



First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Messenger

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500 Years Old

It was 500 years ago this month that the Protestant Reformation began. It was actually on Halloween in 1517 that Martin Luther nailed his critique of the Roman Catholic Church to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany.

The Protestant Reformation can seem pretty dry to us today; kind of like an obligatory unit in a high school history class. But it was a huge deal at the time and should still be a huge deal today. If nothing else, we should never take its outcomes for granted. As a refresher, here are just a few of the salient outcomes of the reformation movement in the church:

The Bible belongs to everyone. Scripture is not the exclusive domain of clergy and it is to be freely interpreted by all. The bible should also be available in the native language of all people.

We do not gain God's favor through the work that we do. Instead, we do the work that we do because we have God's favor. Our salvation comes by way of Christ's sacrifice on the cross and our belief in it as opposed to racking up an always insufficient number of points with God through our acts of charity.

Everyone has equal and unimpeded access to God. The church and the clergy are there to facilitate our encounter with God but are not strictly necessary to do so. The "priesthood of all believers" was and is a bedrock belief that has led to the democratic structure of our United Church of Christ in particular.

Today there are wonderful joint statements by the Lutheran Church and the Roman Catholic Church in honor of the 500th anniversary. This is good news because, at the time, Luther's hope of a dialog to reform the Catholic Church was not well received to say the least. He was summarily given 21 days of freedom by the Pope after which anyone could legally murder him. This may well have happened had it not been for the

sanctuary provided by his friend Prince Fredrick of Saxony (in northern Germany).

In the absence of a willingness to discuss changes, the Catholic Church experienced a split as people left the church to follow Luther. Later, those who disagreed with Luther also formed their own churches and the Reformation Movement was off and running.

Our UCC has issued an engaging study of the Reformation in honor of this momentous anniversary and we will have some fun with that as our Lenten Adult Education Series later this program year.

In the meantime, may we take a moment to give thanks for the openness of worship and theology that is the foundation of our faith today.

Luther was not a perfect person nor were his reforms spot on, but he began a movement that continues to this day as the church continues to seek to refine itself and secure its relevancy in modern times.

See you in church,

Sunday, November 12, 2017 Baptism Sunday

9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal
10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School
11:15 AM – Coffee Hour

DURING THE WEEK

Tuesday, November 14

7:00 PM – Deacons Meeting, Library

Wednesday, November 15

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Thursday, November 16

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

Saturday, November 18

9:00 AM to Noon – Fall Cleanup Day (inside and out)

Sunday, November 19

10:00 AM Worship and Sunday School

After worship – Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

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

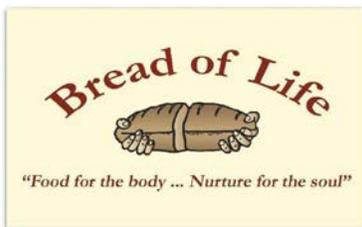


Barbara Krol-Sinclair, Sam Lynch, Emelie Burnham, Bill Albright, Anne Wing, Bob Hughes, Mary Sakata and Becky Faro (Trish Faro's daughters), Nyal Fuentes, Claire Griffin, Bill Copeland, Merle Copeland, Dot Allen, Bob

Pierce, Michael Connelly, Francoise.

Phyllis Read would like to extend her heartfelt thanks to everyone who visited, telephoned and sent cards during her recent convalescence. She is very grateful for all of the support from her church family!

Our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of Roberta Skelley, who passed away on October 27th. Roberta was formally active here in the choir and Circle 4, having joined the church in 1952.



BREAD OF LIFE

Our church volunteers will be cooking and serving the evening meal at Bread of Life in Malden on **Thursday, November 16th** from 4pm until 7pm. The location is the **American Legion Post 69, 368 Pleasant Street, Malden MA.**

More volunteers are always welcome... contact Sallie Klemm shklemm@verizon.net for more information.



Thanksgiving Dinner

signup 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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Toddlers-5th: This week the kids will be learning about being thankful and giving thanks to God in all circumstances.

Middle School: Will continue with Peace Hero.

High school: is invited to remain in the service

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.



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

This year the Candy Cane Cafe will be open both Friday and Saturday.

The Baked Potato Bar will be open on Friday Night December 1. Plan to dine on potato and all the fixin's!! Jim Sugrue contact

The Cafe will serve lunch on Saturday December 2. Nyal Fuentes contact

The week leading up to the Fair requires:

- decorating
- setting up
- gingerbread house assembly
- raffle basket wrapping and tagging
- pricing and organizing

The Fair days need:

- many volunteers at the different tables
- floaters who give the table volunteers a break
- lots of folks willing to sign up for 2 hour rotations in the Children's' Room

Many strong backs are needed for breaking down and cleaning up. These willing volunteers who arrive at 1:45 on Saturday are needed and appreciated!

Sign up now to help out in the opportunities outlined above. Many hands, light work!



Christmas Pageant

**Christmas Pageant
Sunday December 17th
During church service**

We are going to have a Christmas Pageant again this year on December 17th during service. We are looking for children, middle and high school youth and adults to participate. The Narrator will do all the speaking. Other roles will dress up in costume. The entire congregation will participate in songs throughout the pageant.

There will be one brief rehearsal Sunday December 10th.

Please sign up on the poster in the Narthex or email Heidi Buser.

Roles:

Narrator -Tom Foth

Mary - Jaime M. with her new baby

Joseph - Middle school, high school or adult

3 Kings

Shepherds (children, youth or adults - multiple parts)

Angels (children - multiple parts)

Star

Animals (children - multiple parts)

We will need adult help to manage the costumes the day of the pageant.

Finally, we would like a core group to commit to the pageant, but will take walk on roles the day of.

Thank you
Heidi

**Fall Clean Up: Saturday, November 18th!
9:00 a.m. to Noon**

Join us as we rake up the leaves and prepare the grounds for winter. There may also be some interior jobs. Hope to see you there!



Volunteers Needed

Come be a part of our fabulous volunteer team! Hallmark Health VNA and Hospice located in Malden is looking for people who want to make a difference. Are you interested in visiting with hospice patients in the community, or maybe lending a hand administratively in our office? Also, we are a "We Honor Vets" Partner Level 1 organization and we are always looking for veterans who would like to volunteer and visit with other veteran patients. For more info or to volunteer, please give our Volunteer Coordinator, Allison Manheim Caplin, a call at 781-338-7863.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - \$15.00 per plant

Send your order form by Sunday, December 10 to:
Darby Drafts, 25 Adams St.,
Melrose MA 02176



Ordered by: _____

Phone #: _____

IN MEMORY OF:

of plants ordered _____
Amount enclosed: \$ _____

**Please make checks payable to
First Congregational Church.**
