



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

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Pastor

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"Twas the Night Before Christmas at FCC"
by Kara Larzelere

Twas the night before Christmas when at 6:45,
I, the Deacon of Worship Life did at last arrive;
The wilted poinsettias were placed on the alter with care, in
hopes that the ushers soon would be there;
The candles were in boxes but no light sticks did I see; they
were there last week so how could that be?
They were finally found and passed all around, spoiling
Rev. Dominic's children's sermon in a single bound;
The ushers arrived and with no more to do,
I finally settled down into the very first pew;
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
but the word "communion" in the bulletin here!
My heart started to pound, I started to sweat,
this was going to be the worst Christmas Eve service yet!
Away to the kitchen I flew like a flash,
tore open the cabinets and threw up the sash;
More rapid than eagles, the ushers they came
as I whistled and shouted and called them by name;
Now Candy, now Barbara, now Scott Crain & Ron Miner,
There's going to be communion tonight,
and we have not a bite!
To Shaw's, to Bob's, to the closet in the hall,
Now dash away, dash away, dash away all!
As dry leaves before the wild hurricane fly
when they meet with an obstacle mount to the sky;
So off to the stores and the kitchen they flew,
with knives a flashing and teeth gnashing too;
And then in a twinkling, the Elements were prepared,
and snuck into the sanctuary for all to be shared;
With a wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Rev. Dominic gave me to know I had nothing to dread;
So, though the flowers were dead
and nearly everyone froze
and the hymn numbers were wrong
and I dripped wax on my toes;
Despite all of this, it was a very nice night,
Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night!

Sunday, January 10, 2010
Renewing the Covenant

8:30 AM – Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM – WORSHIP
and Church School Pre-K – 12
11:15 AM – Coffee Hour, Narthex
11:15 AM – New Member Class
7:00 PM – Confirmation Class

*THE STEEPLE is lit this week in loving memory of
David Richard Wing
through a gift given by his mother, Anne Wing.*

DURING THE WEEK

Tuesday, January 12

3:45 PM – Bread of Life Dinner, St. Paul's Malden
7:30 PM – Welcome Committee meeting at Jim
& Lisa Oosterman's

Wednesday, January 13

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal, sanctuary

Sunday, January 17

Baptism Sunday 11:15 AM -
11:15 AM – New Member Class
11:15 AM – Fair 2009 De-briefing meeting

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** – Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
- 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



Jennie Way, Marilyn McComas
(Essex Park Rehab, Beverly MA),
Betty Crane, Kate Watson, Anne
Wing, George Burrell, Bud
Pendleton, Barbara Jones.

New Member Class

If you are interested in becoming a member First Congregational Church, please join us for our next New Member Class! Rev. Dominic will be leading classes after worship on January 10th, 17th, and 24th. Our next New Member Sunday will be January 31st. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our church and our wider denomination--the United Church of Christ. If First Congregational feels like home, then this is the class for you!



We will have a Fair '09 debrief on January 17th

after church in the Lounge to discuss what we learned and what we can improve. In the meantime, please write down your thoughts while they are fresh in your mind and send them to Nancy Gift (ngift@mit.edu).



Your observations and suggestions will be compiled and presented at the meeting to give us a jump start. You get extra credit if your items have a category heading, such as: "Cleaning: Make sure the windows are washed in advance of the fair."

Thanks from Refugee Immigration Ministry

Last week we let you know that our RIM cluster is urgently in need of funds to settle our newest client from Honduras in an apartment. Several people responded immediately with donations and a couple of them have made generous monthly pledges that we can count on, on a regular basis. We also received a donation from the Mission Endowment Fund, for which we are very grateful. As a result, we now have enough to make the deposit and first month's rent and pay February's rent as well. We hope to get our young man settled in the Caritas apartment this week. At that point we will formally take him on as a client, which will involve paying him \$175 per month for food (not much, is it?), buying him a monthly T-pass and paying \$30 every other month for a basic cell phone, in addition to the \$500 rent payment. We hope to find someone who would volunteer to pay for the phone or the T-pass on a regular basis. The client called me on New Year's Day to wish us a Happy New Year and thank us for the Christmas gifts and all we are doing for him. Further donations and pledges are very welcome as we struggle to help this client...thanks to all of you!

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