



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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Thank You, Susan!

As was announced in church last Sunday, we are creating a new staff position in the church to address the changing needs of our congregation. While there is much excitement about these new possibilities, there is also sadness as we say farewell to Susan Bowdridge who has been the Church Administrative Assistant for the past 20 years.

Susan began her time with us during a time of pastoral change and upheaval in 1998. She not only brought consistency to the tasks of the church office, but also made connections with many of our parishioners over the years. A member of First Baptist Church in Malden, we benefited from Susan's innate awareness of how protestant churches operate. Susan lived for many years in Malden before moving three years ago to Athol to be closer to her family; and a growing family at that! Susan welcomed a new grandson earlier this month.

A number of factors combined to make this a good time to create the new position of Church Office Manager in our church. The unexpected death of Rick Mockler who oversaw a great deal of the daily financial obligations of FCC, the departure of our Administrative Assistant for Sunday School and Youth, Dunia Velez last winter, and the growing need for a stronger social media presence combined to move us in this direction. Along with the office duties of the previous position, elements of each of these areas of ministry will be folded into this new position in order to take work away from our over-extended volunteers.

The search process is underway and the congregation will be kept apprised of our progress!

In the meantime, we thank Susan for her many years of committed service to First Congregational Church and for the legacy she leaves with us. The

church has been strengthened and the work of Christ sustained by Susan's presence here.

See you in church,

--Rev. Dominic

Sunday, September 23, 2018

- 9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM – Worship and Sunday School
- Sunday School Registration continues
- 11:15 AM – Welcome Back Cookout

DURING THE WEEK

Tuesday, September 25

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

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

Wednesday, September 26

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Saturday, September 29

Day Care Yard Sale, Narthex and lawn

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.

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!!



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!



"WELCOME BACK COOKOUT" SEPTEMBER 23rd -

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

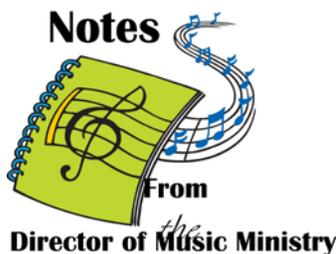
Who loves Legos and science? If you do, you really should be a part of our teaching team this year! Let Lisa and Sherri know if you'd like to join us (sltjmtj@hotmail.com). We could still use another teacher for the Kindergarten-2nd grade class, as well as Middle and High school!

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.



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,

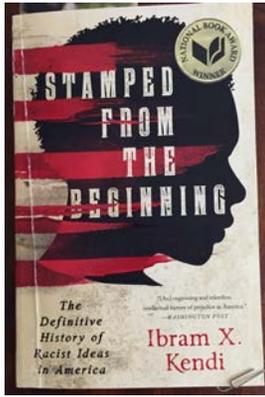
November: 4, 18, 25

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.



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**

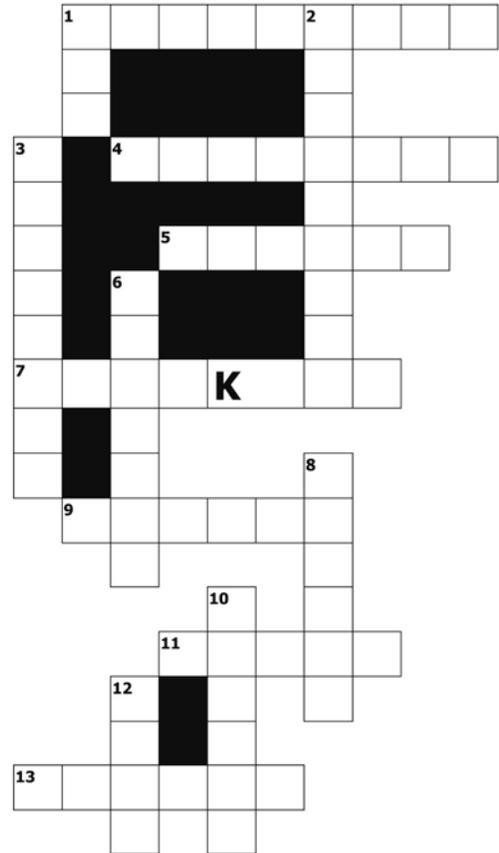
On September 30 after the worship service, the Racial Justice Ministry will be hosting a book discussion on *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi. As the book is long, you may choose one section to read and discuss. The book has six sections 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/.

Puzzle!

Use the clues to complete this crossword about women in the Bible.



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. (across) Cousin of Mary (Luke 1:36) | 7. Mother of Esau (Genesis 25:21, 25) |
| 1. (down) Mother of Abel (Genesis 4:1-2) | 8. The wife Jacob loved (Genesis 29:20) |
| 2. Mother of Solomon (2 Samuel 12:24) | 9. Sister of Mary (John 11:1) |
| 3. Moses' wife (Exodus 2:21) | 10. Sewed clothes (Acts 9:39) |
| 4. Lied about her giving to the church (Acts 5:1) | 11. Hosea's wife (Hosea 1:3) |
| 5. Saved her people from destruction in Persia (also a Bible book name) | 12. Sat at Jesus' feet in conversation (Luke 10:39) |
| 6. A judge in Israel (Judges 4) | 13. Sister of Moses and Aaron (Exodus 15:20) |

Answers: 1. (across) Elizabeth, 1. (down) Eve, 2. Bathsheba, 3. Zipporah, 4. Sapphira, 5. Esther, 6. Deborah, 7. Rebekah, 8. Rachel, 9. Martha, 10. Dorcas, 11. Gomer, 12. Mary, 13. Miriam