

April 2020

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

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:

As we turn into April, we find ourselves living in some very fearful and difficult times. Our faith is challenged by the COVID-19 virus and its terrible effect is happening all around us. One of the quotes I came across recently was the one that says “*The closed doors of churches proves it was never about the building anyways*”. It is about our hearts being one in Christ and reflecting His loving kindness to one another. With the “shelter in place” rulings the phone and internet are proving to be the best ways to stay connected. The heart of the church is its people. Buildings are important for shelter, but never confuse them with the church gathered in spirit.

A few years back, I happened to be in Wakefield, Mass the day after the Baptist Church burned to the ground. You could still smell the burnt and smoldering embers. The local news recorded the shock and tears of the members as their church building was destroyed. However, the “church” was not destroyed. The neighboring Congregational Church welcomed the Baptist into their large chapel where they continue to worship to this day.

The rest of the story is that 100 years earlier, the Congregational Church burned down and the Baptist church helped them out until they built their new church made of stone! What goes around, comes around.

So you see, it’s the heart of the church that matters. Does the mission live on is the bigger question. It is the hearts of the people, united in Christ that defines the church.

Today, as I write this to you, it is snowing heavily. But we all know that Spring will reveal itself even as it goes to 54° tomorrow! Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter will arrive whether we are gathered or not. As Passion Week arrives, walk with Jesus as he enters Jerusalem with praises and palms on Palm Sunday. Gather with the Lord Maundy Thursday as we remember Jesus’s Last Supper with His disciples. Take time on Good Friday between 12-3pm to remember what Jesus sacrificed on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. And on Easter morning, gathered in our church building or not, let us be united in one heart in Christ celebrating His glorious resurrection. May the Easter spirit cause us to move forward in faith and joy as a resurrected people.

Always remember what the people of Israel did when the plague of death came among them. They put the blood of the lamb over the doorpost of their homes so the plague would “passover” them. May the blood of Christ be over our hearts knowing that through Him, we are saved in this life and the next.

Our church council and deacons will keep you informed regarding our worship schedule in response to this crisis. Meanwhile, let us continue to check on and take care of one another. For this too shall pass.

I traditionally sigh off with the phrase, “See you in church”. It takes on a whole new meaning....especially now. See you in church in faith....for He has risen. He has risen indeed.

Because He Lives...so do we!

Rev. Bob Jackson

Sunday Offerings

Please Read

Our Sanctuary and Church services are cancelled until April 6, 2020 due to the COVID-19 virus. If you can, we are asking you to please send in your weekly offerings to help keep the Church afloat during these troubling times. Any amount will be much appreciated. Please contact the Church Office with any questions at: 508-752-4635. God Bless!

April & May Birthdays



April

- 10 Kristin Olson
- 16 Khyllie Richard
- 19 Marilyn Poske
- 22 Susan Cardin
- 26 Judy Langlois

May

- 07 Sally Day
- 07 Dawn Ahaesy
- 09 Steven Coy
- 17 Robert Olson
- 21 Christina Dalbeck (Ellen's daughter; Ellen req to keep on)
- 25 Beverly Bean
- 25 Heidi Hinson
- 25 Deborah Mirick
- 26 Phillip Cardin
- 28 Sheila Ansley

April & May Anniversaries



April

- 05 Dolores & Marie Trzcinski
- 18 Heidi & Steve Hinson

May

N/A

Laundry Love



Many thanks to everyone who not only brought in detergent, but also those of you that gave so generously with hand towels and wash cloths for Rev Meredyth's "serving the people" with communion and washing of the feet, on Maundy Thursday.

You donated 28 sets plus 6 more wash clothes for this very special event. Along with the linen's, you also donated 7 jugs of detergent, dryer sheets, 4 large pouches of detergent pods, pen pad and card, a large re-usable tote bag, and \$30.00 for the machines.

Your ongoing generosity is most appreciated .The next delivery day will be announced as soon as we are cleared for normal activities.

From Hospitality

Anyone wishing to bring in treats for Sunday Coffee Hour through the end of 2020, please sign up in the Narthex or call the Office. All dates in April are available. Thank you!

April 12 _____

April 19 _____

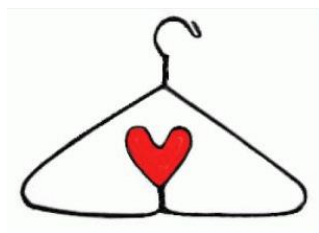
April 26 _____

Prayer Requests



Prayers for EVERYONE of the WORLD in these trying times; 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 & Rev. Natalie Maynard, former interim minister at our church; prayers for Sally Day; prayers for Marilyn Mildish; 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; prayers for Josephine Morrow who is in the hospital. She is the late Helen Wronski's sister. Her address is: 366 Camino De Estrella Apt 112 San Clemente, CA 92672; prayers for Theresa Andes and Beth Robinson on the loss of their mother Frances A. Maino who passed away on Thursday, February 27, 2020

Concordia's Closet



THIS IS IT, April is the month. We hope you are working on those drawers, closets and seasonal storage areas, to gather items for Concordia's Closet. Just to refresh your minds, we need ALL sizes, ALL colors, and ALL seasons of clothes, outerwear, accessories, gently used linens, shoes and business attire for the work place, interviews or special occasions.

Please leave your donations on the kitchen side of the stage in Fellowship Hall, under the signs.

Delivery day is, Tuesday, May 5th, please have your final drop off made on Sunday, May 3rd.

The Explorer will be there to fill to the roof.

Sharing Network

Just a reminder: as we sort and clean our closets for Concordia's Closet, there is another place that you can donate a variety of items that no longer serve a purpose in your home. The ReStore at 640 Lincoln Street, Worcester will welcome all your unwanted household, office, and workshop items to sell at their store. Everything from furniture, crystal, china, books, office equipment, lamps and kitchen items are encouraged. The money from the sale of your donations will fund the on-going work of the Habitat for Humanity.

For a complete list of accepted items go to their website at: www.letsrestore.org or call 508-799-9259 with your questions. Also, a fun place for you to shop!

Fellowship News



The month of March is behind us, and with April comes the spring. We are beginning to see crocuses and soon daffodils as the world awakens from winter. Our church building has been closed as we heed the warnings from those who are working to protect us from the COVID-19 virus. It has been a trying time. We cannot meet face to face, but we can continue to keep in touch and pray for one another, for our church and for our community. We have our preliminary schedule in place for April, but at this time it is still uncertain as to whether or not we will be able to meet at all this month. As we stay home and practice "social distancing", we may find it is a good time to do some spring cleaning and purging. April has traditionally been a month when we collect clothes for Concordia Closet. Hopefully later in the season we will be able to bring donations to the Closet, but for now we can at least set aside those articles which we would like to donate. Katy has been working in the office and Doug has been doing projects around the building. We

usually take them out to lunch in April to show our appreciation and recognize them for what they do for our church. We will most likely have to postpone that outing, but we thank them both for their dedication. As we move through the month, we will continue to follow safe practices and pray that the COVID-19 virus will begin to subside in our city, our nation and our world. It is disheartening to live with this uncertainty. However, as a Fellowship group, we can continue to keep in touch with each other until life returns to whatever becomes the new "normal". Meanwhile be safe. Keep washing your hands! Remember you are loved by all of us. We will see you when we can. Blessings to all for now.

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

DEADLINE: The due date for the May issue is Thursday, April 23, 2020. If your article(s) are not in by that date, we'll be happy to include it (them) in our June 2020 issue. Thank you!

Announcements

There was a dedication service on Sunday, March 8, 2020 for Sienna Mae Rucinski. Her parents are Ashley and Milosz Rucinski.

History Room



We are in need of a copy of the 2013 Picture Directory. If you have one you could donate, please let Linda Ann know. You can leave it in the office to be picked up on her workday in the History Room. Thank you

The Church Mouse



I'm glad Spring is here. As a mouse, I do not hibernate in the winter. I usually just find a nice quiet place to hang out and spend most of my days indoors. As a church mouse, I find the church a wonderful place to spend the winter. It has been exceptionally quiet at the church the last few weeks. No people, no music. I was beginning to wonder what was going on. Then I overheard Rev. Bob on the phone in his office talking about the COVID-19 virus that is causing a lot of people to get sick. So that's why no one has been around lately. I've missed you all. The church is not the same without the people in it. But, I understand that you all need to be safe and not pass the virus around. I am sure that you are all keeping in touch with each other because that is what a church family does. I know how much you care for one another. You are a big loving family and I am glad that I am part of it, even if I am just a little mouse. I hope the doctors' figure out how to keep everyone healthy. I sure will be glad to see everyone again, hopefully soon. For now take care of yourselves and know that I too will be saying a prayer for all of you each day. God bless you. Your faithful friend and church mouse, Nick

FCC Worcester Calendar

April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	2 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	3 5:00pm Girl Scouts-Hall 7:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	4 6:00am Iglesia De Dios La Ultima - Hall 10:00am New Hope SDA-sanctuary & parlor 12:00pm Church of God-Hall
5 Palm Sunday 10:30am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 2:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	6 10:00am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 7:00pm AA Meeting-Hall	7 10:00am Fellowship 7:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima	8 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 7:00pm Choir	9 Maundy Thursday 6:00pm Soup Supper 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	10 Good Friday 7:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima 7:00pm Good Friday Service 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	11 Holy Saturday 10:00am New Hope SDA-sanctuary & parlor 12:00pm Church of God-Hall
12 Easter Sunday 10:00am Worship-Easter Sunday Service 10:30am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 11:30am Trustees Meeting 2:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	13 10:00am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 6:30pm Neighborhood Watch Mtg-Parlor 7:00pm AA Meeting-Hall	14 10:00am Fellowship 7:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima	15 Tax Returns due 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	16 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	17 5:00pm Girl Scouts-Hall 7:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	18 10:00am New Hope SDA-sanctuary & parlor 12:00pm Church of God-Hall
19 10:00am Worship-New member service 10:30am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 11:30am Deacons Meeting 2:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	20 10:00am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 7:00pm AA Meeting-Hall	21 7:30am B.S.A. - Hall 10:00am Fellowship 11:30am Shepherds 7:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	22 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	23 12:00pm NEWSLETTER DUE 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall 7:00pm Choir	24 7:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	25 10:00am New Hope SDA-sanctuary & parlor 12:00pm Church of God-Hall
26 10:00am Worship-Fill-in minister 10:30am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 11:30am Church Council Meeting 2:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall	27 10:00am Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor 7:00pm AA Meeting-Hall	28 10:00am Fellowship 7:00pm Iglesia De Dios La Ultima	29 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries-3rd floor	30 6:30pm AA Meeting-Hall		

April

