

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 summer has arrived seemingly overnight. Spring time feels shorter every year and a new season is here. When we left for Norway on May 12th the leaves were just popping out. When we returned on May 20th, they were in full bloom.

The hand of God in creation is truly amazing and our recent trip proved it once again. I had heard about the fjords of Norway all my life. But to see them up close and rising all around you is truly awe inspiring. The Palmist tells us in Ps. 95:3-5 “For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land”.

Throughout our journey, I couldn’t help but to think: God created all this with a swipe of His fingers. He gave it to us to enjoy, cherish and be good stewards of His creation. Norway is very dedicated to taking care of our environment and you see it everywhere you go.

This summer, as we get out to enjoy the creation God has given to us, let’s have a similar attitude. As Christians, we are called to be good stewards of this garden called earth. Be sure not to miss the beauty of God’s creation over this summer season.

I would ask us to reflect this summer on how each of us as a church family, could do a better job of taking care of this place formed by the hand of God. Be sure to stop, be still, and use the “off” button very frequently. Listen to the wind, hear and see the waves at the ocean, take in the bubbling brooks in the forest and allow space for God’s creation to speak to your soul. Experience His refreshing rains and behold the mountain splendor He has set before us. Doing these things, along with reading His word will indeed refresh our souls! Consider these words from “How Great Thou Art”.

*“When through the woods, and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art, How great Thou art
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!”*

See you in church! Because he lives!

Rev. Bob

FRIENDLY MESSENGER DEADLINE:

The *hard and fast cut-off* date for the July-August issue is Tuesday, June 26th. If your article(s) aren’t in by that date, we’ll be happy to include it (them) in our September, 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!

June Birthdays

- 01 Karl Marble
- 03 Jane Boggs
- 05 Daniel Ames
- 10 Steven Hinson
- 11 Cassandra Olson
- 11 Erin McGrail
- 13 Joyce Thienel
- 14 Danny Marble
- 17 Linda Ann Coy
- 19 Eileen Miles
- 28 Kevin Blondin

June Anniversaries 01

- 01 Mac & Connie MacInnes
- 08 Bob & Luz Smith
- 21 Richard & Renee Mason

Laundry Love



With all the donations that were due the first of May, Thank you for your support of Laundry Love. Delivered on May 9th were 7 large jugs of detergent, 1 box of dryer sheets, 5 tubes of antiseptic cream, 3 boxes of alcohol wipes, 3 large boxes of bandages, 1 multipack tissues, 2 multipacks of juices, 2 tubes of children's sunscreen along with \$5.10 cash for the machines and 2 activity packs for children.

With summer sun and heat finally here, the laundry team could use: small waters, juice boxes or packs, sunscreen, sidewalk chalk and bubbles to help keep the little ones busy. Next collection day is Sunday, June 3rd. Place your donations UNDER the bubble tub in the narthex.

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!

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; Bruce Kabasinsky; Sis Prefontaine; Ronald Taylor; Rita Swett; Holly Mahlert; Jean Andes; Paul, a friend of Brian MacInnes ; Ray Bull; Marie Waskevich; Prayers for Kimberly Wright for her upcoming surgery.

Concordia's Closet

Thank you to everyone that donated to FCC's outreach to Concordia's Lutheran's Clothes Closet. We filled the wagon again and were warmly welcomed on delivery day by the helping hands waiting to help unload.

Our next mission collection is the month of October for November delivery, so keep this in mind as you find new treasures.

Sharing Network:

Notes for your calendars!

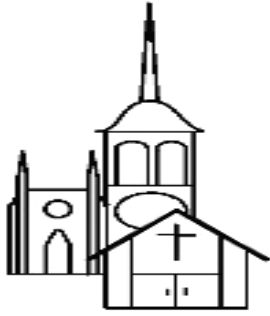
Market Day – Worcester Friends – 901 Pleasant Street, Saturday, June 16th – 9am-3pm

Homemade strawberry-rhubarb pies, vendors, plants, books, hot-dogs, coffee and donuts.

“Buddhas Over Worcester” Exhibit – Boundless Way Temple – 1030 Pleasant Street

Ongoing through July – daily, dawn to dusk

Take a few quiet moments and take a self-guided walk through the gardens at Boundless Way Temple to enjoy the displays by more than 25 artists as they interpret what “AWAKE” means to them. A perfect time of quiet reflection in our way-too busy lives.



History Room

This past month Steven and I had the pleasure to find and share information with the group that is trying to stop the demolition of Notre Dame des Canadiens. You might

call it a “perk” of our job as historians to be able to look up information to help someone’s project or personal history.

In this case, what the committee was looking for was not in our paper collection, but we did point them towards an answer and had copies of articles from 2004 and 2005 that could be used to answer their questions.

I explain this because we are always asking you to share articles, pictures, certificates, obituaries or just memories. You never know when something shared is the missing piece to a research or ongoing project.

So please, keep us in mind when you discover those “treasures” you could share with us. We would copy and return originals if you prefer.

Our continuing thanks.

Fellowship

Our final Fellowship meeting for this season will be on Tuesday, June 5 at 10:00 am in the church parlor. We hope you will join us as we look back at all we have done this year. We will also take some time to look forward and share ideas for next year's programs. We welcome anyone who would like to be on the planning committee to put together next year's schedule and booklet. The committee will meet over the summer. Remember this is your group! See you there.

Celebration X

The UCC New England Women's Celebration X was held recently in Portland Maine. The theme for the weekend was "A Seat At The Table". Over 400 women gathered to sing, listen, share and eat together. We heard about a church in western MA that gathers for dinner as part of their worship. A church in NH has an amazing ministry to the deaf community. We were reminded that we must extended extravagant welcomes and practice extravagant hospitality to all who come to our churches and to all those who are outside our doors. It is the mission of the church to sure that everyone is welcome at our tables. We also learned in a workshop that is ok and necessary to take time to be still and listen to what God wants to say to us. We cannot receive the grace and peace of God if we are consumed by our own busyness. We ended with communion around many tables. As it says in Luke 14:17, "Come for all things are now ready." It will be four years until the next Celebration.

Sue Anderson and Carolyn Jackson

Important Notice to the FCC Members

Beth, the housekeeper, will be on vacation from June 4th through June 8th.

Pastoral Relations Committee Update

During this past year we have been listening to you, the congregation, concerning your wishes, your needs and your feedback on the changes that have been covered to date. We want to thank you again for your frank conversations and your written comments, as they have been the agenda guideline during our meetings with Pastor Bob.

At our May meeting we were pleased to pass along to him the unanimous acceptance of the new mic, enabling everyone to hear where ever he is standing. The second most appreciated improvement is his introduction to the Gospel reading. This has given everyone meaningful background for the morning sermon. Other items, such as being regularly available for the blessing at the Community Lunch; listing the Pastor's office times at the church; and advance notice of special happenings in upcoming services have all added to a closer relationship within the congregation.

Several items that are ongoing include: a way to improve hearing of the personal prayer requests during the service. We have asked Pastor Bob to discuss with the Deacons the use of pew prayer cards to be given to him to acknowledge during the service's prayer time.

Requests for financial updates in the bulletin on the second Sunday of the month, hopefully will continue as it appeared on April 15, 2018.

Continuing to strengthen communication between groups, supporting the "Building Use Form" policy, and assisting all of us as we venture into a new smaller church structure are areas we will need the Pastor's guidance.

The church is having the opportunity to host an area-wide Cluster Meeting on June 5th. This meeting brings together association churches to meet with the Area Minister Kelly Gallagher to discuss topics of mutual interest. On the evening's agenda are questions such as: *"What is our Mission?"* *"What do we hope to accomplish over the next 5 years in our churches?"* and *"How does history effect our present and future outlook?"*

All attendees are asked to RSVP with our office, or with Deb Holmes at the Central Office by Monday, June 4th (508-963-8016.) Refreshments are being prepared by the PRC.

Our next meeting with Pastor Bob is July 12th. We welcome your input to our agenda either in person or as a note in the box at any time.

Sheila, Theresa, Ashley, and Linda Ann

Cluster Meeting.

June 5 6:30pm -8:00pm.

All are invited to a U.C.C cluster meeting in our church parlor on Tuesday June 5th. A cluster meeting is a time when members of our church and representatives from surrounding churches gather to meet and share their church story with our associate conference minister Rev. Kelly Gallagher. Some of the questions will be: What is on mission? What kind of ministers do we sponsor? What do we hope to accomplish for our Lord over the next five years? How does our history inform our present and future outlook?

We hope you will join us for this informative meeting with our neighbors and Rev. Kelly. Refreshment

A BIG THANK YOU

We had another great year with the Community Lunch program. Let's give ourselves a round of applause. EVERYONE worked as a team to make it a success. Many hands working together made it all easier. Thank you to all the cooks, the servers, the dishwashers, the table setters, the money counters and those who did any of the other jobs. Thank you to our music man, Bob L. and thank you to Holly for your devoted leadership to the lunch program.. We are grateful for all you did throughout the year. We wish you continued healing. There are still decisions to be made about whether to continue the lunches in fall. But for now, we say thank you and God bless you for your faithfulness and service.

SAVE THE DATE!

JUNE 10, 2018



The Christian Education Committee & Sunday School would love it if you could attend! It will be held on the church lawn by the play yard, immediately following the service. All are welcome! Bring your friends! Fun for all ages!

RSVP to Sue Anderson by phone @ 774-253-0715, by email to deegram@charter.net or by signing up in the Narthex.

If you would like to bring fruit or dessert, it would be great but is not necessary.

Peace & Blessings,

The Christian Education Committee



June 2018 - FCC Worcester Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
3 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 6:30pm AA Meeting	4 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	5 10:00am Fellowship 5:30pm Cluster Meeting 7:00pm AA Mtg	6 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	7 6:30pm AA Meeting	8	9 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
10 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 11:30am Trustees Meeting 6:30pm AA Meeting	11 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 6:30pm Neighborhood Watch Mtg 7:00pm AA Meeting	12 11:00am Missions 7:00pm AA Mtg	13 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	14 Flag Day 6:30pm AA Meeting	15	16 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
17 Father's Day 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 11:30am Deacons meeting 6:30pm AA Meeting	18 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	19 7:00pm AA Mtg	20 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	21 Summer Solstice 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir	22	23 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
24 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 11:30am Church Council Meeting 6:30pm AA Meeting	25 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	26 *Deadline for Submissions to the Friendly Messenger 7:00pm AA Mtg	27 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	28 6:30pm AA Meeting	29	30 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God