

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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Who You Are and What You Do

With Church School Sunday approaching and Graduation Sunday just past, I am reminded of something I always share with those in my Confirmation Class: What you *do* is far less important than who you *are*.

As much as we try to put faith first in our lives, it is a significant challenge to not buy into the idea that success has to do with your income and your lifestyle. What I tell our Confirmands is to try to imagine a world without religion or faith of any kind. How would things be different?

Actually, it doesn't take too much effort to do this because there are countless people who are living their lives in the absence of faith right now. And you can tell. I am convinced that this is why there are a whole lot of people in this world who are very "successful", but who are also very empty inside.

Again, who you *are* should inform what you *do*—not the other way around.

One of the great benefits of our church is that we teach this kind of values-clarification. It is a very powerful thing to learn that you don't have to earn God's love. God's love is a requisite aspect of who you already are. It is because of that love that we are to shape ourselves into those who care for all of God's children and God's creation—not to be worthy of that love, but to share what is already here.

In this way, "success" is redefined. For example, a person in a nursing home can be a perfectly successful person. And I don't just mean by looking back on the things they accomplished earlier in life. I mean in the here and now. I mean in the way they choose to approach today and tomorrow and the day after that. I mean a willingness to choose positivity instead of negativity and to make that the bedrock of their interactions. That is "success"; certainly from a Christian perspective.

Are you successful in such a way? Does your faith inform your choices and your interactions? In what ways does your discipleship come first?

Sunday, June 12, 2016
Church School Sunday

- 8:45 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal**
- 9:30 AM – Praise Band Rehearsal**
- 9:30 AM – Treblemakers Rehearsal, sanctuary**
- 10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School**
- 11:15 AM – Coffee Hour**
- 11:15 AM – Spring Congregational Meeting**

DURING THE COMING WEEK

Tuesday, June 14 – Flag Day



Office closed, Sue at UCC Secretaries' Retreat Craigville

Wednesday, June 15

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal (Open Rehearsal)

Thursday, June 16

3:45 PM – Bread of Life Dinner, American Legion,
368 Pleasant St., Malden

Friday, June 17

3:30 PM – Staff Meeting

Deadline for articles to go in the Summer Messenger for announcements from now until September

Sunday, June 19 – Baptism Sunday

Father's Day

Sunday School will be held

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 and 7:00 PM, Fridays at 8:00 PM and Saturdays at 9:00 AM (men) and 3:00 PM – Rm. 8

It is important to teach these things to our children and youth, but it is equally if not more important that we as adults, of any age, actually live out our faith; first in who we *are* and only then in what we *do*.

See you in church,

Rev. Dominic



Ugly Tie Contest!

In preparation for Father's Day, Rev. Dominic is having the Sunday School Children bring in ugly ties that will be voted on! Children AND

ADULTS are welcome to bring in ties to contribute to this effort over the next two weeks and even to Father's Day Sunday itself and give them to Rev. Dominic as we learn a new angle on Jesus saying: "The last shall be first and the first shall be last".



Jim Lynch, Matthew Larzelere, Iliia Grzegorzewski, 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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

This week we celebrate our wonderful year of Sunday School with Church School Sunday. The service will feature the children leading key parts of the Worship service, and sharing with the congregation the stories and lessons they most enjoyed during Sunday School this year. Please join us!

Children in kindergarten through grade 5 are asked to arrive by 9:45 am. Our K-2 children need to be in place as greeters prior to the start of service. Children in grades 3-5 will be meeting briefly with Kris Carbonneau to review their roles. Thank you for your help and support!

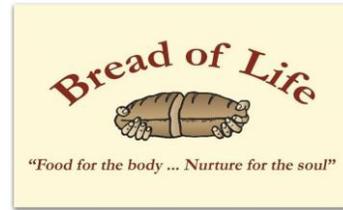
WARRANT FOR THE SPRING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in MELROSE, UCC

To the Members of the First Congregational Church in Melrose, United Church of Christ:

In accordance with the by-laws, the 168th Spring Meeting of the First Congregational Church in Melrose, UCC is called to be held in the church on Sunday, June 12, 2016 at 11:15 am. This meeting is called by the Deacons and Trustees to act upon the following Articles:

- Article 1: To receive and act upon the reports of staff members;
- Article 2: To receive and act upon the reports of the Deacons and Trustees;
- Article 3: To receive and act upon the reports of other committees and affiliated boards;
- Article 4: To receive and act upon the reports of the Deacons and Trustees acting as a Nominating Committee and to elect Deacons and Trustees for terms beginning July 1, 2016.
- Article 5: To transact such other business as may legally come before the meeting.

Becky Fuentes and Darby Drafts,
Co-Trustees of Congregational Records / Clerk



Bread of Life – New Day and Location!

This month starts our new day and location to provide volunteers for the Bread of Life Evening Meals Program.

Next **Thursday, June 16**, is our evening to cook and serve dinner at Bread of Life. The meals are now being served at the **American Legion Post 69** at 368 Pleasant Street (Rt. 60) in Malden. The site is handicap-accessible and has onsite parking.

If you are interested in being a part of this mission or want more information, contact Sallie Klemm at shklemm@verizon.net

Rachael Wolley graduated in December 2015 from U Mass Amherst with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications.

Rachael is the daughter of Chris and Peggy Wolley and granddaughter of Rachael Hayward.



Congratulations to this year's High School graduates:

- Will Brincheiro*
- Madeline Carbonneau*
- Ariane Faro*
- Lydia Gyurina*
- Brendan Taranowski*
- Trey Durant*
- Evan Darwin*
- Jake Lynch*
- Naomi Ngassa*
- Liana Garrett*
- Ben Fiesel*
- Alex Venuti*
- Lauren Webster*



On May 22nd we celebrated with our 50+ year members.

We are still profiling some of them in the Messenger for a few more weeks.



Robert Hughes

Like his church classmate Emelie, Bob Hughes was baptized and grew up in our church, joining the church as a confirmand in 1952. Bob's mother had come to this country from Scotland when she was 20,

and Bob's grandfather had been a baker in a bakery on Main Street where Papa Gino's now stands. Bob remembers having Fred Spollett as a Sunday School teacher, and good times in the Christian Endeavor and Pilgrim Fellowship youth groups.

Bob recalls an ecumenical gathering in Memorial Hall for the country's bicentennial celebration, that was such a success that it led to the establishment of summer union services in town, so the churches would have more opportunities to gather together in worship across denominational lines.

Another project the church took on that Bob looks back on with pride was our church's adoption of a Vietnamese family in 1967. Nam Tran and his family came over from Vietnam, and the church helped them get established in this country. Parishioners volunteered to drive them to appointments, classes and job interviews; they were housed and fed and tutored and cared for by members of the church. Nam was employed as the church sexton, and although the family eventually moved to the west coast and became successfully self-supporting, many in the church maintain ties with the family, and there are strong bonds of love and gratitude on both sides.

In his many years in the church Bob has served on the Fellowship Commission (for decades), as well as on the Education Commission. He remembers fondly some of the fun events the Fellowship Commission used to put on for the church - afternoon teas, men's nights, picnics, birthday parties, Irish nights, Lenten pot luck suppers, and almost every other church event that involved food (don't they all?). And in keeping with the "food" theme, Bob was a regular volunteer at our church's Bread of Life monthly meal preparation ministry.

And anyone who sits on the left side of church will surely recognize Bob from his monthly usher duties, which he has carried out for as long as anyone can remember, almost always ushering on the left side.

Bob spent his career in banking at State Street Bank. Now in retirement, he can sit in his living room across the street from the church and gaze out his patio doors at the beautifully lit steeple in the evening and recall a whole lifetime's worth of wonderful church memories.

Bell Choir Seeks Ringers – Let us “show you the ropes”



In the early days of bell ringing, before the days of hand bells, bell choirs practiced peals in bell towers, with one person pulling the rope for one bell. When someone “shows you the

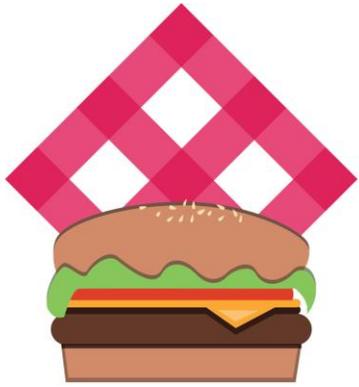
ropes” they are literally showing you how to ring the bells!!*

Have you ever wanted to be in our bell choir, but thought that there wasn't a place for you? Have you listened to and watched the beauty of the bells, and thought “I can do that!”? Maybe you've said “How do they do that?!” Maybe now is the time to give it a try and find out how easily qualified you may be!

The Jubilate Ringers will host a few “open rehearsals” during the month of June, so that anyone who may have an interest in joining the bell choir can come and give it a try. While no formal musical training is required, (many of us in the bell choir readily admit we can't “read music”) it does help if you played some other instrument some time in your life, or sang in a choir, and know the notes on the musical staff. If you can clap in time, and can count to four (OK, sometimes you'll need to count to six or eight, occasionally 12) then you may be a good candidate to play bells!

We meet every Wednesday at 7:15 in the Sanctuary, and rehearse for about two hours every week. If you'd like to come and give it a try, join us on Wednesday June 15th at 7:15 and we'll show you the ropes! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jim Oosterman at 781-662-7445 or email him at oosterman@aol.com.

*OK, I made that up, but is sure does sound like it could be, right? Like many other phrases, this expression has its origins in the world of sailing. Senior members of the crews of these ships were the ones who knew the ropes and understood how to use them to control the sails. The ambition of any sailor was to know the ropes as quickly as possible. But did you know a ship's bell rings in ½ hour increments over a 4-hour shift? What time is it at 8 bells? That may or may not be connected to hand bell ringing, but come to one of our rehearsals to find out for sure!



End of Year Cookout



We Need CHANGE!

It's time for Change! We need CHANGE NOW!

To be more precise, we need YOUR CHANGE, from your sofa cushions, that jar in your bedroom, the one in the laundry room, the little tray in your car, the coins that seem to weigh down your pockets and purse.

We will be collecting change in the Narthex every Sunday in June to raise money to send our youth and chaperones to the UCC National Youth event in July.

Won't it feel great to finally put that old coin collection to good use?

END-OF-YEAR COOKOUT ON JUNE 26TH!

The end of June will see a very popular event at First Congregational - the End-of-Year Cookout!

For those who haven't been at church for this yet - this cookout is a celebration of all of us together as a church, at the end of our program year. The cookout takes place right after our outdoor worship service, and it is a potluck lunch that is always spectacular! Hamburgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers, and rolls and condiments are provided, as are ice water and lemonade.

The cookout is also a great time to meet new friends, catch up with "old" friends, and maybe talk about vacation plans. There will be a signup board in the Narthex - please take a moment to sign up and indicate what kind of contribution you'd like to make to the buffet. There are lots of categories, something for everyone.

See you there!

Donna and Ron Miner

SUMMER



MESSENGER DEADLINE for items to go in the last Messenger for the season is Friday, June 17th. That Messenger will be sent out June 22nd.

We are looking forward to seeing summer items and also previews of upcoming fall events.

Please think ahead to your activities that will take place this summer and in the fall and give us information to publicize those activities.



5th Annual Church Pool Party on Fathers' Day, June 19th, 1 PM until 4 PM at the Oosterman's, 54 Ellis Farm Lane, Melrose

Lawn games, pool toys and snacks provided. Feel free to bring your own picnic, blanket, games, snacks, floatation devices, etc.