



First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Messenger

Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Pastor

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Mass Shooting

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,

Sunday, October 8, 2017

9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School

11:15 AM – Coffee Hour

THE STEEPLE is lit this week in memory of my husband, Bill, by Rae Hayward.

DURING THE WEEK

Monday, October 9 – Columbus Day

Office closed

Tuesday, October 10

7:00 PM – Deacons, Library

Wednesday, October 11

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Thursday, October 12

1:00 PM – Staff Meeting

Saturday, October 14

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM – Melrose Arts and Crafts Society Exhibit and Sale, Narthex, Rm. 1

Sunday, October 15

10:00 AM Worship and Sunday School

After worship – Memorial Dedication of the new Pergola

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

Makam Music Group – Sundays 4:45-6:30 PM – Lounge

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



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, Dot Allen, Bob Pierce, Michael Connelly, Francoise.

✠ *Our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of Gem Colvin, who passed away on Monday, October 2nd.*



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:

after the service in the music room

Treblemakers I (pre K-K) 11:10-11:25

Treblemakers II (gr1-5) 11:25-11:40

Youth5 (gr6-) 11:40-12:10



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!



SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Winter Wonderland Fair – DECEMBER 1 and 2!!!

*Watch the Messenger for ways you can participate
in this fun event*

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.



The 22st Annual Walk and Candlelight Vigil will be held on **Sunday, Oct. 22 at 4:00 pm**, starting and ending at the Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School, 350 Lynn Fells Parkway in Melrose. Our theme this year is "You Are Not Alone."

Please join us to commemorate the victims of domestic violence in Massachusetts over the past year and rededicate ourselves to preventing violence in the community. Event will include:

- A candlelight vigil honoring victims, brief remarks and music in the auditorium
- Community art project in conjunction with Follow Your Art
- Alternate activity for children
- 2-mile walk around Ell Pond in Melrose
- Participants walking in teams or as individuals
- Refreshments in the cafeteria at the conclusion
- Walk T-shirts for sale
- Team photos

**MELROSE
ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY**

ANNUAL EXHIBIT & SALES

*Saturday Oct.14,2017
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM*

*First Congregational Church
121 W. Foster St.,Melrose*

**Demonstrations.....Various Crafts
Members Craft Items For Sale & Display
White Elephant Tables**

RAFFLE BASKETS—HAND CRAFTED
*BOSTON SPORT TEAMS
GARDEN—CRAFTS
ITALIAN FOOD & DRINK
LOTTERY TREE JEWELRY TREE*

**FREE ADMISSION—WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
COMPLIMENTARY TEA, COFFEE AND HOME MADE GOODIES
SERVED 9:00 AM TO 1:30 PM**

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.