



MESSENGER
of the
**First Congregational
Church**
United Church of Christ
Melrose, Massachusetts

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Pastor
David Richardson, Music Director

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Beginnings and Endings

Welcome to another program year at First Congregational Church! As usual, when September rolls around, I am raring to go with energy and ideas for another year. That is all the more the case this year since I am back from a wonderful, productive and restful sabbatical.

As I mentioned before departing for this time away last spring, I hope that all of you also considered this summer a special time to intentionally reflect on the life, mission and ministry of our church. Now that we are back, we have much to share together! However, before we embark on that kind of debriefing and planning for continued growth and new beginnings, it is necessary to acknowledge an important ending...

This coming Sunday, September 20th, will be the last Sunday our Music Director David Richardson will be with us. He will be departing the following week to further his music career in Chicago with the Lyric Opera Company there.

David and I began our ministries at First Congregational Church at the same time—in August of 2002. For the past six + years, I have felt David to be not only an amazing musician, but a trustworthy friend and colleague with an easy going personality. As has been said, David has been a tremendous asset to our church. From a staff supervisor perspective, it is an understatement to say that he has been a self-starter who was always professional and prepared. It was, however, during those inevitable times in worship when things do not go according to plan that I appreciated David the most! If there was ever a glitch in the order of worship or a last minute liturgical preparation that fell apart, David was always ready, with a simple nod from me, to smooth things over with wonderful music that he just kept in his fingertips. That is truly a blessing for any pastor!

The coordinator of all of our church music, the recruiter of every soloist we have enjoyed over the past six years, a special leader of our Senior Choir and a personal friend, David will be greatly missed. I am confident, however, that great things lie ahead for David in this next chapter of his life. I am equally confident

September 20, 2009

9:00 AM – Senior Choir Rehearsal

**9:15 AM – Church School Registration and
Breakfast, Narthex**

10:00 AM – WORSHIP –

and Church School Pre-K – 12

11:15 AM –Coffee Hour, Narthex

*Come and celebrate David Richardson's last Sunday
with us before he leaves for work in Chicago.*

*THE FLOWERS are given in memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Leon and their son, Robert;
by their daughter, Mrs. Charles Trainor.*

DURING THE WEEK

Wednesday, September 23

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal, sanctuary

Sunday, September 27

Welcome Back Cook-Out, Playground Area, after worship

The following groups meet here regularly:

Boy Scouts – Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the basement

Girl Scouts – Sundays at 5:30 PM, Rm. 1 and lounge, Mon. at 7 PM, Rm. 7/8, Wed. at 6PM, Rm.7/8, Fridays 2:30 and 5PM, 7/8

Pre-PAL – 9 11:30 AM M, T, Th, Fri, Room 7

PAL – 3:00 PM, Room 7/8

Cub Scouts – Wednesdays, 3rd Thursday

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. – Tuesdays at 6:30 PM, lounge

A.W.O.L. – Tuesdays at 7:30 PM, 7/8, lounge, Rm. 1

Mothers' Group meets Wednesdays 9-11 AM, lounge, 1, 7/8

CODA – Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, lounge

Vital Cycles - Thursdays at 7:00 PM, lounge

O.A. – Fridays at 7 PM, lounge

A.A. – Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, Fridays at 8:00 PM and Saturdays at 3:00 PM – Rm. 8

that great things lie ahead for the music ministry of our church.

Please join us for a celebration of David's time at our parish after church this Sunday as we offer him our gratitude and best wishes.

See you in church,

Rev. Dominic

**MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
WELCOME BACK POTLUCK BREAKFAST!**

Sunday Sept. 27th - 9:15 AM in the Narthex.



Bring a snack to share and your ideas for Youth Group Activities for the coming Church year. Adults welcome! Any questions, contact Martha and

Jason Jancaitis, 781-979-9292 or
mjancaitis@hotmail.com



Marilyn McComas, Betty Crane
(Rosewood Nursing and rehab
Center, 22 Johnson St., West
Peabody MA 01960), Kate
Watson, Anne Wing, George
Burrell, Bud Pendleton, Jennie
Way, Barbara Jones.

Congratulations!

*All of us at First
Congregational Church
extend our best wishes to
former Pastoral Intern Chris
Waldron on his forthcoming
wedding. Chris and his
bride, Leah Lyman, will be
married on September 26th in Sawyer, Michigan.*



Registration & Breakfast

All church school families are invited to our annual Church School Registration and Breakfast on September 20th. Beginning at 9:15, please join us for some breakfast before church and to register your children for this year's Church School. We hope to see you there and we're looking forward to a great year at church! Any questions, please call Sherri at 781-322-2361 or Kris at 781-665-5352.



Buy Bulbs to Help RIM Clients!

It's time to buy flower bulbs to support our Refugee Immigration Ministry clients! Advance orders will be taken the next two Sundays and the bulbs will be delivered in early October. There will be breath-taking varieties of tulips, crocuses, hyacinths, daffodils and who knows what annual surprises! So beautify your lawn knowing that you are supporting many Iraqi and Somali refugees who arrived during the summer as well as our client from Uganda. Donations are also welcome!

RIM Update

Our client from Uganda is feeling better despite her serious medical issues and doing well. She would like to thank all of you for your support and kindness and is looking forward to coming to church soon to meet all of you. She loves music and sings in a church choir in Waltham, so we bought her a radio/CD player for her birthday. If you have CD's of any kind that you would like to donate, that would be great! She particularly likes "church music" but says she likes all kinds. She is also looking for a hairdryer and extra-large winter clothes: a warm winter jacket, a scarf, a winter hat, size 11 warm boots, and large gloves.

Several families of Iraqi and Somali refugees arrived over the summer. Although none have been placed in this area so far, we have tried to help with furniture and household donations. Many of the things that you have given to RIM have flown out of my garage to help these people...thanks to all of you! These families receive food stamps but are constantly in need of non-food items that can't be purchased with the stamps: bath soap, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, deodorant, all kinds of paper goods and any kind of cleaning items. We will be collecting these items in the large RIM box in the narthex. Thanks in advance!

Temple Beth Shalom's building has been completed and there will be an Open House for the community on Sunday, October 4, 2009 from 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Come and join with them as they celebrate their new space.