



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

OFFICE 781-665-2111 - FAX 781-665-8824

E-MAIL info@fccmelrose.org Website www.fccmelrose.org

Rev. Dominic's Cell phone: 781-526-3428

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Together as One

There are some historic changes happening in our Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ!

First, you should be aware that our Conference Minister, Rev. Jim Antal, has retired as of July 1st. Many of you may remember Rev. Antal from his two visits to our church during which he shared sermons on climate change and the importance of the United Church of Christ. Rev. Don Remick, who had served as Associate Conference Minister in our Conference, has now assumed the role of Transitional Interim Conference Minister. A formal search process for a new Conference Minister is presently on hold due to the following development!

At our Annual Conference Meeting held late last June, we were joined by both the Connecticut and Rhode Island Conferences. Together an historic vote was taken to merge our three Conferences. This process has been on-going for some time and has been called "Together as One" or simply "TA1" for short.

With this vote, we are well on our way to belonging to a new Conference in the UCC. The name and staffing configuration of this Conference is yet to be determined. The next phase requires approval from the national church at our next General Synod in June of 2019. Following this, a formal restructure will take place and a single conference staff and budget will be in place beginning January 1, 2020.

While there is no denying that the birth of this new Conference is a response to the need to streamline our denomination due to declining revenue and overall membership, there is also much excitement about this change.

"UCC History was made today," said the Rev. John Dorhauer, UCC general minister and president on the day of the vote. "Signaling to the wider church that we can accomplish more together than apart, that we live in an interdependent world in which we all need each other, and looking to maximize the use of precious

mission resources, delegates to this tri-conference annual meeting voted to carve out a new pathway for what we hope will be new life, new vitality, and new relevance."

And at his final Annual Meeting, Rev. Jim Antal said: "For over 200 years Protestantism in America has offered a denominated witness to Christ's call for justice and love. Going forward we have an opportunity to come together, particularly in our current political context dominated by morally bankrupt values. What we did today was a first step. We need institutions to carry the weight of social change. They also offer symbols that can bring people together. That's our profound hope."

I, for one, am very hopeful that the new conference will allow our denomination more agility and amplify the UCC's presence in social dialog. "Together as One" is a fitting title to this process as it is a truth that we live by in order to best serve Christ now and in the days ahead!

See you in church,

--Rev. Dominic

Sunday, September 16, 2018

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

DURING THE WEEK

Tuesday, September 18

5:30-6:30 PM – Treblemakers Rehearsal, Music Room

6:30-7:30 PM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 19

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Thursday, September 20

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

Sunday, September 23

Welcome Back Cookout

Sunday, September 30

12:00 PM - Racial Justice Ministry book discussion

Sunday, October 7

26th annual Walk for Bread and 5K Run

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



Our Sunday School program relies upon the entire congregation for support, and we would love to have everyone help out in our classes as a 2nd adult this year. No preparation is needed...just be there to assist the teacher and children as needed. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex! Thank you!



Phyllis Lanni, Jackson Foltz – infant relative of Beth Grzegorzewski, 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.

Congratulations!

Hans and Sallie Klemm welcomed their new grandson on Tuesday, September 4th! Ronan Peter Klemm arrived at 9 pounds 14 ounces to parents Karl and Erin who live in Marlborough. All are doing well and we wish them all the very best!

THINKING AHEAD – CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

We are looking for a few people who would like to help plan and prepare crafts for the kid’s area at the Christmas Fair. This would involve getting together a few times between now and Thanksgiving. If you are interested, please contact Sallie Klemm at 781-665-0159 or shklemm@verizon.net and we will figure out the best times to meet. Thanks!!



"WELCOME BACK COOKOUT" IS SEPTEMBER 23rd -- LESS THAN 2 WEEKS...until the "Welcome Back Cookout!"

We usually have more lead time than that to get everyone's attention, but this year we don't, so...be sure to sign up on the Cookout Signup Board on the windows of the Narthex this coming Sunday.

And remember...Fellowship provides hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers and cold drinks...you just need to bring something to share.

Please plan to join us! It's always a fun time, a time for catching up after the summer, sharing vacation stories, and just being together.

- Donna & Ron Miner, Fellowship Deacons

Thank you to everyone who filled out a volunteer form at church on Sunday! If you missed us, please see us any time this month to talk about how you can help our Sunday School program!

Who loves Legos and science? If you do, you really should be a part of our teaching team this year! Let Lisa and Sherri know if you'd like to join us (sltjmtj@hotmail.com). We could still use another teacher for the Kindergarten-2nd grade class, as well as Middle and High school!

And, speaking of Legos, do you have any Legos or colorful wooden blocks lying around the house that the kids aren't using anymore? We'll gladly accept them as a donation for our Christian Education program. Just bring them to Lisa or Sherri any Sunday, or let us know if you'd like us to pick them up.

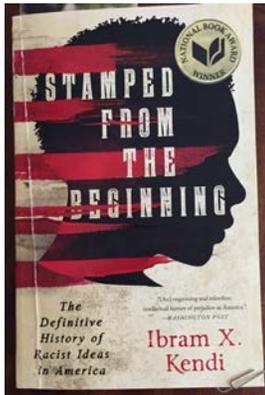
Be sure to stop by the registration table this month, even if your child registered last year! We need to make sure we have accurate contact information, photo releases, and allergy information for every child, Nursery through 12th grade, in the program!

Is your child in 3rd grade this year? **Bible Sunday** is planned for October 21, so please see us or your child's teacher this week!

On **Family Worship** Sundays, there will be no Sunday School classes, and children are invited to remain in worship with their families. The Family Worship Sundays for the fall are October 7, November 11, November 25, December 23, and December 30.



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.



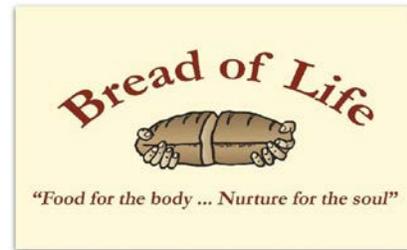
**Racial Justice Ministry book discussion:
Stamped from the Beginning**

On September 30 after the worship service, the Racial Justice Ministry will be hosting a book discussion on *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi. As the book is long, you may choose one section to read and discuss. The book has six sections of about 100 pages, each focusing on a particular period in racial history. Please also read the Prologue and Epilogue (25 pages total) as they give an overview of the themes in the book. There are several copies of the book in the library system and it is available from Amazon (including e-book and audio) and other booksellers. We are looking forward to discussing this book with you. Winner of the 2016 National Book Award, it is a fascinating exploration of how racist ideas developed in our country. We will provide snacks and you are welcome to bring a bag lunch. Please contact Betsy Garrett at betsy.luebbe.garrett@gmail.com for more information.



Walk for Bread and 5K Run

The 26th annual Walk for Bread and 5K Run will be held on Sunday, October 7th at Pine Banks Park in Melrose, MA. Major Sponsors are Tufts Health Plan and Melrose Bank Foundation. Be sure to not miss out on what is our biggest fundraiser of the year! You can become a sponsor, or register online to walk or run at www.breadoflifemalden.org/events/.

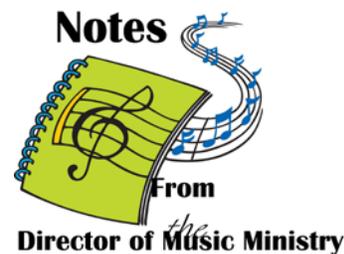


**BREAD OF LIFE –
a chance to FEED YOUR SOUL!
Thursday, September 20**

Our team from First Congregational Church volunteers from 4pm – 7pm on the Third Thursday of every month (volunteers are welcome for all or part of the time). We cook, serve, and clean up – it’s a fabulous opportunity to help feed the hungry and your soul at the same time! The location for the meals is:

Salvation Army
213 Main St.
Malden, MA.

If you can’t make it to the dinner but would still like to help, we can always use donations of dessert or large bottles of salad dressing!! If you have questions about this mission of our church, please speak with Sallie Klemm shklemm@verizon.net or 781-665-0159.



Music Rehearsal Schedules for the fall:

Treblemakers or Junior Choir [5:30-6:30](#) pm on Tuesdays
September: 18, 25
October: 2, 16, 23, 30
November: 13, 20, 27
December: 4, 11(party/performance)

Youth Duos ([11:15-11:45](#)) and
Youth ensemble/praise band ([11:45-12:30](#)) on Sundays
September: 30
October: 7, 21,
November: 4, 18, 25
December: 2

Morning Star Voices on Tuesdays 6:30-7:30 pm and
Sunday (before the service they are assigned to) 9:00 am
No rehearsal during Deacons Meeting.