

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.
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July 2024



Hard Love

My Dad came by his anxiety disorder very honestly. As a prosecutor for the City of Cleveland, he prosecuted organized crime during an era in the 1970's in which Cleveland had such an intense rivalry between organized crime groups that it was known as "the car bomb capital of the world." There were over 70 car bomb assassinations during my dad's tenure as a lawyer prosecuting major organized crime cases.

One day I picked up the phone and a person started making death threats. I hung up and asked Dad what that was about. He shrugged and deflected the question.

But clearly chronic stress worked its malignant effects on Dad's physical health and emotional and social well-being. He fell into the common trap of trying to self-medicate his anxiety with alcohol and ushered in some very dark years for my family and himself. He retired from law very early, having achieved great success very early but not meeting the very high expectations that early success had prompted. My Mother in particular became very bitter and what could have been a pleasant retirement with some decent financial planning became a horror show of blame and recrimination.

Their human faults and weaknesses were overwhelmed by the depth of the world's corruption.

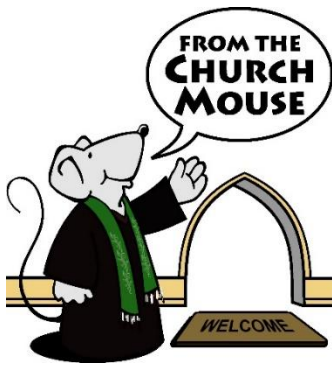
I can testify that God saved us. Not in fifteen minutes like some sitcom resolution or with contrived coincidences or some cheesy angel's intervention like a Hallmark movie. It involved God's grace giving us the courage to practice hard love, difficult grace, complicated forgiveness, and perplexing patience. And in God's grace Dad did stop drinking, the marital strife did not quite heal but vastly subsided. My siblings and I all learned that even wonderful people can experience passages in life's journey that are soul diminishing and harrowing. Yet if you can hang on to your faith, even by just a thread, that faith can bring about tiny bursts of grace that accumulate and even, eventually promulgate simply amazing love, healing and well-being.

The steady love and prayers of my parents' church friends played a major role in helping my siblings and I cope with our parent's dark passages. Society does not honor the social capital represented by the sacred friendships forged in church fellowships. Yet they are priceless. The realm of God is indeed a "pearl of great price" more precious than any object we can imagine. It is hope, healing, love and joy.

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Blessings,

Pastor Jack



Hello again! Did anyone see the bea-u-ti-ful cloud rainbow on June 16th? I did and it was unbelievable! I didn't even know there WERE rainbow clouds, let alone SEE one! I'm so glad I thought to take a picture of it too, because they're pretty rare. I learned that it happens because of something called cloud



iridescence, a phenomenon that

occurs when small water droplets or small ice crystals scatter the sun's light. I only took a picture of this one but I saw two smaller ones, too. They sure made my day!

I hope all the men out there had a happy Father's Day. It sure looked it from the looks of all the crumbs I found scattered around. I like to think that they were left specially for me, so

thank you...(even though I know they really weren't). 🐭

Look what's coming up so quickly! The **Fourth of July**! I love all of the beautiful fireworks but don't like the noise they make. My poor little ears...but they don't last long and are really worth watching, don't ya think? We sure are lucky that our country is so great and independent!

I hope you've been enjoying yourselves this summer. I sure have! It's been hot but that's what lakes...and beaches....and pools....and for me, even a plain ol' puddle, are for! Air conditioning is sooo refreshing this time of year, too. (That's why I sneak into the office sometimes. Hehehe)

Has anyone noticed the big brown church sign lately? Somebody keeps changing it, putting silly sayings on it. I always look forward to seeing it now. I especially liked the one about wishing Noah had swatted those two mosquitos! Hahaha!

Well, I better get packing cuz I heard someone from church is goin' to the Cape and I'm gonna hop a ride in their pocket! Shhh

I hope you're having a great...but cool...summer.

Your friendly church mouse,

Nick



A WELL-DESERVED CONGRATULATIONS TO KHLOE!



Remember when our Fellowship group helped Khloe with her Girl Scout project, Happy Paws, for the Worcester Animal Rescue League? Well, here she is with former mayor Charlie Baker, receiving her Silver Award, one of the highest awards a cadette can earn. I know it was a lot of work but Khloe persevered and achieved her goal! Great job, Khloe! We're so proud of you!



ENGLISH LESSONS AND PRACTICE FOR PEOPLE WHO SPEAK CREOLE

Join with friends to learn English that can help with jobs, school, and communicating with family, friends, and neighbors.

ESL Classes Tuesdays 2:00 - 4:00 PM and
Thursdays 3:00 - 4:00 PM

There is a Worship Meal from 4:00 - 5:00 PM on
Thursdays.

These classes and meals are offered to you FREE at the

First Congregational Church in Worcester, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA (in the Tatnuck Neighborhood) which is easily accessible by taking Bus 2 (direct) or Bus 6 (a short walk).

This is a community outreach program of S.O.S. Operation Espoir, "New Hope International Ministries"

They are taught by Professor Thomas Reed Jones, with the aid of Pastor Jack Jones, Pastor Ketelie Altena, and Dr. Luckner Gierrier.

For more information, call: 774-670-2436 or 508-373-8121.

Congratulations

*to Dr. & Mrs. Luckner Gierrier on the birth of their beautiful baby boy!
He's absolutely adorable, a precious little bundle of joy.*



"May all the blessing of our Lord touch your life today. May He send His little angels to protect you on your way. Such a wee little fit, sent from above. Someone so precious to cherish and love."



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**.

Stay in the loop and get the scoop!

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 send you a copy every month.



ZOOM OR YOUTUBE



Our Sunday services will be available via Zoom and afterwards on YouTube! If you are at home and would like to join us virtually on Sunday mornings at 10 am, you can do so by following this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83102423294?pwd=RjhHZGNDZDlYODNHWFVabnRVZ2Vldz09>

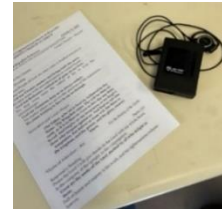


You can also find our latest services here:

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

Accessibility Items Available for Worship!

Did you know that we now offer large print bulletins? That's right! They are available in the narthex as you enter the sanctuary. We also have hearing assistance devices that make hearing what is said at the pulpit much easier! They are also in a basket on the table in the narthex.



Carpet Fund

Our funds continue to grow, and we now have approximately \$800! Thank you for your continued contributions to the Teddy Bear jar in the narthex or parlor. They are greatly appreciated!



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. You don't even have to bake, store-bought is A-OK. It doesn't have to be fancy either. Fruit is always good and so are crackers and cheese. Also, two or more people can sign up together.

Hope to see you there and maybe adding your name to the sign-up sheet!

"Any time we practice hospitality we follow in the steps of our lavishly hospitable God."

Father's Day

A terrific Father's Day celebration at church included strawberry shortcake, "#1 Top Pop" tootsie roll pops, bible passage pens and "#1 Mint Dad" mints. All of the men of our church enjoyed these, along with a few other goodies, as a token of love and thanks for their part in raising our children, whether as a father, uncle, grandfather or friend. They're all very special people.



"A father is neither an anchor to hold us back nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way."

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP



Our last meeting until the fall was on June 12th, when we enjoyed a delicious lunch and even better company at Pinecroft Dairy and Restaurant in West Boylston. See you in the fall y'all! Have a great summer!

There is nothing in this world that can compare with the Christian fellowship; nothing that can satisfy but Christ. ~ John D. Rockefeller



Carty Cupboard

The First Sunday of Every Month



Many thanks for your Carty Cupboard donations! In June we donated 10 bags of groceries. I know summer is here along with vacations but let us not forget to help those in need. Their needs don't stop in the summer. On the contrary, kids are home more and therefore need more food. They truly appreciate whatever you can give. Donating not only non-perishable items, but also personal care items and/or baby items, are always welcome. Snacks like fruit cups, pudding cups, jelly in plastic jars, condiments and such are good items to think about at this time of year.

Thank you for your generous and loving support!



Deacons Fund

On the first Sunday of every month, we take up a collection that is used to provide one-time, emergency assistance to a neighbor in need. Special envelopes are included in your bulletin for this offering. Every little bit helps. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!



Thank you for the kindness you show!



Thank You

Large or Small, We Appreciate Them All

Thank you for being such a blessing to others. Your support is truly appreciated and rewarding. Joyful blessings!



Please continue to hold Pastor Jack in your prayers as he continues working through his health issues. Connie MacInnes requests prayers for her niece Linda; Sue & Norman Anderson request prayers for their daughter, Melanie Anderson, Sue's brother, Danny Waskevich and their friend, Roger Waite. Dawn & Matt Ahaesy request prayers for Gina Ahaesy. The Deacons request prayers for Dolores Trzcinski, Jeanne Fassett, Paul Scherdell, and Joyce & Armand Thienel. Our prayers are also with Normairis Rivera's son, Joey. Kristin Olson requests prayers for Mitch Bourque. We ask for continued prayers for Hampton Bagdasarian who is having trouble with one eye; and for Erika Vecsey; Ellen Dalbeck requests prayers for the McDermott Family. Your fervent prayers are also needed for the families and loved ones of Natalie Maynard, Judy Mitchel's great-granddaughter, Ellanora, who is wrapped in the loving arms of Jesus, and George Boggs, as they all enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Deaths



*This is an especially difficult month, with the loss of three cherished christians.
May they rest in God's eternal peace.*

Natalie Harlow Maynard



Born on December 29, 1935, Natalie Maynard was a wonderful example of a true christian. She was a former interim minister here at the First Congregational Church in Worcester and returned to us as a member a short time ago. She was a beautiful, spirited woman, kind and wise. She left an imprint on everyone's heart that she touched and will be greatly missed. She died peacefully at her daughter's home in Princeton on June 1st. There will be a celebration of Natalie's life on Sat, Aug 3 at 10:30 am at the First Congregational Church in Princeton. You can read her full obituary by

clicking on her name here: [Natalie Harlow Maynard](#)

Ellanora Jenni Mitchell



Judy Mitchell's precious granddaughter, Ellanora had barely begun her life here on earth when she was abruptly taken from us on June 24th, at the tender age of just three years old. She was such a beautiful little girl and is now one of the most beautiful little angels in heaven. Ellanora died unexpectedly after what was thought to be an uneventful surgery that suddenly became complicated. Relatives and Friends are invited to visit with Ellanora's family to celebrate and remember her life at Calling Hours on Sunday, July 7, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m., followed by a Prayer Service at 3 p.m. in Mercadante Funeral Home & Chapel, 370 Plantation Street, Worcester. Interment services will be held privately. You can read her full obituary by

clicking on her name here: [Ellanora Jenni Mitchell](#)
Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." ~ Matthew 19:14

George A. Boggs, Jr.

Born August 19, 1943, George Boggs lived a good life, devoted to his dear wife, Jane and to his church. For years, George gave generously of himself and his woodworking skills to help beautify our church and maintain it, doing repairs and adaptations wherever he saw the need. He made room for wheelchairs in the sanctuary by shortening some pews. He even built a little picnic table in our children's play yard as well as benches for the adults to rest on while their children played. He also served on several committees in the church. Jane was the keeper of his loving heart and he of hers. They were meant for one another and loved unconditionally. George took a bad fall, hitting his head and being rushed to the hospital. He was in the ICU in a coma with a severe brain injury. After finally coming out of the coma, he was slowly becoming responsive, however on June 24th, he succumbed to his injury. George will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him. Funeral arrangements are incomplete. Funeral arrangements are incomplete. Please feel free to call the office for any updates.

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." ~ John 14:1-4

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.



02 Sue Johnston
13 Erika Vecsey
19 Nancy Dalbeck

July
05 Bruce Johnston
18 Paul Scherdell
19 Elaine Miles
28 Richard Trzcinski

10 Brittany Hinson
19 Khloe Kapinos
21 Jim Capuzziello

03 Mary Kay McGrail
06 Dolores Trzcinski
17 Jeanne Fassett

August
04 Jamie Sullivan
08 Robert L. Bourgeault
25 John Waters
26 Milton (Mac) MacInnes

05 Judy Mitchell
17 Mark Mason
25 April Sinclair

"Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears." – John Lennon



July
24 Bruce & Sue Johnston

29 Matt & Dawn Ahaesy

August
14 Jim & Deborah Mirick

16 Norman & Susan Anderson

"One flag, one land, one heart, one hand, one nation evermore!" - Oliver Wendell Holmes

Would you like to delve a little deeper into the bible?



Basic
Instructions
Before
Leaving
Earth

There are no wrong questions to ask about the bible and what better way to further understand what we read, than in a group. Sharing insights, making observations and asking questions about the text will no doubt help to understand what we read. There can be some interesting discussions. If you are interested in participating in a bible study in the fall, please let Pastor Jack know.

“The Bible is the greatest of all books; to study it is the noblest of all pursuits; to understand it, the highest of all goals.” — Charles C. Ryrie



Thursday

04 All Day **INDEPENDENCE DAY**



Sunday

07 10:00 am FCC Worship Service ~ Communion Sunday ~ We use gluten free communion and non-alcoholic grape juice

Carty Cupboard Donations ~ Deacons Fund Collection

Friday

12 1:00 pm Trustees Meeting in the Conference Room

Sunday

14 10:00 am FCC Worship Service

Sunday

21 10:00 am FCC Worship Service

Sunday

28 10:00 am FCC Worship Service

