



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

Beth Grzegorzewski, Office Manager

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

VOLUME 101 November 22, 2018 Number 11

Trust God

Where do you draw the line on worry?

I hope you have a line. If you don't, now's a good time to create one! Start by asking: When does a healthy concern for the future become a self-destructive obsession about tomorrow?

We all hate worry. It is a form of fear, really. But we tend to justify it by saying that a little bit of worry is okay because it keeps us on our toes. It motivates us to plan for contingencies. A bit of worry makes us accountable for the security of ourselves and those we love.

But where is the line?

The truth is, when it comes to Jesus, he was completely uninterested in such distinctions. He saw any worry as a kind of Freudian slip.

One of the reasons his mantra throughout the New Testament is "Do not be afraid" is because he saw worry as a revelation of something much deeper and more dangerous within us. Even the most simple of worries exposes something which we all want to avoid. Worry exposes something of which we may not even be aware. Worry exposes something which we may be too embarrassed to admit: our lack of faith in God.

I think Jesus focused on worry and fear so much because they reveal what is really going on within us. They expose the fact that we are breaking the first commandment. We are not trusting God.

In some ways, Jesus comes across as almost baffled by this; baffled by our worrying. He says that we should look at the birds of the air and the lilies of the

field. They don't worry about the stock market. They don't count calories. They don't fret over the evening news. Why do we? Then, maybe under his breath, he adds: "O you of little faith?"

That seems like a pretty harsh indictment, but Jesus offers us a solution. And what is his solution? What does Jesus offer us?

He offers himself. He says "Come, follow me and see what that does for your fears and worries. Walk in my footsteps of devotion to God and service to others and watch your worries drift away. It'll happen. It'll happen because God will not leave you orphaned. When God is at the center of your life, you have nothing to fear. Seek first the kingdom of God and then see what happens to your fears and worries".

If I had to sum up Jesus' ministry in two words it would be these: Trust God.

God can be trusted. The more you trust, the more centered you become. The more you trust, the more purposeful you become. The more you trust, the more you find the antidote to worry.

See you in church,

--Rev. Dominic

Sunday, November 25, 2018

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

10:00 AM – **Worship** with Baptism

11:15 AM – **Coffee Hour**

During the Week

Tuesday, November 20

5:30 PM **Treblemakers/Junior Choir Rehearsal**

6:30 PM **Morning Star Voices: No Rehearsal**

Thursday, November 22

The office is closed in observation of Thanksgiving

Friday, November 23

The office is closed in observation of Thanksgiving
8:30 AM – 11 AM **Decorate the narthex for Winter Wonderland.** We'll be covering bulletin boards, hanging lights, snowflakes, and signs (we'll need a couple of people willing to climb a ladder!). Bring a friend to help! Questions? Contact Sallie Klemm at shklemm@verizon.net

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

Memorial Wreaths

Four beautiful Christmas wreaths will adorn our front entrance and Sanctuary during the coming holiday season. If you would like to donate a wreath in memory of a loved one, please call Beth at the church office 665-2111. The wreaths are \$50.00 each. They will be hung before the beginning of Advent, to be enjoyed throughout the season.



T.R. Lewski & brother, M.J. Warner, Michael Watt, 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.

Winter Wonderland Fair

November 30th, 6-8pm and December 1st, 9am-2pm

We will be decorating the Narthex for the Fair on the day after Thanksgiving – Friday, November 23 – in the morning (8:30 - 11:30). This mostly involves covering bulletin boards and hanging lights, snowflakes, and signs. We'll need a couple of people who are willing to climb a ladder. Last year it took us less than three hours, and should be the same this year!

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 Larzelere
 - *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!



The Steeple is lit this month in loving memory of Marion Ewell a 50+ year member of the church and long-time member of Circle 4.

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.

Advent Workshop - Sunday, December 2

Sunday, December 2, just after the Fair, we will have our annual Advent Workshop, right after church. This year we will be making gratitude boxes - a craft easy enough for even the youngest. There will also be the opportunity to make an Advent wreath for your home. Advent candles will be for sale. Please join us for this Advent Workshop, emphasizing gratitude this year - fun for all ages.



It's not too late!

This past Thanksgiving Sunday brought an end to the pledge drive portion of our Stewardship Campaign. Throughout this campaign -

We were reminded that what we give to the church is inspired by our gratitude for what we have been given.

We were reminded of the good work our Church does in supporting the wider community, with a specific example highlighting our support for Bread of Life.

And most recently, the Top 10 Reasons for giving to this Church were shared.

Thank everyone who has made their pledge known. To date we are above 85% of last year's pledge totals. And while that may sound like we're falling short, we're actually ahead of past years' commitments by this same time - we're kind of a late arriving crowd.

While you will not hear any more direct calls for pledging from the altar for this year's campaign, there is still time to make a formal pledge. Pledge forms and Vanco direct deposit forms will be in the Narthex and can be returned in collection plates or in the Finance inbox in the Church office. You can also just tell Terrie or myself in person or via email (finance@fccmelrose.org).

Thank you all for another successful pledge drive.

- Rob Durant



The simple act of shopping on Amazon can benefit our church!

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Every item available for purchase on www.amazon.com is also available on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) at the same price. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

You need to select First Congregational Church in Melrose.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you are prompted to select a charitable organization from our list of eligible organizations. You can change your selection at any time.

To change your charitable organization:

1. Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
2. From your desktop, go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity. Or, from your mobile browser, select Change your Charity from the options at the bottom of the page.
3. Select **First Congregational Church in Melrose.**

Winter Wonderland *Special Raffle Basket* "An American Girl Doll Christmas Suite."



Our Winter Wonderland has a new and very different offering in the "raffle basket" category: "An American Girl Doll Christmas Suite." This suite is comprised of two adjoining "rooms" – a bedroom and a kitchen full of furniture and accessories for American Girl dolls, not to mention a rack full of American Girl holiday dresses and a lit Christmas tree! And all of this Christmas Suite can be packed up to go in less than two minutes, and toted away in a waterproof vinyl carrier, backpack and plastic tub. This Christmas Suite would make a unique and wonderful gift.

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

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - \$15. 00 per plant

Send your order form by Sunday, December 9 to:

Jim Oosterman, 54 Ellis Farm Lane, Melrose MA 02176



Ordered by: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

For Listing in Bulletin and Messenger:

Circle One: In memory of / In honor of:

Given by: _____

of plants ordered _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to *First Congregational Church.*