



# First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

## Messenger

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### Love and Responsibility

Another week and two more natural disasters to contend with! Hurricane Irma's devastation and the catastrophic earthquake in Mexico. And this is on top of the continued need to provide help to Texas after Hurricane Harvey.

In this column and from the pulpit I have tried to offer a faith perspective (as well as a faithful response) to these kinds of events. I won't reiterate things here except to add this fundamental piece to the puzzle: Things like this go to the core of Christ's message to us.

Put simply, Jesus came into the world and ministered to disparate people as a way of saying that we *all* belong to God. If we all belong to God, then, consequently, we all belong to each other. More than that, we are responsible for one another because we are responsible to God; who created us all out of pure love.

It is that love and that responsibility that are the pillars of the Christian faith. We can rely on them and we can reinforce them in how we live.

In worship, we feel the renewing strength of God in our lives through Jesus Christ. We feel God's assurance and compassion. We are replenished.

And we need to be replenished because we *should* arrive at worship depleted. I know no one wants to feel depleted, but from a Christian perspective, feeling depleted is a sign that you have shared the love and responsibility you have found in worship. It is okay to feel this way because there is always another Sunday coming when that replenishment is assured.

Natural disasters, social challenges, and personal hardship should always be viewed through this prism: God loves you. God loves everyone. We are responsible to God for that love and responsible to one another and the world because of it.

Living in this dynamic allows our own lives to be fulfilled and the world to be healed.

See you in church,

## Sunday, September 17

**9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal**

**10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School**

**11:15 AM – Coffee Hour and Sunday School Registration**



Emelie Burnham, Bill Albright, Anne Wing, Bob Hughes, 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, Francoise.

### DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

#### Tuesday, September 19

7:00 PM – Deacons, Library

Note: No Rehearsal for Morning Star Voices tonight

#### WEDNESDAY, September 20

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

#### Thursday, September 21

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

#### Sunday, September 24

10:00 AM Worship and Sunday School

Sunday School Registration

Welcome Back Cookout

#### Tuesday, September 26

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

#### 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

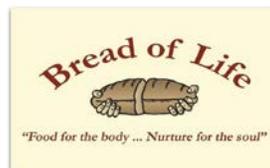
**Blue of a Kind** – Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Music Room

**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



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

**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 next date that we are serving is:

**September 21**

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](mailto:shklemm@verizon.net) or 781-665-0159.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE



### SUNDAY SCHOOL:

#### Teachers needed!

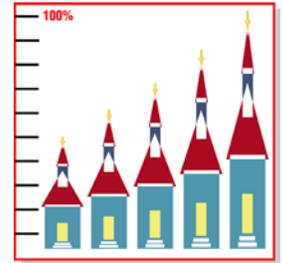
Looking to get more involved with the church? Curious about what the children of our church are learning? Want to get to know a fabulous group of kids? Then we have a spot in our Sunday School program for you! We have a few spots to fill in the teaching line-up for the elementary grades and would LOVE to have you join us! All curriculum materials are provided, and we form teaching teams so that teaching is just a once-per-month commitment. Please reach out to one of our Christian Ed Deacons for more information. Sherri Jackson [sltjmtj@hotmail.com](mailto:sltjmtj@hotmail.com) or Lisa Warner at [mlwarner98@verizon.net](mailto:mlwarner98@verizon.net).



#### Nursery Assistant Position

We're seeking someone for the Nursery Assistant role. If you have a great babysitter who's looking for a small, steady job, or anyone else who is great with kids and can commit to a couple hours every Sunday morning, please let Sherri Jackson know.

The pergola project is complete! Look for word soon on a dedication of this wonderful memorial addition to our church. Also, the opposite side-lawn of the front of the church has also seen dramatic improvement to the landscaping with the addition of trees, widespread mulching under trees, new plantings and a circular bench around one of the central trees. A face lift is also being completed around the book box area. Many thanks to Jim Sugrue and Candy Brower for spearheading these efforts and devoting many hours over the summer to this work!



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Additionally, we are currently at work identifying irrigation lines in order to allow watering on only the center lawn of the church (with the church sign). Once this is done, we will begin an organic re-fertilization of this lawn. This area is to remain grass.

Also, Capital Campaign improvements at the Parsonage were completed over the summer with the final installation of new, energy saving heating and cooling mini-split units.

As we enter the new program year, please make sure that your Capital Campaign pledge is up to date. Thank you!



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

Be sure to put “SEPTEMBER 24<sup>th</sup> – 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)!

See the sign-up board in the narthex on Sunday! –  
Donna & Ron Miner



#### Fall Bulb Sale

The Metro North cluster of Refugee Immigration Ministry is again selling bulbs to support our continued effort to welcome those in need into our community. The bulbs are top quality from Holland and naturalize well. Bulbs will be sold **through Sunday October 1st**, and will be available for pick-up on Sunday October 8th in time for planting on the Columbus Day holiday! Order forms available in the narthex.

# 5K

25th Annual WALK & RUN

MAJOR SPONSORS:



**TUFTS**  
Health Plan



**Eastern Bank**  
JOIN US FOR GOOD



**ANONYMOUS**

*Bread of Life*



"Food for the body ... Nurture for the soul!"

TO BENEFIT THE HUNGRY  
& HOMELESS  
**SUNDAY**  
**OCT 1, 2017**

12PM AT PINE BANKS PARK,  
MELROSE & MALDEN

REGISTER ONLINE AT  
[WWW.BREADOFLIFEMALDEN.ORG](http://WWW.BREADOFLIFEMALDEN.ORG)

**RUNNERS \$25**  
**(\$30 DAY OF EVENT)**

**WALKERS RAISE**  
**PLEDGES**

**ALL PARTICIPANTS**  
**RECEIVE**  
**FREE**  
**T-SHIRT & SNACKS**



### **Hallmark Health VNA and Hospice to Hold Kids and Grief Support**

Children react differently from adults regarding the death of a loved one. To assist in helping children process their loss, Hallmark Health Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice is sponsoring a Kids and Grief Support Group for children ages 6-12.

The next support group for children begins Wednesday, September 27, 2017 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. and meets every other week for six sessions. A parents and caregivers support group meets at the same time.

According to Judy Seifert, Bereavement Coordinator at Hallmark Health VNA and Hospice, the Groups provide a safe place for children to not only express their feelings, but also to share memories, meet new friends, and learn how to process their grief. Registration is required to attend. For information and to register, call Judy Seifert at (781) 338-7861.

### **Free Program on Managing Chronic Pain**

Is living with chronic pain affecting your life? Chronic pain may cause sleep loss, increased stress and loss of motivation around everyday activities. Learn to manage pain and continue living a fulfilling life through this FREE six-session program. Starting on Wednesdays, September 20<sup>th</sup> to October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 1:00-3:30 pm at Hallmark Health Medical Center (right off route 128) 30 Newcrossing Rd, Reading MA;

Sponsored by Hallmark Health. Registration is required **SPACE IS LIMITED.** Please call 781-338-7823 to register or for more info.