

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

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

Greetings in the Name of Our Living Savior, Jesus Christ:

It's good to be back among you, and thank you so much for a refreshing, informative, and spiritually uplifting sabbatical. I'm looking forward to sharing the many adventures and lessons God has given to me over these past four months.

I'm also very grateful for the privilege of separating from the day-to-day responsibilities, so that I could hear God's message with a clearer mind. His hand and His will have been working in my life, and I return to you spiritually refreshed and very thankful.

Speaking of being thankful, November reminds us that this is a season of Thanksgiving. What are you thankful for this past year? What have you learned from Jesus over the summer? Where do you sense God is leading you this fall and into the approaching year, 2018. What can we do as a church to deepen our faith and enliven our mission?

One of the many things I relearned while on this sabbatical adventure, was how important reformed Congregational history really is. The Pilgrims called themselves separatists for a very good reason. My travels gave me a front row seat to see firsthand what they were "separating" from. Martin Luther was the pillar of the Reformation, which started 500 years ago. October 31, 1517, marks the day he nailed the 99 Theses on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg. As I stood at the door of this church, I was inspired to be in a place where Congregationalism has deep roots. We are daily called to carry forth the reformers' tradition of separating from the things that hurt our faith. We are called to stand up for justice and focus only on Christ and His Scriptures.

I look forward to sharing our Communion table together on November 5th. On November 12th, I'll be sharing some of my sabbatical experiences with you. I'm also excited to hear your stories from these past four months as well.

May our hearts be united this coming month in thankful praise for what Jesus Christ is doing among us. See you in church!

Because He Lives,
Rev. Bob

FRIENDLY MESSENGER DEADLINE:
The hard and fast cut-off date for the December issue is Tuesday, November 21st. If your article isn't in by that date, we'll be happy to include it in our January, 2018 issue. Thank you !

Daylight Savings Time Starts !

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 5th. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night! Enjoy that extra hour of sleep. See you in church!

Thanksgiving Request from Carty Cupboard

Carty Cupboard will be assembling Thanksgiving baskets to distribute to those who need help. They've asked for the following items: boxes of stuffing mix, turkey gravy, and cranberry sauce. Please consider these items for our collection on November 5th.

Greetings from Nick the Mouse!

Wow, fall has come, the leaves have turned, and our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving. I know what I'm thankful for. ALL OF YOU. There's lots of activity in the building. Special groups like AA and BNI. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Fellowship and the Community Lunch. (Boy, does that smell delicious on Thursdays!) and FOUR churches. Everyone worships a little differently, but we're all fixed on Jesus. Praise God for that. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone. Eat your veggies, but leave room for the pumpkin pie. See you around church. God bless you!

Fellowship News

Join us on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for our Fellowship meetings. We begin with coffee and snacks, followed by our program for the day. This month we only have two meetings.

November 7 **No meeting.** Election Day. Exercise your right to vote!

November 14 Berg's Florist will be with us to create a fall arrangement. Cost is \$12 per person. We'll also be sorting and packing clothes to be taken to Concordia Closet. Lots to do! We'll be meeting in Fellowship Hall.

November 21 **No meeting today.** Time to get ready for Thanksgiving.

November 28 Today we'll be decorating the church for the Christmas season. We'll put up the mitten trees in the Narthex to collect winter hats and mittens for the Tatnuck School. Another tree will grace the parlor, and the final large tree will adorn the Sanctuary. We hope you can join us. Many hands working together will get us in the spirit of the season.

We hope you'll join us. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend!

Stewardship News !

It's not too late to return your 2018 pledge form. You may place it in the offering plate or mail it to the office.

From Hospitality Anyone wishing to bring in treats for Sunday Coffee Hour through the end of 2017, please sign up in the Narthex. Thank you !

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; Sue Carrow requests prayers for her brother, Michael Curran; Sally Hetfield requests prayers for Erin and Donna; and the Deacons request prayers for Erika Vecsey; Murdock Snair (Millbury Health Care Center, 312 Millbury Avenue, Millbury, MA 01527); MaryKay McGrail's mother-in-

law, Claire McGrail; Sis Prefontaine; Ronald Taylor; Melissa Castle; Charlotte Perry's nephew, Peter; Ruth Gauch; Holly Mahler's son, Aaron; and Sally Day.

Bulletin Cover Donations

If you'd be interested in donating a Sunday bulletin cover for a special occasion, please stop by the office to pick one from the many we have available. The cost is only \$10 !

November Birthdays

03 Jon Stake
06 Rita Swett
08 Lorna Cardin
12 Betty Dalbeck
13 Renee Mason
17 Ashley Hinson
27 Ada Grant
27 Matthew Ahaesy
28 Don Ansley
30 Ruth Nickerson

Coupons for Elon School

I'm sure the "wish list" for supplies, now that Elon School is back in session, is as long as ever. We need to get our scissors busy and our eyes sharp to find and cut the Education Coupons out for Sally Day to send their way.

Remember, they're smaller and harder to see on plastic bags. Drop them off at the Poppy Box in the Narthex.

Community Luncheon News !

Menu for November: Please remember to call the church office (508-752-4635) to make reservations.

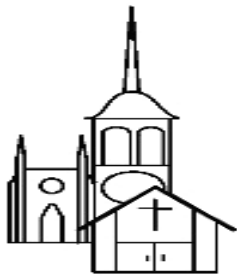
November 2: Tuna Supreme with broccoli, a muffin, and Boston Cream cupcakes

November 9: Catalina Chicken over rice with broccoli, a muffin, and Magic cake

November 16: Shepherds' Pie with a muffin, dinner roll, and Grape Nut pudding

November 30: American Chop Suey with Italian bread, mixed vegetables, and turnovers

History Room



A salute to the gentlemen in our church, both past and present.

Fall always signals the start of both new and familiar activities in our church. For some reason, October 8th kept running through my mind, but I couldn't connect

it with anything, until I was filing old notes, and the mystery was solved! October 8, 1996 was when the men of our church were invited to join the Woman's Fellowship for the first time, thus the present Fellowship was formed.

Before then, the men had their own Sunday and monthly activities, beginning with a Sunday morning group called "The Brotherhood" in 1936. This evolved into the Men's Forum, and in 1937 the Churchman's Guild was organized as an evening fellowship time. The men's activities at that time consisted of a Sunday morning class before the regular service, a bowling team, and a monthly evening meeting with guest speakers and dinners, and at least once a year, the ladies were invited to join them.

Looking back to 1971, just such a night featured a catered pot roast dinner, tax, and waitress service for \$2.63 per person. A speaker highlighted the evening, and often the nights featured music. Guests usually spoke on the topics of the day, organizing mission projects, such as transportation for the Sunday School to visit a Missions Exposition, raising money for a church painting project, a variety show, or helping with youth activities, completed their program goals.

Always the helpers, they became instrumental each year in setting up the Church Fair and dinner.

Several years ago, the Fellowship features our men with a "This is Your Life" day. We learned about their family, their hobbies, how they met their wives, favorite sweets, and all their contributions to our church.

This may be a month late, but a sincere "thank you" to all our men at church and those that came before you, building the foundation we stand on.

Pastoral Relations Committee

The PRC wants to remind the congregation that our Pastor will be giving us a look at his travels, classes, and the experiences he had during his Sabbatical this summer. Please plan to be in church on Sunday, November 12th to hear about his trip to Germany and his study opportunities.

Praise Banners



Do you like our church banners? Would you care to help us purchase new ones? These can be dedicated to loved ones as a memorial, or you can join with someone to share a banner purchase. We do our best to order them when they're on sale (they're approximately \$149 to \$200 each). We need a total of four new

banners: three appropriate for mid-winter, and one for Christmas. Please see Sue Anderson, Don Ansley, Sue Cardin, or Scott Yonker for more information. Thank you !

A Night of Music

First Church's own Ken Sawyer invites you to join him and his students for an evening of Jazz music (classic and contemporary) at their fall concert.

Date: November 19, 2017

Time: 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Place: Point Breeze, Webster, MA

Just tell the hostess you're there for the concert!

Harvest Fair at Bethel Lutheran !

Handmade knits; vintage linens; “White Elephant;” attic treasures; pickles and cheese; bake shoppe; homemade pies, cakes, breads, cookies, and candy; Holiday shoppe; crafts; and a tea party and luncheon!

Stop in at Bethel Lutheran Church, 90 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Auburn, on Saturday, November 4th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for a great holiday experience.

Concordia Closet

As this article is being written, many bags have appeared on the stage area in Fellowship Hall.

You still have time for the last check in your closet and drawers for those gently-used items so very much needed at the Closet. ALL sizes, colors, and ages, with particular need for interview and workplace items. Many families have relocated from warm climates and are also in need of bedding for all size beds.

Delivery date is Tuesday, November 14th, before noon; please make your donations soon. A big Thank You from the ladies that keep this mission available at Concordia Lutheran church.

Laundry Love



Cold and flu season is almost here, so we’re asking for the pocket-sized hand sanitizers and hand creams, along with the usual jugs of detergent. Quarters are always in need, as the cost of a single machine is \$6.50. Please give your cash donations to

Linda Ann, but all other items can be placed under the “bubbles” in the Narthex.

On-going items most useful to the team are juice boxes and small waters, activity books or stickers, and continuing the small first aid supplies to be made into zip kits for cuts, blisters, etc. Last month you gave 18 packages that were made into the zip kits.

Many, many thanks!

Misson Matters

Christmas Gifts!

We are partnering again with the MSPCC (Massachusetts Society for the Preventing of Cruelty to Children) to provide Christmas gifts for some of the infants and young children in their programs. This is always fun, not only for the children, but also for us. We hope to have the Christmas tree full of gift tags for you to choose from on Sunday, November 26.

Hope for Housing (HfH)

CMHA (Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance) presents this wonderful program to help those in need of assistance. Gift cards for various stores are sold by us, the money is deposited in a special account, and you use the card for full value (or give it as a gift). The stores then pay various percentages to the HfH program, according to their agreements.

The stores and dollar amounts of the cards available are:

Shaw’s	\$10	\$25	\$50	\$100
Shop & Shop	\$10	\$25	\$50	\$100
Big Y		\$25	\$50	\$100
Panera Bread	\$10	\$25		
Dunkin’ Donuts	\$10	\$25		
CVS	\$10	\$20	\$50	

We can get cards for Hannaford (\$10, \$25, \$50, \$100), but, due to our location, we do not carry them on a regular basis. Price Chopper is not available, due to their being generous to a number of programs to their limit.

I order cards on HfH’s schedule, usually every other week (it changes around major holidays). If you are thinking about ordering cards as gifts for the holidays, please let me know: (1) which cards, (2) how many of each, and (3) for what amounts, before Tuesday, November 28th (the day I would order them and be able to receive them on time).

Cards are sold during coffee hour on Sundays. Please feel free to ask me questions after any church service.

See you there!

Sue Cardin

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 a Special Congregational Meeting

November 4, 2017

To: The Members of the First Congregational Church in Worcester

Subject: Call for a Special Meeting, requested by the Council on behalf of the Trustees, to be held on Sunday, November 19, 2017 after the 10:00 am church service.

Business:

1. Whereas the Trustees have received written noise complaints from our neighbors on several occasions as a result of Friday night services of the Resurrection church and
Whereas Pastor Alfred, leader of the Resurrection church, has been admonished that FCC wishes to be a good neighbor and subsequently the excessive noise abates for one or two weeks, but ultimately returns and

Whereas the Neighborhood Watch Police officer has been contacted concerning the complaints and has confirmed that the city noise ordinance is in effect from 9 pm and, upon notification by the Chair of the Trustees, will ascertain that the city noise ordinance is being violated and, at his discretion, may immediately contact the leaders of the Resurrection church and request that they lower their sound level.

The Trustees therefore request authorization of the Congregation to invoke the 30 day notice of termination clause of the Covenant with Resurrection Power & Living Bread Ministries, International, a Christian church serving the Ghanaian community in Worcester, for excessive noise at any time within the next 6 months of the approval of this authorization, at the discretion of the Trustees upon continued violations of the city noise ordinance.

2. Other business that may properly come before the Church.

Respectfully,

Don Ansley

Church Clerk

1070 Pleasant Street • Worcester, Massachusetts 01602-1394

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



Fall Church Clean-up

Saturday Nov. 4 2017

9:00am-2:00pm

It is time once again to clean up our church yard in preparation for the Holiday Season to come. There are many opportunities for service and many hands make light work.

Save the date November Saturday November 4th, 2017 from 9:00am-2:00pm.

Bring your rakes, pruners and good will. If you cannot make the date consider taking on one of the items on the work list and doing it at a time which suits you. Or if yard work is not your gift, consider making a donation of lime, mulch or fertilizer. Any and all help is welcome.

-----Work list -----

Gardens

Garden by side entry door

- 2 roses need to be shaped and trimmed
- clean out dead debris

Garden by Elevator entrance

- clean out dead debris

Garden with bench and bird bath

- clean out dead debris
- trim shrubs

Church Sign Garden

- clean out dead debris

Front Gardens

- clean out dead debris

Raking

- children's play area
- front yard
- parsonage yard
- yard beside Willard Ave
- rake/pickup leaves by cell phone utility building and door beside utility building

General Yard work

- pickup sticks in church yard and parking lot
- pickup sticks in parsonage yard
- lime
- fertilize
- as garden areas are completed, blow sidewalks
- as sticks are picked up, blow parking lot

November 2017 - FCC Worcester Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	2 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm AA Meeting	3 3:15pm Girl Scouts 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries	4 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
5 Daylight Saving Time ends 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 6:30pm AA Meeting	6 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting	7 Election Day 7:00pm AA Mtg	8 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	9 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm AA Meeting	10 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries	11 Veterans Day 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
12 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 11:30am Trustees Meeting 6:30pm AA Meeting	13 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 6:30pm Neighborhood Watch Mtg 7:00pm AA Meeting	14 10:00am Fellowship 12:00pm Missions 7:00pm AA Mtg	15 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	16 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm AA Meeting	17 3:15pm Girl Scouts 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries	18 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
19 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 11:30am Deacons meeting 6:30pm AA Meeting	20 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	21 *Deadline for Submissions to the Friendly Messenger 7:00pm AA Mtg	22 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	23 Thanksgiving Day 6:30pm AA Meeting	24 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries	25 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
26 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 11:30am Church Council Meeting 6:30pm AA Meeting	27 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	28 10:00am Fellowship 7:00pm AA Mtg	29 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	30 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm AA Meeting		

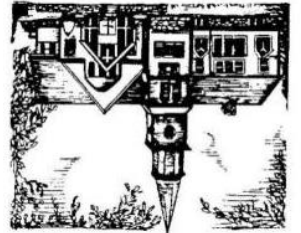
Join Us!

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.

Ms. Josephine Morrow
366 Camino DeEstrella, Apt112
San Clemente, CA 92672

Return Service Requested

The First Congregational Church in Worcester
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Rev. Robert H. Jackson



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