

THE CHURCH BELL

JANUARY 2018

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



EPIPHANY

*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*

JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship and Church School at 10:15 a.m.
Childcare is provided for every Sunday service.
Our pastors will be preaching.

January 7 ~ The Baptism of Jesus
The First Sunday after Epiphany
*The Sacraments of Holy Communion
and Christian Baptism*
Chancel Choir

January 14 ~ The Second Sunday after Epiphany
Chancel Choir

January 21 ~ The Third Sunday after Epiphany
Chancel Ringers

January 28 ~ The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Chancel Choir

The Annual Meeting of the church follows worship.

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Hurd in the Halls.....

A new year brings with it new possibilities and new adventures. As Alison and I await the birth of our son in a few months, we understand that more acutely than ever. Even as we are joyful and grateful for the many blessings we have received, there is always a little fear and anxiety that accompany anything new. The best that we can do is prepare ourselves, pray, and hope for the best.

Our congregation is also blessed, and well prepared for all the new possibilities and adventures that await us. We are a prayerful community, and a discerning community, attuned to what and where the Holy Spirit is calling us. Our hope is in Jesus Christ, who saves us and guides us. We have faith that God has great things in store for us, and that we have the strength, courage, and wisdom to rise to the challenges that we will face.

We also have one another, to offer support and encouragement, to inspire us and care for us. Just as we share our faith with one another, we share our service and our love with one another. We come together not only on Sundays for worship, but throughout the week and throughout the year, as we work together to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, and to be witnesses to the world.

This year, I hope that each of us will think about the gifts that we have been given, and the blessings we have received, and consider prayerfully how we can put those gifts and blessings to use in our congregation and in our community. We all have a gift to share with the world, given to us by God, and each of us shares it in our own way. Perhaps you've been thinking and praying about something you'd like to do, or you've discovered a passion, or you've finally decided to shine your light more brightly. This year, we need every light to shine in the darkness, and reveal the God of love that we see and experience in our church.

Blessings to you and yours throughout this year. May it be a year of hope, a year of peace, a year of joy, and a year of love. Let us pray that we will see the great things that God will reveal to us, and that we will see it together. God is with us, as we walk our paths of faith, lighting the way for us and guiding us. May our lights shine more brightly in 2018.

Chip

2017 ANNUAL REPORTS AND 2018 GOALS

DUE Tuesday, JANUARY 2nd

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

To the Members of the First Congregational Church of West Boylston, Massachusetts:

The Annual Meeting of this church will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 11:30, following morning worship.

The meeting is to consider the following articles:

Article I: To receive the 2017 reports of the Ministers, Officers, and Boards, and act thereon.

Article II: To receive the proposed 2018 Goals, and act thereon.

Article III: To receive the Budget proposal for the year 2018, and act thereon.

Attest: Daniel Newman, Church Moderator



The SECOND CHANCE THRIFT SHOP welcomes the New Year!

Hello!

Thanks to all who've shopped us in 2017.

Thanks to the many who've donated in 2017.

And many thanks to those who've worked hard to make the shop a success.

Trusting that 2018 will allow us to thrive.

We wish you all much happiness and health in this new year.

All the best,

Your SECOND CHANCE Team

PLEASE PLEDGE BY JANUARY 2...

We are grateful for the individuals and families who have made pledges and gifts to First Congregational Church for 2018.

We still need to hear from some of you. If you have not yet made a pledge, we need you! The Board of Administration and Finance is currently working on our budget for 2018 and they will soon need to make decisions about the level of expenses our gifts and pledges will support.

Please remember that every gift counts; we are asked only to give according to our ability.

Pledge cards are available in the Narthex and in the church office. You may fill out a card and place it in the box provided or call your pledge into the financial office at 508-834-4462, ext. 103

If you requested envelopes on your pledge card, your 2018 Offering Envelopes are in Fellowship Hall waiting for pick up. Please use the new envelopes starting January 7. Discard ALL left over envelopes.

If you want envelopes and do not find them, please call the church office.

Thank you and thanks be to God!

***The February Bell Deadline is
Thursday, January 18.***

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).

Administrative Assistant-**Lisa Fisher** (ext. 100)

Financial office (ext. 103)

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



CHRISTIAN OUTREACH BOARD NEWS

Upcoming Events...

JOHN STREET SOUP KITCHEN

Our next opportunity to volunteer at the **John Street Soup Kitchen** will be:

Saturday, January 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, January 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.



In the event of inclement weather please listen to
WSRS 96.1 FM or **WTAG 580 AM**
radio stations for church cancellations.
Or call the church answering machine that morning
for any cancellations!



If the Weather Outside is
Frightful

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:

Canned soups and stews

Coffee and tea. No Kcups please.

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.

ZENTANGLE (STRUCTURED DOODLING) CLASS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28th

1:00-4:30 PM

Fellowship Hall

First Congregational Church

26 Church Street West Boylston, MA 01583

COME JOIN US FOR A FUN AND RELAXING INTRODUCTION TO ZENTANGLE, a method of creating beautiful images from repetitive patterns. Receive an art kit with supplies, instruction for eight different patterns, your two finished pieces of art, and enough materials to create other art work at home. The class is open to ages 12 and up and to all skill levels.

Cost is \$35. To register or for more information, please call Jody Barnard at (508) 835-6779. Feel free to bring a friend, and join us!



Welcome and Hello from the Adult Discussion Group! And we hope and pray that everyone had a Merry Christmas celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our group will return from Christmas break on Wednesday, January 10th. We will be starting a new series from Adam Hamilton entitled, "Half Truths". Many of us have heard the saying, "God helps those who help themselves", or "It is part of God's plan". Our group will be discussing what the bible really says and means about these commonly used, but not always helpful, statements.

As a new calendar year begins, it is a good time to fill Wednesday evenings with discussions that bring us closer to God.

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

Blessings, George

Happy New Year!!!!

Thank you to all who participated in the pageant you were all wonderful!!!! A big thank you to Helen Holt for finding and orchestrating the pageant. Thank you to the teachers for pinch hitting as needed and to the confirmands for helping with the service.

Thank you,

Pam Doonan on behalf of the CE board



The Church Register

Baptisms

Conner Daniel Bartholomew

December 10

Deaths

Robert Eaton Sr.

December 26

Prayer and Praise

All those with health concerns:

Jim Bronwell

Carol Rotti

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

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

Lyle Smith

Jan Malcolmson

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

Tony-Sharon Seale's brother-in-law

David Holmes-Amie Dehner's step-father

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

Kevin R. Brownell-Carol Ann Hamilton's nephew

Scott Holt

Debbie Thomas-Carol Rotti's cousin

Bob Akins-Marsha Saunder's brother

Arlette Peterson

Andrew Brewer-Marie Lane's nephew

Ken Johnson-Arlette Peterson's father

Christie Hendrickson-Beverly Fisher's granddaughter

Valerie-friend of the Poland family

Lori Rotti

A friend of Jodie Howard

Danielle Akins-Marsha Saunders' niece



In sympathy:

The family of Carolyn Small Plummer

The family of Robert Eaton Sr.

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.

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
Heidi Pisano, Community Nursery School Director

Kristjon Imperio, Minister of Music
Lisa A. Fisher, Administrative Assistant, Editor
Kendrik Imperio, Custodian

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 Donna Holt	22 Sam Stewart
04 Carol Rotti	22 Emily Trask
05 Kristen Allain	23 Douglas Ketchum
07 Margaret Rotti	23 Donna Mehaffey
14 Joan Nierintz	25 Abbey O'Brien
16 Elizabeth Cummings	26 Leah Bradford
19 James Patch	26 Nancy White
19 Stephen Pusateri	