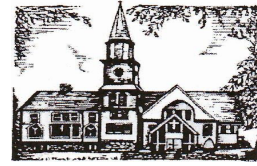


FRIENDLY MESSENGER

June 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



"but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." - Isaiah 40:31

This is Us

I feel that this is indeed us, as it is written in *Isaiah 40:30*. Although we've had our share of bumps along the way, we are again coming back with renewed strength that our Lord has blessed us with. We will soar high again, given the past year's fresh start, we have already made a miraculous comeback and will only continue to move ahead with gusto. We only had a short time without a pastor before Josh and I'm confident that this will be the case again. We're fortunate enough to have Russ Goliger, who has preached wonderfully for us before, filling in for us for much of the summer.

When I saw the bird in the sanctuary during Josh's Service of Farewell, I couldn't help but think of the beautiful gospel hymn, "His Eye is on the Sparrow" written in 1905 by Civilla D. Martin and Charles H. Gabriel. Yes, His Eye is indeed on the sparrow and I know He watches me. After the service, the bird came down near the organ, Greg opened the window and helped him find his way out. To me, this was God's way of ushering Josh out while watching over every one of us. I know he will send us just the right replacement to continue leading us onward and upward. We have a strong, positive congregation whom I know will work hard to keep us going in the right direction. May God continue to bless and watch over us in the months to come. We've come a long way on this great journey and I know that working together, hand in hand, we can accomplish great things. God has a plan for us and as Josh so wisely said, "Overall, I trust that God has called us together and that God will inspire each step that we will take as First Church in the years to come; This remains forever true in my heart." And so it is, that it remains forever true in my heart, too.

During this time I ask that you pray:

- ❖ for our church to be faithful and strong as we await our new pastor
- ❖ for our Pastoral Search Committee to remain unified and practice the wisdom and discernment that our Lord has blessed us with
- ❖ for patience for both our Search Committee and our congregation, enabling us to strive for a pastor who is just the right fit for us

Trusting in our Lord,

Sue Anderson





Oh, my goodness, there's lots going on around the church these days! There was an awesome coffee hour for Pastor Josh last Sunday and someone lost a piece of cheese. Notice that I said 'lost', not 'dropped'? That's cuz I just happened to find it before they did. Was it ever yummy!

I heard that we might have yet ANOTHER congregation worshiping here at FCC! That's why I love my church so much...there's never a dull moment. With the summer weather here, I'm seeing lots of kids making use of the playground. I love to hear them squealing with delight as they slide down the slide or swing so high that it looks like they're gonna go right over the top of the swing set! Oh, such fun! They love the little playhouse as well as the sandbox where they can build roads for their matchbox or hot-wheel cars...or my favorite...a castle. I wonder if they ever do what I used to do. I'd build a moat around my castle, run over to the sprinkler and get some water, pour it in the moat and pretend that I was king and nobody could come in unless I lowered the drawbridge that I made out of popsicle sticks. Imagination is a wonderful thing! Gee, maybe I'll go over there tomorrow and build another one. You're never too old, right?

See you in church!

Your friendly church mouse, Nick



God Bless you, Finley, as you are Baptized



On May 14th, Finley John Butch Tisdale was baptized. What a good baby and a true blessing to his parents, Jade and Heath. His Godparents are Shauna and Mark.



A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Members



We're excited to welcome
three new members into our church!
Bob B. and his wife, Marianne, & Louis H.



Congratulations to Khloe and Joey, who were Confirmed on May 21st

They wrote this beautiful, meaningful Statement of Faith for all to read. I'd like to share it here, with you.

**I believe in God, the Almighty, creator of
Heaven and Earth.**

**We are called to follow God and to live a
faithful life.**

**Jesus came into the world to save us from our
sins.**

**From Jesus, we learn to love others, no matter
who they are.**

**When we pray, learn and worship, we grow
closer to God.**

God wants us to be better people.

**God promises to always walk with us, no
matter where we are in life.**

Amen



**Congratulations and thank you to these two inspiring young people! We are so proud of
you! May your confirmation encourage you hold onto your love of Jesus forever.**



Happy Paws Sunday



Also on May 21st, we helped Khloe work on her Silver Award Project that she's in the midst of completing for Girl Scouts. We brought in donations of pet food, toys, blankets/towels, and treats for the Worcester Animal Rescue League (WARL). The Missions Committee donated \$100 worth of items to kickstart this effort. Our Fellowship help make blankets and toys, too! Bev was tediously putting little grains of rice into tiny holes in balls for kitties to play with!



Josh's Service of Farewell and Release

On Sunday, May 28th, we celebrated Pastor Josh's final Sunday service as he and Mason move back to Maine. Rev. Carol Steinbrecher, the North Central Region Area Conference Minister for the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ was with us to participate in the service. It was a difficult time but a beautiful service, followed by a special Coffee Hour in Josh's honor. We will miss him dearly but wish him and Mason well as they enter into their new beginning.



Our Plans for June in



Fellowship

Come and have some fun on **Tuesday, June 6** for our Ten Penny Auction. Bring in a few items that are nice but you no longer want, to be auctioned off. Buy tickets – 10 for \$1, place them in the designated cups, and wait for your winning ticket to be called as you sip on your coffee, munch on your snack and socialize. Then on **June 13th**, we'll be going out for lunch to a place to be determined. You can help us decide at the Ten Penny Auction! At this point, we'll decide whether or not we want to break for the summer. For more information on any of these events, you can call Bev Bean at 508-799-7035 or email her at bevbean@charter.net.

SUMMER

OFFICE HOURS

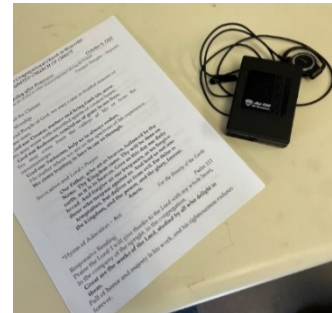
Please note that Shelly will only be in the office on June 5th from 9am – 1pm.
The office will be closed for the rest of that week.

The week of June 11th, the Physical Office will be closed, however, Shelly will be available remotely, reachable by email and through phone messages.



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.



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; Our prayers are also with Mac MacInnes as he recovers from a shoulder replacement; Judy Mitchell requests prayers for her granddaughter, Ellanora; Sue & Norman Anderson request prayers for their daughter, Melanie Anderson, Sue's brother, Danny Waskevich, Norman's brother Stephen, and their friend, Roger Waite. Dawn & Matt Ahaesy request prayers for Dawn's dad, Francis Lajoie and also for Gina Ahaesy; 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. Prayers also for Jane Boggs' brother and his family.

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

Coffee Hour

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!



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. They're growing!

We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

~ Winston Churchill



Russ Goliger

Let us extend a warm welcome back to Russ Goliger, who will be leading most of our Sunday services this summer, beginning in June. It's been a while but it will be nice to see him again, preaching in our pulpit.



ZOOM OR YOUTUBE (YOUTUBE UPDATE)



Our Sunday services will be available via Zoom and afterwards on YouTube by Tuesday the latest! 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=RjhHZGNDZDJyODNHVWFabnRVZ2Vldz09>



You can also find our latest services here: YOUTUBE video's will be available by Tuesday afternoon the latest.

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





June

03 Jane Boggs 03 Marcos Rivera 04 Bob Lingner 05 Daniel Ames
05 Cindy MacLaurin-Waters 10 Steven Hinson 11 Erin McGrail
13 Joyce Thienel 19 Eileen Miles 22 Deb Holmes 23 Bruce Kabasinsky

July

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



June

01 Mac & Connie MacInnes 08 Richard & Renee Mason
24 Jim Capuzziello & Jamie Sullivan

July

24 Bruce & Sue Johnston 29 Matt & Dawn Ahaesy



Carty Cupboard

On the first Sunday of every month, we collect food for the Carty Cupboard food pantry. A big THANK YOU goes out to everyone for their continued donations. Our church contributed 9 bags of groceries in May! Keep up the good work!! YOU ARE APPRECIATED!



Deacons Fund

Also, 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



Sunday

- 04** **8:30 am** Council Meeting
 10:00 am First Sunday after Pentecost ~ FCC Worship Service Communion Sunday with
 Gluten Free Communion and Grape Juice
 Carty Cupboard Collection
 Deacons Fund Collection
 11:30 am Search Committee Meeting
-

Tuesday

- 06** **10:00 am** Fellowship ~ Ten Penny Auction
-

Sunday

- 11** **10:00 am** Second Sunday after Pentecost ~ FCC Worship Service
 11:30 am Trustees Meeting
-

Tuesday

- 13** **10:30 am** Fellowship ~ Out for Lunch
-

Sunday

- 18** **10:00 am** Third Sunday after Pentecost ~ FCC Worship Service
 All Day **Happy Father's Day!**
 11:30 am Deacons Meeting
-



Monday

- 19** **All Day** **Happy Juneteenth Day!**



Wednesday

- 21** **All Day** **First Day of Summer!**



Sunday

- 25** **10:00 am** Fourth Sunday after Pentecost ~ FCC Worship Service
-

*"Far up in the deep blue sky, Great white clouds are floating by; All the world is dressed in green;
Many happy birds are seen, Roses bright and sunshine clear Show that lovely June is here."
— F. G. Sanders*