We began lighting a candle of remembrance, peace, healing and hope during the Sunday worship service beginning with the Newtown school shooting. Since then, we have re-lit the candle far too many times in worship as we pray for other acts of hatred, terrorism, and senseless violence.

This Sunday we will light it yet again.

The largest mass shooting in U.S. history took place this week in Las Vegas and our hearts are broken. There is no explaining this kind of darkness. There is no magic to make the pain go away. The loss that so many people have felt and the pain of those who are recovering (or may not recover) is overwhelming. There are no words to make this better. We have been visited by another manifestation of evil.

There are, however, two things that can be done. First, we can pray. People can use the phrase "in our thoughts and prayers" rather flippantly. If we say this, we should mean it. Beyond this event occupying our thoughts, we should take some intentional time to actually pray; to send light and healing to those impacted by this tragedy, to ask God's angels and God's power of restoration to be especially present in Las Vegas.

Secondly, we can yet again advocate for gun control. We simply can't go on this way. Similar tragedies may await us in the future regardless of what we do, but we can certainly prevent many of them and mitigate those that occur through stricter gun laws. Such legislation has been too long in coming.

We grieve now and we should. But we are not without hope. We follow the One who embodies resurrection and light. May he who conquered death itself and provided us all with a pathway to new life and peace be with Las Vegas.

See you in church,
Rehearsal Schedule for Treblemakers I (pre K-K), Treblemakers II (Gr 1-5) and Youth (Gr 6-) to sing Sunday, October 29:

October 8, 15, and 22:
Treblemakers I (pre K-K) 11:10-11:25
Treblemakers II (gr1-5) 11:25-11:40
Youth5 (gr6-) 11:40-12:10

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.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!
Winter Wonderland Fair – DECEMBER 1 and 2!!!
Watch the Messenger for ways you can participate in this fun event

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) or Laura Pollica (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!
FREE Caregiver Program

Empowering Caregivers series provides education and practical tools to those caring for someone with dementia. A FREE two-part series that covers communication techniques, strategies to manage difficult behaviors, and safety in the home; Thursdays October 12th & October 19th 5pm-7:30pm; Lawrence Memorial Hospital of Medford; 170 Governors Ave, Medford. This program is not intended for the person with dementia and is geared toward family caregivers only. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED 800-272-3900 or email Dutton@hallmarkhealth.org. Sponsored by Hallmark Health, Tufts Health Plan and the Alzheimer’s Association.

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.