

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.

July 2025



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

As the sun shines down on us, so the **son** shines down on us. Our Lord watches over us in all that we say and do and it's only proper for us to look up to Him and thank Him. We have a little more time to relax and rest, so we should take the opportunity to reflect on the incredible love that our Father has shown us by calling us His children. As we travel hither and yon, let us not forget the glory of His steadfast love. Even when we're not paying attention, He is there for us no matter where we are, whether away from home or at home. We are so fortunate here in New England to have four beautiful seasons, each unique in its own way. Spring, when everything comes alive again, is gorgeous. Following spring comes, in the words of composer Jans Carste, "Those Lazy-Hazy-Crazy Days of Summer" when everything seems to be in full bloom, the water is just the right temperature to jump into. We have sandy beaches and wide-open fields of green to enjoy; it's breath-taking! After that, comes the autumn, when the leaves turn beautiful hues of red, orange and yellow, the air becomes cool and crisp, and everyone seems to slow their pace. Then we prepare for a cold but beautiful winter, with its glistening snow, long icicles and the rush of the Christmas season. Let us all express our gratitude for the blessings in our lives, both large and small. Let us count our many blessings and reflect on the love that surrounds us. Contemplate how we can put God's word into action by loving both God and our neighbor.

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him." ~ 1 John 3:1

Joyful blessings,

Sue Anderson

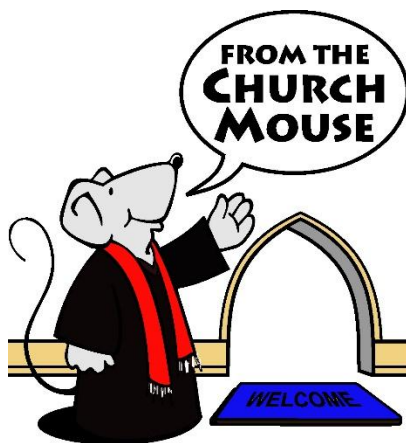


Fellowship

Our Fellowship's Ten Penny Auction was a great deal of fun with lots of donated treasures to choose from, hoping to win those we put our tickets on. Whether we did or not, we had a grand time trying and cheering for each winner!

Our last meeting was a trip to 308 Lakeside, 308 E Main St, East Brookfield, MA 01515-1623, for lunch, which was delicious. And the company couldn't have been better.

We hope you'll join us when we reconvene in the fall!



Oh my goodness, June just flew by and ended on a happy note....that one came from the front of the sanctuary....actually, LOTS of beautiful notes came from Scott and the beautiful choir that he put together for his special day. BUT, it sure was a sad note too, because it was Scott's last day as our Minister of Music. We sure are gonna miss him!!

Another bittersweet part of the day was the awesome retirement party held downstairs in Fellowship Hall. There were soooo many people! They laughed and cried all mixed up together recalling all the special times they shared with Scott. It was truly a supercalifragilistic party!!

I hope ya didn't see me hiding behind the grate in the front of the stage. It was a safe spot and best of all, I could see everything that was going on....(and every morsel of yummy food dropped..hehehe). Do you like fireworks? I do except for the loud BOOM BOOM POP CRACKLE BOOM BOOM BOOM. You'd think someone woulda invented silent ones by now but I suppose all that noise is part of the celebration!!!! I'll just hafta put cotton in my ears and enjoy the night sky all lit up celebrating our great country. I love to hear the patriotic music at the park; an' the smell of hot dogs cookin' on the grill makes me drool! But ya know what's best of all? It's all because it's Independence Day! That

happened a long, long LONG, time ago, in 1776! Oh, how blessed we are!! 🐭

Have a great Fourth and don't get too close to those fireworks!

As always, your friendly church mouse,

Nick



June 29, 2025

It's hard to say it was a wonderful celebration, since it was saying "so long" to one of our favorite people, yet it WAS wonderful from start to finish. Scott planned and executed a beautiful farewell service. If you closed your eyes, you would have thought you were hearing the angels choir singing. I think there was more sniffing than dry eyes because it was an emotional day, a day to remember always. Knowing he won't be gone forever, that he will come back and visit once in a while is some consolation. The tears shed were a mixture of joy for times remembered and sadness for the loss of one important constant in the church for 28 years. And so, we'll bid Scott a fond adieu as he retires, until we meet again. Have a wonderful, well-deserved retirement, Scott!



Note 🎵 Scott's Awesome Shirt! 🎹 😊



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

I'm sorry to report that we've had no luck trying to get Zoom to work right for us lately, so we've decided to stop trying to record our services for the summer. We'll try it again in the fall, so stay tuned. Hopefully, it will finally cooperate with us and record properly once again. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

This means no YouTube services either but if you'd like to look back on past services, they're still available by following this link:

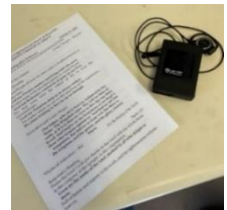


<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDQmijukLaC24hwdyayupdg> or by searching "First Church, Worcester" on YouTube.



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!

"There is no hospitality like understanding." - Vanna Bonta

The First Sunday of Every Month

Carty Cupboard



YOU make a difference! In June we donated 12 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.

Happiness doesn't result from what we get, but from what we give. — Ben Carson

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.

"Alone we can do so little; Together, we can do so much." ~Helen Keller



IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Please pray for **Bev and Judy**, who are both in the hospital. Ellen requests prayers for her nephew, **Tyler** and his family. Tyler is undergoing treatment for cancer; Connie requests continued prayers for **Mac**, and also for her niece **Linda**; Sue & Norman request prayers for their daughter, **Melanie** and Sue's brother, **Danny**. 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**; also, for **Sue**, who is facing surgery this month. Let us also continue our prayers for our search for a new **Minister**.

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.

"Don't worry about having the right words; worry more about having the right heart. It's not eloquence he seeks, just honesty." ~ Max Lucado



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.



July

02 Sue Johnston	19 Khloe Kapinos	19 Nancy Dalbeck
19 Elaine Miles	28 Richard Trzcinski	05 Bruce Johnston
10 Brittany Hinson	13 Erika Vecsey	18 Paul Scherdell

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	

"Today you are you! That is truer than true! There is no one alive who is you-er than you!"
 – Dr. Seuss



July

24 Bruce & Sue Johnston	29 Matt & Dawn Ahaesy
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August

14 Jim & Deborah Mirick	16 Norman & Sue Anderson
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"You are my today and all of my tomorrows." – Leo Christopher





Friday

04 All Day

Happy Independence Day!

Sunday

06 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*) with **Rev. Larry Iannetti** Officiating ~ Communion
Sunday with gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice ~ Carty Cupboard Collection ~
Deacons Fund Collection

Today we will also meet (and hear) our new Music Director, Dr. Christopher Grills!

Monday

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

Thursday

10 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Friday

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

1:00 pm Trustees Meeting (Parlor)

Sunday

13 10:00 am - FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*) with **Rev. Ed Bernarld** Officiating

Monday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Sunday

20 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*) **Rev. Noelle Dattilo** Officiating

Monday

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

Thursday

24 Church Office Closed Today and Tomorrow

Sunday

27 10:00 am FCC Worship Service (*Sanctuary*) **Rev. Noelle Dattilo** Officiating

Monday

28 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open (pending this week's open hours)

Thursday

31 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Let us extend a warm welcome to our new Music Director, Dr. Christopher Grills!

