

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

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

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Already the month of November is upon us and symbols of Thanksgiving and harvest abound. On November 18 our church will celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday and Stewardship Sunday together. The message is that God has blessed each of us throughout the entire year and this is our chance to honor Him with our tithes and pledges.

We give to God's work for several reasons. We realize that it is God's hand that sustains us and we are called by the scriptures to give a portion of what we have, back to God. Perhaps we have seen God blessing our lives this past year and we wish to see His mission continue by helping others.

As Protestant Congregationalists, we *choose* to support the work of our Lord out of grateful appreciation for the harvest He has put into our hands. As Congregationalists, we know there is no larger church to "bail us out" if we have financial difficulties. Therefore, it is up to each one of us to respond generously to God's church. Our mission in Tatnuck is dependent on the Lord. We are God's hands and *we* must do His work.

In this season of Thanksgiving, let us look into our hearts and give to our church as the Spirit leads. Then on November 18, we will prayerfully place our pledges before God on the communion table during worship. Let us, as God's family, support this mission in Tatnuck with generosity and compassion. When the Spirit touches our hearts, may we respond with a thankful and appreciative "YES". Happy Thanksgiving! See you in church.

Because He Lives,

Rev. Bob Jackson

Stewardship News

Stewardship information for 2019 will be arriving by mail during the first week of November. Please place your pledge card in the offering plate during the November 18th service or send it to the office.

Thank you: Stewardship Committee

FRIENDLY MESSENGER DEADLINE:

The *hard and fast cut-off* date for the December issue is Tuesday, November 27th. If your article(s) aren't in by that date, we'll be happy to include it (them) in our January, 2018 issue. Thank you!

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!

From Hospitality

Anyone wishing to bring in treats for Sunday Coffee Hour through the first quarter of 2019, please sign up in the Narthex or call the Office. Thank you!

November Birthdays

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

November Anniversaries

- 09 Greg Waters & Cindy MacLaurin

Concordia's Closet:

Hope you have your closets and drawers sorted and ready for the cold ahead. Remember to bring your donations for Concordia's Closet to the church BY Sunday, November 11th. Leave your items on the stage in Fellowship Hall AWAY from the heaters on the back wall.

We welcome donations for ALL sizes, ALL colors, ALL seasons, including accessories of scarfs, belts, shoes, gloves, and handbags. Interview and business attire is needed for those working or looking for work.

Gently used sheets, blankets and comforters are needed also.

Please tag your bags "Concordia's Closet."

Let's stuff the van!

Minutes of Meetings

The Council would like to remind all members that minutes of Council and Board meetings are posted on the bulletin board opposite the Tower Door entrance.

Prayer Requests

Hampton Bagdasarian requests prayers for June Kemp; Sue Cardin requests prayers for David Siam; Helen Wronski requests prayers for Josephine Morrow and Elaine Wronski; Susan Anderson requests prayers for her daughter, Melanie, and her sister, Marie Waskevich; Sue Carrow requests prayers for her brother, Michael Curran; The Deacons request prayers for Sis Prefontaine, Paul Scherdell, Dawn Smilie and Mary Lou McCreight; Connie MacInnes requests prayers for her niece Linda.

The Christmas Fund

Provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks. A ministry of the Pension Boards, the offering is received annually at Christmas time. Please give generously!

Laundry Love



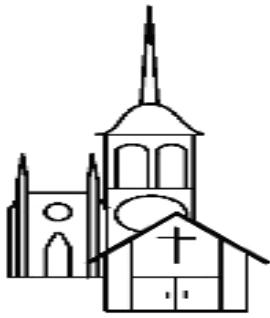
Extra laundry for everyone including those that count on Laundry Love to keep ahead of the extra layers and bedding.

Thanks to your generosity, the following items were delivered for their October outreach night: cash - \$22.50, 7 large detergent bottles, 8 individual tissue packages. Also, there were children's activity items, a wooden alphabet puzzle, 3 large boxes of crayons, 2 Bible activity pads, 3 Halloween activity books, 1 large drawing pad, 1 composition book, 1 crossword book, 1 large package of markers and an activity pack.

A reminder as cold weather approaches, hand creams and sanitizer wipes. First aid zip packs are a year-round need, including zip bags.

November collection day is Sunday, November 4th. All items UNDER the bubble display with cash given directly to Linda Ann. We collect items all month. Leave your items anytime you are at the church with the exception of cash, as stated above.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



History Room

Veteran's Day is almost here. The news and printed articles remind us of the sacrifices so many have made for us to be living in a free nation.

During the 300th Celebration, we dedicated the reproduced 4x6 banner to the many service men and women from this church during World War I and II – which is displayed in the narthex. We also celebrated the men and women that are in our congregation now by recognizing their branch and location of service from World War II to peacetime.

- Warren S. Day – Naval Air – World War II
- Wesley Dallbeck – National Guard – World War II
- Steven Coy, Jr. – Army – Suez Canal
- Hampton Bagdasarian – Air Force – Germany
- George Boggs – Air Force – Cuban Missile Crisis
- Raymond Bull – Army National Guard – Vietnam
- Milton MacInnes – Army Reserve – Vietnam
- Doug Perkins – Air National Guard – Vietnam
- Norman Anderson – Army – Vietnam
- Robert Smith – Air Force – Libya
- Delores Trzcinski – Army Reserve and Guard – Grenada
- Marie Trzcinski – Army National Guard – Peace Time

Join us in the parlor for Coffee Hour celebrating their service after church on the 11th.

From a grateful congregation – **Thank You.**

Fellowship Speaker Series Reminders:

Having enjoyed the first three speakers, Rev. Jane Willan – Paxton Congregational, Clarence Burley – Worcester Friends, and Rev. Meredyth Ward – Laundry Love/Urban Missioner; you are invited to hear Pastor Carissa Rodriguez – Trinity Congregational Church in Fitchburg on Tuesday, November 27th at Fellowship.

Coffee begins at 10 a.m. and the speaker begins at 10:30 a.m.

Carissa will be taking us on her journey as she prepares for seminary and her future ordination.

Fellowship News

We hope you will join us this month for our activities. We meet on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor. Here's what this month looks like:

Nov 6 No meeting. It is Election Day.

Be sure you exercise your right as a citizen to vote!

Nov 13 Help us sort the clothing collected for Concordia Closet.

We will also be joined by Berg's Florist, who will show us how to make a delightful fall floral arrangement. Please bring \$12 if you would like to make your own.

Nov 20 No meeting. Time to finish preparations for Thanksgiving!

Nov 27 We welcome Carissa Rodriguez from Trinity Church in Fitchburg as our guest speaker.

We will also set up Christmas trees around the church.

We look forward to seeing you! Bring a friend!

Fall Church Clean-up Saturday Nov. 3 2018

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 **Saturday November 3rd, 2018 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.

Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

This is a private, non-profit society dedicated to leadership in protecting and promoting the rights and well-being of children and families. They provide pregnancy and parenting support, child and family counseling, foster care and adoption and advocacy.

It's that time of year again when we are beginning our Christmas shopping and once again, we will be collecting Christmas gifts for children in need. We will be getting the names and ages of 50 children and at the end of November, we will hang tags on our Christmas tree for you to choose from. It's always fun choosing gifts for little ones! I hope you'll join us once again.

Hope For Housing

Hope for Housing is a non-profit program developed by the Interfaith Coalition to Prevent Family Homelessness with assistance from the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance. The project raises awareness about homelessness in our community and utilizes the collective buying power of congregations to raise money for the prevention of family homelessness. Currently 30 congregations are participating in the program.

The fastest growing homeless population is children. It has been demonstrated that children who are homeless experience deflated self worth, diminished school achievement and related health and emotional issue.

Gift cards for local retailers, including Big Y, CVS, Dunkin' Donuts, Hannaford, Panera, Shaws, and Stop & Shop, are purchased in bulk, which in turn are sold to members of participating congregations at their places of worship. The retailers donate 2-10% of all sales to the Hope for Housing program to assist families at risk of homelessness. By purchasing gift cards for local retailers, you can help to stabilize families and keep them in their homes.

These cards make excellent gifts and stocking stuffers. I love to see my grandchildren's faces light up when I hand them one, just because.

Please see **Sue Cardin** to purchase cards. She is also taking orders for Christmas, when they will be in high demand. Be sure to order early so you don't miss out!

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Mission Corner

CARTY CUPBOARD REQUESTS

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS THAT ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

Deodorant, Toothpaste, Shampoo and Body Wash

ITEM OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER: Diapers Sizes 4, 5 & 6

DECEMBER: Dessert Mixes, Cake and Brownie Mixes

Of course anything you are able to donate is most welcome.

FCC Worcester Calendar

November 2018

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