

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

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Thank You Duncan!

It is hard to believe that it was five years ago that Duncan Vinson joined the staff of our church as our new Music Director. He has brought a great deal of talent, commitment and creativity to our music ministry. It is with sadness, then, that I received the news late last week of his decision to leave First Congregational Church.

It has been a pleasure working with Duncan and to witness his talents increase during his tenure with us. He arrived here mainly as a pianist and committed himself to acquiring certification with and membership in the National Guild of Organists through much study and practice. His talent only grew from there. He welcomed many different musical groups into the fabric of our music ministry and contributed musical talents (such as playing bass with the Praise Band) where needed. From seasonal musical offerings to funerals to acquiring special guests (remember the Shape Note singers?) Duncan has been a very strong asset to this church!

Be assured that Duncan's decision to leave his staff position is not the result of conflict or disagreement. While every job has its challenges, his decision is based on new directions in his personal life and a desire to be more available to his daughter while he completes his graduate school studies. Needless to say, he will be missed! I can honestly say that I never needed to micro-manage any aspect of our music ministry while Duncan was at the helm.

Duncan will remain with us through the end of this program year and will provide musical leadership at the Summer Union Service we will be hosting on July 24th. His last official day will be July 31st. Look for details soon on celebrating Duncan's ministry with us.

We wish Duncan well as he transitions into the next phase of his life and career. We thank you, Duncan, and go with you in spirit!

See you in church,

Rev. Dominic

Sunday, June 19, 2016
Father's Day
Baptism Sunday

8:45 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal
10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School
11:15 AM – Coffee Hour
1:00 to 4:00 PM – 4th Annual Church Pool Party at the Oosterman's

THE FLOWERS are in memory of Dana Franklin Batting and Richard Everett Ahlin, given by the Ahlin/Krueger families.

DURING THE COMING WEEK

Tuesday, June 21

7:00 PM – Deacons and Trustees transitional meeting at the Brincheiro's. All those going off the boards as well as all those coming on the boards

Wednesday, June 22

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal (Open Rehearsal)

Sunday, June 26

10:00 AM – Outdoor Worship (rain or shine)

11:15 AM – End of the Year Cookout

The following groups meet here regularly:

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

Girl Scouts – Sundays, 3:00 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

A Celebration of Duncan's Ministry



Please join us on Sunday, June 26th, as we not only conclude our program year, but also celebrate the conclusion of Duncan Vinson's time with us as Music Director. Duncan will be recognized both during the worship service and afterward at our cookout. This will also

be a great opportunity for you to offer your own greetings to him as well.



Mary Sakata, 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

Thank you for your wonderful support of Church School Sunday! Our children did a great job to showcase everything they learned this year. This Sunday the Toddlers and Pre K through Middle School will have their last class before the end of the church year.

High School Youth are invited to meet with Jen Crain in the Spollett Room for a discussion on "Reflections and Suggestions for Next Year".

We hope to see you there!

Summer Union Services Update

The Melrose Clergy Association has elected to curtail the Melrose Summer Union Services. Each participating church will now host one service and each clergyperson will lead one service. All services will take place in the month of July following the Fourth of July weekend. There are two reasons for this change. One is the recognition of dwindling attendance at the summer services and, secondly, each church (including ours) has experienced difficulty in recruiting volunteers during the summer to assure that there are ushers, tellers, coffee hour servers, and child care. This was also a compromise decision that allowed some participating churches to remain as part of the rotation of summer worship services.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Host Church</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
July 10	First United Methodist	Rev. Beth Horne
July 17	Green Street Baptist	Rev. Stacey Lanier
July 24	First Congregational	Rev. Dr. George Sinclair
July 31	Highlands Cong.	Rev. Dominic Taranowski

**Bell Choir Seeks Ringers –
 Let us “show you the ropes”
 Wednesday, June 22nd**



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, starting in September and rehearse for about two hours every week. If you'd like to come and give it a try, join us on **Wednesday June 22nd** 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 1/2 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!



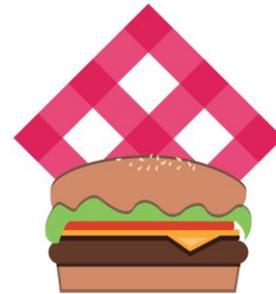
Annual Church Pool Party on Fathers' Day, June 19th, 1 PM until 4 PM
at the Oosterman's, 54 Ellis Farm Lane, Melrose
 Lawn games, pool toys and snacks will be provided. Feel free to bring your own picnic, chairs or a blanket, games, snacks, floatation devices, etc.



Outdoor Worship Sunday, June 26

10:00 AM

Rain or Shine (Narthex in case of rain)



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 sign up 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

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?



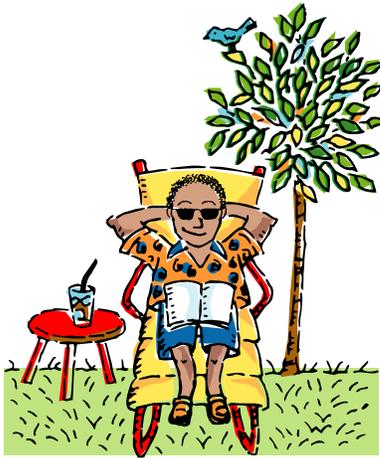
SUMMER



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.



FATHER'S DAY

**Bread of Life Annual Golf Tournament,
Monday, July 11, 2016,
8 am registration and breakfast, 9 am Tee Off,
Mount Hood Golf Club, Melrose, MA.**

The tournament will be followed by a great 19th Hole Dinner Event at Montvale Plaza in Stoneham, featuring prizes, gift certificates, and raffles to benefit the less fortunate in our local communities. The cost is \$135 per golfer, which includes golf, cart, awards and the lunch banquet. Those who cannot participate in the tournament can still attend the 19th Hole Dinner Event which begins at 2 pm at Montvale Plaza, at a cost of only \$25, including dinner, prizes & raffles. Tournament sponsorships provide an advertising opportunity for businesses and help the hungry at the same time. To register for tournament or 19th Hole Dinner Event or become a Sponsor, please call Gabriella at 781-475-9060 or click the link below to go to our website.

