



First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Messenger

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Seasons

I just noticed something interesting about the seasons of the church year that I hadn't picked up on before. It is kind of a hidden message of sorts.

Most Christians are familiar with the Season of Lent. It is the Season that precedes Easter and prepares us for that important holy day as we walk with Christ through his suffering while evaluating our own discipleship.

The Season that follows is Easter. Many people, including active Christians, don't realize (or tend to forget) that Easter is not just a Sunday but is a Season in the church year. That's why, during worship these days, I voice that reminder at least once during the worship service: "We remain in the Season of Easter".

Here's the thing I noticed: Lent is 40 days. Easter is 50 days. The Season of new life and resurrection is longer than the season of suffering and crucifixion.

That's an important message. That is an important truth.

There are times in our lives when it can seem like we are caught in a downward spiral of despair, loneliness, and pain. It can feel like we will never feel differently again. It will always be this way. It may be hard to acknowledge in the moment, but what we are experiencing in those times is only a season. It feels very long, but it will not last forever. In fact, the season that follows will be one of new life and hope. And, most importantly, that new season will last longer than our despair.

The same holds true for our world. It can feel like things are spinning out of control; like injustice is growing and peace is precarious. In those moments, take

a look at the seasons of the church year and remember that Easter is longer than Lent. Light outlasts darkness and God's name is restoration.

It may not seem like a big deal: 50 days versus 40 days. But the message that difference conveys is a huge deal. It speaks to the nature of God and the benefits of taking in the long view.

And speaking of the wisdom of the Seasons of the Church Year, the Season of Easter concludes with Pentecost Sunday (this year on May 20th). That day begins the longest Season of the church year: The Season of Pentecost. It is the season of the Holy Spirit and takes us right up to the first Sunday in Advent.

This is yet another reminder that God's compassion and calling are greater than any challenge we may face.

See you in church,

--Rev. Dominic

Sunday, May 13, 2018 Mother's Day

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

DURING THE WEEK

Tuesday, May 15

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

Wednesday, May 16

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Thursday, May 17

1:00 PM – Staff Meeting

Sunday, May 20 - Pentecost

Wear your red!

10:00 AM – Worship and Sunday School

11:15 AM – Spring Congregational Meeting

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



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



We thank those who attended the Christian Ed breakfast last Sunday. Besides eating a great meal together, we planned the Church School Sunday to be held on 6/10. At this special service, the children will enjoy sharing what they learned this year with the congregation.

Please plan on attending Church School Sunday on June 10. Please let your child's Sunday school teacher know if you will not be in church on June 10 so we can plan accordingly.

K to 2 had loads of fun doing yoga on Sunday with a local instructor. Keep an eye out on the bulletin board as we are sure to add photos.

This past Sunday, Middle and HS enjoyed a guided meditation entitled "Talking with Jesus" and creating a beaded necklace to remind them of their connection to God.

On Sunday May 13, K to MS are invited to room 8 to make Pentecost Flags.

HS will hold class; Catherine is leading a class on Stressbusters.

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.

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

**WARRANT FOR THE SPRING
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF THE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in
MELROSE, UCC**

To the Members of the First Congregational Church in Melrose, United Church of Christ:

In accordance with the by-laws, the 170th Spring Meeting of the First Congregational Church in Melrose, UCC is called to be held in the church on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 11:15 AM. This meeting is called by the Deacons to act upon the following Articles:

Article 1: To receive and act upon the reports of staff members;

Article 2: To receive and act upon the reports of the Deacons;

Article 3: To receive and act upon the reports of the Deacons acting as a Nominating Committee and to elect Deacons for terms beginning July 1, 2018.

Article 4: To transact such other business as may legally come before the meeting.

Becky Fuentes and Sarah Fitzpatrick,
Co-Deacons of Congregational Records / Clerk



Best Yard Sale Ever!!

Many thanks to everyone for contributions of time, treasures, and baked goods for the Yard Sale/Bake Sale last Saturday! We had the best year ever! Whether you helped set up and price throughout the week, baked delicious treats, helped spread the word throughout the community, worked on the day of the sale, donated stuff, bought stuff, helped get the leftovers to the organizations we donated them to, or all of the above, THANK YOU!!

In addition to raising money to help with the missions of the church, this event gave us fellowship opportunities and helped the environment by recycling all those treasures! What a great week it was! Yay!!



**NIGHT OF
COMEDY**

First United Methodist is happy to announce that tickets are available now to the second annual "Night of Comedy" to benefit Haitian relief and the Bread of Life.

Join us on Thursday, May 24 at Giggles, Prince Pizzeria on Rt. 1 in Saugus.

Doors open at 6:30 pm; pizza at 7, show at 8.

Tickets are \$25 and include unlimited cheese pizza and a rib tickling comedy show. Contact Beth G. at the office for tickets by calling 781-662-7060 or emailing fumc@fumcmelrose.com.

We look forward to eating and laughing with you (hopefully not at the same time), for a great cause!



**Refugee Immigration
Ministry
11th Annual International
Concert**
May 10, 2018 6:30 P.M.
**First Parish Malden
2 Elm Street Malden, MA 02148**

Tickets: \$20, Students \$10.
For Reservations Call: 781-322-1011

Participating Choirs
First Parish, Malden,
NOOR Ensemble,
Koleinu: Boston's Jewish Community Chorus,
Unity in Diversity: Hindu Choir Boston,
Somerville Community Baptist Choir,
New England Sikh Study Circle

Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Halliburton-Williams,
ABC USA
Violinist: Sarah Campbell
Organist: Miranda Lennox



Welcome Spring

RIM's Flower Sale is Here!

Proceeds go to
Refugee Immigration Ministry
Client Aid Fund

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

Refugee Immigration Ministry is a non-profit, interfaith organization which provides community-based services to asylum seekers and asylees. Programs include community based clusters, ESL tutoring, chaplaincy services and case management. Contact Debbie Anderson if you would like an electronic copy of the order form or have questions about the flower sale.



ON TOP OF SPAGHETTI, ALL COVERED WITH CHEESE!...

We are really pleased with how our church's first Pasta Party turned out. It was great to see so many people sitting down enjoying their penne and meatballs, along with the garlic bread, and the wonderful salads and desserts that everyone brought!

We would like to thank the people on our Fellowship Committee who helped make the Pasta Party happen. The fact is, the event couldn't have happened without them! Not only did they help with every aspect of putting on the party, all of them cooked pans of pasta for it! Big thank yous to: Lisa Jamison, Becky Foth, Penny Muschett, Phyllis Lanni, Sally Ann Watt, Helen Chisholm, Michelle MacIntosh, Ken & Steve.

And thank you to all who attended! It's so nice to put these events on for such an appreciative congregation!

Donna & Ron Miner

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Have you ever considered giving flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one? There is a silk bouquet in the sanctuary at all times that can be "given" in memory. You can make a donation to the Flower Fund of \$15

and those flowers can be in memory /honor of your loved one for a given Sunday. If you prefer, fresh flowers can be ordered for you. The cost for fresh flowers is \$50 to \$75 depending on the size you would like. After the service, fresh flowers can be taken by the donor, or if they prefer, they can be distributed to someone in the congregation that is sick or in need of an uplifting gift. If you would be interested in donating either type of flowers, please call or email Susan in the church office. 781-665-2111 or info@fccmelrose.org.

