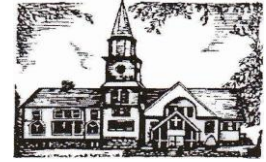


FRIENDLY MESSENGER

January 2025

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.



Happy New Year! This will be a year of new beginnings, filled with faith, hope, love, and joy! Many times, throughout my life, I heard that “life is what you make of it” and I believe this to be true. While we face many trials and tribulations throughout our lives, it is important to remember that the best way to handle them is to forge ahead, whether slowly or full steam ahead. Keeping our faith in God, we can make it! While we should set our goals high, we don’t want them so high that they become unreachable. Our most important goals are those in which we align our will with God’s will, living our lives in conjunction with Him. While setting physical goals is good, setting spiritual goals is even better. Improving our spiritual lives can almost certainly lead to meeting our physical goals without realizing it. Helping out wherever we see a need, not just where our help is requested, is one way to change our lives and please God. Another way is not being afraid to talk about our faith with others and encouraging them to do the same. By doing this, we may also encourage them to attend church, something they may not have done in years. You probably know how it is... you want to go... you intend to go... but it’s so easy to roll over and go back to sleep. Just a little push from us may be all they need and once they get started, it could be the start of a whole new “habit”, one of getting up and going to church on Sunday mornings. How pleasing to God that would be! There are people all around us who need our help. All we have to do is pay attention to the signs. We bring food to church to donate to Carty Cupboard once a month, our Fellowship collects hats, mittens, and scarves for school children, we contribute to the Deacons Fund once a month to help someone in an emergency, and our Missions Committee makes donations to several worthy causes throughout the year. All those our church helps are so very appreciative.

Let us set our goals even higher this year and our Lord will smile down at us, saying “Yes, that’s what I mean! Give with Love! Give with Joy! Give with the Hope that I have instilled in you! Give with all your heart and with all the faith you have in Me!” We have been blessed with a wonderful congregation that is always willing to help wherever they see a need and whenever they are asked. Thank you!

In searching for a new Pastor for our church, we are fortunate to have YOU with us! Live a life that is pleasing to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! He lived His life for us!

Much love and many blessings in 2025,

Sue Anderson

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” John 16:33



First Congregational Church Annual Meeting

Please note that our Annual Meeting will be held on February 15, 2025. Please get your Annual Reports in to Sue Anderson in the office by January 17th, so she has time to put them together. The Chairperson of each committee is responsible for their committee's report.

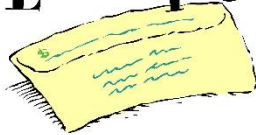
Thank you!

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10



Offering Envelopes



If you do not have offering envelopes but would like them, please ask Sue Anderson on a Sunday morning, call her or email her and she'll be happy to give them to you.

Office: 508-752-4635 Email: office@fcc-worcester.org

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Hebrews 13:16



Fellowship



What a beautiful Hat, Mitten & Scarf tree we made! Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped us with your contributions!

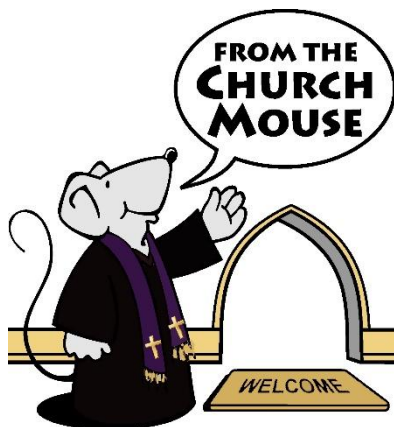
We ended the year wonderfully with an exciting Yankee Swap. Lots of fun and laughter was shared by all.



Happy New Year!

Fellowship will begin meeting again on Wednesday, January 8th @ 10:00 am in the parlor.

We'd love to have you join us!



Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas. Have you made any New Year's resolutions? I have. I noticed that someone cleaned the carpeting in the parlor, so I resolve to get as many crumbs as I can, to help keep it clean!



What? I heard that laughter is the best medicine, so I'm just tryin' to help. This time of year can be kinda blue ya know. We have to spend more time indoors than we'd like to; once we get cold, it's hard to warm up; it gets dark really early. On the other hand, there are some pretty good movies on tv, lots of good books to read, nice warm afghans and throws to cuddle up with and heck, it's

already starting to get dark later. Spring will be here before we know it. That's what I like about New England. The snow is beautiful but I wouldn't want it all year round and the summer is lots of fun but I wouldn't want that heat all year round. And we have the two most beautiful seasons of all! There's spring, when everything comes back to life and turns green again, we don't need winter boots or heavy jackets, and flowers blossom everywhere. Everything smells so fresh! And we have the autumn, when God paints all the leaves gorgeous colors...it's breathtaking!

Yep...New England is the place to be for sure!

Your friendly church mouse, Nick



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 hard copy every month.



ZOOM OR YOUTUBE



Although it seems to be hit or miss lately, we do try to broadcast our **Sunday services** via Zoom and afterwards on YouTube. Zoom seems to be acting up on us, not recording some Sundays.

Hopefully, this problem will be resolved promptly. In the meantime, if you are at home and would like to join us virtually on Sunday mornings at 10 am, you can try doing so by following this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83102423294?pwd=RjhHZGNDZDZlYODNHWVFabnRVZ2Vldz09>



Our **Christmas Eve service** recorded and was beautiful. **You can see it here, and can also find our latest services here when we can record them:**

<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.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

If more than 6 inches of snow falls on a Saturday night into Sunday, church service will be canceled.

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 forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." – Hebrews 13:2



The First Sunday of Every Month

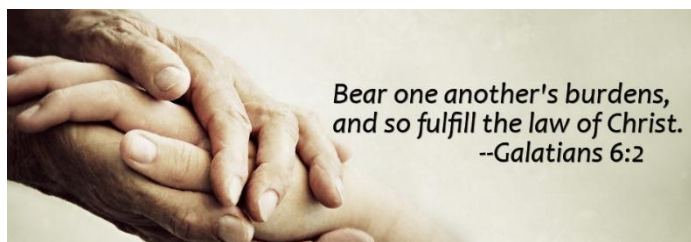
Carty Cupboard



Many thanks for your Carty Cupboard donations once again. In December we donated **another 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 the world 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. Our 2025 envelopes have Deacons Fund envelopes included. Whatever you can give, is truly appreciated.

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



Prayer Requests

Ellen D. requests prayers for her nephew, Tyler M. and his family. Tyler is undergoing treatment for cancer. Connie M. requests prayers for her niece Linda; Sue & Norman A. request prayers for their daughter, Melanie A., Sue's brother, Danny W. and their friend, Roger W's.family. Roger passed away on January 4th. They would also appreciate prayers for their doctor, Phillip Fournier, who's battling cancer. The Deacons request prayers for Ann S., Dolores T., Paul S., and Joyce & Armand T. Kristin O. requests prayers for Mitch B. We ask for continued prayers for Erika V, as well as for Jane B. We recently learned of the death of Jeanne F. on October 2, 2023. Our hearts and prayers go out to the loved ones she left behind. Jeanne was 85.



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.

"True prayer is a way of life, not just for use in cases of emergency. Make it a habit, and when the need arises you will be in practice." - Billy Graham



Our heartfelt thanks to Scott Yonker for the beautiful service of Lessons & Carols that he arranged for us. The choir was especially wonderful!



Many thanks also, to everyone who helped to beautify our sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas!



January

10 Jackson M.	13 Melanie A.	25 John H.
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February

04 Richard M.	12 Nancy T.	20 Scott Y.
21 Laura W.	22 William M.	23 Doug P., Sr.
	27 Connie M.	

*"Don't just count your years, make your years count."
~ George Meredith*



January

23 Phillip & Lorna C.

February

15 Rob & Kristen O.

"The best thing to hold onto in life is each other." – Audrey Hepburn

Christmas Poinsettia Recognition



Norman & Susan A.

In Memory of loved ones who have gone before us
In Celebration of the Season

Bev B.

In Honor of My Family

Bob & Marianne B.

In Memory of Roy & Betty B.
In Memory of John & Pauline C.

Ellen D.

In Memory of Arthur C. & the C. Family
In Memory of Melba S.
In Memory of the D. Family

Jim and Leanne J.

In Memory of William & Pauline G.
In Memory of Clifford & Marjorie G.
In Memory of Andrew & Catherine C.
In Memory of Edward & Evelyn J.

Connie and Mac M.

In Memory of Linwood, Alice & Lenny H.
In honor of Dan & Katherine & brother, Al

Ruth N.

In Memory of my husband, Peter N.

Ann S.

In Memory of my Loving Family

Thank you to those who gave poinsettias for our families and friends who are unable to attend the services. The plants are enjoyed and truly appreciated by them!





Wednesday

01 All Day **Happy New Year!**

Sunday

05 10:00 am FCC Worship Service Second Sunday after Christmas Communion Sunday
We use gluten free communion and non-alcoholic grape juice
Carty Cupboard Donations ~ Deacons Fund Collection

Wednesday

08 10:00 am Fellowship resumes ~ Let's gather and catch up!
6:00 pm Deacons Meeting

Friday

10 1:00 pm Trustees Meeting

Sunday

12 10:00 am FCC Worship Service ~ First Sunday after Epiphany

Wednesday

15 10:30 am Fellowship ~ A Speaker

Sunday

19 10:00 am FCC Worship Service ~ Second Sunday after Epiphany

Wednesday

22 10:00 am Fellowship - Join us for an exciting game of 🍏 Apples to Apples 🍏

Sunday

26 10:00 am FCC Worship Service ~ Third Sunday after Epiphany
11:30 am Council Meeting

Wednesday

29 11:00 am Fellowship ~ Meet in the church parking lot for a trip to Livia's Dish for lunch





The First Congregational Church in Worcester
1070 Pleasant Street
Worcester, MA 01602
www.fcc-worcester.org
Rev. Jack Jones

Return Service Requested

Purpose Statement

It is our purpose to joyfully celebrate Christ's presence and God's grace in our lives; to respect one another in love, actively seeking and embracing those who wish to grow with us in faith, hope and love; to follow the example of Jesus, as we minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the community. Through service we flourish.

Join Us!
