

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

November 2025

First Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602

Pastor T • Drop-in Pastor's Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 12:00 - 2:00pm

Email: pastorT@fcc-worcester.org • After Hours and Emergency Calls or Texts

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Office Hours are Monday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Website • www.fcc-worcester.org



Hello Church!

What a glorious month October has been for me and my family, and our FCCW family! Settling into my office as well as doing some painting at the parsonage to get ready for the big move has been very exciting for all of us! My guess is everything/everyone will have a place and everything/everyone will be in its place by Thanksgiving!

In addition to the 10:00 worship we have enjoyed together, November brings with it a reminder of 'Stewardship'. Giving is not just something we do—it's part of who we are as worshipers of a generous God. When we give, we are not merely supporting the work of the church; we are offering our hearts back to the One who first gave everything for us.

In Scripture, worship and giving are inseparable. The wise ones brought gifts when they knelt before the newborn Christ. The early believers shared their possessions so that 'none among them was in need.' Jesus Himself taught that 'where your treasure is, there your heart will be also' (Matthew 6:21). Our giving, then, is a declaration of trust and love—a tangible expression of our worship.

When we place our offerings before the Lord, we're saying, "God, You are first in my life. All I have is Yours." It's not about the size of the gift but the sincerity of the heart. Every act of generosity—whether financial support, time spent serving, or words of encouragement—becomes an offering of praise to God.

This month, I invite you to reflect on your giving as an act of worship. Prayerfully consider how you can be a faithful steward. Perhaps it's sharing your musical gift or speaking voice in worship, volunteering in a ministry, or committing to regular financial giving. Whatever form it takes, your stewardship helps our church continue to be a place of hope, healing, and community.

May our offerings—both great and small—rise before Him as a sweet fragrance of love and devotion.

In joyful service,

Pastor T

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. Two or more people can sign up together. Most importantly though, is for you to join us in fellowship!

"In all things, give thanks." – 1 Thessalonians 5:18



Fellowship

Join us for a fun and easy craft Wednesday, November 5th!
Be sure to watch the calendar for more Fantastic Fellowship Festivities!



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!

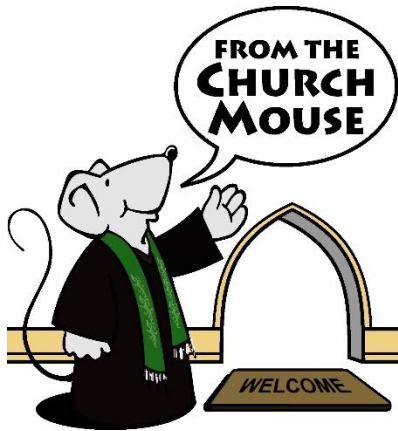
If you would like a copy of the newsletter sent to you via email, please email the office and we'll add you to our list. There are also copies in the narthex that you can pick up. If you don't have an email address or can't get to church, send us your address and we'll be happy to send you a hard copy every month. You don't want to miss out!



Stewardship Sunday

November 23 ~ Please give generously!





It's so exciting around here once again, now that we have a Music Director and Pastor. All the substitutes were pretty good but there's nothing like having our very own. ❤️ I love what I'm seeing and hearing. Our church seems to be coming to life more than it has in a long time. It's a perfect time for Thanksgiving cuz I sure am thankful and I know you are, too! Speaking of Thanksgiving, have ya seen any turkeys around lately? I know I haven't and I bet it's because Thanksgiving is right around the corner. I think I'd stay in hiding, too, if I was a turkey! This is a wonderful time to give thanks to our Lord, for all the blessings He has bestowed upon us,

and boy, am I ever thankful for my mom cuz she makes the best pies in the whole wide world! What's your favorite pie? I think mine is apple...no, maybe pumpkin...oh, wait...it's lemon merengue....but I love pecan....oh heck....I love them all!!! Gee, if Pastor T is all moved into the parsonage, maybe they'll have a scrumptious Thanksgiving meal and just maybe, I could sneak over there to 'help' with the clean-up. Hehehe! Whatever you do, have a wonderful Thanksgiving! Love from your friendly church mouse,

Nick 🐭



We appreciate you!



Pastor T, we are so grateful for your ministry and the passion you bring to our church. Thank you for being a blessing to us all.

*Thank you, **Dr. Christopher Grills**, for your continued dedication and inspiring leadership of our music ministry. We truly appreciate your time, talent, and heart for worship.*

*A heartfelt thank you to **Bob B**, for faithfully serving as our Bible reader this month. Your commitment to sharing God's word is a true blessing to our church family.*

Our sincere thanks also go out to everyone who works quietly in the background. You don't go unnoticed!



Our Daily Bread

Pick up your copy from the bookcase in the narthex in either large or regular print. Available right now is the September/October/November issue.

Donations Needed



Dr. Christopher Grills would like to start a Children's bell choir and it would be wonderful to buy the bells and start lessons as soon as possible. Wouldn't it be a wonderful addition to our season of Advent? They're called, Kristal Bells and are a color-coded handbell system designed for children, allowing them to play music without prior musical knowledge by following color-coded

cards alongside orchestrated songs. Of course, adults are welcome to join, also.

A starter set of the bells costs about \$300, and includes 4 boxes of handbells, (8 bells/tones per box in C Major Scale), 2 sets of cue cards (2 songs), 2 CDs (2 songs), and Instructions.

Would you be able to help us raise this money? The sooner, the better. How exciting this will be, and how exciting it is to hear the laughter of children in our church again! Their presence fills the church with such a wonderful energy! If you have children or grandchildren, I bet they'd love to join in playing the bells! The kids will bond and form friendships, and that energy will bring new life to our church community!

"Ringing with joy and making a joyful noise unto the Lord!"



ZOOM

Although we have no Zoom right now, you can see some of our past services on YouTube until Zoom is up and running once again.



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

Accessibility Items Available for Worship!

Did you know that we offer large print bulletins? They are available in the narthex as you enter the sanctuary. If you don't see any there, just ask and we'll be happy to provide them. We also have hearing assistance devices that make hearing what is said at the pulpit much easier! They are in a basket on the table in the narthex.



On The First Sunday of Every Month

Deacons Fund

Thank you also for your generous contributions to the Deacons Fund. This is an on-going fund, set up for someone in desperate need of help. It is a one-time emergency fund. Often there are families in desperate need of housing but they can't afford the amount of money needed for a deposit, even though they can afford the rent. Another scenario is a person who works hard but their car breaks down and they don't have the money to repair it but they don't want to lose their job. There may be a family struggling to keep their head above water but one of their children needs new shoes that are expensive because they're corrective shoes that have to be special ordered. There are all different types of people with all different needs and if we can do our part by helping them out, we're helping our world to be a better place.

"For it is in giving that we receive." ~ Francis of Assisi



Community Events

Looking for something to do? Check out our Community Events Bulletin Board in the Narthex. Something might pique your interest. If you would like to share an upcoming event, feel free to post it there!



Marsha requests prayers for her friend's husband, **Theodore** and his family. Theodore's prostate cancer has spread to his bones. He is now going into Boston for treatment. They still have two school age children and times are getting rough. Debbi requests prayers for **Kim**, who is recovering from a traumatic leg injury. Ellen requests prayers for her nephew, **Tyler** and his family. Tyler is undergoing treatment for cancer; Connie requests prayers for **Mac** and also for her niece **Linda**; Sue requests prayers for her daughter, **Melanie**, her sister, **Lee**, and her brother, **Danny**. The Deacons request prayers for **Hampton, John, Dolores, Paul, and Joyce & Armand**. Kristin requests prayers for **Mitch**. We ask for continued prayers for **Erika**, as well as for **Jane and Carol**; Our continued prayers for **World Peace** are desperately needed and greatly appreciated.

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.

"Prayer is the key of the day and the lock of the night." - George Herbert



Carty Cupboard



The First Starting NOW, EVERY Sunday of the Month

Thank you for turning our donations numbers around! We donated a whopping 17 bags of groceries in October! And did you see what happened in November?!! We had THREE WAGONS and TWO BASKETS FULL and even some bags that didn't fit anywhere! We're going to open up our Carty donations to EVERY Sunday now. That way we don't have to remember just once a month, you can donate any time of the month. There are so many people in need in this world, especially right now, that it's heartwarming to see that we're doing our part to help them out. Thank you again! A big thank you to Nancy, for the awesome pictures!

Snacks like squeeze-up applesauce are fun and nutritious. Pudding, fruit, and Jello cups are good snacks, too.

Granola bars provide a good source of energy and are quick to grab. Things like tuna fish, mac & cheese, beans, instant potatoes, hearty soup, shelf-safe milk, juice boxes, and condiments are some of the foods people can use. Besides food, they can also use personal care items and/or baby items. If they have pets, they'd be happy to get food or treats for them, as well or kitty litter for cats.



"The people who give you their food give you their heart."



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

December

01 Carlo DiBonaventura 05 Kenneth Sawyer
11 Sienna Rucinski 16 Barbara Chad 18 John Dalbec
26 Marie Trzcinski 28 Jim Mirick 29 Lynn Kapinos



Happy Birthday!

"May your cup overflow with blessings and joy on your special day."

November

09 Greg Waters & Cindy MacLaurin

10 Carlo & Jillian DiBonaventura

December

08 Deb & Ken Holmes

"A happy marriage is the tranquil beauty of a lovely sunset."



A word about Communion Sunday

I was profoundly impacted by the way communion was presented these past two months. It made me feel the presence of Jesus more strongly than ever, almost as though I was right there with Him at the Last Supper. Judging by what I heard, and the fact that Nancy and I both took pictures of the table, makes me think that it impacted others in the same way. Beautiful job, Pastor T! Thank you!

"Do this in remembrance of me."



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!



Help make a child's dream come true!

MSPCC

(Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) ~ Each year, the Missions Committee requests the ages, gender and desires of 15 children in this program. Once we get the gift information, Ruth writes out the gift tags and distributes them with the information for one child, on each one. Then we have lots of fun, deciding what to buy. (We keep the price to around \$25) Once purchased, we bring the wrapped gifts back to church and once we have them all, someone from the MSPCC will come and pick them up. Be on the lookout for the tags, and join in on the fun!

May God richly bless you for your participation and generosity.



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child delivers great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes.

Each box packed full of quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items becomes a tangible expression of God's immense love for the child. For many, it is their first gift ever! Delivered by our local church partners, shoebox gifts provide an opportunity to present the Gospel to boys and girls in a clear, child-friendly way. Stay tuned for more information about this charity!



Sunday

02 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*) Communion Sunday with gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice; Deacons Fund Collection; Carty Cupboard donations are now being collected every Sunday!

Monday

03 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

04 Don't forget to vote!

Wednesday

05 10:00 am Fellowship ~ Ruth will lead us in making a Thanksgiving craft

Thursday

06 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Friday

07 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Sunday

09 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (*sanctuary*)

Tuesday Happy Veteran's Day!

11 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open



Wednesday

12 10:00 am Fellowship

Thursday

13 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Friday

14 1:00 pm Trustee's Meeting (*Conference Room*)

10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Sunday

16 10:00 am FCC Worship Service

11:30 am Deacons Meeting (*Conference Room*)

17 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Wednesday

19 10:00 am Fellowship (*parlor*)

Thursday

20 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Friday

21 Office Closed

Sunday

23 10:00 am FCC Worship Service ~ **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY!**

11:30 am Council Meeting (*Conference Room*)

Monday

24 Church Office Closed

Wednesday

26 10:00 am No Fellowship

Thursday

27 Church Office Closed



Friday

28 Church Office Closed

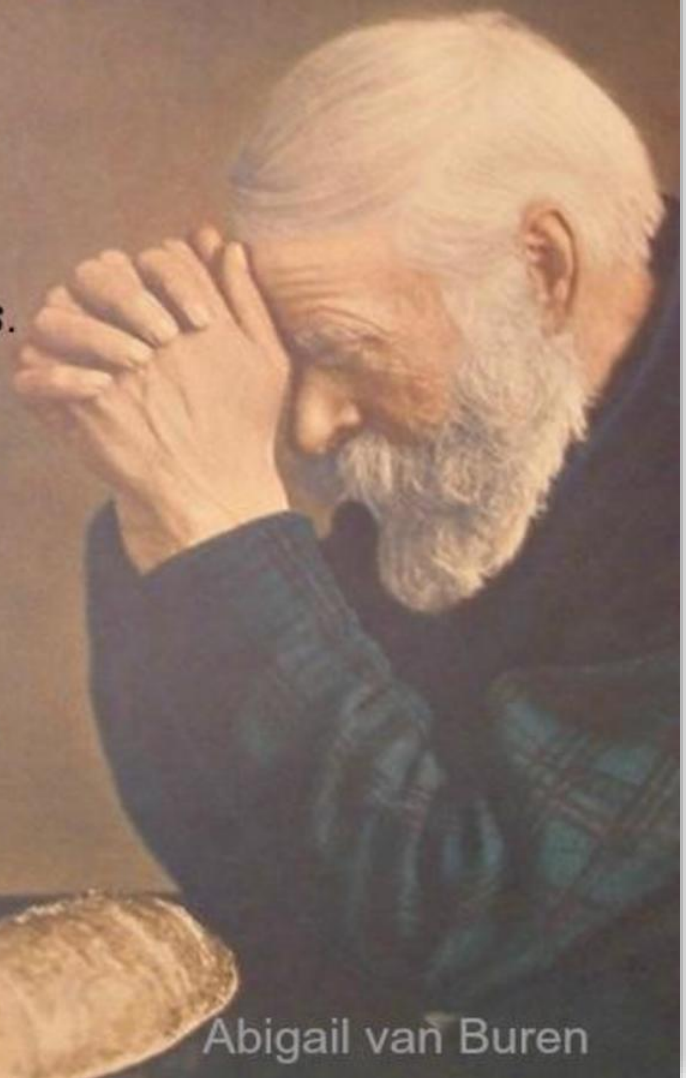
Sunday

30 Advent Starts

O, heavenly Father,
We thank thee for food
and remember **the hungry**.
We thank thee for health
and remember **the sick**.
We thank thee for friends
and remember **the friendless**.
We thank thee for freedom
and remember **the enslaved**.
May these remembrances
stir us to service,
that thy gifts to us
may be used **for others**.

Amen

Prayer of Thanks



Abigail van Buren