.

Nick

The Passing of the Peace of Christ

At a recent meeting of the Deacons, we discussed changing "A Time of Welcome and Greeting with nearby neighbors" to "The Passing of the Peace of Christ." This is a time that may be used for reflection and acceptance of Christ's peace. It is written in Scripture JOHN 14:27 "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." During these turbulent times in our history we can feel comforted by Christ's love, peace, and assurances to us. Knowing this we can live our lives in His honor, without fear of an unknown future, and knowing He is always with us.

Please feel free to share your thoughts with us.

The Board of Deacons

From Hospitality

Anyone wishing to bring in treats for Sunday Coffee Hour through the end of 2018, please sign up in the Narthex. Thank you!

Fellowship News

We welcome everyone to join us on Tuesdays at 10:00am in the church parlor as we gather for fellowship, cookies, and goodies. We are always looking for new ideas for our meetings. Please share any thoughts, ideas, or input. It's much appreciated.

Our February schedule:

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| February 6 | TBA |
| February 11 | We're hosting coffee hour on Annual Meeting Sunday. Sign up with Bev if you'd like to help. |
| February 13 | Yes, it's Fat Tuesday again. Join us to celebrate Mardi Gras with a pancake breakfast. The menu includes juice, fruit, pancakes, maple sausage, and King's cake. We'll be meeting in Fellowship Hall today at 10:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served at 10:30 a.m. |
| February 14 | Happy Valentine's Day; Ash Wednesday. |
| February 20 | Lenten Program. Thoughts about the Lenten season as we prepare for Easter. Do you have any traditions or devotions you'd like to share? |
| February 27 | Show 'N Tell. Bring something to share and tell its story. Always a fun day. You never know what you'll learn about someone! |

We leave a little flexibility in our schedule to accommodate any unexpected weather during the winter season. If schools are cancelled for the day, then we don't meet. If the weather or circumstances would make it difficult for travel, we'll make a decision that morning and make calls if we decide not to meet.

The First Congregational Church In Worcester



Member of the United Church of Christ



REV. ROBERT H. JACKSON
Minister

SCOTT YONKER
Minister of Music

CALL FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the church will be held on Sunday, February 14, 2016 following the 10:00am Church service. The business of the meeting will include:

1. The presentation of the annual reports of the officers, boards, the Church Council and standing committees.
2. The presentation by the Treasurer of the financial position of the Church for the fiscal year 2015.
3. The presentation by the Board of Trustees of the proposed budget for the year 2016 and action to adopt the budget.
4. The election of officers, board and committee members for the 2016 Church year.
5. The transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Don Ansley

Church co-Clerk

1070 Pleasant Street • Worcester, Massachusetts 01602-1394

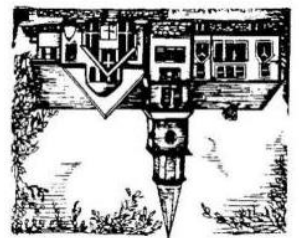
Office Telephone: (508) 752-4635 • Church E-mail: office@fcc-worcester.org • Website: www.fcc-worcester.org • Fax: (508) 752-4636

Pastor's E-mail: revrhjackson@gmail.com • Parsonage Telephone: (508) 459-9085

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February 2018 - FCC Worcester Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm AA Mtg 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
4 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 11:30am PRC Mtg 6:30pm AA Mtg	5 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm AA Mtg	6 10:00am Fellowship 7:00pm AA Mtg	7 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Mtg	8 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm AA Mtg	9 3:15pm Girl Scouts	10 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
11 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 11:00am Annual Mtg 11:30am Trustees Mtg 6:30pm AA Mtg	12 Lincoln's Birthday 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 6:30pm Neighbor Watch Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg	13 10:00am Fellowship 7:00pm AA Mtg	14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	15 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm AA Mtg 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
18 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 11:30am Deacons Mtg 6:30pm AA Meeting	19 Presidents' Day 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Mtg	20 Newsletter Articles Due 8:30am Life Line Screenings 10:00am Fellowship 7:00pm AA Mtg	21 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Mtg	22 Washington's Birthday 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm AA Mtg	23 3:15pm Girl Scouts	24 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
25 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 11:30am Church Council Mtg 6:30pm AA Mtg	26 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Mtg	27 10:00am Fellowship 7:00pm AA Mtg	28 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Mtg			



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Rev. Robert H. Jackson

Return Service Requested



Join Us!

Purpose Statement
It is our purpose to joyfully celebrate Christ's presence and God's grace in our lives; to respect one another in love, actively seeking and embracing those who wish to grow with us in faith, hope and love; to follow the example of Jesus, as we minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the community. Through service we flourish.

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