

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.

August 2025



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

What a blessing it has been to have such a seamless transition from our past minister of music to our present one, both wonderfully talented and caring. Each with their own charm and their own style of playing. God knew just what we needed and He provided for us, just as He always does. Sometimes it may take a little longer to fulfill our desires than others, but isn't it glorious how He always hears our prayers and never lets us down? There are times when we may not be sure of just what it is that we desire but ultimately, God knows and provides for us in the way that only He can.

Now, let us continue our fervent prayers and have faith in our search for a new minister. As we continue our search, let us be reminded of who the ultimate choice is made by and know that He won't steer us wrong.

The challenges that we face now, are stepping stones that lead us to higher grounds of purpose, and our purpose is greater than any obstacle in our way.

By embracing change, we will find that it opens doors to growth and new possibilities. Therefore, whoever walks through our doors to preach and teach us, will be most welcome.

Joyful blessings,

Sue Anderson

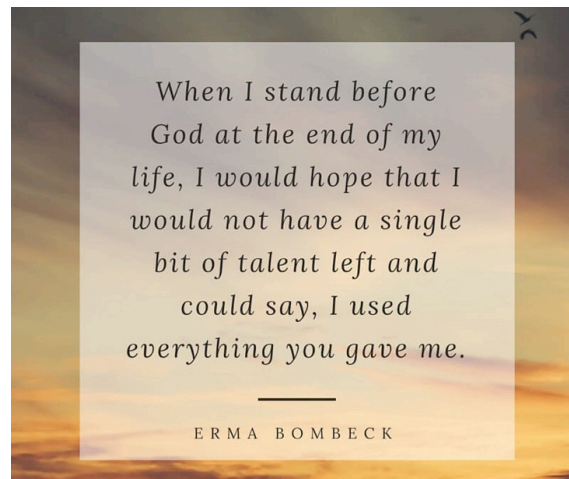


'His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.'

Dear FCC Church Family,

How can I begin to thank you for the many years we had together and the wonderful celebration on my last day? It was great to hear stories and remembrances from each of you. Of course, there is a BIG thank you for the retirement gift. That meant a lot and was very generous.

I am reminded of a quote from Erma Bombeck that I have had on my computer home screen for many years.:



I have always wondered how my life compares to this quote. During the celebrations for my retirement(s), I came to realize that I did a lot more than what I was aware of. In each moment, we do what needs to be done or said and move on. It is not until later when someone tells you the impact your words or actions had on their life at the time. Those are treasured memories I will carry with me as I move into this new phase of my life. Thank you for reminding me of the importance I have had on your lives. You also need to be reminded that you have had just as big an impact on my life.

We had a long and glorious song together here at FCC. We have celebrated Ordinations, Installations, Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings, Funerals and many other sacred occasions. While it has not always been easy, we have, by the Grace of God, come through to the other side. I will treasure all the people and experiences of FCC.

I have been truly blessed by our ministry together here at FCC. Your support, prayers, grace and love have sustained me more than you can ever know. God has certainly been good to us over these many years. Bill and I look forward to the coming years of retirement, spending time traveling and exploring new hobbies.

We give you all our deepest gratitude and love for the time we have been able to share together and offer to each one of you God's blessing and peace.

Scott & Bill



Dear First Congregational,

It is my pleasure to join you as your new Music Director. I live in Ayer with my partner Sean and our two cats, Nivvy and Maddie. I have a BM in Piano Performance from Illinois Wesleyan University, and both an MM and a DMA in Historical Keyboard Performance from Boston University, where I studied with Peter Sykes. I specialize in music of the 18th century, though that's not to say I don't also play modern music. You will likely hear a plethora of varying music over the course of our time together.

I have served many churches in various musical capacities. My most recent appointment was at First Parish UU in Chelmsford. I have discovered my true calling in life as a teacher of piano and other keyboard instruments, and currently enjoy a very diverse clientele of 36 students. As my teaching studio proliferated, I found I was unable to keep up with the demands of a 25-hour/week church position. As a result, I resigned from First Parish in hopes of finding a position with fewer responsibilities. That church turned out to be you!

My greatest hope is that the music I provide can be a joyful mainstay as you navigate this transition towards a new settled Minister. Come say hi to me on Sundays!

Best,

Dr. Christopher Grills





What a summer this has been! I'm sure glad July is over cuz there were too many people in our church who were sick. I sure hope they're all either better or well on the mend! Enough is enough!

On a good note, the new Music Director is awesome, isn't he? His fingers really dance across those keys!

We've also had some terrific ministers filling in for us. It sure has been interesting to have so many different personalities. I don't know about you, but I've really enjoyed them all very much.

I'm sooo excited! I just heard that my cousins, Minnie and Mickey are coming for a visit! I can hardly wait for them to get here. I bet they've never been on a bicycle built for three! We can ride through the park and to Cascade Falls. They're used to palm trees, orange groves, and all kinds of plants but they're nothing like our trees...the maples, great oaks, birch, and ash, to name a few. And the apple orchards - I guess they're sort of like their orange groves - anyway, they're in for a lot of fun! I remember one year when they came and we went swimming in a lake. They worried that there were going to be alligators if they went in the water, but I straightened them out about THAT and we had a fantastic time! We brought a picnic lunch and made a whole day of it. Boy, were we ever tired by the time we got home, but it was that good kind of tired, when you go to bed with a smile on your face and dream about all the fun you had.

Well, I hope you're enjoying this last month of summer. It will go by fast! 🐭

Love from your friendly church mouse,

Nick



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!



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.

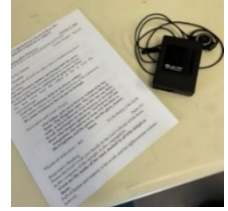


<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDQmijukLaC24hwdyayupdg> or by searching "First Church, Worcester" on YouTube.



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.



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!

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



The First Sunday of Every Month Carty Cupboard

YOU make a difference! In July we donated 16 bags of groceries. With summer here, kids are home more, so they're also snacking more and eating more meals at home. Quick and easy but nutritious breakfast foods as well as lunches are still needed and so are quick and easy dinners. Those in need truly appreciate whatever you can give. Snacks like squeeze-up applesauce are fun but nutritious. Pudding, fruit, and Jello cups are a good snack, too. Granola bars provide a good source of energy and are quick to grab. Tuna fish is always good to have on hand for a sandwich or mixed with mac and cheese, giving it extra protein. Donating not only non-perishable food, but also personal care items and/or baby items, are always welcome.



Proverbs 22:9: "The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor."

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.

"The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity." – Mike Stachura



Please continue to pray for **Judy** as she recuperates from pneumonia. Debbi requests prayers for **Kim**, who is recovering from a traumatic leg injury. Please also continue your prayers of peace and comfort for Nancy's **nieces** as they navigate through the difficult days ahead after losing their father, Tim. Ellen requests prayers for her nephew, **Tyler** and his family. Tyler is undergoing treatment for cancer; Connie requests prayers for **Mac, who is recovering from a fall**, and also for her niece **Linda**; Sue & Norman request prayers for their daughter, **Melanie**, Sue's brother, **Danny and her sister, Lee as she recovers from a heart attack, surgery and a broken arm**. They would also appreciate prayers for their doctor, **Phillip**. The Deacons request prayers for **Dolores, Paul, and Joyce & Armand**. Kristin requests prayers for **Mitch**. We ask for continued prayers for **Erika**, as well as for **Jane**; Let us also continue our prayers for our search for a new **Minister**.



REQUESTS
— FOR —
PRAYER

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.

"It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without heart." - Mahatma Gandhi



Community Events

Don't forget to check out our Community Events Bulletin Board in the Narthex. You just might see something you're interested in.



August

03 Mary Kay McGrail 05 Judy Mitchell 06 Dolores Trzcinski
08 Robert L. Bourgeault 17 Mark Mason 25 John Waters
25 April Sinclair 26 Mac MacInnes

September

04 Clarissa Nigro 11 Ronald Taylor, Jr. 13 Noah Miles

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you."



August

14 Jim & Deborah Mirick 16 Norman & Sue Anderson

September

05 Scott Yonker & Bill Condon 19 Robert & Marianne Bourgeault

"Your marriage is a testament to the grace and goodness of God. May your hearts always be filled with the love of Christ."





Friday

01 10:00 am – 2:00 pm **Marianne will be in the office until Sue returns**

Sunday

03 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*) with **Rev. Noelle Dattilo** Officiating ~ Communion
Sunday with gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice ~ Carty Cupboard Collection ~
Deacons Fund Collection

Monday

04 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Tuesday

05 1:00 pm Final Party Planning Committee Meeting (*Conference Room*)

Thursday

07 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Friday

08 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

1:00 pm Trustees Meeting (*Conference Room*)

Sunday

10 10:00 am – FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*) with **Rev. Linda Michel** Officiating

Monday

11 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Thursday

14 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Friday

15 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Sunday

17 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*) **Rev. Ed Bernald** Officiating

Monday

18 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Thursday

21 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Friday

22 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Sunday

24 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*) **Rev. Noelle Dattilo** Officiating

11:30 am Council Meeting (*Conference Room*)

Monday

25 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Thursday

28 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Friday

29 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Sunday

31 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*) **Rev. Jordan Daigle** Officiating
