



## First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

# Messenger

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### A Positive Alternative

Thankfully, April 3<sup>rd</sup> passed without incident—at least I never saw any headlines to the contrary.

In case you didn't know, April 3<sup>rd</sup> was a tense day in Britain. People across the country had received notices designating the day as "Punish a Muslim Day". Within the notice, a point system was outlined that ranged from 25 points for pulling Muslim women's headscarves, to 1,000 points for bombing a mosque.

I'd like to think that the reason the day was, by all accounts, calm is because of the response ahead of time by Shahab Adris. Adris is a regional manager for the advocacy group Muslim Engagement and Development. He said that he felt "compelled to put something totally positive out there in response to the original vile letter."

So what did he do? He sent out notices designating April 3<sup>rd</sup> as "Love a Muslim Day". In his notice, he also assigned a point system: 10 points for smiling at Muslims, 25 points for buying Muslims coffee, 500 points for fasting with Muslims during Ramadan, and 1,000 points for raising funds to help needy residents of Iraq or Syria.

It is hard to think of a better response to such hatred! And I'm betting that a lot more Love a Muslim points were racked up than Punish a Muslim points!

Still, there were detractors who said that "Love a Muslim Day" trivialized the original mailing which was a hate crime and incited terrorism. Maybe. But I think the condemnation of "Punish a Muslim Day" was only strengthened by a call to a positive alternative.

There is a broader lesson here. As people of faith, we can all provide positive alternatives to the challenges our society faces. We can do so collectively and individually. As a starting place, we need to remember that the Christian faith is, by definition, countercultural. We have always stood for cooperation over competition,

peace over violence, equality over privilege, and love over hate.

How we act as a church and how you act as an individual matters. It is vitally important that we work for policy changes that enhance inclusivity, but the way you behave today toward others on the subway is equally important. The way our church continually lets disenfranchised groups know that they are welcome matters as much as legislative action. Even a child who comforts a classmate who has been bullied has done something as important as getting a bill passed.

The message we convey as a church matters.

The way you act today matters.

The world needs positive alternatives. You can be one today.

See you in church,

--Rev. Dominic

## Sunday, April 29, 2018

**9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal**

**10:00 AM – Worship and Sunday School**

**11:15 AM – Coffee Hour**

**11:30 AM – PASTA PARTY, Narthex**

### **DURING THE WEEK**

**All Week – Yard Sale set-up, Narthex**

**Monday, April 30**

Annual Reports due in office

**Tuesday, May 1**

2:00 PM – Circle 4, Lounge

6:00 & 7:00 PM – RIM Meeting, Library

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

**Wednesday, May 2**

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

**Saturday, May 5**

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM – All Church Yard Sale and Bake Sale

**Sunday, May 6**

8:45 AM – Christian Education Breakfast

10:00 AM – Worship and Sunday School

11:30 AM – Communion—Commemoration or Connection?,  
Library

**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.** – Sundays 5:30 PM, Library, 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



Ryan Chisholm, Marilyn McComas, Bill Albright, Anne Wing, Bob Hughes, Mary Sakata and Becky Faro (Trish Faro's daughters), Merle Copeland, Bob Pierce.

**Upcoming Adult Education Opportunities**

Please join us after worship in the Library on the following Sundays for stimulating conversation on relevant topics of faith formation.

**Sunday, May 6--Communion--Commemoration or Connection?**

Sunday, June 10--Reflect and Respond--What was intriguing to you about the worship service?

All classes are hosted by Rev. Dominic. Please let him know if you would like child care. All are welcome!



**\*\* Christian Education breakfast on May 6 - 8:45 AM\*\***

All those interested in Sunday school are welcome to attend a special Sunday school breakfast.

Please let us know if you'll be able to join us to help plan for Church School Sunday and talk about the upcoming church year. Text Lisa Warner at (617)794-2641 to RSVP by April 29.

**Middle and High School Students**-Help is always needed at the Yard Sale on May 5! It's a great way to get in needed volunteer hours for school!

**All Sunday School classes** will be continuing their discussions centered around mindfulness, meditation, and yoga this week.

**On Sunday May 6** - Middle School will be doing a special craft around mediation and beading. Please make note in your calendar.

Remind your kids to bring a yoga mat or beach towel to church, and leave it in their classroom before service!

**June 3 will be Graduation Sunday**...families of high school seniors, you should have received an email invite. If we don't have your email on file, or you didn't see the email, please let Sherri know at [sltjmtj@hotmail.com](mailto:sltjmtj@hotmail.com).

Family services will be held on May 13, May 27, June 17, and June 24.



Circle 4 will meet at the Church on **Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 pm.**

**Spring Cleanup Day  
THIS Saturday April 28  
9 AM to noon**

We'll be cleaning/organizing both the outside and inside of the church.



**DON'T FORGET, THE PASTA PARTY IS THIS SUNDAY AFTER CHURCH!**

It's hard to believe, but the Pasta Party we've been advertising is actually going to happen this Sunday! Right after the service a hearty pasta meal will be served in the Narthex. If you've signed up then you know that you are bringing either a tossed salad for 6, or a dessert of 2 dozen cookies.

The rest is up to us! See you then!

- Donna & Ron Miner and the FCC Melrose Fellowship Committee

**Annual Reports are now due.**

The Spring Congregational meeting is May 20 this year. Annual Reports from Staff members and Deacons are due in to the office by April 30, in order to be compiled and printed for distribution on May 13. Thank you.





# RIM - Metro North Cluster 2018 Spring Flower Fundraiser Order Form

**Orders accepted through May 13**  
**Pickup date is May 20th**

Only ordered flowers will be available for pickup.

Checks payable to RIM: Please write Metro North Cluster on the memo line.

	Price	Qty	Totals
<b>Divine Impatiens</b>			
Pink 8 4-Packs	32.00/flat		
Red 8 4-Packs	32.00/flat		
White 8 4-Packs	32.00/flat		
Lavender 8 4-Packs	32.00/flat		
<b>Zinnias</b>			
Mixed colors 8 6-packs	24.00/flat		
<b>Lobelia</b>			
Blue 8 6-packs	24.00/flat		
<b>Potted Zonal Geraniums</b>			
Red - 4.5" Pot	5.00		
White - 4.5" Pot	5.00		
Pink - 4.5" Pot	5.00		
<b>Potted New Guinea Impatiens</b>			
Red - 4" Pot	5.00		
White - 4" Pot	5.00		
Pink - 4" Pot	5.00		
<b>Hanging Baskets</b>			
Ivy Geranium (Sophie cascade pink)	24.00		
Zonal Geranium (Calliope red)	24.00		
Petunia/Bacopa mix	24.00		
<b>Patio Planters</b>			
Petunia Patio Planter -14"	24.00		
Tomatoes in 10" terracotta pot with trellis	18.00		
<b>Paid: Yes or No</b>		<b>Grand Total:</b>	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return form and payment to Debbie Anderson or a RIM volunteer by May 13<sup>th</sup>.**



## **YARD SALE**

All-Church Yard Sale and Bake Sale

**May 5, 9am – 1pm**  
**Mark your calendars!!!**

May 5 is right around the corner! There is a sign up in the Narthex. Please sign up to bake and help out during the week leading up to, as well as at the Yard Sale! We are also looking forward to accepting your donations of beautiful treasures beginning April 29th after church.

Questions? Contact Lisa -Oosterman at 781-662-7445 or at [oosterman.lisa@gmail.com](mailto:oosterman.lisa@gmail.com)

### **CALLING ALL BAKERS!!!**

We are once again having a Bake Sale at the Yard Sale on May 5! We'll be offering cookies, bars, muffins and scones. Gluten-free options are welcome! Please bag cookies and bars 4/bag, and muffins and scones 2/bag. Also please label, and mark if there are nuts or no nuts. You can bring them to the church Friday May 4 or before 8:30 am on Saturday May 5. Questions? Contact Sallie Klemm [shklemm@verizon.net](mailto:shklemm@verizon.net) or 781-665-0159.