

# FRIENDLY MESSENGER

First Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602  
www.fcc-worcester.org · Office: 508-752-4635 · [office@fcc-worcester.org](mailto:office@fcc-worcester.org)  
Office hours are Monday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

May 2025



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

As we begin a new month, we continue facing trials and uncertainty which understandably cause anxiety, impatience and conflict. It is crucial that we be aware of this and try our best to demonstrate tolerance, patience and understanding towards one another. Not only are we in search of a new pastor, but also a new minister of music. Although it's a trying time, together we can progress smoothly. This can either make us or break us, therefore it's up to us to be supportive of each other, holding onto our faith the way Jesus intended. In *John 16:33*, He tells us to come to Him to find peace. *"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."* Know that we will be blessed with the strength to practice patience. May these words encourage us to draw nearer to God as we move forward.

## **Our Behavioral Covenant Promises to God**

I promise to pray, alone and with others, to thank God and to ask for God's help in my life and in my work for our Church and I promise to listen to God's answer.

## **Promises to Church Family**

1. I promise to demonstrate my leadership and commitment to our Church by my example.
2. I promise to support our Church pastors and staff so that their efforts can be most productive.
3. I promise to try to discover what is best for our Church as a whole, not what may be best for me or for some small group in the Church.

## **Promises to Each Other**

4. I promise to respect and care for others.
5. I promise to treat my time serving on this committee as an opportunity to make an important gift to our church.
6. I promise to listen with an open, nonjudgmental mind to the words and ideas of the others in our Church and on our committee.
7. I promise to discuss, debate and disagree openly in meetings, expressing myself as clearly and honestly as possible, so that I am certain that the members understand my point of view.
8. I promise to support the final decision of the committee whether it reflects my view or not.

*Rendle, Gilbert R. Behavioral Covenants in Congregations: A Handbook for Honoring Differences*

*Rev. 6/1/14 b6y the FCC in Worcester*

Peaceful blessings,

*Sue Anderson*

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." ~ John 14:27*

## Fellowship



In May, we will be doing a spring craft that Ruth is planning for us.



We'll also be enjoying a trip to Meadowbrook Orchards for lunch, followed by ice cream at Rota Spring Ice Cream, both in Sterling.



We may also have a speaker coming to talk about the various scams that we should be aware of and what to do about them.

*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.*



## 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.



Hope to see you there!

*"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." - Heb 13:1-2*



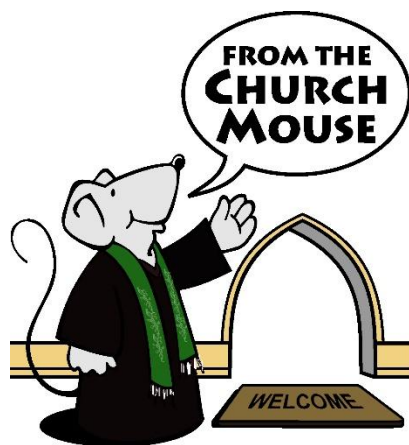
### **Do you have something you'd like to see in our newsletter?**



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](mailto:deegram@charter.net) or [office@fcc-worcester.org](mailto:office@fcc-worcester.org) by the **20<sup>th</sup> 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!



Oh, what a beautiful morning, oh, what a beautiful day... I simply love this time of year, don't you? Everything is coming alive, colorful flowers and trees abound everywhere I look. It's great to go outside without a jacket. I don't know if you saw me, but I went for an awesome bike ride with some of my friends the other day. We decided to follow one of the bike trails through Cascade Falls and what a beautiful ride

it was! We took a picnic lunch with us and stopped by the falls and ate. The fresh air is so invigorating, making you perk up and come alive! The sights, the sounds and smells of nature can't be beat. I hope you're getting out more, too. Before we know it, the concerts will be starting up at the city parks. I'm looking forward to that, for sure!



Here I am with my friends ~ Slinky, Hoppy & Nibbles

Sunshine & smiles,

**Nick**



**ZOOM OR YOUTUBE**

**zoom**

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>

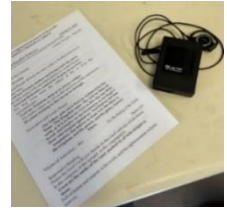


Sunday's service is usually uploaded to YouTube on Monday. You can see it here, and can also find our latest services here when we can record them: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDQmijukLaC24hwdyayupdg> or by searching "First Church, Worcester" on YouTube.



### 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.



*Marsha requests prayers for her friend, **Kathy**, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer; Greg and Cindy request prayers for their **grandson**; 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**, Sue's brother, **Danny**, and 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**. Please also keep our **Pastoral Search** and our **Music Director Search Committees** in your prayers.*

*If you would like to add a prayer concern or update our list, please email the church office at [office@fcc-worcester.org](mailto:office@fcc-worcester.org) or call the office at 508-752-4635.*

*"Prayer is the link that connects us with God." ~ A.B. Simpson*



### The First Sunday of Every Month Carty Cupboard



Many thanks for your Carty Cupboard donations once again. In April, we donated a record **31** bags and **2** baskets of groceries! **That was fantastic!** 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.

*"For it is in giving that we receive." - Francis of Assisi*



# 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 15<sup>th</sup> to Bev Bean or the Church Office 508-752-4635; [office@fcc-worcester.org](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

Joyfully,

The Party Planning Committee

First Congregational Church in Worcester





## May

07 Dawn Ahaesy    16 Donna Spaulding    17 Robert Olson  
21 Christina Dalbeck    25 Beverly Bean    25 Heidi Hinson  
25 Marsha Huntoon    25 Deborah Mirick    26 Phillip Cardin  
26 Marianne Bourgeault

## 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  
22 Deb Holmes    23 Bruce Kabasinsky

*"With age comes wisdom. You are a true reflection of the paths you've chosen." ~ Unknown*



## June

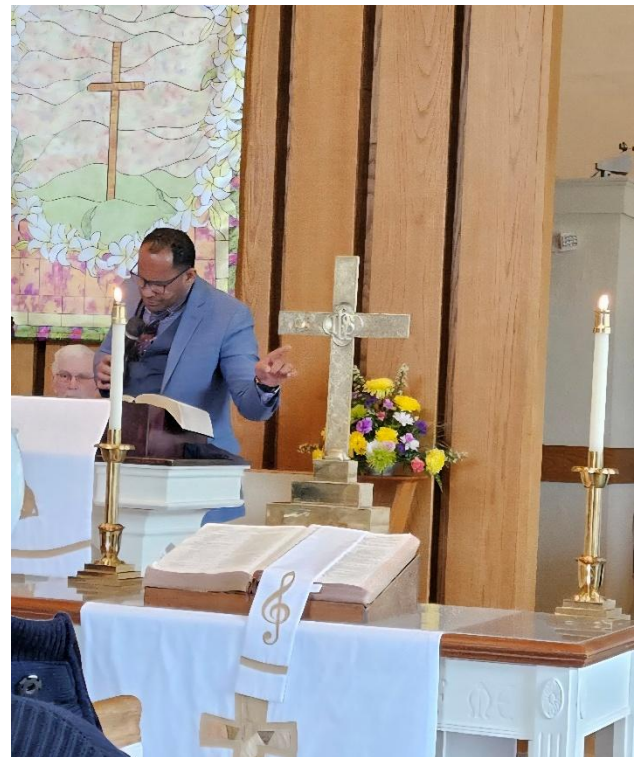
01 Mac & Connie MacInnes    08 Richard & Renee Mason  
24 Jim Capuzziello & Jamie Sullivan



*"An anniversary is a time to celebrate the joys of today, the memories of yesterday, and the hopes of tomorrow." - Author Unknown*



A big thank you to Pastor Ellis Quinones, Marianne & Bob Bourgeault, and all who made the worship service and luncheon on April 27<sup>th</sup>, a big success! The service was very nice and the food was delicious and plentiful. Thanks to everyone who helped with set-up as well as clean-up, leaving us with the perfect ending to a pleasant afternoon. It was indeed an enjoyable experience.



*On behalf of church council here is the ad we will be using as we look for a new Minister of music.*

## *Our Church is looking for a new Music Director*



*We all wish Scott, our amazing Music Director a happy retirement! We have been blessed to have him in our church for 27 years.*

The following is an ad we placed in local Music Associations:

The First Congregational Church in Worcester is seeking a part-time Music Director and keyboard musician for our music-loving congregation. Duties include; collaboration with the Minister for hymn selection, performance for Sunday morning worship, as well as additional services during Christmas and Easter. Performances will be required for occasional special events, including weddings and funerals. However, additional compensation is provided for each of these occurrences. The Music Director will accompany hymns and play additional service music including Prelude, Offertory and Postlude. FCC has a 23 rank Austin Organ (1960) and Schimmel baby grand piano.

FCC Worcester, located in Tatnuck Square, is a small, welcoming congregation affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

Hours: 5-10 hours/week. Salary: dependent on applicants' experience.

Start date: July 1, 2025 preferred.

To apply: Email cover letter and resume to [office@fcc-worcester.org](mailto:office@fcc-worcester.org)

For additional questions please contact FCC, Attention: Matt Ahasey, Moderator

We ask for continued prayers as we search for this position,

Matt Ahaesy  
Nancy Taylor



## *Easter Flower Dedications*

### *2025*



*Thank you for the beautiful flowers adorning the church in honor, memory and celebration of loved ones. As the chill of winter fades, the early spring flowers burst forth with energy and life, inspire feelings of hope and happiness and bring a sense of vitality to us as they bloom. Their presence is a testament to the resilience and beauty of nature's cycle.*

Matt & Dawn	In memory of the Ahaesy, Gibbs and Clark Family
Norman & Susan	In memory of those who went before us, in honor and celebration of our loving family
Bev	In honor of Scott
Ellen	In memory of Wilson; Ervin & Dene; Betty & Wes
Jim & Leanne	In memory of William & Pauline; Clifford & Marjorie; Andrew & Catherine; Edward & Evelyn
Mac & Connie	In memory of Dan & Katherine & Allen; Linwood & Alice & Lenny
Ruth	In memory of family who have passed
Ann	In memory of Jeffrey & Ray; Doris & Kenneth
Donna	In Memory of Agnes, Mahlon, Cathy, Roy & Dillon
Bob & Marianne	In memory of John & Pauline; Roy & Betty
Debra	In celebration of Family & Friends
Erika	In memory of loved ones
Mark & Carol	In celebration of Easter
John	In memory of his grandparents

*Dear Lord, on this glorious Easter morning, we rejoice in the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank you for the hope and new life that Easter brings. May we live in the light of His victory over death. Amene*





Thursday

01 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

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Friday

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

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Sunday

04 10:00 FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*) ~ Communion Sunday ~ Gluten free communion and non-alcoholic grape juice are used.

We collect non-perishable items for the **Carty Cupboard** Food Pantry today.

We gratefully accept monetary donations for our **Deacon's Fund** today.

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

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Monday

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

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Wednesday

07 10:00 am – Fellowship ~ (*Parlor*)

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

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Thursday

08 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

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Friday

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

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

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Sunday

11 All Day ~ Mother's Day!



10:00 am – FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)

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Monday

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

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Wednesday

14 10:30 am Fellowship ~ Meet in the church parking lot for a trip to Meadowbrook Orchards for lunch, followed by ice cream at Rota Spring Ice Cream, both in Sterling

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Thursday

15 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

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Friday

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

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Sunday

18 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)

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

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Monday

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

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Wednesday

21 10:00 am Fellowship ~ (*Parlor*)

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Thursday

22 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

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Friday

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

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Sunday

25 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)

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Monday

26 Church Office Closed

**All Day ~ Memorial Day!**



Wednesday

28 10:00 am Fellowship ~ (*Parlor*)

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Thursday

29 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

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Friday

30 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

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## **“In Flanders Fields” by John McCrae**

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky,  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.