

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:

It's hard to believe that February is here and it feels like Christmas was just yesterday. There are several perennial themes that are present in the month of February. Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays and of course Valentine's Day. 1 John draws a rather solid line between the world view of love and the Christian perspective. Consider 1 John 2:15-17 from the New International Version: *"On Not Loving the World ¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever."* Now look at 1 John 4:7-12 from the New International Version: *"God's Love and Ours ⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."*

Our love of God is what feeds our Agape love for one another. We all know that there are many situations and people that deplete our Christian love. Years ago, my brothers launched a small boat into the water and it slowly began to sink. I asked them if they had re-installed the plug.....and of course they had not.

The best way to keep God's love in our heart is to keep the "water out" so we don't sink into the storms

that drain our love for another. It is the daily feeding on God's word and prayer that keeps our "love boat" afloat. We will always have many aggravations and choppy seas around us. But if we are feeding our soul via fellowship, scripture, prayer and mission, we will live to sail another day and remain above the waves. Remember: ".....if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us."

May our dedication to serve and love another be our best witness to the Tatnuck Community and beyond. May the historic examples of Washington and Lincoln inspire us to love as they did. May our faith in Jesus Christ inspire us to love one another not just on Valentine's Day, but throughout the year.

See you in church! Because He Lives - Rev. Bob

Ash Wednesday Service Reminder!

Our Ash Wednesday service is Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to attend this meaningful and very moving service.

FRIENDLY MESSENGER DEADLINE:

The due date for the March issue is Wednesday, February 19, 2020. If your article(s) are not in by that date, we'll be happy to include it (them) in our April 2020 issue. Thank you!

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the church will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2020 following the 10:00am Church service. The business of the meeting will include:

1. The presentation of the annual reports of the officers, boards, the Church Council and standing committees.
2. The presentation by the Treasurer of the financial position of the Church for the fiscal year 2019.
3. The presentation by the Board of Trustees of the proposed budget for the year 2020 and action to adopt the budget.
4. The election of officers, board and committee members for the 2020 Church year.
5. Take any action on a proposed update to the T-Mobile rental contract.
6. The transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

February Birthdays

04 Richard Mason
05 Molly Frances Andes
20 Scott Yonker
21 Laura Waters
23 Doug Perkins
27 Connie MacInnes

March Birthdays

03 Norman Anderson
06 Charlotte Perry
11 Susan Anderson
11 Melissa Castle
18 Annalise McGrail
28 Ellen Dalbeck

Prayer Requests

Hampton Bagdasarian requests prayers for June Kemp; Sue Cardin requests prayers for David Siam; Susan Anderson requests prayers for her daughter, Melanie and her son, Danny; Sue Carow requests prayers for her brother, Michael Curran; Connie MacInnes requests prayers for her niece Linda; The Deacons request prayers for Paul Scherdell; prayers for Melissa Castle as she is recovering from surgery; prayers for Sally Day; prayers for Marilyn Mildish; prayers for Mac MacInnes who is now recovering at home; prayers for Betty Dalbeck who is recovering at Knollwood Rehab; Beth Robinson requests prayers for her nephew, Jack Maino, who is studying in Spain this semester and the Maino Family for peace in his absence-Beth also requests prayers, peace and provision for the Mingolla Family on the passing of Stephen; prayers for Joan Kinney's family & friends on her passing

A Special Note:

To my Church Family!

I wish ALL of you - God's Blessing and a Healthy New Year.

Thank you for the visit from Sue and Rev. Bob delivering the delicious cookies. Sue and Rev. Bob came at a very needed time for me.

Rev. Bob, God always leads you to my house when I need a special prayer with you.

Thank you for your kindness,

Erika M. Vecsey

Laundry Love



Your donations this past month were put to good use by the Laundry Love Team.

The crowds were big and the needs are great, thanks to you, they had another successful evening.

You donated: 12 jugs of detergent, 1 double size box of dryer sheets, 1 tube of antiseptic cream, 4 pocket size boxes of hand sanitizer, 2 bottles of downy softener and 2 coloring books with crayons.

With fewer reminders in the bulletin, please note that the next collection day will be Sunday, February 9th for delivery that week.

From Hospitality

Anyone wishing to bring in treats for Sunday Coffee Hour through the end of 2020, please sign up in the Narthex. Thank you!

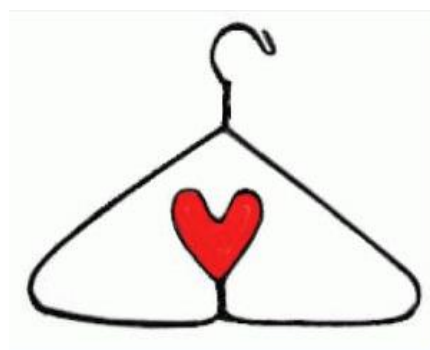
Feb 2	_____
Feb 9	_____ Fellowship _____
Feb 16	_____
Feb 23	_____

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at First Congregational Church in Worcester on 2/19/2020. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems.

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL HEART MONTH

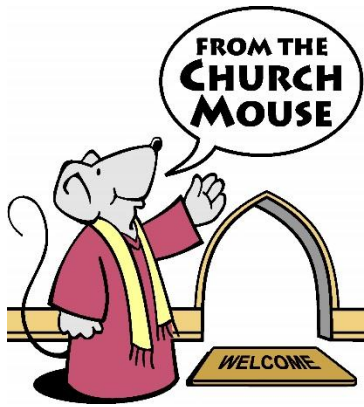
Do you have high cholesterol or high blood pressure? Have members of your family suffered from these ailments? Do you have a poor diet? If you answer “yes” to any of these questions, you may want to consider being screened for your risk of stroke through the services of Life Line Screening. Life Line Screening uses ultrasound technology to view the plaque build-up in your carotid arteries, the main arteries that carry blood to the brain. Blockages in these arteries are a leading cause of stroke. We are pleased to host this Life Line Screening event 2/19/2020 at First Congregational Church in Worcester. Register for a Wellness Package with Heart Rhythm for \$149. All screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Your Health is in Your Hands, so call 1-888-653-6441 or go to www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word circle to 797979 for more information or to pre-register.



Concordia's Closet

Keep in mind that the month of April will be here sooner than you think. Start putting aside items for our spring delivery.

One full bag has already been donated.



A Message from the Church Mouse

Happy Febrrrrruary! Winter has been here, but maybe Spring is just around the corner. I will have to check in with my groundhog friends and see what they think. February 2 is Groundhog Day and that's when my friends usually wake up from their long winter's nap. Now if you believe the pundits, either winter will continue for a while longer or spring will come sooner. Which would you prefer? Did you know that there is an old Christian tradition that goes along with the day? The tradition of predicting the length of the remaining winter is intertwined with the Christian holiday, Candlemas. The clergy would bless candles symbolizing the "light of the world" to give to their congregations. It is also the 40th day after Christmas when Jesus was presented at the temple. (Luke 2:22-40) Just a little history of the day. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb 26), but I hear there is a delicious pancake breakfast the day before on "Fat Tuesday" aka Mardi Gras. Oh, and don't forget it's Leap Year. That gives us all an extra day to do all those things we haven't had time to do!!! Enjoy. Catch you next month.

Your faithful church mouse and friend,
Nick

Greater Worcester Community Foundation

The foundation is accepting applications from high school seniors who live in Worcester County and plan to attend college in the fall. The applications are for 2020 college scholarships. The deadline is **March**

2nd at 5pm. You can find free applications online at www.greaterworchester.org. Applicants apply once, and are considered for all of our 138 scholarships for which they are eligible. (Students may receive more than one award.)

Missions Matters – Carty Cupboard

Many thanks to those who have continued donating to Carty Cupboard. Your contributions are gratefully appreciated and most welcome.

Food items requested at this time:

- **February** – Brown rice
- **March** – Pancake Mix & Syrup
- **April** – Jelly

Personal Care Products are always needed such as:

- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Feminine products
- Diapers sizes 1-6

Anything you are able to donate, whether goods or monetary is very graciously accepted. Please remember to check the dates on your donations as they do not accept outdated food.

Thank you for your generosity – The Mission Committee

Fellowship News



Welcome back from our January break. We have several events planned for this month. Just a reminder, we meet on Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the church parlor, or sometimes in Fellowship Hall, depending on our

program. Hope you will join us whenever you can. Bring a friend too.

Feb 4 This will be our "Welcome Back" meeting. A time of fellowship and sharing. Looking ahead to the rest of the year.

Feb 9 Sunday. We will sponsor coffee hour after the church service and our church's Annual meeting.

Feb 11 It's an UnBirthday Party. We will share a pot luck lunch in Fellowship Hall. If you are able, please bring a gift of school supplies that we will be giving to the children at Tatnuck Magnet School. Suggested gift value \$5. Paper, notebooks, pens, pencils, erasers, crayons (Crayola), are all needed.

Feb 18 Officer Mike Higgins of the WPD will be our guest. He attends the Neighborhood Watch meetings held here each month. Bring any questions you have about what goes on in the city and our Tatnuck neighborhood.

Feb 25 Happy Fat Tuesday! Join us in Fellowship Hall today for our annual Mardi Gras Pancake breakfast, regular and gluten-free, including juice, fruit cup, sausage and King's cake. Everyone is welcome. Not a regular attendee at Fellowship? That's ok. Just let Bev Bean or Carolyn Jackson know you will be joining us so we can keep the pancakes coming! It's a party, the more the merrier.

Super Saturday

March 14, 2020

8:00 am—3:45 pm
Minnechaug Regional High School
Wilbraham, MA

Registration Deadline: February 29, 2020
Register Today - www.sneucc.org/supersatreg

Don't miss your workshop! Register Early!



RABBI ELAN BABCHUCK
Theologian, Writer, and Advocate fascinated by the Intersections of Faith, Justice, and Identity
Founding Director of GLEAN Network, an incubator and network for faith leaders who seek to reimagine the role of religion in an ever-changing world yearning for meaning, belonging, and justice. Also serves as the Director of Innovation at CLAL a think-tank focused on the future of faith in America.

Partner Sponsor



Boston University School of Theology

Community Service Project
www.communitysurvivalcenter.org
Please bring a Food Donation to support the Community Survival Center. Details on page 4.





Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

BE GREEN 

We encourage attendees to carpool and to bring their own reusable water bottles and/or travel mugs.
No water bottles will be available.

"Super Saturday is, I believe, the most important wider church community building resource available at this time."

Come Explore Workshops, Worship and More...



Board of Trustees Restarts Window Project

We are happy to share that we are restarting the project to refurbish and paint the church windows. It has been a few years since we attempted to raise funds to paint our windows. Our church windows are still in great need of repair and painting.

Would you consider making a donation to this worthy cause? The estimated cost is \$5,000. We have raised about \$1,000 with \$4,000 to go. With your help and God's provision, we can paint and restore our windows for the future. Thank you for your help in the past....we appreciate your help for the future.



FCC Worcester Calendar

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00am New Hope SDA-sanctuary & parlor 12:00pm Church of God-Hall
2 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 11:30am Trustees Meeting 2:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	3 10:00am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 7:00pm AA Meeting-Hall	4 10:00am Fellowship 11:30am Shepherds 7:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima	5 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	6 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	7 5:00pm Girl Scouts-Hall 7:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	8 10:00am New Hope SDA-sanctuary & parlor 12:00pm Church of God-Hall
9 10:00am Worship 10:15am ANNUAL MEETING 10:30am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 2:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	10 10:00am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 6:30pm Neighborhood Watch Mtg-Parlor 7:00pm AA Meeting-Hall	11 10:00am Fellowship 7:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima	12 Lincoln's Birthday 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	13 6:00pm Prayer Group 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall 7:00pm Choir	14 Valentine's Day 7:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	15 10:00am New Hope SDA-sanctuary & parlor 12:00pm Church of God-Hall
16 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 11:30am Deacons Meeting 2:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	17 Presidents' Day 10:00am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 7:00pm AA Meeting-Hall	18 7:30am B.S.A. - Hall 10:00am Fellowship 11:30am Missions Meeting 7:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima	19 8:00am Life Line Screening - Hall 12:00pm NEWSLETTER DUE 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	20 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	21 12:00pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 5:00pm Girl Scouts-Hall 7:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	22 Washington's Birthday 10:00am New Hope SDA-sanctuary & parlor 12:00pm Church of God-Hall
23 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 11:30am Church Council Meeting 2:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	24 10:00am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 7:00pm AA Meeting-Hall	25 10:00am Fellowship 7:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima	26 Ash Wednesday 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm Paul Matthews Meeting - Hall	27 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall 7:00pm Choir	28 7:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	29 10:00am New Hope SDA-sanctuary & parlor 12:00pm Church of God-Hall



Hello
February

SmsZoo.com