

# FRIENDLY MESSENGER

November 2023

First Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602  
www.fcc-worcester.org · Office: 508-752-4635 · office@fcc-worcester.org  
Office hours are Tuesday - Thursday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Rev. John R. Jones · pastor@fcc-worcester.org



## A Time of Thanksgiving ~ A Time of Giving Thanks

November is indeed an exciting month, filled with hope and anticipation. The time of Christ's birth is nearing and those who honor Him as our Lord and Savior, look up to Him, and try to live by His teachings, are excited. To me, Thanksgiving is perfectly timed, being the prelude to Christ's birth when I reflect on how very thankful, I am for all that He has given me. Spending this day with my family, thankful for them, my health, my friends, my home, and my church.

Remembering the hymn, "The Church is One Foundation", seems most appropriate because it truly is the best foundation that our lives can be built on. Reflecting on all that has happened in the past year, both good and bad I am reminded that the good has once again outweighed the bad. This is how it has always been and how I'm sure, will always be. My God is an awesome God!

At this special time of year, let us keep an attitude of gratitude for all that we are and all that we have, rather than feeling sorry for what we are not or what we do not have. We mustn't dwell on the past but rather, look forward to the future with renewed hope as it will make an incredible difference in our lives!

*"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Thanks be to God,

*Sue Anderson*





**We're excited to extend a warm welcome to Rev. Jack Jones!  
Don't miss his first service as our pastor on November 5, 2023!**



Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts as we welcome our new pastor to our church. We thank You for guiding and leading him to us, and we are looking forward to working together with him, growing and strengthening our church and our faith. Please surround him with your love as he serves us and our community. Grant him the wisdom and strength to guide us as only You can do. This we ask in Your name, dear Lord. Amen



A hearty thank you goes out to our diligent Search Committee for another job well done!

### 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=RjhHZGNDZDJyODNHWVFabnRVZ2Vldz09>



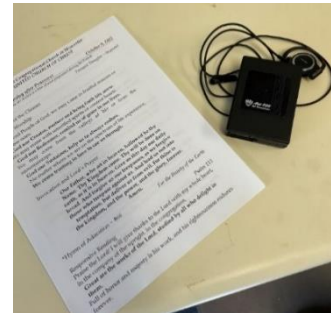
You can also find our latest services here:

<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.



### 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 provide the coffee 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!



*"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." – Hebrews 13:2*

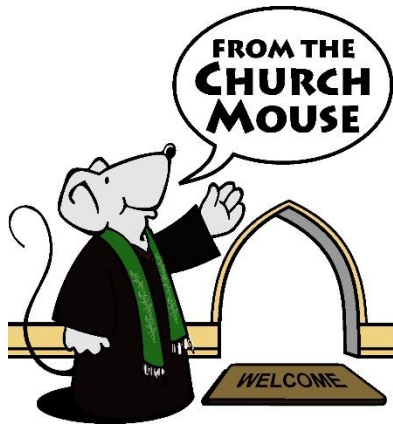


### Carpet Fund



Our sincere thanks for your continued contributions to our Teddy Bear Bank in the narthex before the service and in the parlor following it. He's always hungry!

*"As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands – one for helping yourself, the other for helping others." – Audrey Hepburn*



November is here already?! Wow! It sure crept up fast! And the weather at the end of October felt so much like summer that it doesn't seem possible to be this far into fall!

We have a brand-new Pastor at our church and boy, is he ever nice! I can hardly wait to see more of him! I'm sure you'll like him, too! His name is Pastor Jack.

I've been scampering around the church, watching all the goings on and holy moly...I almost ran into...GULP.... an exterminator!

Oh, my goodness, was I ever scared but it was all for naught cuz those other mice kept leaving a mess behind and those are the ones the exterminator was after. Good thing my family and I are

more careful and stayed waaay out of the way when he was here. Whew!

Well, enough about that. Everyone's planning their Thanksgiving dinner now and THAT'S much more fun to think about. Turkey with milk cracker stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, candied carrots, sweet potatoes with a yummy topping of lightly browned marshmallows, butternut squash, hot buttered rolls, and who knows what else. I'm full just thinking about it. We're going to Mickey and Minnie's for Thanksgiving and am I ever excited! We usually wait a while before we dig into dessert cuz we're so full. Sometimes we like to play games or just watch the football game (an' sometimes fall asleep...hehehe) Then it's time for supper or dessert, whatever we're in the mood for. Sometimes a hot turkey sandwich is the way to go but I think mostly it's dessert...pies of all kinds...apple, blueberry, chocolate cream, pumpkin, lemon meringue, mincemeat, pecan. Well, not ALL of those but whichever ones were made this year, are perfect. Oh, my goodness, there's always so much! But we like it because there's always plenty of leftovers for the next day or so.

Happy Thanksgiving!

See you in church!

Your friendly church mouse, Nick



If you have some news, an article, or an announcement that you would like to put in the newsletter, please leave it in the office with Shelly, give it to Sue Anderson or email her at [deegram@charter.net](mailto:deegram@charter.net)



Come and join us on **WEDNESDAYS at 10:00 am** for some great fellowship and fun! We made these adorable little witches' hats with Ruth for Halloween! Thank you, Ruth! She even brought Gluten Free Cookies for those of us who needed them! We had a fun-filled day with Show & Tell this month, listened to a very interesting speaker named Colin Novic, the Executive Director of the Greater Worcester Land Trust, and also enjoyed a trip to the



Brookfield Orchards, after which we went for lunch at the Black & White Restaurant in Spencer since it was a bit chilly to eat outside at the orchards. Good food and good company...what more could we ask for? Join us for a casual time of chat and catching up on November 1<sup>st</sup> and hear an interesting speaker on the 8<sup>th</sup>. In addition, you're invited to join us for lunch at Charlies restaurant in Spencer on the 15<sup>th</sup> and a fun game of Bingo on the 27<sup>th</sup>! Of course, our plans are always subject to change but that doesn't happen very often.



### **Please Hold Them in Your Prayers**



*We would like to keep Hampton Bagdasarian in our prayers as he is having trouble with one of his eyes; Connie MacInnes requests prayers for her niece Linda and friend Marie Samuelson who is very ill; Judy Mitchell requests prayers for her granddaughter, Ellanora; 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 Dawn's dad, Francis Lajoie and also for Gina Ahaesy; The Deacons request prayers for Betty Dalbeck who is now in hospice,*

*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. Prayers also continue for MaryKay McGrail as she recovers from cancer and for Erika Vecsey, who is also battling cancer. We would also like prayers to continue for Doug Perkins. Greg Waters and Cindy MacLaurin request prayers for Cindy's mother, whose cancer has returned in her other lung.*

**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.**

*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." ~ Isaiah 41:10*

## Hats, Mittens & Scarves



It's that time of year again when the cold winds begin to blow and the pristine snow covers the earth. We want to make sure our neighborhood children are warm and dry. The best way to do that is to collect as many hats, mittens, gloves and scarves as we can for our trees that will be set up in the narthex and parlor of the church. Once they are all collected, they'll be delivered to the Tatnuck Magnet School for any children who need them. **Please help us to fill our trees and keep our children warm!**



## Carty Cupboard

### The First Sunday of Every Month



Thank you so much for bringing us more Carty Cupboard donations. In October, we donated 10 more bags of groceries! Great job! Donating non-perishable items, personal care items and/or baby items are always welcome. **Thank you for making a difference!**



## Deacons Fund



On the first Sunday of every month, we collect money that is used to provide one-time, emergency assistance to a neighbor in need. Blue envelopes are included in your bulletin for this offering. Your contributions are greatly appreciated! **Thank you and God bless!**



### November

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 08 Lorna Cardin     | 12 Betty Dalbeck   |
| 13 Renee Mason      | 17 Ashley Rucinski |
| 19 Michelle Collins | 22 Shelly Hoyle    |
| 27 Matthew Ahaesy   | 29 Maizy Martin    |
| 30 Ruth Nickerson   |                    |

### December

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Carlo DiBonaventura  | 05 Kenneth Sawyer  |
| 11 Sienna Rucinski      | 16 Barbara Chad    |
| 18 John Dalbeck         | 26 Marie Trzcinski |
| 28 Jim Mirick           | 29 Lynn Kapinos    |
| 29 Rev. Natalie Maynard |                    |



### November

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|----------------------------------|
| 09 Greg Waters & Cindy MacLaurin |
| 10 Carlo & Jillian DiBonaventura |

### December

- |                     |
|---------------------|
| 08 Deb & Ken Holmes |
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Wednesday

01 10:00 am Fellowship ~ Chat time

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Saturday

04 Don't forget to turn your clocks back tonight!

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Sunday

05 10:00 am **WELCOME PASTOR JACK!** ~ FCC Worship Service Communion Sunday  
With Gluten Free Communion and Grape Juice  
Carty Cupboard Collection  
Deacons Fund Collection

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Wednesday

08 10:00 am Fellowship ~ Guest Speaker - to be announced

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Saturday

11 All Day



Sunday

12 10:00 am FCC Worship Service  
11:30 am Trustees Meeting

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Wednesday

15 10:00 am Fellowship ~ Lunch at Charlies Diner in Spencer - Meet in church lot

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Sunday

19 10:00 am Stewardship Sunday



Remember your Pledges ~ FCC  
Worship Service

11:30 am Deacons Meeting

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Wednesday

22 10:00 am NO Fellowship today!

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Thursday

23 All Day  Happy Thanksgiving

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Sunday

26 10:00 am Worship Service  
11:30 am Council Meeting

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Wednesday

29 10:00 am Fellowship ~  Come and join the fun!

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## Stewardship Drive

Our Annual Stewardship Drive will be happening this month, culminating on November 19<sup>th</sup> when we will have a cornucopia on the altar to place our pledge cards in. We can't express the importance of your pledges enough because that's how we grow and continue God's work. Whether you are able to give of Time, Talent, Treasure or all of these, they are all welcome and greatly appreciated. Please watch for a mailing this month. I am also including a pledge card here for your convenience. You can return either of them on **Stewardship Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**.

**Let's make this year a record year!**

### *Renew, Reimagine, & Recommit - 2024 PLEDGE CARD*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**For the year of 2024, I/we plan to give a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support the ministry of First Church!**

Would you like offering envelopes? Yes/No (*circle one*)

*Thank you for your support!*

**First Congregational Church UCC**

1070 Pleasant Street Worcester, MA 01602



**Please consider your best gift for 2024!**

Pledge Quick Guide Chart		
Weekly	Monthly	Annually
\$5	\$22	\$260
\$10	\$44	\$520
\$20	\$87	\$1,040
\$25	\$109	\$1,300
\$30	\$130	\$1,560
\$40	\$174	\$2,080
\$50	\$217	\$2,600
\$60	\$260	\$3,120
\$75	\$325	\$3,900
\$100	\$434	\$5,200

I/we wish to offer gifts of time and talents to support the following ministries of the church (*check all that apply*):

- Worship (*attending*)
- Scripture Reader
- Host Coffee Hour
- Music Ministry (*please specify*) \_\_\_\_\_
- Children / Youth Ministry (*please specify*) \_\_\_\_\_
- Community Outreach & Events
- Building Maintenance/ Upkeep
- Committee (*please specify*) \_\_\_\_\_
- Tuesday Fellowship
- Carty Cupboard Food Pantry Donations
- Others (*please specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

***With time, talent, and treasure combined, I/we commit to the renewal and reimagination of ministry at First Church!***

*"The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord." – J. L. Kraft*