

May 2019 Newsletter

First Congregational Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

300 Central Street, Saugus, MA 01906

781-233-3028

Rev. Heike Werder (Interim Minister)

Rebecca Harrold, Music Minister

Vanessa Byrne, Church Secretary

<https://www.Facebook.com/uccsaugus>

Dear Friends,

I always breathe a sigh of relief after a major holy day in the life of the church. Expectations are usually a little higher on all the participants in the worship service than on a regular Sunday because this is one of our far and few chances to impress the “visitor” who has come to church in hopes that they will come back to worship with us. So, I am glad that we have made it through Easter Sunday, and can now focus on how we are called to live our lives in light of the Resurrection of Jesus, our Christ. Resurrection is not just a onetime event we remember every year. Resurrection informs all of life and all of faith – mine and yours. Because of the resurrection, of Jesus wanting to be that continued presence and inspiration in our lives, we are invited and encouraged to live life differently - with hope, joy and courage, commitment and a deep love for others. Which, I admit, is easier said than done because the values of the world we live in are very different. The world wants us to be afraid and worry and keep everything to ourselves. Resurrection offers us a new life, a new hope, a new approach to the “same old, same old.” As we think about what that might mean for our lives, we also need to think about that for our church. What places within our church need a new life, and new hope, a new approach? In this interim time we need to ask these tough but honest questions. We are not alone in this. Many churches in the UCC and beyond are in search of that new life and new approach. Our MA UCC Conference has a video on their website where churches share with us what they have done to flourish and grow.

If you have the chance and possibility, watch the video at www.macucc.org/resources/growingyourchurch/storiesandlessonlearnedfromflourishingchurches. I hope you will be inspired by these stories like I was. New life happens when we engage our minds, hearts, and hands together as a community of faith. This is our time to find out what resurrection could mean for us, the First Congregational Church of Saugus, an Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ.

Blessings, Heike.



ROUNDTABLE CONVERSATIONS



Please join us for one of four scheduled roundtable discussion in the month of May after church, starting at 11:30 am. You can sign up after church, or contact Rev. Heike (revheike@gmail.com)

to reserve your spot. Meetings are scheduled for May 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2019.



PREACHING SERIES FOR THE SEASON OF EASTER

During the Easter season, I am offering a sermon series on “**Living the Resurrected Life.**” We started with the topic of “hope” on April 28, 2019. Other topics will be: joy, courage, commitment, compassion, and faith. And, of course, the resurrected life is lived in community which will be the theme for Pentecost, June 9, 2019. Hope to see you in church!

.....

FROM THE DEACONS

From the Deacons Deacon of the month is Terri Leander



Easter season is now over, we would like to thank everyone who attended our Agape Supper as well as Rev Werder's Good Friday service. Both asking us to reflect on Jesus' life and death. Hopefully a Good Friday service will become an annual event.

It is now becoming the time to look forward as a church and decide where we are going. Please make an effort to sign up for Rev. Werder's round table discussions. These are designed to get your input on our future. This is your time to voice your opinion. If we don't do anything, nothing will happen. Being stagnant, will not help us to move forward. So please sign up.

Please continue to bring non perishable food items on the first Sunday of the month to support the Saugus Food Pantry. As well as signing up for coffee hour hosts, greeters/ushers and scripture readers.

- Happy spring!
- Barbara Davis**
 - Susan Dunn**
 - John Gilmore**
 - Terri Leander**
 - Mike Mascovitz**

.....

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Outreach Opportunity

Are you interested in joining me for this event? If yes, please talk to me, Rev. Heike. I will have to register us if we decide to participate. Teams of 2 or 4 are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE | **A bed FOR EVERY CHILD** | **COMMUNITY BUILD A BED**
Giving a child a place to dream. | SATURDAY JUNE 01, 2019
FIRST CHURCH IN SWAMPSCOTT, CONGREGATIONAL

40 Monument Street, Swampscott, MA 01907 | Build Begins at 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon

There is an old African proverb: "It takes a village to raise a child"; A Bed for Every Child has updated to "It takes a community". A Bed for Every Child helps to get new beds into the homes of children growing up in poverty. To meet the need A Bed for Every Child created Build a Bed where sponsored teams of people with limited to no carpentry skills build twin beds. Build a Bed brings everything needed to build twin beds. All that is needed is for teams of people to work together over a 3-hour period to build, sand and paint a twin bed frame. Upon its completion A Bed for Every Child delivers not only the frame but also a new twin mattress and bedding.

Join us Saturday June 1st by sponsoring a team at \$250 which includes a new mattress and bedding along with the bed your team will build. Teams can be 2 or more people! It is lots of fun and at the end you have made a difference in a children life growing up in poverty!

To learn more and to sign up visits www.abedforeverychild.org
A Bed for Every Child is an initiative of Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless

THE HEALING CIRCLE

1st & 3rd WEDNESDAYS OF EVERY MONTH
HEALING CIRCLE

We have begun our spring session with "Raising Your Vibration" taken from a book by Kyle Gray. During the next few weeks we will be exploring the connection between us all and the universal energies.

Our meditations will take us through the Chakra System once again, with positive affirmations to raise up our vibrations. along with guided meditations concentrating on grounding and centering us.

We will set positive intentions for our days and go within to remove any blockages that are stopping the flow of positive energy with in our Chakra Systems, preventing us for feeling our best.

So if you are interested in "Raising Up Your Vibration" and becoming more positive in the coming days, join us on the first Wednesday and the third Wednesday of the month, here at First Church.

Cynthia C. Turco
Meditation Leader

www.facebook.com/healingcirclesaugus

.....

May 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--|--------|----------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Worship & Communion 10AM | 6 N.A. 7:00PM | 7 Yoga 6:30PM | 8 Divorce Support 7-10PM | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Worship 10AM Church Council @ 11:30AM | 13 N.A. 7:00PM | 14 Yoga 6:30PM | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Worship 10AM | W | 21 Yoga 6:30PM | 22 Divorce Support 7-10PM | 23 Healthy Students, Healthy Saugus Packing Lunch | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Worship 10AM | 27 N.A. 7:00PM | 28 Yoga 6:30PM | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| | | | | | | |