



**MESSENGER**  
of the  
**First Congregational  
Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**Melrose, Massachusetts**  
*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

*Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Pastor*  
*Kathy Troiano, Music Director*

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**VOLUME 92**

**April 30, 2010**

**Number 34**

**Reliability**

What are the constants in your life? There are so many things that are in flux in our lives whether it is the economy, our health, our relationships or natural disasters that it is important to identify the stable places in your life.

For some it may be that the lawn needs mowing. Crazy as that sounds, it is important—not the grass so much but the predictability of its growth now that spring has truly sprung. There may be a volcano in Iceland and a job market that just won't jump start but...the lawn needs mowing. It may be a chore, but it is something you can count on as April turns to May.

There are cycles and seasons in life and they can be counted upon. Climate change or no climate change, winter will give way to spring and spring to summer. There is a progression to life, an ordered movement that we can lose sight of if we get caught up in the chaos on the evening news or the chaos of our own frantic work and family life. Things are unfolding and, as difficult as things may be at times, unfolding as they should.

Maybe you are in a place of uncertainty in your life right now. Maybe your job is potentially changing or your health has stopped being something you can count on. When things start to swirl around you (and no one is immune to the swirling!) it is crucial to identify the constants in your life—the things you can rely on.

At the core, I hope that one of those things you can name as a constant is your faith in God and the presence of Christ in your life. In the blink of time that we are in this world, we are not left to the whims of a disordered universe. We are accompanied and guided. We are not promised a life without hardship. In fact, the crucifixion tells us that life can indeed be very, very hard. That, in the end, is why God walks with us in Christ—to provide us with an anchor, a foundation, a predictable constant through it all.

There are a lot of curve balls life can throw us. Things in our lives can break. What are the unbreakables in your life? What are the things that, no matter what, cannot be shattered? A great place to explore these questions and to encounter the great gift of God's constancy is here at our church. Here, week after week, we are reminded of the truth that there is a rock solid presence that is with us no matter the ups and downs and twists and turns of life. Discovering that presence can bring a remarkable peace to our lives.

See you in church,

*Rev. Dominic*

**Sunday, May 2, 2010**  
**Confirmation Sunday**  
**Food Pantry Sunday**  
**Walk for Hunger**  
**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**

*THE FLOWERS are given in loving memory of Amy and Ken James by their daughter, Patricia Blades and family.*

*THE STEEPLE is lit this week in loving memory of Lorraine Ballard, a former member of Circle 4, who passed away on April 20, given through a gift from Circle 4.*

**DURING THE WEEK**

**Tuesday, May 4**

7:00 PM – Circle 4, Room 7/8

7:15 PM – RIM meeting, Seminar Room

**Wednesday, May 5**

7:00 PM - RIM's Annual International Concert,  
Old South Church, Boston

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal, sanctuary

**Thursday, May 6**

7:30 PM – Deacons and Trustees at the Packhams

**Sunday, May 9**

Mother's Day

**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

**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



***Congratulations to John and Megan McGrath whose son, Ian, was baptized on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations, also to Charles Arnold who was baptized Sunday as well. His parents are Ed and Wendy Arnold.***



Marilyn McComas, Anne Wing,  
George Burrell, Bud Pendleton,  
Barbara Jones, Rayma Sargent  
(Anne Wing's sister).



## SIGN UP NOW FOR "MEET TO EAT"

We've scheduled 8 times when gatherings will take place.

Hopefully one of these times will fit into your schedule. The dates and times are:

Friday evening May 14  
Saturday early supper (kid-friendly) May 15  
Saturday evening May 15  
Sunday afternoon (kid-friendly) May 16

Friday evening, May 21  
Saturday early supper (kid-friendly) May 22  
Saturday evening May 22  
Sunday afternoon brunch (kid-friendly) May 23

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, and there will be members of the Welcome Committee roaming the narthex to encourage sign-ups as well. This is your opportunity to make connections with people sitting next to you in the pews - connections that just aren't possible in the short fellowship time after worship.

We're hoping for 100% participation! Join the adventure and sign up today! Contact Lisa Oosterman or Rev. Dominic with any questions or if you'd like to be a host.

### IMMEDIATE NEED FOR FURNITURE

Our cluster of Refugee Immigration Ministry is expecting two more arrivals of Iraqi refugees...a single man who will arrive on May 4 and a family of four (2-year-old and 4-year-old daughters) who will arrive on May 10. We are looking for a toddler or small bed for the two-year-old, a kitchen table and chairs, a stroller, several bureaus, arm chairs or recliners, a vacuum cleaner, bookcase, lamps, shower curtains and rings, waste baskets...whatever you have! We also need to provide initial supplies: food, paper products, cleaning products (think broom and dustpan, toilet brush, sponges, bathroom cleanser, dishwashing liquid, etc.), and personal items (toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, soap, etc.). Toys for the kids are also welcome. Donations in kind are welcome as well as donations of money to finance our shopping trips. If you have large furniture to donate, please call Nancy Toney at (781) 665-6588 this week since we will be picking up furniture this Saturday morning.



### Get your tickets for the RIM International Concert!

You are invited to attend a multi-cultural concert given to benefit Refugee Immigration

Ministry on Wednesday May 5 from 7:00 to 9:00 at Old South Church in Copley Square, Boston. There will be a Muslim call to prayer followed by performances by the Boston Children's Chorus, a Haitian Youth Choir, the Triveni Dancers of India, and Dr. Douglas Major, organist and choir master. Dr. Robert Hill, of Marsh Chapel, will speak. Come for an exotic evening of shared music and dance as you support the work of RIM, "Building community with uprooted people to serve the common good." Tickets are \$15 per person, students \$10. Call the RIM office for reservations at (781) 322-1011 or go on line: [www.r-i-m.net](http://www.r-i-m.net).