

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
Duncan Vinson, Music Director
Maureen Willis, Sunday School Administrative Assistant

OFFICE 781-665-2111 - FAX 781-665-8824

E-MAIL info@fccmelrose.org Website www.fccmelrose.org

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

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Seeing the Future

Wouldn't it be great to see into the future? People have long desired to know what the future holds. From the prophets and seers of old to modern science fiction, people want to know what is coming down the pike.

Would you want to see the future? While some would jump at the chance, other would want no part of the idea. After all, what if it isn't such a good future? What if I'm not in it?!

The idea of seeing the future is rooted in the notion that there is only one future to be had. That is, if we can just skip ahead a couple of chapters, we can see how things will play out. This line of thinking denies the truth that we make our own future right now and we are less at the whim of destiny than we might imagine. To me, this is cause for hope.

It is also the reason that faith is so important. Through our discipleship, we can be open to God's leading and create a future that is in line with God's redemptive work.

Sometimes co-creating a faithful future with God means advocating for justice in the realm of legislative action. Other times it is intervening in small ways in the lives of individual people. There are even times, thanks to the presence of God, when we help create a better future without even knowing it.

This is what happened to the Apostle Paul one time. You may know that Paul didn't seem to think highly of women. At least he comes across that way in his biblical letters. For example, he admonishes women to be silent in church and to be subject to their husbands. Then there is this curious little line in at the beginning of Romans 16:

"I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon (some translations say 'minister') of the church at Cencreae, so that you may welcome her in the Lord as it is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you."

Sunday, April 10, 2016
Communion Sunday

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

DURING THE COMING WEEK

Tuesday, April 12

3:45 PM – Bread of Life Dinner, St. Paul's Malden
7:00 PM – Deacons and Trustees, church library

Wednesday, April 13

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

Thursday, April 14

7:00 to 8:30 PM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

Friday, April 15

3:30 PM – Staff Meeting

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

Whether he realized it or not, Paul was laying the groundwork for the ordination of women; certainly a brighter future for the church.

One of the reasons the United Church of Christ is so vital on the religious scene is that we are always trying to craft a brighter, more just, and more faithful future with God's leading. We are about the work of translating spirituality into social policy that uplifts all of God's children.

First Congregational Church is a future-forming church. The worship we enact, the education we foster, and the ministries and mission work we undertake make this obvious. In the end, however, it comes down to you as a member of this church and as a disciple of Christ. You are the lynch pin that determines the impact we have as a church and as a denomination in forming a new tomorrow of hope and rebirth.

May you find strength, enthusiasm, and joy in what is possible through your involvement at our church. You may just be surprised at what the future holds!

See you in church,

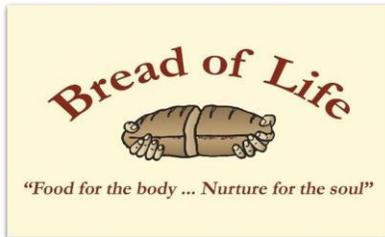
Rev. Dominic



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



Congratulations to Tim and Robin Rueter:
Introducing Margaret Marie Rueter! She was born April 2nd at 3:19pm. 8lbs 12oz, 20.5". Margaret and Mommy are doing great, can't wait for you to meet her!



BREAD OF LIFE

A team of volunteers from our church will be cooking and serving dinner for Bread of Life next

Tuesday, April 12th. If you would like to be a part of this important mission, come to St. Paul's church in Malden anytime between 3:45 and 7 pm that day. For more information, contact Sallie Klemm shklemm@verizon.net.

HELP WANTED! PART TIME - TEMPORARY

We're looking for 2-3 individuals who are interested in being Yard Sale Coordinators who will lead a team of experienced volunteers into the joys of organizing, pricing, and selling the junk that our Church members donate to the Yard Sale.

The hours are flexible during the set up week (May 2nd-May 6th) prior to the actual Yard Sale on Saturday, May 7th.

Ideal candidates should be interested in bossing volunteers around, making lots of money while also having fun. Interested applicants should contact Lisa or Jim Oosterman for details and training. oosterman.lisa@gmail.com or 781-662-7445.

Benefits include: 50% discount on the item of your choice, 1 free baked good, and all the free yard sale leftovers you want!

Those looking for a short-term easy job in our church with flexible hours, should consider applying.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

This Sunday, our Nursery and Kindergarten through Grade 5 class lesson theme is "The Ascension". To illustrate the wonder and excitement of Jesus' Ascension to Heaven, we will use the reaction between soda and Mentos. We are looking forward to this joyful lesson!

Middle School youth will begin a lesson series on the Beatitudes.

High School youth are invited to remain in Worship.

Save the Date: Graduation Sunday, June 5, 2016. Invitations will be mailed soon!



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).



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.



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





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.

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Have you ever considered giving flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one? There is a silk bouquet in the sanctuary at all times that can be "given" in memory. You can make a donation to the Flower Fund of \$15 and those flowers can be in memory /honor of your loved one for a given Sunday. If you prefer, fresh flowers can be ordered for you. The cost for fresh flowers is \$50 to \$75 depending on the size you would like. After the service, fresh flowers can be taken by the donor, or if they prefer, they can be distributed to someone in the congregation that is sick or in need of an uplifting gift. If you would be interested in donating either type of flowers, please call or email Susan in the church office. 781-665-2111 or info@fccmelrose.org.

