



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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Voting to Answer a Call

Jesus commanded Christians to be “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-16).

The second part of that calling—to be the “light of the world”—tends to make more sense to us. We know how necessary light is where there isn't any. It is easy for us to translate that into our need to be light in order to dispel gloom (and there is no shortage of that!).

The first part, though, doesn't resonate so well. Salt? Really?

The reason that this doesn't make as much sense is because it is a reference rooted in the ancient world. Salt, for us today, is a flavoring. And, yes, that is part of the calling. We are to add our own unique flavoring—some would say spice—to the mix of our common life. Sometimes it bitter, sometimes sweet but the point is to season society with who we are as followers of Christ.

More commonly in the ancient world, however, there were at least two other uses of salt. One was as a preservative. Salt is still used this way today, of course, in curing meat and pickling vegetables. Salt, in this sense, keeps important things (read traditions) preserved. We are to be the salt that preserves the good, the honorable, and the just.

In a similar way, salt was also used as a disinfectant. Thousands of years ago people discovered that salt draws water out of things. And without the water, things stayed fresh (because bacteria are starved of nutrients).

You are salt. You are to be flavor, preservative, and disinfectant.

Believe it or not, you have an opportunity to exercise your salty-ness by voting on Tuesday, November 6th. There will be three important ballot measures and many important candidates on the ballot that day.

As a Christian person, your job is to preserve what is just and disinfect what isn't. Your job is to add your own unique flavor to the multi-cultural, multi-aged, multi-racial, multi-class menu that is the Commonwealth and our country.

Salt and Light. Your calling from Christ in Matthew's gospel. Marking your ballot on November 6th is a great to respond.

See you in church,

--Rev. Dominic

Sunday, November 4, 2018

9:30 AM – **Morning Star Voices Rehearsal**

10:00 AM – **Worship & Sunday School**

All Saints Day Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School

11:15 AM – **Coffee Hour**

11:15 AM – **Reflect and Respond, Library**

During the Week

Tuesday, October 30

5:30 PM Treblemakers/Junior Choir Rehearsal

6:30 PM Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

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



Michael Watt, Phyllis Lanni, Trish Faro, 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.

Welcome Beth!

As was announced in church last Sunday, we have a new Church Office Manager. After an extensive search, our journey actually led us back home. Beth Grzegorzewski will be assuming this new staff position on Tuesday, November 13th!

Most people know Beth as our staff Soloist on Sunday mornings, but she has also served as the Administrative Assistant at the First United Methodist Church here in Melrose for the past three years. In that capacity, she transformed that church's office functions, updated many systems and provided administrative support to the many ministries of FUMC. Prior to this, she served as a bookkeeping assistant to an area psychiatric practice and was an administrative assistant at PricewaterhouseCoopers. This experience, combined with her familiarity with our congregation, her great energy, enthusiasm and creativity made her the ideal candidate for this position!

The Search Committee responsible for this new staff position (which combines not only traditional secretarial duties but also Sunday School support, light book keeping and social media coordination) began work many months ago and deserves a HUGE thanks for their commitment to this process. They include Becky Fuentes, Sherri Jackson, Lisa Warner, Lisa Oosterman, Hans Klemm and Sallie Klemm (along with Rev. Dominic). They not only conducted the search but crafted the job description from scratch. This search received many candidates to review and interview and they were all very generous in donating time from their busy lives to come to meetings, do research, and provide feedback each step of the way.

We are excited to begin this new chapter in the life of our church and welcome Beth to this new staff position at First Congregational Church!

Eight Annual Thanksgiving Dinner is November 18th!

It's hard to believe, but our annual Thanksgiving Dinner is not far away – less than three weeks, in fact!

Our church's annual feast celebration happens each year on the Sunday before the Thanksgiving holiday. With tables set up banquet style, everyone sits together and enjoys a delicious potluck Thanksgiving meal prepared by – the congregation! And it seems that every year the food is even better! The time together is a great opportunity to visit with friends from church and make new friends as well!

As part of this tradition there will also be copies of graces on the tables, many we have had before and many new ones from various countries and traditions. (And there will be copies to take if you wish at the end of the festivities.)

All you need to do to be part of this wonderful gathering is sign up to bring something to contribute to the potluck – and that ranges from cranberry sauce to a roasted turkey breast! What is needed is listed on the sign up board in the Narthex. Indicate what you'd like to bring, and how many people might come with you, too (just so we can plan for enough of everything!)

We have always had a great turnout for this event, and there's a reason – we have a church that loves to celebrate – and we have a lot to celebrate and be thankful for. Please plan to join us on November 18th!

- Donna Miner, Fellowship Deacon

Mentoring Program Seeking Volunteer Mentors

MAAV's Community Mentoring Program provides guidance and support to middle school students in both a group setting and one-to-one basis. We are currently seeking mentors aged 21 and older for a group that will begin in early 2019. The commitment is roughly 4 hours per month. Activities include game nights, photography projects, community service outings and guest speakers. Training and supervision are provided and group meetings are facilitated by a licensed social worker. To learn more or apply to be a mentor, please email Mentoring@maav.org, visit our website at www.maav.org or call Alison Bryer, Program Coordinator at 781-662-2010

**Winter Wonderland Fair
November 30th, 6-8pm
December 1st, 9am-2pm**

The week leading up to the fair requires volunteers to complete the final preparations. Many hands make light work. Please mark your calendars now!

- **Decorate the Church:** Friday Nov. 23rd, 9am-noon
- **Raffle Baskets Assembled:** week of Nov.25th-29th
- **Set up:** week of November 25th
- **Gingerbread House Assembly:** Tuesday, Nov. 27th and/or Wed. Nov. 28th, 6:30-8:30
- **Break down and Clean up:** Saturday December 1st, 2pm

Before the holiday season begins an assessment of your "stuff" can be a healthy sorting exercise. Call it downsizing, weeding out, or sharing treasures your contributions to the Fair Tables are invaluable. As you sort, please keep in mind:

Table.....Organizer

- *Toys..... Kara Lazalere
- *Books looking for an organizer
- Christmas Decorations ... Janet Runge
- Collectibles..... David Gauvreau
- Jewelry Lois Gauvreau and Phyllis Lanni
- Baked Goods Circle 4
- Silent Auction Jim and Lisa Oosterman
- Themed Raffle Baskets Martha Williams

*please wait until church fair week to contribute

Children's Room (organizer: Sallie Klemm) contains gingerbread houses and holiday crafts that are ready-to-decorate. These draw from families from the wider community.

Please sign up now to help support these opportunities!



Congratulations to Kyle Lumbra and Sylvie Lee on the baptism of their daughter Yenna this past Sunday!

Picture above are Kyle, Richard and Soo Lee, Yenna, and Sylvie.

**An Easy Way to Help Out on Sunday Morning -
Be a Volunteer Teller!**



We are currently looking for volunteer Tellers immediately following the Sunday Service. If you are looking for a way to volunteer but don't have a lot of spare time this would be perfect for you.

Tellers are volunteers who collect, count, record donations received at a church service. Tellers perform their duties immediately following church service. You receive training and direction from the finance deacons. It usually takes approximately 20-30 minutes to perform and you will be with other tellers.

You can volunteer for the same Sunday each month i.e., 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or you can volunteer to fill in as needed. Any help would be most appreciated.

If you are interested, please contact me at 781-710-2978 or email tobrien@enesystems.com.

Thank you! --Terrie O'Brien

Volunteers Are The Heart Of Hospice

Hospice volunteers make all the difference. They offer a supportive presence to patients and their families at a challenging time by providing companionship, veteran to veteran visits, pet therapy and respite to caregivers... and so much more. Do you or someone you may know have a few hours a week to sit with a patient; or a friendly dog that would make a great therapy pet; or have served our wonderful nation and can share some stories with a fellow veteran on Hospice?? COME MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

Our next Hospice Volunteer Training will take place at our Malden office starting this September.

To set up an interview, contact Allison Manheim Caplin, Volunteer Coordinator acaplin@hallmarkhealth.org or (781) 338-7863.

Sessions on anxiety and depression in children, teens, and young adults

Lynn Lyons, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, provides sessions on dealing with anxiety/depression in children, teens, and young adults. Provided in an easy to listen to and entertaining manner, she gives helpful tips for parents in helping their youth deal with anxiety.

Interested parents can consider:

- October 24th, 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Lynnfield Middle School, 505 Main Street, Lynnfield for parents and teens on "Interrupting the worry cycle." (free)
- A webinar "Teens, Anxiety, and Depression: Active Strategies to Move Teens Forward." This is a six hour online training (to watch whenever you choose) and costs \$157.

More information can be found at: www.lynnlyonsnh.com



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.

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.



This weekend our HS & MS youth sent care packages to our church youth who are freshmen in college (homemade cookies and other items).



By Lighting our Church Steeple in memory or in honor of loved ones, you help our church financially. Your gift will be announced in the Sunday Bulletin and "The Messenger". A \$25.00 per week contribution is suggested.



READING PARTNERS serve as

volunteer tutors who make a four hour weekly commitment to help elementary schools students improve their literacy skills in Everett, Malden, Medford, Reading, Stoneham, and Waltham. If you like to read with children and want to support them in becoming stronger readers, please contact Linda Cornell, Literacy Coordinator, 781-388-4839 or email: lcornell@mves.org



*First Congregational Church UCC
121 West Foster Street
Melrose MA 02176*