



First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Messenger

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Many Voices, One Mission Born for Such a Time as This

In these challenging times, we need all the hope we can get. Our Conference Minister, Rev. Jim Antal, recently shared the following message of hope and I commend it to you:

Every morning, my first waking thought is one of gratitude – gratitude to God for having been born into a time such as this.

Many have told me that this is not an obvious perspective. Every day we are shocked by new assaults on reason, unprecedented violations of human rights and increasing disregard of fairness and justice. So what exactly is there to be grateful for?

My response is simple: we actually get to make a difference!

Living as we are in a world of rampant injustice, a world in which we continue to run Genesis in reverse, when any of us as individuals, or as a family, or as a congregation, or as a community – when any of us choose to speak out, to bear witness, to leverage change by using our voices, our influence, our time, our bodies or our other assets – we can actually make a difference.

The mission of the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC makes it clear that our life together within each of our congregations, and our life together as 360 congregations, is focused on making “God’s love and justice real.” As we approach a decision to bring the three UCC Conferences in Southern New England together as one, our proposed mission-purpose-vision statement likewise commits “to making God’s love and justice real.”

I am inspired every time I learn how one of our congregations is responding to this call. Several of our congregations have become sanctuary churches. Many of our congregations have engaged in racial justice

Sunday, June 10, 2018 Church School Sunday

9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal
10:00 AM – Worship
11:15 AM – Coffee Hour
11:30 AM – Reflect and Respond, Library

training and white privilege workshops. Numerous churches are installing solar panels on their roofs. Many congregations, after hearing sermons on the distinction between being political and being partisan, have embraced God’s call to make God’s love and justice real. When the Poor People’s Campaign was launched a week ago, the UCC was on the steps of the State House demanding that in this election year, our nation undertake a serious examination of the enmeshed evils of systemic racism, systemic poverty, ecological devastation and the war economy.

Because we have been born in a time such as this, we have this opportunity to bear witness to the truth. How blessed are we that our voices – our lives – can actually make a difference. This is our calling. This is what it looks like to be faithful.

What is the witness to which God is calling you? How do you want to be remembered?

What is the witness to which God is calling your congregation? How does your congregation want to be remembered?

I invite you to join me in allowing gratitude to fill your heart, and courage to animate your engagement of the powers and principalities. Thanks be to God for the opportunity we are now given to speak out, stand up, push back, and point to a new world – a just world at peace - that God is calling us to build.

Rev. Dr. Jim Antal is the Conference Minister and President of the Massachusetts Conference, UCC.

This could not be better stated. It is a blessing that our church, and each one of us, belongs to a denomination that lives our faith in such an engaging, inclusive, hopeful way. Our church takes the Christian faith out of dusty books and brings it alive in people’s lives and in the social arena.

First Congregational Church stands strong in this tradition!

See you in church,

--Rev. Dominic

DURING THE WEEK

Tuesday, June 12

7:00 PM – Deacons Meeting, Library

This meeting is for both incoming and outgoing Deacons.

Wednesday, June 13

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Thursday, June 14

1:00 PM – Staff Meeting

Friday, June 15

MESSENGER DEADLINE for items to go in the last Messenger for the season

Sunday, June 17 – Father's Day

10:00 AM – Worship

1:00 to 4:00 PM – Annual Church Pool Party at the Oosterman's

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



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



It's Church School Sunday week!

Parents: please have your child to church by 9 AM Sunday. The teachers will spend some time with the classes to review and practice for service.

We're gearing up for next church year, and WE WANT YOU!

Would you like to learn about our Sunday School program and how you can help it be a success? We will be having 2 planning meetings over the summer, and we invite all those who have been teachers and also those who want to learn more about getting involved to join us.

Monday, June 25 and Monday, August 20 at 7 PM at church

Family Service will be held on June 17 and June 24.



Reflect and Respond

Rev. Dominic will be hosting a Reflect and Respond session after worship on **Sunday, June 10.**

This will be held in the Library and will be a time to discuss the themes of the worship experience. All are welcome to ask questions, share, and benefit from the

reflections of others. Please let Rev. Dominic know if you would like child care. It can be easily provided if needed.

Third Annual Melrose Community Iftar: Friday June 8 at 7:30 pm.

Some of you may know about the Makam music group led by Jim Garrett that practices at the church on Sunday afternoons. This Friday, June 8, we will be playing for the Melrose Community Iftar at Memorial Hall beginning at 7:30 pm. There will be delicious food too. We hope to see you there! This event, sponsored by the Melrose Human Rights Commission, is free but registration is encouraged so the organizers can plan food. You can register on eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-melrose-community-iftar-dinner-tickets-45628349622?aff=eac2>. (Or just go to the eventbrite page and search for "3rd Annual Melrose Community Iftar Dinner"). For more information, please contact Betsy Garrett at betsy.luebbe.garrett@gmail.com.



7th Annual Church Pool Party on Fathers' Day, June 17th, 1 PM until 4 PM at the Oosterman's, 54 Ellis Farm Lane, Melrose

Lawn games, pool toys and snacks provided. Feel free to bring your own picnic, blanket, games, snacks, floatation devices, etc.



**FINGERS CROSSED FOR
SUNSHINE ON JUNE 24th!**

HELLO EVERYONE! THE SIGNUP POSTER FOR THE **JUNE COOKOUT** ON THE 24TH IS IN THE NARTHEX! PLAN TO BE THERE SO YOU CAN RELAX, SOCIALIZE, AND HAVE SOME GREAT PICNIC FOOD, ALL AT THE SAME TIME! AND SIGN UP TO BRING YOUR SPECIALTY!

~Donna & Ron Miner

Can you help?

Chelsea Fire Victims Wish List

In addition to the super market and Target-type gift cards (and cash), here are the goods we know they are looking for.

- **Household goods** (kitchen utensils, linens, dishes, etc.) - used is fine but in good condition please!
- **Clothing** - Women's sizes medium and large; men's sizes medium, large, and extra large
- **Functional furniture** (functional basics like lamps, kitchen table, chairs) - used, of course but in good condition.

We will collect on June 3rd and again on June 10th. If you have large items you want picked up and delivered, please notify Kris Carbonneau or Barbara Krol-Sinclair at church or by email. Emails are:

Kris.carbonneau@acocom.com

barbaras@bu.edu

Summer Reading

Are you looking for some good books to read this summer? Borrow one of the books on our **Racial Justice Ministry Book Rack**, in the Narthex, next to the kitchen. There are several titles available for lending: look for the rectangular orange tag. The book rack will be up all summer, so feel free to browse and take home a book that looks interesting. For more information about our Racial Justice Ministry or the book rack, please contact Betsy Garrett at betsy.luebbe.garrett@gmail.com.

CITY OF MELROSE

2018

Diaper Drive

*To Benefit Housing
Families, Inc.*

Working to end family homelessness by providing safe, temporary shelter and quality affordable housing to homeless and at-risk families.



Drop off any size/type diapers or wipes June 1-22 at:

Century 21 Sexton & Donohue, Inc.

29 Essex Street, Melrose

Edward Jones

502 Main Street, Melrose

Melrose Bank

638 Main Street, Melrose

Melrose Day Care Center & Preschool

121 West Foster Street, Melrose

Sponsored by

Melrose Rotary Club

Melrose Day Care Center & Preschool

First Congregational Church in Melrose

FCC HOSTS CPR/AED TRAINING FOR 18 PEOPLE

As many of you know, earlier this year we installed an automatic external defibrillator (AED) and emergency oxygen in a steel case on a wall opposite of the service window for the kitchen.

On Tuesday, May 29, we hosted Bob Beck, Redding firefighter and medic, providing American Heart Association (AHA) CPR and AED training. 11 members of congregation and seven members of the Melrose community (Boy and Girl Scouts and leaders and others) were trained and will be receiving their two year certification.

If others are interested, we will hold another course in the fall. We are also looking into holding a class in first aid.

As Christians, we are called to help others we find in distress. Please see Luke 10:25-37 which reads, in part: "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.'

Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Anna Buswell



You are invited to attend a Piano Recital

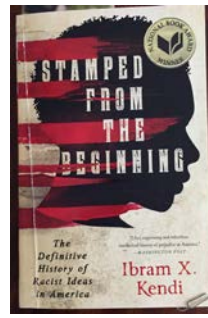
June 9, 2018

5-6pm

First Congregational Church in Melrose
121 W Foster St, Melrose, MA 02176

Please RSVP at: <https://annabuswell.weebly.com/events.html>

Music by Chopin, Beethoven, Mozart, Granados,
Bach, & Rachmaninoff



Our next Racial Justice Ministry book discussion will focus on *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi. It's a long book so we will hold our discussion after summer break, on September 30 after the worship service. We are also going to open this up to the wider Melrose and

nearby communities, so please spread the word. We have two copies of the book on our RJM book rack and there are several in the library system. It is also available from Amazon and other booksellers. I'm looking forward to discussing this book with you. Winner of the National Book Award, it's a fascinating exploration of how racist ideas developed in America. If you have questions or would like further information, please contact Betsy Garrett at betsy.luebbe.garrett@gmail.com.



Congratulations to this year's High School graduates:

*Jordan Towle-Jackson
Lucien Carbonneau
Karen Mortimer
Lauren Maher
Sarah Gyurina
Jared Dowell*

Our church extends heartfelt congratulations to the following who graduated from college:

Lilah Drafts-Johnson graduated from Oberlin College.
Bryan McAllister-Grande graduated from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Anna Buswell, age 16 is a junior and an honors student at the Wakefield Memorial High School. She has been studying piano with Marilyn Roth and Mana Tokuno at the New England Conservatory of Music Preparatory Division since she was 6. She and her family started worshipping at the First Congregational Church in Melrose this past winter. In recognition of how much this vibrant church loves and participates in good worshipful music, Anna and her family wanted to present her very first solo recital at this church. She is grateful for the support of Pastor Dominic, Mariko and the church.

This recital will feature music by Chopin, Mozart, Bach, Granados, Rachmaninoff, and Beethoven. Guest artists will be James Buswell and Carol Ou.

All are welcome to this free recital and to the reception afterwards.

Any questions, please contact Carol Ou at 617-212-1245 or at caroloucello@gmail.com