

July-Aug, 2017

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

First Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602
Website: www.fcc-worcester.org · E-Mail: office@fcc-worcester.org
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A Word from Russ Goliger

Greetings to you, my brothers and sisters in Christ.

I thought I'd take a moment to introduce myself. I live in Marlborough with my three kids, ages 23, 20, and 16. I'm a member of First Church in Marlborough (Congregational), UCC, where I've served in the diaconate, sung in the choir, worked in the Sunday School, and where I've served as music director for the past twelve years. I'm a second career seminarian, currently attending Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, working towards my Masters of Divinity degree. As a seminarian in the Boston area, I also enjoy the benefits of the Boston Theological Institute (BTI), the consortium of seminaries which allows students to take classes from any one of the seminaries and schools of theology in the Boston area. Through the BTI, I've been fortunate to attend classes at Andover Newton Theological School. I support my family and my studies as a consultant, where I create and manage training programs in the corporate world.

I'm truly honored by your call to serve these next four months, as Rev. Bob takes a well-deserved sabbatical. To fulfill your call to this position, you requested of the Central Association of the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC that I be licensed for authorized ministry to preach the Word and administer the sacraments on behalf of the Church Universal here in the First Congregational Church in Worcester. The Committee on Ministry of the Central Association approved your request and has licensed me to perform all duties of authorized ministry for the time requested. It's indeed a joy and honor to receive your call to witness to the ministry and mystery of Jesus Christ.

So what can we expect in the next four months? As we get to know each other, I pray that you feel comfortable sharing your hopes and hurts, your joys and concerns, your convictions and your questions. Together we'll listen deeply to God's Word and witness, to how God moves through us and between us,

drawing us into God's Will and the Kingdom of Heaven. We'll pray with and for each other, seeking God's healing grace. We'll search for God and the Holy Spirit, opening our hearts to the flame of Christ's within each of us. We'll dine together at the Lord's Table to be nourished and strengthened in Christ. As Psalm 100:2 says, "[We will] *Worship the LORD with gladness; [and] come before His presence with singing.*"

I'm eager to partner with you in worshipping God's glorious creation and call on our lives. May God bless Rev. Bob with rest and rejuvenation, and may God bless us in our time together.

Yours in the grace and love of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
Russ

A Note From Rev. Bob

Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ: As I prepare to take leave on Sabbatical for the next few months, please be assured of this: I will be praying for each of you while I'm away. I gratefully thank you for this opportunity to experience spiritual renewal through prayer, study, solitary reflection, and immersing myself in God's word. I look forward to sharing with you what God has laid on my heart for myself and our church. Please remember me in your prayers as well: good health and safe travel. May Jesus draw each of our hearts closer to Him during this time, and may our faith increase as we do His mission in Tatnuck Square. I commend you to Russ Goliger, a faithful student of Jesus Christ, who is led by the Holy Spirit to be among you. May love and compassion guide our speech and compassion in the months ahead.

Because He Lives, Rev. Bob

P.S. I'll be sharing communion with you on July 2nd and will return on November 2nd.

FRIENDLY MESSENGER DEADLINE: The hard and fast cut-off date for the September issue is Tuesday, August 15th. If your article isn't in by that date, we'll be happy to include it in our October, 2017 issue. Thank you!



Sunday School

We're so excited to have children filling our Sunday School once again! They're delightful! They're curious and enthusiastic about Jesus! Their little minds are like sponges, eager to soak in all they can about God! Who is He? Where is He? How do we know there'll never be another ginormous flood like in Noah's Ark?

We have some wonderful volunteers who are willing to spend time in the classroom from time to time as aides, however, we need a director and teachers. It's with great sadness that we have to announce that Bob Smith will be leaving us in July. He's moving too far away to commute back and forth to Worcester every week, so we need someone who'd like to hop on board and take over for him. You can contact me at 774-253-0715, or speak to Bob Smith.

Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these."* (Matthew 19:14)

Joyful blessings, Susan Anderson
Christian Education/Youth Advisory Committee

Save the Dates

Your Pastoral Relations Committee is pleased to inform you of one more very important sermon the Pastor will give concerning his Sabbatical. Many requests have reached us asking to explain what a sabbatical is, and what he'll be doing while away, as well as what effect this has on our congregation.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 12th:
"How the Sabbatical Furthers the Pastor's Ministry at FCC"

Sheila Ansley, Chair; Theresa Andes, Ashley Hinson, Linda Ann Coy

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; Melissa Castle requests prayers for her mother, Margaret, and for herself; Sally Hetfield requests prayers for Mercedes Vezina; and the Deacons request prayers for Erika Vecsey, Murdock Snair, Sally Day's daughter-in-law, Raja Day, MaryKay McGrail's mother-in-law, Clair McGrail, Sis Prefontaine, and Ronald Taylor

Summertime Savings

Many of us use short cuts during the summer with baking and meals, by saving time with package mixes and a lot more storage bags and wraps. Be sure you find those tiny coupons on the various containers and save them for Elon School. Keep Sally Day busy getting them ready for mailing. Leave your envelope full of coupons in the box with the red poppy on the table in the Narthex.

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!

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!

July Birthdays

- 01 Carolyn Jackson
- 02 Sue Johnston
- 02 Julie Barrow
- 05 Bruce Johnston
- 10 Brittany Hinson
- 13 Erica Vecsey
- 13 Charlie Marble
- 18 Paul Scherdell
- 19 Nancy Dalbeck
- 21 Jim Capuzziello
- 28 Richard Trzcinski
- 29 Rev. Bob Jackson

July Anniversaries

- 01 Jeffrey & Brigitte Conlon
- 24 Bruce & Sue Johnston
- 29 Matt & Dawn Ahaesy

August Birthdays

- 03 MaryKay McGrail
- 04 Jamie Sullivan
- 05 Kahlan Cardin
- 05 Judy Mitchell
- 06 Dolores Trzcinski
- 11 Chelsea Mason
- 14 Alison Johnston
- 17 Mark Mason
- 19 George Boggs
- 25 John Waters
- 26 Eric J. Vecsey
- 26 Milton MacInnes
- 29 MaryLou McCreight
- 31 Theresa Andes

August Anniversaries

- 09 Donald & Sheila Ansley
- 13 Steven & Linda Ann Coy
- 16 Norman & Susan Anderson

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!

Contact Info for Russ Goliger

If you need to contact Russ for any reason, please contact Sally at the office, and she'll get the message to him immediately.

Bill Gaither & The Gaither Vocal Band

Bill Gaither & The Gaither Vocal Band "*Better Together*" tour is coming to the Hanover Theatre, Worcester, on Sunday, July 16th at 3:00 p.m. See the flyer on the bulletin board and on the Narthex table for more information.

Pastoral Relations Committee

We've met with Pastor Bob on several occasions within the past month to complete a series of questions formulated from a great deal of research material from within the UCC community.

These guidelines helped us to ask questions, not only about performance of duties, but also of goals still ahead and strengthening communication between the congregation and Pastor. This was in the form of Pastor Questions, PRC Questions, Identifying Future Goals, and a scheduled meeting with Kelly Gallagher, Associate Conference Minister, Central Association, UCC, where we reviewed our progress for the completeness and correctness of the evaluations.

The next part of our work depends on you, the members of the church, to freely write your thoughts, wishes, criticisms, praise, and goals you'd like to see for the future of the congregation. A locked mail-box is located in the Narthex each Sunday, or in the office during the week, to drop in your signed comments. They'll be presented anonymously to the committee. Only one person sees the original comments.

This is the most important way for you to not only guide our meetings and to strengthen our church, but also for adding to the direction we take in the future. The box is on-going, but we need this first round of comments to help us complete the report.

Comments are appreciated about anything you wish to write about; no form, just your words. We want everyone to have an opportunity to be heard, and in doing so, make our church stronger. The committee set a goal in April to help guide us with our work. Please join us by helping to do

"What is Best for Our Church."

Sheila, Theresa, Ashley, and Linda Ann

Laundry Love



This is a two-month reminder for our July and August deliveries to Laundry Love. The washing NEVER ends - maybe even increases with play clothes - in the summer, and the families that depend on this outreach NEED your donations of liquid detergent

jugs, dryer sheets, children's sun screen, small waters, juice boxes (Capri Sun, etc.), bottles of bubbles, storybooks, crayons, and color books. The volunteers help to keep the children busy while the laundry's being done.

Collection Sundays: July 9th and August 6th. Please mark these two Sundays on your calendar. If you're going to be away, please leave your donations anytime under the bubble tub in the Narthex.

Sharing Network

Heifer International

Summer Camp Sessions: August 14-18 (last session). Download the registration form from the website: www.heifer.org/farm.

Birthday Barnyard Parties - Year-Round: Invite 18 of your family and friends for a hands-on farm activity part. Trained party host to help with all your needs. Cost: \$275 for 18 guests. Call or e-mail the farm at heifer.farm@heifer.org.

Remember the Farm Café and Gift Shop:

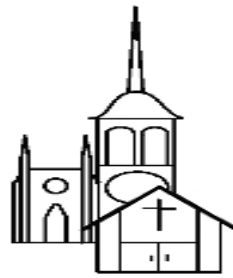
Daily, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fair Trade gifts, produce, food, and drinks. Farm fresh hot soup daily!

Boundless Way: Daily practice sessions.

Buddhas Over Worcester: Open daily until dusk, through Saturday, June 24th. Visit the beautiful, tranquil gardens at Boundless Way and view the art and sculptures of 20 visiting artists. Take some quiet time for yourself while visiting this beautiful spot.

Worcester Friends: Summer Market Day: Saturday, June 10th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 901 Pleasant Street. Vendors, food, plants, books, and their famous fresh strawberry rhubarb pies!

History Room



The 300th Celebration discs sold very well, and distribution began June 25th. We thank Judy Langlois for her hours of editing and devotion to giving us a lasting memory of our great event. As the committee completes the last few items

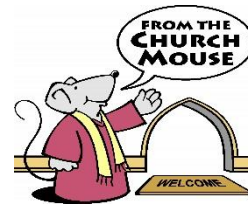
of our work, we are pleased to tell you about our final project.

With the money left in our budget, we are gifting the church with a lighting strip for the display case in the hallway. It will have an LED strip - safe for glass cases, and a transformer switch placed high up for safety.

This will be a lasting memory of our celebration and a way to highlight all the future displays yet to come.

"Caution" tape will be featured until the work is done.

From Nick, the Church Mouse!



Happy summer, everyone. Just wanted to say Hello before I head off on my summer vacation. I'll be looking for some rest and relaxation...kind of like the words of David in Psalm 23.

I think it'd be wonderful to lie down in a green pasture or perhaps be led alongside some quiet waters. Whatever you do, try and spend some time with God outdoors in His creation. It'll do well for your soul. Even if you're traveling, do try and attend a church service and share fellowship with other Christian sisters and brothers. You never know what blessings might be in store for you. Have a good summer. I'll keep you all in my prayers. Maybe I'll send a postcard!!! God be with you. Nick

Fellowship News

We held our last meeting for the season on June 6th. We voted in our new officers for the coming year, which will begin on September 19th.

President: Beverly Bean

Secretary: Ann Scherdell

Treasurer: Janet Dillon

Thank you, ladies, for your willingness to take these leadership positions. We're looking for some new ideas for programs, activities, and speakers to complement those things which we already do. If you have some ideas, please speak with Bev. We would also like to organize a program committee to work on next year's schedule. Again, if you'd like to be a part of the planning or have some new ideas for next year's calendar, please contact Bev. We'd like to have an initial meeting sometime in July.

Our next regular meeting will be Tuesday, September 19th at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor. Join us for coffee and goodies. Invite a friend; all men and women are welcome! Looking forward to another great year of fellowship. See you then.

Thank You so Much!

Karen Burnett of North Brookfield has given our old pump organ a new home, to be used by her children. She says, *"I'm sending God a thank-you note, too! Thank you for the beautiful organ; I'm glad I could give it a new home. Many thanks, Karen Burnett."* Karen further expressed her thanks by donating \$100 to the church.

Fundraiser Thank You !

Thank you to those who participated in the Avon fundraiser. We all got some lovely things from Avon. The profit we made, along with our Basket Raffle Fundraiser, helped make the final installment on our Sunday School Room rug.

Our wonderful Avon Representative, Amanda Niquette, donated her entire commission to our church! She was most generous in doing this, so please consider her when making future Avon orders.

Her phone/text number is 508-335-4745

www.youravon.com/aniquette (Shop With Me)

www.startavon.com (Sell With Me; Reference Code: aniquette)

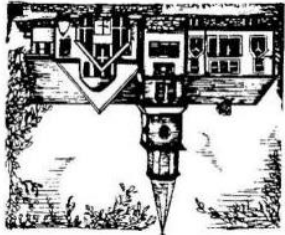
www.facebook.com/AvonDiscoveries (Facebook)

July 2017 - FCC Worcester Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <i>10:00am</i> Haitian Church <i>12:00pm</i> Church of God
2 <i>10:00am</i> Worship <i>10:30am</i> Res Ministries <i>6:30pm</i> AA Mtg	3 <i>7:00pm</i> Boy Scouts Council Mtg <i>7:00pm</i> AA Mtg	4 Independence Day	5 <i>7:30am</i> BNI <i>7:00pm</i> Res Ministries <i>7:00pm</i> AA Mtg	6 <i>6:30pm</i> AA Mtg	7 <i>9:00pm</i> Res Ministries	8 <i>10:00am</i> Haitian Church <i>12:00pm</i> Church of God <i>7:00pm</i> Funeral-Res.Min.
9 <i>10:00am</i> Worship <i>10:30am</i> Res Ministries <i>12:00pm</i> Funeral-Res Ministries <i>6:30pm</i> AA Mtg	10 <i>6:30pm</i> Neighborhood Watch Mtg <i>7:00pm</i> AA Meeting	11	12 <i>7:30am</i> BNI <i>7:00pm</i> Res Ministries <i>7:00pm</i> AA Mtg	13 <i>6:30pm</i> AA Mtg	14 <i>9:00pm</i> Res Ministries	15 <i>10:00am</i> Haitian Church <i>12:00pm</i> Church of God
16 <i>10:00am</i> Worship <i>10:30am</i> Res Ministries <i>6:30pm</i> AA Mtg	17 <i>7:00pm</i> AA Mtg	18	19 <i>7:30am</i> BNI <i>7:00pm</i> Res Ministries <i>7:00pm</i> AA Mtg	20 <i>6:30pm</i> AA Mtg	21 <i>9:00pm</i> Res Ministries	22 <i>10:00am</i> Haitian Church <i>12:00pm</i> Church of God
23 <i>10:00am</i> Worship <i>10:30am</i> Res Ministries <i>6:30pm</i> AA Mtg	24 <i>7:00pm</i> AA Mtg	25	26 <i>7:30am</i> BNI <i>7:00pm</i> Res Ministries <i>7:00pm</i> AA Mtg	27 <i>6:30pm</i> AA Mtg	28 <i>9:00pm</i> Res Ministries	29 <i>10:00am</i> Haitian Church <i>12:00pm</i> Church of God
30 <i>10:00am</i> Worship <i>10:30am</i> Res Ministries <i>6:30pm</i> AA Mtg	31 <i>7:00pm</i> AA Mtg					

August 2017 - FCC Worcester Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Lammas	2 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Res Ministries 7:00pm AA Mtg	3 6:30pm AA Mtg	4 9:00pm Res Ministries	5 10:00am Haitian Church 12:00pm Church of God
6 10:00am Worship 10:30am Res Ministries 6:30pm AA Mtg	7 7:00pm Boy Scouts Council Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg	8	9 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Res Ministries 7:00pm AA Mtg	10 6:30pm AA Mtg	11 9:00pm Res Ministries	12 9:00am Church of God 10:00am Haitian Church 12:00pm Church of God
13 10:00am Worship 10:30am Res Ministries 6:30pm AA Mtg	14 6:30pm Neighborhood Watch Mtg 7:00pm AA Mtg	15 *Deadline for Submissions to the Friendly Messenger	16 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Res Ministries 7:00pm AA Mtg	17 6:30pm AA Mtg	18 9:00pm Res Ministries	19 10:00am Haitian Church
20 10:00am Worship 10:30am Res Ministries 6:30pm AA Mtg	21 7:00pm AA Mtg	22 7:30pm CE/YA Mtg (Conf Rm)	23 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Res Ministries 7:00pm AA Mtg	24 6:30pm AA Mtg	25 9:00pm Res Ministries	26 10:00am Haitian Church 12:00pm Church of God
27 10:00am Worship 10:30am Res Ministries 6:30pm AA Mtg	28 7:00pm AA Mtg	29	30 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Res Ministries 7:00pm AA Mtg	31 6:30pm AA Mtg		



The First Congregational Church in Worcester
1070 Pleasant Street
Worcester, MA 01602
www.fcc-worcester.org
Rev. Robert H. Jackson

Return Service Requested

«Label_Line_1»
«Street»
«CityTown», «State» «Zip»

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.

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