

May, 2017

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

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A Word from Rev. Jackson

Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ:

The signs of spring are everywhere. Flowers, grass, and trees are all coming to life around our church, which was buzzing with life this past Easter Sunday, as 112 of us celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord. It was an exciting time in the life of our church. The book of Acts talks of life in the early Christian church (Acts 2:46-47). "Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved." These early Christians enjoyed the company of one another, and it showed. Their Christian fellowship was a place of attraction, and people wanted to be involved. They shared meals with glad and humble hearts, and they stood out like bright lights in a very dark world.

My prayer is that our past Easter afterglow would signify to our community that we are a friendly and welcoming place. It was inspiring to see new and familiar faces all during Holy Week. May we continue to invite our neighbors, families, youth, and children, so they may know that Jesus is alive and well in our church.

I would also like to thank all those who served our Lord Jesus during Holy Week. Your sacrifice and service added to everyone's worship experience. May Jesus continue to bring JOY to the FCC in Worcester.

See you in Church!

Because He lives,

Rev. Bob

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FRIENDLY MESSENGER DEADLINE: The hard and fast cut-off date for the June issue is Tuesday, May 15th. If your article isn't in by that date, we'll be happy to include it in our July, 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 that there will never be another ginormous flood like in Noah's Ark?

Bob Smith is head of our Sunday School and is doing a wonderful job organizing lessons, giving his time and talents, and making sure there's someone here to teach our children when he can't be here. Mason Martin is also excellent with the children when he can be here, but with a new baby in the family and a busy schedule, he can't always make it. Additionally, we have some wonderful volunteers who are willing to spend time in the classroom from time to time as aides to these fantastic teachers.

Our problem, though, is that Bob Smith will be away on May 21st and May 28th, and we need someone to fill in for him if Mason can't be here.

Most importantly, it's with great sadness that Bob Smith will be leaving us in July. He's moving too far away to commute back and forth to Worcester each week, so we need someone who would like to hop on board and take over for him.

Won't you follow the steps of Jesus and help teach our wonderfully inquisitive children about God and Jesus? Actually, they'll be teaching YOU as well! You can contact me at 774-253-0715, or speak to Bob Smith or Rev. Bob.

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

May Birthdays

07 Sally Day
07 Dawn Ahaesy
09 Steven Coy
13 Sally Hetfield
17 Robert Olson
21 Christina Dalbeck
24 Diana Day
24 Anthony Sullivan
25 Bev Bean
25 Heidi Hinson
25 Deborah Mirick
26 Philip Cardin
28 Sheila Ansley

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!

Prayer Group Still Active!

Don't forget that our Prayer Group is still active and meeting. If you have an interest in becoming part of our group, please let Rev. Bob know. Our meetings are set based on the schedules of those participating, so we're very flexible. Hope you'll join us!

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 \$10!

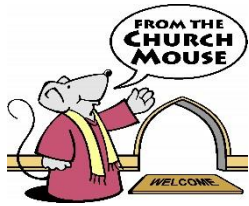
Book Study Group

Is there a book of the Bible or a Christian book you'd like to study as a group? Simply let Rev. Bob or the office know, and we'll set it up based on your schedule.

Coupon Clippers Needed

Sally Day is ready to send another bath of Educational Coupons south to the Elon School. Please remember to check your bags, cans, and boxes for these small coupons. Some cans only use the words and bar codes - no symbols - so you really need to "watch before you toss." Let's keep Sally busy with your donations placed in the red poppy box on the Narthex table.

From Nick, the Church Mouse!



Happy Mother's Day, everyone. The colors and the fragrances of spring are all around us. Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and all women who nurture and care for children. It's an awesome responsibility, one not to be taken lightly. Did you know that Anna Jarvis of West Virginia created Mother's Day in 1908? President Wilson thought it to be such a wonderful idea that he signed a measure in 1914 to establish the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. The rest is history! So, I shout out a big thank you to all the women in the congregation who've raised children and taught children and continue to do so. As a little mouse, I know I tried my mom's patience many times, but she still loved me and made me the mouse I am today. Thanks, mom! I'll be seeing you all around church, but you won't see me. Church mice might be heard, but they should never be seen! 'Til next time, Nick

Laundry Love



There is so much excitement surrounding Laundry Love, Walking Together Ministries, it's hard not to feel it even when delivering your donations. People are going in to visit or get help. Some have small children, or are expecting new additions, others help

empty the car. Whatever the need, there's a feeling they know they're in the right place and doing their part.

April's donations from FCC totaled 11 large jugs of detergent, \$5 in quarters for the machines, 6 pocket-sized sanitizers, 3 packages of kids' sunscreen, 9 jars of bubbles for children's activities, and assorted small games and activities.

This ministry has many branches to do its singular mission of reaching out and showing God's love.

The season is changing, and therefore some other items will be welcomed now through September: small water bottles, juice boxes, small bottles of bubbles, and a huge need for sunscreen for both children and adults. Summer laundry nights are hot and long, so a drink and a bottle of bubbles makes it a bit easier while a week's washing gets done.

Thank you for your continued help with this outreach!

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, Scott Yonker, or Rev. Bob for more information. 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 Anderson; Sue Carrow requests prayers for her son, John; Melissa Castle requests prayers for her mother, Margaret Castle, and for herself; Renee Mason requests prayers for her mother, Melika Piligian, and the Deacons request prayers for Erika Vecsey, Murdock Snair, Diana and Jeff Allen, Sally Day's daughter-in-law, Raja Day, and Sis Prefontaine.

Thursday Community Luncheons

May 4th: Lasagna with broccoli, Italian bread, and Magic Cake

May 11th: Catalina Chicken with mixed vegetables, cranberry sauce, a muffin and a cup cake

May 18th: A Picnic Lunch with sandwiches, pickles, chips, and a Make-Your-Own-Sunday - this is the last Community Lunch for the summer months

Please remember to call the church office (508-752-4635) to make reservations.

Erika Vecsey Thanks You!

To my Church Family! Thank you for all the cards, good wishes, and prayers on my medical journey. Many thanks to Rev. Bob on the phone calls to inquire on my status. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated. I hope to join you for Sunday services in a few months. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. God bless you, with love.

Erika Vecsey

Concordia's Closet

All your donations from this past month are being delivered Tuesday, May 2nd. If you hear of someone downsizing their closet during the summer, please let Linda Ann know, to arrange a delivery.

Fellowship's next collection is during the month of October, to be delivered on November 7th. Keep saving - someone will be very grateful you did.

New Member Class

If you're interested in becoming a member of our church, please speak to Rev. Jackson. The new members' class is scheduled for June 4th.

Worcester Friends

Market Day in June - Watch for date and time
(vendors, books, plants, strawberry-rhubarb pies!)

Shepherds Needed

Do you like to warm peoples' hearts? Speak on the phone? Send cards or notes? Keep in touch with your church family? If you can answer "yes" to any of these questions, maybe you'd like to become a Shepherd. We can really use your help!

We're a group who strive to keep our hearts open to everyone, as we show our concern for them. We let them know that we're there for them by talking to them and sending them cards throughout the year, especially for special occasions. If they need help, we do what we can and point them in the right direction to find the help they seek. Love is what makes a family grow together. This holds true for our church family as well.

If you're interested in becoming a Shepherd, please let Sue Anderson know by calling her at 774-253-0715 or 508-753-6437 or e-mailing her at deegram@charter.net. Thank you!

Jesus said, *"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep."* John 10:11

History Room



Several from the congregation mentioned the column written by Albert Southwick in the T&G, April 13th. It was about Paul Revere and his connection to Worcester during and after his now-famous ride in 1775.

His links to Worcester were varied, and included several of his daughter's marriages to the Lincoln brothers, as an express rider, a silversmith, a bell caster, and an active patriot for our freedom from England.

The article mentioned that the bell was mounted in front of our church. That bell was cast in the Revere foundry in 1802 and hung first at the Parish Church on the Common, First Church, Old South on Main Street, and, after the merger with Tatnuck, it's now part of our history at FCC.

The inscription reads: *"The Living to the Church I Call, and to the Grave I Summon All."*

Thank you to Don Ansley and Bev Bean for the extra copies of the article for the archives.

Fellowship News

Happy May. April showers bring us May flowers. We welcome the warm days of spring. We have a full month of activities planned, and we hope that all who are able will join us. We gather at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays in the church parlor, or in Fellowship Hall, depending on the program for the day. Join us for coffee and goodies and a time of fellowship. Here's our schedule for May:

- May 2 We'll sort the clothing that has been donated to send to Concordia Closet. Many thanks to Linda Ann, who coordinates this outreach.
- May 9 We've set this day aside for a craft project. Would you be willing to share your idea and project with us today? Please speak with Bev if you're interested.
- May 16 Lunch at Worcester Technical High School's Skyline Bistro. We'll need to know if you can join us, so we can make our reservation. Time TBA. Carpooling will be available.
- May 23 This day is set aside for "spring cleaning" around the church. Dusting and lots of small projects to do. No heavy lifting required!

May 28 This is a Sunday, and Fellowship will host the coffee hour. Bev will coordinate sign up for bakers and cleanup.

May 30 Our Annual Ten Penney Auction. Bring three items for this silent auction. Would you like to help with running the auction? We'll miss Sis, who always helped out with this event.

Our final meeting of the year will be on June 6th. Program TBA. Let's also take some time to reflect on this past year, what we have liked and what we could do better. Share some of your ideas for what we can do to improve our group and enhance our time of fellowship together. Our new program year will begin in September.

Finally, our annual bus trip is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27th. We'll be heading to Weirs Beach, New Hampshire to cruise Lake Winnepesaukee on the M/S Mount Washington. There are still a few seats available. Invite your friends to join us so we can fill the bus! Don't delay. \$89 per person includes transportation, lunch, and gratuities. Questions or sign up with Carolyn Jackson at 508-459-9085 or mrsrevrhj@charter.net. Don't miss the bus!

Carty Cupboard

Thank you for your continued donations to Carty Cupboard. They're gratefully appreciated.

Food items requested at this time:

- Cereal (cold and hot; hot in variety packs); the more nutritious, the better
- Canned fruit packed in fruit juice only
- Jelly, in plastic
- Low-sodium vegetables
- Pasta
- Minute rices
- Low-sodium beans

They get plenty of tuna, canned chicken, and peanut butter from the State of Massachusetts, so they don't need those items at this time.

Personal Care Products Needed:

- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Feminine products
- Diapers, sizes 1-6

Sharing Network

Heifer International

"Yoga with the Goats" - May 13th Join Brenna Miller and the goats for a unique yoga class. Cost: \$20/per person (ages 12-adult). To register, call 508-886-5000.

Birthday Barnyard Parties - Year-Round A day on the farm for 18 friends! Hands-on farm activities, trained party host to meet parents' party needs. Cost: \$275. Call the farm with questions or e-mail them at heifer.farm@heifer.org.

Summer Camp Seven weeks of farm fun, garden harvests, cookie baking, and arts and crafts, hay rides, water games, and hiking. First session: June 26-30, and last session: August 14-18. Download the registration form from the website: www.heifer.org/farm.

NEW! Farm Café and Expanded Gift Shop Daily, 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Produce, food, drinks, and Fair Trade gifts from around the world. Farm fresh hot soup daily!

Boundless Way

Buddhas Over Worcester - April 30th to June 30th

Take a few moments this spring and summer to walk the lovely gardens at Boundless Way Temple. More than 20 artists will have displays among the beautiful flowers and ferns along the walkway. Stop, rest, and meditate on the displays in this quiet setting. Opening ceremony: April 30th at 3:00 p.m. Gardens open sunrise to sunset.

Church Fundraisers

Please support our church fundraisers in May and June.

Basket Raffle: Tickets will be sold in the Narthex for two Sundays (April 30th and May 7th) for basket raffles (three tickets for \$5.00). Three beautiful baskets have been donated. Winners will be drawn on May 14th, Mother's Day.

Fundraiser at Barnes & Noble Bookstore on Lincoln St.:

Saturday, June 3rd and Sunday, June 4th; please use our flyer with Coupon Code Voucher Numbers. The flyer will be available in the Narthex, as well as included in our monthly Newsletter. You may copy this flyer or take extras to give to friends and family. It's simple to support our church: just shop at Barnes & Noble on Lincoln Street in Worcester or on-line using our coupon code voucher numbers. This includes the restaurant also!

Avon Fundraiser: Books will be available in the Narthex, with a portion of sales going directly to our church. Shop and support us! The contact phone number will be on the Avon book.

Spring Church Cleanup

Saturday, May 6, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Spring is in the air and are we all not cheering? With that joy it's time to spring into cleaning up our church grounds! **Save the Date!** Many hands make lite work.

Bring your rakes, pruners, shovels, and good will. If you can't make the date, consider taking on one of the items on the work list and doing it at a time which suits you; or, if there's a special project that you'd like to do, mention it to a trustee. I often think how nice our front entrance would look if we pulled the two shrubs and planted annuals for each season: tulips in the spring, geraniums in the summer, and chrysanthemums in the fall. Or, if yard work isn't your gift, consider making a donation of grass seed, lime, mulch, or fertilizer. Any and all help is welcome.

Work List:

Garden by the side entry door

- 2 roses need to be shaped and trimmed
- Clean out dead debris
- Weed
- Edge
- Mulch
- Plant any Easter flowers in this garden that haven't been claimed

Garden by the elevator entrance

- Weed
- Clean out dead debris
- Trim shrubs
- Edge
- Mulch

Garden with bench and birdbath

- Weed
- Clean out dead debris
- Trim shrubs
- Mulch

Church sign garden

- Weed
- Clean out dead debris
- Edge
- Mulch

Front gardens

- Weed
- Trim shrubs
- Mulch

General yard work

- Pickup sticks in church yard and parking lot
- Pickup sticks in parsonage yard
- Rake children's play area
- Rake front yard
- Rake/pickup leaves by cell phone utility building and door beside utility building
- Use hedge trimmer to trim hedge in the garden on the left front area of the church, in back of sign
- Lime
- Fertilize
- Spread top soil in bare spots and low areas
- Seed
- As yard and garden areas are completed, blow sidewalks
- Blow parking lot after sticks are picked up

Easter Flowers - 2017

Dawn and Matt Ahaesy

Susan, Norman, and Melanie Anderson

Sheila and Donald Ansley

Hampton Bagdasarian

Bev Bean

Jane and George Boggs

Raymond A Bull

Sue Cardin

Linda Ann, Steven, Steve, and Sarah Coy

Betty and Wes Dalbeck

Sally Day

Janet L. Dillon

Ada Grant

John Hakkala

Leanne and James Jezerski

Dad and Theresa Kapurch

Samantha, Melissa, and Jessica Mallett

Connie and Milton MacInnes

Mary Kay McGrail

Judy Nally

Charlotte Perry

Ann Scherdell

Cindy MacLaurin and Greg Waters

In memory of the Gibbs and Ahaesy families

In memory of Mom, Skip, Al, and Ryan, and all of the loved ones who met them at the Gates of Heaven; in honor of all who have served our country; and in celebration of life

In memory of Martin W. Perry, and in honor of three healthy children and two healthy grandchildren

In memory of H. Rose Bagdasarian and Sadie Bedrosian

In celebration of her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren

In memory of their parents

In memory of the Bull family

In celebration of loved ones

In memory of their parents and grandparents

In memory of Harriett and Wesley H. Dalbeck, and Lillian and Paul Woodbury

In memory of her husband, Warren Day, and son, Clifford Day

In memory of James M. Dillon

In memory of her mother, Edith Batchelder

In memory of his parents, Gertrude and Levi Hakkala

In memory of Pauline and William Greene, Marjorie and Clifford Greene, and Catherine and Andrew Campsie

In memory of Gary P. Kapurch, Jr.

In memory of Michael Tardif

In memory of Alice, Linwood, and Lenny Hodgkins; and Katherine and Dan MacInnes

In memory of Dorothy Eckhardt

In memory of deceased Nally family members; and her parents, Rachel and Len Blair

In memory of her mother, Mary "Ceil" Brosnan, and her brother, Paul Brosnan

In memory of Ray and Jeffrey Scherdell, and in honor of Paul Scherdell

In celebration of Addie's first Easter

Thank you to those who gave flowers for our families and friends who are unable to attend the services. The plants are enjoyed and truly appreciated by them.

Our Annual Fellowship Bus Trip is here.

Yes, I would like to cruise aboard the M/S Mount
Washington on New Hampshire's Lake Winnepesaukee.
Please reserve my seat.

Sailing Tuesday, June 27, 2017

Leaving at 8:30 am from the First Congregational
Church, 1070 Pleasant St, Worcester

The trip includes a buffet lunch onboard, a stop at Moulton Farm
Market and all gratuities.

\$89 per person.

Checks are payable to : FCC Fellowship

Questions: Carolyn Jackson (508) 459-9085

mrsrevrhj@charter.net

Return to: FCC Fellowship

1070 Pleasant St. Worcester, MA 01602

Name _____

Address _____

Phone/Email _____

Amount enclosed _____

May 2017 - FCC Worcester Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00pm Boy Scouts Council meeting 7:00pm AA Meeting	2 10:00am Fellowship	3 7:30am BNI 6:00pm Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm AA Meeting	4 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm Confirmation Group 6:30pm AA Meeting	5 Cinco de Mayo 6:30pm Cub Scouts	6 9:00am Haitian Church 12:00pm Church of God
7 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship 1:00pm Worcester AGO Organ and Instruments Concert 6:30pm AA Meeting	8 6:30pm Neighborhood Watch Mtg 7:00pm AA Meeting	9 10:00am Fellowship	10 7:30am BNI 7:00pm AA Meeting	11 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm Confirmation Group 6:30pm AA Meeting	12	13 9:00am Haitian Church 12:00pm Church of God
14 Mother's Day 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship 11:30am Trustees Meeting 6:30pm AA Meeting	15 7:00pm AA Meeting	16 *Deadline for Submissions to the Friendly Messenger 10:00am Fellowship	17 7:30am BNI 6:15pm Sharing Network 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA Meeting	18 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm Confirmation Group 6:30pm AA Meeting	19	20 9:00am Haitian Church 12:00pm Church of God
21 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship & Confirmation 11:30am Deacons meeting 6:30pm AA Meeting	22 7:00pm AA Meeting	23 10:00am Fellowship 12:00pm Missions	24 7:30am BNI 7:00pm AA Meeting	25 Ascension 6:30pm AA Meeting	26	27 9:00am Haitian Church 12:00pm Church of God
28 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship 11:30am Church Council Meeting 6:30pm AA Meeting	29 Memorial Day 7:00pm AA Meeting	30 10:00am Fellowship	31 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA Meeting			