



First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Messenger

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Our Beliefs in a Wider Context

Time for a pop quiz. Ready?

- What is the largest religion in the world?
 - Hinduism
 - Christianity
 - Islam
 - Judaism
 - Buddhism
- What is the fastest growing religion in the world?
 - Islam
 - Christianity
 - Judaism
 - Buddhism
 - Hinduism
- The "Protestant Reformation" within Hinduism was called _____.

How did you do? To save you time tracking down the correct answers, here they are:

Christianity is the largest religion in the world. Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world (in fact, it will surpass Christianity by the end of this century). And Buddhism can be called the reform movement within Hinduism.

During the season of Lent, I will be hosting a class on Christianity and World Religions in the Library after each Sunday service. I think we could use this class for a couple of reasons.

First, we need to confess that our basic knowledge of other religions is pretty inadequate. While this class will only scratch the surface of each religion, it is a place to start.

Secondly, our Christian faith has a strong call to evangelism; sharing our faith with others. We can only do this effectively in a religiously pluralistic world if we know our points of connection and difference with other faith traditions. While we are to share our faith with

others, it is equally important that we be open to learning from other faiths as well.

Today there are many political dimensions to religious practice and acceptance. This class, however, will focus more on comparative religious beliefs. Again, it is a starting point. Lent is a time of faith-reflection and evaluation. As we learn about and appreciate other religious traditions, we can better refine what it is that we ourselves believe about the Christian faith we cherish.

I hope you will join me beginning this Sunday, March 5th.

See you in church,

Sunday, March 5, 2017

- 9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal**
- 10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School**
- 11:15 AM – Coffee Hour**
- 11:30 AM - Lenten Adult Education Class, Library**
- 7:00 PM – Confirmation Class**

THE STEEPLE is lit this week in loving memory of Connie Robinson, sadly missed by her Circle 4 sisters.

DURING THE WEEK

Tuesday, March 7

- 2:00 PM – Circle 4, Lounge
- 7:00 PM – RIM, Library
- 7:15 to 8:15 PM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 8

- 7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Saturday, March 11

Daylight Savings Time begins. Turn clocks AHEAD

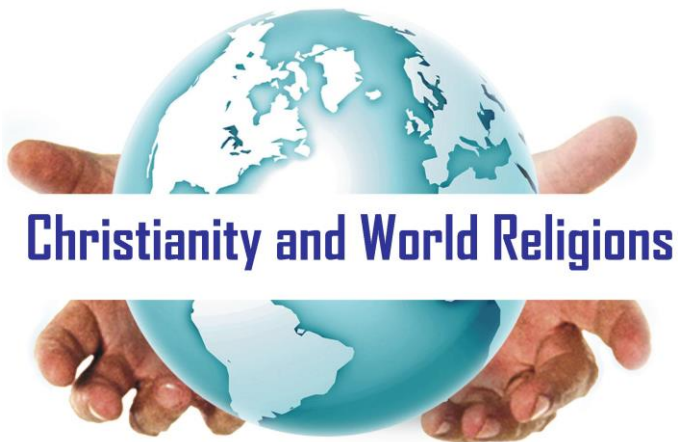
Sunday, March 12

- 10:00 AM – Worship and Sunday School
- 11:30 AM - Lenten Adult Education Class, Library
- 7:00 PM – Confirmation Class



Brian Johnson, Bob Hughes, Ray Luebbe (Betsy Garrett's father), Mary Sakata and Becky Faro (Trish Faro's daughters), Nyal Fuentes, Claire Griffin, Bill Copeland, Merle Copeland, Gem Colvin, Dot Allen, Bob Pierce, Anne Wing, Ella Boyle, Scott Chisholm.

Our prayers and sympathy to the family of Ginny Niles, who passed away on February 28 in Plymouth, MA, at age 92. Ginny was the aunt of Nancy Schurian, and sister of the late Betty Crane. She was a long time member of our church.



Christianity and World Religions

LENTEN ADULT EDUCATION CLASS CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS

After worship each Sunday of Lent beginning March 5th.

Join Rev. Dominic in the Library after worship during Lent for a discussion based class that will look at world religions through the lens of our own faith tradition. The classes are not built upon each other so you are welcome to join at any point. The classes will be group discussion based and all are welcome. Each class will begin with a starter video from Adam Hamilton outlining the topic of the day. These will include an Introduction Session on how questions around world religions are framed, followed by sessions on Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity.

While Christianity is the largest religion in the world today, there are billions of people who practice other faiths. In this series we will learn the salient features of these other major religions from a Christian perspective in order to lift up points of similarity and difference. Doing so will allow us to better own what it is we believe about our own faith, approach other religions with reverence and respect, and build bridges by learning from other traditions while sharing our own.

Circle 4 will meet in the Church Lounge on **Tuesday, March 7th at 2:00 P.M.**



The following groups meet here regularly:

- Boy Scouts** – Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the basement
- Girl Scouts** – Sundays, 3:00 to 5:00 PM
- 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, 7:30 PM (Women’s AWOL), Wednesdays at 4:30 PM & 7:30 PM, Thursdays at 4:30 PM and 7:00 PM, Fridays at 4:30 PM and 8:00 PM and Saturdays at 9:00 AM (men) and 3:00 PM – Rm. 8



CHILI AND CORNBREAD COOK-OFF

KID CHEFS WIN GRAND PRIZES AT THIS YEAR'S COOK-OFF!

On Sunday, February 26th, Kid Chefs Jessica Pluskey and M.J. Warner won the overall grand prizes for chili and cornbread, respectively, at the 6th Annual Chili Cook-off and Cornbread Contest.

"Kid Chefs" is a new category that was in place for the first time at the Cook-off. In all there were 20 chili entries, ranging from "No Beans" to "Hot and Spicy," and 10 cornbread entries that included "Not Your Mother's Cornbread" and "On The Sweet Side."

A comment heard more than once during the competition was "I've got to figure out which chili that was!" The range of homemade chilis was extensive and there were plenty of recipe ideas to bring home, for cornbread as well.

The rest of the winners at the Cook-off were as follows:

- Hot & Spicy Chili - Tom and Becky Foth
- Vegetarian Chili - Linda Fennell
- Without Beans Chili - Jim and Lisa Oosterman
- Easy-to-Make Chili - Sherri Jackson
- Old Family Recipe Chili - Helen Chisholm

- Kid Chef, Extraordinary Cornbread - Elena Fuentes
- Kid Chef, Most Incredible Cornbread - M.J. Warner
- Kid Chef, Most Stupendous Chili - Jessica Pluskey
- Kid Chef, Most Superb Chili - Sukey Hampson
- Kid Chef, Most Amazing Chili - Tucker Lamothe

- Classic Cornbread - Jaimie McAllister Grande
- On the Sweet Side Cornbread - Lois Gauvreau
- Not Your Mother's Cornbread - Kara Larzelere
- Spicy Cornbread - Sam Lynch

Fellowship would like to extend sincere thanks to all who participated in the Cook-off, but especially to those who spent time preparing the dishes we all were privileged to try.

Without you there would be no Cook-off each year!

**Meet our newest members that joined
January 29th!**



Janet Hanlon

I am very happy to be able to introduce and sponsor for membership in our congregation Janet Hanlon. I have gotten to know Janet as she sits in front of us every Sunday.

Janet grew up in Middleton, Connecticut, lived in Stoneham for several years before she moved to Melrose in 2015 and tells me that she liked it and has become attached to the city. She currently lives at Levi-Gould just down the street.

In terms of family, Janet has a son Todd and a granddaughter Jaime as well as a sister Marlene and a brother George.

Prior to moving to Melrose Janet was a member of the First Congregational Church in Wakefield for a number of years.

Janet is retired. She worked for many years at “*The Carpet & Tile Company*” in Woburn where she served as a certified payroll administrator.

Since retiring Janet keeps herself very busy as a volunteer at the Winchester Hospital. She also is a member of the Stoneham Theater Guild and volunteers doing ushering and working at the refreshment stand. In addition to all that, Janet also does Swedish Weaving at the Senior Center, is very into crocheting and knitting and also loves to read a lot.

And, if all that is not enough, she also is an active member of Circle 4.

It has been a pleasure for me to have gotten to know Janet and we welcome her as a member of our congregation.

Joan Chetwynd



SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Toddlers thru 5 will be learning about how to pray. Middle School will continue with the lesson The Power of the Tongue.

High school will meet with Trish Faro, who will lead an interactive lesson titled: Your Gifts, Your Future. The youth will complete interest finders which will help them discover their personal gifts as well as career choices and school courses that utilize these gifts.

We are excited to have a few volunteer teachers for 3 to 5 to fill in for one Sunday a month in March and April.

We are in need of a second adult for every Sunday in March except for 3/12. If you could sign up ahead of time for one Sunday that would be very helpful as we are low in administrative help. Email or call Sherri or me with dates that are good for you.

Thank you,
Lisa and Sherri



BRAHMS REQUIEM

SATURDAY, MARCH 18
7:30 PM

FIRST PARISH CONGREGATIONAL
1 CHURCH STREET
WAKEFIELD, MA

MURRAY KIDD - CONDUCTOR

SUNG IN GERMAN WITH ORCHESTRA
FEATURING SOLOISTS:
DANA LYNNE VARGA, SOPRANO,
AND DANA WHITESIDE, BARITONE

TICKETS

GO TO: WWW.POLYMNIA.ORG
CALL: 617.633.5006
VISIT: MITER BITER, 479 MAIN STREET,
MELROSE

ADULTS - \$25
STUDENTS & SENIORS - \$20
CHILDREN 12 & UNDER - \$5



See Rick Mockler for tickets.