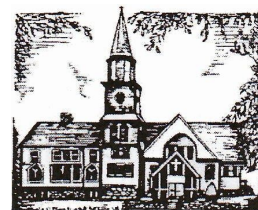


FRIENDLY MESSENGER

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September 2021



A Word From Rev Jackson



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

With the coming of September, a new season arrives at First Congregational Church in Worcester. I pray that you had a refreshing summer (in spite of it being the hottest on record) and found some spiritual renewal in the midst of God's creation.

Did you ever notice that one of the most common themes in Jesus's ministry is "fear not." Jesus knew His followers would face many life threatening challenges in the years to come. He knew their faith was essential to their ministries being fruitful and successful. There was much to fear with sickness, death and violence confronting them on a daily basis. Over and over it was shown that it was nothing but the grace of God that kept them alive. Yet, He assured them that even if they died, Jesus would catch them. They would have an eternal home in His kingdom.

With all the changes in our world and the coming changes in our church, "fear not" is a command we need to take to heart. "Fear not" means trusting that our God is still in control even when everything around us seems to be out of control.

When Jesus invited Peter to step out of the boat onto the stormy waves and walk on the water like Jesus, He knew exactly what He was doing. Only when Peter was distracted by the waves and fear set in, did he begin to sink. However, when his eyes focused on Jesus, he was saved. Notice that Jesus took his hand and Peter returned to the surface. Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him *"You of little faith, why did you doubt?"* (Matthew 14:31)

In this new autumn season, let's remember that Jesus is in the boat with us, no matter what happens. Most importantly, "Be not afraid."

See you in church!

Because He Lives,

Rev. Bob Jackson



Welcome Back!



We hope you had a happy, healthy summer. We enjoyed a few Sundays of outdoor worship despite the rainy Sundays that we had. After September 5th, we will be worshipping indoors every Sunday once again. We look forward to having you join us at 10:00 am.



Greetings everyone! I think the old song goes, "See you in September, see you when the summer's through." So here we are in September, both the end of summer and the start of autumn. I know some of you really like the summertime. I know I do. As a mouse, we prefer the warm weather. But I also know that many of you enjoy fall, when God will take out His big ol' paintbrush and turn the countryside into so many beautiful colors. It is an amazing transformation of the earth that happens every year!

I have missed so many of you, my church family. These are unprecedented times in our church's 300+ year history. This is the second pandemic to strike in Worcester, the last one being over 100 years ago. I have been praying for all of you to be healthy and well. I hope that many more of you will be able to gather for Sunday church services. Our church has been a rather lonely place of late. However, I do hear the Haitian and Ghanaian churches worshipping with great joy and that touches my heart.

I have also seen the painters outside working on the windows. The new caulking should make the building warmer for the coming winter and a new coat of paint will certainly spruce up the appearance of our church. I understand many people contributed to the fund raising for that endeavor. Good job everyone. It takes many hands to continue to do the work of the church.

Enjoy September. I'll be seeing you around the church but you won't see me!

Prayers and blessings to all.

Your faithful church mouse, Nick



Fellowship will begin meeting on a regular basis once again in September. Our first meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 21st** at 10:00 am and we will meet in the Church Parlor.

Hope to see you there!



**We need to remember the church is a hospital for sinners,
not a hotel for saints.**

A man went to church. He forgot to turn off his phone and it accidentally rang during prayer. The Pastor scolded him. The worshipers admonished him after prayers, for interrupting the silence.

His wife kept on lecturing him on his carelessness all the way home. One could see the shame, embarrassment and humiliation on his face.

After all this, he never stepped foot in the church again.

AND

That evening, he went to a bar. He was still nervous and trembling. He accidentally spilled his drink on the table. The waiter apologized and gave him a napkin to clean himself off. The janitor mopped the floor. The manager, who happened to be a female, offered him a complimentary drink. She also gave him a huge hug and a peck on the cheek while saying, "Don't worry. Who doesn't make mistakes?". He has not stopped going to that bar since then.

Lesson: Sometimes our attitude as believers drive souls away from God. You can make a difference by how you treat people, especially when they make mistakes.



Who Translated Psalm 46?

The English translation of the King James Bible has greatly influenced our worship. Published in 1611, it is renowned for its poetic quality. Although many scholars were involved in the translation, some have speculated that Psalm 46 was translated by a particularly well-known poet and playwright.

To find out who may have translated Psalm 46, find a King James Bible, go to Psalm 46, and count 46 words in from the beginning. Then go to the end of the psalm and count 46 words back. Put the two words that you find together. Now, the interesting thing is that this person just happened to be 46 in the year 1610, while the Bible was being translated.



If you have something you would like to see in our newsletter, please email it to me at deegram@charter.net, call or text me at 774-253-0715. I will continue to do the publishing until we have a secretary.

Peace,

Sue Anderson



September

04 Clarissa Nigro
04 Matthew Andes, Jr.

11 Ronald Taylor, Jr.

October

04 Jean Andes
04 Matthew Andes, Sr.
11 Benjamin Day
15 Hampton Bagdasarian
19 Ann Scherdell

19 Armand Thienel
23 Bob Smith
23 Robert Anthony Olson
25 Marilyn Mildish



September

05 Scott Yonker & Bill Condon 10 Matthew & Theresa Andes

October

14 George & Jane Boggs 17 Armand & Joyce Thienel



Armand & Joyce Thienel are celebrating their Golden Anniversary!

On a recent visit, Joyce spoke lovingly of how they married on October 17th in 1971...the numbers transposed. How interesting! She also pointed out that they share the same initials...AJT and JAT! Theirs was certainly a match made in heaven!

May God bless them as they celebrate these past 50 years together and may He grant them many more happy, healthy years to come.





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; The Deacons request prayers for the family of Gordon Cross who died on June 28th. May he rest peacefully in the arms of our Lord, until they meet again. The Deacons also continue to hold Betty Dalbeck, Dr. Richard Hunter, Dolores Trzcinski, Jeanne Fassett, Lynn Kapinos, Paul Scherdell, Melanie Anderson, Sally Day, Joyce & Armand Thienel, and Marilyn Mildish in prayer.

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



Window Fund



Our Windows Project has begun! Please continue to save your loose change to add to the Teddy bear bank in the narthex because as you know, it's been growing! Our August collection total was \$40.66.

Sincere thanks to everyone for your continued efforts to complete this job.

May God's blessings surround you!





Our Search Committee continues to work on its mission to find a new pastor for our church. We currently have two candidates that we are reviewing for consideration. As we continue our search, we rely heavily on our Lord's guidance and trust that He will lead us to our final choice.



Dates to Remember in September

05 Sunday – 10:00 am – Church Service

06 Monday – All Day – Labor Day



12 Sunday – All Day – Grandparents Day



12 Sunday – 10:00 am – Church Service

12 Sunday – 11:00 am – Trustees Meeting

13 Monday – All Day – National Bald is Beautiful Day



19 Sunday – 10:00 am – Church Service

21 Tuesday – 10:00 am - Fellowship

22 Wednesday – First Day of Fall



26 Sunday – 10:00 am – Church Service

26 Sunday – 11:00 am – Council Meeting



A Sneak Peek into October

SAVE THE DATE

October 24th as it will be Rev. Bob's last service with us.
More to come in our October newsletter.

