



First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Messenger

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Simplifying Things

As we continue to struggle through these uncertain days, I recently came across a reminder of what is truly important from an old source. I am sure many of you remember Robert Fulghum's "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten".

Here are some words from Fulghum to help keep you centered:

"All I really need to know about how to live and what to do and how to be, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sand-pile at Sunday School. These are the things I learned:

Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Take a nap every afternoon.

Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.

Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup—they all die. So do we.

Think what a better world it would be if we all—the whole world—had cookies and milk at about 3 o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankies for a nap. Or, if all governments had as a basic policy to always put things back where they found them and to clean up their own mess.

And it is still true, no matter how old you are: When you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together."

When things around you feel out of control, it is best to return to the basics and these are the basics.

In the end, we learn the same thing from every religious tradition and every beckoning of our conscience: What matters is kindness. What matters is thoughtfulness. What matters is being on your best behavior and looking out for one another.

We have a habit of complicating things. Of course, with a 2,000-year-old tradition like Christianity, we have had plenty of time and lots of practice doing just that! And yet, I think if we were to ask Jesus to sum up what he was trying to teach us, he would simply say:

"Listen to God. Listen to yourself. Act out of the best person you are. Do that, and you'll be fine."

See you in church,

Sunday, May 28, 2017

9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School

11:15 AM – Coffee Hour

11:15 AM – Reflect and Respond, Library

After worship – Begin drop-off of Yard Sale items

*THE FRESH FLOWERS are in loving memory of
Lillian and Ralph Margeson,
given by Emelie and Bud Burnham and family.*

*THE STEEPLE is lit this week in memory of Herb Schurian,
through a gift given by his wife, Nancy Schurian.*

DURING NEXT WEEK

Monday, May 29

Memorial Day – Office closed

Tuesday, May 30

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

Saturday, June 3

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – All-Church Yard Sale and Bake Sale

Sunday, June 4 – PENTECOST – Wear your RED!

Food Pantry Sunday

Graduation Sunday

10:00 AM – Worship

11:15 AM – Spring Congregational Meeting with election of officers

REFLECT AND



RESPOND!

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.



Bill Albright, Anne Wing, David Gauvreau, Grandmother Terri Cook and Uncle Dan Cook (of Beth Grzegorzewski), 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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Toddlers to 5 - We are learning how the disciples spread the message of God's love after Jesus ascended to heaven.

The power of Saul turning to Paul, Peter's ministry and the power of prayer and how the angels released him from jail. We will talk about how we grew spiritually we know more about praying, listening, and talking about God's love with others. We look forward to sharing our lessons and how God's love shines through us on Church School Sunday.

Middle School in the next few weeks will participate in a series called Winning and Competition led by Beth Hampson. The kids have explored how the Bible addresses competition through the story of Cain and Abel and the rivalry between King Saul and David. We have discussed how the words we use in competitive situations can destroy or maintain relationships and that we must be thoughtful about how we use our words.

This month's high school discussions are on the topic of refugees and immigration and includes a mission activity to raise awareness and funds for our Refugees.

We value the time we have with your children each Sunday and we thank you for your participation in our Sunday School program.

Yours Truly,

Sherri and Lisa

WARRANT FOR THE SPRING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in MELROSE, UCC

To the Members of the First Congregational Church in Melrose, United Church of Christ:

In accordance with the by-laws, the 169th Spring Meeting of the First Congregational Church in Melrose, UCC is called to be held in the church on **Sunday, June 3, 2017 at 11:15 am**. This meeting is called by the Deacons and Trustees to act upon the following Articles:

Article 1: To receive and act upon the reports of staff members;

Article 2: To receive and act upon the reports of the Deacons and Trustees;

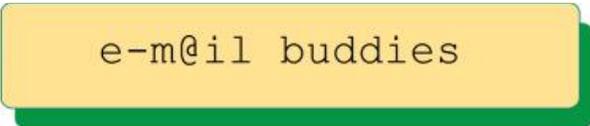
Article 3: To receive and act upon the reports of other committees and affiliated boards;

Article 4: To receive and act upon a proposed change to the by-laws.

Article 5: To receive and act upon the reports of the Deacons and Trustees acting as a Nominating Committee and to elect Deacons for terms beginning July 1, 2017.

Article 6: To transact such other business as may legally come before the meeting.

Becky Fuentes and Darby Drafts,
Co-Trustees of Congregational Records / Clerk

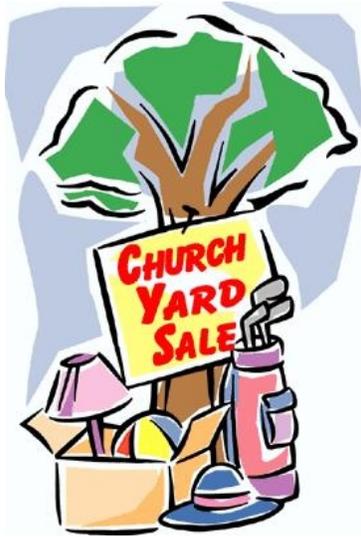


Email Buddies

There are occasional times in the life of the church when we need to communicate news quickly outside the use of the Messenger. Typically, we use email to accomplish this. During the summer this is especially the case since we do not have regular worship services and the Messenger is on hiatus. Email, then, becomes all the more important.

We are aware, however, that some parishioners do not use email or don't check their email regularly. For such people, we would like to develop an "Email Buddy" program. It would work like this: When an email is sent out to the congregation, each person who does not have email would get a phone call from a pre-assigned person who does have email to pass along the information.

If you are a person without email access and you would like to sign up to receive a call from someone, please call Sallie Klemm at 781-665-0159 and we will get you an email buddy! If you are someone with email access and would like to be a buddy to someone who doesn't, please let Sallie know at shklemm@verizon.net. Thank you!



OUR ALL CHURCH SPRING YARD SALE AND BAKE SALE is a week from Saturday!

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.



Dear members of First Congregational Church,

I would like to invite you to join me in a Music Ministry Committee!

Just like any other committees, we will meet approximately every two months to share our vision and plan activities that help grow our music ministry. I would like this invitation to be extended not only to musicians but also to anyone who appreciates the power of music.

We would start meeting once or twice over the summer to discuss what our long term and short term goals are. We will talk about what we can do to accomplish those goals.

We will plan activities, such as fundraising, outreach for the local communities, i.e. caroling for a nursing facility. We will brainstorm any musical activities that encourage folks outside and inside to appreciate what this church stands for.

I strongly encourage everyone to consider participating. If you like to think out of the box, or you are simply well-organized, or you want to be part of something important but did not know where to start, this is for you. This is a planning committee, **you do not have to be a musician as long as you have an appreciation for music ministry.**

I promise I will not force you to sing just because you are a part of this committee.

The committee will work closely with myself, and we will report and/or seek counsel from other music ensemble leaders as needed.

Please speak to Rev. Dominic or myself to discuss this opportunity further.

I am truly excited for my new position. I cannot wait to plan our future of music ministry.

Mariko Matsumura
Director of Music Ministry



Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2017

(L. to R.) Adam Larzelere, Adam Drafts-Johnson, Myles Warner, Alex Brincheiro, Eden Hudson, Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Andrea Mortimer, Shane Buckley Fennell, D.J. Darwin, Will Durant and Zachary Gillette

A Note from Duncan Vinson:

It's hard to believe that it has only been 10 months since I was last on the organ bench at First Congregational. As some of you know, I experienced a change in my family situation during my tenure at FCC, and I decided to pursue a career change into social work. When I resigned in the summer of 2016, I was halfway toward earning a master's degree in social work from Salem State University.

May 18 was my graduation date, and I will be beginning a job immediately after as a mental health clinician in southeast Massachusetts. I will be working for Community Counseling of Bristol County as part of an emergency services team that serves Taunton, Attleboro, and nearby towns. The day after graduation, I will be moving to an apartment in Attleboro, a short distance from the office and from my daughter Maggie's other home in Rhode Island. I lived in the Providence metro area from 1997 to 2004, and I still have some old friends there that I am looking forward to seeing again.

I want to thank all of you for the opportunity you gave me when you hired me as your music director in 2011. My time with FCC was a gift that allowed me to do what

I love and also to build job skills toward my future endeavors. I will always be involved with music in some way. I expect that I will continue to play church music gigs on an occasional basis as my schedule allows. I also hope to publish some of the arrangements and compositions that I developed for FCC's services.

Best wishes to all of you.
Duncan Vinson

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