

SUMMER EDITION

MESSENGER

of the

First Congregational

Church

United Church of Christ

Melrose, Massachusetts

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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Welcome Summer!

As we move into the latter part of June, a reminder that our church will again be part of Union Services this coming summer. A schedule will be available on our website as well as in the local newspapers. For those who are new to our church this year, this ending of the program year can come as something of a surprise! A word of explanation might help.

For decades, the Protestant Churches in Melrose have joined together to share worship for the ten weeks of summer. A rotation is developed each spring by the Melrose Clergy Association and each church hosts twice during this time and each pastor leads worship twice during this time. This is a wonderful opportunity to worship in a different church and under the leadership of someone from a slightly different tradition. Our faith is deepened by these ecumenical gatherings and it is one of the primary reasons there is such good relations among the churches in Melrose.

Over the history of this summer pattern of worship some churches have joined the rotation and others have dropped away. At this time our church joins with Highlands Congregational, Green Street Baptist Church, First United Methodist Church, and the Melrose Unitarian Universalist Church. At the moment, First Baptist, Faith Evangelical, Church of the Nazarene, Hope Alliance, Church for All Nations, and the Church of Christ are not part of this worship model. Doctrines concerning Holy Communion, which is not served during the summer, prevent the inclusion of Trinity Episcopal and our two Roman Catholic Churches.

One of the other enormous benefits of the Summer Union Services is that it allows each congregation a time of rest from regular programming. I have found this particularly beneficial for our church. We rely so heavily on volunteers in our church for every aspect of our ministry and it is good for everyone to get a break. This, by the way, should be done guilt-free! Of course, there are administrative tasks that need to occur during the summer to prepare for the fall, but there is great value in ramping back our programming in the

Sunday, June 20, 2010
Renewing the Covenant
CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY
Youth Mission Trip Commissioning
Father's Day

10:00 AM – WORSHIP
and Church School Pre-K – 12

11:15 AM – Coffee Hour, Narthex

THE FLOWERS are given in loving memory of
Dana F. Batting and Richard E. Ahlin by the Ahlin family.

DURING THE REST OF JUNE

Monday, June 14

7:30 PM – Common Threads at Lisa Jamison's

Tuesday, June 15

7:30 PM – Deacons and Trustees at the Packhams

Wednesday, June 16

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal, sanctuary

Sunday, June 20

Church School Sunday

Youth Mission Trip Commissioning

11:15 AM – Calling and Visitation Action Team Meeting

Wednesday, June 23

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal, sanctuary

Monday, June 28

7:30 PM – Common Threads at Sallie Klemm's

Wednesday, June 30

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal, sanctuary

Calendar continues on page 3

summer. It allows people to come back in September fully refreshed and ready to hit the ground running. I am convinced that if we attempted to keep a full load of programming going during July and August (with spotty results) we would enter the fall more exhausted than renewed.

Union Services begin at our church this year with the first two Sundays in July. Before then, however, we have some wonderful things happening on the Sundays remaining in June. Most importantly, I hope everyone is able to come on Sunday, June 20th. This will be Church School Sunday when our children and youth will be leading worship. It will also be Youth Mission Trip Commissioning Sunday as well as Father's Day Sunday.

And don't forget that we wrap things up on June 27th with an all-church cookout on the back lawn!

Until our weekly Messenger returns in late summer, I wish you all a restful and happy summer!

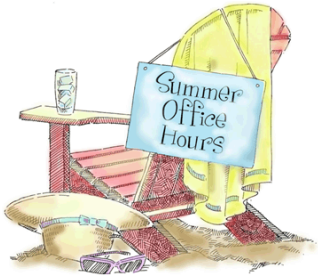
See you in church,

Rev. Dominic





Grace Hart, Bill Rose, Bob McVoy, Marilyn McComas, Anne Wing, George Burrell, Bud Pendleton, Barbara Jones, Rayma Sargent (Anne Wing's sister).



Summer church office hours for July 1 to Labor Day are: Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon



SUMMER UNION SERVICES 2010

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host Church</u>	<u>Minister</u>
July 4	First Congregational	Rev. Larry Starr
	<i>The flowers are given in loving memory of David Richard Wing by his mother, Anne Wing.</i>	
11	First Congregational	Rev. Barbara Threet
18	First United Meth.	Rev. Beth Horne
25	First United Meth.	Rev. Beth Horne
Aug. 1	Unitarian Universalist	Rev. Chuck Hartman
8	Unitarian Universalist	Rev. Dominic Taranowski
15	Green St. Baptist	Rev. Dominic Taranowski
22	Green St. Baptist	Rev. Chuck Hartman
29	Highlands Cong.	Rev. Barbara Threet
Sept. 5	Highlands Cong.	Rev. Larry Starr

Regular worship schedules for each of the churches will resume following Labor Day.



Plan now for the fall:
By Lighting our Church Steeple in memory or in honor of loved ones, you can help our church financially. Contact the church office (781-665-2111 or info@fccmelrose.org) to sign up for a week beginning on a Sunday. Your gift will be announced in the Sunday Bulletin and "The Messenger". A \$25.00 per week contribution is suggested.



Please plan to join the entire congregation for our Annual End of the Worship Year Cook-out on Sunday June 27th directly following worship. Burgers, Hot Dogs and lots of fun! Hosted by The Deacon and Trustees



A special thank you to the wonderful volunteers that came in this year on a rotating basis to help put the Messenger together: Lora Crouss, Rae Hayward, Sally Pollack, and Jill Nelson-Dowd. And as always, Anne Wing helps from home with special mailings.

Are you free on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 am to 11:30 am? We could use some more Messenger volunteers. Two people come at a time, usually for a month or two at a time. The work is simple – affixing address labels to the newsletters to prepare them for the post office. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please call Susan at the church office. (781-665-2111)

MESSENGER

The next issue of the Messenger will be Sept. 3rd. Enjoy your summer! Deadline for articles for that issue will be August 31.

Sunday, June 27, 2010
Renewing the Covenant

10:00 AM – WORSHIP
and Church School Pre-K – 12
11:15 AM – End of Worship Year Cookout –
Come and enjoy!
Youth Mission Trip Departs before worship

*THE FLOWERS are given in celebration of the joy of music
by the Jubilate Ringers.*



DURING THE SUMMER/EARLY FALL



Tuesday, July 6

7:15 PM – RIM Meeting, Seminar Room

Monday, July 12

7:30 PM – Common Threads at Lisa Jamison's

Tuesday, July 13

3:45 PM – Bread of Life Dinner, St. Paul's Malden

Monday, July 26

7:30 PM – Common Threads at Sallie Klemm's

Wednesday, July 28

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal, sanctuary



Tuesday, August 3

7:15 PM – RIM Meeting, Seminar Room

Wednesday, August 4

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal, sanctuary

Monday, August 9

7:30 PM – Common Threads at Lisa Jamison's

Tuesday, August 10

3:45 PM – Bread of Life Dinner, St. Paul's Malden

Wednesday, August 18

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal, sanctuary

Monday, August 23

7:30 PM – Common Threads at Sallie Klemm's

Wednesday, August 25

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal, sanctuary

The following groups meet here regularly, even during the summer:

Al-Anon – weekdays at 12 noon, Sunday at 1 & 7 PM – Rm. 8

S.A.R.P. – Tuesdays at 6:30 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

Wednesday, September 1

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal, sanctuary

Tuesday, September 7

7:15 PM – RIM Meeting, Seminar Room

Wednesday, September 8

7:15 PM – Bells Rehearsal, sanctuary

Thursday, September 9

6:30 PM - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, September 11

10:00 AM – Noon – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 12

Welcome Back Sunday

Sunday, September 19

Sunday School Registration and Welcome Back Breakfast

Sunday, September 26

Welcome Back Cookout following Worship

Tuesday, September 28

11:00 AM – Staff Meeting



Chancel Choir rehearsal will be held on the following dates (please note the times!) in the fall:

- Saturday Sept. 11, 2010 from 10AM- Noon;
- Thursday Sept. 9, 2010 from 6:30-8:30PM;
- Thursday Oct. 7, 2010 from 6:30-8:30PM;
- Thursday Nov. 4, 2010 from 6:30-8:30PM;
- Thursday Dec. 2, 2010 from 6:30-8:30PM;

Also, rehearsals will be at 8:30AM on Sunday mornings before service starting on Sept. 12, 2010.

All are welcome!

A Time to Say Goodbye

Brian and Maura Packham, our two Senior Deacons, have announced that they will be moving with their three wonderful boys to Wisconsin this summer. This move is in connection to Maura's employment. While it is a great opportunity for a new chapter in their lives, it is also sad for our church to be losing such outstanding leaders.



Brian and Maura have been a source of leadership, creativity and inspiration since they joined our church. If ever there have been new members to our church that could be held up as examples of involvement, it is the Packhams. Their style of leadership has been one that encourages and celebrates others even while they themselves make a significant impact on the ministries of First Congregational Church.

The Packhams will be with us for a final Sunday on June 27th. Please join us not only for the end of the year cookout (which, by the way, they organized!) but also to thank Brian and Maura for their time in our community of faith.

In all that lies ahead for them, we wish them every blessing!

--Rev. Dominic



Let Us Know

A reminder that privacy laws regarding hospitalization are very strict today. This means that area hospital chaplains cannot call our church to inform us that a member of our church is in the hospital as they once could. Consequently, it is up to the patient or a family member to let us know that someone from our church family is hospitalized. If you or someone from our church is in the hospital, be sure to call the church office so that we can add that name to the prayer list and Rev. Dominic can provide pastoral care.



Summer Giving

As we move into the summer months, please don't let your weekly contribution to First Congregational Church take a vacation! Our church can easily encounter cash-flow difficulties during the summer when we are in a pattern of Summer Union Services. There can be a scramble in the fall to get our budget back on track. It causes givers—that's you!—to have to make up ground on your pledge from the summer. You can help in the following ways:

1. If you attend the Union Services, you can give during the offering. If your contribution is identified as for First Congregational Church, it will be forwarded to our church.
2. Send your weekly pledge/offering to the church office.
3. Make a larger, forward payment on your pledge/offering in the spring to cover the summer months.
4. Inquire at the church office about signing up for VANCO. This is a direct deposit option that our church offers. We hope more and more parishioners will sign up to have their pledge amount directly deposited to the church each month electronically.

Thanks, everyone, for your intentionality in keeping our church on sound financial footing over the summer!





Congratulations to our recent high school graduates:
 Claire Arnold, Matthew Blake, Kaleigh DiPietro, Emily Hamilton, George Kerle, Stephanie LaQuaglia, Caroline MacIntosh, Jessica Messina, Ally Miner, Jill Murphy and Scott Rosselli.

Claire Arnold will be attending the University of Chicago studying History.

Stephanie LaQuaglia plans to attend UMass Lowell, studying Nursing.

Jessica Messina will be at UMass Amherst majoring in Biology.

Ally Miner will be at UMass Amherst studying Natural Resource Conservation and International Relations.

Jill Murphy will be at UMass Amherst studying Biology



Looking For Talented Individuals to Help Execute Marketing Plan For Our Remarkable Church

Dan Hampson and Maura Packham have finalized plans to kick-off our marketing plan in September.

They are looking for folks with the following expertise:

- Graphic design (for t-shirts, banners, posters, etc.)
- Website design
- Email design
- Copywriting
- Communications
- Event planning
- No expertise at all and just want to get involved



You will become a welcomed member of our marketing team that will meet a few times over the summer then at regular intervals throughout our 2010 / 2011 Church Program Year.



You will be required to laugh often, be creative, have fun, and watch the magic unfold this Fall.

If you are interested please contact:

Maura: maurapackham@verizon.net

Dan: dph@fr.com

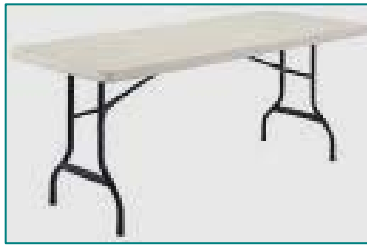
Thank You!



Help RIM during the Summer

Our Refugee Immigration Ministry clients continue to need help during the summer, and we anticipate the arrival of new ones, specifically an Eritrean family or two. We will need donations, people to help with moving furniture and errands and shopping and driving clients. If you would like to be on our "You Can Call Me!" list, please speak to Joan or Bill Chetwynd, Amy Spollett, Cynthia Dench-Irish, or Nancy Toney at church or call Nancy Toney at 781-665-6588.

Thanks to everyone for the many donations from money to food and paper goods and furniture as well as the many helping hands that have helped us care for our clients this past year. And we end on a happy note...our client from Uganda has final gotten her work permit, so is able to look for a job while she waits for her asylum interview.



**Melrose-Wakefield Hospital Hosts
July Senior Supper
Wednesday, July 14 – 5:00 PM**

Hallmark Health will present another Senior Supper on Wednesday, July 14th at 5:00 PM in the cafeteria of Melrose-Wakefield Hospital, featuring speaker Deb Cronin-Waelde, RN Nursing Care Director for the Bone and Joint Center. The topic is “Bones and Joints” and space will be in demand due to Cronin-Waelde’s popularity, therefore reservations are required.

The evening includes a sit down dinner with a choice of entrees, two sides, a beverage and dessert, free blood pressure screenings, a free raffle and an informational talk for \$4.95. To make reservations and for information call: 781-979-6105.

Join Circle 4 in Donating a Table!

The Christmas Fair Committee has identified the need for 12 new lightweight rectangular tables; six 6' tables (\$50 each) and six 8' tables (\$80 each). Any additional money raised will be put toward new round tables! Donations in any amount can be given to any member of Circle 4. Checks should be made out to First Congregational Church with "Table Fund" written in the memo line. As with other church fund raisers, this donation will be in addition to your pledged tithe.