Coffee and Prayer

Most people start their day with a cup of coffee. Most people need to start their day with a cup of coffee. At least they feel they do. Without it, the day just doesn’t feel right. They don’t feel right. They get irritable and head achy. So whether it is old fashioned Folgers or a Macchiato Vente, coffee is a felt necessity.

Now, what if prayer played the same role in our lives as coffee? What if you just couldn’t really start your day without it? Imagine if you realized that the reason you are irritable and head achy is because you haven’t spent any intentional time with God yet. How would the world be different if we were as addicted to prayer as we are to caffeine?

I know many people make a run to Starbucks as a reward for a hard workout at the Y. What if we rewarded ourselves with 15 minutes of prayer instead?

Too often we think of prayer (if we think about it at all) as a religious thing for Sunday morning. Outside of that setting, it is a chore or obligation; something that will take our time away from what we need or prefer to be doing. So we rarely engage in it. It is a task and we already have too many of those. And we certainly wouldn’t consider it a reward for anything.

I think it would be a tremendous thing if we couldn’t wait to pray like we can’t wait to get to our coffee in the morning (or maybe the afternoon and evening too—Starbucks is open late!). I think we would be better people. We would be more centered, more in touch with our priorities, and more aware of those around us as companions on our journey through life. I think the world would be a better place too. Rivalries, competition, wars, inequality, and violence fundamentally stem from a disconnection from ourselves, others and God. Prayer brings that back into focus.

It may sound like a pipe dream to have prayer replace coffee, but movement in that direction can only be beneficial. And it can start small. Most people have coffee as part of a routine. Consequently, connecting to the positives of prayer can best be found by making it part of your routine.
SUNDAY – November 6

This mission of our church is a great way to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors! You can involve your whole family by talking about the food you are donating and discussing how it will help others.

SUNDAY – November 6

Food Pantry

This mission of our church is a great way to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors! You can involve your whole family by talking about the food you are donating and discussing how it will help others.

6TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER
NOVEMBER 20TH
Right after Church

On November 20th, right after the service, our church will have its 6th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner! It is always a meaningful time in that we all can gather in the Narthex, share in a delicious potluck meal and visit with one another.

As in the past, there will be turkey for everyone, and members of the congregation bring their choice of a side dish, salad, or dessert. A signup board is now in the Narthex on one of the front windows. Take a moment when next you are at church and sign up to join us, and think about what you might like to bring to share.

Please plan to join us on November 20th. We hope to see you there!

Donna and Ron Miner

Sunday School:

We hope everyone enjoyed the Halloween Party! Big thanks to our Youth Deacons and to the high school and middle school youth who put together a spooky good time for the children of our church.

This Sunday, our toddler, pre K and kindergarten through grade 5 lesson is "Boy David is Chosen King". The story and craft activities are based on the theme "God sees what is in your heart". We should love others the way that God loves us, based on what is in their hearts.

Youth:

This Sunday, the middle and high school youth will form a raking brigade! Youth who cannot join the raking brigade are invited to remain in Worship.

Youth Raking Brigade
This Sunday

Our Middle School and High School youth will be going on a raking brigade this Sunday at 10:00 AM. Youth should dress in old clothes and bring gloves and rakes if you have them (not necessary - we'll have extra). We will head out to rake as soon as Worship starts and plan to be back at the Church by 12:00 for pizza. Any adults that want to drive please contact Nancy & Frank Brincheiro 781-662-3416.
Winter Wonderland Fair
December 2 – 6:00-8:00 pm
December 3 – 9:00 am-2:00 pm

The following tables depend upon your generous spirit. The Gift and Christmas tables are also an opportunity for you to ‘weed out’.

Glenda Amirault (781-665-0923) and Ginny Altmann (607-643-5397) are our contact people for the Gift Table. Please donate gently used scarves and purses. If you are a knitter or stitcher please donate these handmade soft goods to the gift table this year.

Janet Runge (781-665-2713) is the contact for the Christmas Table. Donations can include gently used ornaments, wreaths, angels, and lights. These items always brighten the season for others.

Martha Williams (781-942-4547) will answer your questions about Raffle Baskets. Pick a theme and have fun choosing the items (remember these must be new items) to fill your basket (container). The basket elves will arrange your basket, wrap it in cellophane, add a bow and a tag if you would like. Remember to include the container and bring it to church by November 28 if you desire this “elf service”.

We will have the very popular, crowd pleasing Gingerbread Houses again this year. Donated materials and house construction volunteers make this a real money maker!!

Jewelry, jewelry, jewelry!!!
Please sort yours and donate those pieces you no longer wear to the Fair!!!! This popular table needs our help - bling, costume, fine - accepted gratefully.

Watch for details next week.

Refugee Immigration Ministry

30th Anniversary International Dinner
November 6, 2016
First Congregational Church
121 west Foster St., Melrose MA
Tickets: $40
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

ONE LEFT
MEMORIAL WREATHS

Four beautiful Christmas wreaths will be placed around the church during the coming holiday season. If you would like to donate a wreath in memory of a loved one, please call Susan at the church office, 665-2111. The wreaths are $50.00 each. They will be hung before the beginning of Advent (November 27), to be enjoyed throughout the Advent season.

By Lighting our Church Steeple in memory or in honor of loved ones, you can help our church financially. Contact the church office (781-665-2111 or info@fccmelrose.org) to sign up for a week beginning on a Sunday. Your gift will be announced in the Sunday Bulletin and “The Messenger”. A $25.00 per week contribution is suggested.