



First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Messenger

Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Pastor

Mariko Matsumura, Interim Music Director

OFFICE 781-665-2111 - FAX 781-665-8824

E-MAIL info@fccmelrose.org Website www.fccmelrose.org

Rev. Dominic's Cell phone: 781-526-3428

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Re-Enactments

The day after Easter, we went to see the Patriot's Day re-enactments at Lexington and Concord. If you have been to these before, as we have, you know that they begin in a biblical sort of way: "*Early* on the first day of the week". In other words, we were up at something like 3:30 in the morning to make this happen.

It was worth it, though. The costumes, the drums, the gunfire. It really brought all of the events on the Battle Green and the North Bridge to life.

There is something important about re-enactments. Without them, history can feel like a musty old book. History, like faith, is meant to be acted upon.

One of the things that struck me in our Lenten Adult Education series "Christianity and World Religions" was that so many of the non-Christian religions of the world are less concerned with belief in a set of doctrines than they are in a way of living. That is, faith for many Buddhists, Hindus, Jews and Muslims is first and foremost to be practiced—it is an action, something you *do*.

While this is also true in the Christian faith, we have a history of getting caught up in litmus tests. Early Confirmation processes, for example, were all about one's ability to recite the correct catechism. How you lived out the creed you were repeating was inconsequential to the fact that you knew it word for word.

The early split between the eastern and western rites of Christianity, let alone the Protestant reformation, was also founded in differences in belief, not discipleship-in-action.

When it comes to our faith, re-enacting the ministry of Jesus and acting on his call in our lives today brings everything together and full circle. That is, like riding a bike, Christianity cannot be learned in the abstract. You have to get outside and see how it feels to live it.

In addition, when you center yourself in living out your faith rather than making sure you have the right creed pasted to the back cover of your bible, you find yourself working with other people of faith who may view things very differently from you but you are *doing* the same faith-based work.

And don't be surprised if in such work you, almost by default, end up building bridges with people of other faith traditions as well.

Lexington and Concord were great fun. They reminded me to think of each Sunday worship service as a re-enactment of what makes us who we are as followers of Christ.

See you in church,

Sunday, April 30, 2017 Earth Day Celebration

9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

**10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School
"Stewardship of the Earth"**

11:15 AM – Coffee Hour

**12:00 – 4:00 PM – Confirmation Class Spirituality Retreat
at Highlands Church**

DURING NEXT WEEK

Tuesday, May 2

2:00 PM – Circle 4, Lounge

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

Wednesday, May 3

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Sunday, May 7 – Food Pantry Sunday

Walk for Hunger

10:00 AM – Worship



Anne Wing, David Gauvreau, Lorine Timmermann (mother of Lori), 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, Scott Chisholm.

✠ *Our sincere prayers and sympathy go out to Jose Perea and family. His mother passed away in Colombia last week. Jose is our Nursery Coordinator and Sunday Sexton.*



Circle 4 will meet at the Church on **Tuesday, May 2nd at 2:00 P.M.**

THE CLIMATE MARCH TAKING PLACE IN BOSTON ON SATURDAY, APRIL 29, FROM 12-3 WILL BRING TOGETHER MANY ENVIRONMENTAL, FAITH-BASED AND JUSTICE GROUPS TO STAND AS ONE COMMUNITY TAKING ACTION FOR THE SAKE OF OUR EARTH AND THOSE WHO INHABIT IT.

Whether you are concerned about the threatened cuts to the EPA, the greenlight given to the Keystone XL pipeline, or other climate news stories, the Climate March will give you an opportunity to make a strong and vibrant presence to stand up for stewardship to our earth.

The UCC Council for Climate Justice and the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries are official co-sponsors for the Washington DC March. Knowing that many of you would have trouble getting to DC, we are also organizing a local contingency to attend the Boston sister-march also on April 29. Please contact Lori Timmermann if you would like to attend (MelroseSolarCoach@gmail.com). Logistical details soon to follow.

With gratitude that you are willing to join me for making a difference in the future of our planet, the safety of our communities and the health of our families.

Best, Lori



RIM's Spring Flower Sale is Here!

Orders will be taken through Sunday May 7th with delivery on Sunday May 14th, Mother's Day!

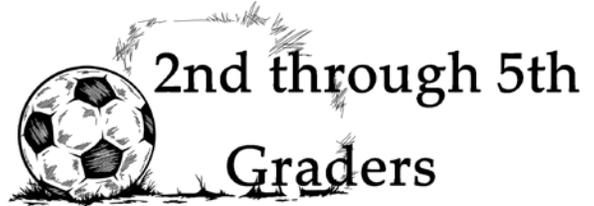
YARD SALE IS COMING!!

Saturday, June 3rd
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
More Info to follow.



We need a primary adult for the nursery to help fill in for Jose. Please contact Lisa (mlwarner98@verizon.net) or Sherri (sltjmtj@hotmail.com).

SUNDAY SCHOOL:



You are invited to participate in 2 soccer skills sessions Led by the Middle and High School Church Youth

When? During Sunday School on 4/23 and 4/30

What to Wear/Bring? Comfy clothes and sneakers, water bottle, soccer ball if you already own one.

Where? The Basement. The youth will escort the kids down. Parents can pick up there after service.

How? The youth have planned drills to work on passing, dribbling and shooting.

Why? We have a VERY active group of youth this year and they have been reviewing the role that coaches and other activity leaders play in their lives. We noted that they may spend as much time with these leaders as any other role models.

The youth compared positive & negative experiences to prepare for their role-reversal and came up with some coaching goals:

- To Be Positive
- To Be Prepared
- To Try to Coach to Each Child's Level
- To Listen
- To Give Equal Attention to All
- To Balance Competitive with Encouraging
- To Keep It Fun





***FITCH HOME
Annual Spring Tea***

***Sunday, May 7
1:30 PM to 3:30 PM
75 Lake Avenue, Melrose MA***

Please join us in visiting our beautiful retirement Home. Our residents look forward to this special occasion to greet you and your guests. Enjoy dessert with a cup of tea or coffee. You are also invited to tour our home.

*Sponsored by the Fitch Home
Association and Kappa Delta Psi*

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 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



The Music Director Search Committee is happy to announce that it has selected three candidates to interview.

In the first 45 minutes of each interview, we are asking the candidates to perform some hymns and provide sample music instruction to those present.

We invite you to be part of this important element of the interviewing process. We ask that you participate only if you can attend ALL THREE interviews so that you'll be able to provide feedback for all candidates.

The candidates are being interviewed:

- **Saturday, May 6 at 2:00 pm**
- **Sunday, May 7 at 1:00 pm**
- **Sunday, May 7, at 3:00 pm**

If you have any questions, please contact one of the committee members:

Ann Ahlin, Tom Foth, Betsy Garrett, Beth Grzegorzewski, Bob Jamison, Lisa Jamison, Michael Leskiw, Jaime McAllister-Grande, Rev. Dominic Taranowski.