



First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Messenger

Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Pastor

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A Great Loss

As I am sure you are now aware, our church has lost a great servant with the passing of Rick Mockler.

Rick had a deep love for our church and a commitment to see it advance in our community. He brought his gift for working with numbers to decades of service to the finances at FCC on a daily basis. Always present at work parties and social events he took his discipleship seriously. And that is not even to mention his love of music and his dedication to our church choir and support of the music ministry of the church. He was always present and always available.

And it is important to keep in mind that Rick's level of involvement at our church was echoed by his involvement in other community organizations from the Melrose Day Care Center to the Historical Society, to Polymnia, to the Stone Zoo and the Fells Reservation to name a few.

Rick set an example for us. He really is one of those people that we should look to emulate when it comes to how to engage our faith in the service of the church and the wider community. Despite having lost his beloved wife, Becky, years ago, Rick was not going to live his life in isolation. His example of social involvement is a lesson to anyone who feels it might be better to just withdraw from things because of a great sadness. By reaching out, Rick energized us even as he himself was energized.

You might think that his approach was one born of his days in the Coast Guard; that he was first and foremost about duty. As I knew him, however, it was more about being useful. It was an attitude that said: "People should be able to rely on you."

Yes, Rick will be dearly missed. He had a great deal of institutional knowledge about our church that was simply in his head so, on a practical side, we will be working to unpack his methods in the "Assistant Treasurer" department for some time. But as we all seek to work through this loss, what is most important is to honor his legacy and seek to adopt more of his spirit of dependability, determination, caring and faith now and in the days ahead.

God has welcomed home a very special servant indeed.

See you in church,

Sunday, March 26, 2017

9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School

11:15 AM – Coffee Hour

11:30 AM - Lenten Adult Education Class, Library

7:00 PM – Confirmation Class

DURING THE WEEK

Tuesday, March 28

7:15 to 8:15 PM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 29

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Sunday, April 2 – Food Pantry Sunday

11:30 AM - Lenten Adult Education Class, Library

7:00 PM – Confirmation Class



Brian Johnson, Bob Hughes, Ray Luebbe (Betsy Garrett's father), Mary Sakata and Becky Faro (Trish Faro's daughters), Nyal Fuentes, Claire Griffin, Bill Copeland, Merle Copeland, Gem Colvin, Dot Allen, Bob Pierce, Anne Wing, Ella Boyle, Scott Chisholm.



Congratulations to Erin and Topher Smith on the birth of a son, Benjamin Graham, on March 15. He is 8lbs 6oz and 20 inches long. Big sister Hattie is over the moon excited.



Racial Justice Ministry

The Racial Justice Ministry will be meeting this Wednesday, March 22 at 7:00 pm in the church library. We will talk about events and activities pertaining to racial justice that are happening around Melrose and will continue our discussion about projects that we as a church would like to support or initiate. We hope that you will join us! For more information and to get on our email list, please contact the organizers: Betsy Garrett (betsy.luebbe.garrett@gmail.com) or Beth Hampson (bkashatus@gmail.com). We meet once a month on alternate Mondays and Wednesdays. If you cannot attend the meetings, you are still welcome to be on our email list. Hope to see you this Wednesday!

~ Betsy



Inviting all children to join Treblemakers to perform for Palm Sunday and Easter.

If you are interested, contact Interim Music Director at marikouma@yahoo.com.

Rehearsal schedule

Palm Sunday rehearsal

3/24 – 5:15-6:00pm

3/26 – 11:00-11:15 (*or 15 mins after the service)

3/31 – 5:15-6:00pm

4/2 – 11:00-11:15am *

4/7 – 5:15-5:30pm

4/9 – 9:20-9:50(Palm Sunday)

Easter rehearsal

3/26 Sunday – 11:15-11:45am *the rehearsal would start approximately 15 mins after the service ends

4/2 Sunday – 11:15-11:45am *

4/7 – 5:15-6:00pm

4/9 – 11:00-11:45am rehearsal starts immediately after the service

4/14 – 5:15-6:00 pm

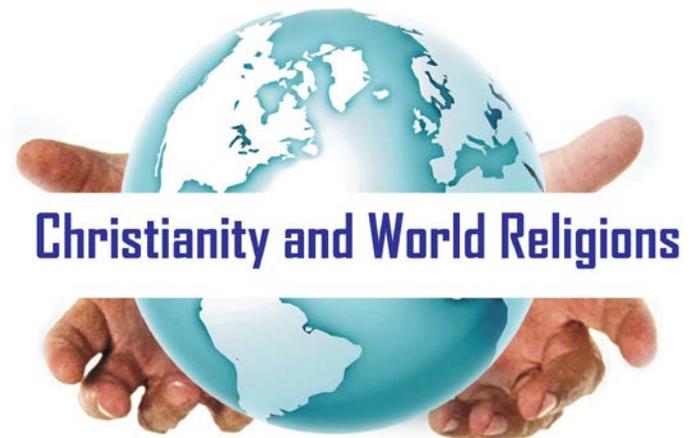
4/16 – Happy Easter! 9:20-9:45



SUNDAY SCHOOL:

We would like to thank all those who signed up for second adult in the k to 2 class We only have 3 slots left to fill until the end of the Sunday school year! We will put out the sign-up sheet next Sunday.

Thank you
Lisa & Sherri



LENTEN ADULT EDUCATION CLASS CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS

After worship each Sunday of Lent

Join Rev. Dominic in the Library after worship during Lent for a discussion based class that will look at world religions through the lens of our own faith tradition. The classes are not built upon each other so you are welcome to join at any point. The classes will be group discussion based and all are welcome. Each class will begin with a starter video from Adam Hamilton outlining the topic of the day. These will include an Introduction Session on how questions around world religions are framed, followed by sessions on Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity.

While Christianity is the largest religion in the world today, there are billions of people who practice other faiths. In this series we will learn the salient features of these other major religions from a Christian perspective in order to lift up points of similarity and difference. Doing so will allow us to better own what it is we believe about our own faith, approach other religions with reverence and respect, and build bridges by learning from other traditions while sharing our own.



Celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing on March 26, 2017

One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. It started during World War II when Protestant churches made appeals for relief and reconstruction. As denominations changed and merged, One Great Hour of Sharing has varied from eight to twenty-nine participating communions. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. Contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing make a difference in the lives of real people. Leaders of impacted communities identify the needs of their people. Priorities for short, medium and long-term solutions are then made for the purpose of improving the quality of life for individuals and the communities. Around the world, One Great Hour of Sharing continues to respond to needs equally critical as when it was first created.



**Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed
Part-time, Monday-Friday
\$12/hr. + mileage**

Our Meals on Wheels Drivers deliver 2000 healthy meals, every weekday, to elders and adults living with disabilities. Our drivers may deliver the only meal of the day to our homebound clients in addition to providing critical social contact a safety check. These few moments of kindness make this service so much more than just the delivery of a meal.

Today additional drivers are needed to meet the increasing demand for home delivered meals in our service area that includes 11 cities and towns. If you are interested in giving back to your community through this part-time job, apply today! Please call Sara at 781-324-7705 ext. 689 or visit our website www.mves.org/join-us/.



**REFUGEE IMMIGRATION
MINISTRY UPDATE**

1. First of all, thanks so much to all of you who have made or pledged financial donations or contributed household goods and personal items! Your gifts have been much appreciated by our Egyptian asylum clients who are struggling to make ends meet for their family of four while the mom awaits further surgery on her foot and dad, although working, is studying for his next dental licensure test. The family takes the bus to Market Basket for groceries since it is cheaper so would welcome gift cards for that store but I believe there is also a Shaw's in Wakefield near their home so those would also be useful. We still need to raise funds for April's rent or as much as we can pay. We continue to welcome donations of money, personal items and household goods. Look for the RIM basket in the narthex!

2. Our E. Boston client has received her work authorization! Yay! Furthermore she has lined up a painting job and continues to look for other work as well. When a client reaches this point, RIM starts to gradually decline their level of support so that we can afford to take on new, more desperate clients on the waiting list. We are talking with our Honduran client and hope she will be independent by next month. In the meantime, we owe back rent to her landlord and must pay April's rent for her.

3. Rent continues to be our greatest problem and the reason our cluster is always looking for money. We would welcome new members with new ideas for fundraisers and new energy! In the meantime, you can help in the following ways:

A. Make a monthly donation to RIM to offer reliable help with rent.

B. Buy spring flowers from RIM (look for publicity coming soon!) and enlist friends and neighbors to do the same.

C. Walk in the RIM Walk for Refugees on May 20 or sponsor someone who is walking. Just go to the RIM website and look for the link for the walk. Be sure to sign up for MetroNorth cluster or sponsor someone walking for us!

D. Buy tickets for the 10th Annual International/Interfaith Concert on March 30. The concert will take place at 7:00 at St. Paul's Church in Malden. Profits from this concert support the central RIM office which helps our cluster in many ways: by meeting with us monthly, providing client caseworkers, contacting lawyers, handling intake and declining support, dealing with cluster/client issues, and much more. See Nancy Toney or Debbie Anderson for tickets or buy them on line (www.r-i-m.net)

E. Look into becoming a host family. There are single people on the waiting list who are currently in detention who could be released if a host living arrangement could be found. Our own Lora Couss was a host for our very first clients many years ago...you can save us rent money while offering a vulnerable person hope.

THANKS AGAIN!

Easter Memorial Flowers - \$15 per plant

Send your order form by April 7th to: Darby Drafts, 25 Adams St., Melrose MA 02176, (Last minute orders may be handed to Darby on Sunday, April 9th.)

Ordered by: _____

Phone #: _____

IN MEMORY OF:



EASTER FLOWERS

of plants ordered _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to First Congregational Church.



**RIM's 10th Annual International Concert
March 30, 2017 at 7 PM**

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church
26 Washington Street
Malden MA*

Tickets: \$20 for Adults; Students free
Buy Tickets on-line: www.r-i-m.net

Refugee Immigration Ministry
6 Pleasant St., Suite 612
Malden MA 02148
781-322-1011

The following groups meet here regularly:

- Boy Scouts** – Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the basement
- Girl Scouts** – Sundays, 3:00 to 5:00 PM
- Al-Anon** – weekdays at 12 noon, Sunday at 1 & 7 PM – Rm. 8
- Blue of a Kind** – Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Music Room
- S.A.R.P.** – Mondays and Tuesdays at 6:30 PM, Lounge
- Tai Chi for Arthritis** – Wednesdays at 10:00 AM, Room 8
- A.A.** – Mondays at 4:30 PM, & 7:00 PM (men), Tuesdays at 4:30 PM, Wednesdays at 4:30 PM & 7:30 PM, Thursdays at 4:30 PM and 7:00 PM, Fridays at 4:30 PM and 8:00 PM and Saturdays at 9:00 AM (men) and 3:00 PM – Rm. 8
- Makam Music Group** – Fridays 7:00-9:00 PM – Lounge and Rm. 1