

April, 2018

# 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:

On April 2nd, we all might echo the sentiments of the disciples ..... now, what do we do? As a church, we talk a lot about the pre-Easter events, but what are we called to do the day after? Beyond all the drama of Passion week, where do we go from here?

Perhaps the answer to these questions can be found in Philippians 2:1-5. *"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with his Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look, not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."*

These verses could be considered an elaboration on Jesus's admonition in John 21:15-17 to "feed my lambs, feed my sheep and take care of my sheep". When Jesus gave these directives to a repentant Peter, His words mirrored the spirit of Philippians 2.

Think about it! What better way to reflect the resurrected Christ in our souls. If we show Christ-like love, are one in spirit and mission and show the humility of Jesus in our actions, we fulfill our calling. We would indeed shine like stars in the sky. In this self-centered world, the Christian who sets aside selfish ambition and serves others first is a refreshing presence.

The value of the Easter experience will find meaning when we act upon the virtues of love, joy, mercy, compassion, and kindness. Others will be drawn to Jesus by our actions and the encouragement we give to those who may be struggling. In Acts 4: 32-33, we have a prime example of resurrection power in the early church. *"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power, the apostles continued to testify to*

*the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all."*

In this post-Easter season, let us be sure to listen to the Holy Spirit's direction. May our prayers be said in faith and may we cling to the never-failing hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

See you in church! Because He lives!

Rev. Bob

## FRIENDLY MESSENGER DEADLINE:

**The *hard and fast* cut-off date for the May issue is Tuesday, April 24th. If your article(s) aren't in by that date, we'll be happy to include it (them) in our June, 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!

## April Birthdays

- 10 Kristin Olson
- 16 Khylie Richard
- 22 Susan Cardin
- 24 Wesley Dalbeck
- 26 Judy Langlois
- 27 Sis Prefontaine

## April Anniversaries

- 05 Dolores & Marie Trzcinski
- 18 Heidi & Steve Hinson

## Laundry Love



Delivery for March was made – over the snow banks – this month. The crew at “Walking Together Ministries” was waiting when we drove up to receive your generous donations of: 6 large detergent jugs, 2 boxes of dryer sheets, 3 packages of sanitizers, 2 antibiotic soap jars, 5 tubes of antibiotic ointment, large box of alcohol wipes, large box of band aids, multi-pack of pocket tissues and an activity assortment plus \$10 for the washing machines.

Your support for this project is much appreciated by those that need the items, as well as the ministry volunteers.

Please leave your donations for next month’s delivery UNDER, not in, the bubble tub in the narthex. Final day for the April items is Sunday, April 8th.

## From Hospitality

Anyone wishing to bring in treats for Sunday Coffee Hour through the end of 2018, please sign up in the Narthex or call the Office. Thank you !

Thank You!

We received lovely thank you notes from South Central DCF for our pajama donations; MSPCC for our Christmas gift donations; Wycliff for our donation for bible translation; and Dismas House for our donation towards heating of their house.

**Our church is amazing! 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, and for Justin and Catherine; Sue Carrow requests prayers for her brother, Michael Curran; Sally Hetfield requests prayers for Karen, Erin, Donna, and Sam; and prayers are requested for Dawn Ahaesy and Dawn Ahaesy’s father, Francis Lajoie; Bruce Kabasinsky; Sis Prefontaine; Ronald Taylor; Sally Day; Dawn Smiley; Rita Swett; Holly Mahlert, and Jean Andes; and Paul, a friend of Brian MacInnes*

## Concordia’s Closet

It is that time of the year when we all need to sort and turn our closets and drawers to the upcoming season – SPRING!

We will help you by delivering all your “finds” to the ladies at Concordia Lutheran Closet. This mission project helps so many families in the city that need new sizes, new work clothes, something special to go on an interview in, or just to have that special boost that comes with something new to wear.

We need ALL colors, ALL sizes, ALL seasons for ALL ages to meet the “Closet’s” needs. We can also use shoes, belts, handbags and accessories as well as hangers and gently used bed linens.

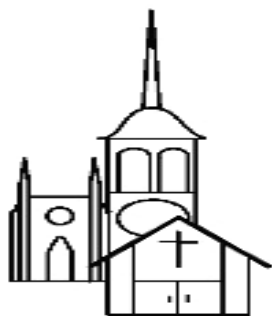
Please leave your donations on the stage in the Fellowship Hall the entire month of April for our May delivery. NOTE: Be sure to place your bags AWAY from the heaters on the back wall.

Thank you in advance for putting aside these much-needed items for others as you sort your closets.

Let’s fill the Explorer again in May!

## LOGOS

The LOGOS Children's Choir from Concordia Lutheran Church will be joining us once again on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, under the direction of Jim Ryan. We hope you will be here to enjoy this delightful group sing and to greet them at Coffee Hour after the service.



### History Room

A big 'Thank You' to Ann Scherdell for both original and copies of some very special mementoes of her mother Doris Sundholm.

Mrs. Sundholm was extremely active in our Tatnuck Church raising her family, Sunday School, the Circles, Woman's Association, Lunch program and even wrote one of the history articles we used in the 300th Celebration.

Thank you Ann. You too can "Be like Ann" and share some wonderful memories with us as you find cards, pictures and programs tucked away. We will copy them if you want to keep the originals.

## Carty Cupboard

We thank you sincerely for the food that you donate monthly to Carty Cupboard. It is greatly appreciated. Food bags are packed to accommodate the needs of households with one person and families with four or more people.

Some of the requested food items at this time are:

- spaghetti and sauce (in plastic jars or cans)
- ready-to-eat soups
- tuna fish
- peanut butter and jelly (in plastic jars)
- cereal
- rice
- canned vegetables
- canned fruit

Assorted health care items and baby items are also needed for Cupboard visitors with young infants.

## Fellowship News

Happy April! We hope you had a blessed Eastertide. Please join us for our activities this month. We usually gather at 10:00 am on Tuesdays in the church parlor for coffee and snacks unless we have an outside trip planned.

- April 3 Tour of the Presidents Museum at 554 Main St, 5th floor. There is an elevator. Street parking is limited. We can carpool from the church. Meet at 10:00. Tour will be about one hour.
- April 10 Betty Benoit will speak to us about Project New Hope, a Non-Profit Veterans Organization.
- April 17 Movie Day. "Miracles from Heaven" (2016), based on a true story. If you don't believe in miracles, you will after watching this film. Popcorn will be served. Everyone is welcome. We will meet downstairs today in Fellowship Hall.
- April 24 We would like to take the ladies on our church staff out to lunch to thank them for all they do. Location to be determined.

## Hope for Housing

We would also like to thank you for purchasing the Hope for Housing gift cards.

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.

Please see Sue Cardin after church if you would like to purchase some of these cards. While we don't ordinarily carry Hannaford cards, she will get them upon request.

## New Members



Marie and Marc Souffrant joined FCC on Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018. Marie and Marc are the parents of Russ Souffrant who joined with us in 2016. Please make them feel welcome!

## New Address

Don & Sheila Ansley have moved from an apartment at The Overlook in Charlton to a cottage. Their new address is:

15 Doric Circle  
Charlton, MA 01570

Their phone number has not changed.

## Girl Scout Troop fund raiser

Our resident Girl Scout troop, Junior Troop 30085, is seeking donations for the Worcester Animal Rescue League. Please consider donating:

- \* used comforters, blankets, and towels
- \* cat and dog food (dry or wet)
- \* used collars, leashes or harnesses
- \* used cat or dog beds

Please deposit your donations in the bin in the Fellowship Hall by April 6th.

## Thursday Community Luncheons

There will be two luncheons in April. These are Thursday April 5th and Thursday April 26th.

No menu information was available at press time.

## New Administrative Assistance

We welcome Bruna Loja she is our new administrative assistance.



# April 2018 - FCC Worcester Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>April Fool's Day, Easter Sunday</b> <b>10:00am</b> Worship <b>10:30am</b> Resurrection Ministries <b>6:30pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>2</b> <b>10:00am</b> Resurrection Ministries <b>7:00pm</b> Boy Scouts <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>3</b> <b>10:00am</b> Fellowship <b>7:00pm</b> AA Mtg	<b>4</b> <b>7:30am</b> BNI <b>7:00pm</b> Resurrection Ministries <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>5</b> <b>12:30pm</b> Community Lunch <b>6:30pm</b> AA Meeting <b>7:00pm</b> Choir	<b>6</b> <b>3:15pm</b> Girl Scouts	<b>7</b> <b>10:00am</b> New Hope SDA <b>12:00pm</b> Church of God
<b>8</b> <b>10:00am</b> Worship <b>10:30am</b> Resurrection Ministries <b>11:30am</b> Trustees Meeting <b>6:30pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>9</b> <b>10:00am</b> Resurrection Ministries <b>6:30pm</b> Neighborhood Watch Mtg <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>10</b> <b>10:00am</b> Fellowship <b>11:30am</b> Shepherd's Meeting <b>7:00pm</b> AA Mtg	<b>11</b> <b>7:30am</b> BNI <b>7:00pm</b> Resurrection Ministries <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>12</b> <b>6:30pm</b> AA Meeting <b>7:00pm</b> Choir	<b>13</b> <b>3:15pm</b> Girl Scouts	<b>14</b> <b>10:00am</b> New Hope SDA <b>12:00pm</b> Church of God
<b>15</b> <b>10:00am</b> Worship <b>10:30am</b> Resurrection Ministries <b>11:30am</b> Deacons meeting <b>6:30pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>16</b> <b>10:00am</b> Resurrection Ministries <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>17</b> <b>Tax Returns due</b> <b>10:00am</b> Fellowship <b>7:00pm</b> AA Mtg	<b>18</b> <b>7:30am</b> BNI <b>7:00pm</b> Resurrection Ministries <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>19</b> <b>12:30pm</b> Community Lunch <b>6:30pm</b> AA Meeting <b>7:00pm</b> Choir	<b>20</b> <b>3:15pm</b> Girl Scouts	<b>21</b> <b>10:00am</b> New Hope SDA <b>12:00pm</b> Church of God
<b>22</b> <b>Earth Day</b> <b>10:00am</b> Worship <b>10:30am</b> Resurrection Ministries <b>6:30pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>23</b> <b>10:00am</b> Resurrection Ministries <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>24</b> <b>*Deadline for Submissions to the Friendly Messenger</b> <b>10:00am</b> Fellowship <b>7:00pm</b> AA Mtg	<b>25</b> <b>7:30am</b> BNI <b>11:15am</b> Missions <b>7:00pm</b> Resurrection Ministries <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>26</b> <b>12:30pm</b> Community Lunch <b>6:30pm</b> AA Meeting <b>7:00pm</b> Choir	<b>27</b> <b>3:15pm</b> Girl Scouts	<b>28</b> <b>10:00am</b> New Hope SDA <b>12:00pm</b> Church of God
<b>29</b> <b>10:00am</b> Worship <b>10:30am</b> Resurrection Ministries <b>11:30am</b> Church Council Meeting <b>6:30pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>30</b> <b>10:00am</b> Resurrection Ministries <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting					