

THE CHURCH BELL

MAY 2017

The First Congregational Church Newsletter

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ
At 26 Central Street in West Boylston
online at www.fccwb.com

*The Lord has yet more light and truth to break forth
from his holy Word."*

~John Robinson, pastor to the Pilgrims



*Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk
in the light of your presence, Lord," - Psalm 89:15 NLT*

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship and Church School at 10:15 a.m.
Childcare is provided for every Sunday service.

May 7 ~ The Fourth Sunday of Easter

The Sacrament of Christian Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Wallace A. Hurd leading

Elm City Girls' Choir

May 14 ~ The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Wallace A. Hurd preaching

Chancel Choir

May 21 ~ The Sixth Sunday of Easter

The Reverend Karyl J. Leslie preaching

Chancel Ringers

May 28 ~ The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Celebrating the Ascension

Wallace A. Hurd preaching

Chancel Choir

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Hurd in the Halls.....

It's hard to believe that it's already been six months since I moved into the corner office! It feels like it was only yesterday, and the days have flown by. Yet, we've done so much together as a congregation, and so much has changed for me over the last half-year. Together, we've both been trying to discern God's call to us and God's vision for us.

It's been a joy and a blessing to be on that walk with you, and to be the recipient of so much love and care, support and encouragement, on that path. I hope that you've also felt loved and cared for, and that my ministry has supported you and encouraged you on your faith journeys. As I'm fond of saying, there is so much more that we can do together than we can by ourselves.

For instance, this year we introduced with a Saturday afternoon service. And though it might not have had the results that we'd hoped to see, we did learn more about our faith community, our faith practice, and ourselves. We also experimented with a Month of Mission throughout Lent, in which we heard from representatives from several of our Outreach ministries during the service, and then discussions with them during Fellowship. Our Faith Conversations group is still going strong every Sunday before church. For Holy Week and Easter, we took advantage of our curb appeal to announce the resurrection, with a home-made cross and beautiful flowers. By listening to God's vision for us, we have expanded what we think is possible in our congregation, and we have enlarged our vision for ourselves as a congregation.

As you read this, I'll have completed all of the academic work necessary to receive my Masters of Divinity, a degree I started early in George W Bush's second term. My Clinical Pastoral Education program at St. Vincent's is over, and my final paper for my final course has been turned in. Next month, in our sanctuary, I'll become an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. It's strange to come to the end of a long journey. Especially when the end isn't an end at all, but a new beginning.

I'm so grateful to all of you for your role in my reaching this achievement, which I surely could not have done without you. You have taught me and helped me to teach. You have spoken to me and shown me how to listen. You have loved me and allowed me to love each of you. You have taken my hand in yours and allowed me to walk with you. I am always humbled at how much you have all given me, in faith and love, and look forward to continuing to walk with you all.

Blessings!
Chip



Adult Discussion Group May 2017

Greetings from the Adult Discussion Group!

The Adult Discussion Group has just finished a four week study on the critical subject of Forgiveness. This has been a series of discussions that have gone deep into our faith lives and have tugged at the basis of our theological understanding of being harmed and letting go of the harm...Never Easy..

The group will now engage in a six week study of Moses, one of the most significant biblical figures. Moses goes from rescued baby, life in the courts of Pharaoh, parting the Red Sea, leading his people out of Egypt... Moses life was one challenge after the next, but although he resisted God's calling, by the end of his life he successfully fulfilled the role he was given. We will explore historical information, archaeological data, and biblical text. Through this study we will gain a better understanding of Moses' significance in our lives today!

Please come and join us for what promises to be a deep dive into the importance of scripture to our faith and relationship with God.

Blessings, George

The Church Register

Baptisms

Kayden Peter Le

April 2

Ace Walter Shliapa

April 23

Elizabeth Ina Benson

April 30

Deaths

Claire Eaton

April 15

Prayer and Praise

All those with health concerns:

Jim Bronwell

Howard Rotti

Carol Rotti

Cayleigh Lynne Gilroy-granddaughter

of Carol Ann Hamilton's friend

Robert Comeau-Nancy White's son

Linda Redman-Kelley Small's friend

Lynne Pierce-Arlette and Bill Peterson's friend

Steven Small

Frank-the step father of Chris Rotti's wife

Sophia Landeo

Nathan and Jonathan Dehner

Linda-Carol Rotti's cousin

Ralph-Lori Rotti's brother

Ron Newman-Dan Newman's father

Bernadette White—one of our faithful Second Chance

Thrift Shop stewards

Joan Flood-Sue Coviello's former sister-in-law



In sympathy:

The family of Claire Eaton.

The Griswold family.

Wider concerns:

Thanksgiving for all who come through our doors.

Our service men and women around the world and their families.

Those who are unemployed among us and around the country.

**The June Bell Deadline is
Thursday, May 18th.**

Send address changes to administrator@fccwb.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

TELEPHONE: 508-835-4462 FAX: 508-835-4463

OFFICE EMAIL: administrator@fccwb.com

WEBSITE: www.fccwb.com

Messages may be left on the church phone system for the staff at any time. Acting Senior Pastor **Wallace "Chip" Hurd** (ext. 101). Bookkeeper—**Cindy Testa** (ext. 103). Administrative Assistant—**Lisa Fisher** (ext. 100)

Staff Email addresses are:

Chip: whurd@fccwb.com

George: gvogel@charter.net

Financial Office: financial@fccwb.com

Christian Ed Office: pjmtoon@msn.com

Community Nursery School: cnswb@fccwb.com

News from the Board of Church Life



Our Board of Church Life coordinator for the month of May is Jay Smith. If you are willing and able to serve as an usher, greeter, lay reader, or coffee server on one of the 4 Sundays in May, please come forward to sign up and volunteer to serve in one or more of these positions on the schedule posted on the BOCL bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Please confirm your willingness to serve on a given Sunday with an email to Jay at: jsmithwb62@gmail.com so he can track the progress of the schedule week to week during the month. Thank you!

The members of our board appreciate everybody's help each month and would like to thank all those who have frequently answered our request for help as servers during the year and those who continue to respond to our call for help in serving our church each Sunday going forward.

Thank you
Matt Rogers
mmogers232@gmail.com



WB FOOD PANTRY

First Congregational Church partners with Oakdale United Methodist, Christ Lutheran and Our Lady of Good Council churches in West Boylston to host a Food Pantry. It is open from 1-4 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Donations of food and money are always welcome.

Current Pantry Needs include:

Toilet paper, paper towels and tissues.
Personal items such as shampoo, soap,
mouthwash and toothpaste.

Please check all items for expiration dates as we have to discard any items that have expired.

Donations may be left in the blue bins in the ramp entrance. Thanks so much for your generosity.

This project was funded in part by a grant from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.



Dear Church family,

Thank you so very much for all the prayers for my brother Chip (Charlie Flood). I am still in shock and denial that he is actually gone. It doesn't seem real. I miss him terribly.

Thank you everyone that reached out to me and for all the cards & flowers. It's so nice to know that I have my church family to lean on when I need them. Please continue to keep me in your prayers. Although a piece of my heart is missing you are helping to fill it.

Love,
Sue Coviello and family

A big thank you to Patricia Jones and our youth group for making some fleece prayer shawls. Our supply was depleted and what a blessing for us to have them. They are located in the closet in Boynton Chapel.

May they continue to bring warmth and comfort to those in need.

June Crone

Save the Date

Chip's Ordination will be
Sunday, June 4 at 3:00 p.m.
All are invited to attend this very
special occasion for our Church, for the
wider Church and for Chip.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH BOARD NEWS



Upcoming Events...

JOHN STREET SOUP KITCHEN

Our next opportunity to volunteer at the **John Street Soup Kitchen** will be: Saturday, May 6th

We need:

- 30 lbs. of mashed potatoes in 5lb increments
- Desserts: 4 dozen squares or cookies
- **Deliver to our church kitchen by 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, May 6th**
- People to help serve



Please contact Dave O'Brien at 508-835-8929 or dnbobrien@gmail.com for more information.

HOPE for HOUSING

PURCHASE GROCERY CARDS

CVS Stop & Shop Big Y Shaw's Hannaford

Build a Habit...Save a Home

Together, we can end family homelessness! Food Cards are available for purchase each Sunday following worship.

Checks are accepted for payment

- You purchase food cards- value from \$10 - \$100
- You receive the full face value of the card you purchase.
- What you don't spend remains on your card for later use.
- The store donates 5% of what you spend to prevent family homelessness.



IHN Shoe Collection

During the month of May we will be collecting "gently used shoes to benefit homeless families in the greater Worcester area.

Please only donate shoes that are in good condition, meaning that the soles are intact, they have laces (if necessary), there are no holes, they are dry and clean, and they still have life left in them. If you wouldn't give them to your best friend, then they are not worthy to be donated.

The shoes should be tied together if they have laces or bound together with an rubber band before being placed in the donation bag.

Church School News



Save the Date

Children's Sunday is slated for Sunday June 11th. We are in the planning process for the theme for it and will start rehearsing with the children in class shortly. Please let your child's teacher know if he/she will not be in church on the 11th. Following the service we will have a special treat for everyone!!!!

Next Year

We are in the process of redefining the classroom set-up for next year. We are continuing with the same classrooms, however we will be re-naming the classes. Nursery will remain the same, then we will have Primary, Secondary and Pre-Confirmation. This will allow the children to move into the classroom that is most appropriate for them. We have been finding that some of the children are ready to move up prior to the grade level assigned to the classroom. We will continue with the current curriculum and hope this will better suit the children.

Pam Doonan
pjmdoon@msn.com



Crossroads

SPRING 2017 SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Time	Activity
May 7	Sun	6-8 PM	Meeting
May 21	Sun	6-8 PM	Meeting

END OF YEAR BARBECUE – DATE TBD



Community Nursery School

CNS had a busy month! We had a story teller come in to tell us the story of Peter Rabbit. We also had an egg hunt out on the playground. The children had so much fun gathering eggs and discovering what was hidden inside them!

May will be another action packed month. We will be showing the teachers how much we appreciate them on the 9th. On the 11th and 12th we will celebrate all that mom's do for us with "Muffins for Mom." Saturday, May 20th from 10-1 we will have an open house for the upcoming school year.

Heidi Pisano, Director



If you know of somebody that could use a pastoral visit or a visit from our Lay Visitation Team please notify Chip or the church office.

Second Chance Thrift Shop News



We say: "Mike, you never looked better."
Mike responds: "Everything I have on is from here."

Second Chance Thrift Shop has an opportunity to get a new display counter. We will be in need of someone with a pickup truck to help us bring it to the shop. Pickup timeline is still to be determined. If you are able to help please call Darlene at 978-257-3484.

Thank you!

Thrift Shop Hours

Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

2nd floor, First Congregational Church

Tell your friends! We have great items at great prices.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
26 CENTRAL STREET, WEST BOYLSTON, MA 01583-1600

Wallace A. Hurd IV, Acting Senior Pastor
The Reverend George E. Vogel, Associate Pastor Emeritus
William E. Nierintz, Ch.M., Minister of Music Emeritus
Cindy Testa, Bookkeeper

Kristjon Imperio, Minister of Music
Lisa A. Fisher, Administrative Assistant, Editor
Kendrik Imperio, Custodian
Heidi Pisano, Community Nursery School Director

The Reverend Steven A. Small, Senior Pastor is on medical leave.

PHONE: 508-835-4462

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EMAIL: administrator@fccwb.com

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Birthdays To Celebrate In May



02 Samuel Colangelo
 03 Peter Saunders
 06 Holly Ducharme
 06 Ethan Bombredi
 09 Beverly Goodale
 10 Nicole Gagnon
 10 Hannah Rotti
 11 Bonnie Goodale
 11 Michael Wahl
 12 Deborah Fancy
 12 Brad Hawley
 12 Trish Jones
 12 Jessica Landeo
 14 Janice Malcolmson
 15 Joshua Landeo
 15 Alexander Riley
 16 Ricky Shaw
 17 Beth Borchelt

17 Benjamin Howard
 17 David Webb
 18 Sophia Landeo
 18 Amy Patch
 20 Marion Dowell
 20 Rachel O'Connor
 21 Julian Smith
 22 Todd Rotti
 23 David Gullett
 23 Jennifer Newman
 24 Douglas Hayward
 25 Scott Johnson
 25 Ruth Patch
 27 Chip Hurd
 28 The Rev. Dr. James Bronwell
 28 Stephanie Smith
 29 Lue Hawley