

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

October 2019

First Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602
www.fcc-worcester.org · Office: 508-752-4635 · Parsonage: 508-459-9085



A Word from Rev. Jackson:

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ:

Welcome to Fall! Autumn in New England refreshes our spirit through the beauty of God's creation!

There are many lessons we can gather from the falling of the leaves. As temperatures change and brisk cool nights fill the air, the leaves change into a bright array of colors. Then in a few short weeks, they fall to the ground and November arrives. We mistakenly assume that the trees are now dormant for the winter. However, one of the purposes for the leaves falling is to make room for new growth. Once the branches are bare, they are now prepared to welcome new buds that are starting. This process starts as soon as they leave the tree.

Paul understood this concept when he wrote to the church at Ephesus:

“when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness”. Ephesians 4:21-24

How do we make this change in our spiritual life so new growth can happen? It starts with letting go of the things that are hurting our walk with Jesus. This is what Paul was referring to when he said “put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds”. We all possess a corruptible “old self”. So what can we do to be made “new” in the attitude of our minds?

We might examine those things that are causing us to lose our focus on Jesus. How are we spending our time? What are the distractions that keep us from going to church, praying or reading the Bible? If we hope to be “made new” in our Christian attitude, then we must “put off” the old self that may be corrupting our relationship with Jesus. Only we know what those things are and the Holy Spirit will open our eyes to what needs to change if we say “yes” when He touches our heart. In other words, the old leaves must fall so new life can begin.

I pray you will join me this autumn as we pray out the “old self” so that we can put on the “new self” in the attitude of our minds. So you see, there's a lot we can learn from a tree and a leaf!

See you in church!

Because He Lives,
Rev. Bob Jackson

A note from Beth:

**Dear Friend's,
After 12 ½ years of cleaning the church I am saying farewell. I would like to thank each and every one of you for allowing me to be a part of your 300 year history. I have made many friends and I am grateful for my time here. I wish you all well.**

Beth Letourneau

FRIENDLY MESSENGER DEADLINE:

The *deadline date* for the November issue is October 24th. If your article(s) are not in by that date, we'll be happy to include it (them) in our December 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!

From Hospitality

Anyone wishing to bring in treats for Sunday Coffee Hour through the end of 2019, please sign up in the Narthex or call the Office. Thank you!

As of Wednesday, September 25, 2019, October 6th, October 13th, and October 20th are available.

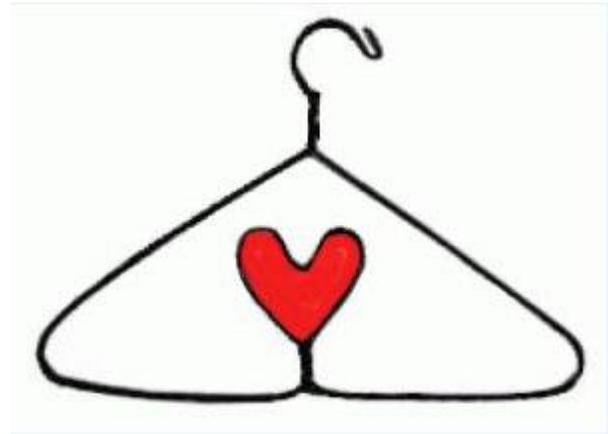
October Birthdays

- 04 Jean Andes
- 04 Matthew Andes, Sr.
- 11 Benjamin Day
- 15 Hampton Bagdasarian
- 19 Ann Scherdell
- 19 Armand Thienel
- 23 Bob Smith
- 23 Robert Anthony Olson
- 25 Marilyn Mildish

October Anniversaries

- 14 George & Jane Boggs
- 17 Armand & Joyce Thienel

Concordia's Closet



It is here and counting-the number of Sundays to drop off your Concordia's Closet donations. The number is 7, the whole month of October thru November 10, 2019.

One question that comes up each time we collect the clothes is...can they be for the past season and not the one coming up? YES, all donations are appreciated.

Because of the wide range of ages in need, everything will find a home. Remember the phrase, we need your donations for ALL seasons, ALL sizes, and ALL ages. Adding accessories to complete an outfit, business attire for both men and women starting a new job, or interviewing is most welcomed.

Have you asked your neighbors or family members to help? They need a place to donate their gently worn/used items also and it will help us fill the Explorer on the 12th of November.

Please leave your bags on the stage, on the kitchen side, by the signs and far away from the heaters on the back wall.

If there is someone needing help getting their bags to the church, call Linda Ann at 508-832-6785 and we will make arrangements to pick up their donations.

Happy Closet Cleaning, by November 10th!

Laundry Love



Thank you for providing the “suds” for the tubs with your donations of 9 large jugs of detergent and 2 boxes of dryer sheets. That will go a long way on Laundry Love night, to help the families with the back to school and sport crunch.

Along with the jugs of detergent, please consider the items for the zip first aid kits. Scrapes, blisters, and bumps from the playground to the field sports need extra attention. Boxes of those items are not easy to come by for many families, so the made-up zip kits are the answer. We need: Band-Aids, alcohol wipes, tubes of antiseptic ointment, 2x2 gauze, 2x2 non-stick gauze, and zip lock bags.

As the weather turns cold the small ones are there also and the staff appreciates items to keep them busy. Activity books, crayons, small books, framed puzzles, and basic flash cards like numbers, colors, and shapes are ideal.

Flu season is starting early so pocket-size hand sanitizers and creams are high on the need list.

The last day for your October donations is Sunday, October 6, 2019 for that week’s delivery. Cash donations to Linda Ann please.

Prayer Requests

Hampton Bagdasarian requests prayers for June Kemp; Sue Cardin requests prayers for David Siam; Susan Anderson requests prayers for her daughter,

Melanie; Sue Carrow requests prayers for her brother, Michael Curran; Connie MacInnes requests prayers for her niece Linda; The Deacons request prayers for Sis Prefontaine & Paul Scherdell; prayers for Melissa Castle as she is recovering from surgery

Please confirm with the office your email address. As coming soon the monthly newsletter will be emailed. Also, if you do not have an email address, let the office be aware. If you still want the newsletter mailed, let the office know.

Thank you

Save the Dates:

Super Saturday, October 5, 2019

Keefe Regional Technical High School

Framingham, MA

Christ the King Parish Senior Luncheon

Msgr. Thomas Sullivan

Invites ALL seniors to attend a Luncheon on October 26, 2019, in our church hall at 12:00 Noon. Please join us!

Hosted by the Women’s Guild, Parish Activity Committee, Brownies & CYC Volunteers

For planning purposes we need to know how many will attend. And we’ll need Name(s) and # of attendees.

Call Jack Staples at: 508-835-3954 or Mindy at Church Rectory at: 508-754-5361

Harvest Fair!

Saturday, November 2, 2019, 9am – 2pm Bethel Lutheran Church, 90 Bryn Mawr Ave, Auburn. Bake Shoppe with: Home-made pies, cakes, breads, cookies and candy Tea Room and Luncheon, “White Elephant” Attic Treasures and more!

We have changed the date!

The kickoff luncheon for Stewardship will be held immediately after church in Fellowship Hall on **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27**. The menu will include Catalina chicken (a senior lunch favorite), green beans, noodles, rolls and an apple dessert. A gluten-free option will be available. Everyone is welcome to come and share a meal together. Bring a friend. Hope you can join us.

LOOKING FOR A GOOD BOOK?

There is a little lending library on the side table in the church parlor. The books are published by Discovery House who also bring us the Our Daily Bread devotionals. Check it out!

The Church Mouse



Greetings to my church friends, Hope you are ready to enjoy the autumn season. The trees are really beginning to put on their colors. Mums and pumpkins are appearing on doorsteps. There is a crispness in the air. I love it. There has been lots of activity around the church as many have returned from their summer hiatus. It says in the hymn, Our God, Our Help in Ages Past, "a shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home." I am glad to have found a home here at First Church to protect me from the stormy days and I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that my final home is in heaven. We are indeed blessed that God loves us and protects us. Psalm 90:14 says, "O satisfy us in the morning with Thy loving kindness. That we may sing for joy and be glad all our days." I look forward to hearing that singing.

Let's talk next month. Your faithful church mouse,
Nick

Fellowship News



We have several things on the agenda for this month. Meetings begin at 10 am on Tuesdays in the church parlor unless we have a trip planned.

Oct 1 Scott LeBlanc, a family service coordinator, at Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton will be our speaker today.

Oct 8 Church cleanup day #1. There are lots of small projects to do around our building. One suggestion - dusting! Bring your dust cloth.

Oct 15 We will travel to Brookfield Orchards and enjoy a light lunch and their delicious apple dumplings with ice cream. Pick up your apples for fall baking. We will meet in the church parking lot and carpool.

Oct 22 David Rynick of the Boundless Way Temple (Buddhist) will be our guest today.

Oct 27 There will be a Stewardship Kickoff Luncheon immediately following church in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. The menu will include Catalina chicken (a senior lunch favorite), noodles, green beans, rolls and an apple dessert.

Oct 29 A field trip to the City of Worcester Emergency Communications Center, This facility houses the 911 Regional Emergency Communications Center. If you ever need to call 911, these are the people who will answer your call. We can carpool from the church.

Please remember this month we are gathering gently worn clothing for Concordia Closet. You can place your donations in the area marked on the stage in Fellowship Hall.

We will not meet on Tuesday, November 5 as it is Election Day. It is a privilege. Don't forget to vote.



Welcome Fall



FCC Worcester Calendar

October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		10:00am Fellowship - Speaker	7:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 7:00pm AA Meeting-Hall	6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall 7:00pm Choir	5:00pm Girl Scouts-Hall 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	8:00am Super Saturday 10:00am New Hope SDA-sanctuary & parlor 12:00pm Church of God-Hall 4:30pm Graca/Bruneau - Parlor 5:00pm Graca/Bruneau Wedding - Sanctuary
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:00am Worship - Communion 10:30am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	10:00am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 7:00pm Boy Scouts-Hall 7:00pm AA Meeting-Parlor	10:00am Fellowship - Church Clean-up Day 11:30am Shepherds	7:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 7:00pm AA Meeting-Hall	6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	9:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	10:00am New Hope SDA-sanctuary & parlor 12:00pm Church of God-Hall
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 11:30am Trustees Meeting 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	10:00am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 6:30pm Neighborhood Watch Mtg-Parlor 7:00pm AA Meeting-Hall	7:30am Boy Scouts 10:00am Fellowship - Brookfield Orchards	7:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 7:00pm AA Meeting-Hall	6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	5:00pm Girl Scouts-Hall 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	10:00am New Hope SDA-sanctuary & parlor 12:00pm Church of God-Hall
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 11:30am Deacons meeting 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	10:00am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 7:00pm AA Meeting-Hall	10:00am Fellowship - Speaker 11:30am Missions	7:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 7:00pm AA Meeting-Hall	November newsletter deadline 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall 7:00pm Choir	9:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	10:00am New Hope SDA-sanctuary & parlor 12:00pm Christ the King Luncheon 12:00pm Church of God-Hall
27	28	29	30	31		
10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 11:30am Church Council Meeting 12:00pm Stewardship Kickoff Lunch 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	10:00am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 7:00pm AA Meeting-Hall	10:00am Fellowship - Field Trip	7:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 7:00pm AA Meeting-Hall	Halloween Reformation Day 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall		