



# 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](mailto:info@fccmelrose.org) Website [www.fccmelrose.org](http://www.fccmelrose.org)**

**Rev. Dominic's Cell phone: 781-526-3428**

**VOLUME 100**

**September 29, 2017**

**Number 4**

### The Trouble with Volunteers

Rev. Anthony Robinson was giving a talk in Phoenix one time and taking questions from the audience. A man raised his hand and began his question by saying "Now, as a full time Christian..." in reference to Anthony being ordained. Anthony doesn't really remember the question that followed, but that phrase (and the unspoken presumption behind it) stuck with him.

Are clergy "full-time" Christians while everybody else is "part time"? Is it the case that those who work in churches are "full-time Christians" while other people who work in businesses, schools, hospitals, etc. are "part-time Christians"? If so, that's news to me! It is an odd and, frankly, offensive distinction. It smacks of "first class" and "second class" to say the least.

Ordination sets one aside for leadership in the church. That said, I have known countless non-ordained Christians whose faith I try to emulate. Gone are the days of pre-Reformation clergy acting as intermediaries to the uneducated masses who were mistakenly thought to be incapable of communing with God on their own and building up the faith of others.

This got me thinking of another word we use pretty frequently in church work: volunteers. We will always use it, I suppose, but it really isn't the best word. A volunteer is someone who helps out in their free time. That's a pretty poor, understated definition of a Christian.

As a person of faith, you can't really volunteer at a church any more than you can babysit your own kids. It is part of who you are. It is your identity. When you clean your own bathroom or cook a meal for yourself or people you love, that's not volunteering. It is taking care of your home, those who are family—the people and the place that make you who you are. Church work should be viewed the same way.

1 Peter 2:9 reminds us we aren't just volunteers, "for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a

holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God". No "full-time/part-time" in that glorious passage. No "volunteering" to be had.

We believe in the "priesthood of all believers" and because of that, maybe a better word than "volunteer" would be "serve". We do what we do because we are the church. It is our home. It is what defines us at the core of our identity. Here we "minister".

The church belongs to us all and that includes you. This is your church, your liturgy, your community, your events, your people. So of course you take care of it.

That's not volunteering so much as it is remembering who you are.

See you in church,

### Sunday, October 1, 2017 Food Pantry Sunday

- 9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School
- 11:15 AM – Coffee Hour
- 11:30 AM – Word Press Class with Tom Foth

### DURING THE WEEK

#### Tuesday, October 3

- 2:00 PM – Circle 4, Lounge
- 7:00 PM – RIM Meeting, Library
- 7:15 PM to 8:15 PM - Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

#### Wednesday, October 4

- 7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

#### Sunday, October 8

- 10:00 AM Worship and Sunday School

#### 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



Francoise.

Sam Lynch, 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,



## FOOD PANTRY

### SUNDAY – October 1

This mission of our church is a great way to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors! You can involve your whole family by talking about the food you are donating and discussing how it will help others.



**Circle 4** will meet in the Church Lounge on **Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>** at **2:00 PM.**



**Rehearsal Schedule** for Treblemakers I (preK-K) and Treblemakers II (Gr 1-5) to sing Sunday, October 29:

\*Sundays we meet after the service

10/1, 8, 15, 20 (Friday 5:00-5:45) and 22nd



### We are looking for communion servers!

If you would like to help serve communion--usually on the first Sunday of each month--please contact Betsy Garrett ([betsy.luebbe.garrett@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.luebbe.garrett@gmail.com)) or Laura Pollica ([laurapollica@gmail.com](mailto:laurapollica@gmail.com)), your Deacons of Worship. Serving communion is a wonderful way to reach out and connect with people in the congregation and we hope that everyone has an opportunity to serve at least once this year. If you want to sign up for just one Sunday that's fine. Let us know if you would like to give it a try!



### SUNDAY SCHOOL:

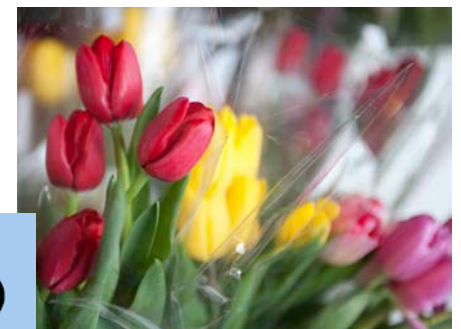
We would like to thank all our Sunday School Teachers and Volunteers. Your love for children and willingness to share your time and effort will have an eternal impact on the children's life. Thank You!!!

It's been a great couple of weeks with the previous lessons about emotions and this week's theme is "How God cares when we feel worried." The children will learn how God knows our worries and how he helps us get through them.

**Middle School:** Kris Carbonneau is still focusing on Peace Heroes. Last Sunday they talked about Mother Theresa.

**High school:** Last Sunday Catherine Dhingra had a discussion about Hinduism and this Sunday they will be discussing Buddhism.

As always, we continue to welcome new teachers and volunteers into our Sunday School program. If you'd like to be added to the list of volunteers to help out in Sunday School classes as a 2nd adult, please let one of us know at church, or email Sherri Jackson at [sltjmtj@hotmail.com](mailto:sltjmtj@hotmail.com).



### 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.

# GLOBAL HARVEST FESTIVAL

## Heifer Farm

Sept. 30 & Oct. 1 | 10 AM - 4 PM



Join us for a fun-packed, festive cultural celebration!

Admission: \$10/adult, \$5/child 3-10 yrs. (free for 2 & under)

HEIFER FARM  
216 WACHUSETT ST  
RUTLAND MA  
508.886.5000  
[www.heifer.org/farm](http://www.heifer.org/farm)

International Fun & Games  
in the Global Village  
Farm-to-Table Food  
Live Music | Animals  
Dale Perkins Horse Show  
Hay Ride | Pumpkin Patch



## Tom Foth will be conducting a WordPress class on October 1st after service.

If you're interested (and I hope you will be!), please email me at [tom@fothmail.com](mailto:tom@fothmail.com) so we can determine how many will be attending.

One of the great things about our new website ([www.fccmelrose.org](http://www.fccmelrose.org)) is that it is on WordPress. WordPress is VERY easy to use. If you only know very basic Microsoft Word, you can learn WordPress in less than an hour.

We selected WordPress so that people involved with various activities in the church can maintain their own part of the website. By keeping your content current, it shows to the community that we are an alive and vibrant church.

WordPress is also a perfect choice if you want to host your own blog or host a website for an organization you support.

## PERGOLA MEMORIAL DEDICATION



All are invited to a Memorial Dedication Service at the new Pergola following worship on Sunday, October 15th. This will be an opportunity to celebrate this new addition to our church grounds and remember the lives and ministries of Rick and Becky Mockler in whose memory the pergola will be dedicated. Rick and Becky's daughter Sarah will be joining us along with other guests for this time of reflection and gratitude led by Rev. Dominic and Mariko. The rain date for this event is October 22.

**MAJOR SPONSORS:**  
TUFTS Health Plan  
Eastern Bank JOIN US FOR GOOD  
ANONYMOUS

**Bread of Life**  
\*Food for the body ... Nourish 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**



### Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed

Our Meals on Wheels Drivers deliver 3000 healthy meals, every weekday, to elders and adults living with disabilities. Our drivers may deliver the only meal of the day to our homebound clients in addition to providing critical social contact a safety check. These few moments of kindness make this service so much more than just the delivery of a meal.

Today additional drivers are needed to meet the increasing demand for home delivered meals in our service are that includes 11 cities and towns. If you are interested in giving back to your community through this part-time job, apply today! Please call Sara at 781-324-7705 ext. 689 or visit our website [www.mves.org/join-us/](http://www.mves.org/join-us/).