



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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Bible Talking

Did you know that there are a number of common English phrases that we use every day that have their origin in the bible?

Far from being a dusty old book that has no relationship to modern times, the bible can not only provide comfort and guidance, but it is also reflected in the words we use every day. For example:

If you get to *the root of the matter* (Job 19:28), the language used in the bible is *a drop in the bucket* (Isaiah 40:15) to its overall message. There are those who *are wolves in sheep's clothing* (Matthew 7:15) who will tell you that the only purpose of scripture is to keep people *on the straight and narrow* (Matthew 7:14); that life is more than just an opportunity to *eat, drink and be merry* (Ecclesiastes 8:15). But if you *go the extra mile* (Matthew 5:41), it is about so much more.

Of course, the bible can be used to prove anything. It is *a sign of the times* (Matthew 16:3) that scripture is used to *scapegoat* (Leviticus 16:9) people we don't like and that may bring you *to your wit's end* (Psalm 107:27). But before you *wash your hands of the matter* (Matthew 27:24), consider this:

Weighed in the balance (Job 31:6), the bible has more to say about *seeing eye to eye* (Isaiah 52:8) than it does *the blind leading the blind* (Matthew 15:13). Not to *put words in one's mouth* (2 Samuel 14:3), but *the writing on the wall* (Daniel 5) is that the belief that scripture is all about *an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth* (Matthew 5:38) is about to *bite the dust* (Psalm 72:9). Some may only come to this truth *by the skin of their teeth* (Job 19:20), but I believe *a leopard can change his spots* (Jeremiah 13:23).

Sunday, October 16, 2016 Baptism Sunday

- 9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal
- 9:30 AM – Children and youth music rehearsal for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
- 10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School
- 11:15 AM – Coffee Hour
- 11:30 AM - Band of Praise informal meeting and rehearsal, chapel
- 4:00 PM – MAAV Walk and Candlelight Vigil at Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School

The Steeple is lit this week in loving memory of Betty Crane by her daughter, Nancy Schurian.

DURING THE WEEK

Monday, October 17

CASPAR

7:30 PM - Racial Justice Ministries Group, Betsy Garrett's house: 70 Ardsmoor Rd., Melrose

Tuesday, October 18

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

Wednesday, October 19

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Thursday, October 20

4:00 PM – Bread of Life Dinner, American Legion, 368 Pleasant St., Malden

Friday, October, 21

3:00 PM – Staff Meeting

Sunday, October 23

BIBLE SUNDAY

10:00 AM – Worship

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), Tuesdays at 4:30 PM,

Women's AWOL 7:30 PM, Wednesdays at 4:30 PM, & 7:30 PM,

Thursdays at 4:30 PM and 7:00 PM, Fridays at 4:30 PM & 8:00 PM

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

So tomorrow morning, when you *rise and shine* (Isaiah 60:1), and the good news looks to be *nothing but skin and bones* (Job 19:19), remember that there is *light in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it* (John 1: 5)!

You see, the bible can show up in places you least expect it!

See you in church,

Rev. Dominic



Tom McLoughlin (Judy Murphy's brother), Nyal Fuentes, Keith Williams, Bryan Mc Allister-Grande, Claire Griffin, Herb Gray, Bill Albright, Barbara Wellington, Becky Faro, Bill Copeland, Gem Colvin, Dot Allen, Bob Pierce, Anne Wing, Ella Boyle, Scott Chisholm.

† *Our prayers and sympathy go out to Claire Griffin and the family and friends of Bob Griffin, who passed away on Wednesday, October 5th. Bob had been a very active member here for 64 years.*



SUNDAY SCHOOL:

This week our Toddler through Grade 5 classes will be learning the story of Joseph. We look forward to hearing them sing songs from his amazing story during Worship!

Middle School youth will discuss the lesson theme "Friends Forever" during class in the library.

High School youth are invited to a discussion with Jen Crain the Spollett Youth Room, or are welcome to remain in Worship.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

October 23, 2016: Third Grade Bible Sunday
 October 30, 2016: Annual Halloween Party in the basement after Worship



Are you interested in joining the Band of Praise?

If you are interested, we will be meeting after church on Sunday, October 16th for an informal meeting and rehearsal in the chapel. Anyone in middle

school, high school, or anyone older is invited to attend. We are especially looking for those who play drums, guitar, or keyboard and would like to sing and play in the praise band in church. We hope to see you there.

Bob and Lisa Jamison



BREAD OF LIFE – a chance to FEED YOUR SOUL!

October 20th is the Third Thursday of the month... so the FCC volunteers are heading to **Bread of Life** in Malden! We would love to have a few more people join us. Bread of Life provides the food, we prepare and cook it, then serve the clients. This really rewarding evening gives us a chance to help our neighbors and understand a little bit about what some less fortunate people face every day. Our team from First Congregational Church volunteers from 4pm – 7pm. You can make a difference, even if you can only spare an hour during that time! The location for the meals is:

The American Legion Post 69, 368 Pleasant Street, in Malden

– one block from the Malden MBTA station, near the intersection of Rt. 60 and Pleasant Street. (There is a parking lot!!!) The next date that we will be serving is Thursday, **October 20th.**

If you can't make it to the dinner but would still like to help, we can always use donations of dessert. If you have questions about this mission of our church, please speak with Sallie Klemm shklemm@verizon.net or 781-665-0159

Refugee Immigration Ministry



30th Anniversary International Dinner November 6, 2016

**First Congregational Church
 121 west Foster St., Melrose MA**

Tickets: \$40 (\$35 if you buy before October 15)
 Mail check to RIM at 6 Pleasant St., Suite 612, Malden, MA 02148

Sharing the Gifts of our Diverse Cultures

5:30 PM Hors d'oeuvres
 6:30 PM Dinner: An International Buffet
 Silent Auction and Awards Ceremony

Racial Justice Ministries Group Formation
~Betsy Garrett and Beth Hampson

In light of the current increase in awareness of racial tension across the country, we are starting a Racial Justice Ministries within our church community. After meeting with Reverend Dominic to discuss the need for this ministry, we decided to start by working through the newly developed UCC White Privilege curriculum. (www.uccfiles.com/pdf/White-Privilege-Curriculum.pdf)

Ultimately we want to develop an ongoing group here in the church with a focus on racial justice that explores what we can do as a faith community to dismantle racism. By examining white privilege, its historic roots, and the role of white people in perpetuating systemic racism, we can support the efforts of the Black Lives Matter movement and similar initiatives. Until white communities join the conversation and take action we won't see real change. Please join us in answering the call!

We have set a first meeting for Monday, October 17 at 7:30 PM. Snacks and wine provided. Future meetings will be held on different days of the week to maximize involvement, so if you are interested but cannot meet Mondays, please let us know. We will meet at Betsy's house: 70 Ards Moor Rd., Melrose, 781-662-0835, betsy.luebbe.garrett@gmail.com. RSVPs by phone or email are appreciated, just so we know how many people are coming. Also, Betsy does have cats.

The curriculum is available for free as a pdf and you can download it at <http://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/White-Privilege-Curriculum.pdf>. Staples will print and bind it for \$16—you can upload the file and place your order through their website. Before the first meeting please read Part One (four short chapters). All are spiritual autobiographies told through the lens of race. We will discuss the reading with an eye toward writing our own spiritual autobiography.

We hope you will consider joining this important call to action!

Beth Hampson (bkashatus@gmail.com)

Betsy Garrett (betsy.luebbe.garrett@gmail.com)

Free Health Fairs for Seniors

A Free Health fair is being held on Thursday, October 20th from 10am-1pm at Atria Maplewood Place, 295 Broadway, in Malden. Free health screenings, health resource information, give-a-ways, continental breakfast, a light lunch, and more. Sponsored by Hallmark Health VNA and Hospice and Atria Maplewood Place. For more information call 781-338-7885.



MAAV's
ANNUAL WALK & CANDLELIGHT VIGIL
Sunday, October 16, 2016

The 21st Annual Walk and Candlelight Vigil will be held on Sunday, Oct. 16 at 4:00 pm, starting and ending at the Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School, 350 Lynn Fells Parkway in Melrose.

Please join us to commemorate the victims of domestic violence in Massachusetts over the past year and rededicate ourselves to preventing violence in the community. Event will include:

- A candlelight vigil honoring victims, brief remarks and music in the auditorium
- Community art project "A Path to Hope"
- Alternate activity for children
- 2-mile walk around Ell Pond in Melrose
- Participants walking in teams or as individuals
- Refreshments in the cafeteria at the conclusion
- Walk T-shirts for sale
- Team photos

Other Things to Know:

- Event takes place rain or shine.
- Dogs are welcome along the Walk route
- Children of all ages are welcome. Activities for young children will be offered during the candlelight vigil if a parent prefers.
- The Walk is MAAV's largest fundraiser. There is no registration fee but we ask participants to make a donation or collect pledges, either in person or online. Suggested donation is \$20 per person.
- Participants are encouraged to form teams from your organization, workplace, neighborhood, house of worship or friends. Contact MAAV for Team Captains' Packet.

Our goal this year: To involve 50 teams and 500 participants, and to raise \$50,000 for MAAV's critical services and violence prevention programs.

For more information contact MAAV at 781-662-2010 or at info@maav.org

A Free Health fair is being held on Tuesday, November 15th from 10am -12:30pm at Stoneham Senior Center, 136 Elm Street, Stoneham. Free health screenings, health resource information, give-a-ways, continental breakfast, and more. Sponsored by Hallmark Health VNA and Hospice and the Stoneham Council on Aging. For more information call 781-338-7885.

CABARET

Polymnia Choral Society's 63rd Season
SATURDAY October 22nd
TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
21 East Foster Street, Melrose

These performances will be dedicated to Bob Griffin, a longtime member of Polymnia and Blue of a Kind. Both shows will close with "The Parting Blessing", a favorite of Bob's, in his honor.

TWO SHOW TIMES: 5:00 PM 8:00 PM
Doors open at 4:30 Doors open at 7:30

PERFORMERS INCLUDE
Brendan Carroll, Murray Kidd, The High School,
Spotlight Winners, and a host of featured singers

ADMISSION \$25 • Students \$15

**Tickets available online at www.polymnia.org
or at Miter Biter Frame Co., 479 Main Street; or by
calling 617 633 5006**



REMINDER:

**A ONE EVENING GATHERING FOR WOMEN 18
YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER AT GREEN
STREET ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2016, AT
7:00 PM.**

Captain Kevin Sheridan of the Malden Police Department is a member of our church. He presented to our men's group a program called: The Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE). The course is designed and built on the Avoid, Deny, Defend strategy developed by the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT). The course provides strategies, guidance and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event.

We would love to have your women join with us and other Melrose women. We will have a question and answer period following the program with Captain Sheridan. There will be coffee, punch and desserts. Kevin is offering to do an additional course in the future for our Melrose Church men.

Please RSVP so that we can be set up for enough people by calling Florence, our church Secretary at 781-665-7331, or call Susan Hamilton at: 978-717-5541.