



MESSENGER
of the
First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
121 W. Foster St.
Melrose, Massachusetts

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Pastor
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Disturb Us, Lord

Given the positive response to this prayer last year, I have decided to make a post-Easter tradition of including it in the Messenger.

The prayer was written by Sir Francis Drake who was an English explorer in the 1500s (Elizabethan era) and led the second expedition to successfully circumnavigate the globe. The exact date of the prayer is unknown.

“Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrive safely because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess,
We have lost our thirst for the waters of life,
When having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity,
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision of a new heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas,
Where storms will show your mastery,
And where, losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.

We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes,
And to push us into the future with strength, courage,
hope and love.

This we ask in the name of our Captain, who is Jesus Christ.
Amen.”

See you in church,

Rev. Dominic



Sunday, April 3, 2016
Earth Sunday
Food Pantry Sunday

8:45 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal
9:30 AM – Treblemakers, Room 1
10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School
Rev. Jim Antal guest preacher
11:15 AM – Coffee Hour
11:15 AM – Praise Band Rehearsal

THE FRESH FLOWERS are given in memory of Barbara Rogers and Amy Spollett, and to celebrate enduring friendships, given by Lydia Rogers.

DURING THE COMING WEEK

Tuesday, April 5

4:00 PM - Circle 4 will meet at LongHorn Steakhouse for our Annual Out-To-Dinner Meeting.

Wednesday, April 6

7:00 PM – WPCR, library
7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal

Thursday, April 7

7:30 PM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

Sunday, April 10 – Communion Sunday

The following groups meet here regularly:

Boy Scouts – Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the basement

Girl Scouts – Sundays, 2:00 to 4:15

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 and Tuesdays at 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, Rm. 1), Tuesdays at 4:30 PM, Wednesdays at 4:30 PM, & 7:30 PM, Thursdays at 4:30 PM, Fridays at 8:00 PM and Saturdays at 9:00 AM (men) and 3:00 PM – Rm. 8

COMMUNION CHANGE



Given that the first Sunday in April will be our Earth Festival Sunday and in order to give Holy Communion its proper, central place in the worship service the Deacons and Trustees have decided to move our monthly celebration of Holy Communion from Sunday April 3rd to Sunday April 10th.



Flo Hall, Ralph Revesz, Bill Albright, Barbara Wellington, Becky Faro, Bill Copeland, Gem Colvin, Dot Allen, Bob Pierce, Anne Wing.

✝ *Our prayers and sympathy to Becky Fuentes and family. Becky's grandmother, Geneva Sozansky, passed away on March 24th.*



Earth Festival

Join us at the Earth Festival on Sunday, April 3. The morning begins with an Earth Festival worship service at 10:00 AM followed by the Earth Festival from 11:00 AM-12:30 PM. Special to this year's event is guest, MA Conference UCC President and Climate Activist, Rev. Jim Antal. He will be speaking on the message of offering hope in the face of climate change.

The Earth Festival will help you learn how to decrease your impact on the environment, beautify our earth, and ways to make a difference with sustainable living ideas.

Games and activities will be available for kids. Refreshments will be provided.

At the fair you can:

- Take home a tree seedling to plant in your yard
- Save energy and save money by scheduling a no-cost home energy assessment from MassSave
- Learn about recycling and purchase a composting or rain barrel from the Melrose Recycling Program
- Capture your own piece of the sun by going solar on your home, business or non-profit
- Make your community a more livable place through the *Make a Difference* sustainability program
- Grow your own food by planting beans and squash seeds provided by the Melrose Seed Bank
- Learn how the church is saving energy and money through energy efficiency improvements and with the 360-panel solar array

For more information, contact Lori Timmermann at MelroseSolarCoach@gmail.com.



Circle 4 will meet on **Tuesday, April 5th** at **4:00 PM at LongHorn Steakhouse** North Ave., Reading for our Annual Out-To-Dinner Meeting.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

This Sunday, our Nursery and Kindergarten through Grade 5 lesson theme is "Doubting Thomas". The children will be planting seeds and watching them grow over the next few weeks. As we learn and ask questions our faith grows and flowers, much like the seeds we will plant in class.

Our Middle School youth will begin a series of lessons on the Beatitudes.

High School Youth are invited to remain to Worship or are welcome to congregate informally in the Spollett Meeting Room.



Middle School and High School Youth:

Save the Date for this year's Walk for Hunger on Sunday, May 1st! Join us as we walk to raise funds and awareness for hunger in our community. No need to train - this year's Walk is ONLY 10 miles long! More information and registration forms will be available soon.



FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY – April 3

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.



RIM Refugee Walk

Saturday May 21, 2016

at 10 AM

rain or shine!

Lake Quannapowitt in Wakefield, MA

Funds raised will help to pay for basic living expenses for asylum seekers in eastern Massachusetts who have no alternatives for survival, aside from relying on the generosity of others.

Building a Human Chain of Hope

www.r-i-m.net





**White People Challenging Racism, April 6, 13, 27
May 4, 11, 7-9 PM at FCC Melrose**

The church will be hosting a course called White People Challenging Racism this spring. People of all heritages/identities are welcome. We will focus on the role of white people in dismantling racism and building a just society. We'll examine institutionalized racism and the impact of white privilege, and how our lack of awareness perpetuates racism. We'll discuss readings, view videos, and share everyday situations in which we want to become more effective in naming and addressing racism in our families, communities and places of work. Co-facilitators: Beth Hampson, Jane Allen & Stewart Lanier. Suggested Donation \$20-55-Scholarships Available. Sponsored by Melrose Interfaith Clergy Association To register email info@fccmelrose.org or call [781-665-2111](tel:781-665-2111). Questions www.wpcr-boston.org



**A Night of Comedy to benefit the Bread of Life
Sponsored by the First United Methodist Church of
Melrose**

**Thursday, April 14
at Giggles, Prince Pizza on Route 1
Doors open at 6:30 pm / Pizza served at 7:00
Comedy show begins at 8**

Admission is \$25 and includes both the Comedy Show and unlimited cheese pizza (drinks are not included).

All profits go directly to support the Bread of Life in Malden. To reserve your seat, please contact Beth Grzegorzewski at FCC ([617-460-5186](tel:617-460-5186)/beth.grzegorzewski@earthlink.net), the FUMC office at [617-662-7060](tel:617-662-7060), or Dennis Roche at [617-997-9713](tel:617-997-9713).