

**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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### **New UCC President**

While our country labors through a process to elect our next president, our church, the United Church of Christ, has elected a new General Minister and President: Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer. Explaining his call to serve in the UCC, Rev. Dorhauer has said:

"It's because I love my church. This is the Church that ordained the first black man. This is the church that ordained the first woman. This is the church that ordained the first gay man, lesbian woman, and transgender man or woman. This is the church known for clear commitment to justice. Our goal of providing a bold, public voice must continue if we are to be a denomination that matches words and actions. This is the church of extravagant welcome."

In an unusual move, Rev. Dorhauer's Installation as our new President took place in three different locations: Riverside Church, UCC in New York, Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, and Plymouth Church, United Church of Christ in Seattle. These three services were held in mid-April and each was ecumenical and interfaith to emphasize the openness of the UCC and the different regions the Rev. Dorhauer will be serving.

Our new president's election did not come without some controversy, however. The United Church of Christ has never had a woman General Minister and President and this was not lost on some members of the General Synod when it came time to vote on his candidacy.

"I cannot, I will not, I do not believe there is not one among us a woman who is qualified to lead this denomination. What face are we projecting to the world about who we are?" asked Rev. Anna Humble, an association minister in the South Central Conference. Others concurred. The Search Committee was quick to clarify, however, the search process was not to select a woman but the best person from among the women and men who did feel a call to the position.

Rev. Dorhauer was elected by 89% of the vote. He was quick to applaud the UCC as a denomination where such dissent can occur. He also emphasized that



**Honoring Our  
50+ Year Members**

**Sunday, May 22, 2016  
50+ Member Sunday**

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

### **DURING THE COMING WEEK**

**Saturday, May 21**

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

**Tuesday, May 24**

7:00 PM – Wildtree Freezer Meal Workshop, narthex

**Wednesday, May 25**

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal

**Thursday, May 26**

**ALL REPORTS ARE DUE IN FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT**

**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

he is called to serve the church as a whole and that our denomination has always stood for those who are "marginalized and whose voices have not been welcome".

The many people, from many traditions, who have welcomed Rev. Dorhauer into his new role with great enthusiasm have laid the groundwork for a successful tenure as he seeks to amplify the message of the UCC's progressive theology and radical welcome of God's diverse people.

May we do the same!

See you in church,

*Rev. Dominic*



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

***This Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.***



### **Martha Williams**

Martha (Spollett) Williams was born into a very active and dedicated family at First Congregational Church. The Wentworths, her mother Amy's side of the family, had been involved in the church for several generations, and

Martha's father, Fred Spollett, grew up in the church as well. Fred and Amy were always involved in the leadership of the church.

When Martha was young she went to church school – extended sessions when there were two services. Martha was also in the Junior Choir, led by Mr. Boyson. In 1965 Martha was confirmed as a member of the church, and she remembers Confirmation Class as being very structured and taught by the minister. There was also a very large High School Youth Group.

One unique aspect of Martha's life at church was that she and four other girls were friends who grew up together in the church, and they still get together once a month to this day! Martha has said that being in church together really solidified their friendship.

As a young mother Martha helped to start a group for young mothers of the church – Circle 12! She has always been there to support and help young parents in the church. And Martha is happy that her kids, Mark and Kate, had a community that loved them, cared about them, and accepted them.

Martha has served the church in many important ways during her 50 years of membership: Church School Coordinator in 1990; Chair of the Education Commission for several years; Fellowship Coordinator; "Basket Lady" for the Church Fair; a walker in the Walk for Hunger for years (20-mile walks!) and coordinator for church participants in the Walk; and currently, Martha is really enjoying being a member of the Jubilate Bell Choir.

When talking with Martha about the years at the church, two examples involving ministry seemed pivotal to her:

- In 1968 when the Church building burned, it was indeed a tragedy. But from the very tough times afterward, when parishioners were deciding what to do, Martha remembers people being very intentional about how a new church building should be constructed - so that ministry could go on there seven days a week.
- The Reverend Jim Keller was a strong, positive force when he served the church as its interim minister. Jim's ministry, in Martha's view, was "transformative" to the church in the sense that people learned that "the spirit" could get things done. Jim led with the belief that he was doing God's work, and because he believed, things did get done, both in the church and in mission work outside the church.

Martha's 50 years at First Congregational Church have been very full indeed! We thank her for so generously sharing her memories, her humor, and her wisdom with us.



### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

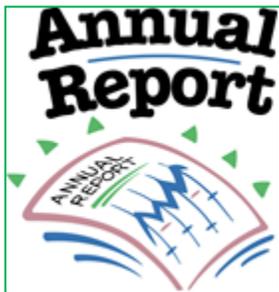
This week, our Nursery and Kindergarten through Grade 5 class lesson theme is Paul the Writer. The children will each receive a journal, which will be used during upcoming lessons and as part of a fun activity over the summer.

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

High School youth are invited to join Jen Crain for a discussion in the Spollett Youth Room:  
Topic: Lighthouse- finding your way through troubled waters when you are away from church.

A Reminder to our High School Graduates and their Families: Graduation Sunday is June 5th! The celebration begins with a breakfast at 9:00 AM. We look forward to celebrating this year's graduates as a church family.

*Do you have a family member graduating from college this spring? Please let the church office know, so that we can share in congratulating them with their church family.*



The Spring Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. All those submitting reports for the Annual Report book should have them in by May 26<sup>th</sup>, so that they will be available for distribution on June 5<sup>th</sup>.



### 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](http://www.mywildtree.com/jackson4) Questions? See Sherri Jackson or email her at [jackson4wildtree@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.r-i-m.net) or to [www.firstgiving.com/20159/rim-refugee-walk-2016](http://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](http://www.firstgiving.com/20159/rim-refugee-walk-2016)

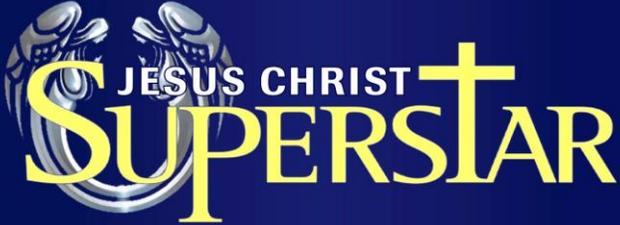


**The Fourth Annual  
RIM Refugee Walk  
Saturday May 21, 2016  
at 10 AM rain or shine!**

**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](http://www.r-i-m.net)



**JESUS CHRIST  
SUPERSTAR**

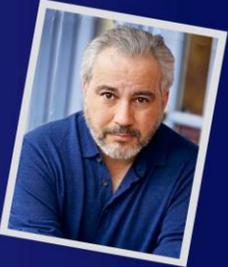
*presented by*  
**POLYMNIA CHORAL SOCIETY**  
*MURRAY KIDD, Music Director*

*with full orchestra and Broadway star  
Danny Zolli as Jesus*

**FRIDAY, JUNE 3  
7:30 PM**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 4  
7:30 PM**

**MEMORIAL HALL  
590 Main Street, Melrose**



**Get tickets online at [www.polymnia.org](http://www.polymnia.org)  
or at Miter Biter Frame Co., 479 Main Street, Melrose**  
Adults, \$25 • Students & Seniors, \$20 • Children 12 and under, \$5



**Or see Rick Mockler for tickets.**

**"REMEMBER, REJOICE, REBUILD"**

As Church Women United (CWU)'s 75th slogan, that's just what the May Friendship Day Luncheon did! Well-known Melrosian, Rev. Ronny Lanier, was REMEMBERED in a special tribute talk. She espoused CWU.



There was even a display of some of her remarkable treasures. Yes, 25 women from 10 surrounding churches REJOICED with Scripture, hymns & readings. Thus, the work of REBUILDING CWU in Melrose vicinity has successfully begun!

The poignancy at Pentecost is paramount. It epitomizes CWU's ecumenical dimension beautifully. As the Bible says, We are One in Christ! Discovering & embracing our common bonds, enhances & actually strengthens our multi-denominational ties further. CWU's motto in action is "Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love, United to Serve."

In solidarity, our visible community works on behalf of world justice, peace & reconciliation. We made new friends, reconnected with old friends, shared our stories, named people & groups whom we will go forward & strive to include around our tables, just as this year's CWU MFD theme highlighted.

Enjoy your summer around picnic tables, vacation tables, family reunion tables, restaurant tables, friends' tables, your home tables & of course, the Lord's Table. Look for notice of the next celebration days in late summer or early fall, to be held later in the fall. There's a place at the table for you!

In the meantime, do you want to reflect, be inspired & have fun? Please consider attending the Intergenerational Women's Retreat "Amazing Grace" on Saturday, May 28th from 10am to 2pm at St Barnabas Church in Falmouth. The cost is \$15 which includes lunch & supplies. Register by May 25th with Bev Hammel 508-833-8942 or [mmachh@verizon.net](mailto:mmachh@verizon.net). Call/email Carol for a ride! 978-988-0656 or [vanvalkenburgh7@yahoo.com](mailto:vanvalkenburgh7@yahoo.com). Hope we can all gather at the table!