

THE CHURCH BELL

OCTOBER 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



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

*"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

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship and Church School at 10:15 a.m.
Childcare is available for all Sunday services.

October 1 ~ The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost World Communion Sunday

The Reverend Wallace A. Hurd IV preaching
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

October 8~ The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Reverend Karyl J. Leslie preaching
Chancel Choir

October 15 ~ The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Senior Sunday
Chancel Ringers

October 22 ~ The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

The Reverend Steven A. Small preaching
The Sacrament of Christian Baptism
Chancel Choir

October 29 ~ The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost Reformation Sunday

The Reverend Wallace A. Hurd IV preaching
The presentation of Bibles to the 9th Grade Students
Chancel Choir

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**REFORMATION
Sunday**

Small Talk.....

The Default Position

Most of the folk in our churches grew up in congregations. In fact, most had parents and grandparents who went to church and passed on a religious heritage, of some sort. So when those children and grandchildren became adults, they naturally sought out a church. The church waited for us to arrive and we showed up! That was the old "attraction" model and it worked well when the church and culture matched and everybody had a church background.

But of course, it is hardly a lightning-bolt revelation to say that the culture has changed and is changing ever more rapidly. Today, we have a couple of generations of people whose parents and grandparents didn't go to church and didn't pass on any religious heritage. How likely do you think it is that these folk are going to just show up at our front door?

And yet while we all know things have changed, most churches still sit and wait in the attraction mode. What we have to realize is that most of our community **has not had** the experience we have had. And we need to make our best efforts to stop falling back into the default position of waiting for people to come to us. It is so deeply embedded in most of our churches, that we have to really be on guard or we will fall back into default mode again and again.

How do we avoid this pitfall? Here are several strategies:

- Avoid any general advertising for your ministries and missions. Flyers, new front signs, mass mailings, and brochures are sure signs that you are creeping back to 1955.
- Get out of the building and start to meet people. Nothing good comes out of sitting and meeting in the church parlor. Hang out in restaurants, coffee shops, town activities, wherever people gather and begin to see the reality of the world we live in today.
- Have focus groups: get your members to invite a group of friends and neighbors to their house and then go interview them. Don't promote any church agenda, just listen to what makes their lives tick; what they need; what they dream of.
- Let go of some "sacred cows". Often we spend enormous amounts of time on "in house" activities that we enjoy but are totally irrelevant to anyone beyond the church. Spend less time on such activities and more time focusing on people not yet in your church.

The old attraction model will insidiously rear its head, but with intentional leadership we can learn how to minister and connect with people today.

Paul Nickerson

Nickerson Coaching/Sr. Associate with Griffith Coaching



Confirmation II meetings will begin in January after Pastor Small has returned to full time work. We'll be condensing the program this year. into the second half of the year

First year Confirmands can get their books through Pastor Hurd or Mrs Doonan in the Christian Ed office and begin working on those modules with a mentor. As a reminder, students in both years are expected to be in worship a minimum of 2 Sundays a month, signing in on the door to the CE office. Each year students in both years are expected to be involved in a service/mission project. If you have a question about any of that please feel welcome to email Pastor Small at: sasmall@fccwb.com

If you need any ideas for a service/mission project you may reach out to Mrs. Doonan at: pjmdoon@msn.com.

***The November Bell Deadline is
Thursday, October 19.***

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

Prayer and Praise

All those with health concerns:

Jim Bronwell

Carol Rotti

Cayleigh Lynne Gilroy-granddaughter of Carol Ann Hamilton's friend

Robert Comeau-Nancy White's son

Lynne Pierce-Arlette and Bill Peterson's friend

Steven Small

Sophia Landeo

Ralph-Lori Rotti's brother

Ron Newman, Dan Newman's father

Bernadette White—one of our faithful Second Chance Thrift Shop stewards

Carolyn Small Plummer-Steven Small's sister

Daryn Gillies-Beverly Fisher's cousin

Lyle Smith

David Holmes-Amie Dehner's step-father

Bill Nierintz

Margaret Borge

Jan Malcolmson

Paula Leftwich-Heidi Leftwich's mother-in-law

Helen-Lauren Espe's friend

Tony-Sharon Seale's brother-in-law

Carol (Baker) Poladian-friend of Heather and Paul Krasnov

Kevin R. Brownell-Carol Ann Hamilton's nephew

Scott Holt



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.

Community Nursery School in West Boylston is looking to hire a certified pre-school teacher as well as a break coverage/afternoon assistant (does not need to be certified). They follow the West Boylston public school calendar and close at 4:30. If you are interested please contact Heidi Pisano at 508-835-3845.





CHRISTIAN OUTREACH BOARD NEWS

Upcoming Events...

JOHN STREET SOUP KITCHEN

Our next opportunity to volunteer at the **John Street Soup Kitchen** will be: Saturday, November 4

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, November 4**
- 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.



Night of Remembrance November 5 at 5:00pm

Please find the order form in this newsletter.
Fill in the names of your loved ones and return it to the church office with your check.

Church School News

Welcome back!!!



We are back in the swing of church school!!! The attendance so far has been good. Let's keep it up, the teachers love having full classrooms.

Our teachers are busy planning the next few weeks of lessons and look forward to sharing them with you.

We will have a one room classroom for pre k-5th grade on Columbus day weekend, Sunday October 8th. If you know you will not be in church if you could please let me know that would be helpful for planning purposes (pjmduon@msn.com).

We will have our annual Advent Wreath event on Sunday November 26th. This is the Sunday before the start of Advent but then everyone will have a wreath all set for the Advent Season. If you have a wreath form left from last year if you could please bring it in and leave it in a classroom or the CE office before the event that would be appreciated.

We will be presenting our 9th graders with bibles on October 29th. We hope you can join us for the presentation.

Lastly if you have not yet registered your child/ren for church school please fill out a registration form. These are located in Fellowship hall on the table in front of the parlor.

Thanks,
Pam Doonan on behalf of the CE board.

The Church Register

Baptisms

Alyssa and Braden Irula
September 3

Deaths

Albert Monroe
September 7



Greetings from the Adult Discussion Group!

Our group has started the study of the book by Henri Nouwen entitled, "The Return of the Prodigal Son," and his prequel "Home Tonight."

Although we have only met for a few sessions, the group has found the discussion lively and engaging. Like many of us, Nouwen lived a life embedded with challenges. Through those challenges, he wrote as an author who brought both the dimension of a professional psychologist and that of a member of the clergy to his readers. He was brutally honest in his display of how both these points of view could make his explanation of God's love supportive and comforting.

He leaves us with two questions: One, where is your home; and two, are you home tonight? Initially, most of us might answer the question in a geographical context. That is, my home is in Massachusetts and I am not home because I am at church! However, when reading more deeply we discover that he was asking if we considered God's grace a place of home. He was also asking if we are taking our human condition and challenges to God in certain hope of receiving God's comfort, grace, and forgiveness.

These two questions, and their answers, are not only our personal challenges but by observation, the challenges of the world.

Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 PM in the Chapel.

Blessings, George

Second Chance Thrift Shop

New Season & we're looking for sales assistance volunteers

Part time or full time hours

Open Wednesdays 9:30a.m. -

1:00p.m.&

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

Call Darlene 978-257-3484 for more info



Hi Everyone! Our shop on the second floor of the church is now open.

Drop in on Wednesday & Saturday mornings. Look for clothing or housewares at a great price. Save \$\$\$ & help the community. Thank you.

See you there!

Bernie, Beverly, Darlene, Dawn, Donna, Melda, Michelle, Nancy & Sharlene



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, tissues
toothbrushes 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.



Friends and Family Church Auction

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

Auction Update!

Are you coming to the Friends and Family Auction on Saturday, September 30th? Have you invited a friend to join you in the fellowship and fun? The doors open at 4:30.

Auction Catalog: The auction catalog is full of great donations. We have 20-plus items for the Silent Auction table and another 50-plus items up for bidding during the Live Auction. Want to avoid the competition? We've selected several "Buy It Now" items which you can purchase prior to the auction. Check out the **catalog online**.

Auction Dinner: Jen Newman's team will be serving dinner at 5:00. It's a Chili Fest! Choose from 6 different types of chili - some spicy; some not. There are options for vegetarians and carnivores. Salads and dessert, too!

Childcare: Members of our youth group will be available to help watch young children during the auction. Let us know if you are planning on these services.

Homemade dinners, donated services, restaurant gift cards, merchant gift certificates, baskets of goodies, vacation getaways; artwork; quality handcrafts; and more. Bid on gifts you can give to others or treat yourself to one of the many great items up for bid. The auction offers something for everyone of every age.

Questions? Need more information? Contact Heather or Paul Krasnov at 508-829-9248 or HDKrasnov@gmail.com.



Crossroads

**Youth Group Schedule - Fall 2017**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
October 8	Sunday	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Meeting
October 29	Sunday	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Meeting - Halloween Party
November 12	Sunday	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Meeting
November 26	Sunday	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Meeting
December 17	Sunday	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Christmas Party

Faith Conversations will meet every Sunday in October except 10/8. Come join us at 9:00 a.m. in the chapel.

Topics for the next several weeks are:
Proverbs Wisdom I,
Proverbs Wisdom II, Worship,
Our Call, Sin & Struggle, Real Joy



If you have an idea for the sandwich board please send it to Jan Sioui:
jsioui@charter.net

Sterling Village hosting Holidays in the Village Seeking crafters, artisans and vendors

Sterling Village, a nursing and rehabilitation center located in Sterling, Mass, is seeking local crafters, artisans and vendors for their upcoming Holidays in the Village craft fair on November 4, 2017 from 9:00 -2:00pm. Spaces are limited and the registration fee is \$20 per space. Deadline to register is October 20th. For further information or to request an application, please call Sterling Village at 978-422-511, ext 1229.

News from the Board of Church Life



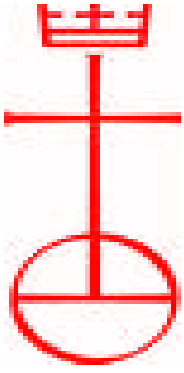
The Board of Church Life would like to thank all those who answered our call and baked several delicious apple desserts for our annual Homecoming Reception on September 10. We certainly appreciated all your help! You helped make the afternoon a great success! And it gave us all a reason to stay and spend more time talking with old friends, and hopefully meeting new ones!

We'd also like to thank all those who have assisted our board's monthly coordinators by serving as ushers, greeters, lay readers, and coffee servers for our Sunday services. As you know, our regular schedule of servers is always posted on the BOCL bulletin board in Fellowship Hall near the side door exit. We'll always have both the current month and the following month's schedules posted. We certainly appreciate it when people come forward and sign up and volunteer to serve our church in one (or more) of these responsibilities. Thank you for your willingness to help and serve!

For the month of October, Lisa Zendzian is our BOCL coordinator for our service schedule. If you are willing to serve in one of these duties, please add your name on a specific date and then confirm it with Lisa by phone or email.

Again, the BOCL thanks all of you who serve the church in this way! We appreciate your help!

Matt Rogers



The First Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ
26 Central Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts • 508-835-4462



October 1, 2017

Dear Church Family,

We will once again be celebrating a **Night of Remembrance** on All Saints' Sunday which will be November 5th this year. The service will begin at 5:00 in the sanctuary. At that service all the names of loved ones who have died, and been submitted by you on the form below, will be read. A votive candle will be lit in the front of the sanctuary and a bell rung as each name is read.

The Chancel Ringers will play and our pastors will lead us in this meaningful time of remembrance. The cost per votive, one per each name, is \$5.00.

Please return the form at the bottom of this letter along with your check payable to First Congregational Church of West Boylston. Please write NOR (Night of Remembrance) on the memo line.

We thank you in advance for your support of this service, the proceeds from which support our mission and ministry.

Name _____

Total Amount _____

Names of loved ones: PLEASE PRINT

1. _____

6. _____

2. _____

7. _____

3. _____

8. _____

4. _____

9. _____

5. _____

10. _____

In order to be included in the bulletin forms must be returned no later than Sunday, October 29, 2017.

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

The Reverend 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



01 June Crone
01 Julie Riley
02 William Larrabee
03 Matthew Wilson
04 Erik Latorre
04 Donelle Wright
09 Andrew Bartholomew
09 Karen Robert
10 Patricia Christenson
10 The Reverend Karyl Leslie
10 Kelly Rogers
13 Peter Borge

14 Hanna Cahn
15 Hannah Raymond
16 Karen Henderson
16 Thomas Sioui
17 Anne Barnard
22 Robert Seiple
23 Kelsey Dawidczyk
24 Marie Lane
24 Lea Mathews
28 Jorge Landeo
28 Everett Newman