



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

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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So just what is Pentecost anyway?

There was a time when the two biggest holidays of the year were Easter and Pentecost. Christmas has long since surpassed both of these, of course.

Most people still have a pretty good handle on what Easter is all about (provided they can see past the Easter Bunny—whose Pagan origins are quite fascinating, by the way, but that is for another time!). When it comes to Pentecost, however, most people are more than a bit wobbly in their understanding.

“Doesn’t it have to do with wearing red?”

Yup. It does. But it is a whole lot more than that.

In fact, you would not be reading this if not for Pentecost. That’s because the church would not be here; our church or any other church.

“Pentecost” is derived from the Greek word for “Fiftieth Day”. This was the Greek way of translating the Jewish holiday of Shavuot which is (yes, still today) the commemoration of God giving the Law to Moses at Mount Sinai. Shavuot (the Jewish Pentecost) is celebrated fifty days after the Passover.

The first followers of Jesus were, of course, Jewish and they celebrated Shavuot the year Jesus was crucified and resurrected. They went to Jerusalem to do this and it was there that they had an amazing experience.

The Holy Spirit of God descended upon them while they were in an upper room in Jerusalem. It was such a powerful experience of God that it is described in the Book of Acts like flames (there’s your red) and a mighty wind—which have since become central symbols of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit freed them from apprehension, filled them with confidence and, interestingly, allowed them to speak in other languages so that everyone gathered in the city could understand the gospel of Christ. This is why, by the way, The Pentecostal Church places such emphasis on “speaking in tongues”. This is all in Acts 2:1-31.

With the separation of Judaism from Christianity by around 100 C.E., “Shavuot” was dropped and “Pentecost” firmly adopted since most new converts were Greek. Pentecost then became a central Christian holiday and was built not around Passover and Moses but Easter and Jesus’ resurrection. It is celebrated as the “birthday of the church” because it was after the arrival of the Holy

Sunday, May 15, 2016
Pentecost Sunday

- 8:45 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal**
- 10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School**
- 11:15 AM – Coffee Hour**
- 11:15 AM – Praise Band Rehearsal**
- 11:15 AM – Planned Giving Workshop, Library**
- 11:15 AM – Planning meeting for Church School Sunday**
- 7:30 PM – Music Committee, Music Room**

*THE FRESH FLOWERS are in loving memory of
Lillian and Ralph Margeson,
given by Emelie and Bud Burnham and family.*

Be sure to wear your RED

DURING THE COMING WEEK

Tuesday, May 17

7:00 PM – Deacons and Trustees, at the Brincheiro’s

Wednesday, May 18

7:15 PM – Bells and Morning Star Voices Joint Rehearsal

Thursday, May 19

7:00 PM – Melrose Historical Society, 7/8

Friday, May 20

3:30 PM – Staff Meeting

Saturday, May 21

10:00 AM – RIM Walk, Lake Quannapowitt, Wakefield

Sunday, May 22

50+ Year Members 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

Spirit at Pentecost that the disciples fearlessly began to proclaim the Christian faith and the church we have today first began.

Today, Pentecost is celebrated 10 days after the Ascension (which is 40 days after Easter) so it marks the fiftieth day or seventh week after Easter.

In some churches, Pentecost is one day and in others it is a season. For those for whom it is a one-day holiday, what follows is Ordinary Time. For those for whom it is a season, that season is the Season of Pentecost. In either case, this is the longest period of the church year and lasts 28 weeks until Advent.

I prefer recognizing this long period as the Season of Pentecost in order to better avail ourselves of the power, creativity and inspiration that the Holy Spirit offers in our lives and in our church still today!

See you in church,

Rev. Dominic



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



Congratulations to Michael and T.R. Leskiw on the baptism on Mother's Day of their daughter, Emily Mae. Cora is Emily's big sister. As an expression of the church's love, support, and care, Common Threads was pleased to present a handmade blanket to Emily.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

This week, our Nursery and Kindergarten through Grade 5 class lesson theme is Pentecost.

Middle School youth will have a regular Sunday School class in the library.

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

A Reminder to our Sunday School Teachers:

There will be a meeting this Sunday, May 15 after Worship to review plans for Church School Sunday. All are encouraged to join us in the Spollett Youth Room.

A Reminder to our High School Graduates and their Families:

The deadline to RSVP for Graduation Sunday is this Saturday, May 14th. Please join us as we celebrate Graduation Sunday on June 5, 2016. RSVP to Maureen at mewillis935@gmail.com to let us know if you plan to attend.

Wills & Bequests Workshop Sunday May 15th at 11:15 AM

Do you have a Will? Is it up to date? Have you remembered our church in your Will?

Faithful stewardship includes not only our annual giving and giving to our longer-term capital campaign, but for many it also includes opportunities for us to provide legacy gifts when we die. It is not overly difficult to include the church in your estate planning, and your Will is the most common way to make your wishes known.

Please join us immediately following the worship service on Sunday May 15th as we meet with local attorney Martina Kirby who will share some information on creating or updating your Will, and ways in which you can ensure that the church is part of your estate planning. Atty. Kirby is a general practice attorney with extensive experience in estate planning, elder law, wills, etc. This meeting will include a very brief & casual presentation, and then a longer opportunity for questions or more details. Please bring your coffee and join us on May 15th for an hour after worship for this informative discussion.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Oosterman (oosterman@aol or 781-662-7445)

MELROSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**will present the story of the
SAUGUS IRON WORKS**

THURSDAY, MAY 19 • 7:30 PM

First Congregational Church, 121 West Foster Street

Melrose Historical Society will present the story of the Saugus Iron Works and the crucial role it played in the 17th century settlement of Massachusetts, using the most advanced iron-making technology of the day. This year marks the hundredth anniversary of the National Park Service. Our program is part of the celebration of the people, resources and preservation activities of the NPS. To spread the good news of what they are doing, the Melrose

Historical Society will sponsor a visit to the Saugus Iron Works Museum on Saturday, May 21, at 10:30 am. There will be a film followed by a tour of the historic site at 11:15 am.

On Sunday, May 22nd we are planning a special recognition service for our 50-year plus members—those who joined our church at least 50 years ago and are still members today. There is a group of 40 such members, some of whom have moved away or are no longer able to be active, but who certainly still hold our church in their hearts.

To help us celebrate the many contributions these members have made to our church over the last half century, we will be profiling some of them in the Messenger over the next few weeks. Your appreciation for these members will grow as you read about their accomplishments and years of service to our church—and hear a little bit about the many ways they have seen the church change in the last half century.



Janet Runge

Janet's roots run deep in this church. Her parents Marion Dean and George Strobel were married here in June 1937. Janet was baptized in 1941. She joined by Confirmation December 24, 1955. Janet and Russell Runge have been married 55 years and

they have four sons and three daughters-in-law. They also have four grandsons, two granddaughters and one great granddaughter. Janet said "she has always gone to church and that church has always been the First Congregational Church in Melrose."

Her first memories are in the old church before the fire. Her mother was a Sunday school teacher and at the age of six Janet was her helper. Her job was to go down into the basement, where there was a small kitchen. Here she poured juice into paper cups and then took the juice cups along with saltine crackers back upstairs, into the classroom, and served this snack to the children.

As she got older she was asked to join Circle 6, which she did, and was active in that Circle. At that time there were so many large Circles in the church, a Women's Guild was formed to oversee the Circles. Janet served as the leader of this Guild for quite some time. Eventually Circle 6 disbanded, due to loss of members, and Janet was asked to join Circle 4 and there she is to this day.

During the 70's several women in the church formed a rhythmic dance group and Janet was a member of this group. They danced during Sunday morning worship and were also asked to dance at services outside this church, such as the Ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service.

Through the years Janet has been very involved in many areas of the church. She served on the Diaconate and the Fellowship Commission for more years than she can remember. This involved numerous church suppers, Valentine's Day teas, Christmas teas, Strawberry Festivals and whatever else happened to come along involving food. She served on the Search Committee who called Maren Tirabassi. She has always been involved with the Christmas fairs and the yard sales. And of course, she has been an active participant in Circle 4, including Circle Leader.

When the Day Care opened in 1971, Janet was asked to serve on the Board and is still active on the Board. This amounts to 45 years and many meetings and certainly would be defined as "commitment."

These days you will find her still working the yard sales and the Winter Wonderland Christmas Fair. Look for her at the Christmas table and there you will find her selling the many treasures that have been donated.

Janet loves this church and she has served it well!



**Healthy & Easy
Meal Preparation
is in your future!**

Attend our Church's first **Wildtree Tasting** and/or **Wildtree Freezer Meal Workshop** to learn how serving healthy dinners in your house can be a breeze. These events are also fundraisers that will help to defray the cost of sending our Youth to the UCC National Youth Event.

Wildtree Freezer Meal Workshop -

Tuesday, May 24th at 7:00 pm, attend a freezer meal workshop at our Church. At this workshop, using the all-natural Wildtree spice blends, along with meat and veggies you supply, you can assemble 10 healthy meals for you to freeze at home. Advance sign up is required and details of what you will make will be available in the Narthex. 15% of all workshop proceeds will go toward our Youth Trip and your summer meals will be a whole lot easier.

Sounds great but can't make this date? Host a Wildtree Freezer Meal Workshop at your home with your friends in June and proceeds can still help our youth! Curious to see what Types of products Wildtree has to offer? www.mywildtree.com/jackson4 Questions? See Sherri Jackson or email her at jackson4wildtree@hotmail.com



Help RIM sponsor a new client!

Our Metro North cluster of Refugee Immigration Ministry is eager to take on a new client seeking asylum. There is a lengthy waiting list of people waiting for help, unable to work legally and having no other means of support. We would like to help. Our two previous clients, from Congo and Honduras, are able to work now, and we are able to move on to support new clients.

In order to extend our hand to someone in need, we need to build up our resources to be able to pay rent, make a first and last payment on an apartment or room, buy a phone and minutes for client contact with a lawyer, pay a stipend for food and personal items and provide a t-pass. You can help us by participating in our

RIM WALK - Saturday, May 21
Lake Quannapowitt, Wakefield
10:00 AM start walking

You can participate by 1. Walking with us and gathering donations for RIM or 2. Sponsoring anyone walking on our team.

1. If you choose to walk, it's easy to register either by going to the RIM website www.r-i-m.net or to www.firstgiving.com/20159/rim-refugee-walk-2016 If you decide to walk with us, please join the Metro North Cluster Team when you register.

2. If you choose to sponsor anyone walking on our team: (Sallie Klemm, Debbie Anderson, Bill Chetwynd, or Nancy Toney are walking from this church.), you can give us a check directly at church or go to the team website and donate there. www.firstgiving.com/20159/rim-refugee-walk-2016

Your support has meant so much in the past for clients from Cameroon, Congo, Rwanda, Honduras, Sudan, Guinea, and Uganda...people who are now caregivers, nurses, pharmacists, supervisors in group homes and parents of wonderful children who have grown up safe thanks to you.

Won't you help us add new clients to our RIM family?



The Fourth Annual 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

