

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

August 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 Monday - Wednesday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm



"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ~ Matthew 13:31-32

The Season to Cultivate

It's that time of year when we wait patiently, or rather impatiently, for our crops to grow and flourish. We look forward to fresh fruits and vegetables with great anticipation. Do we cast out our seeds and hope for the best? It would be nice if that were so, however, it takes much more than that to achieve the best outcome. Following the process of turning and fertilizing the soil, then planting the seeds at just the right depth taking care that they are far enough apart to give each seed its best start is fundamental. Tending our gardens once they are planted is extremely important because we don't want weeds to choke out our crops. They require just the right amount of water as well as sun, so the soil is neither too dry nor too wet. We know that either could be catastrophic for our gardens. We have faith that if we give them just the right care, it will be well worth our efforts in the end and we will reap plentifully. We will not only be able to enjoy what we have grown but share with others as well.

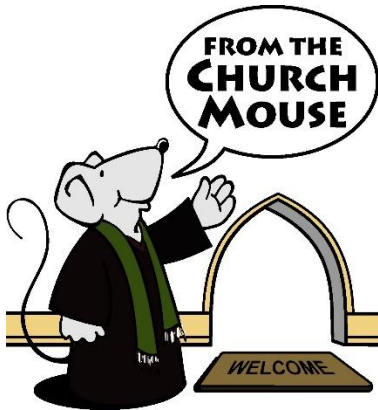
Our faith, like our gardens, must also be well cultivated and nourished. From the very beginning, we learn to love and trust God, who has given us life. As we grow, we must also expand our faith. Nurturing our faith in Him and helping others to do the same is pleasing to Him. Working on this diligently all our lives will aid us in reaching our final reward in heaven. Imagine how wonderful it will be! God has planted us here, nurtures us, guides us, loves us, gives us hope for a perfect life with Him, and watches over us as we love and nurture one another. As our faith is nurtured and grows stronger, we grow closer to God, pleasing Him.

Have faith in the Lord, and our faith will bring great rewards to us.

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." ~ 2 Corinthians 9:6

Thanks be to God,

Sue Anderson



August is here already and we're half-way through the summer! It sure has been a hot one, hasn't it? And thunderstorms...wow! I'm not so sure I like them...they're kinda scary especially if no people are in the church. If it's nighttime, I put my pillow over my head so it isn't quite so loud. My mom used to tell me not to be afraid cuz it's just the angels bowling. Isn't that silly? It did help me not to be quite so afraid though but I'm glad they don't usually last TOO long. On a positive note, the lawns are nice and green, and the flowers and trees are beautiful!

I've been hearing some talk about helping the school kids with backpacks and other supplies. How wonderful! I can hardly believe that school will be starting again next month. In church, I'm glad that Fellowship will be starting up again. It's great to see everyone on Sundays but even better when I see some of you more often. Welllll...plus I get to snack on more goodies. Hehehe!

Now I'm off to take a little swim in the puddle left from all that rain before it dries up!

I hope you're having a great summer!

See you in church!

Your friendly church mouse, Nick



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 is 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!



Coffee Fellowship

SUNDAE SUNDAY!

Come and join us on Sunday, August 6th when Ruth and Sue are hosting an ice cream social! We'll have all the fixings for you to make your own sundae or you might like an enticing root beer float. Even just a cold dish of ice cream will taste good at this time of year.

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

~ from The Simplest Way to Change the World

Carty Cupboard

The First Sunday of Every Month



Thank you so much for bringing us more Carty Cupboard donations. In July, we donated 8 bags of groceries! You made us proud!!

Donating 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.

Thank you for making a difference!

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 9:7



See you in September



Fellowship will begin meeting again on September 12th. We hope to see you there!



Please continue your prayers for our Search Committee as they actively seek a new pastor.

First Congregational Church of Spencer "Ashes to Missions"

As you know, the First Congregational Church of Spencer suffered a devastating fire on June 2nd. Along with our heartfelt prayers, they also are in need of any monetary support we can give them as they contemplate how they will move forward. We are truly grateful that all lives were spared.

As a church, our Missions Committee will donate \$100. Our Deacons Committee will add the Deacons Fund collection that will be taken on **Sunday, August 6th** along with any loose money collected on

that day. We will combine this with what was collected in July and will donate it to the FCC of Spencer to aid them in moving forward in their transition. Let us be generous in our love and support for them.

Donations can also be sent to Cornerstone Bank or through their church website, for their "[Ashes to Missions](#)" fund. The link is also posted on our Facebook page.

Thank you and may God richly bless you for your support during this most difficult time.

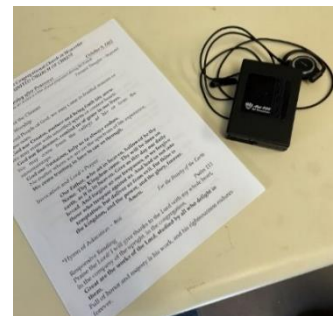


"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" Martin Luther King, Jr.



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 Jar in the narthex before the service and in the parlor following it. At last count we had about \$450. They're growing, slowly but surely!

"We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something." ~ Mother Teresa



A big Welcome Back to Beth Letourneau

who is filling in for Doug Perkins as he recuperates from his car accident.

Thank you, Beth!



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. Your contributions are greatly appreciated! Thank you and God bless!



"Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others." ~ Booker T. Washington



"Set For Success" ~ Could you, Would You Help?



The \$2,500 Neighbors in Need Grant that First Church Received for Outreach in 2023 is being put to good use! On August 25th, Tatnuck Magnet School is having an Open House from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. We will be erecting a pop-up and decorating in the school colors to draw attention to it. We will also put up signage for/from our church. Marianne Bourgault has been working diligently on this project. If you would like to stop by either as a guest or to help out, it would be great!

Marianne has met with the school principal, Erin Dobson, to discuss how to best use the grant. They decided to buy a Cricket math curriculum for grades 3 – 6, buy a sensory path entitled "Blast Off" that can be placed along a corridor and walls to aid students in the lower grades with Attention Deficit Disorder. Everything together, including the Public Relations material comes to \$4450. The principal is confident that she can find someone to donate \$1800 and our Missions Committee will donate the extra \$150.

The school has **backpacks that we would also like to help fill for the school**. There are 400 students. If our church can raise \$1,000 in the three Sundays in August before the Open House, it would allot \$2.25 per student for the supplies. Of course, that still isn't quite enough but it would help a great deal. Also, if anyone has connections with a company or bank that may be able to donate pencils, pens, notebooks, etc., it would be great if you would reach out to them for us.

Thank you for your valuable support!

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 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, 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, 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 continue for MaryKay McGrail as she battles cancer and for Erika Vecsey, who's cancer has returned. We would also like prayers for Doug Perkins, who was in a car accident and is undergoing therapy for a back injury.

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.



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.



August

03 Mary Kay McGrail	04 Jamie Sullivan	05 Judy Mitchell
06 Dolores Trzcinski	08 Robert L. Bourgault	17 Mark Mason
17 Jeanne Fassett	19 George Boggs	25 John Waters
25 April Sinclair	26 Milton (Mac) MacInnes	



September

04 Clarissa Nigro	11 Ronald Taylor	13 Noah Miles
-------------------	------------------	---------------

August

14 Jim & Deborah Mirick 16 Norman & Susan Anderson

September

05 Scott Yonker & Bill Condon 19 Robert & Marianne Bourgeault



Sunday

06 10:00 am The Transfiguration ~ FCC Worship Service Communion Sunday
With Gluten Free Communion and Grape Juice
Carty Cupboard Collection
Deacons Fund Collection ~ Today's collection will be donated to the First
Congregational Church of Spencer for their "Ashes to Missions" fund



Sundae Sunday!

Sunday

13 10:00 am Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost ~ FCC Worship Service
11:30 am Trustees Meeting

Sunday

20 10:00 am Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost ~ FCC Worship Service
11:30 am Deacons Meeting

Sunday

27 10:00 am Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ FCC Worship Service
11:30 am Council Meeting

"Breathe the sweetness that hovers in August." - Denise Levertov

"August is the slow, gentle month that stretches out the longest across the span of a year. It yawns and lingers on with the light in its palms." Victoria Erickson