

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

November 2024

First Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602
www.fcc-worcester.org · Office: 508-752-4635 · office@fcc-worcester.org
Office hours are Monday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Rev. John R. Jones · jackfitzellejones@gmail.com · 774-670-2436



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Each year in November, First Congregational Church in Worcester turns its attention to the subject of Christian stewardship. Stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the Church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. Through this attention we hope to encourage good stewardship decisions by our individual members and practice good stewardship in our life together as a congregation. As you think about your intentions, please remember to give with a joyous heart, a generosity moved by faith, and listen carefully to the direction in which Jesus is leading you.

In *Mark 10:49* Jesus says to a man: "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you."

Deuteronomy 16:17 says to "give as the Lord has given to you". We all know the blessings of giving whatever we can. Maybe we can make our tithes just a little bit more this year...a little bit more time...a little bit more talent...a little more treasure. Wouldn't it be wonderful if every one of us gave just a "little bit more?" Our blessed Lord Jesus would be smiling down on us with great pride, seeing how very much He means to us!

To indicate your intentions of time, talent and treasure giving at FCC, we ask that you please fill out and return the enclosed Christian Stewardship 2025 form or the form that is being mailed to you.

We have seen so many people sharing their gifts and talents in many ways. Our church continues to be blessed with excellent staff and members. God is indeed working through our efforts.

While our church continues to meet its obligations and carry out its work, we've used a great deal of our savings. Hopefully we will receive a good stewardship response and can avoid going through all of our assets.

With all this in mind, we ask that you would prayerfully consider how much you can contribute to our work together in the coming year and share this on the Stewardship Form below. You may bring the completed form to our worship services on November 24th, drop it off in the office, send it via mail, or email it to our church office (office@fcc-worcester.org).

On behalf of the entire congregation, we thank you for your partnership in the mission of our Lord through FCC. Together we are sharing the life-changing good news of God's love for all people in Christ Jesus. May God bless us in our stewardship of His gifts, and in our life together as His people.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jack and the Stewardship Committee

Stewardship

talent
 planning
 PLEDGE
 faith
 community
 vision
 LOVE
 treasure
 caring
 growing
 support
 giving
 blessing
 sharing
 commitment

Renew, Reimagine, & Recommit - 2025 PLEDGE CARD

Name(s): _____

Phone/Email: _____

For the year of _____, I/we plan to give a total of \$_____ to support the ministry of First Church!

Would you like offering envelopes? Yes/No (circle one)

Thank you for your support!

First Congregational Church UCC

1070 Pleasant Street Worcester, MA 01602



Please consider your best gift for 2025

Pledge Quick Guide Chart		
Weekly	Monthly	Annually
\$5	\$22	\$260
\$10	\$44	\$520
\$20	\$87	\$1,040
\$25	\$109	\$1,300
\$30	\$130	\$1,560
\$40	\$174	\$2,080
\$50	\$217	\$2,600
\$60	\$260	\$3,120
\$75	\$325	\$3,900
\$100	\$434	\$5,200

I/we wish to offer gifts of time and talents to support the following ministries of the church (check all that apply):

- Worship (attending)
- Scripture Reader
- Host Coffee Hour
- Music Ministry (please specify) _____
- Children / Youth Ministry (please specify) _____
- Community Outreach & Events
- Building Maintenance/ Upkeep
- Committee (please specify) _____
- Tuesday Fellowship
- Carty Cupboard Food Pantry Donations
- Others (please specify) _____

With time, talent, and treasure combined, I/we commit to the renewal and reimagination of ministry at First Church!

“And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins. And He said, ‘Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them.’” Luke 21:1-4



A Little Hi
From Little I
To Wish
You a
Happy
Thanksgiving

Gee, here it is, the first day of November and it's a beautiful Fall day. There's a little breeze whispering through what leaves are left on the trees, bringing them floating down to join the fallen leaves blowing all around the church yard. The air is fresh and clean, not quite crisp yet - a perfect day for the kids out playing in our playyard. Some were happily munching on their Halloween loot. How nice that they didn't litter the yard with candy wrappers!

Did you see all the kiddos out Trick or Treating? I love to see them all dressed up, excitedly going door to door for their treats, parents watching from the sidewalk. It sure is a fun night! Now we can look forward to Thanksgiving! I can just smell it now...turkey roasting in the oven with my favorite milk cracker stuffing, sweet potato casserole with marshmallows browned to perfection on top, mashed potatoes drowning in delicious gravy, butternut squash, mashed carrots & turnip, maybe green beans or broccoli, and of course, home-made cranberry sauce. I'm drooling!! But I must remember to save room for pie. There will be pumpkin chiffon, apple, lemon meringue and who knows what else. We'll be eating leftovers for a week! Oh, and I always look forward to turkey soup. Our house is always filled with relatives...aunts and uncles, cousins and I especially love to see my grandparents. I don't even mind when Grandmama pinches my cheeks and comments on how much I've grown. I'm all grown up but she never fails to remind me that we'll always be her little grandchildren no matter how big we grow. I love her so much.



Don't forget to turn your clocks back tonight or you'll have to sit with me for an hour!

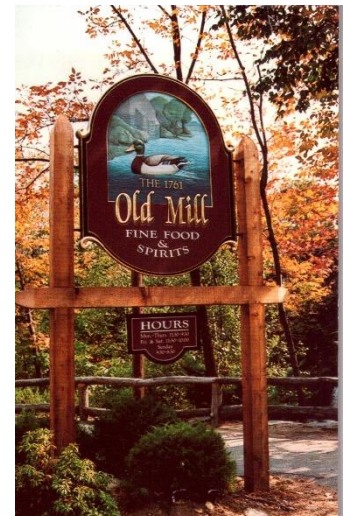
Happy Thanksgiving from your friendly church mouse,
Nick



Fellowship

Fellowship is in full swing. We made the cutest little magnets for our fridges, thanks to Ruth. We also had a visit from two firemen who gave us some very informative tips on fire safety.

Check the calendar for this month's activities. Maybe you'd like to join us. Lunch at the Old Mill in Westminster is on our November agenda. We'd love to have you join us!



Stewardship Sunday Potluck Lunch

November 24th

On Sunday November 24th we're having a Pre-Thanksgiving Potluck Lunch immediately following the church service. It will be in the parlor, in place of Coffee Hour. You can also call the church office. It would be wonderful if you'd join us! There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex and parlor. Please sign up even if you can't contribute anything because your company is quite enough. All are welcome!

Blessings,

The Stewardship Committee



CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH LESSONS AND PRACTICE FOR PEOPLE WHO SPEAK CREOLE

Join with friends to learn Conversational English that can help with jobs, school, and communicating with family, friends, and neighbors.

ESL Classes Tuesdays 2:00 - 4:00 PM and Thursdays 3:00 - 4:00 PM

ESL

Conversation Circle



There is a Worship Meal from 4:00 - 5:00 PM on Thursdays. These classes and meals are informal, and are offered to you FREE at the First Congregational Church in Worcester, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA (in the Tatnuck Neighborhood) which is easily accessible by taking Bus 2 (direct) or Bus 6 (a short walk). This is a community outreach program, headed by Professor Thomas Reed Jones, with the aid of Pastor Jack Jones, Pastor Ketelie Altena, and Dr. Luckner Gierrier. For more information, call: 774-670-2436 or 508-373-8121.



Do you have something you'd like to see in our newsletter?



If you have some **news**, an **article**, or an **announcement** that you would like included in the newsletter, please leave it in the office with Sue Anderson or email her at deegram@charter.net or office@fcc-worcester.org by the 20th of each month.

See it here first!

If you would like a copy of the newsletter sent to you via email, please email the office and we'll add you to our list. There are also copies in the narthex that you can pick up. If you don't have an email address or can't get to church, send us your address and we'll be happy to send you a copy every month.



ZOOM OR YOUTUBE



Our Sunday services will be available via Zoom and afterwards on YouTube! If you are at home and would like to join us virtually on Sunday mornings at 10 am, you can do so by following this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83102423294?pwd=RjhHZGNDZDZlYODNHWFabnRVZ2Vldz09>



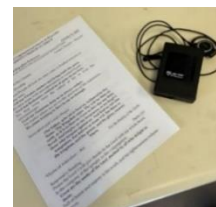
You can also find our latest services here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDQmijukLaC24hwdyayupdg> or by searching "First Church, Worcester" on YouTube.



Accessibility Items Available for Worship!

Did you know that we now offer large print bulletins? That's right! They are available in the narthex as you enter the sanctuary. We also have hearing assistance devices that make hearing what is said at the pulpit much easier! They are also in a basket on the table in the narthex.



Exciting News!

The new carpeting looks beautiful! Now we can work towards carpeting more of the sanctuary, such as the raised platform and under the pews. Please continue to add whatever you can spare to the Teddy Bear jar in the narthex or parlor or put your donation in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Our heartfelt thanks go out to you!



Hospitality

Please join us in the parlor for coffee and goodies every Sunday after worship. If you are able to host a coffee hour, there is a sign-up sheet on the table. If you bring the goodies, we supply the beverages and paper goods. You don't even have to bake, store-bought is A-OK. It doesn't have to be fancy either. Fruit is always good and so are crackers and cheese. Also, two or more people can sign up together. Most importantly though, is for you to join us in fellowship.

Hope to see you there!

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it."

Hebrews 13:2



Carty Cupboard

The First Sunday of Every Month



Many thanks for your Carty Cupboard donations once again. In October we donated 12 bags of groceries! After school snacks and quick and easy but nutritious breakfast foods as well as lunches would be great. Those in need truly appreciate whatever you can give. Snacks like fruit cups, pudding cups and granola bars are always welcome. Jelly in plastic jars, mac and cheese and cereal – hot or cold are great for this time of year, too. Donating not only non-perishable food, but also personal care items and/or baby items, are always welcome.

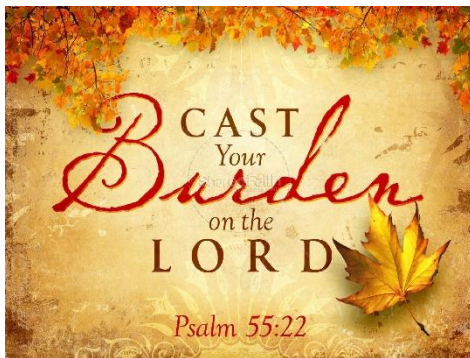
Your contributions mean so much to those in need ~ thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.



Deacons Fund

Also, on the first Sunday of every month, we take up a collection that is used to provide one-time, emergency assistance to a neighbor in need. Special envelopes are included in your bulletin for this offering. Every little bit helps. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

You never know if someday the person in need is YOU. Thank you!



Ellen Dalbeck requests prayers for her nephew, Tyler McDermott and his family. Tyler is undergoing treatment for cancer. Connie MacInnes requests prayers for her niece Linda; Sue & Norman Anderson request prayers for their daughter, Melanie Anderson, Sue's brother, Danny Waskevich and their friend, Roger Waite. They would also appreciate prayers for their doctor, Phillip Fournier, who's battling cancer. Dawn & Matt Ahaesy request prayers for Gina Ahaesy. The Deacons request prayers for Ann Scherdell, Dolores Trzcinski, Jeanne Fassett, Paul Scherdell, and Joyce & Armand Thienel. Kristin Olson requests prayers for Mitch Bourque. We ask for continued

prayers for Erika Vecsey, as well as for Jane Boggs.

If you would like to add a prayer concern or update our list, please email the church office at office@fcc-worcester.org or call the office at 508-752-4635.

"He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.'"
Mark 5:34

Hand bells

How exciting it is that we've found a set of handbells that we can borrow for the Christmas Season! Rev. Brae Adams at the First United Church of Worcester has them and is happy to loan them to us. Would you like to participate in a Handbell Choir? Please let **Pastor Jack** or **Scott Yonker** know soon, if you're interested. **Let's make this Christmas an especially joyous one!**



November

08 Lorna Cardin 13 Renee Mason 17 Ashley Rucinski
19 Michelle Collins 22 Shelly Hoyle 27 Matthew Ahaesy
29 Maizy Martin 30 Ruth Nickerson

December

01 Carlo DiBonaventura 05 Kenneth Sawyer 11 Sienna Rucinski
16 Barbara Chad 18 John Dalbeck 26 Marie Trzcinski
28 Jim Mirick 29 Lynn Kapinos

"May God's grace surround you on this special day, filling your heart with joy and your year with blessings. Happy Birthday!"



November

09 Greg Waters & Cindy MacLaurin
10 Carlo & Jillian DiBonaventura

December

08 Deb & Ken Holmes

"As you celebrate another year of marriage, we pray that God continues to shower you both with blessings and grace."



Saturday

02 Evening Remember to

Sunday

03 10:00 am FCC Worship Service ~ Communion Sunday ~ We use gluten free communion and non-alcoholic grape juice
Carty Cupboard Donations ~ Deacons Fund Collection

Tuesday

05 All Day Don't forget to



Wednesday

06 10:00 am Fellowship - BINGO! (Parlor)

Sunday

10 10:00 am FCC Worship Service
11:30 am Trustees Meeting (Conference Room)

Monday

VETERANS DAY



11 All Day

Wednesday

13 10:00 am Fellowship ~ Speaker from Elder Services

Sunday

17 10:00 am FCC Worship Service

Wednesday

20 10:00 am Fellowship - Carpool to The Old Mill Restaurant in Westminster
6:00 pm Deacons Meeting (Conference Room)
7:00 pm Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting (Conference Room)

Sunday

24 10:00 am FCC Worship Service
11:00 am Pre-Thanksgiving Potluck Lunch - Come and bring a friend! (Parlor)

Thursday

28 All Day  Happy Thanksgiving



*Thank you, God,
for all your blessings,
for the strength you give me each day,
and for all the people who make life more meaningful. Amen.*