



First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Messenger

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Keeping Things Separate

Since it has been in the news, some have asked me if I think it would be a good thing if churches were given the ability to be more directly active in politics; elections in particular. The answer, for me at least, is no. I don't think this would be a good thing.

There are many reasons why the founders of our country made the separation between church and state that they did. One negative reason for marrying politics and churches today has to do with money. Quite simply, those churches with more money and more notoriety would have a disproportionately loud voice. The playing field would not be fair.

We already see this today even without any changes. Say the name John Dorhauer and the United Church of Christ in mixed company and you will undoubtedly get quizzical looks. Say the name Franklin Graham and the Southern Baptist Church and people will probably nod in recognition of the name at least.

This is problematic because those with the larger microphone, like Graham, can end up speaking for what is really a very diverse population of Protestant Christians. When, for example, he insists that our faith is the most persecuted in America and says of our current president: "He offended gays. He offended women. He offended the military. He offended black people. He offended the Hispanic people. He offended everybody! And he became president of the United States. Only God could do that" I wish he would not speak on behalf of Protestantism.

Yet Graham and others like him do just that. How does this happen? Notoriety and money. While United Church of Christ President John Dorhauer may enjoy a solid, upper middle class income, it is nowhere in the range of Graham's \$25 million net worth. That, along with a household name, account for the fact that when news commentators "turn now to a Protestant point of view", Graham shows up and Dorhauer doesn't.

So I am all in favor of repainting the lines separating churches and direct, political partisanship.

I also take solace in the fact that Jesus' sphere of influence (like the UCC's) may not have been as large as he would have liked but it was more than enough for God to work with because God has never worked from the top down but from the bottom up.

See you in church,

Sunday, June 11 Church School Sunday

9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

Children's' Music Rehearsals:

9:00 - Let us Pray, Prepare Ye

9:15 - Butterfly

9:30 - Dry Bones

10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School

11:15 AM – Coffee Hour

DURING NEXT WEEK

Office closed Monday and Tuesday - Sue at Secretaries' Conference at Craigville

Monday, June 12

7:00 PM – Racial Justice Ministry, library

Tuesday, June 13

7:00 PM – Deacons and Trustees, Library

This meeting is for both incoming and outgoing Deacons and Trustees

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

Thursday, June 15

1:00 PM – Staff Meeting

4:00 PM – Bread of Life Dinner, American Legion, 368 Pleasant St., Malden

Friday, June 16

Deadline for articles to go in the Summer Messenger for announcements from now through fall

Sunday, June 18 – Father's Day

10:00 AM – Worship

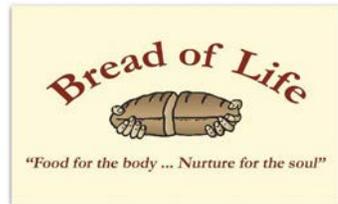
1:00 to 4:00 PM – Annual Church Pool Party at the Oostermans



Emelie Burnham, Bill Albright, Anne Wing, 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, Michael Connelly, Francois.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

This Sunday is Church School Sunday! All of the Sunday School classes will be participating in and running the church service. Parents, please have your children at church by 9:40 so we can get organized and make sure everyone knows their parts. There are some things you can be practicing at home this week too...Toddlers/Preschoolers (sing This Little Light of Mine), Grades K-2 (The Lord's Prayer), Grades 3-5 (scripture memory verses they've been provided). We can't wait to show everyone what we've been learning all year!



BREAD OF LIFE

Our church volunteers will be cooking and serving the evening meal at

Bread of Life in Malden on **Thursday, June 15th** from 4pm until 7pm. The location is the **American Legion Post 69, 368 Pleasant Street, Malden MA**. More volunteers are always welcome... contact Sallie Klemm shklemm@verizon.net for more information.



Children who would like to participate in the music program for **Sunday School Service on 6/11/2017** are invited to rehearse in the music room immediately after service. All ages are welcome. Additional

rehearsals are listed below. If you have any questions and suggestions, please speak to Mariko Matsumura, Director of Music Ministry.

- 6/9 Friday
- 4:00-4:45 - Dry Bones
- 4:45-5:15 - Butterfly Flyaway

- 6/11 Sunday morning
- 9:00 - Let us Pray, Prepare Ye
- 9:15 - Butterfly
- 9:30 - Dry Bones

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.

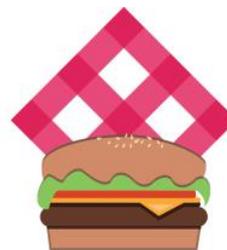
We are aware, however, that some parishioners do not use email or don't check their email regularly. For such people, we would like to develop an "Email Buddy" program. It would work like this: When an email is sent out to the congregation, each person who does not have email would get a phone call from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



6th Annual Church Pool Party on Fathers' Day, June 18th, 1 PM until 4 PM at the Oosterman's, 54 Ellis Farm Lane, Melrose

Lawn games, pool toys and snacks provided. Feel free to bring your own picnic, blanket, games, snacks, floatation devices, etc.



End of Year Cookout

FELLOWSHIP EVENT REMINDER

Be sure to look at your calendar and pencil in the All-Church Cookout for Sunday, June 25th. **Look for the Sign-up sheet for the cookout after worship in the Narthex on Sunday!**



WHAT A DAY!!

The Annual Yard Sale and Bake Sale was a fantastic success!!

Many thanks to all who donated items*, helped set up throughout the week, baked delicious treats, worked on the day of the sale, and helped get the leftovers to the organizations we

donated them to! It was not only a fundraising success with **over \$3,500.00** raised, but also a chance for people to work together and form new friendships! Many people, both long-time members and people new to our congregation shared this time together and it was just great! To everyone who generously contributed their time, talent and treasures to make the Yard Sale a success— thank you, thank you, thank you!

~Lisa & Jim Oosterman

**If you donated items and would like a donation receipt for your taxes, please see Candy Brower.*



Congratulations to this year's High School graduates:

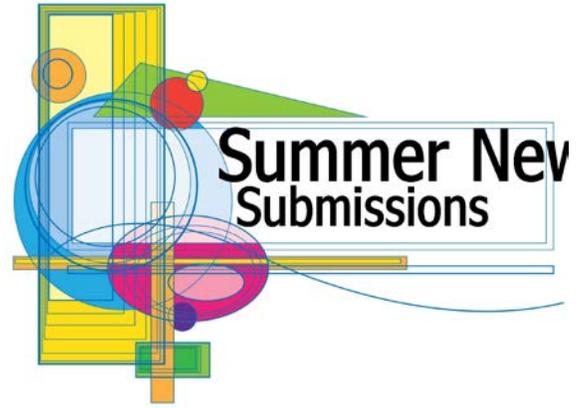
Lea Bagley, Frances Garrett, Yvane Ngassa, Emily Nguyen, Jesse Orton, Sophie Sniegocki, Cole Wagner



The First United Methodist Church of Melrose is holding a bike drive to support Bikes Not Bombs,

<https://bikesnotbombs.org/>,

from 12-3 pm on Sunday, June 25. We accept all bicycles that are in good shape with no rust on the frame, but no tricycles please. Please email the office at fumc@fumcmelrose.com to arrange for a pickup if you can't make the bike drive. Thank you for helping us reach our goal of donating 100 bikes to this amazing organization!



MESSENGER DEADLINE for items to go in the last Messenger for the season is Friday, June 16th. That Messenger will be sent out by June 21st.

We are looking forward to seeing summer items and also previews of upcoming fall events.

Please think ahead to your activities that will take place this summer and in the fall and give us information to publicize those activities.

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



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