



First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Messenger

Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Pastor

Mariko Matsumura, Director of Music Ministry

Dunia Velez, Administrative Assistant for Youth Programs

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

SUMMER EDITION

VOLUME 99

June 23, 2017

Number 41

The Faithful Purpose of Summer

Please take time to look over this edition of the Messenger because the next edition will come your way at the end of August. Any critical information you may need over the summer will come your way by means of a special email from the church office. In the meantime, I hope to see you at our Outdoor Worship Service and Cook Out Sunday on June 25th before a great summer of rest.

And, yes, it is okay to rest! Despite our centuries-old, Protestant belief that “salvation comes by faith not works”, we still feel guilty if we aren’t being “productive” in some way—even in the church!

At our Board of Deacons meetings, we often discuss how to involve more people in the programming of our church. During one such discussion recently, I noted an interesting exchange. Someone noted that the people who serve on the board are often the same people and that a core group carries the leadership of the church.

This was countered by someone else who, while agreeing, offered that while the faces on the board may be familiar there is an incorporation of new people over time. More importantly, if you look at each member of our church you will see that a vast majority of them have been involved in some way, in some project or event, over the course of a program year.

The bottom line: Our people are more active than we give ourselves credit for!

With that in mind, as we move into our Summer Union Services with the other churches in Melrose in July and advanced planning in August for the next program year, I hope you will take time to rest and rejuvenate in the spirit of Christ.

It is never lost on me that the time and energy people give to the life of FCC is in addition to their already busy lives. In order to maintain a healthy church, it is okay to give ourselves license to take a break from

our regular routine of ministry. Jesus himself provided us with his own example. Forever busy with the crowds who followed him, he always took “time apart”, time alone, time to restore his spirit and assure a clear connection with his God.

It is easy to get caught up in “doing church”. This summer is a time to remember that “being” is the foundation of “doing”. We cannot be successful in our doing the work of Christ unless we build that work on a solid sense of being in relationship with Christ. Firming up that foundation of “being” means slowing down, taking time to breathe, listening, and trusting God to take the wheel while we re-center our own hearts in Christ.

In other words, I pray that you use this summer to remember who you truly are and to whom you belong: a loving God who validates you, empowers you, heals you, and celebrates you.

Remembering this will allow you to replenish your spiritual reservoir and look forward with excitement and new-found energy for re-engaging in the many ministries of FCC when we re-gather for our Welcome Back Sunday in September!

In the meantime, “be still and know that God is God” (Psalm 46:10).

See you in church,

Rev. Dominic



Join Us
for
Outdoor
Worship

Sunday, June 25

9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

10:00 AM – OUTDOOR WORSHIP and Sunday School

11:15 AM – End of Year Cookout,

playground behind the church



Music Ministry Mix and Mingle
Friday June 23 - 6:00 pm at
First Congregational Church

Party for Morning Star Voices, Jubilate Ringers, The New Day String Band, Treblemakers and their wonderful supportive families.

Come share a meal and your stories about participating in Music Ministry!

Bring your favorite dish to share



Emelie Burnham, Bill Albright, Anne Wing, 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.

Congratulations to Hans and Sallie Klemm upon the birth of their grandson, Henry Chiew Klemm, born in Manchester UK. All are doing well.



✝ **Our prayers and sympathy to** Beth Grzegorzewski on the passing of her grandmother, Terri Cook last week.



SUNDAY SCHOOL:

-In class on June 18, the children began making prayer chains. Please work with your children and encourage them to add to the prayer chain all summer long. In September, children will be invited to bring their prayer chains back to church so we can see how they have grown, just as the children grew spiritually and physically throughout the church year.

-We are always looking for more people to add to our Sunday School team! Please reach out to Sherri at sltjmtj@hotmail.com and/or Lisa at mlwarner98@verizon.net and let us know that you'd like to help out!

-Sunday School registration will be held on September 10, 17, and 24.

-MARK YOUR CALENDAR...Teacher Orientation will take place on Thursday September 7 at 7pm



By Lighting our Church Steeple in memory or in honor of loved ones, you can help our church financially. Contact the church office (781-665-2111 or info@fccmelrose.org) to sign up for a week beginning on a Sunday. Your gift will be announced in the Sunday Bulletin and "The Messenger". A \$25.00 per week contribution is suggested.



End of Year Cookout

ANNUAL ALL-CHURCH END-OF-YEAR COOKOUT!

JUNE 25, 2017!

Right after our outdoor service, on the playground behind the church

This is always a fun cookout – and a tradition! The church provides the hamburgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers – and the cold drinks - for everyone.

Where you all join in is with salads, appetizers, and desserts. We always end up with a wonderful buffet!

Ron and Donna Miner
Fellowship

**FELLOWSHIP REMINDER –
LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER 24th–**

Be sure to put "SEPTEMBER 24th – ANNUAL WELCOME BACK COOKOUT!" on your calendar. This gathering is a great time to catch up with church friends, compare notes about fall activities, and as always, enjoy the fantastic food that we always have (thanks to everyone)!

More information to follow! And we wish everyone a great summer! – Donna & Ron Miner

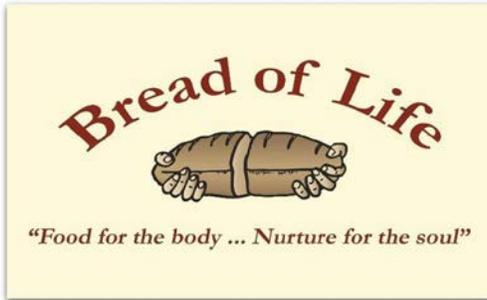


SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host Church</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
July 9	First United Methodist	Rev. Dominic Taranowski
July 16	First Congregational	Rev. Stacey Lanier
July 23	Highlands Cong.	Rev. Michael Wolfe
July 30	Green Street Baptist	Rev. Beth Horne



Circle 4 will meet on **Tuesday, September 12th at 5:00 PM in the Narthex** for our Pot Luck Supper.



**BREAD OF LIFE –
a chance to FEED YOUR SOUL!**

If your schedule is a little more relaxed in the summer, please consider marking the Third Thursdays of the month to help out at Bread of Life! Our team from First Congregational Church volunteers from 4pm – 7pm on the Third Thursday of every month (volunteers are welcome for all or part of the time). We cook, serve, and clean up – it’s a fabulous opportunity to help feed the hungry and your soul at the same time! The location for the meals is:

**The American Legion Post 69,
368 Pleasant Street, in Malden**

– one block from the Malden MBTA station, near the intersection of Rte. 60 and Pleasant Street. (There is a parking lot!!!) The dates this summer that we are serving are:

July 20 and August 17.

If you can’t make it to the dinner but would still like to help, we can always use donations of dessert or large bottles of salad dressing!! If you have questions about this mission of our church, please speak with Sallie Klemm shklemm@verizon.net or 781-665-0159.

Have you ever considered becoming an usher or a communion server? We need you! Ushering and serving communion are both important roles with relatively low commitment. Try it once, or sign up for a regular slot! For more information or to be added to our pool of ushers or communion servers, please email Laura Pollica at laurapollica@gmail.com. Thank you!



**Summer church office hours for July 1 to Labor Day are:
Monday and Tuesday
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM**



Phone messages and emails will be monitored so feel free to leave a message if you need to reach the office at other times.

DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

Wednesday, June 28

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Sunday, July 9

10:00 AM – Union Service at First United Methodist Church

Tuesday, July 11

7:00 PM – RIM meeting, library

Sunday, July 16

10:00 AM – Union Service at First Congregational Church

Thursday, July 20

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

Sunday, July 23

10:00 AM – Union Service at Highlands Congregational Church

Sunday, July 30

10:00 AM – Union Service at Green Street Baptist

Tuesday, August 1

7:00 PM – RIM meeting, library

Friday to Sunday, August 4-6

Umunara Conference at First Congregational

Thursday, August 17

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

Friday, September 1

Deadline for items to go in first Fall Messenger

Monday, September 4 – Labor Day

Office Closed

Thursday September 7

7:00 PM – Teacher Orientation

Sunday, September 10

Welcome Back Sunday

10:00 AM Worship and Sunday School

Sunday School Registration

Tuesday, September 12

5:00 PM – Circle 4 Pot Luck, narthex

Friday, September 14

3:00 PM – Staff Meeting

Sunday, September 17

10:00 AM Worship and Sunday School

Sunday School Registration

Tuesday, September 19

7:00 PM – Deacons, Library

Sunday, September 24

10:00 AM Worship and Sunday School

Sunday School Registration

Welcome Back Cookout



Refugee Immigration Ministry's Metro North Cluster will meet at 7 PM in the church library on Tuesday July 11th and Tuesday August 1. All are welcome to join us!

As you enjoy your yard this summer, think about where you'd like to add some beautiful flowers in anticipation of RIM's annual bulb sale in the fall! Thank you to everyone for your continued support of RIM's mission of building community with uprooted people.

Bill Chetwynd, Nancy Toney, Debbie Anderson

Help our Former RIM Clients Move!

The Ngassa family came to Melrose as clients of Refugee Immigration Ministry when their daughter Yvane was in third grade. Yvane has just graduated from Melrose High and is on her way to Tufts next year. Older sister Naomi graduated last year and has just finished her freshman year at Holy Cross. Gladice and Jean-Pierre have worked long hours to make this future possible for the girls and have also managed to bring Gladice's mother here to live. Gladice has worked for many years on Sunday in our nursery and Yvane has helped her.

Forced to leave their apartment on Main Street by renovations, the Ngassas are on the verge of buying a house in Beverly and should close in mid-July. We are looking for a few people who might be willing to help them move, especially someone with a truck! If you might be able to help, please call Nancy Toney (781-665-6588) with your name and phone number...thanks so much!

RIM Update

Once again, a huge thank you to all of you who have supported RIM clients all this year and particularly in the very busy last month! We have paid the last month of rent for our Wakefield family since the father is working in a community health center doing dental work. We will of course continue to keep in touch with them and let you know how they are doing. Our Honduran client is completing her training as a painter and will soon be financially independent also. We have committed some of your donation money to a Libyan family to pay their housing deposit and may become more involved with them in the fall. We are building up our financial reserves so that we will be able to take on a new client as an appropriate match comes up. We are excited that a couple of new congregations have expressed interest in

joining us. If you would like to help in the RIM office teaching ESL (no experience necessary) or helping people find jobs, please call Nancy Toney (781-665-6588) or contact the Malden office directly at the number on-line. If you would like to meet with clients during the summer to practice English or take them out socially, again please contact Nancy Toney or Debbie Anderson or Bill Chetwynd. Thank you all again for your support.

e-m@il buddies

IF YOU DON'T USE EMAIL

There are times, especially in the summer, when an email message is sent out to the congregation. If you don't use email and would like to be called when an email message goes out to the church, please call Sallie Klemm at 781-665-0159 and we'll arrange an "Email Buddy" for you - a member of the church who will call you and give you the message.



MESSENGER DEADLINE for items to go in the first Messenger for the fall is Friday, September 1st. That Messenger will go out September 6th.

PLEASE NOTE – Most but not all of these groups continue to meet during the summer months.

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

Sunday Worship Service Flower Ministry

First Congregational Church in Melrose, United Church of Christ



The flower ministry is a lovely way to honor a loved one during our worship service. Flowers can be displayed during any Sunday Worship Service or as part of our special Advent and Easter flower display. If you would like have flowers displayed on a Sunday Worship Service outside of Advent or Easter, please complete this form and send it to the Church office. (*Advent and Easter flower dedication information will be in the messenger in the weeks leading up to these services*).

Please indicate the type of flowers would you like to display:

Fresh Flowers: The Church will order flowers from Affairs to Remember in Melrose for any dollar amount you choose and they will be delivered to our Church prior to the service. A typical arrangement costs between \$50-\$75 depending on the size and type of flower you choose. Please indicate any specific flower preferences. The florist will bill you directly for the flowers. You are welcome to take the flowers after the Worship Service if you choose.

Seasonal Silk Flowers: Our Church seasonal silk flower arrangement can be displayed in your loved one's honor for \$15. Please send a check to the Church with a note: **Flower Fund**.

Please indicate if you would like to have this donation every year at the same time. Yes _____ One time only _____

Your Name:

Your Address:

Your Phone and email address:

Date Preference:

Fresh Flower preference and amount:

Other Comments:

Please provide us with the message you would like to appear in the bulletin:

Sample: The flowers are in loving memory of my husband Paul, given by Jane Smith

Please return this form to **First Congregational Church** to the Church Office by mailing it to:
First Congregational Church of Melrose, Flower Ministry, 121 West Foster Street, Melrose, MA 02176.
Any questions feel free to call or email Sue in the Church office at 781-665-2111 or info@fccmelrose.org.



49th Annual Church Secretaries Conference, Craigville MA

I would like to thank the church for providing me the opportunity to attend the **49th Annual Church Secretaries' Conference** from June 11-13. Each June, for about 42 hours, we spend time in the company of others who share our unique ministry in church offices, and we make lasting connections that continue throughout the year through email. In addition to workshops, we share questions, suggestions and support in many forms, and we close with a wonderful worship and communion service led by a pastor of one of our secretaries. It was an incredible experience once again.

Being a church secretary is a very unique job. Since we spend so much time alone in our jobs, being able to network with others in the same profession is invaluable.

Tuesday morning was our time of worshipping and taking communion together before we departed back to our homes. The weather this year was beautiful on the cape, after a few days of heavy rain before we got there. Many spent their free time Monday afternoon outdoors, at the beach or in the sun relaxing and reading. Nowhere have I ever met a group of people that are so upbeat – there were always smiles and laughter.

Again, I thank the church for allowing me the opportunity to attend and learn and bring back so much to First Congregational, Melrose. It is a great resource for professional development with others who truly understand the demands of the job.

Sue Bowdridge