

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

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.

June 2025



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

June is here and has ushered in the beautiful summer weather. This is a busy time of year for many of us planning summer vacations, whether we choose to bask in the sun at the beach, hike along mountain trails, meander around flea markets or yard sales, visit a zoo or go on any of the multitude of outings enjoyed at this time of year. Whether day trips or overnight stays, this question comes to mind for me: Do you take God with you as you journey or do you “leave Him at home”? It may sound silly, but taking Him with you, keeping Him close to you daily is not only easy, but is pleasing to God. You might just thank Him for a beautiful day; for the flowers and trees, birds and bees, sunrises and sunsets and so much more that He has placed in our paths for us to enjoy.

On a vacation in the mountains one year, I saw the most beautiful sunset...three times...as I wound my way to my destination! Another trip brought me to the beach where the sun was setting over the ocean, which is always the epitome of beauty! Who is responsible for these beautiful memories? The One and Only Lord, Our God!

We should be realistic about our vacation plans. Sometimes things don't work out the way we envisioned. Look for ways to thank God for this re-direction. A change in plans may be God protecting us. Maybe He has something better for us. Here is one of the Bible verses about vacation that is good to remember.

“All things work for good and God’s glory for anyone who loves God.” Romans 8:28

Do you visit different churches that are in the vicinity of your vacation spots? Whether you do or not, most important of all is keeping God with you no matter where you are or what you're doing. Another option is to use your phone, iPad or laptop to watch a service on YouTube or Zoom. Watching a service on TV or listening to one on the radio are yet other options. Most importantly, keep Him close to your heart and thank Him for every new breath you take. He is a good listener!

Joyful blessings,

Sue Anderson

“Psalm 121:7-8 “The Lord keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.”



Fellowship

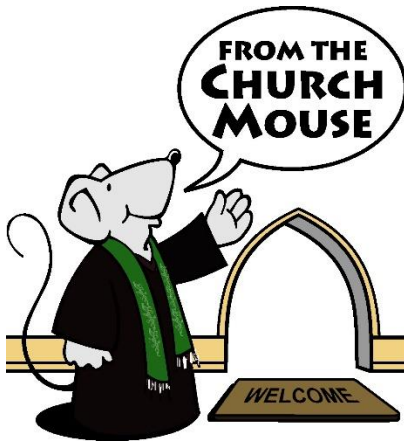


On June 4th, we will have our Ten Penny Auction. Everyone brings in a few items that they're seeking a new home for. They are spread out on tables with cups by them. You can buy 10 tickets for \$1.00, view the items and place a ticket in the cup by whatever you'd like to win. We hope you'll join us for this fun activity!



Our last meeting before we break for summer will be a trip to 308 Lakeside, 308 E Main St, East Brookfield, MA 01515-1623, for lunch.

As always, you're welcome to join us along with friends and/or family. You're sure to have a great time! We meet at 10:00 AM in the church parlor, unless otherwise specified.



Yippee! Summer's just about here an' it can't come soon enough! Some neighborhood kids put their pool out and guess where they put it? Right at the bottom of the playyard slide! Is that ever fun! It's a great way to cool off and if I hop onto a swing while I'm still wet, the breeze cools me off even more and I'm ready to do it all over again. My new bike is keeping me busy too, ridin' aroun' the neighborhood with my friends an' stoppin' at the pond for a quick dip is sooo refreshing. I'm hopin' to see my cousins, Mickey and Minnie this summer, too. If they come here, I bet they'll love the playyard and bike; an' if I go there, well geeeee....I'll love everything!

I heard that Scott's retiring at the end of this month. Bummer. We sure will miss him but of course we wish him well on this new leg of his journey. Hopefully, he'll keep in touch.

His last day with us is gonna be very special and I bet there will be lots of people here to bid him good-bye and wish him well. I'm lookin' forward to his retirement party cuz there's sure to be lots of crumbs and bits of cheese just the right size for me. Hehehe! See you there but you won't see me cuz I don't wanna cause a ruckus. 🐭

Have a great summer and whatever you do, stay safe!

As always, 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. You don't want to miss out!



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=RjhHZGNDZDJyODNHWFabnRVZ2Vldz09>



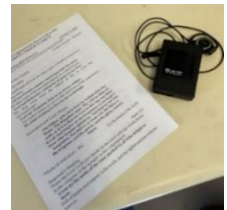
Sunday's service is usually uploaded to YouTube on Monday. You can see it here, and can also find our latest services here when we can record them:

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



Accessibility Items Available for Worship!

Did you know that we 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.



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!

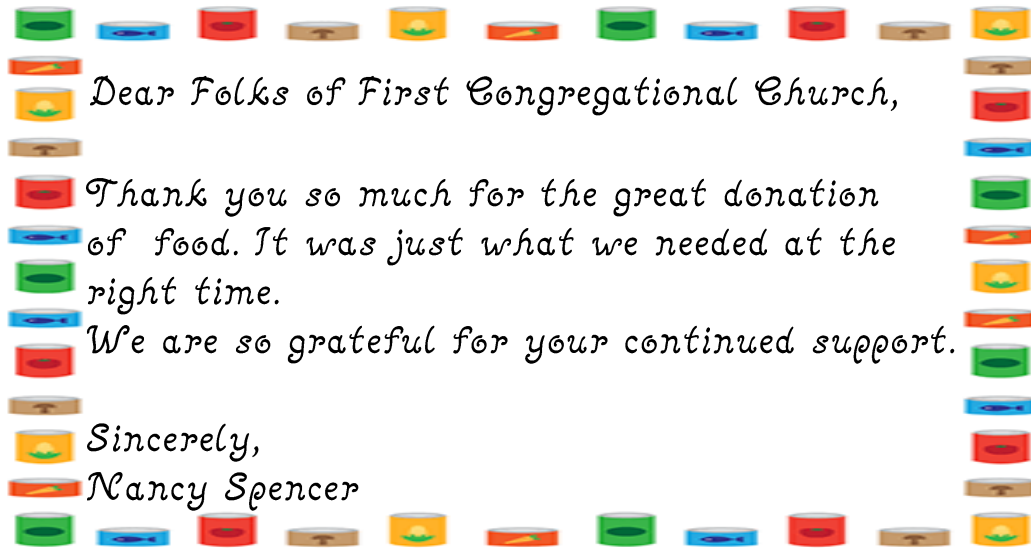


"Hospitality should have no other nature than love." – Henrietta Mears

The First Sunday of Every Month

Carty Cupboard

I'd like to share this note from Carty Cupboard:



Dear Folks of First Congregational Church,

Thank you so much for the great donation of food. It was just what we needed at the right time.

We are so grateful for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Nancy Spencer



We DO make a difference! In May we donated 8 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 are great, too. Donating not only non-perishable food, but also personal care items and/or baby items, are always welcome.

Also, 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.

" One Can, Two Can, Who Can? You Can!"



Marsha requests prayers for her friend, **Kathy**, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer; Greg and Cindy request prayers for their **grandson**, who is healing wonderfully. 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 & Norman request prayers for their daughter, **Melanie** and Sue's brother, **Danny**. They would also appreciate prayers for their doctor, **Phillip**. The Deacons request prayers for

Dolores, **Paul**, and **Joyce & Armand**. Kristin requests prayers for **Mitch**. We ask for continued prayers for **Erika**, as well as for **Jane**; for **Bev**, who is recuperating from pneumonia and **Ann**, who is healing from a fall. Let us also continue our prayers for our search for a new **Minister**, as well as a new **Music Director**.

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.

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 or the requesting of good things from God."
- St. John Damascene



If you haven't already seen it, take a look at our Community Events Bulletin Board in the Narthex, to the left of the glass front doors!



Here's one of them:

"TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME..."



Central MA Association, United Church of Christ, SNEUCC Invites Central

MA Member Churches to a WOO SOX Game on SUNDAY July, 20th at 1:05 PM at Polar Park in Worcester.

The Assoc is underwriting tickets at the Woo Sox game against Scranton for an individual cost of only **\$35 per ticket!!**

We will have our own space on the Triple Decker Garden...which **includes a 2-hour buffet and ADDED perks** as described below....

- tickets to a **private stanchioned section of the Hanover Deck**
- **2-hour buffet of burgers, hot dogs, mac & cheese, potato salad, and other ballpark favorites**
- **Central MA Association, SNEUCC**, featured on our **right-center field videoboard** during the game
- **5% Team Store discount coupon** for each member of our group to use on merchandise
- **Additional pregame or in-game group experiences!** (subject to availability)

Join us for a fun event and cheer with members of fellow churches beyond the boundaries of your local churches and experience a wider faith community!

FINAL Count and Payment DUE July 3



June

03 Jane Boggs 03 Marcos Rivera 04 Bob Lingner 05 Daniel Ames
 05 Cindy MacLaurin 10 Steven Hinson 11 Erin McGrail
 13 Joyce Thienel 19 Eileen Miles 2 Deb Holmes
 23 Bruce Kabasinsky

July

02 Sue Johnston 19 Khloe Kapinos 19 Nancy Dalbeck
 19 Elaine Miles 28 Richard Trzcinski 05 Bruce Johnston
 10 Brittany Hinson 13 Erika Vecsey 18 Paul Scherdell



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

June

01 Mac & Connie MacInnes 08 Richard & Renee Mason
 24 Jim Capuzziello & Jamie Sullivan

July

24 Bruce & Sue Johnston 29 Matt & Dawn Ahaesy



*"Love is just a word until someone comes along and gives it meaning".
 ~ Paulo Coelho*

RETIREMENT PARTY!



*Dear Friends and Family of First Congregational Church in Worcester,
Although we are saddened to see him go, we are delighted to invite you to celebrate the retirement of Scott Yonker after gracing us with 28 years of beautiful music and dedicated work to our church.*

We would like to honor Scott with a special celebration.

When: Sunday, June 29, 2025

Where: In the downstairs hall of the First Congregational Church in Worcester

Time: It will begin immediately following the 10:00 am worship service

RSVP: By June 15th to Bev Bean or the Church Office 508-752-4635; office@fcc-worcester.org

We are kindly requesting contributions in any amount to help cover the costs of the event, as well as a gift to Scott, helping us create a memorable celebration that recognizes his accomplishments and wishes him well in his retirement. Please make checks payable to FCC. You can either place it in the collection basket or send it to the attention of Beverly Bean at the church. Be sure to note that it is for Scott's party. Please have any contributions in by Sunday, June 15th.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to celebrating with you.

Joyfully,

The Party Planning Committee

First Congregational Church in Worcester





Sunday

01 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*) with **Scott Yonker** Officiating ~ Communion Sunday with gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice ~ Carty Cupboard Collection ~ Deacons Fund Collection

Monday

02 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Wednesday

04 10:00 am – Fellowship~ (*Parlor*) **TEN PENNY AUCTION!**

12:30 pm – Party Planning Committee Meeting (*Conference Room*)

Thursday

05 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Friday

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

Sunday

08 10:00 am – FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)with **Rev. Noelle Dattilo** Officiating

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

Monday

09 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Wednesday

11 10:30 am Fellowship ~ Meet in the church parking lot for a trip to 308 Lakeside,
308 E Main St, East Brookfield, MA 01515-1623 for lunch

Thursday

12 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Friday

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

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

Sunday

15 All Day **FATHER'S DAY!**



10:00 am FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*) **Rev. Linda Michel** Officiating

Monday

16 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Thursday

19 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Friday

All Day

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



Sunday

22 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*) **Rev. Linda Michel** Officiating

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

Monday

23 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Thursday

26 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Friday

27 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Sunday

29 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*) with Rev. Jordan Daigle Officiating. This will be a very special service honoring Scott Yonker, who is retiring. A retirement party will follow, in the church hall, downstairs.



*HERE'S TO SCOTT -- A GREAT MINISTER OF MUSIC WE'RE TELLING GOODBYE.
THERE'S NO DOUBT WE'LL MISS HIM... WE CANNOT DENY.
WE HAVE VALUED HIS WORK, HIS WISDOM, HIS SMILE...
NOW WE HOPE HE'LL ENJOY A RELAXING LIFESTYLE.*

