

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

September 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.



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
I think God has blessed us with the most wonderful weather in the world. Our four seasons are perfect. I wouldn't want to miss any of them. Although the winter is cold, seeing the freshly fallen snow so pure and white, can take your breath away. Ice can be extremely dangerous, but when the tree branches are covered with it, they're dazzling, as they shine and sparkle like glass. Spring begins with a little chill and a great deal of rain. However, we need it to bring everything back to life to be beautiful, bold and bright with such multitude of captivating fragrances, they overwhelm the senses all at once. Farmers plant their crops, counting on the rain and sun to produce fruitful harvests. Summer follows, with its blaring sun and heat. However, we also have beautiful mountains, lakes, streams and bright green grass. God created majestic trees – evergreens and many varieties of trees filled with leaves, that provide shade for us as well as the bright sunshine to bask in. Farmers tend their crops, getting them ready for harvest; last but certainly not least, is the season that September brings, autumn, also called fall, probably because that's when all the trees shed their leaves. Before they do though, they turn wonderful hues of yellow, orange, red and gold. Absolutely stunning! The farmers bring their crops to market and we all enjoy the fruits of their labor. How delicious everything tastes when they are freshly grown.

Where else would we rather live?! Sure, we complain about too much of anything...snow...rain...sun but here in New England, the weather can change with the blink of an eye! Isn't our God an awesome God? He has a Divine design for all creation! Take time to breathe, to smell the roses and to thank Him who blessed us all with the miracle of life.

Joyful blessings,

Sue Anderson

"The seasons are what a symphony ought to be: four perfect movements in harmony with each other."

~ Arthur Rubinstein

Our Daily Bread

If you've missed the 'Our Daily Bread' publication, it's back! You can 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.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE!

Greetings!

We felt it was time to share a little bit about our search. Since late May, we have had two pastors show interest in our position. One profile was just received this week and is being reviewed.

The first person to apply, Gina Colorio, has been interviewed by the committee and the feedback was very positive. No decisions have been made, but it was decided we would like to hear Gina preach in person. The good news is she has been providing various churches with pulpit supply, and the committee has invited her to preach our sermon on September 7th. We would encourage everyone who can possibly attend on the 7th to do so. The committee will be meeting after the service to discuss the path forward, whatever that might be.

Blessings,

The Search Committee

A BIG THANK YOU GOES OUT TO

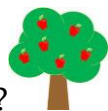
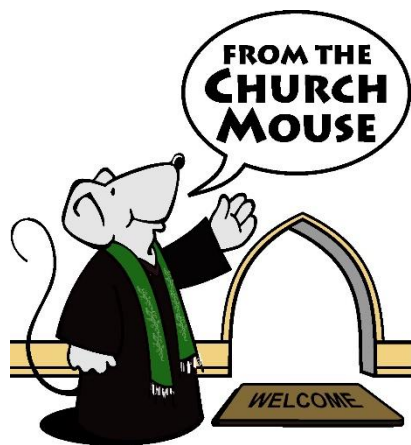
Ken Sawyer

and

"The Sawyer Saxophone Student Solo Workshop"

We were so fortunate to have had them as our guests. Their music was wonderful!





What time is it? It's apple pickin' time!!! (Reminds me of that ol' TV show when they said, "Say kids, what time is it?" And they'd respond, "It's Howdy Doody Time!" Hahaha!) Anyway, don't ya just LOVE pickin' apples? 'N climbin' the trees? An nibblin' here and there (cuz you hafta find the best apples for pickin'). Then we love to make (well, I only eat 'em) so much stuff with 'em like apple pie, apple squares, apple bread, baked apples, apple turnovers, apple dumplings, apple stuffing, applesauce, apple EVERYTHING! Even just plain apples are yummy, aren't they?

September is such a great month. The air is fresh and crisp, the leaves are turning beautiful colors and drifting down to the ground. I think that's so we can play in 'em after they get raked into piles. I love to hear the crunch, crunch, crunch as I walk through 'em on the side of the road or even where the wind takes 'em and drops 'em around the playyard fence. Hey...maybe someone will rake a big pile at the bottom of the slide! Wheeeee!!!! Wouldn't THAT be fun?!

Oh, an' all the kids are back in school an' I can hear 'em playing at recess. I wonder if they play jumprope, an' hopscotch, an' four squares, an' donkey, an' play on the jungle gym, an' swings. What awesome memories they're makin' an' I bet they don't even know it yet, but they'll remember it when they grow up. I think good memories like that stay with you when you grow up so they can help you get through the bumps in the road that you're bound to run into here and there along lifes journey, don't you?

Happy fall, y'all!

Love from your friendly church mouse,

Nick

"I love apple picking to my very core."



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!



"O God, who teaches us to live and guides us on our way, For all the teachers in our midst, we give you thanks and praise!" - From the Hymn "O God, Who Teaches Us to Live" by Tom Hunter

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.

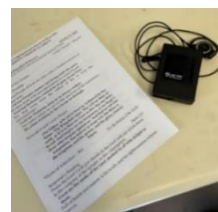


<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDQmijukLaC24hwdyayupdg> or by searching "First Church, Worcester" on YouTube.



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.



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!

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



The First Sunday of Every Month

Carty Cupboard

YOU make a difference! In August we donated 14 bags of groceries. School is back in session and kids need quick and easy but nutritious breakfast foods. Of course, they also need snacks for recess and after school. 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.



"A simple act of sharing food can have a profound impact on someone's life."

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. 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.

"When we bring our needs and our resources together, there will not be a needy person among us."



Please pray for the family of Bob Lingner, who recently passed away. He brought such a joy to everyone, especially by sharing his musical talent on the piano with the Senior Lunch group. He was an inspiration to all who knew him and will definitely be missed.

Please continue to pray for **Marsha** as she continues to heal. Debbi requests continued prayers for **Kim**, who is recovering from a traumatic leg injury.

Please also continue your prayers of peace and comfort for Nancy's **nieces** as they navigate through the difficult days ahead after losing their father, Tim. Ellen requests prayers for her nephew, **Tyler** and his family. Tyler is undergoing treatment for cancer; Connie requests prayers for **Mac, who is recovering from a fall**, and also for her niece **Linda**; Please continue your prayers for Sue & Norman's daughter, **Melanie**, Sue's brother, **Danny** and her sister, **Lee**. 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**; Our prayers are also desperately needed for **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 key that opens the heart of God.~ Padre Pio"



Fellowship is resuming on Wednesday, September 10th.
We meet in the church parlor from 10:00 am to 11:00
am unless we're doing something special.

I hope you'll join us!



September

04 Clarissa Nigro 11 Ronald Taylor, Jr.
13 Noah Miles

October

03 Scarlet Rucinski 04 Jean Andes 10 Shirley Avery
12 Jillian DiBonaventura 15 Hampton Bagdasarian
19 Ann Scherdell 19 Armand Thienel 23 Bob Smith

"You make the world a brighter place just by being in it."



September

05 Scott Yonker & Bill Condon
19 Robert & Marianne Bourgeault

October

07 Miloz & Ashley Rucinski 17 Armand & Joyce Thienel

Another year, another beautiful reason to celebrate your love.



Community Events

Don't forget to check out our Community Events Bulletin Board in the Narthex. Something might pique your interest.



"When a Christian shuns fellowship with other Christians, the devil smiles, when he stops studying the Bible, the devil laughs. When he stops praying, the devil shouts for joy." - Corrie Ten Boom



Dates to Remember in



Monday

01 All DAY ~*~Happy Labor Day~*~ Office Closed

Sunday

07 10:00 am FCC Worship Service with **Rev. Gina Colorio** Officiating ~ Communion Sunday with gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice ~ Carty Cupboard Collection ~ Deacons Fund Collection
11:30 am Search Committee Meeting

Wednesday

10 10:00 am Fellowship Starts back up today! We'd love to have you join us!

Thursday

11 All DAY ~*~Happy Patriots Day~*~
10:00 am – 2:00 pm Office Open

Friday

12 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Office Open
1:00 pm Trustees Meeting (*Conference Room*)

Sunday

14 10:00 am FCC Worship Service with **Pastor Ellis Quinones**
11:30 am Music Committee Meeting
11:30 am Deacons Meeting

Wednesday

17 10:00 am Fellowship

Sunday

21 10:00 am FCC Worship Service with **Rev. Rob Donaldson**

Tuesday

23 10:00 am Fellowship ~ We're have a guest speaker coming to discuss spam

Wednesday

14 10:00 am No Fellowship Today

Sunday

28 10:00 am FCC Worship Service with **Rev. Noelle Dattilo**
11:30 am Council Meeting

