

# FRIENDLY MESSENGER



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

## A Word from Rev. Jackson

Greetings and Salutations in the healing name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

As we begin the month of May, we find ourselves and our world in a far different place than we could ever have imagined. We have all heard the phrase, "These are the times that try men's and women's souls." Indeed, it appears the whole world is passing through a test of fire. The question is: what is the composition of our faith?

For years I have advocated that our house (life) be built on the solid rock of Jesus Christ and not on the crumbling sand of this earth. The storms of life will come, but let's remember who is in our boat. Sometimes it looks like He is sleeping: I assure you He is not. I encourage you to use scripture reading, prayer time and checking-in with each other to gird up our faith during this quarantine.

We recently celebrated Easter in our individual homes. We proclaimed in faith that Jesus Christ is alive and dwells among us through the Holy Spirit. Let's continue to claim this promise and let this fact be our hope in fearful times. We continue to exist and act as a church rooted in Jesus Christ no matter what swirls around us. In Christ we will prevail. As it says in 1 John 4:4 "*You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*"

Our church council is meeting monthly via conference call and updating each other regarding the current situation. When the day arrives that we can reopen, you will receive a call letting you know. Meanwhile, please keep your church leaders in prayer as we navigate with our Lord Jesus's direction through these murky waters.

Of course, each of us need to remember to pray for all the medical personnel and those who serve on the front lines of this pandemic. Let's especially lift up those who have lost loved ones to this scourge. I pray that we will see each other when it is safe and appropriate to meet in person and worship together. You will remain in my love and prayers.

Because He lives.....so do we!

*Rev. Bob Jackson*

p.s. Thank you for your continued support of our ministries. Our Deacons' Fund has been used to assist members during this time of need.

### ***"On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand"***

***"My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name  
On Christ the solid rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand  
All other ground is sinking sand***

***When darkness veils his lovely face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
On Christ the solid rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand  
All other ground is sinking sand***

***When He shall come with trumpet sound  
O may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless to stand before the throne  
On Christ the solid rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand  
All other ground is sinking sand"***

# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN WORCESTER

## Call for a Special Congregational Meeting

April 28, 2020

To: The Members of the First Congregational Church in Worcester

Subject: **Call for a Special Meeting, requested by the Church Council to be held on Wednesday, May 6th at 7:00 pm via telephone conference (see NOTE below).**

Business:

1. The Church Council requests that the Congregation authorize it to pursue a forgivable loan created by Congress in The Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP") to help small businesses, including churches, to pay their employees during the COVID-19 crisis. The Congregation directs that any funds obtained be used solely to cover payroll costs and that the Church Council will apply for loan forgiveness as soon as the loan is depleted.
2. The Congregation authorizes the current Moderator, Matt Ahaesy to sign any necessary loan documents on the Congregation's behalf.

The following web site contain information that can help answer any questions you may have concerning the PPP: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/PPP--Fact-Sheet.pdf>

NOTES:

1. Precautions introduced in Massachusetts to combat the spread of Covid-19 prohibit that we hold an in person congregational meeting. Therefore, this meeting will occur as a **phone conference** to be held at 7 pm on Wednesday, May 6th.
2. To join this meeting, you will need to place a phone call to 1-701-802-5350.
3. You will then be requested to enter an access code. Please enter 3892450.
4. The phone conference will be a challenging way to hold a congregational meeting so please be patient. Please try to join the call at least 5 minutes in advance of the meeting's 7 pm start time.
5. If you have any questions concerning the phone conference process, please call or text Greg Waters at 774-701-2635.
6. We will need at least 12 members on this phone call to meet the quorum requirements of our by-laws. Since we cannot 'see' you the Clerk will have to do a roll call to establish who is on the call and also to record votes. This process will be tedious and we request your patience.
7. If you need to have background conversation at home, please, please mute your phone or otherwise cover the mouthpiece so others on the call can hear the individual who is addressing the meeting.

*Don Ansley*

Church Clerk

## *Sunday Offerings Please Read*

Our Church services and all other activities are cancelled until further notice due to the COVID-19 virus. If you can, we are asking you to please send in your weekly offerings to help keep the Church afloat during these troubling times. Any amount will be much appreciated. Please contact the Church Office with any questions at: 508-752-4635. God Bless!

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**



### **May Birthdays**

- 07 Sally Day
- 07 Dawn Ahaesy
- 09 Steven Coy
- 17 Robert Olson
- 21 Christina Dalbeck
- 25 Beverly Bean
- 25 Heidi Hinson
- 25 Deborah Mirick
- 26 Phillip Cardin
- 28 Sheila Ansley

### **June Birthdays**

- 03 Jane Boggs
- 05 Daniel Ames
- 10 Steven Hinson
- 11 Cassandra Olson
- 11 Erin McGrail
- 13 Joyce Thienel
- 17 Linda Ann Coy
- 19 Eileen Miles



### **June**

- 01 Mac & Connie MacInnes
- 08 Bob & Luz Smith
- 21 Richard & Renee Mason

## **Laundry Love**



We are going to be very optimistic in our requests going forward, that we will be able to collect and deliver laundry items for Laundry Love in June.

The need for these items will probably be greater than experienced in the past, due to the extra demand to sanitize all beddings, twice as much detergent will be necessary.

Please mark your calendars ahead for a collection Sunday of June 7, for delivery later that week. If we could concentrate on the jugs or pods of detergent, dryer sheets and quarters for the machines, it would make the laundry teams' job so much easier to provide for the large family groups that will be needing their help.

Again – mark Sunday, June 7 as collection day for Laundry Love – fingers crossed.

## 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; Beth Robinson requests prayers for her nephew, Jack Maino, who is studying in Spain this semester and the Maino Family for peace in his absence; prayers for Josephine Morrow's family as she has passed away. She is the late Helen Wronski's sister; prayers for Sue & Norman Anderson and their family, especially their daughter Melanie who has been diagnosed with the coronavirus*

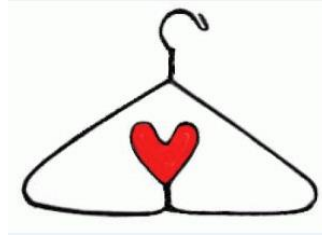
## FRIENDLYMESSENGER

### DEADLINE:



The due date for the June issue is Friday, May 22nd. If your article(s) are not in by that date, we'll be happy to include it or them in our July 2020 issue. Thank you!

## Concordia's Closet:



### DATE CHANGE NOTICE!

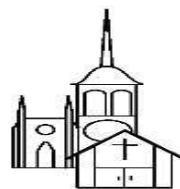
Please take note the days for collecting items for Concordia's Closet are now during the month of May. You can leave your items on the kitchen side of the stage in Fellowship Hall, during regular office hours of the church (Tuesday through Friday – 9am-2pm).

The new sorting and delivery day will be Tuesday, June 2nd, starting at 9:30am.

Hopefully, with all the “at home” time we have had, your donation bags are filling up fast. It is the same request for ALL gently used clothing, accessories, business attire and linens. It is a win-win with your storage areas sorted and organized and the closet at Concordia filled to capacity.

Thank you for your helping us fill the Explorer to the roof!

## History Room:



We are still looking for 1-2 copies of the 2013 church picture directory for the History Room. If you have one you would be willing to donate, please leave it in the office for Linda Ann to pick it up on her regular work day. Thank you.

## Fellowship News



In light of the current COVID 19 restrictions, it does not seem like we will be meeting in May. Our church and our Fellowship group will continue to follow the recommendations put forth by Gov. Baker to keep residents of the Commonwealth safe. If by chance we do have the opportunity to meet this month, perhaps we might gather for a light lunch together at church and enjoy spending some time visiting with one another. It would be a good way to come out of this isolation we have been experiencing. Please continue to stay in touch with one another. A phone call or a written note will brighten someone's day. Remember each other in daily prayer. Be safe and be well. God bless us all.

## Sharing Network

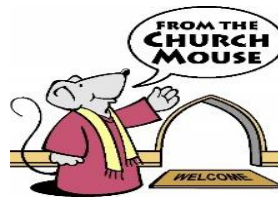
Buddhas Over Worcester – Boundless Way has cancelled this exhibit this year.

Worcester Friends' Market Day – Market Day-Worcester Friends have cancelled the Market Day for June.

ReStore – 640 Lincoln Street – 508-799-9259

With all the spring cleaning getting done, ReStore will take your extra household items, furniture and even building project extras off your hands. All monies support Habitat for Humanity. Call ahead to check on their hours for drive-up/drop-off.

## Church Mouse



Happy May to all my church family. We should be dancing around the maypole and enjoying the spring weather and flowers. I am still missing all of the activity around the church, but I understand the virus is still gripping the city, the state and the country. I do see Katy in the church office and Doug is painting around the church. Rev. Bob is in his office in the afternoon. I guess that's what they mean by "social distancing". That's a new term I'd never heard before, but if it keeps people safe then it is a good thing to do. I sure hope you are all keeping safe. I understand you are supposed to wear a face mask now when you go out or are around other people. Please be sure you are doing that. I want you all to be safe. I hope it won't be long before everyone is able to return to church. Time has a way of taking care of things, like it says in my favorite verses found in Ecclesiastes 3. "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven ---". See you around church ...soon! Your faithful church mouse, Nick

