



First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Messenger

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All Saints' Day's Odd Cousin

It may surprise you to know that once you come down from your sugar high of Halloween, you have arrived at the actual holiday itself. In fact, it is a two-day holiday.

Halloween (or All Hallows Eve) is the "eve" before All Saints' Day. Halloween, of course, has some pretty strong pagan origins and is really rooted in an autumnal equinox celebration of spirits both good and evil. It ushers in All Saints' Day.

All Saints' Day is a decidedly Christian Holiday (going back to the fourth century) to remember all of those who have died and entered into heaven. Of course, it is also a great excuse for singing "When all the Saints go Marching in"! It is, in fact, a pretty straightforward holiday: A celebration of the faithful's entry through the pearly gates. This is celebrated on November 1st.

A slightly stranger holiday follows the next day. That would be All Souls' Day. This, too, is an ancient holiday that dates to the seventh century. The idea here is slightly different than All Saints' Day. All Souls' Day is to recognize and pray for those who have died but have not attained heaven. All Souls' Day is deeply rooted in the notion of Purgatory.

Purgatory is an afterlife place or status held in Roman Catholic and traditional Anglican theology. The word purgatory comes from the word "purge" and that's not a coincidence. Purgatory is not hell. Good people are there. Just not the "uber good" people of All Saints' Day. They have left this life with minor sins unconfessed and unatoned for. Not big stuff, just small stuff. Because of that, they are close to heaven but...not quite there. By the way, this is not the same place as Limbo, for those who may have heard of this. Limbo is reserved for babies who have died without the benefit of baptism. They can see heaven and God, but cannot enter heaven or reach God's presence.

Back to Purgatory. Purgatory is a place where souls are purged (traditionally not pleasant) of these venial (minor) sins in order to eventually join the happy horde that is remembered on All Saints' Day. Here's what's really important: Prayers of the living can have a huge effect on releasing someone from purgatory and that is the purpose of All Souls' Day. Prayers said on this day can stack up in favor of a soul in purgatory and shorten the time spent there.

Needless to say, All Souls' Day is not part of our United Church of Christ theology (let alone Limbo). That said, these are powerful traditions that go back centuries and are held dear by countless of our brothers and sisters in Christ who belong to the Roman Catholic and Anglican rites.

While it may be difficult for us to find a point of connection with this theology, it part of our heritage and definitely food for thought (even if that food compliments the last Snicker's bar from trick or treating!).

See you in church,

Saturday November 4

Turn your clocks BACK before you go to bed.



Sunday, November 5, 2017

**All Saints Day
Food Pantry Sunday**

9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

9:00 AM – Youth Singers rehearse

9:40 AM – Rehearsal for everyone involved in Veteran's Moment

**10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School
Veterans Honored**

11:15 AM – Coffee Hour

DURING THE WEEK

Tuesday, November 7

2:00 PM – Circle 4, Lounge

7:00 PM – RIM Meeting, Library

7:15 to 8:15 PM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 8

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Thursday, November 9

1:00 PM – Staff Meeting

Sunday, November 12

10:00 AM Worship and Sunday School

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
- Makam Music Group** – Sundays 4:45-6:30 PM – Lounge
- 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 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, 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



Barbara Krol-Sinclair, Sam Lynch, Emelie Burnham, Bill Albright, Anne Wing, Bob Hughes, Mary Sakata and Becky Faro (Trish Faro's daughters), Nyal Fuentes, Claire Griffin, Bill Copeland, Merle Copeland, Dot Allen, Bob

Pierce, Michael Connelly, Françoise.



Circle 4 will meet in the Church Lounge on **Tuesday, November 7th at 2:00 PM.**

Rehearsals

Youth Singers:

4:30-5:00 11/2 Thursday
9:00-9:30 11/5 Sunday

Any children and youth interested in singing for the Veteran's moment on 11/5

4:00-4:30 11/2 Thursday
9:30-9:45 11/5 Sunday



NEIGHBORS IN NEED

On November 5th our congregation will be celebrating in the Neighbors in Need offering. Please come prepared to share in this offering opportunity.



We are planning a special class/event with the children to honor our Veterans and active service members on Sunday, November 5th. If you are a Veteran or

actively serving please contact me at 781-267-3719 or email me at duniavelez10@yahoo.com.

Dunia Velez



SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Toddlers-5th: The children will be making Veteran's Day cards to be delivered to Veterans in the community.

Middle/High School: Special Speaker will be sharing about his experience as a Veteran.

If you'd like to be added to the list of volunteers to help out in Sunday School classes as a 2nd adult, please let one of us know at church, or email Sherri Jackson at sltjmtj@hotmail.com.



Families who would like to bring in any leftover Halloween candy, we will be donating it to Operation Gratitude. You donate sweet treats for our Deployed Troops and First Responders.

<http://www.operationgratitude.com/>

Saving our planet one city at time

In the coming weeks, Melrose citizens have a unique opportunity to act locally to help protect God's Creation.

The Board of Alderman will be considering an **Ordinance Regarding the Reduction of Plastic Bags in Melrose.**

This Ordinance will protect our waterways, minimize litter and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Please contact your ward Alderman and the Aldermen at Large to let them know you support the ordinance.



FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY – November 5

The Deacons of Mission encourage EVERYONE to participate in Food Pantry Sunday on 11/5 as we have a continuing community and a unique short term need for resources.

*Phyllis Lanni has a coworker whose family in Puerto Rico is still without power and water; their food supplies are diminished. They are getting UPS deliveries. Phyllis asked us to consider sending food to the family as part of our mission efforts. We said YES because we know YOU would say YES. The box to Puerto Rico must be no more than 50 pounds. They do not have water so food must be ready to eat, light and nourishing. Nuts, lightweight packaged/hydrated food, meat canned with limited water, etc. are all great ideas. The children will also be making muffins for sale on 11/5 to raise money for UPS costs. **Let's make 11/5 Food Pantry Sunday a record-breaking event!***



Thanksgiving Dinner

November is just around the corner, and our annual church Thanksgiving dinner will, as always, take place on the Sunday right before Thanksgiving – this year, on November 19th.

This is one of the newer traditions in our church. Everyone brings a dish to share – there is a sign up board in the Narthex listing what we need. Drinks are provided.

Right after church on November 19th everyone will sit down to enjoy a true Thanksgiving feast together. As in previous years there will be graces from many places and traditions to see on the tables, and in baskets for people to take home if they wish.

Please plan to join us!

If you have questions, call Ron and Donna Miner at 781-662-6697.



Winter Wonderland Fair
December 1 – 6-8 pm
December 2 – 9am-2pm

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 **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. Suggested items for Winter Wonderland Gift table

- pocketbooks, scarves (decorative & winter, gloves, bedsocks/footwarmer
- notecards, special 2018 calendars, coloring theme books with markers
- special Christmas gift items such as tablecloths with matching napkins, placemats, table runners & decorative boxes
- candy/hors-d'oeuvres stving dishes
- local sport teams' items to wear & memorabilia -- small adult games
- Any household item that could be sold as a gift -- jams, jellies, specialty tea/coffee packages All items should be new or barely used. Items that you would be proud to give as a gift to someone. These are just suggestions. you may have other items which we have not thought of but would like to donate to the gift table.

Gather books to donate for the **Book Table** (Betsy Garrett **contact**) and toys, games, and puzzles for the **Toy Table** (Kara Larzelere **contact**). Because storage space is a challenge, please wait to donate until November 26. All items gratefully accepted from then on.

From NOW until the Fair you can bring your **jewelry***, **collectibles**, and **gingerbread house materials**: (small hard candies, mini candy canes, graham crackers, 2lb.bags of powdered sugar), to church.

* Sam Lynch is looking for **BLING** jewelry *

If you haven't signed up to help, please stop by the poster in the narthex and do so.