



First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Messenger

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Welcome Mariko Matsumura!

It is with great joy and excitement that we welcome Mariko Matsumura as the new Director of Music Ministry at First Congregational Church!

Mariko has, of course, been our Interim Music Director since September and has done an outstanding job in this capacity. When she began last fall, we set the expectation that she was simply to “hold things together” while we looked for a permanent person. Mariko, however, did no such thing! She took the Interim position and worked hard to expand and innovate our music ministry. She engaged young families and children in particular. She connected well with our established members and approached new people to become involved. Her welcoming and approachable manner, coupled with crafting low-commitment ways to get involved, quickly endeared her to many in the congregation.

Mariko comes to us from First Parish Malden, Unitarian Universalist Church where she was the Music Director and soloist. She was also the Music Director at Interfaith Chapel at Brooksby Village in Peabody. Along with being a soprano soloist, she plays both the piano and organ and has experience leading both adult and children’s ensembles. Her other staff positions include the Franklin School for the Performing Arts and Chorus Boston.

You will note that her new job title at our church is not “Music Director” but rather “Director of Music Ministry”. This is to reflect the fact that this position is no longer simply a traditional organist/choir director position but instead is one that coordinates the various musical groups in our church while also exploring new models of music ministry at FCC.

Given Mariko’s popularity, many have asked why the Search Committee took the time to interview other possible candidates. The reason was twofold: It assured that our church got the best person possible, and

it reinforced for Mariko that she earned this position through competing in a thorough search process involving other well qualified candidates. You can be sure that no shortcuts were taken in this search process and the committee worked with intentionality each step of the way.

A huge thank you, then, to the Search Committee members: Jaime McAllister-Grande (Chair), Tom Foth, Betsy Garrett, Bob Jamison, Lisa Jamison, Ann Ahlin, Michael Leskiw, and Beth Grzegorzewski. Each of these people gave up many hours of their time to guarantee a fair, methodical, and complete process that not only sought out the best candidate, but also evaluated our current music ministry and its future trajectory.

Thank you also to those of you who came to the performance part of our interview process and provided feedback. Your time and opinion were invaluable.

So if you haven’t had a chance to introduce yourself to Mariko, please do! And if you have ever considered becoming involved in any aspect of the music at our church, she is sure to make doing so as easy as possible for you and a lot of fun as well!

This is a great time to remember that the music of our church belongs to the entire congregation and we count on everyone’s involvement—and that includes YOU!

Welcome Mariko!

See you in church,

Sunday, May 21, 2017 Confirmation Sunday

9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

9:30 AM – Confirmands gather before worship

10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School

11:15 AM – Coffee Hour

DURING NEXT WEEK

Tuesday, May 23

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

Wednesday, May 24

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Sunday, May 28

10:00 AM – Worship

Begin drop-off of Yard Sale items





Bill Albright, Anne Wing, David Gauvreau, Grandmother Terri Cook and Uncle Dan Cook (of Beth Grzegorzewski), Lorine Timmermann (mother of Lori), Bob Hughes, Ray Luebke (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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL:

We would like to thank all the teachers that attended the brunch and welcomed Dunia to the Ministry. We would also like to thank all the parents and teachers involved in the planning for Church School Sunday. Sherri is working on finalizing the details and will be in touch with everyone involved.

"Reminder: All confirmands should be at church by 9:30 this Sunday to prepare for Confirmation Sunday."



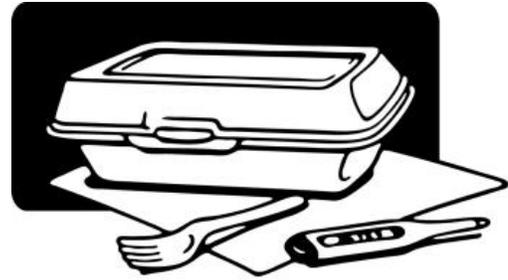
Do you have a family member graduating from college this spring?

Please let the church office know, so that we can share in congratulating them with their church family.



Reflect and Respond

Rev. Dominic will be hosting a Reflect and Respond session after worship on Sunday, May 28th. This will be held in the Library and will be a time to discuss the themes of the worship experience. All are welcome to ask questions, share, and benefit from the reflections of others. Please let Rev. Dominic know if you would like child care. It can be easily provided if needed.



Take Home Meals

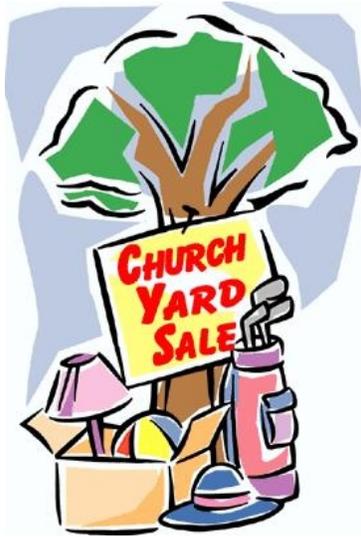
TAKE A BREAK FROM MAKING DINNER AND SUPPORT RIM!

Our youth will be making "Take home meals" for our congregation to purchase to help support our RIM clients.

Next Sunday, May 21st, after worship, you can buy either a 4-serving family size for \$20 or 2-serving size for \$10 of either: ***Baked ziti with sausage, Chicken teriyaki with rice*** or ***Vegetable tamale pie***. Take the meals home and pop them in the oven for dinner or put them in your freezer to eat at a later date. All the proceeds from this fundraiser will go directly to support our RIM clients!

All meals will be ready to take home after Worship on Sunday May 21st. If you will not be at Church next Sunday and want to get in on this delicious deal, email Nancy Brincheiro at nbrincheiro@gmail.com and our youth will take your order, make it for you, and put it in the Church freezer.

We would gladly accept monetary donations for the ingredients to make these meals. If you would like to contribute, please see Kris Carbonneau or Catherine Dhingra.



OUR ALL CHURCH SPRING YARD SALE AND BAKE SALE is less than a month away!

Save the date...

SATURDAY
June 3rd
9am-1pm

There are three ways you can get involved...

FIRST, please take a look around your attic or garage and bring those treasures that you've been storing since you redecorated, or meaning to donate to be reused/reimagined! Donations of clean, usable, working items may be dropped off in the Narthex (by the sculpture) beginning Sunday, May 28th after church and no later than Friday at noon.

SECOND, sign up to help! Sign up to help with set-up on Tuesday May 30th through Friday June 2nd from 10-12 noon and 7-9 pm when we'll be unpacking items, pricing them and putting them out on tables by category. You can also sign up to bake for the bake table! We had great success last year selling small packages of individual bars, cookies and snacks that can be eaten on the go! You can also work at the bake table on the day of the yard sale!

THIRD, join in on the day of the YARD SALE! We need check-out "cashiers", checkout baggers, and lots of workers at the tables and walking around, organizing tables. Finally, at 1pm, there's everyone's favorite: clean up!!

See Jim and Lisa Oosterman for more details.

Spring Bake Sale

We are once again having a Bake Sale at the Yard Sale on June 3rd! We'll be offering cookies, bars, muffins and scones. Gluten-free options are welcome! Please bag cookies and bars 4/bag and muffins and scones 2/bag. Also please label, and mark if there are nuts or no nuts. Questions? Contact Sallie Klemm shklemm@verizon.net or 781-665-0159.



The RIM Walk is Saturday May 20th

Join us to walk three miles at your own pace around beautiful Lake Quannapowitt at 10 am to show support for asylum seekers and refugees in nearby communities. If you can't walk and want to support our team of walkers, directions are below. Thanks for your continued support!

To register or to donate online go to www.r-i-m.net Click on *A Walk for Refugees*, click *Sign Up Online*, click either *Join Now* or *Donate*, click *Choose a Team*, click *MetroNorth Cluster*! Or see Debbie Anderson, Bill Chetwynd or Nancy Toney at Coffee Hour. Thanks
No fees to register

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 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

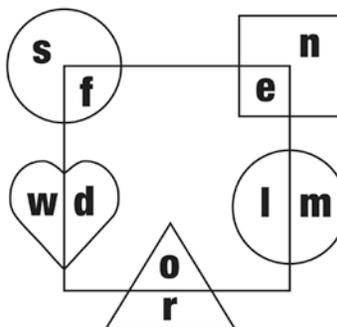


GOD CARES FOR YOU!

Jesus tells his followers not to worry about their daily needs.
 What example does he give of God's care for his creation?

Directions:

To complete Luke 12:27 (NIV), match the shapes under each blank with the letter shapes shown to the right.



“Consider how the wild _____
 grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you, not even _____
 in all his splendor was _____
 like one of these.” Luke 12:27, NIV

Answer: “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.” Luke 12:27, NIV