

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 Tuesday-Thursday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

October 2023



⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." Revelation 7:9-10

World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday in October has been designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with congregations around the world. It has been celebrated since 1936, growing internationally to celebrate Christian unity. As we break bread together, we remember the night of Jesus' betrayal and what He gave for us as Christians. It is known universally as The Lord's Supper. We think of all countries, all nations, all different languages, all different traditions as well as liturgies, all breaking bread together. The purpose of World Communion Sunday is twofold: it is a glorious and meaningful partaking in Jesus' sacred meal with his friends and it opens our minds to different Christian traditions from around the world. We are all joined together by the bonds of love and justice, something we can all be proud of.

In our church alone, we are proud to have a diverse array of people from a range of different social, ethnic and religious backgrounds all worshiping right here in our building.



*"And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love."*

At our service, we will serve different types of communion bread, symbolizing the different parts of the world we are sharing with. Notice the engraving on our communion table: "This Do In Remembrance of Me".

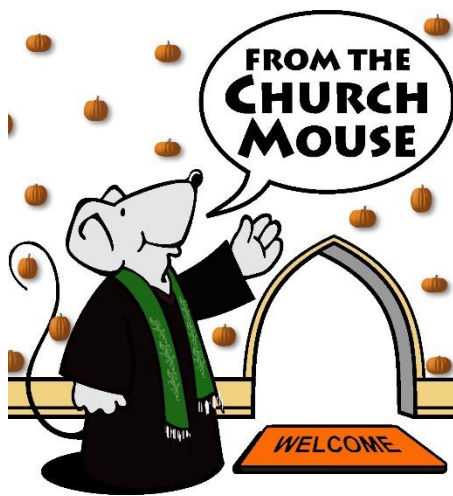
It is indeed wonderfully amazing how Christianity is worldwide! Praise The Lord!

...²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."...

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Thanks be to God,

Sue Anderson



"When the Frost is On the Punkin" by James Whitcomb Riley, is a fun poem to read but I hope that frost doesn't come too soon! There's definitely a chill in the air and while it's refreshing after the heat and humidity of the summer, I know that winter will soon be here. I don't wanna think about that quite yet though. I love pumpkins...carving them AND eating them raw, cooked in pie or muffins and even just as a vegetable. I love it THAT way cuz I feel like I'm eating dessert even though people often think it's a vegetable. {Really, it's a fruit!}

Wanna know how I carve a pumpkin? Welllll, you know I'm little, right? So, I can just carve with my teeth! I like to do the

eyes first, then a big, smiling mouth, and last of all the nose. Since I'm little and I eat as I go along (mice don't throw any parts away except maybe the stem cuz that's kinda tough.) Since I have such a little belly though, it takes me a week to carve my pumpkin! After I have one part carved, sometimes I crawl inside and take a little pumpkin nap! That's when I dream about pumpkin pie with lots of whipped cream; and pumpkin muffins - I like lots of raisins in mine; Oooh, and pumpkin bread with yummy cream cheese frosting. My goodness, I'm getting sleepy and full all at the same time! Then I wake up and do a little more carving and repeat the process 'til I'm done. By that time, my fur is even orange! Hahaha!!

Hope you have a happy Halloween!

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 give it to our church secretary, Shelly - Office: 508-752-4635 or office@fcc-worcester.org or to Sue Anderson about a week before the end of the month to be sure it goes in. Her email is deegram@charter.net

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
CANDIDATING INVITATION
Sunday, October 8, 2023



Rev. Jack R. Jones

Dear members and friends of The First Congregational Church in Worcester,

As members of the Search Committee, we would like to express our gratitude for the trust you have placed in us. We have recently concluded our prayer-filled process of reviewing profiles and interviewing candidates, ultimately reaching a unanimous decision. We are pleased to recommend to you our final candidate for the position of **Designated Term Pastor**, to be considered by the congregation at a special meeting on **Sunday, October 8, 2023**, following the service that he will preach. At the end of the service, **Rev. Jack** will exit the sanctuary at which time a proposal will be made to accept him as the congregation's **Designated Term Pastor**.

Since Rev. Jack's profile is 34 pages long, I've chosen to only print this excerpt from it to give you a sense of who he is.

"I am passionate about ...

I am passionate about preaching. Preaching is an art form that has the potential to have a transformative effect on a community. When I preach, I experience something stirring in my soul and intellect that is more than the sum of the parts. I experience the Holy Spirit. I feel a centeredness and focus, a calm exhilaration, and a joyful release of expressiveness. I have seen how the Holy Spirit works through sermons to build a cohesive sense of purpose and resolve. Sermons allow a congregation to have a common experience and narrative to shape their deliberations about individual and communal purpose. It is always a priority to prepare a thoughtful and inspiring sermon. My sermon preparation usually involves offering a weekly Bible study on the lectionary text and getting a sense for where the class is responding to a passage and/or struggling with a passage. I then usually focus the sermon accordingly. I tend to do expository preaching so that the sermon always relates to the text. I use stories and metaphors to help engage people and relate the text to their lives. Sometime I use drama, and act out scenes from the Bible or the illustrations I am using. I have also been known to provoke a laugh. Every church I have served has grown dramatically and I know that a key element of that growth is well prepared sermons. I write out a rough draft of the

sermon following the class. I let it sit a day as I mull it over, then do a revision. I let it sit another day, mull it over some more, and then revise again. I spend time marking dynamics and rehearsing gestures to make the presentation visually dynamic. I become familiar with it, pretty much memorizing it. I mark it with italics and bold print or underlining so that I can look down, speed read the line in just a moment, and then look up and present the line expressively with eye contact. The excitement in church missions' feeds excitement for the sermons which feeds excitement for the missions."

You can also follow the service via ZOOM, or later, view it on YouTube at the links below.

In Christ's name,
The Search Committee



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=RjhHZGNDZDJyODNHWFabnRVZ2Vldz09>



You can also find our latest services here:

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



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!



"It is an excellent circumstance that hospitality grows best where it is most needed." – Hugh Miller



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!



Carty Cupboard

The First Sunday of Every Month



Thank you so much for bringing us more Carty Cupboard donations. In September, we donated 6 more bags of groceries. Donating non-perishable items such as jam or jelly in plastic jars, cereal, protein bars, fruit cups, yogurt covered raisins, easily prepared mac & cheese and condiments are still good choices. They can also use personal care items such as toothpaste, soap, shaving cream, etc. Diapers and wipes for babies are also welcome.

YOU make a difference!



IMPORTANT NOTICE!



We have changed our Fellowship meeting day to **WEDNESDAYS at 10:00 am**. We have a fun-filled year ahead planned and hope you'll join us as we gather back together once again! This month's schedule includes a **speaker on October 4th**, **Show 'n Tell** on October 11th, **Lunch at Brookfield Orchard** on October 18th and a **Halloween craft** on October 25th. Of course, our plans are always subject to change but that doesn't happen very often. Our dues is just \$5 a year and you can give it to Ruth Nickerson.

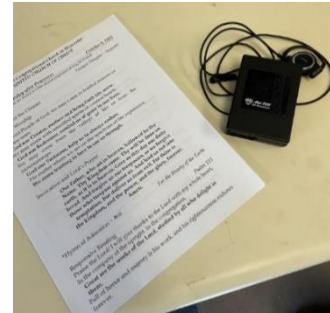


Keep an eye on upcoming bulletins, newsletters and emails for other gatherings. On weeks we don't have a special event, we will still meet in the parlor at 10:00 am for goodies and fellowship!

If you have any questions, contact Bev Bean @ bevbean@charter.net

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 Bank in the narthex before the service and in the parlor following it. We love how it's growing!

"It's not how much we give, but how much we put into giving."
— Mother Teresa



Please Keep Them in Your Prayers



**Remember
in
Prayer**

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 who is healing from a leg amputation and is back in the hospital for another infection, and their friend, Roger Waite.

Dawn & Matt Ahaesy request prayers for Dawn's dad, Francis Lajoie and also for Gina Ahaesy; Donna Spaulding requests prayers for Dave H. and his caregiver, Cindy. Dave has cancer and is now in hospice. The Deacons request prayers for Betty Dalbeck who is also 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. Our prayers are with Russ Goliger, who is recovering from an injury. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Steven Coy, Jr. who has just gone Home to Jesus.

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.

Happy Birthday!

October

03 Scarlet Rucinski 04 Jean Andes 10 Shirley Avery
12 Jillian DiBonaventura 12 Russell Souffrant 15 Hampton
Bagdasarian 19 Ann Scherdell 19 Armand Thienel 23 Bob Smith
23 Joe LaRiviere 24 Normairis Rivera 27 Faith Audette
28 Barbara Brosnihan

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



October

07 Miloz & Ashley Rucinski 14 George & Jane Boggs
17 Armand & Joyce Thienel

November

09 Greg Waters & Cindy MacLaurin
10 Carlo & Jillian DiBonaventura



Autumn leaves are beautiful! God's blessings are breathtaking!

God bless the land, God bless the sea and thank you Lord, for blessing me.



October Happenings

Sunday

01 10:00 am FCC Worship Service – World Communion Sunday
 With special communion along with Gluten Free Communion and Grape Juice
 Carty Cupboard Collection
 Deacons Fund Collection

Wednesday

04 10:00 am Fellowship with a special guest speaker

Sunday

08 10:00 am FCC Worship Service with **Rev. Jack R. Jones** preaching
 At the end of the service, there will be a **Congregational Special Meeting:**

- Proposal to accept Rev. Jack as the congregation's Designated Term Pastor
- Congregation voting

11:30 am Trustees Meeting



Wednesday

11 10:00 am Fellowship Show 'n Tell – bring something that you'd like to....well....
 show 'n tell us about. 😊

Sunday

15 10:00 am FCC Worship Service
11:30 am Deacons Meeting

Wednesday

18 10:00 am Fellowship trip to Brookfield Orchards, where we will have lunch



Sunday

22 10:00 am FCC Worship Service
11:30 am Council Meeting

Wednesday

25 10:00 am Fellowship – Make a craft

Sunday

29 10:00 am FCC Worship Service

Tuesday

31 All Day **Happy Halloween!**

What do you call it when a ghost makes a mistake? >>>>>> A boo boo
 What kind of street does a ghost like best? >>>>>> A dead end
 What do monsters like to read in the newspaper? >>>>>> Horrorsopes
 What do you call a nervous witch? >>>>>> A twitch
 What do you get if you put a witch in the freezer? >>>>>> A cold spell

