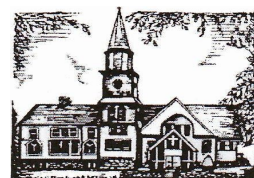


FRIENDLY MESSENGER

First Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602
www.fcc-worcester.org · Office: 508-752-4635 · Parsonage: 508-459-9085

November 2021



Rev Robert H. Jackson



On October 24th, we said good-bye to our Minister, our good and faithful servant, Rev. Robert H. Jackson. It was a beautiful day, filled with love, laughter and reflection. There were tears of sorrow because we will miss him, but tears of joy because we know that he's retiring to Wells, Maine with his lovely wife, Carolyn. They will surely be missed by all. The memories that we've made together will forever be etched in our minds and hearts.

Best Wishes

Rev. Bob & Carolyn



Rev. Bob

As you enter into retirement
we send Our Lord's blessings with you
our appreciation for your faithful service
your determination in all you pursue
your undying love that has filled our hearts –
praise this leg of your journey anew
rejoice in all you've accomplished
may His joy permeate you
with insurmountable blessings
and the peace of His love for you

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"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' ~ Matthew 25:21



A Thank you to Our Church Family



On behalf of Carolyn and myself, I wanted to extend a special thank you to each and every one of you for the wonderful good-bye and retirement service we shared on October 24th. Every part of the day, from the music to the wonderful brunch, was received with love and appreciation. Many of you worked hard to make this day one we will never forget. Thank you so much for the flowers, cards and gifts. The cake was special with the picture of the church on it. The brunch was delicious.

Of course we were awestruck by the biggest gift of all, that being two rockers for the front porch of our new home in Wells, Maine. We will be sure to send you a picture of us "rocking on the porch".

Naturally, it was the people and their loving comments that were the highlights of the event. Thank you a hundred times over. It proved to be a day of emotions and gratitude as we welcomed church friends from Worcester, Sturbridge and Marshfield. All places where I have had the privilege to minister and serve Jesus Christ. My family was overwhelmed with the joy and love that filled the sanctuary and church hall. What a special moment it was to have members of the Resurrection Power and Living Bread Ghanaian church join us for the celebration.

Finally, you have given both of us lasting memories that will remain with us for the rest of our lives. Thank you with love beyond words. We will miss you dearly. If you ever find yourselves in Maine, look us up.

With loving appreciation,

Because He lives,

Rev. Bob and Carolyn Jackson

67 Wells Highlands ~ Wells, ME 04090 ~ revrhjackson@gmail.com ~ 508-410-1585



Greetings Church Family. Happy November! I want to wish a special blessing to all our veterans as we celebrate November 11 and honor those women and men who served our country and protected our freedoms. Hats off to you. We salute you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Then comes the best holiday of the year, well in my humble opinion anyway. Happy Thanksgiving!

Time to dig in for roast turkey, (sorry my turkey friends), gravy and stuffing, or dressing if you prefer. Veggies galore: mashed potatoes, squash, turnip, creamed onions, green bean casserole and cranberry sauce, jellied or whole berry. A time to gather around the table and visit and share with our families and friends. Something we haven't been able to do for a while. Did I forget to mention PIES? ... pumpkin, apple, pecan ... oh so delicious. We should all remember to thank God, not just at Thanksgiving, but every day for the many, many blessings we have received this year. Thank you for protecting us and our loved ones from COVID. Thank you for a safe place to live and food on our tables. Thank you for clean water, which is not always accessible in this world. We thank you that we live in this country and have the freedom to worship as we choose. We know everything is not perfect but we can continue to work to make things better.

Once again, I want to say good bye and God bless you to Rev. Bob. I will miss him around the church. What a special worship service that was held. Lots of music with the pipe organ, piano, guitar and drum. I certainly enjoyed hearing all of the voices raised in joyful praise and singing. It was so nice to see everyone enjoying fellowship time together and sharing a brunch. Happy retirement Rev. Bob

Signing off for now. I'll see you in church, but you won't see me. Ha ha!

Your faithful church mouse,

Nick





Please join us for Fellowship on Tuesdays at 10:00 am. There will be coffee, tea, goodies and great company, so come and meet us in the Church Parlor.

We plan outings every so often, such as our trip to the Brookfield Orchards. It was a beautiful day to have lunch, an apple dumpling, cider or whatever we were in the mood for outside at the picnic tables. Those of us who wanted apples, purchased them, too. The barn was interesting, as always. Just meandering through and reminiscing is enjoyable.

We also have speakers here and there throughout the year. On October 19th, a representative of the Fire Department came and talked with us about safety. She was very nice, helpful and interesting.

We're always open to new ideas, so if you have any be sure to let us know.

We hope you'll join us this month!



Please try to have any articles or notices for our Friendly Messenger in by **Wednesday, November 24th**. You can **bring** them **to the office**, **email** them to the church office at office@fcc-worcester.org , or **call** the office at 508-752-4635.

Thank you!



"We should certainly count our blessings, but we should also make our blessings count." ~ Neal A. Maxwell





November

08	Lorna Cardin	19	Michelle Collins
12	Betty Dalbeck	27	Matthew Ahaesy
13	Renee Mason	30	Ruth Nickerson
17	Ashley Rucinski	30	Andrew Sullivan

December

05	Kenneth Sawyer	26	Marie Trzcinski
18	John Dalbeck	28	Jim Mirick
18	Kimberly Day		



November

09 Greg Waters & Cindy MacLaurin

December

30 Rev. Bob & Carolyn Jackson



Congratulations to Ashley and Milosz Rucinski on the birth of a beautiful baby girl on October 2, 2021. Sienna Mae now has a baby sister named Scarlett Rae. They are Steve & Heidi Hinson's granddaughters. God has truly blessed this family.



Prayer Requests

We would like to keep Hampton Bagdasarian in our prayers and he also requests prayers for June Kemp; Connie MacInnes requests prayers for her niece Linda; Judy Mitchell requests prayers for her granddaughter, Ellanora; Donna Spaulding requests prayers for the safety of her son, who is serving in the Marine Corp. Sue Anderson requests prayers for her family – her sister Lee, Lynne and her family and Pat and her family. The Deacons request prayers for the family of Sally Day, who went home to be with our Lord on October 1st. May she rest peacefully in His loving arms, until they meet again. The Deacons also ask that we hold Betty Dalbeck, Dr. Richard Hunter, Dolores Trzcinski, Jeanne Fassett, Paul Scherdell, Melanie Anderson and Joyce & Armand Thienel in our prayers.

If you have a prayer request or would like us to remove someone from our prayer list, please let us know.

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Sally Day



A memorial service for longtime FCC member, Sally B. Day, who passed away on October 1st, will be held in the sanctuary on Friday, November 12th at 2:00 pm, with a reception to follow in the church hall. All are welcome.*

**Note: To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the family requests that masks be worn, and that those feeling ill or having been recently exposed to COVID refrain from attending this event.*

Gifts to honor Sally's many years of service to FCC and the Girl Scouts may be made in her name to the church or to: GSCWM, 115 Century Dr., 01606 to support camperships for needy scouts.

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CARING FOR THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

The word for “steward” in the original Greek language of the New Testament is “oikonomos” which derives from the work “oikos”, meaning “household” or “family”, and “oikonomia” meaning “management”, hence: management of the household or family. In the New Testament times, the steward was the guardian, caretaker or manager of the economic household of a wealthy landlord or master.

A modern reflection of that meaning can be found in the job description of a ship's steward or an airline stewardess (now called flight attendant), both caretakers of the “household or “family” which they oversee –attending to the needs of those placed in their care.

Through the scriptures, and through our own relationship with Christ, we are called to be stewards of God's “household”, God's “family” in the broadest sense: to be guardians of creation, faithful managers of our blessings and caretakers of our brothers and sisters everywhere.

Stewardship is about the way we live our lives, everything we do and how we do it. Stewardship is not just about money *and* it is very much about money. We cannot be faithful stewards of everything else in God's household without also faithfully managing and sharing the financial resources God has given us. For things in our lives: our families and friends, our health, our time, intellect, education, talents, the natural resources and beauty of the world around us. And so, how we earn, spend, save and share our money speaks volumes about what we believe. For, as Jesus said, *“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”*.

Faithful giving, sharing generously from the blessings we have received invites us into a celebration of God's grace in our lives, into a partnership with God in the joy God takes in the healing of creation –the household of God.

Carol Darnley,
Stewardship Associate



Stewardship information for 2022 will be arriving by mail during the first week of November. Please place your pledge card in the offering plate during the November 21st service or mail it to the office. Thank you,

Stewardship Committee

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.~2 Corinthians 9:6-7 NIV

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ANTI-STRESS KIT

An ERASER to make all those little mistakes go away.
A PENNY so you will never be completely broke.
A MARBLE for those days when you're sure you've lost all of yours.
An ELASTIC to help you to stretch beyond your current limits.
A STRING to hold it all together when it seems to be falling apart.
And a HUG and a KISS to remind you that someone cares about you.



Carpet Fund



*We've started our drive for our next church project – new carpeting. We collected \$45 in October. Please continue to add whatever you can spare to the Teddy Bear jar in the narthex. Your donations are greatly appreciated!
Sincere thanks to everyone!*

May Our Lord richly bless you!



Our Search Committee continues to work on its mission to find a new pastor for our church. As we continue our search, we rely heavily on our Lord's guidance and trust that He will bless us with His choice. We appreciate your prayers and support.



“Thanksgiving is a joyous invitation to shower the world with love and gratitude.”

~Amy Leigh Mercree



17th Century Nun's Prayer



Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains, but help me to endure them with patience. I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint-some of them are so hard to live with-but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the Devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen.



To see pictures of Rev. Bob's Retirement Service and Brunch, Fellowships trip to the Brookfield Orchard and more, visit our facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/FCCWorcester>



Dates to Remember in November

02 Tuesday – 10:00 am – Voting Day ~ **No** Fellowship!



07 Sunday – 10:00 am – Church Service

07 Sunday – 11:00 am – Mission Committee Meeting

09 Tuesday – 10:00 am – Fellowship

11 Thursday – All Day – Veteran's Day



14 Sunday – 10:00 am – Church Service

14 Sunday – 11:00 am – Trustees Meeting

16 Tuesday – 10:00 am – Fellowship

10 Sunday – 10:00 am – Church Service

21 Sunday – 11:00 am – Deacons Meeting

23 Tuesday – 10:00 am – **No** Fellowship

25 Thursday – Happy Thanksgiving!



Happy Thanksgiving

28 Sunday – 10:00 am – Church Service

28 Sunday – 11:00 am – Council Meeting

30 Tuesday – 10:00 am – Fellowship

