

# FRIENDLY MESSENGER

October 2024

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## STEWARDSHIP

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

Moses said to all the congregation of the Israelites: This is the thing that the Lord has commanded: Take from among you an offering to the Lord; let whoever is of a generous heart bring the Lord's offering: gold, silver, and bronze;

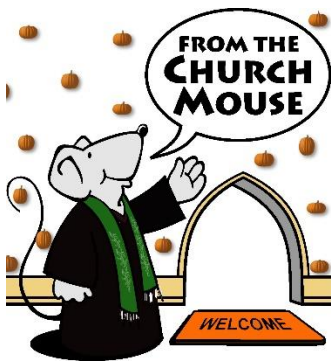
Then all the congregation of the Israelites withdrew from the presence of Moses. And they came, everyone whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and brought the Lord's offering to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the sacred vestments. So they came, both men and women; all who were of a willing heart brought brooches and earrings and signet rings and pendants, all sorts of gold objects, everyone bringing an offering of gold to the Lord. (*Exodus 35: 4-5, 20-22*)

After the Israelites had repented from worshipping the golden calf, Moses called on them to supply the resources needed to support their worship of God. The scripture suggests that they were 'hearty givers' – people who gave from their hearts in a sincere, visible and significant way.

In like manner, the church needs your regular giving to support the work of the church. Please do what you can, and above all do it from the heart. There is a popular credit card catch phrase that asks - "What's in your wallet?" But the question that God asks is - What's in your heart?"

May God's grace abound.

*Remember that through every storm, we can have peace in the promise that God stays connected with us through it all.*



My goodness, it's October already! The air has gotten cooler and the leaves are turning their beautiful colors. God's paintbrush sure does a fantastic job, doesn't it? The reds, oranges, yellows and all the colors in between are all so vibrant! The pumpkins are all ripened in the pumpkin patches and houses are decorated, some scary, some cute. I like the cute ones best cuz I don't like those big spiders...or skeletons...or graveyards that some people put in their yards...witches....well, some are scary and some aren't. Those are the good witches that I like. The same with ghosts...some can be pretty scary but some are really cute. Some people hang them in their trees and others cover their lamp-post with them. There's a lot of thought and planning that goes into decorating and people have such good imaginations. I like little ghosts like Casper. Remember watching Casper the Friendly Ghost on TV years ago? I used to love those cartoons.

I love to carve pumpkins, too. I wonder if anyone has ever carved one of those huge pumpkins that are always in the "biggest pumpkin" contests. They'd take forever to carve....or maybe they could be carved with an electric saw! They probably have enough pumpkin seeds in them to last a year if you roast them! I don't think those pumpkins would be very flavorful for making pies, cakes, breads and such. The little sugar pumpkins are better for those treats.

Do you have a favorite Halloween treat? I love raisins and nuts of any kind. How about pumpkin muffins with raisins and nuts in them for breakfast? What a treat that is! Pumpkin coffee? Naw....not for me, anyway.

I love to see all the little kids dressed up in their awesome costumes. Some are so unique. I like the old standbys like witches, ghosts and hobos just as much though. They're all cute and the kids have such fun trick or treating or attending parties.

Whatever you do, stay safe and be sure to watch out for trick or treaters as you drive home from work on Halloween.

Now I'm off to jump into the big pile of leaves that my neighbor raked! Shhhh...I'll try not to make TOO much of a mess but it sure is fun!

Happy Halloween from your friendly church mouse,

Nick



## Fellowship

Fellowship has started back up and they've enjoyed a fun game of Apples to Apples and going out to the 122 Diner in Holden where some had breakfast, while other's had lunch. It was all scrumptious and the company was unbeatable!

Check the calendar for this month's activities. Maybe you could plan to join us!

# Stewardship Sunday ~ November 24<sup>th</sup>



## Stewardship

RECOGNIZING GOD'S GIFTS &  
GIVING BACK IN GRATITUDE

It's that time of year again, when we review our gifts of time, talent and treasure to our church. Whatever you are able to give is very much needed and appreciated. **November 24<sup>th</sup>** is the day that we are asking for all pledges to be turned in. Without your pledge and sufficient funding, the 2025 budget process cannot be completed. Pledge cards will be included in the Sunday bulletins and will also be available on the table in the narthex. In addition, letters and brochures will be mailed to you. Please give your gifts a lot of thought, remembering what God has done for you and what you can do for Him in return.

*"It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."* (MARK 10:25)

Jesus uses tough language that we may not want to hear. However, we are all called to be generous with all of our gifts. Not just the ones we pick and choose, but all our gifts, and especially the one that means

the most to us! That includes our time in prayer to God, our talent in participating in church ministries and our treasure supporting our local church and other charities.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**



## 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 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](mailto:deegram@charter.net) or [office@fcc-worcester.org](mailto:office@fcc-worcester.org) by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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=RjhHZGNDZDJyODNHWFVabnRVZ2Vldz09>



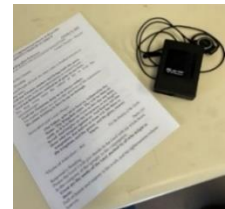
You can also find our latest services here:

<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!



With our carpet funds continuing to grow, thanks to **YOU**, we've been able to choose the carpeting and are working on having it installed! Thank you for your continued contributions to the **Teddy Bear!** Please don't stop, as this is a costly project but needs to be done ASAP, for the safety of us all.

Thank you again and God bless 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. Hope to see you there and maybe adding your name to the sign-up sheet!





"When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality."  
~ Romans 12:13



## Carty Cupboard

### The First Sunday of Every Month



Many thanks for your Carty Cupboard donations! In September we donated 10 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 have indeed made a meaningful difference in the lives of those who Carty Cupboard serves – thank you for your kindness 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!

**Your donations not only mean the world to us, but even more to those in need. Thank you!**



Please continue to hold Pastor Jack in your prayers as he continues working through his health issues. We would also like to continue our prayers for Hampton Bagdasarian; 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 as she transitions into her new way of life.

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

*"So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the LORD your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you." ~ Deuteronomy 31:6*



### 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!**



### October

03 Scarlet Rucinski    04 Jean Andes    10 Shirley Avery  
12 Jillian DiBonaventura    12 Russell Souffrant  
15 Hampton Bagdasarian    19 Ann Scherdell  
19 Armand Thienel    23 Bob Smith    23 Joe LaRiviere  
24 Normairis Rivera    27 Faith Audette  
28 Barbara Brosnihan

### 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



*"May your day be filled with God's grace and the warmth of His love. Happy Birthday!"*



### October

07 Miloz & Ashley Rucinski    17 Armand & Joyce Thienel

### November

09 Greg Waters & Cindy MacLaurin    10 Carlo & Jillian DiBonaventura



# October Happenings



## Wednesday

02 10:00 am Fellowship - Show 'n Tell (Parlor)

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## Sunday

06 10:00 am FCC Worship Service ~ Communion Sunday ~ We use gluten free communion and non-alcoholic grape juice  
Carty Cupboard Donations ~ Deacons Fund Collection

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## Wednesday

09 10:00 am Fellowship - Speaker from the Fire Department (Parlor)

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## Sunday

13 10:00 am FCC Worship Service  
11:30 am Trustees Meeting (Conference Room)

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## Wednesday

16 10:30 am Fellowship ~ Meet in the church parking lot, where we'll carpool to the Brookfield Orchards  
6:00 pm Deacons Meeting (Conference Room)  
7:00 pm Pastoral Relations Meeting (Conference Room)

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## Sunday

20 10:00 am FCC Worship Service

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## Wednesday

23 10:00 am Fellowship - Halloween Craft & Fill Treat Bags for a nursing home (Parlor)

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## Sunday

27 10:00 am FCC Worship Service  
11:30 am Council Meeting (Conference Room)

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## Wednesday

30 10:00 am Fellowship ~ Meet in the church parking lot, where we'll carpool to the Antiquarian Society

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## Thursday

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*"Do your little bit of good where you are; it is those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." – Desmond Tutu*

