

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

October 2025

First Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602

Pastor T • Drop-in Pastor's Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 12:00 - 2:00pm

Email: pastorT@fcc-worcester.org • After Hours and Emergency Calls or Texts

(336) 410-4107 • Office - Sue: 508-752-4635 • office@fcc-worcester.org

Office Hours are Monday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Website • www.fcc-worcester.org



Hello Church!!! Per the unanimous vote of September 28, 2025, I am your new settled pastor. Amen! Allow me to introduce myself.

I am a Worcester, Massachusetts native born to a Calabrese father and a Korcare mother.

My parents, John and Mary Colorio, in 2016 were given keys to the city by Mayor Joe Petty for their public service. Though my given name is Gina Teresa Rose Colorio—that's a lotta Italian vowels! — I prefer to be called Pastor T since....

✝ is for the Cross of Jesus Christ

✝ is in our response to His holiness... TURN!

✝ is for Jesus' last word spoken on the cross ΤΕΤΕΛΕΣΤΑΙ... it is finished!

I've been schooled classically- Notre Dame Academy, Assumption College and Yale University, where I received a Master of Divinity degree. In 1991 (the youngest to date at that time) I won a Merrill Fellowship, Harvard University. I was ordained by Pakachoag Church, Auburn, MA in 1986. My pastoral gifts are best expressed in worship: by virtue of Jesus' name being lifted high, we too are lifted up out of the miry clay, turned around and firmly set on solid ground Amen! I am a contemplative at heart who shepherds others to ponder who Jesus is— grace focused! — and the impact of knowing you are forgiven! on healing, health and peace! This is Good News!

I have been married to David Purdy since 1983. Together we have 19 children (and no more!). Seven adopted represent the BIPOC community hailing from Haiti, Guatemala, and the Sappony tribal land, Piedmont Region, NC. Three are birth children. The remaining seven await safe passage from Haiti to our family, to be reunited with their birth sister. Two died in utero. We have ten grandchildren (and counting!). In Nelson Mandela's words: 'the keenest revelation into the soul of any society is manifested in the manner in which they treat their children.'

In the mid 1980's I founded AIDS-Project Worcester: caring for God's beloved affected by HIV/AIDS. That was the most profound experience in my pastoral career— life-changing for me and them! My practical knowledge and training with children & youth is vast. I am especially skilled at involving all ages in mission trips, outreach and worship!

I have had considerable training in hospital/hospice settings (CPE and personal).

On January 30, 2024, my sweet mumma died holding my hand.

Ecumenism is at the core of my being.... making lifelong friends and colleagues within the Body of Christ. I am a nationally rostered speaker for Camps Farthest Out: an ecumenical, Christ centered family camp experience. Churched and unchurched audiences have included: Mainline Protestant, non-denominational, Messianic Jew, Apostolic, Pentecostal, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and house church.

For fun I volunteer at Gateways Academy just because it is the best micro-school for preK-12th on the planet!

I coach and referee basketball, ride horses, row competitively in a coed 8 sweep boat, roast coffee beans, delight in all animals, the out-of-doors, integrative health, and elephant art/lore. I love to travel and minister to whomever will listen to the Good News of Jesus Christ! I am part of the 'late deaf/hard of hearing' community.

You will almost always see me with my service dog, Miss Mindy, in tow.

So that's me in a nutshell. As for October logistics:

FCC drop-in pastor's office hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 12:00 - 2:00pm

or by email appointment: pastorT@fcc-worcester.org

or reach out to Miss Sue at the church office (508) 752-4635 or office@fcc-worcester.org

after hours and emergency calls or texts (336) 410-4107

My immediate plans for the month of October are to settle into the parsonage. And my first order of church business includes getting to know as many of you as I can and starting a prayer group, the center of this holy matrix we call Church. Please ask God if you are meant to be a part of this endeavor. I can't wait to see the incredible work and ministry God has in store for us all!!

With love and gratitude,

Pastor T



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!

What do skeletons say before they eat? Bone-appetit!



Fellowship



Because I'm a tad late getting the newsletter out, I can show you the cutest little Turkeys from Oreo cookies on October 1st. Thank you, Ruth!



On October 8th, we'll be going to the Brookfield Orchards, followed by lunch at the Black & White. I hope you'll join us!



Be sure to watch the calendar for more Fantastic Fellowship Festivities!

Note to the Congregation



It's been quite a year for our church, but your patience, kindness, love, support, and faith in God have endured. Without it, we could not have succeeded in our mission to find a new music director as well as a new minister. Our committees worked diligently to find just the right person for each job. Without them, we could not have made it this far. Without them, we might not even have a congregation, and without the congregation standing behind them, we would no doubt be defunct.

Thank you, everyone, for being such a great congregation and a great team. And thank you, committee members, for your diligent, tireless, work. In addition, our sincere thanks to those who put in endless hours of work in the parsonage to make it shine!

The most important thank you of all is to God, who guided us every step of the way.

Jesus said, "Have faith as a grain of mustard seed."

We did, and we triumphed!

I am confident that, working together, we can accomplish anything!

Many blessings,

Sue



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**.

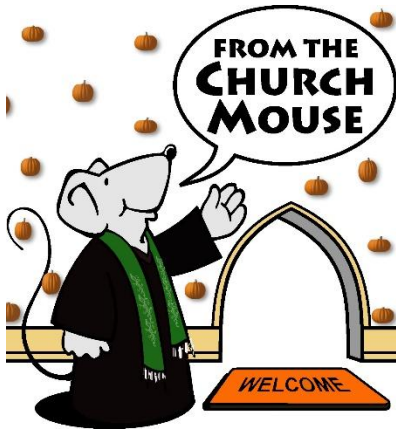
See it here first!

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!



Our Daily Bread

If you've missed the 'Our Daily Bread' publication, it's back! You can pick up your copy from the bookcase in the narthex in either large or regular print. Available right now is the September/October/November issue.



Hello again everyone! There's a nip in the air that tells us that fall is definitely here. We didn't pick our apples yet cuz we heard that Fellowship is going to the Brookfield Orchards soon, so we'll hop a ride with them. Sshhhh...some of 'em might just jump out of their skin if they saw us, so we'll just sneak into the trunk and be as quiet as....welllll....as a mouse! 🐭

Don't ya just love October? Most of the leaves have fallen and just as I was hoping, someone raked a great big pile of them right at the foot of the slide in the church playyard. Oh, what fun we had!

I can hardly wait for Halloween to come. Trick or Treating is so much fun and seeing all the little ghosts and goblins going from house to house for their goodies is the frosting on the cake! I remember my mom telling me about her childhood years and one thing that I remember the most, probably because it's something we could never REALLY say, was "Trick or treat, smell my feet, give me somethin' good to eat." Hahahaha!!!! If we ever said that, we'd surely get no candy but I still chuckle and so does Mom, whenever we think about it.

The leaves are just right now for crunching beneath my feet, jumping in, and just playing in. Mom doesn't seem too happy when I go back in the house afterwards, cuz I usually wear a sweater this time of year and boy, do those leaves ever stick to them! She tells me to go back outside and brush them off, but jeepers, they just don't wanna come off! Then she just sighs and starts pulling them off, one by one. I peek around the corner and she looks up and doesn't say anything but just smiles at me. I smile back, hop into her lap, and say "I love you, Mom." She's the best mom in the world.

Hey, I heard some awesome news!! Not only do we have a new music director, but we also have a new minister! How exciting!! Don't tell anyone, but I was in the sanctuary a few weeks ago when she came for a visit and preached and was she ever good! She even has a pretty nice dog who stays right near her and protects her. Good thing he's not a C A T cuz then he'd probably run after me! Life is good!!

Love from your friendly church mouse,

Nick 🐭



Zoom

Although we have no Zoom right now, you can see some of our past services on YouTube until Zoom is up and running once again.



<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.





The First Sunday of Every Month

Carty Cupboard



Please remember! In September we only donated 8 bags of groceries. School is back in session and kids need quick and easy but nutritious breakfast foods. Of course, they also need snacks for recess and after school. Snacks like squeeze-up applesauce are fun and nutritious. Pudding, fruit, and Jello cups are good snacks, too. Granola bars provide a good

source of energy and are quick to grab. Things like tuna fish, mac & cheese, beans, instant potatoes, hearty soup, shelf-safe milk, juice boxes, and condiments are some of the foods people can use. Besides food, they can also use personal care items and/or baby items. If they have pets, they'd be happy to get food or treats for them, as well or kitty litter for cats.

*"Cutting food waste is a delicious way of saving money, helping to feed the world and protect the planet."
- Tristram Stuart*



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. Often there are families in desperate need of housing but they can't afford the amount of money needed for a deposit, even though they can afford the rent. Another scenario is a person who works hard but their car breaks down and they don't have the money to repair it but they don't want to lose their job. There may be a family struggling to keep their head above water but one of their children needs new shoes that are expensive because they're corrective shoes that have to be special ordered. There are all different types of people with all different needs and if we can do our part by helping them out, we're helping our world to be a better place.

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" ~ Galatians 6:2



"We can celebrate the spirit of Halloween by filling our hearts with gratitude and spreading kindness to all."



Community Events

Looking for something to do? Check out our Community Events Bulletin Board in the Narthex. Something might pique your interest. If you would like to share an upcoming event, feel free to post it there!



Prayers for a friend of the Bob & Marianne's daughter, Beth, who is on hospice. Debbi requests prayers for **Kim**, who is recovering from a traumatic leg injury. 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 requests prayers for her daughter, **Melanie** and her sister, **Lee**. The Deacons request prayers for **Hampton, John, Dolores, Paul, and Joyce & Armand**. Kristin requests prayers for **Mitch**. We ask for continued prayers for **Erika**, as well as for **Jane and Carol**; Our continued prayers for **World Peace** are desperately needed.

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.

"Prayer is the mortar that holds our house together." – Mother Teresa



October

03 Scarlet Rucinski 04 Jean Andes 10 Shirley Avery
12 Jillian DiBonaventura 15 Hampton Bagdasarian
19 Ann Scherdell 19 Armand Thienel 23 Bob Smith

November

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

"May God's love fill your life and warm your heart."



October

07 Miloz & Ashley Rucinski 17 Armand & Joyce Thienel

November

09 Greg Waters & Cindy MacLaurin 10 Carlo & Jillian DiBonaventura



"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

~ 1 Corinthians 13:13:



"May your treats be sweet and your night be bright this Halloween!"

October Happenings

Thursday

02 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Drop-in Pastor's Office Hours

Friday

03 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Sunday

05 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*) Welcome **Pastor Gina T. Colorio** ~ World Communion Sunday with gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice
~ Carty Cupboard Collection ~ Deacons Fund Collection

Monday

06 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Drop-in Pastor's Office Hours

Wednesday

08 10:00 am Fellowship ~ Trip to the Brookfield Orchards, then lunch at the Black & White

Thursday

09 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Drop-in Pastor's Office Hours

Friday

10 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open
1:00 pm Trustees Meeting (*Conference Room*)

Sunday

12 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (*sanctuary*)

Monday

13 All Day



Church Office Closed
Pastor's Office Closed

Wednesday

15 10:00 am Fellowship ~ Show 'n Tell (*parlor*)

Thursday

16 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Drop-in Pastor's Office Hours

Friday

17 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Sunday

19 10:00 am FCC Worship Service
11:30 am Deacons Meeting (*Conference Room*)

Monday

20 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Drop-in Pastor's Office Hours

Wednesday

22 10:00 am Fellowship ~ BINGO! (*parlor*)

Thursday

23 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Drop-in Pastor's Office Hours

Friday

24 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open
1:00 pm Trustees Meeting (*Conference Room*)

Sunday

26 10:00 am FCC Worship Service
11:30 am Council Meeting (*Conference Room*)

Monday

27 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Drop-in Pastor's Office Hours

Wednesday

29 10:00 am Fellowship ~ Antiquarian Museum

Thursday

23 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Drop-in Pastor's Office Hours

Friday

31 All Day 
10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

In The Month Of October

By Catherine Pulsifer

In the month of October, a season's tale unfolds,
As nature's palette shifts, vibrant colors behold.
The weather turns cooler, a crispness fills the air,
Leaves cascade like confetti, a dance without a care.

Children's hearts aflutter, counting days with glee,
Anticipating Halloween, a night of mystery.
The sun's rays wane, as twilight gently sweeps,
Shorter hours of daylight, as the world slowly sleeps.

October's charm enchants, a magical embrace,
A symphony of change, in this transient space.
With each passing day, a glimpse of nature's art,
October's beauty whispers, etching memories in the heart.

