

# February 2019 Newsletter

First Congregational Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

300 Central Street, Saugus, MA 01906

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Rev. Jenn Macy

Rebecca Harrold, Music Minister

Vanessa Byrne, Church Secretary

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

**"but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31**

## WELCOME 2019

### MUSIC NOTES: From Rebecca Harrold

It's a NEW YEAR. The headlines are all about a "NEW ME"....but I'm focusing on the "same old me" in a good way. You see, I have been a church musician since I was in elementary school. Daily I would hear the teachers at my Catholic school praise me for my musical skills and implore me to "Always sing for God". As an obvious outcome to their encouragement, singing and playing to God has been my life vocation. And to that end, as a church musician, I feel very honored to have a role that speaks straight to the heart of the believers who come together each Sunday (or Saturday) to worship God. More times than not, I am reminded how God speaks to the heart directly and concisely through music. When I choose songs at the church where I direct, I meditate on the people I see each Sunday, I listen to what they've said to me about their own personal struggles and victories and I allow God to move in my heart to find music that will minister not only through scripture (the written word) but also, and MOST importantly, through musical inspiration.



To me, music speaks its own language more purely than any other form of communication so as I play song choices, I feel in my heart and register what the message is I am getting from the sound and mood of the piece. Even as people listen to the music, it is very beneficial to tune into the body and note where they feel the music resonating in their body. This loosens any knots or blockages that

may have been in their spiritual experiences. And by allowing the music to move through the body, the blocks can be removed and the knots untied.

This is how I experience music on a spiritual level. I am honored to call God my BIG boss and to call all his people my supervisors. Because by ministering to the people my vision becomes "super", not just focused on myself. That would be an inferior way to practice Church Music. In conclusion, I ask that everyone who attends the First Congregational Church UCC in Saugus feel free to speak with me about their own musical and spiritual experiences so that I can widen my scope of understanding. I appreciate hearing your hearts of joy, sadness, disappointment or whatever feelings you may be experiencing and in turn, I will translate that into what I hope to be a transformative musical experience.

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## Annual Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner

March 9<sup>th</sup>

Doors open at 4:30

Dinner @ 5:00-7:00 PM



Price is \$13.00 in advance and \$15.00 at the door. We would like as many of you as possible to help sell tickets.

We would like to get around a hundred tickets sold if possible. If anyone has an Facebook account feel free to post this on your page.

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## FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The trustees have been busy working on the annual budget. The budget was set for the coming year and was approved at the annual meeting.

We have also purchased a new snow blower which was also approved at the annual meeting.

Most of the repairs are done from the fire with the exception of the electrical work which will be performed in March when it warms up a little.

We are also looking at ways to enhance the sound system in the sanctuary. Some parishioners are having trouble hearing in some areas of the pews. The organ should be ready in time for Easter.

Thank you,

Board of trustees

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## FROM THE DEACONS

**Terri Leander is Deacon of the month for February.**



This month we are finalizing a contract with Rev. Werder to submit to the Trustees.

I think most agree with John Gilmore's recent message at last week's sermon.

Times are changing. We feel many are still in a grieving period from Rev. Martha's departure but like John said, we need to be a "Champion of Change." Embrace our future changes. Rev. Jenn Macy has been doing a remarkable job leading our Sunday worship services and we are so thankful for her presence. We eagerly anticipate Rev. Heike Werder's arrival in March. I hope to have a bio from her for next month's newsletter, so we can all learn a little about her. While there are many changes, much is still the same. The church building and sanctuary still look the same. We still worship, pray and uplift one another each Sunday morning.

The faces and friendships are still there. Our outreach programs are still going strong. Heifer International and Healthy Students, Healthy Saugus. Our faithful knitters are still knitting prayer shawls. Tuesday evenings are still dedicated to yoga classes. First and third Wednesdays, there is still a meditation group. Really the only difference is the person leading the worship. So my wish is that we work hard and stay together as a cohesive group for many years to come.

After our annual meeting, we are still looking for volunteers to fill many of the committees. Think about it and see if anything sparks your interest. Remember it is us, the congregation, that drive the church. So we need volunteers to do so.

One thing that never changes is that we need people to sign up for greeter/ushers, scripture readers and coffee hour hosts.

We are also hoping for a snow/ice free February.

Your Board of deacons,  
Barbara Davis, John Gilmore, Terri Leander, Susan Dunn, Mike Mascovitz.

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## COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Happy New Year to you all! I hope your new year is off to a happy and healthy beginning.

2019 is shaping up to be an exciting year for our community outreach ministries both locally and globally. We will continue our traditions of serving through our collection of back to school supplies, donations of gift cards for teens in need at Christmas time as well as hats and mittens, Kindness Rocks and Heifer Project.

## Heifer Project:

Heifer Project had a stellar year in 2018. Over the course of last year, between our church fundraisers and with the addition of a town wide fundraiser on Founder's Day with the Blessing of the Animals and petting zoo, we raised in combination with double and triple gift matches from Heifer over 2000.00. That's an incredible amount thanks to your continued support and a significant increase in monies from when Heifer was resurrected in 2016, which for that year the amount collected was 150.00.



We will also continue our prayer shawl ministry that has a significant impact on those who receive them. In addition to our faithful members who have been making them for a long time now, I will be adding a monthly gathering for those who've already expressed interest in getting together at my apartment to crochet shawls. It is open to anyone who has an interest. You need not have any experience in crocheting at all. We have a couple of awesome people who are more than capable to teach you. I just learned earlier last year. Our first gathering will hopefully be during the second week of February, so stay tuned at church for further announcements!

In addition, we will be undertaking some new additions as well. Although collecting for One Great hour of Sharing isn't new, I will be spear-heading the campaign this year because I strongly believe it our responsibility as followers of Jesus to help the poor, the displaced, the hungry, the sick, the marginalized and those who are the most vulnerable. That will take place during Lent. Thank you for all you do and have done to help our Community Outreach Ministries. I'm thrilled at the opportunities that lie ahead to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors near and far.

**Yours in Christ, Terri Leander**

## THE HEALING CIRCLE

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAYS OF EVERY MONTH

### **"The Root of Healing is in the Power of the Circle"**

Need a soul vacation in the middle of your week? Join us twice a month to practice meditation, pray, and find peace and renewal that will sooth your tired soul. In February we will be continuing our journey with Deepak Chopra's "Hope in Uncertain Times" All are welcome!!!!

**February 6<sup>th</sup>** "Hope Brings Simplicity", with the centering thought, "I offer hope from the simplicity of my heart"

**February 20<sup>th</sup>** "Hope Offers Forgiveness", with the centering thought, "Every day I move towards forgiveness".

Who couldn't use a little hope during these times? Come whether you have been before or not! Come and enjoy what an hour of meditation can do for you.

**Cynthia C. Turco, Meditational Leader**

[www.facebook.com/healingcirclesaugus](http://www.facebook.com/healingcirclesaugus)



# February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship & Communion 10AM	4 Trustees 5:45PM N.A 7:00PM	5 Yoga 6:30PM	6	7	8	9
10 Worship 10AM Church Council @ 11:30AM	11 N.A. 7:00PM	12 Yoga 6:30PM	13 Divorce Support 7-10PM	14	15	16
17 Worship 10AM	18 <b>Presidents' Day</b> N.A. 7:00	19 Yoga 6:30PM	20	21 Masons Night	22	23
24 Worship 10AM	25 N.A. 7PM	26 Yoga 6:30PM	27 Divorce Support 7-10PM	28 Healthy Students, Healthy Saugus Packing Lunch		