

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

September 2023

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 - Wednesday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm



"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." - Psalm 121:1-2

Trust in the Lord

Autumn is upon us and the foliage is beginning to change color in preparation for winter. Watching the beautiful array of leaves floating to the ground, leaving branches bare is phenomenal. Breathing in the crisp, cool air, we are filled with the anticipation of what is to come. During this remarkable season of change, we are also greeted with new hope. Summer fades away, making way for the new season and the beauty it brings to us. Isn't it amazing how God has planned out the wonders of the earth? He brings us beauty with every season, even as the old season dies out, the earth is refreshed with the beauty of a new one.

As with the seasons, our lives are ever-changing, bringing about untold changes. We are comforted by the knowledge that God is watching over us, guiding us, filling our every being with His undying love. Life is constantly changing, people leave us, making way for new lives to begin. The circle of life is indeed one of God's incomprehensible mysteries. He sees us through every season of our lives, through the ups and downs that we experience, and is always there for us and with us. All He asks in return is for us to trust in Him, believe in Him, put Him before all others, and have faith that He will see us through all of our trials and tribulations.

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." - Deuteronomy 31:8

Thanks be to God,

Sue Anderson





Thirty days has September...wow!! September already?! It seems like just yesterday that I was swimming in the puddles! That means the leaves are falling, kids are starting back to school, people are raking and I'm having a grand ol' time jumping in their big leaf piles! I have to be careful that they don't rake ME up! But oh, what fun! I love listening to the leaves crunching and rustling through my feet, don't you? It's time to start wearing a sweater, sweatshirt or fall jacket now, too. I don't wear a sweater playing in the leaves cuz they like to cling to me like glue. A sweatshirt or jacket is definitely better for that.

Don't forget to drive carefully so you don't hit any little kids darting between cars to get to school and home again. Hopefully, they'll pay close attention to the crossing guards, parents and teachers but you never know.

On September 29th, I'm looking forward to seeing the Harvest Moon. It's always beautiful but you have to be up bright and early to see it because it's at 5:57 am! It will be worth the effort though, so I'll try my best to be up and out...or at least at the window! I heard that it's beautiful up at the airport, too!

Well, happy fall, y'all!!

See you in church!

Your friendly church mouse, Nick



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 provide the coffee 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!



True hospitality is a delicate balance of warmth and form. - Sheila Ostrander



Deacons Fund



On the first Sunday of every month, we collect money that is used to provide one-time, emergency assistance to a neighbor in need. Blue envelopes are included in your bulletin for this offering. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Thank you and God bless!



Carty Cupboard

The First Sunday of Every Month

Thank you so much for bringing us more Carty Cupboard donations. In August, we donated 6 bags of groceries. Donating non-perishable items such as jam or jelly in plastic jars, cereal, protein bars, fruit cups, yogurt covered raisins, easily prepared mac & cheese and condiments are still good choices. They can also use personal care items such as toothpaste, soap, shaving cream, etc. Diapers and wipes for babies are also welcome.

YOU can make a difference!

*"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
- Hebrews 13:16:*



Tuesday, September 12th Fellowship will hold our first meeting. We have a fun-filled year ahead planned and hope you'll join us as we gather back together again!



Thank you for your continued prayers for our Search Committee, as they actively seek a new pastor.



From the Missions Committee



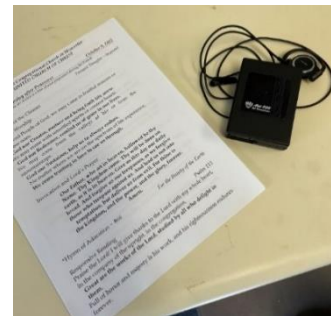
- ❖ We are happy to report that we were able to send \$250 to the First Congregational Church of Spencer to aid in their rebuilding.
- ❖ We were also able to contribute \$250 to the Tatnuck Magnet School's "Set for Success" project!

*"How do you know if your mission in life is finished? If you're still alive, it isn't."
- Richard Bach (1936 -), American Author*



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 sincere thanks for your continued contributions to our Teddy Bear Jar in the narthex before the service and in the parlor following it. At last count we had about \$450. They're growing, slowly but surely!

"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver."

~ Maya Angelou



"Set For Success"



Bob & Marianne Bourgault

The \$2,500 Neighbors in Need Grant that First Church Received for Outreach in 2023 has been put to good use! On August 25th, Tatnuck Magnet School held an Open House from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Despite the rain, Bob & Marianne Bourgault erected a pop-up canopy and decorated it in the school colors to draw attention to it. They also put up signage for/from our church. They have also ordered a sign crediting us with the "Space Walk", that will be placed near it. They worked diligently on this project, making it a splendid success.

With the help of Shelly, Joey, Lynn and Khloe, they filled and distributed 150 backpacks, to the delight of the students. They filled them with notebooks, pencils, colored pencils, bottled water and even candy (which was their favorite, along with their parents, since Bob & Marianne brought plenty to go around).

The school janitor installed the "space walk", which was very colorful. The children absolutely loved it and were even spotted dancing down the corridor on it!

The math books for the older students hadn't arrived yet but I know they'll be just as well received.

Sincere thanks goes out to all who helped to make this project a reality!



Please Keep Them in Your Prayers



We would like to keep Hampton Bagdasarian in our prayers as he is having trouble with one of his eyes; Connie MacInnes requests prayers for her niece Linda and friend Marie Samuelson who is very ill; Judy Mitchell requests prayers for her granddaughter, Ellanora; Sue & Norman Anderson request prayers for their daughter, Melanie

Anderson, Sue's brother, Danny Waskevich who is healing from a leg amputation, and their friend, Roger Waite. Dawn & Matt Ahaesy request prayers for Dawn's dad, Francis Lajoie and also for Gina Ahaesy; Donna Spaulding requests prayers for Dave H. and his caregiver, Cindy. Dave has cancer and is now in hospice. The Deacons request prayers for Betty Dalbeck who is also now in hospice, 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. Prayers also continue for MaryKay McGrail as she recovers from

cancer and for Erika Vecsey, who is also battling cancer. We would also like prayers to continue for Doug Perkins. Greg Waters and Cindy MacLaurin request prayers for Cindy's mother, whose cancer has returned in her other lung.

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.



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=RjhHZGNDZDJyODNHWFabnRVZ2Vldz09>

You can also find our latest services here:



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



September

04 Clarissa Nigro 11 Ronald Taylor 13 Noah Miles

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



September

05 Scott Yonker & Bill Condon
 19 Robert & Marianne Bourgeault

October

07 Miloz & Ashley Rucinski 14 George & Jane Boggs
 17 Armand & Joyce Thienel



Sunday

03 10:00 am 14th Sunday after Pentecost ~ FCC Worship Service Communion Sunday
With Gluten Free Communion and Grape Juice
Carty Cupboard Collection
Deacons Fund Collection

Monday

04 All Day



Sunday

10 10:00 am 15th Sunday after Pentecost ~ FCC Worship Service
11:30 am Trustees Meeting

Monday

10 All Day



Sunday

17 10:00 am 16th Sunday after Pentecost ~ FCC Worship Service
11:30 am Deacons Meeting

Sunday

24 10:00 am 17th Sunday after Pentecost ~ FCC Worship Service
11:30 am Council Meeting

"And then the sun took a step back, the leaves lulled themselves to sleep, and autumn awakened." - Raquel Franco