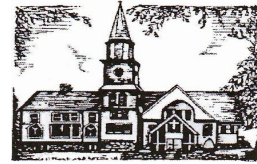


FRIENDLY MESSENGER

July 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



"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." - John 8:32

Let Freedom Ring

Although we celebrate America's freedom on July 4th, we should think much further back than 1776. Our freedom is centuries old, bestowed on us by God, Our Father. He loved us so much that He sacrificed His only son for us. He gave Him the power to perform miracles to show us that He truly was the son of God and was placed here on earth to teach us His ways, to show us His love, and to ensure us that everlasting life awaits those who fully put their trust in Him. Jesus suffered mercilessly on the cross because of His love for us. Think of the torture that He endured! He did this solely to give us our freedom – to give us HIS freedom.

By putting our faith in His hands, believing in His word, and trusting in Him, we will be free from the worst harm possible – we will be free from the clutches of Satan. By accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior and living by His word, we will be rewarded mercifully in heaven. Because He gave His life for us, we will enjoy eternal freedom in His Kingdom! Pity those who die without Jesus in their lives for they will never know the everlasting freedom from death, from sin, from hate, from any of the earthly afflictions and problems that we face here on earth. They will never be free from the clutches of evil.

This Fourth of July, as we celebrate the freedom of our country, let us also celebrate the freedom that Jesus Christ has blessed us with. Indeed, CHRIST IS FREEDOM! Let us fill our hearts with His glory and honor as we celebrate this day, and every day thereafter. As we gaze up at the fireworks illuminating the sky, think of the gates of heaven opening up and welcoming us HOME!

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" – John 3:16

Thanks be to God,

Sue Anderson





Well, we're in the heat of Summer now! I'm all excited about seeing the fireworks on the Fourth of July! I bet you are, too! We're going to the country...Auburn, I think...where there will be lots of fun all day long. We'll scope out a spot on the hill and lay our blanket out so we can lay back and enjoy ourselves. I think I'll bring my light saber cuz, well, it lights up. Haha! Not only that, but it lights up with three colors! Can you guess which ones? Yep! Red, white and blue! It will be lots of fun. I think we're meeting our cousins there, too. I love celebrations where we can get together like that. Last year I got one of those red, white and blue rocket pops. Good thing we were outside cuz it sure did drip! BUT it was nice and cold and

sooo refreshing.

Do you know how old our country is? 247! (I wouldn't even TRY to blow out all those candles!) That sounds like a lot to me but in history, we're just a baby! Happy birthday, America! I never knew it but North America was first formed 6,000 years ago! Wow! The first settlement was 435 years ago but didn't last long because of the lack of supplies and harsh living conditions. That was in 1587. The first SUCCESSFUL settlement was in 1609. Despite the harsh living conditions, lack of provisions and aggressive natives, they persevered and created a successful settlement in Jamestown, VA. Our history sure is interesting! Whatever you're doing, I hope you have a wonderful Independence Day!

See you in church!

Your friendly church mouse, Nick



Welcome Back Russ!

A warm welcome back goes out to Russ Goliger and we also welcome his significant other, Karen Reitter. It's so nice to meet you!

Russ is preaching our summer services which are held every Sunday at 10:00 am. We'd love to have you join us!

How blessed we are!



COFFEE HOUR



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. Hope to see you there!

"Seek the fellowship of those who enjoy fellowship with the Lord" ~ Abdul-Qadir Gilani



Carty Cupboard

The First Sunday of Every Month

Summer's here and school is out. Let us remember that kids are eating more at home now. Donating jam or jelly in plastic jars, cereal, protein bars, fruit cups, yogurt covered raisins, easily prepared mac & cheese and condiments are some good choices for them. In February and March, we donated 20 bags of groceries; in April we donated 9 bags; in May it was 6 bags and in June we dwindled down to only 5 bags of groceries. Please help us get our numbers back up! Carty truly appreciates all that we donate. Thank you!



"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver." – 2 Corinthians 9:7



See you in September



Fellowship will not be meeting for the summer.



Please continue your prayers for our Search Committee as they actively seek a new pastor.

First Congregational Church of Spencer

"Ashes to Missions"

As you know, the First Congregational Church of Spencer suffered a devastating fire on June 2nd. Along with our heartfelt prayers, they also are in need of any monetary support we can give them as they contemplate how they will move forward.

As a church, our Missions Committee will donate \$100. Our Deacons Committee will add the Deacons Fund collection that will be taken on Sunday, July 2nd along with any loose money collected on that day. We will combine it all and will donate it to the FCC of Spencer to aid them in moving forward in their transition. Let us be generous in our love and support for them. Donations can also be sent to Cornerstone Bank or through their church website, for their "[Ashes to Missions](#)" fund. The link is also posted on our Facebook page.

Thank you and may God richly bless you for your support during this most difficult time.

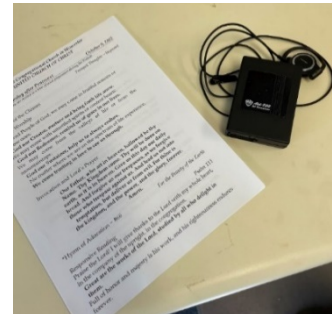


"To ease another's heartache is to forget one's own." ~ Abraham Lincoln



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 sincere thanks for your continued contributions to our Teddy Bear Jar in the narthex before the service and in the parlor following it. At last count we had about \$350. They're growing, slowly but surely!

"The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve." ~ Albert Schweitzer

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. Your contributions are greatly appreciated! Thank you and God bless!



Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.
– Proverbs 22:9



Please Keep 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 whom 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; Our heartfelt

prayers are with Dawn and Matt and their family as they mourn the loss of Dawn's mother, Diane L. (Gibbs) Clark. May she rest peacefully in the arms of our Lord. The Deacons request prayers for Betty Dalbeck, Dolores Trzcinski, Jeanne Fassett, Paul Scherdell, and Joyce & Armand Thienel. Our prayers are also with Normairis Rivera's son, Joey as he undergoes a kidney transplant. Kristin Olson requests prayers for Mitch Bourque. Prayers also for MaryKay McGrail as she battles cancer and for Erika Vecsey, who's cancer has returned. We would also like prayers for Greg Waters' mother. Donna Spaulding request prayers for Dave H. and his caregiver, Cindy, who has cancer and is now on hospice.

Please let us know of any prayer requests you may have.



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=RjhHZGNDZDZJyODNHWFabnRVZ2Vldz09>

You can also find our latest services here:

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





July

02 Sue Johnston 05 Bruce Johnston 10 Brittany Hinson
 12 Russ Goliger 13 Erika Vecsey 18 Paul Scherdell
 19 Khloe Kapinos 19 Nancy Dalbeck 19 Mason Giguere
 19 Elaine Miles 21 Jim Capuzziello 28 Richard Trzcinski

August

03 Mary Kay McGrail 04 Jamie Sullivan 05 Judy Mitchell
 06 Dolores Trzcinski 08 Robert L. Bourgault 17 Mark Mason
 17 Jeanne Fassett 19 George Boggs 25 John Waters
 25 April Sinclair 26 Milton (Mac) MacInnes

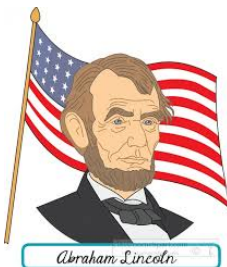


July

24 Bruce & Sue Johnston 29 Matt & Dawn Ahaesy

August

14 Jim & Deborah Mirick 16 Norman & Susan Anderson



"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." - Abraham Lincoln





Sunday

02 10:00 am Fifth Sunday after Pentecost ~ FCC Worship Service Communion Sunday
With Gluten Free Communion and Grape Juice
Carty Cupboard Collection
Deacons Fund Collection ~ Today's collection will be donated to the First
Congregational Church of Spencer for their "Ashes to Missions" fund

Tuesday

04 All Day Happy Fourth of July!



Sunday

09 10:00 am Sixth Sunday after Pentecost ~ FCC Worship Service
11:30 am Trustees Meeting

Sunday

16 10:00 am Seventh Sunday after Pentecost ~ FCC Worship Service

Sunday

23 10:00 am Eighth Sunday after Pentecost ~ FCC Worship Service
11:30 am Council Meeting

Sunday

30 10:00 am Ninth Sunday after Pentecost ~ FCC Worship Service

"Independence Day: freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed – else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die." – Dwight D. Eisenhower

