

MESSENGER
of the
**First Congregational
Church**
United Church of Christ
121 W. Foster St.
Melrose, Massachusetts

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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God Glasses

I guess it comes with being 50. If you were in church last Sunday, you learned that I have started wearing reading glasses. I really fought to the end of the last program year without them. Some of you noticed. You saw me holding things like worship bulletins and hymnals at arm's length. Reading scripture was fun; I never realized how important it was to commit verses to memory when your eyes can't keep up with your speaking voice!

So I have taken the plunge, turned the corner, accepted my lot. The thing is, what a world of difference wearing glasses makes! Not only do words leap off the page, but details of drawings and photographs are now obvious. Of course, it also shows up how awful my penmanship is. All of which got me thinking: what better metaphor for the Holy Spirit than a pair of glasses!

Think about it: the Holy Spirit invites us to see the world from God's perspective. And, boy, how we need that these days. Sure these are trying days in the realm of politics, international relations, the environment, and racism in our country. But they are also times marked by goodness and beauty and hope. We can't forget that. You see (pun intentional!), when you allow God to be the centerpiece of your life, when you let the Holy Spirit work in your life you enter the realm of faith. It is like putting on God glasses. You see the world differently.

We are all different, of course, and just as people need different eye glass prescriptions the same is true when it comes to seeing things from God's perspective. We each may need a different, "Holy Spirit" eye exam. Some of us only see the negative in the world. Others of us never want to look at our problems (personal or social). Our "God vision" needs to be sharpened in different ways.

It takes a certain amount courage to admit you need glasses. It is saying you have a weakness. It is saying you need help. We would rather not need glasses and some people would rather take them off at every opportunity. After all, it can be hard to see the world

Sunday, September 18, 2016

9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal
10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School
11:15 AM – Coffee Hour and
Sunday School Registration, thru grade 8
HS will be done in Spollett Room

DURING THE WEEK

Tuesday, September 20

7:00 to 8:00 PM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 21

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Sunday, September 25

10:00 AM – Worship

After worship – Welcome Back Cook-out, playground area

Tuesday, September 27

7:00 to 8:00 PM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 28

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

The following groups meet here regularly:

Boy Scouts – Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the basement

Girl Scouts – Sundays, 3:00 to 4:15

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

Blue of a Kind – Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Music Room

S.A.R.P. – Mondays and Tuesdays at 6:30 PM, Lounge

Tai Chi for Arthritis – Wednesdays at 10:00 AM, Room 8

A.A. – Mondays at 4:30 PM, & 7:00 PM (men, Rm. 1), Tuesdays at

4:30 PM, Women's AWOL 7:30 PM, Wednesdays at 4:30 PM, &

7:30 PM, Thursdays at 4:30 PM and 7:00 PM, Fridays at 8:00 PM and

Saturdays at 9:00 AM (men) and 3:00 PM – Rm. 8

from God's perspective. It is easier to not see those who are homeless and in need. It is easier to not see our habits that cause pain to others. The clarity of vision that God offers is not selective. Both the triumphs and the shortcomings become more apparent.

The truth is we all need help. We all need a fresh perspective. We all need faith. Because whether God invites us to see more challenges or more comfort, we are always invited to see what is possible. For some, glasses make life possible. The same should be true of faith for all of us.

This program year, may we all strive to put on God Glasses. And may we get so attached to using them that we take an even bigger plunge and have a kind of Lasik surgery for the soul so that we *always* see the world through the lens of God's redemptive love!

See you in church,

Rev. Dominic



Nyal Fuentes, Keith Williams,
 Bryan McAllister-Grande, Bob and
 Claire Griffin, Herb Gray, Bill
 Albright, Barbara Wellington,
 Becky Faro, Bill Copeland, Gem
 Colvin, Dot Allen, Bob Pierce,
 Anne Wing.



SUNDAY SCHOOL:

We are excited to welcome you and your children back to Sunday School! This year, the theme for our toddler through grade 5 classes is "Growing". Our bulletin board will feature pictures of our children and a growth chart, marked with each child's height in September. We plan to measure again in December and April so that we can see how much they have grown physically as well as spiritually this year!

All members of our Congregation are invited to add pictures of themselves from their "younger" years. It will be fun to guess who is who!

Sunday School will host regular classes for all grades this Sunday.

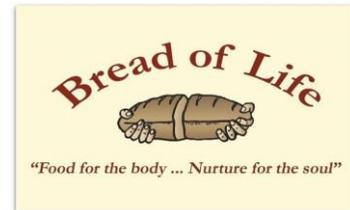
High School youth are invited to join in a discussion in the Spollett Youth Room with Jen Crain, part two of "Lessons from Rio", or remain in Worship.

DAY CARE SUBCOMMITTEE INVITATION

As many of you know, last year our church signed a new, much improved and updated lease agreement with the Melrose Day Care. Time, of course, passes quickly and it is important to make sure that we, as a church, know what we want and expect from our relationship with the Day Care in preparation for the next lease agreement. To that end, last winter the Deacons and Trustees decided to invite anyone from the congregation who would like to become involved in this process. The idea is that this group would look at where have been, where we are, and where we would like to be in the future both in terms of space use and finances when it comes to the Day Care. We would like to avoid scrambling at the last moment to make significant, long term decisions and your help would be greatly appreciated! If you are interested, please let our Senior Deacons (Hans or Sallie Klemm) or Rev. Dominic know. Thank you!



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Bread of Life

Walk for Bread & 5K Run, Sun, October 2, 2016, noon registration, 1 pm Walk/Run starts, Pine Banks Park of Malden & Melrose.

Featuring snacks, drinks, music, T-shirts for every walker/runner & fun activities. For more information about participating or sponsoring please click the link below to our website.

[Link to BOL website events page](#)

FALL BULB SALE BEGINS SEPTEMBER 11TH!

Refugee Immigration Ministry's bulb sale will begin on Welcome Back Sunday, so please seek out our table in the Narthex and ponder how beautiful your yard will look in the spring if you plant bulbs now!

We are helping a wonderful new family of four from Egypt who have two school-age children and are living in Wakefield. Funds raised from the bulb sale will help pay their rent.

Orders will be taken on the following Sundays:

- September 11
- September 18
- September 25



Planning for Spring

October 2 (Last day for placing orders)

Bulb orders will be available for pick-up on Sunday, October 9. If you aren't available on October

9th, arrangements will be made for pick-up or delivery. If you have questions, contact Debbie Anderson, RIM Volunteer, Metro North Cluster (781.665.8801). Thank you for supporting RIM's important work.



**ALL-CHURCH WELCOME BACK COOKOUT!
SEPTEMBER 25, 2016**

Please plan to reserve your time after church on September 25th for our annual Welcome Back Cookout. Lots of great food (it's a potluck), and lots of great people to meet or get to know better.

To sign up to attend and let us know what potluck food you'd like to bring, see the signup poster in the Narthex. There are categories from chips to fruit salad, macaroni salad to cakes. Bring something you like to make!

The church will provide hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, and cold drinks for everyone.
- Donna & Ron Miner



The Sally Frank's Farmers' Market in Melrose is offering coupons to WIC and senior Farmers Market voucher recipients! Show your vouchers at the Market Table and receive an additional \$5 coupon. Our fresh produce vendors accept WIC and senior Farmers Market vouchers. All of our food vendors also accept SNAP benefits, which we match up to \$10 per week. The funding for our coupons and SNAP matching program has been generously provided through a grant from the Melrose Cooperative Bank. Join us in Bowden Park every Thursday afternoon between 2 and 6 pm. We hope to see you at the market!



Hallmark Health VNA and Hospice to Hold Kids and Grief Support

Children react differently from adults regarding the death of a loved one. To assist in helping children process their loss, Hallmark Health Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice is sponsoring a Kids and Grief Support Group for children ages 6-12.

The next support group for children begins Wednesday, September 28, 2016 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. and meets every other week for six sessions. A parents and caregivers support group meets at the same time. According to Judy Seifert, Bereavement Coordinator at Hallmark Health VNA and Hospice, the Groups provide a safe place for children to not only express their feelings, but also to share memories, meet new friends, and learn how to process their grief. Registration is required to attend. For information and to register, call Judy Seifert at (781) 338-7861.

Puzzle!

Search for words found in Romans 8.

N	O	I	T	A	N	M	E	D	N	O	C	X	V	Q
J	J	U	S	T	I	F	I	E	S	D	G	C	E	U
I	T	C	H	S	E	L	F	N	E	G	J	V	G	E
Q	I	K	S	P	R	N	O	I	T	P	O	D	A	S
G	R	F	A	U	D	O	F	T	A	L	D	C	D	K
G	I	X	N	R	F	I	R	S	T	B	O	R	N	U
U	P	Z	G	P	R	T	E	E	F	F	B	E	O	I
H	S	X	E	O	E	P	Y	D	U	A	T	A	B	L
J	R	J	L	S	E	M	A	E	D	Q	M	T	U	P
O	E	G	S	E	D	E	C	R	E	T	N	I	G	S
R	W	S	G	O	O	D	E	P	L	C	L	O	L	V
C	O	Y	U	H	M	E	D	E	C	L	E	W	N	C
D	P	I	H	S	D	R	A	H	A	L	B	D	B	P
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H	E	A	R	T	F	R	U	L	O	R	P	Z	D	R

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|-------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| Abba | elect | Jesus | adoption |
| family | justifies | angels | firstborn |
| Lord | bondage | flesh | love |
| called | freedom | peace | Christ |
| fruits | powers | condemnation | glorified |
| predestined | conquerors | good | purpose |
| creation | hardship | redemption | decay |
| died | intercedes | Spirit | heart |