

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

August 2024

First Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602
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Office hours are Monday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
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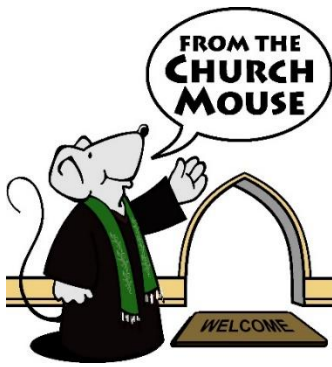
With Pastor Jack on vacation, I thought I would write a few words for this month's newsletter.

The beauty of life is simple, yet complex. Looking around, observing the green of the foliage; feeling the coolness of the ocean breeze; admiring the blue of the sky or the array of colors on the horizon at sunset; seeing little animals scurrying hither and yon; watching children as they play carefree and joyfully are all magical wonders of life. What we do with the observations in our lives is up to us. If we choose to be happy, we create that happiness, keeping our hearts and minds open so that when we discover it, we will hold on to it tightly. Whatever the situation we may face, by exploring our inner selves and delving into the depths of our souls, we can find at least a little spark of happiness and positivity, then, rather than dwelling on the negativity, we can work with that positivity. The more we practice it, the easier it will become, and before we know it, we won't have to think about it anymore. It will just come naturally. Grumpy, unsettled people encapsulate themselves in negativity. In reality, life isn't all that complex. Plato said, "Beauty of style and harmony and grace and good rhythm depend on simplicity." How true that is! The adage, "Don't make a mountain out of a molehill" comes to mind; another is "Don't sweat the small stuff."; "Don't dwell on the past."; "Don't point your finger at anyone because when you do, you have three pointing back at yourself." My mother used many of these wise sayings, and even though it seemed like she knew them all, in reality, there were hundreds of them. She was a sage woman, indeed. One thing is for certain, the more thought we put into them, the easier it becomes to find happiness, both within and without. Bringing a little ray of sunshine into our lives and others can be truly rewarding.

Religion plays a major role in our lives if we allow it to, making life easier. I watched an old movie the other night and, in the conclusion, someone said, "We practice a lot of religion, but not much Christianity." What a prolific sentence. Since it impacted me, making me think, I wrote it down to remember. There's a great deal of truth to it. We can go to church week after week, attend meetings, work with others, etc., and it's all part of religion. Christianity comes when we exhibit kindness and understanding, listen intently to those who need someone to talk to, and be attentive to others, even with a simple smile. These are all ways we can become better Christians. Listening and caring even when we might not be feeling up to it can be magical because by making others feel better, we feel better, too. It's well worth going the extra mile!

Joyful blessings,

Sue Anderson



Hello there! I can hardly believe that it's August already! What a lovely summer we're having. I see that someone's been working in the play yard, fixing the swings as well as the fence. A little birdie told me that it was Bob. What a terrific guy! I hope he knows how very much we appreciate him. It's like music to my ears when I hear the children laughing and playing right outside our windows. It's contagious and makes me giggle with glee. Whitney Houston's song, "The Greatest Love of All" is a beautiful song that comes to my mind. Thinking about harmony, it seems to me that we're growing a bit closer to the other congregations who worship in our church, as well as with other groups who meet here, and it sure is nice to see! Pastor Jack has had a lot to do with it. I see him flitting here and there, upstairs and down, letting others know that we are indeed a friendly congregation rather than having them feel like they're just tenants. Don't you love it? I saw this little ditty the other day and it made me think of all of the people trying to learn to speak English in our great country:

"Have You Ever Seen" (author unknown)

Have you ever seen a sheet on a river bed?
Or a single hair from a hammer's head?
Has the foot of a mountain any toes?
And is there a pair of garden hose?
Does the needle ever wink its eye?
Why doesn't the wing of a building fly?
Can you tickle the ribs of a parasol?
Or open the trunk of a tree at all?
Are the teeth of a rake ever going to bite?
Have the hands of a clock any left or right?
Can the garden plot be deep and dark?
And what is the sound of the birch's bark?

Our language sure can be confusing!
Later gator!
Your friendly church mouse,
Nick



Thank You!



A big thank you to Pastor Jack, Cory, and some of the ESL students for their work on the parking lot side door entrance to our church. What a beautiful job they're doing!



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

There is a Worship Meal from 4:00 - 5:00 PM on Thursdays.

These classes and meals 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 of S.O.S. Operation Espoir, "New Hope International Ministries" They are taught 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=RjhHZGNDZDZlODNHWFVabnRVZ2Vldz09>



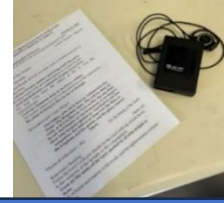
You can also find our latest services here:

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

"In August, feed your soul with the beauty of late summer."

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.



Carpet Fund

Our funds continue to grow, and we're now nearing \$900! Thank you for your continued contributions to the Teddy Bear jar in the narthex or parlor. They are greatly appreciated!

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.

Hope to see you there and maybe adding your name to the sign-up sheet!

"Any time we practice hospitality we follow in the steps of our lavishly hospitable God."

Carty Cupboard

The First Sunday of Every Month

Many thanks for your Carty Cupboard donations! In June we donated 10 bags of groceries. I know summer is here along with vacations but let us not forget to help those in need. Their needs don't stop in the summer. On the contrary, kids are home more and therefore need more food. They truly appreciate whatever you can give. Donating not only non-perishable items, but also personal care items and/or baby items, are always welcome. Snacks like fruit cups, pudding cups, jelly in plastic jars, condiments and such are good items to think about at this time of year.

Your contribution has made such a meaningful difference in the lives of those Carty Cupboard serves – thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Deacons Fund

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!



Your donations mean the world to us, thank you!

Large or Small, We Appreciate Them All

Thank you for being such a blessing to others. Your support is truly appreciated and rewarding. Joyful blessings!



Please continue to hold Pastor Jack in your prayers as he continues working through his health issues. 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 Dolores Trzcinski, Jeanne Fassett, Paul Scherdell, and Joyce & Armand Thienel.

Our prayers are also with Normairis Rivera's son, Joey. Kristin Olson requests prayers for Mitch Bourque. We ask for continued prayers for Hampton Bagdasarian who is having trouble with one eye; and for Erika Vecsey; Ellen Dalbeck requests prayers for the McDermott Family.

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.

*"Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise."
Jeremiah 17:14*

Natalie Harlow Maynard



Born on December 29, 1935, Natalie Maynard was a wonderful example of a true christian. She was a former interim minister here at the First Congregational Church in Worcester and returned to us as a member a short time ago. She was a beautiful, spirited woman, kind and wise. She left an imprint on everyone's heart that she touched and will be greatly missed. She died peacefully at her daughter's home in Princeton on June 1st.

There will be a celebration of Natalie's life on **Sat, Aug 3rd at 10:30 am at the First Congregational Church in Princeton**. You can read her full obituary by clicking on her name here:

[Natalie Harlow Maynard](#)

"So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy." John 16:22

