

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

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Pastor
Mariko Matsumura, Interim Music Director
Maureen Willis, Sunday School Administrative Assistant

OFFICE 781-665-2111 - FAX 781-665-8824

E-MAIL info@fccmelrose.org Website www.fccmelrose.org

Rev. Dominic's Cell phone: 781-526-3428

VOLUME 99 September 23, 2016 Number 3

Which Way Should I Go?

Do you ever wonder if you are on the right path; if you are going in the right direction with your life? Do you ever wonder if you are doing the right thing; pursuing the right things in your life?

As I mentioned in last Sunday's sermon, there is a wonderful story in the Acts of Peter (an ancient text that did not make it into the canonical bible) that really helps clarify matters and gives us courage. I used it to talk about the mission of the church, but it is equally applicable to our individual lives.

The story goes that after Jesus' death and resurrection, the Roman government was rounding up Christians for execution. Peter was among those arrested. He was ready to face his fate but others convinced him that he was too valuable to the cause of Christianity to be killed. So agreed to escape Rome. On his way out of the city, he passes by the risen Christ and asks him "Quo vadis, Domine?" which means "Where are you going, Lord?"

Jesus replies that he is going into Rome to be crucified again. At this point, Peter "comes to himself" and remembers that he is a follower of Jesus. He therefore returns to Rome where he is crucified.

To me the value of the story lies in Peter's question: "Quo vadis, Domine?" or "Where are you going, Lord?" This has tremendous value to our faith formation. How different might our lives be if instead of asking "Which way should I go?" we asked "Where are you going, Lord?" and followed him?

The deeper layer of the story is that following Christ does not equate to a path of ease. For Peter, it brought him to his crucifixion. To follow Christ calls us to confront our tendency to avoid the difficult things in our lives and instead face them head on. We can do this because we are not alone but are rather forever accompanied by the risen Christ himself.

"Quo vadis, Domine?"

Try asking that question next time you are faced with a dilemma or a confusing choice. Try asking it

Sunday, September 25 2016

9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal
10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School
11:15 AM – Welcome Back Cook-out, playground area

DURING THE WEEK

Tuesday, September 27

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

Wednesday, September 28

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Sunday, October 2 – Food Pantry Sunday

10:00 AM - Worship

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

when you are overwhelmed or sense you are avoiding something important. It is a true plea for divine guidance and, if asked in earnest, will not go unanswered.

Discipleship is not always about the easy path but when we truly follow the risen Christ in our lives, we can find a connection, a contentment, a joy that is beyond any hardship.

See you in church,

Rev. Dominic



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

New Office Hours

The Church Office will now be open and our Secretary present on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The office will be closed on Wednesdays. Rev. Dominic will continue to have Mondays as his day off.





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.



RIM'S FALL BULB SALE!

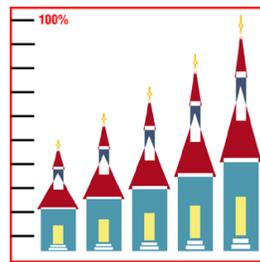
Refugee Immigration Ministry's bulb sale will begin on Welcome Back Sunday, so please seek out our table in

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 Sundays:
September 25
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.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Capital Campaign Update

Over the summer, progress continued with regard to several Capital Campaign projects.

The exterior of the Parsonage was painted and a decision was made to update the attic insulation and install heating and cooling to that floor of the house. This will not only create more living space but will also significantly increase the value of the property. This project is nearly complete.

At the church, new bathroom stalls have been installed in all of our bathrooms. This will be followed by a deep cleaning of the bathrooms. New trees have been planted in "the grove" area of the front lawn and a non-maintenance ground cover will soon be planted outside of the Kitchen entrance to the church. A major plan is still in the making for a pergola to be erected on the front lawn near the parking lot that will be surrounded by hardscape. The lawn around the sign in front of the church will remain a grass lawn but will be organically revitalized before next summer.

It is great to see this project and thank you to our Capital Campaign Committee for their on-going work! Please make sure that your Capital Campaign contributions are up to date so the projects can continue! Thank you!



Are you interested in joining the Band of Praise?

If you are interested, we will be meeting after church on Sunday, October 16th for an informal meeting and rehearsal in the chapel. Anyone in middle school, high school, or anyone older is invited to attend. We are especially looking for those who play drums, guitar, or keyboard and would like to sing and play in the praise band in church. We hope to see you there.

Bob and Lisa Jamison

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!



Wait! Before you shop on Amazon, **SMILE** first! When you shop on Amazon, start at www.smile.amazon.com and then select First Congregational Church in Melrose.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases directly to our Church!

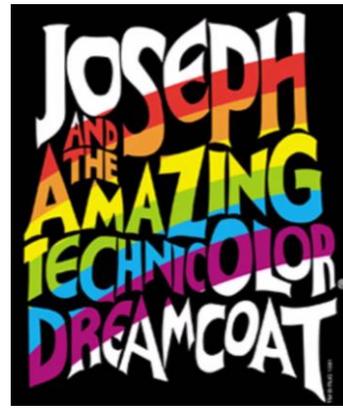
AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know.
Same products, same prices, same service.



Ushers needed!

If you would like to usher, either on a regular basis (one Sunday a month) or occasionally, please send an email to Betsy Garrett at betsy.luebbe.garrett@gmail.com. Thank you!

CALLING ALL YOUTH and The Treblemakers!



This Sunday after church, all youth and all Treblemakers are invited to come to the music room and meet the interim music director, Mariko Matsumura.

The purpose of this meeting is to start to

prepare to sing Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", of "Jacob and Sons" and "Joseph's Coat" for a special presentation during the October 16th worship service. More rehearsals will be right after worship on September 25, October 2 & 9.



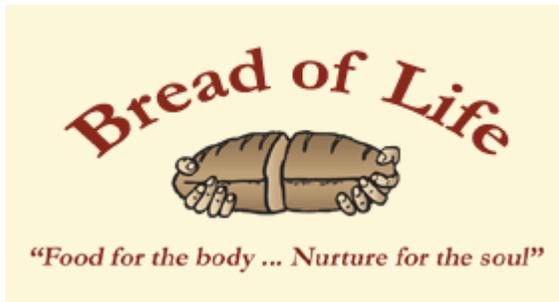
SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Parents are reminded to stop by the Registration Tables to update their child's information and pick up a brochure which highlights this year's lesson themes and important dates to remember.

Have you noticed our bulletin boards? We are looking for pictures of you and your children from when you were younger! It is fun to see how we have grown, both physically and spiritually, together!

All Sunday School classes will hold regular lessons this Sunday.

High School youth are invited to meet in the Spollett Youth Room for a special discussion or may choose to remain in Worship.



Join us at the 24rd Annual Bread of Life Walk for Bread & 5K Run

**Course: 5K for walkers and runners (= 3.1 miles).
at Pine Banks Park, Main Street, Melrose & Malden**
[Click here to see a map of the Run/Walk course.](#)

Date: Sunday, October 2, 2016

Time: The Walk/Run will start at 1 PM.

Please come at noon for registration & entertainment.

Parking: Parking is available when coming in the park entrance (next to the superintendent's office) at 1087 Main Street, Malden MA.

This event benefits Bread of Life, a local nonprofit that in 2014 provided about 1,032,000 meals through grocery delivery to senior citizens, food delivery to homeless families sheltered in local motels, evening meals Tuesday-Friday, and food pantries for residents of Malden, Everett, Medford, Melrose, Saugus, Stoneham, Wakefield, Winchester, Reading and North Reading.

The Walk/Run circles scenic Pine Banks Park, starting in the pavilion area. It will include family fun, entertainment and refreshments. Music will be provided by a local DJ. Bring your kids, bring the dog, come enjoy the day!

Live Band Snacks

Activities for Kids Henna tattoos

Registration: Registration on the Walk/Run day will be held at the tot-lot/pond/pavilion area inside the wooded area of Pine Banks beginning at noon. Fill out a pledge sheet and mail it in, or return it, with funds raised, on the day of the Walk/Run.

For more information [about Bread of Life, click here.](#) For info on [our programs, click here.](#)

Bread of Life began in 1980 and is a faith-based, nonprofit, volunteer organization of 37 churches, synagogues, schools and civic groups. Bread of Life is funded primarily by individuals, businesses, and community support, not government sponsorship. The Walk for Bread is Bread of Life's single largest fundraiser. Please come meet your neighbors, enjoy the day and support Bread of Life!

Bread of Life: 54 Eastern Avenue, Malden, MA 02148
Phone: 781-397-0404
info@breadoflifemalden.org



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!