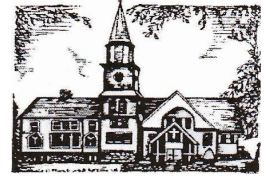


FRIENDLY MESSENGER

February ♥ 2022

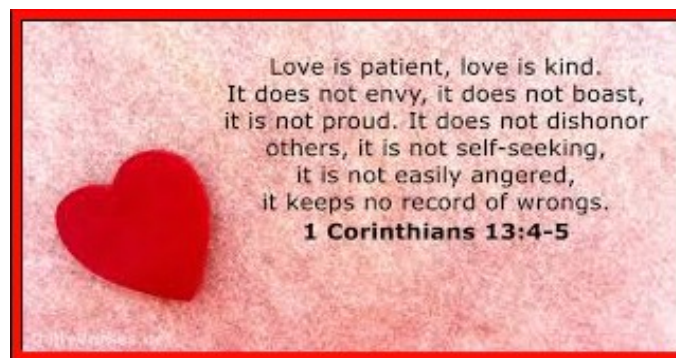
First Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602
www.fcc-worcester.org · Office: 508-752-4635 · office@fcc-worcester.org

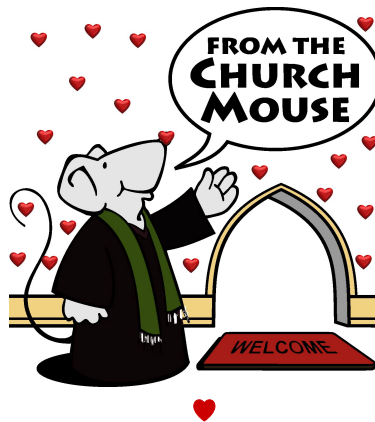


Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

It's hard to believe that February is upon us already! **Happy Valentine's Day!** While this is the month traditionally known for showing our love for one another, it is biblically known as the month of grace. There are several verses in the bible about grace and humility. One can be found in *James 4:6*, where he tells us that "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." He frowns upon those who are arrogant, those who are boastful, those who harbor evil thoughts toward their fellow man; however, He rewards those who are humble, those who show kindness, who show mercy to others no matter what their circumstances or wherever they walk in life. Another can be found in *Hebrews 4:16*, where we read, "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Our rewards are great when we live by His teachings. Practicing our humility of heart assures us that God will bestow His grace generously upon us. It isn't always easy but then, there isn't much in life that is easy with the promise of such grand rewards. My mother always used to say, "There but for the grace of God, go I." How right she was! She was a very strong and wise woman who indeed lived a life of humility. No matter what she was doing or where she was, she would leave everything at the drop of a hat, for someone in need. She was a shining example of a good and respected Christian. Through His Word, we know that we can experience an abundance of joy and grace in every aspect of our lives. How blessed we are!

Blessings,
Sue Anderson





Greetings Church Family! Happy Valentine's Day! I just LOVE this holiday, don't you? I love chocolates 'n flowers, gifts 'n surprises 'n all the love that seems to be in the air. The cute cakes and cookies that go so well with hot chocolate...yummy! (I like to put little marshmallow ♥ hearts ♥ in my hot chocolate for Valentine's Day.) Is that what you're having for Coffee Hour on February 13th? I promise I won't show up and scare everyone. You humans are so funny, letting a little guy like me scare you but a promise is a promise and I promise to stay away. Besides, I don't want to get under-foot...litterally, under...foot...now THAT'S a scary thought! Anyway, my favorite part of Coffee Hour is the clean-up. I do a pretty good job, don't I? (squeak, squeal, hehehe)

I was wondering how Valentine's day came about and found this interesting information in the Oregonian, written by the Homes & Garden Staff.

It seems that the history of Valentine's Day is rather unclear. The Roman Catholic Church recognizes at least three martyred saints named Valentine or Valentinus. One legend says that Valentine was a Roman priest in the third century. Emperor Claudius II had decided that single men made better soldiers so he outlawed marriage for all young, single men. Not agreeing with this practice, Valentine continued to secretly perform marriages. Once he was discovered, he was put to death.

Another legend has it that a martyred Valentine might have sent

the first valentine greeting. In that version, Valentine fell in love with a girl who visited him while he was in prison. Before his death, he sent her a letter signed "from your Valentine," and that expression is the one that has been carried down throughout the ages.



In 496, Pope Gelasius I declared February 14th the day to pay homage to St. Valentine.



By the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in Europe. Lovers were exchanging homemade cards as early as the 15th century, copying verses from books of valentine poems.



Valentine customs:



During the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentine would be. They would wear the name on their sleeve for one week, perhaps the origin of the expression "wearing your heart on your sleeve."



In Wales, wooden love spoons were carved and given as gifts on February 14th. Hearts, keys and keyholes were common motifs on the spoons, meaning "you unlock my heart."



As always your faithful church mouse,

Nick



Sunday Coffee Hour



Please join us for Coffee Hour in the church parlor every Sunday after the service, we'd love your company! When you get to the back of the church...the narthex, turn right, go through two doors (they'll be open) and the parlor is on the left...through one more door but that one will also be open. You'll see others headed there, too. I can't wait to see you there!

Also, for anyone interested in hosting a Coffee Hour there's always a sign-up sheet on the table with the goodies on it. Sue Anderson makes the coffee and puts out the plates, napkins and plasticware that we provide. All you have to do is bring a smile and the goodies that you've signed up for.



We'd love to have you join us for Fellowship on Tuesdays at 10:00 am. There's always coffee, tea, goodies and best of all, great company! We meet in the Church Parlor where it's comfortable and cozy. You can help us plan our future meetings, too. We love going on outings as long as the weather is good. An easy craft is always nice, too. Come and join us!



Please try to have any articles or notices for our Friendly Messenger in by **Wednesday, February 23rd** to get it into the March newsletter. You can **bring** them **to the office**, **email** them to the church office at office@fcc-worcester.org, or **call** the office at 508-752-4635. You can also contact me (Sue Anderson), by email at deegram@charter.net, call or text me at 774-253-0715. **Thank you!**



February



04 Richard Mason
20 Scott Yonker
21 Laura Waters

23 Doug Perkins, Sr.
27 Connie MacInnes

♣ March ♣



03 Norman Anderson
11 Susan Anderson

18 Annalise McGrail
28 Ellen Dalbeck



As our Search Committee continues to work on its mission to find a new pastor for our church, we rely heavily on our Lord's guidance and trust that He will bless us with His choice. We appreciate your continued prayers and support.





We would like to keep Hampton Bagdasarian in our prayers and he also requests prayers for June Kemp; Connie MacInnes requests prayers for her niece Linda; Judy Mitchell requests prayers for her granddaughter, Ellanora; Donna Spaulding requests prayers for the safety of her son, who is serving in the Marine Corp; Susan Anderson requests prayers for her brother, Danny Waskevich and her friend, Roger Waite. The Deacons request prayers for Ann Scherdell, Betty Dalbeck, Dr. Richard Hunter, Dolores Trzcinski, Jeanne Fassett, Paul Scherdell, Melanie Anderson and Joyce & Armand Thienel.

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.”

1 John 5:14: God always hears

If you have a prayer request or would like us to remove someone from our prayer list, please let us know.



RESULTS of the SPECIAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION held on SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022



The first topic presented was a request by the Board of Trustees to authorize them to enter into an agreement to lease the kitchen. The Board was approached by Jessica Wayno who has a baking business and was looking to expand. She needed a well-appointed commercial kitchen in order to do so. The congregation voted to proceed with a formal arrangement.

The second topic of discussion was to authorize the Trustees to spend as much as \$12,000 on refurbishing the parsonage. The work is ongoing and is running smoothly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Waters,
Clerk



Carpet Fund



Our New carpeting fund is growing! Please continue to add whatever you can spare to the Teddy Bear jar in the narthex. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

May God Richly bless you for your generosity!



What do you call a very small valentine?

A valen-tiny ♥



What kind of flowers do you never give on Valentine's Day?

Cauliflowers!



How can you tell when a squirrel is in love?

He goes nuts!!



Have a wonderful Valentine's Day!



Grace comes into the soul, as the morning sun into the world; first a dawning; then a light; and at last the sun in his full and excellent brightness. - Thomas Adams



"I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says, 'Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again.'"

- Lewis Carroll





Our Annual Meeting will be held at 10:30 am during our church service on Sunday, February 27, 2022. Please try your best to attend. If you are unable to be there in person, maybe you'd like to attend the meeting by Zoom.

Gregory Waters is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church in Worcester
Time: **Feb 27, 2022 10:30 AM** Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89338280877?pwd=L1hsWk5NNIAzUGxIVWtVSzVLZVIBQT09>

Meeting ID: 893 3828 0877

Passcode: 921379

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,89338280877#,,,,*921379# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,89338280877#,,,,*921379# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 893 3828 0877

Passcode: 921379

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kApulKBaL>

Blessings,

Church Council

Dates to Remember in February

01 10:00 am Fellowship

02 All Day  Groundhog DAY

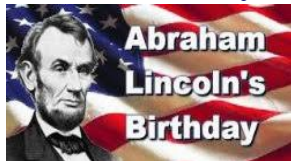
04 All Day - World Cancer  Day

06 10:00 am Church Service - Communion Sunday



08 10:00 am Fellowship

12 All Day



13 10:00 am Church Service
11:30 am Trustees Meeting
11:30 am Deacons Meeting

14 Valentine's  Day

15 10:00 am Fellowship

20 10:00 am Church Service

22 10:00 am Fellowship

27 10:00 am Church Service

10:30 am Annual Meeting

11:30 am Council Meeting



A true friend is someone who thinks that you are a good egg even though he knows that you are slightly cracked. *Bernard Meltzer*

