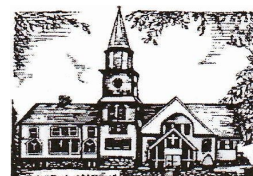


# FRIENDLY MESSENGER

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

MARCH ♣ 2022

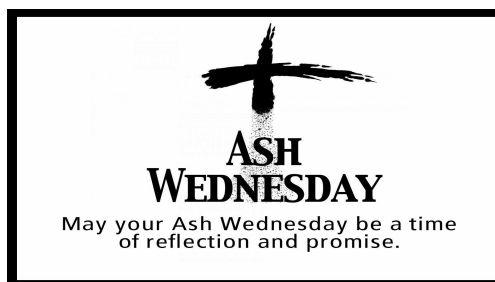


Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

This month marks the beginning of the Easter Season, the time when Jesus wandered through the desert, avoiding the many traps that Satan set in an attempt to lure Him into temptation. We seem to feel closer to Jesus at this blessed time as we reflect on how He sacrificed His life for us and how He was victorious over sin and death....victorious over Satan! Imagine what He went through, all for the love of His people! I both shudder and am humbled at the thought.

March 2<sup>nd</sup> Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of Lent. It is a special day in which people usually attend church service and receive the sign of the cross in ashes or as we have done in the past, oil as a sign of humility, mortality, and repentance thinking of the great sacrifice made for us by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This year will be different once again because there will be no service, therefore no ashes or oil. Some people might want to make and administer their own ashes by burning their palms from last year's Palm Sunday and using them to mark their foreheads or sprinkle them on their heads or they might wish to anoint themselves with oil. While they are not necessary, they are a good reminder. What is important is that we concentrate on what Lent means to us. Think about what sacrifice you want to make in the name of Jesus and thank Him for His unfathomable sacrifice for us. In *Genesis 3:19* we read, "*By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.*" I'm looking forward to April when our new pastor, Rev. Joshua Fitterling, will begin preaching and leading us through this blessed Easter season.

Rejoicing in what Christ can do,  
Sue Anderson



## *A Letter from Our New Pastor*

Beloved People of God,

Following my Candidating Sunday on February 27<sup>th</sup>, members of the congregation gathered at the Annual Meeting and, with a joyful 'yes', officially extended the call for me to come and serve as your Designated-Term Pastor. It is incredibly exciting to say 'yes' right back to you all as I prepare to begin this journey with First Church in just a few short weeks!

Back when I had my first conversation with your Search Committee, I felt an immediate connection to the ministry that you are doing and are longing to do in the church and beyond. While there is rebuilding and revitalization work before us, I see an energy and openness to finding ways to keep the church vibrant and vital in the Tatnuck neighborhood and beyond! I am excited to join my hands and heart with yours in this holy work as we share the love of Jesus in meaningful and transformative ways. In addition to worshiping, fellowshiping, and getting to know each and every one of you, I look forward to connecting the church in new and renewed ways to the wider community. This community engagement work brings me much joy and has the potential to breathe new life into both the church and community as we connect, engage, and support one another. Overall, I trust that God has called us together and that God will inspire each step that we will take as First Church in the years to come. I trust that the words from the Prophet Jeremiah will forever ring true:

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,  
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." – Jeremiah 29:11*

I give thanks that God's plan includes us ministering together in Worcester and I trust that together we will live into a future with much hope!

What comes next for us? Mason and I, along with our dog, Hero, and cat, Pumpkin, will make the move into the parsonage on March 15<sup>th</sup> and begin this next chapter of life and ministry in Worcester! While my first official Sunday will not be until April 3<sup>rd</sup>, you will likely see me around the church as I settle in and around town as I explore. When you see me, please say "hi" and introduce yourself again or for the very first time. You can also expect more communication from me once I settle in about how we will be able to continue to get to know one another and begin our work together. Until then, I look forward to all the ways God's Holy Spirit will lead us into this shared ministry!

Peace & Blessings,



Rev. Josh Fitterling





Top o' the Morning to Ya Church Family! There's been a lot of hustle and bustle around the church lately. It sounds like there's gonna be a new pastor here at the church and from what I heard last Sunday, I think he's gonna be super...super....supercalifragilisticexpialidocious! Yeah, that's the word! Especially if he brings a friend for me to hang out with. I'd love that! Oh, but I hope he's OK with mice cuz I don't wanna have to move. Anyway, who could resist ME?! After all, all churches need a church mouse, right?

Well, besides all that, Lent begins this month and that's the beginning of Easter. And right smack dab in the middle is St. Patrick's Day! St. Patrick was said to have driven all of the snakes out of Ireland but ya know what? There were no snakes there to be driven out! Haha! He was a Christian Missionary and taught people all about Christianity. The shamrock ♣ was considered a sacred plant that signified the beginning of spring. St. Patrick used it to teach people about the Holy Trinity ♣. Did you know that he wasn't born in Ireland? He ended up there though, and did so much good, including building churches, that we celebrate his death, which was March 17, 461.

Oh, and watch out for the leprechauns! I heard that they can be pretty mischievous!

Got your corned beef and cabbage yet? I know it TASTES good but boy, is that cabbage smelly....but yummy with a little vinegar sprinkled over it.

Cheerio,

Nick



## Sunday Coffee Hour



Please join us for Coffee Hour in the church parlor every Sunday after the service, we'd love your company! When you get to the back of the church...the narthex, turn right, go through two doors (they'll be open) and the parlor is on the left...through one more door but that one will also be open. You'll see others headed there, too. I can't wait to see you there!

Also, for anyone interested in hosting a Coffee Hour there's always a sign-up sheet on the table with the goodies on it. Sue Anderson makes the coffee and puts out the plates, napkins and plasticware that we provide. All you have to do is bring a smile and the goodies on the day you've signed up for.



We'd love to have you join us for Fellowship on Tuesdays at 10:00 am. There's always coffee, tea, goodies and best of all, great company! We meet in the Church Parlor where it's comfortable and cozy. You can help us plan our future meetings, too. We love going on outings as long as the weather is good. We had a great time at Barber's Crossing recently! An easy craft is always nice, too. Come and join us!



Please try to have any articles or notices for our Friendly Messenger in by **Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>** to get it into the April newsletter. You can **bring** them **to the office**, email them to the church office at [office@fcc-worcester.org](mailto:office@fcc-worcester.org), or **call** the office at 508-752-4635. You can also contact me (Sue Anderson), by email at [deegram@charter.net](mailto:deegram@charter.net), call or text me at 774-253-0715. **Thank you!**



♣ March ♣



03 Norman Anderson  
11 Susan Anderson

18 Annalise McGrail  
28 Ellen Dalbeck



April



10 Kristin Olson  
16 Khyllie Richard  
19 Marilyn Poske

22 Susan Cardin  
26 Judy Langlois



April

05 Dolores & Marie Trzcinski  
18 Steve & Heidi Hinson







*Our Search Committee has been successful in its mission to find a new pastor for our church; Praise the Lord! Our sincere thanks goes out to them for their successful teamwork with this arduous task.*

*Greg Waters - chair - Scott Yonker - co-chair - Ruth Nickerson -  
Mac & Connie MacInnes - Sue Anderson*

*Welcome, Reverend Joshua Fitterling!!*



*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; Susan Anderson requests prayers for her brother, Danny Waskevich and her friend, Roger Waite. The Deacons request prayers for Ann Scherdell, Betty Dalbeck, Dr. Richard Hunter, Dolores Trzcinski, Jeanne Fassett, Paul Scherdell, Melanie Anderson and Joyce & Armand Thienel.*

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*“Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.”*

*3 John 1:2*

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





*To all my dear friends at FCC,*

*Thank you so much for all the prayers, good wishes and cards during my "illness". I miss you all and hope and pray I will be back with you all before long. It has been a "long haul" but I know prayers do work!*

*Thank you again and God Bless everyone. My church family is so very special to me and I miss you all.*

*Hope to see you soon!*

*Ann Scherdell*



**♣Carpet Fund♣**



*Our New carpeting fund is growing! We just added another \$92! Please continue to add whatever you can spare to the Teddy Bear jar in the narthex. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!*

***May God Richly bless you for your generosity!***



*Mark 1:12-14 -At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.*

## Dates to Remember in March

01 10:00 am Fellowship



02  *First day of Lent (no service here this year)*

06 10:00 am Church Service ~ Communion Sunday  
We will have both regular and prepackaged,  
wheat and gluten free, communion beginning this month.  
11:30 am Council Meeting



08 10:00 am Fellowship

12  *Thinking of Sally Day & her love of Girl Scouts today.*

13 10:00 am Church Service  
Daylight Savings ~ don't forget to spring ahead!  
11:30 am Trustees Meeting



15 10:00 am Fellowship

17  "Happy St. Patrick's Day"

20 10:00 am Church Service  
11:30 am Deacons Meeting  
**FIRST DAY OF SPRING**



22 10:00 am Fellowship

27 10:00 am Church Service  
11:30 am Council Meeting

29



What's Irish and stays out all night? ♣ Paddy O'Furniture.

How can you tell if a potato is not from Ireland? ♣ When it's a French fry.

Why do leprechauns hate running? ♣ They'd rather jig than jog.





## *Easter Sunday Flowers*



*Our Sanctuary will be decorated with tulips and lilies on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022. If you would like to help with the beautification and order tulips or lilies, please indicate your choice on the form below.*

*I would like to provide \_\_\_\_\_ tulip plant(s) at \$10.00 each*

*I would like to provide \_\_\_\_\_ lily plant(s) at \$10.00 each*

*In memory of* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*In honor of* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*In celebration of* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*From* \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*Recognition will be in the Easter Service Bulletin\*\*\***

***Please return this completed form along with cash or a check by Wednesday, April 14, 2022.***

*Name* \_\_\_\_\_

*Address* \_\_\_\_\_

*Phone* \_\_\_\_\_ *E-mail* \_\_\_\_\_

***Please check one: \_\_\_\_\_ I will leave my plant for a someone else to enjoy.***

***\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant after the Easter Service.***