

October, 2017

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

First Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602
Website: www.fcc-worcester.org · E-Mail: office@fcc-worcester.org
Office: 508-752-4635



A Word from our Pastor

As the month of October arrives in all its color and glory, FCC is in full swing. Each committee is meeting and doing our Lord's work. Our choir is blessing us in worship, and the Holy Spirit is touching and changing lives in wonderful ways.

In the midst of our activities, I would hold up prayer as the most important aspect of our work. Over and over, the Bible teaches us to pray first before doing God's work, especially in the church. Sending Jesus in first to any situation opens the doors of possibilities for fruitful ministries that are led by the Spirit. Every successful mission/church has always begun with unified prayer, thanking and asking for God's help. Jesus set a consistent example of praying first and giving God the glory throughout His ministry. He knew where His power source came from that blessed and guided His work. In that spirit, I can lift up several areas in need of your daily prayers. Your prayers are working !

Please pray for our choir and music ministry. We are thankful for Scott and our choir. Please pray that God will send more voices to bless our worship experiences.

We can also pray for the financial challenges we face as a church. The need for money is a hard fact of life, which is why Jesus spoke so often about it. Let's approach this need first in prayer and then by faith. Let's stay open to God's answers regarding this prayer concern.

This isn't a complete list by any means, but let's begin with these and then see what God does.

God takes prayer very seriously, and so should we. Let's be sure to note the ways God will answer these prayers and see what He has done for us one year from now.

These are exciting times for our church and its mission. Surrounding our efforts with prayer will only enhance their effect and success. Thank you for your prayers. Let us lift them up in faith.

FRIENDLY MESSENGER DEADLINE:
The hard and fast cut-off date for the November issue is Tuesday, October 17th. If your article isn't in by that date, we'll be happy to include it in our December, 2017 issue. Thank you !

Stewardship Sunday News !

Stewardship Sunday will be October 15th. Please join the Stewardship Committee at the Coffee Hour following the service. Pledge envelopes will be available at that time. Any remaining envelopes will be mailed. We'll receive pledges for 2018 during the October 29th service. Please place your pledge in the offering plate. Thank you for your generosity !

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, Donna, and Alex; Pastor Russ requests prayers for John Ledoux; and the Deacons request prayers for Erika Vecsey; Murdock Snair; 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 !

Contact Info for Russ Goliger

If you need to get in touch with Russ for any reason, please contact the office, and the message will be gotten to him. If there's an emergency, such as a hospitalization, illness, or death, or a need for pastoral counseling, please contact Deacons Sue Anderson (774-253-0715), Hampton Bagdasarian (508-835-4060), or Sue Cardin (774-239-4900). The deacons have a list of pastors who will provide counseling support.

October Birthdays

02 Ada Grant
04 Jean Andes
04 Matthew Andes, Sr.
07 Jennifer Marble
11 Benjamin Day
15 Hampton Bagdasarian
18 Sean Halper
19 Ann Scherdell
19 Armand Thienel
23 Bob Smith
23 Robert Anthony Olson
25 Marilyn Mildish
27 Faith Cerie Audette
27 Everett Wilcox
31 Justin Conlon

October Anniversaries

12 Wesley & Betty Dalbeck
14 George & Jane Boggs
17 Armand & Joyce Thienel

Coupons Needed

Sally Day had quite a few coupons in her "Poppy Box" during the summer, but with all the ovens of our church family back in business, she'll be looking for a lot more of the Educational Coupons to send to the Elon School.

They're a bit smaller than when we started donating them, and also on cellophane bags and glued to cans, so keep a sharp eye out. Her box is on the table in the Narthex with the red poppy decoration.

Community Luncheon News !

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

October 5: Meatloaf with roasted potatoes, peas, a muffin, and birthday cake
October 12: Catalina Chicken over rice with broccoli, cranberry sauce, a muffin, and Magic cake
October 19: Lasagna with salad, Italian bread, and Orange Dream
October 26: Hamburger Stroganoff with green beans, a muffin, and Pumpkin Pudding

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 !

Life Line Coming this Month !!!

We're pleased to again host this program on **Monday, October 23rd**. Register for a Wellness Package, which includes four vascular tests and an osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60 to 90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441. See the pink informational flyers in the Narthex.**

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’s Closet Outreach

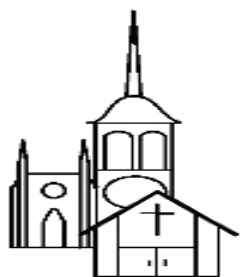
For each of you that have been telling yourself it’s time to truly sort your clothes closets and drawers. NOW is the time. October is Concordia’s Closet Month at FCC.

Please note all your gently-used clothes and accessories to our outreach project with Concordia Lutheran Church. They’ll be able to use ALL seasons, ALL styles, and ALL ages for the free closet at their church. Also needed are shoes, coats, and business attire for those interviewing and entering the work force. Good condition sheets and blankets are also helpful to those families relocating to our area.

Your donations can be left on the back of the stage in Fellowship Hall away from the heaters, all during the month of October.

The expected delivery date will be Tuesday, November 14th. Let’s fill the wagon again this year !

History Room



Hope you’ve had a chance to see the lighting in our display box in the hall going to the parlor. It puts a light on some of the items we use to archive our pictures, items, and the paper collection we have in the History Room. It’s a gift

from remaining funds from our 300th Celebration.

As work continues on the cataloguing, we’re looking for a few old pillow cases to be used as dust covers for bulky items. See the Coys or leave them on the stairway to the History Room.

Thank you !

A Bunch of Guys Concert

“**Make this Land a Better Land.**” A concert to benefit Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, 350.org, and the Worcester County Food Bank. All are welcome. Come sing songs of justice, hope, and freedom, Sunday, October 29th, 3:00 p.m., at Bethel Lutheran Church, 90 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Auburn; plenty of parking! Come and enjoy a great day!

Heifer International

Global Harvest Festival: Saturday, September 30th and Sunday, October 1st, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$10/adult and \$5/child. A cultural celebration of international food, crafts, games, and farm activities ! Live bands in the café, and the Dale Perkins Horse Show each day at 1:00 p.m.

Yoga with the Goats: Day sessions: Saturdays, October 7th, October 21st, November 18th, and December 16th. Day session times are 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Evening sessions: Tuesdays, October 24th, November 7th, November 21st, and December 19th. Cost per class: \$20/person (minimum age is 12).

Plan Ahead: Holiday Open House and Living Gift Market: Saturdays and Sundays, December 2nd and December 3rd, and December 9th and December 10th (10:00 am-4:00 p.m.) Save these dates and start your holiday season off with a great day on the farm with activities, food, the Gift Shop, hayrides, and Santa photos. More details will be coming in the November newsletter. For reservations or questions about these events, contact the farm at 508-886-5000 or email them at heifer.farm@heifer.org.

Laundry Love



Thank you to everyone who not only remembered the detergent needs but also added the newest request from our friends at Walking Together Ministries in Main South. We had 18 boxes of assorted first-aid items that'll be made into emer-

gency kits for blisters, bumps, bruises, and other injuries that just need protection from infection.

This month's collection included 6 jugs of detergent, dryer sheets, 2 large boxes of chalk, juice pouches, assorted toiletries, hand sanitizers, \$4.50 in cash, and 15 lap robes/baby blankets from Melissa Castle.

Through the upcoming cold/flu season, we'll again be needing pocket-size hand sanitizers and hand creams.

Please leave all your donations UNDER the Bubble Tub in the Narthex. The next collection date is Sunday, October 8th, for delivery by Thursday, October 12th. See Linda Ann for your cash donations.

As work continues on the cataloguing, we're looking for a few old pillow cases to be used as dust covers for bulky items. See the Coys or leave them on the stairway to the History Room.

Thank you !

Bob Smith's New Address

Bob Smith
147 Grove Street
Somerset, MA 02726

Fellowship News

We have a full schedule of activities planned for October. We hope you'll be able to join us. Bring a friend. Here's what's up!

October 3 Trip to Barre Cross, followed by a picnic at Barre Dam. Meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. to carpool. Bring your picnic lunch.

October 10 Clean up day. There are lots of small jobs to do around the church: light cleaning and dusting. Bring some dust cloths and any other supplies you might use. No heavy lifting required!

October 17 Dietician Susan Mazrolle of Big Y. This morning we'll meet at the Big Y on May Street at 10:00 a.m. for a program to learn some healthy tips from Susan. She'll be guiding us around the market as she talks with us. We'll gather in the café at the front of the store.

October 24 Melissa McKeon of the T&G will be with us. Melissa writes the "Then and Now" column for the paper, which recently featured our church. She'll talk about where she gets the ideas for her column and how that idea gets to press. She's hoping to bring along her photographer as well, because he's the other half of the team. Any questions for her? Bring them with you.

October 31 Happy Halloween. Dress up if you like! The Bingo ladies will be here to lead us in a few games.

The Adult Fellowship group meets Tuesday mornings in the church parlor at 10:00 a.m., unless otherwise noted (see above). We begin with coffee and goodies before our program. Hope to see you there!



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

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October 2017 - FCC Worcester Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 6:30pm AA Mtg	2 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm Boy Scouts Council 7:00pm AA Mtg	3 Sally on Vacation 10:00am Fellowship 7:00pm AA Mtg	4 Sally on Vacation 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Mtg	5 Sally on Vacation 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm AA Mtg	6 Sally on Vacation 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries	7 10:00am New Hope SDA
8 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 11:30am Trustees Mtg 6:30pm AA Meeting	9 Columbus Day 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 6:30pm Neighborhood Watch Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg	10 Sally on Vacation 10:00am Fellowship 12:00pm Missions Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg	11 Sally on Vacation 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Mtg	12 Sally on Vacation 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm AA Mtg	13 Sally on Vacation 3:15pm Girl Scouts 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries	14 10:00am New Hope SDA
15 10:00am Worship: Stewardship Sunday 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 11:30am Deacons Mtg 6:30pm AA Mtg	16 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Mtg	17 *Deadline for Submissions to the Friendly Messenger 10:00am Fellowship 7:00pm AA Mtg	18 7:30am BNI 7:00pm AA Mtg 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries	19 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm AA Mtg	20 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries	21 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
22 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 11:30am Council 6:30pm AA Mtg	23 8:30am Life Line Screenings 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Mtg	24 10:00am Fellowship 7:00pm AA Mtg	25 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Mtg	26 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm AA Mtg	27 3:15pm Girl Scouts 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries	28 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
29 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 6:30pm AA Mtg	30 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Mtg	31 Halloween Reformation Day 10:00am Fellowship 7:00pm AA Mtg				