

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

March 2026

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

Pastor T • Drop-in Pastor's Office Hours: By Appointment

Email: pastorT@fcc-worcester.org • After Hours and Emergency Calls or Texts
(336) 410-4107 • Office - Sue: 508-752-4635 • office@fcc-worcester.org

Website • www.fcc-worcester.org



“Scripture assures us—

“Even the darkness is not dark to You; the night is as bright as the day.”

—Psalm 139:12

This has been an unprecedented month. For weeks now, we have lived under the weight of relentless cold. Worship services postponed. Familiar routines interrupted. Roads made treacherous. Sidewalks impassable. Even our own driveways and walkways reduced to solid sheets of ice. Day after day, temperatures have rarely climbed above freezing, and at times—with the windchill—have plunged to -15 or even -20 degrees.

Such conditions do more than inconvenience us. They isolate us. They confine us. They quiet our movements and, if we are not careful, they can quiet our spirits as well. Winter has a way of pressing inward. And yet, even here, the Holy Spirit abides.

There is no cold so bitter, no day so gray, no night so long that the Spirit of God withdraws His presence. When roads are impassable and doors remain closed, the Spirit still crosses every threshold. When human contact is limited, divine nearness is not. When anxiety whispers its quiet fears in the night, the Spirit speaks a stronger word: *You are not alone.*

The Holy Spirit is not merely present in sanctuaries filled with song. The Spirit dwells in living rooms lit by a single lamp. The Spirit sits beside hospital beds, kitchen tables, and quiet armchairs. The Spirit remains with us in the long afternoons and in the restless hours before dawn. Especially then.

For it is often in our most desolate seasons that the Spirit makes Himself known most tenderly—not with spectacle, but with sustaining presence.

We remain His beloved not because of our strength, or our certainty, or our ability to endure winter without weariness. We remain His beloved because He has named us so.

And nothing—not ice, nor distance, nor cold, nor isolation—can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. —Romans 8:38–39

Even now, beneath the frozen ground, life is stirring. Even now, the light is lengthening. Even now, resurrection is drawing nearer. And even now, the Spirit abides—with us, within us, and around us. Praise be to God!

.... ever your Pastor T

There's been a lot going on here at FCC!



*On February 15th, we welcomed 7 New Members into our church!
Steven, Pastor T & her husband, David, Marsha, Karen, Debbie & Ralph*



We're so blessed and pleased that you have joined us!



Fantastic Fellowship Festivities

 Join us on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM! 

It's hard to tell what we'll be doing in this unpredictable weather but whatever it is, it's better than sitting at home!

Tentative Schedule

- 4 ~ Lunch at Eller's Restaurant ~ 190 Main St. ~ Cherry Valley*
- 11 ~ Safety Speaker from the Holden Senior Center*
- 18 ~ A Craft*
- 25 - Lunch at Charlie's Diner ~ 5 Meadow Rd. ~ Spencer*

February 22nd was a mixture of joy and sadness, as our long time (and Treasured) Treasurer, Bev, retired. Ruth, Ellen and Sue had a celebratory "Picnic in the Parlor", as we thanked 'Bev' for her many, many years of volunteer service to our church. Greg & Cindy provided a beautiful cake and we presented Bev with a Placque of Appreciation, so well deserved! Bev has been a great asset to our church, and will continue to be for a long time to come!





Many thanks to all of you for my retirement celebration. It meant a lot to me. I have enjoyed working for FCC for more than 50 years and love all the friends I have made. I don't know where the years went, and so fast!

Your thoughtfulness made my day!

Stay blessed and safe,
Bev



Gathering Our Thoughts in Prayer For



Marsha's friend's husband, **Theodore** and his family. Theodore's cancer has spread to his bones and he is going into Boston for treatment; **Kim**, who Debbi requests prayers for as she recovers from a traumatic leg injury; Ellen's nephew, **Tyler** and his family. Tyler is undergoing treatment for cancer; Connie's niece **Linda**; **Sue** requests continued prayers for her daughter, **Melanie**, her sister, **Lee**, and her brother, **Danny**; Members **Hampton, Dolores, Paul, Erika, Jane, Carol, Joyce & her husband, Armand**; Kristin's friend, **Mitch**; **World Peace**.

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 raising of one's mind and heart to God" - St. John Damascene

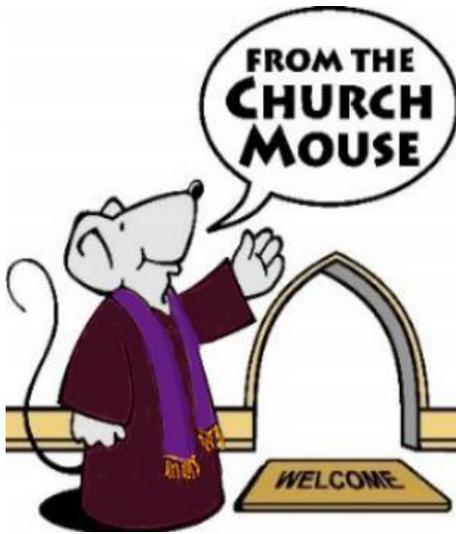


Hospitality ~ Bring Your Special Touch!



Come and share your favorite snacks with us at Coffee Hour, which is held in the parlor every Sunday after our worship service! We make the coffee and other beverages and we supply the paper goods. All you have to do is bring some goodies - store bought or homemade doesn't matter. It's the company we keep! A sign-up sheet is on the table in the parlor. Sign up with a friend, if you'd like!

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Mahatma Gandhi



Top o' the mornin' to ya!

Can ya believe it?! I heard Spring is comin'! The snow is still so deep that I wouldn't be able to see the crocus's poppin' through it even if they were a whole foot tall!! But yep, spring starts this month!

I was out in the play yard the other day an' you'll never guess what I saw! A little guy all dressed in green!! I thought I was seein' things but every time I peeked around the leg of the slide, I caught a glimpse of his back. Well, I waited, an' waited, an' waited some more and FINALLY I saw him...I really did! An' guess what?

When ya REALLY see one...a leprechaun, he said he was...he'll grant you a wish if you promise not to rat him out...hahaha...a mouse ratted...ahahaha!! Anyway, my wish was for...wellll...I can't say or my wish wouldn't come true but I'm sure you can guess what it was. It had to do with the next season and all that white stuff goin' away. I KNOW that Spring will be here on March 20th, right after Saint Patrick's Day!! But... an' that's a big BUT...ya gotta believe in leprechauns! (Heck, I'll believe in anythin' if it will bring Spring to me, won't you? Yeah? I thought so. 😊) I love the snow but enuff's enuff! Besides, Easter is right around the corner n' I don't wanna be huntin' for eggs in the snow!!

Well, ciao for now.

As always your faithful church mouse,

Nick



Don't forget!



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.

Our Daily Bread

Pick up your March-April-May copy from the bookcase in the narthex.

On The First Sunday of Every Month

Deacons Fund

The Deacons Fund is a financial resource provided by churches to assist individuals and congregations in need during times of crisis. It typically offers temporary support for basic needs such as rent, utilities, and emergency expenses, emphasizing mutual care within the community. Thank you for your support!

"At the end it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished. It's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back." – Denzel Washington



Carty Cupboard Donations Accepted Every Sunday Now

Wagons in Waiting

Thank you for helping to make a difference to those less fortunate than us! We're really are, and doesn't it

feel...like Tony the Tiger says...**"gr-r-reat!"** Pastor T. brings everything to Carty Cupboard for us, and we continue our mission. Here are our wagons, waiting to be filled yet again!

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 cereal, tuna fish, mac & cheese, beans, instant potatoes, hearty soup, shelf-stable 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.



"It is more blessed to give than to receive." – Jesus (And who knows better than HIM???)



March

02 Elianna Miles 03 Norman Anderson
 11 Susan Anderson 18 Mason Martin
 20 Molly Martin 28 Ellen Dalbeck
 29 Myles Martin 29 Greg Waters

April

10 Kristin Olson 16 Khylie Richard
 22 Susan Cardin 24 Leanne Jezerski

"May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed" (Psalm 20:4)



March

24 Bill & MaryKay McGrail

April

05 Dolores & Marie Trzcinski 18 Steve & Heidi Hinson

"May the Lord bless you with many more years of love, joy, and His abundant blessings."



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 **23rd** 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!



Sunday ~ Second Sunday in Lent

- 01 10:00 am** Worship Service with Pastor T~ Communion Sunday –
gluten free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice are used
The Deacon's Fund and Carty Cupboard donations are collected today.
11:30 am Council Meeting (*Conference Room*)
-

Wednesday

- 04 11:15 am** Fellowship will meet in the parking lot for a trip to Eller's Restaurant
in Cherry Valley for lunch
-

- Saturday** 🕒 **Daylight Savings ~ Don't forget to Spring Ahead! You don't want
07 to be late for church tomorrow!**
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Sunday ~ Third Sunday in Lent

- 08 10:00 am** Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)
-

Wednesday

- 09 6:00 pm** Tatnuck Neighborhood Watch Meeting (*parlor*)
-

Wednesday

- 11 10:00 am** Fellowship
-

Thursday

- 12 6:00 pm** South Lenox St. Neighborhood Watch Meeting (*parlor*)
-

Friday

- 13 1:00 pm** Trustees Meeting (*Conference Room*)
-

Sunday~ Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 15 10:00 am** Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)
11:30 am Deacons Meeting (*Conference Room*)
-

Tuesday ~ Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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Wednesday

- 18 10:00 am** Fellowship (*parlor*)
-

Sunday Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 22 10:00 am** Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)
11:30 am Council Meeting (*Conference Room*)
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Sunday ~ Palm Sunday

- 29 10:00 am** Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)
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"Keep your face always toward the sunshine and shadows will fall behind you."

– Walt Whitman