

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

First Congregational Church, 1070 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602
www.fcc-worcester.org · Office: 508-752-4635 · office@fcc-worcester.org

JUNE ☐ 2022



“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” – *Colossians 2:6-7*

A Time to Grow

In just a couple of weeks, you will see the colors on our communion table and the pulpit change to green. Except for on Communion Sundays and the rare occasion mixed in, we will see green for some time now (through Thanksgiving actually). This period of the church year is known as Ordinary Time, and while that title may make it sound a little mundane or less important, it is in fact a very important season in the life of the church. This is a season for growth, hence the color green. In fact, my green stole (pictured here) actually depicts a vine growing – a reminder of what lies at the heart of this season. It is a time for our faith to root down in Jesus and for our life to grow up and out in love. Through continued lessons from Jesus, in his parables and other encounters and lessons in ministry, we seek to grow as those who follow him.



So how will you nurture your spiritual growth in this season of Ordinary Time? Where do your roots need to be deepened or strengthened? What areas of life need to find renewal? How will you tend to your spirit? And how will you let your growth be a canopy of love and care in our community?

It may be called Ordinary Time, but may we make the most of it! Through our growing, may we make it an extraordinary time!

Growing with you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Josh".

Rev. Josh Fitterling

To the Men of Our Church



They hosted the Mother's Day Coffee Hour and did a wonderful job of it from start – ordering the beautiful carnations – to finish – Cleaning up after themselves! Shelly's son, Joey, and Rev. Josh even made special gifts for us! They even had gluten free choices! What a welcome, thankful day it was!

A Warm Thank You also goes out to **Hampton Bagdasarian** who was kind enough to pay for the flowers, dedicating them to all of the women in our church, past and present. How thoughtful and wonderful of him! Even though he couldn't be with us in person, he was certainly with us in spirit as well as in our hearts. ❤️

What a wonderful start to this special day!





Happy days everyone!

Isn't it nice to see the grass coming up green and the trees and flowers in bloom? I just love how refreshing Spring is. I REALLY had to stay hidden on those HOT days cuz I'm so little and the fans are so strong but I didn't mind.

The morsels that you left me from Mother's Day were scrumptious! The guys did a super job! Guess what's coming up next? Father's Day! We not only celebrate the traditional fathers but lots of other types, too. "Father" is a good word but I think there are lots of men who could be considered fathers. Male leaders are indeed fathers; teachers; preachers; bosses; uncles, to name a few. They all guide their charges whether students, congregations, employees, nieces, nephews or even friends at times. In a sense, I think this is "fathering". That's why I think pretty much ALL men should be celebrated on this special day. (Oh yeah....and the same goes for mother's). I overheard Rev. Josh say "mother-figures" and I think that goes for Father's Day, too. Maybe they should be "Mothering Day" and "Fathering Day". Hmmm...a good point to ponder.

Let us not forget to celebrate our greatest Father of all, God, as well as Joseph who God chose to father His Son here on earth. Indeed, we have a lot to be thankful for!

Well, I'd better get going...Uncle Mickey's ☐ ☐ taking us for ice cream. YUM!! ☐ ☐

HAPPY FATHER-ING DAY! Have a wonderful day!

May God richly bless you,

Nick – Your Faithful Church Mouse



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the efforts of Pastor Josh and Mason to represent our church at this annual event! A special thank you to Connie and Shirley who also joined the walking team! **With your help, we raised \$862 to care for our homeless neighbors!** Thank you!

Pictured is our walk team (Left to right – Shirley, Connie, Pastor Josh, Mason). Thank you all!!



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Worship available via Zoom and afterwards on YouTube



Sunday services continue to be available via Zoom! If you are at home and would like to join us virtually on Sunday mornings at 10am, you can do so by

following this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83102423294?
pwd=RjhHZGNDZDl5ODNHWVFabnRVZ2Vldz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83102423294?pwd=RjhHZGNDZDl5ODNHWVFabnRVZ2Vldz09)

Meeting ID: 831 0242 3294

Passcode: 11824

After worship, our services will be uploaded on YouTube. You can find our latest services here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDQmijukLaC24hwdyayupdg>

or by searching “First Church, Worcester” in YouTube.



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Pentecost Sunday – Sunday, June 5th

(wear your red if you have it!)



Join us for worship on Pentecost Sunday as we remember the birth of the church! Come dressed in **red** (**red pentecost pins will also be available!**)

We will celebrate communion. We will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the Carty Cupboard Food Pantry and donations to the Deacon's Fund, through which we are able to help neighbors in need.

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Music Sunday – Sunday, June 12th

Join us for a special music service, crafted by our talented Minister of Music, Scott Yonker! The music will reflect on the Trinity and the three aspects of God's being – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You won't want to miss it!



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54 Items collected in May – Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who donated non-perishable items for the **Carty Cupboard Food Pantry in May**. Two full baskets of 54 items were collected filling 9 bags that we delivered. Wow! Our **next collection** will be on **June 5th**! Please remember to **check the expiration dates** before donating. They have an abundance of peanut-butter, but would appreciate jelly in plastic jars to go with it. They can also use personal items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, diapers, etc. If you would like to support the effort with a financial contribution, please make checks payable to Wesley United Methodist Church – Carty Cupboard. The Missions Committee delivers everything to Carty Cupboard.



Thank you for your generous support!



Baptism of **Elianna Mae Miles** – Sunday, June 19th

Please join us as we baptize Elianna Miles, daughter of Eileen Miles, and officially welcome her into the church of Jesus Christ! Come and celebrate the wonders of God's grace!

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Sit & Share, Pause & Pray – Wednesdays from 2 to 3pm

Beginning in June, Pastor Josh will be holding an outdoor hour on the front lawn/front steps each week for anyone, church members or community members, to come and spend a little time, sitting, sharing, pausing, and praying! Stop by for a minute, or 10, or more. Not sure where Pastor Josh is set up, just look for this sign!



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Fellowship



On Friday, June 3rd we're meeting in the church parking lot at 9:00 am to visit the Samuel Slater Museum in Webster. This is a historical museum which focuses on textile manufacturing and the life and work of Samuel Slater (1768 – 1835), called by some the "Father of the American Industrial Revolution."

It is located at 31 Ray Street in Webster, MA and the cost of admission is \$10. We will stop for lunch afterwards at Point Breeze. We'd love to have you join us!

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Happy



Birthday

June

03 Jane Boggs
05 Daniel Ames
10 Steven Hinson

13 Joyce Thienel

11 Cassandra Olson
11 Erin McGrail
19 Eileen Miles

July

10 Brittany Hinson
11 Cody Hill Johnston
13 Erika Vecsey

19 Nancy Dalbeck

18 Paul Scherdell
19 Khloe Kapinos
28 Richard Trzcinski

HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!

JUNE

01 Mac & Connie MacInnes

08 Bob & Luz Smith

21 Richard & Renee Mason

July

29 Matt & Dawn Ahaesy

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Please join us for Coffee Hour every Sunday following the church service. Coffee and tea are staples in our kitchen and volunteers bring in snacks and goodies to go with them. If you would be able to provide them sometimes and host a Coffee Hour, it would be great! The sign-up sheet is in the parlor after worship every Sunday. Thank you for your consideration!



We would like to keep Hampton Bagdasarian in our prayers and he also requests prayers for June Kemp; Connie MacInnes requests prayers for her niece Linda; Judy Mitchell requests prayers for her granddaughter, Ellanora; Sue & Norman Anderson request prayers for their daughter, Melanie Anderson, Sue's brother, Danny Waskevich and their friend, Roger Waite. Dawn & Matt Ahaesy request praayers for Dawn's dad, Francis Lajoie; Normalris Rivera requests healing prayers for her and her son Marcos. The Deacons request prayers for Betty Dalbeck, Dr. Richard Hunter, Dolores Trzcinski, Jeanne Fassett, Paul Scherdell and Joyce & Armand Thienel.

Please let us know of your prayer requests

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.

Psalm 17:6

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Please try to have any articles or notices for our Friendly Messenger in by **Tuesday, June 28th** to get them into the July/August newsletter. You can **bring** them to the office, **email** them to the church office at office@fcc-worcester.org , or **call** the office at 508-752-4635. You can also contact me (Sue Anderson), by email at deegram@charter.net , call or text me at 774-253-0715. **Thank you!**

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Church Office Hours

Shelly will be in the office Tuesday – Thursday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

→ **PASTOR JOSH'S OFFICE HOURS** ←

You are likely to find Josh in his office or around the church throughout the week during the times when the church office is open (NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are Tuesday – Thursday from 9am to 1pm). If you wish to schedule a time to chat to ensure he is in the office, reach out to him directly. Josh can be reached by email at pastor@fcc-worcester.org or by cell phone at (610)-750-2688.

→ **PASTOR JOSH'S DAYS OFF** ←

Josh will generally hold Friday and Saturday as days' off for rest and renewal. On Friday, his email will not be checked. If there is a pastoral emergency, Josh can always be reached on his cell phone at (610)-750-2688.

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MISSIONS AT WORK

The Missions Committee is always busy behind the scenes, helping those in need. Most recently we met on May 24th. We'd like you to know how our church helps others through your generosity. Besides Carty Cupboard, and the Walk for the Homeless mentioned above, we have pledged \$100 to WARM (Welcoming Alliance for Refugee Ministry) to help refugees settling in Worcester and \$100 to Holy Joe's Café, a military chaplain's service that provides thousands of free cups of coffee to our troops in 70 countries throughout the world.

We are also looking into having the LOGOS children from Concordia Lutheran Church coming to visit and singing for us again; bringing back the Hope for Housing cards; and the MSPCC Christmas gifts for children in need.

One day at a time, one step at a time, together we can make our world a better place in which to live.

Confident in Christ,

The Missions Committee

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Come and visit our new “Kids Corner” in the narthex where Kids can choose a book to read or an activity to do. They can then bring them into the sanctuary and do them as they sit with their parents or whoever they came with. There are even chairs in the narthex for them to sit on before or after the service as they look at what they've chosen.

If you would like to help with funding for this great project, please give your donations to Cindy MacLaurin, Connie MacInnis or Sue Anderson. It would be greatly appreciated! Thank you!

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Carpet Fund



Our New Carpeting Fund continues to grow! Please continue to add whatever you can spare to the Teddy Bear jar in the narthex. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

May God Richly bless you for your generosity!

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ~ 2 Corinthians 9:7

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TEN PENNY AUCTION

Fellowship will be hosting a Ten Penny Auction on **June 5th** along with Coffee Hour.

WHAT IS A TEN PENNY AUCTION? It is an auction where we all bring in small items that we no longer want or need. If you'd like to donate items to be auctioned off, they would be most welcome but no large items please. Usually it's nick-knacks, puzzles, good books or things of that nature. Please don't bring any more than three items. You can drop off them off in the office or bring them to church by Sunday, June 5th before the service. You could also either leave them on the stage downstairs in the hall or give them to Sue Anderson or Ruth Nickerson.

WHAT DOES IT COST? We sell tickets - 10 for \$1.00. Once you buy your tickets, you can put them into any of the cups that are by each item. Once all of the tickets are in, someone selects one ticket from each cup to draw the winner of that item.

WHO DO THE PROCEEDS BENEFIT? This is a fundraiser for Fellowship.

WHERE? Both Coffee Hour and the auction will be downstairs in the church hall.

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!

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Dates to Remember in June

Wednesday

01 2:00 – 3:00 pm Sit & Share, Pause & Pray with Rev. Josh
(outside)

Thursday

02 6:45 AA Meeting (Hall)

Friday

03 9:00 am Fellowship trip to the Samuel Slater Museum

Saturday

04 10:00 am New Hope SDA (Sanctuary & Parlor)
12:00 pm Church of God (Hall)

Sunday

05 10:00 am Church Service **Pentecost Sunday** ~ **Wear Red!** ~
Communion Sunday ~
We have both regular and gluten free communion ~
~ Early Cupboard food collection ~
11:00 am **Ten Penny Auction** with Coffee Hour downstairs in
the church hall.

11:30 am Ghanaian Resurrection Ministries (upper level)

Monday

06 7:00 pm AA Meeting (Hall)

Tuesday

07 10:30 am Fellowship

6:30 pm AA Meeting (Hall)

Wednesday

08 2:00 – 3:00 pm Sit & Share, Pause & Pray with Rev. Josh
(outside)

Thursday

09 6:45 AA Meeting (Hall)

Saturday

11 10:00 am New Hope SDA (Sanctuary & Parlor)

12:00 pm Church of God (Hall)

Sunday

12 10:00 am Church Service ~ *Special Music Sunday* □ □ □ □ □

11:30 am Trustees Meeting

11:30 am Ghanaian Resurrection Ministries (upper level)

Monday

13 7:00 pm AA Meeting (Hall)

Tuesday

14 All Day *Flag Day*

10:30 am Fellowship

6:30 pm AA Meeting (Hall)



Wednesday

15 2:00 – 3:00 pm Sit & Share, Pause & Pray with Rev. Josh
(outside)

Thursday

16 6:45 AA Meeting (Hall)

Saturday

18 10:00 am New Hope SDA (Sanctuary & Parlor)

12:00 pm Church of God (Hall)

Sunday

19 All Day *Fathers Day*

10:00 am Church Service ~ baptism of *Elianna Mae Miles*



11:30 am Deacon's Meeting

11:30 am Ghanian Resurrection Ministries (upper level)

Monday

20 7:00 pm AA Meeting (Hall)

Tuesday

21 10:00 am Fellowship

11:00 am Missions Meeting

6:30 pm AA Meeting (Hall)

Wednesday

22 2:00 – 3:00 pm Sit & Share, Pause & Pray with Rev. Josh
(outside)

Thursday

23 6:45 AA Meeting (Hall)

Friday

24 6:30 pm Spirit Life Chapel (Hall)

Saturday

25 10:00 am New Hope SDA (Sanctuary & Parlor)

12:00 pm Church of God (Hall)

7:00 pm Spirit Life Chapel (Hall)

Sunday

26 10:00 am Church Service

11:30 am Council Meeting

11:30 am Ghanian Resurrection Ministries (upper level)

Monday

All Day National Sunglasses Day ☐ ☐

27 7:00 pm AA Meeting (Hall)

Tuesday

28 10:00 am Fellowship

6:30 pm AA Meeting (Hall)

Wednesday

29 2:00 – 3:00 pm Sit & Share, Pause & Pray with Rev. Josh
(outside)

Thursday

30 6:45 AA Meeting (Hall)
