



First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Messenger

Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Pastor

Mariko Matsumura, Director of Music Ministry

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SUMMER EDITION

VOLUME 100

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Expiration Date

During last Sunday's Children's Sermon, I talked to the kids about having an expiration date. That is, unlike a carton of milk, we don't have one (or at least we don't know what it is). Consequently, we need to take advantage of every day, every moment, to enjoy life and bring a little bit of peace, love and trust into the lives of those around us.

As we head into these summer months, there is another angle on expiration dates. While we, ourselves may not have one, our problems do.

Maybe you are facing a big dilemma right now. Maybe your finances are collapsing or your marriage is buckling or you've just been told that the ache you've been feeling in your body is far more serious than you thought.

Or maybe you just have a case of the blahs. You just don't feel right. You just don't feel like doing much of anything. You aren't happy and you aren't particularly sad. You are just...blah.

Hopefully, you will be able to use these summer days to readjust. During these warm months, hopefully you will be able to right the ship of your finances, your relationships, your health. But whether you do or not, be assured of this: Your problems, big or small, do have an expiration date.

If you don't believe me, just look back at your own life. It may be a few weeks ago or a few years ago but I'm betting you can remember when you were under a cloud that you never thought would lift. You carried a weight that felt hobbling at best and crushing at worst. And now, that cloud has lifted and the weight has at least lessened.

Problems do find resolution. They do have an expiration date. We may not be able to name the date when they will leave us or be resolved one way or the other, but we can expedite the arrival of that time. We can pray: "Come Holy Spirit and lift this burden from me." In such a prayer, we feel accompanied even before the problem has left us. And a way forward feels just a little more possible.

Problems are part and parcel of living. So is God. Remember which one is bigger.

The day is surely coming when the problem you are experiencing right now will reach its expiration date. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5). A new day is always on the way.

See you in church,

--Rev. Dominic



Sunday, June 24, 2018

10:00 AM – Outdoor Worship

11:15 AM – June Cookout, playground behind the church

4:00 PM – RIM Walk for Refugees, Wakefield

Summer church office hours for July 2 to Labor Day are: Monday and Tuesday 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM



Phone messages and emails will be monitored so feel free to leave a message if you need to reach the office at other times.

Mariko's summer schedule updates will be posted on the door of the music room

DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

Monday, June 25

7:00 PM - All who are interested in supporting our Sunday School program are invited to attend. library

Wednesday, June 27

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Tuesday, July 3

7:00 PM – RIM meeting, library (tentative)

Sunday, July 8

10:00 AM – Union Service at Green Street Baptist

Sunday, July 15

10:00 AM – Union Service at First Congregational Church

Thursday, July 19

4:00 to 7:00 PM – Bread of Life Dinner, Salvation Army, 213 Main St., Malden

Sunday, July 22

10:00 AM – Union Service at First United Methodist Church

Monday, July 23

Bread of Life Golf Classic & 19th Hole Dinner Social

Sunday, July 29

10:00 AM – Union Service at Melrose Highlands Congregational Church

Friday to Sunday, August 3-5

Umunara Conference at First Congregational

Tuesday, August 7

7:00 PM – RIM meeting, library

Wednesday, August 8

5:30 to 8:00 PM – FCC informal get together at church

Thursday, August 16

4:00 to 7:00 PM – Bread of Life Dinner, Salvation Army, 213 Main St., Malden

Monday, August 20

7:00 PM – pre Sunday School meeting to distribute material for the fall, library

Friday, August 31

Deadline for items to go in first Fall Messenger

Monday, September 3 – Labor Day

Office Closed

Tuesday September 4

7:15 to 8:15 PM – Morning Star Voices rehearsals resume

Thursday, September 6

3:00 PM – Staff Meeting

Sunday, September 9

Welcome Back Sunday

10:00 AM Worship and Sunday School
Sunday School Registration

Tuesday, September 11

5:00 PM – Circle 4 Pot Luck, narthex

7:00 PM – Deacons, Library

Sunday, September 16

10:00 AM Worship and Sunday School
Sunday School Registration continues

Sunday, September 23

10:00 AM Worship and Sunday School
Sunday School Registration continues

Welcome Back Cookout

Sunday, September 30

10:00 AM Worship and Sunday School
12:00 PM - Racial Justice Ministry book discussion

Sunday, October 7

26th annual Walk for Bread and 5K Run

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



Trish Faro, 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.

"Welcome Margaret Jane Almeida born June 14, 4:16 am and weighing in at 7 lbs. 13 oz. All are doing well. Yeah!"



The parents are Mary and Matt Almeida. Grandparents are Bob and Lisa Jamison.

Summer WORSHIP TIMES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host Church</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
July 8	Green Street Baptist	Rev. Dominic Taranowski
July 15	First Congregational	Rev. Michael Wolfe
July 22	First United Methodist	Rev. Beth Horne
July 29	Highlands Cong.	Rev. Stacey Lanier



Circle 4 will meet on **Tuesday, September 11th at 5:00 PM in the Narthex** for our Pot Luck Supper.

PLEASE NOTE – Most but not all of these groups continue to meet during the summer months.

The following groups meet here regularly:



JUNE 24TH

So everyone, fingers crossed for good weather on the day of the cookout, this coming Sunday! We hope everyone can attend for a fun end to our program year.

Also, your Fellowship Deacons want to say “thank you” to the people who did such a great job on the surveys. We are going through them and so far have found very positive results and great ideas! We will share more about that in the fall...

~Donna & Ron Miner

OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN CASPAR GROUP

Our CASPAR group at First Congregational Church has an opening for people who would like to cook for the shelter in Cambridge once a month. The opportunity to join the group could start as early as July. Currently six families in the church each prepare a meal for 20 people, for a total of 120 people assisted each month. Responsibility for coordinating each month rotates so that each family has to do that just twice per year.

Our family has been part of this church’s CASPAR group for a number of years, and we have found it a very rewarding experience. If you think this might be a good outreach activity for you, and you’d like to know more about it, feel free to call us at (781) 662-6697.

~ Donna & Ron Miner



By Lighting our Church Steeple in memory or in honor of loved ones, you can help our church financially. Contact the church office (781-665-2111 or info@fccmelrose.org) to sign up for a week beginning on a Sunday. Your gift will be announced in the Sunday Bulletin and “*The Messenger*”. A \$25.00 per week contribution is suggested.



Happy Summer from the CE Deacons!

The children had a great time with the Sunday School Sunday!
We are sharing the verses they chose to read and maybe you will find nourishment from them during the summer.

1st Corinthians 1:9

Ephesians 4:32

John 15:11

Isiah 41:10

Isiah 41:13

Psalm 1:3

Psalm 46:10

Psalm 145:18

Proverbs 15:1

Titus 3:1

Thessalonians 5:18

Romans 8:28

Thank you!

It has been a wonderful year and we thank all the teachers and assistants who made it possible. If you were not in attendance on 6/09, please see Sherri and I for your teacher gift.

Meeting: Monday, June 25 @ 7pm at the church Library.

All who are interested in supporting our Sunday School program are invited to attend. We will provide light appetizers and desserts (w/gluten free options). We will talk about what worked well last year & suggestions for next year, classes & teachers for next year, identify the 3rd graders who will be receiving bibles, we need teachers for all grades this coming year. Please bring a friend or a name of someone you think might be interested in teaching as we need teachers in all grades. You may call or email Lisa 617-794-2641 / mlwarner98@verizon.net or Sherri 781-799-1512 / sltjmtj@hotmail.com,

Meeting: Monday, August 20 @ 7pm at the church Library

We will have a pre Sunday School meeting to distribute material for the fall. The discussion will be around the curriculum and planning the Sunday School schedule for teachers / holidays / special services. All those interested in teaching or assisting are welcome to come.

Important for all families

September 8 - All children will have class!

September 8 to September 29 - Be Sure to visit the Sunday School registration table as we have a new form.

We look forward to another fantastic year!

Blessings to All,
Lisa & Sherri

FCC August Get Together

Some FCC members have expressed an interest in getting together over the summer, especially in August when there are no Union services in Melrose.

We are proposing to have an FCC get together at church on Wednesday, August 8th, starting at 5:30 pm ending at 8:00 pm. Feel free to come when you're available. This would be a time for a short devotion, fellowship, and importantly... **PIZZA!!!**

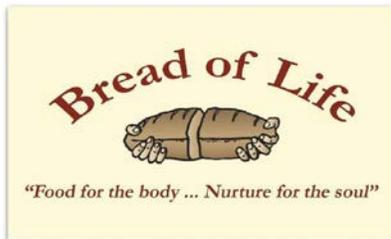
Pizza and soft drinks will be provided!

If you're interested, please complete the following form:

<https://c.foth.me/august>

We look forward to seeing you on August 8th!

Tom & Becky Foth



Mark your Calendars for these Mission Opportunities!!!

First Congregational Church has made a commitment to Bread of Life to cook and serve dinner once a month.

Our dates this summer are **Thursday July 19 and Thursday August 16 between 4 and 7pm**. We have a core group of people who volunteer, but we are always looking for additional people to help, especially in the summer when some of our volunteers are away. This is a ministry opportunity to provide meals and companionship for neighbors in need, and is very rewarding for all who come! If you find yourself with an hour or so (especially 5:15 – 6:45) that you can volunteer on one of the dates, please consider joining us.

(Kids in Middle School and older are welcome.) If you'd like to help but aren't available on these dates, we are happy to get donations of desserts, salad dressing, or juice for the meal. Please contact Sallie Klemm at shklemm@verizon.net or 781-665-0159 for more information.

Site information:

Salvation Army
213 Main St.
Malden, MA.

Park on Main St. or side streets (both available during serving hours)

Main phone: 781-324-1970

Contact: Capt. Debora Coolidge, Pastor

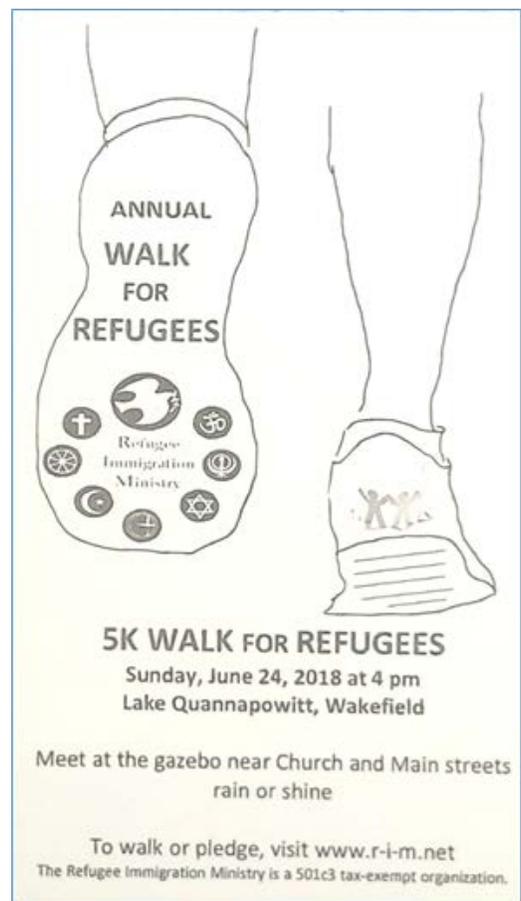
Bread of Life Fundraising Events to consider:

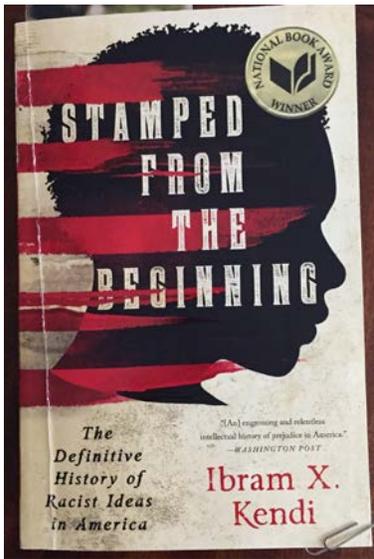
Monday, July 23, 2018 - BOL Golf Classic & 19th Hole Dinner Social

Sunday, October 7, 2018 – Bread of life 5K Walk and Run at Pine Banks 12pm

See the bread of life website for more information

www.breadoflifemalden.org





**Racial Justice Ministry book discussion:
Stamped from the Beginning**

Our next Racial Justice Ministry book discussion will be on Sunday September 30 at 12:00 noon, after the worship service. We will focus on Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America by Ibram X. Kendi. Because this is such a long book, we have decided to try something new. The book has six long sections of about 80-100 pages, each focusing on a period in history. You may choose one section to read and discuss, sharing with the group the main points in that section. Please also read the Prologue and Epilogue (25 pages total) as they give an overview of the themes in the book.

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 Racial Justice Ministry book rack and there are several in the NOBLE library system. It is also available from [Amazon](#) (including e-book and audio) and other booksellers.

If you have questions or would like further information, please contact Betsy Garrett at betsy.luebbe.garrett@gmail.com .



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 .



MESSENGER DEADLINE for items to go in the first Messenger for the fall is Friday, August 31st. That Messenger will go out September 4th.