

THE CHURCH BELL

JUNE 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



*"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and let anyone who believes in me drink.
As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"*
~ John 7:37-38 NRSV

JUNE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

June 1 ~ 7:00 p.m. Baccalaureate Service
The Reverend Michelle Grube preaching

June 4 ~ Pentecost Sunday
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Wallace A. Hurd preaching

3:00 p.m. A Service of Ordination for Wallace A. Hurd
The Reverend Burns Stanfield preaching
Chancel Choir

A reception in Fellowship Hall will follow the Ordination Service.

June 11 ~ The First Sunday after Pentecost
Church School Sunday

June 18 ~ The Second Sunday after Pentecost
The Reverend Wallace A. Hurd IV preaching
Chancel Ringers

June 25 ~ The Third Sunday after Pentecost
The Reverend Wallace A. Hurd IV preaching

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Hurd in the Halls.....

The story of Pentecost is one of my favorite New Testament stories. I look forward to hearing the passage read during worship and singing songs about the Spirit and the foundation of the Church. Yet, it's not only the importance of Pentecost in the Church history, but also the way in which the story is told that causes me to love it as much as I do. It is the story of a joyful celebration at the end of an anxious and uncertain time, and as it unfolds in the telling, we feel that fear turn into hope.

The Gospels are written as narratives. They chronologically tell the story of Jesus' life, and of his impact on the people with whom he comes into contact. They are stories, or collections of stories, that show us who Jesus was and what he did during his too-short ministry. The Gospels give accounts of miracles and wonders, of conversations and commandments, of prayer and patience. When we read the Gospels, we see the whole person of Jesus come to life --- and hope to come to new life with him and through him.

Yet, outside of the Gospels, much of the New Testament is a collection of Epistles or letters. These letters are written by different people, to different audiences, in different situations. They are, to use the academic word for them, occasional; the letters are responses to something that happened or to someone who asked for advice or assistance. Though we believe they are inspired by the Holy Spirit, and so they can and do inspire us even today, it can sometimes feel a bit like reading someone else's mail. It might be good advice. It might make our faith stronger and bring us courage and wisdom. But we often feel a distance from them.

The Book of Acts, however, acts as a bridge between the Gospels and the Epistles. It tells the story of the Church as it told the story of Jesus Christ in those first years, as it spread from a cramped upper room in Jerusalem to Damascus, Antioch, Athens and even Rome itself. Acts shows us how the Holy Spirit worked on the disciples and guided the Early Church through many trials and tribulations, through debates and disagreements. It shows us struggles just like our own, in finding our way to be God's presence in the world, in allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us, in bringing God's Kingdom to all God's people.

The Pentecost story, in which the disciples are gathered, uncertain in their future, when the Holy Spirit descends upon them, is only the beginning of the story. It moves on from there, carried in the sermons of Peter, the acts of Philip, the journeys of Paul and the power of the Holy Spirit. And it continues today. As we read the Acts of the Apostles, we remember that we are also Christ's disciples, and that we have the same call to bring the Good News to the ends of the Earth. With trust in God, faith in Christ, and hope in the Holy Spirit, we can live out that call. The Pentecost story is only the beginning of Acts, and we are still ever adding to it when we live in love as Christ loves us.

Blessings!
Chip

You are invited to attend a
Service of Ordination for

Wallace A. Hurd

Sunday, June 4, 2017
3:00 PM

First Congregational Church
26 Central Street
West Boylston, MA

Please plan on attending this
very special occasion for Chip,
our Church and the wider Church.

A reception in Fellowship hall will
follow the Ordination Service

The Church Register

Baptisms

Kieran Daniel Cogswell
May 7

Deaths

Lisa Cooke
April 21

Lost and Found

**A pair of glasses were found in the sanctuary.
They are brown and pink. The glasses can be
claimed in the church office.**

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
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
Carolyn Small Plumber-Steven Small's sister
Daryn Gillies-Beverly Fisher's cousin
Helen-Lauren Espe's friend



In sympathy:

The family of Kay Will-Nancy Thomson's friend

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 July/August Bell Deadline is
Thursday, June 15.***

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: pjmdoon@msn.com

Community Nursery School: cnswb@fccwb.com

Friends and Family Church Auction

“A casual night of food, fellowship, and family fun”



**Save the Date:
Saturday, September 30, 2017
4:00 – 8:00**

Are you ready for another Church Auction? Are you interested in how you can help make it success? Here's a checklist to follow:

1. **Save** the date - Saturday, September 30th. The fun begins at 4:00.
2. **Invite** friends or family to join you at the auction. The more, the merrier.
3. **Donate** your talent. Cook a meal; host a get-together; take someone shopping; handle a chore; create something crafty or artistic; let the bidding begin!
4. **Contribute** silent auction items - We welcome unopened/unused merchandise to add to a variety of gift baskets up for bid. Think holidays; baby gifts; cooking; sports; beach; teens; travel; school supplies; gardening; country decor; etc.
5. **Volunteer** - Solicit merchant donations; help prepare the meal we'll serve to attendees; organize, advertise, and setup the auction; get involved.

Contact Heather or Paul Krasnov for more information. Email HDKrasnov@gmail.com or

PHKrasnov@gmail.com, or call 508-829-9248.

News from the Board of Church Life



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.

Second Chance Thrift Shop News

Help Wanted

Looking for an opportunity to help your church community? The Thrift Shop needs your assistance 1 to 2 days a week.

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

Our Board of Church Life coordinator for the month of June is myself, Matt Rogers. If you are willing and able to serve as an usher, greeter, lay reader, or coffee server on one of the Sundays in June, 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 me at: mmrogers232@gmail.com so I 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.

Our second annual FCCWB Golf Outing will be held on Sunday, June 11th, 2017, at 1 pm at Holden Hills Golf Club (weather permitting). The rain date would be on Sunday, June 25, 1 pm.

If the weather is questionable that day, (and if you not in church to hear if we're playing or not), you can contact me on my cell phone (508-963-0275) after 12 noon, and I'll let you know.

The cost for 18 holes of golf with a cart will be \$ 37. per person, which each of us should pay in the pro shop (as you normally do) when you arrive at the course. Just let them know you're part of our FCCWB outing. Each golfer will also get a sandwich, or 2 hotdogs, and a bag of chips included in our greens fee. Be sure to hold on to your receipt because they'll ask you to show it when we sit down to eat later. Hopefully, after the round. Drinks aren't included in the special.

If we try to arrive at the course around 1 pm and pay for the round, we'll then set up teams in the clubhouse. We plan to tee off about 1:15-1:30.

We will play best ball format in 3 or 4 person teams in best ball format.

One last thing: please confirm with me by email or phone (or text) by Wednesday, 6/7, that you will show up and play on Sunday because I'd like to be able to confirm the number of golfers and tee-times needed with Holden Hills. Anyone is invited to play. You do not need to be a member of our church. We already have ten people ready to play! Also, you don't have to be a good player! (Personally I'm terrible!)

LAST YEAR WAS A HUGE SUCCESS AND WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

God Bless!
Matt Rogers

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH BOARD NEWS



Upcoming Events...

JOHN STREET SOUP KITCHEN

Our next opportunity to volunteer at the **John Street Soup Kitchen** will be:
Saturday, July 1

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, July 1**
- 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.



Please help us keep our kitchen clean. If you have dishes, pans or platters that are in the kitchen please take them home. Anything left on June 16th will be donated to the Thrift Shop.

If you are in charge of an event please make sure all the leftovers are taken home. Please do not leave them in the refrigerator to spoil.

Thank you!

Church School News



Please join us for Children's Sunday on June 11th. This year's theme will be Prayer. Come hear what the children have learned all year in church school. Then join us for a special treat after in Fellowship Hall.

We will resume Church school classes on Homecoming Sunday, we will not be offering church school classes during the summer.

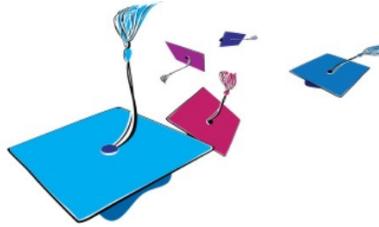
Thank you to all our Church School teachers for the effort and time they put into making the program a success!!! Thank you, Jody Barnard, Lauren Espe, Lori Rautkis, Jorge Landeo and Chris Franger!!!

A big shout out and thank you to our youth group leaders- Amy and Matt Colangelo, thank you for continuing to run the great program that you do!!!! Our youth are truly lucky! Thank you to Helen Holt and Rich Blais for the new program that you have started for our confirmands and our post confirmands, helping them navigate their place in our church.

Thank you to all of you!! Our programs would be not successful without all your work and dedication to our youth!!!!

Pam Doonan
pjmdoon@msn.com

OUR GRADUATES



HIGH SCHOOL

*Everett Newman ~ Wachusett Regional High School
will attend Unity College ~ Wildlife Biology*

*Jana Wright ~ Algonquin Regional High School
will attend Allegheny College*

COLLEGE

*Jenna Coviello ~ Merrimack College
BA in Organizational Communication, Summa Cum Laude
Jenna will continue her education at
Colorado State University in pursuit of
MA in Communication Studies.*

*Rachel O'Connor ~ Northeastern University
BS in Nursing, Summa Cum Laude*

**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
FAX: 508-835-4463**

**EMAIL: administrator@fccwb.com
WEBSITE: www.fccwb.com**



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|----------------------|------------------------|
| 01 Jenna Coviello | 18 Richard Walendziak |
| 01 Lillian Lefebvre | 19 Rachelle Blais |
| 03 Sharon Lonchiadis | 20 Carol Fisher-Crosby |
| 03 Lindsay Poland | 22 Thomas Henderson |
| 03 Jocelyn Sioui | 22 Carol Morris |
| 03 Tamara Sioui | 23 Elianna Howland |
| 04 Andrea Shliapa | 24 Jada Fencher |
| 05 Carol Parker | 24 Aaron Rowell |
| 05 Debra Ellis | 24 William Walker |
| 06 Robert O'Connell | 26 Maureen Bagley |
| 11 Alexandra Bishop | 26 Warren Jacobson |
| 12 Fred Borchelt | 26 John Malcolmson |
| 12 Brian Dillon | 27 Kate Chatellier |
| 13 Jane Eaton | 28 William Henderson |
| 14 Malcolm Ketchum | 29 Luca Raymond |
| 16 Teagan Smith | 30 Albert Monroe |
| 18 Emma Bartholomew | 30 Mark Webb |