



Parish Visitor

First Congregational Church UCC

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2022

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Friends,

I once read an interesting comment on prayer whose source I wish I could cite, because it was so perceptive. It asserted that what most mainline, western Christians call prayer could more accurately called magic, because of the way we practice it. Think about it. When we pray, don't we most frequently pray for an outcome, such as healing or comfort for ourselves and others, for peace and for justice. These are good things with which we should be concerned, but they are outcomes. When we call on God to bring about a desired outcome, how is that different from saying magic words or repeating incantations?

I am NOT suggesting we cease praying for the things that would make life for our loved ones, ourselves, and our world, better. However, I would suggest another way that prayer functions. We pray, not to dial up the holy request line to remind God of what we want or need or to express our deepest fears and anxieties. This can be an important release, but God already knows all these things. Prayer is also an important way to bring ourselves back to consciousness of God. Prayer helps us rediscover our gratitude for what God has done for us and to meditate on how to best express our gratitude. Prayer can help us find our way into God's purposes. Prayer that listens more than requests, can lead us to deeper awareness of God's presence, and how to serve God. *Thy kingdom come; thy will be done...*

I bring up the subject of prayer as we stand at the threshold of summer. Though inflation is daunting this year, many of us have travel plans that will take us away from one another on journeys of discovery, times of relaxation, and emotional and spiritual refreshment. I hope that when you find a quiet moment, or when you feel awed by the spectacular vista of God's creation, you will pause and feel your gratitude for what God has done.

Think about those maps we see at parks, shopping centers, or amusement parks, that orient us to our surroundings with a little red arrow and the words *you are here*? In reflective, prayerful moments, I hope we might each have a *you-are-here* moment, in which we discover, if only for an instant, our place in God's creation. I hope we might feel a sense of the goodness for which God created us. I hope that in such moments of God-awareness, we will each hold First Congregational Church of Walpole in our prayers, that we may discover how we are called together to live out our ministry, finding joy in service and fellowship, gratefully giving of ourselves in the name of the God who gives us to one another.

I wish you all a safe, happy, and refreshing summer.

Yours in Christ,
Richard Malmberg



Spring has indeed arrived. Birds are singing. Gray, red, and black squirrels are running around. Bushes are blooming, gardens are being planted and lawns are being mowed.

Our church is growing. Last Thursday we welcomed Jon Blomquist into our church family. Please make him welcome.

Eric Marean filled the pulpit on May 29th as Pastor Richard and Jane took some time off on the Memorial Day weekend. Hopefully, Eric will be available for us when Pastor Richard takes his vacation this year.

The Deacon of the Month for June is Jana Sellarole. Peace and love.

Minna Good

Richard's Shindig

Rev. Richard Malmberg, known by most of us simply as "Richard" was finally celebrated as our called pastor, exactly two years after his first day "on the job."

The Malmberg Transition Team (aka, MTT) and the Pastor-Parish committee planned and executed the event, which was a delicious hot-dog roast (hotdogs cooked by Dale and Tom), accompanied by baked beans, Betty's famous potato salad, Nancy's tossed salad, other salads, fruit, an ice-cream sundae bar (manned by Bruce and Tracey Martin) and a delicious cake made and donated by Susie Faxon (Ann Rogers' daughter).

It was lots of fun! Fifty-five people signed the guestbook, although there may have been more, and guests included representatives from the Southwest Association Committee on Church and Ministry.

Thank you to everyone (and there were many!) who helped make this a success.

Ellie



The hum of lawn mowers is with us now...wish they were electric and quiet! It's also a sign that we are into summer. Spring clean-up got canceled in part because much of the work got done earlier and there was activity going on inside the church. The only outside project we must do is the brushing and clean out on our back lot. The Trustees plan to work at this as we can. A little more mulching would spruce things up a bit.

The steeple project is on schedule to begin in July or early August. Fundraising is necessary for us to get this done. In 2021 our financial position was much better, but the budget deficits of this current year have eaten away at our available endowment funds. We are limited as to how much we can take out of the endowment. It is important that we address the deteriorating condition of the steeple, so the Finance Committee will be addressing this financial need. Stay tuned!

The job of the Trustees is to deal with problems that come up with the buildings and grounds. This past month the washer in the Parsonage died. We purchased a new washer and dryer. The interesting story was the delivery was through the barn, up the stairs, across the hayloft, under some supporting beams, through the back portion of the barn, and into the laundry room off the bathroom. All this was because the door into the laundry was too narrow. Kudos to Korvin's delivery team.

Mold also is again an issue now. This time in the parsonage once again. Years ago, we had a problem in the basement and testing has once again shown high levels. We are working with Serv Pro to remediate the problem.

On the horizon, the Trustees are looking into ways to decrease our oil consumption. The price of oil for the 2022-23 budget has doubled. This is the most significant portion of the Trustee's budget. Now we are only thinking about easing into summer with lawnmowers, string trimmers, and blowers and all that noise-making equipment. Be well!

For the Trustees, Dale Woodward, Chair

Missions Report on the Rummage Sale

Rummage/Yard / Bake Sale

Our long-anticipated sale happened on Saturday, May 21st. If you happened to be in the church the week before, you noticed that there was barely a pathway from the front door through to the kitchen.

Many people commented that this was the most rummage we have ever had. All the event's workers certainly would agree as full boxes of all sorts of items were lugged outside and bags of clothing arranged inside.

The forecasted hot and humid weather held off until cleanup time. What a blessing.

The biggest thank you goes to the 7:30 setup crew and to the 1:00 clean-up crew which were many of the same people. Your help and good humor were so appreciated.

Thank you also to those who made items for the food table. This may have been one of the few times we sold out.

The preliminary figures are as follows:

Baked goods \$303.50

Inside (clothing etc) \$1,260

Outside (household items, etc) \$1,004.75

The grand total is.....\$2568.25!!! Awesome!!

Missionettes



Memorial Committee

Our Memorial Garden is blooming with late spring and early summer weather upon us. Plan to sit and relax when you need to let the worries of the world leave your mind for a few moments. Enjoy the new chair cushions, the fragrance of the plants and flowers, and just be still.

We are grateful for memorial funds to purchase fifty New Century Hymnals, thanks to donations given in Nancianne Houghton's memory. They will be dedicated, along with the new choir robes, on Sunday, June 19.

Our church is sending Beki Bowen to the Horton Center this summer to attend archery camp. Memorial funds were used to provide a scholarship for her. Praise be to God!

Here's the **altar flower** schedule for June:

June 5: Pat and Bill Kingsbury in honor of Martha Kingsbury's birthday

June 12: Richard and Jane Malmberg in celebration of Kit's birthday

June 19: the Prentiss family in memory of Rick

June 26: Jane & Felicia in memory of our mothers.

Thanks,
Ellie



June 2022

Calendar subject to change due to challenges of Covid-19

Wednesday, June 1	*No Bible Study	
Saturday, June 4	Council Meets	8:30 am
Sunday, June 5	Communion Sunday Worship Service Live and on Zoom	10:00 am
Wednesday, June 8	*No Bible Study	
Sunday, June 12	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
Wednesday, June 15	*No Bible Study	
Sunday, June 19	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
*Dedication of the new choir robes, and new hymnals given in memory of Nancianne Houghton		
Sunday, June 19	Annual Meeting after worship	11:15 am
Wednesday, June 22	*No Bible Study	
Wednesday, June 22 -- June 26 th	OLD HOME DAYS	
Sunday, June 26	Worship Service live and online via Zoom	10:00 am
Sunday, June 26	Chicken BBQ	5:00 pm
Wednesday, June 29	*No Bible Study	

***Bible Study is on summer break until after Labor Day**

Friday, June 24th Parish Visitor Deadline – Combined July/August Issue

Church Office Hours: 9 am to 12 noon, M-F

A Message from Sue Krebs Co-chair of our Council

Rummage Sale Report:

This fundraiser always requires many volunteers, and starting on Monday the 16th, many showed up to carry up boxes and boxes from the basement. Much was stored to be put onto tables the day of the sale. All the bags of clothes were put out on the tables, which had already been put up. The group exhibited lots of goodwill and fellowship, Chris made coffee and brought donuts, and all agreed we had a good time. We were fortunate to have good weather the day of the sale, overcast though humid and not too hot until the sun came out later in the day. It was a huge undertaking to pack all the leftovers up, from both inside and outside, but our hardy group of volunteers persevered. It is always genuinely a “fun” time when a group of people works together for a good cause.

Events like this serve to illustrate the strength of our church. More fundraisers are being planned; next up is the chicken BBQ on June 26, part of the Old Home Day celebration. Also, that weekend, we hope to sponsor a float for the parade, and perhaps a booth on the common. We have spots reserved for both. All we need are interested volunteers.

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We are grateful to all who continue to donate their time, energy, talents, baking skills, etc. to help the church be a vital part of the Walpole community. Kudos to you all!!!

Sue Krebs

Missions in Action

June 5th is our Strengthen the Church offering. This is Pentecost Sunday celebrating the birth of the church. This offering reflects that commitment to UCC churches across the U.S. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministries and innovation in existing churches. Last year monies were given to churches to help with technology investments for online services. Also, COVID 19 grants were given to 50 churches to serve neighbors and congregants during the pandemic. So please consider giving to help churches in the UCC.

On Sunday, June 18th, we will be having our Fall Mt. Food Shelf drive. Please bring canned food items to the church or consider a cash donation. This is the last campaign of our fiscal year. Why don't we make it a big one!! We look forward to seeing what we will be taking to the food shelf. Your donations are so greatly appreciated. Fall Mt. is always in need of food and personal items. Thank you for caring.

Peg





Calling All Parade-Lovers!!

Walpole Old Home Days are June 24-26. There will be a parade on the 25th and Walpole UCC usually creates a float. There is a cut-out of the church in Richard's barn, and we have access to a trailer to put the float on. We need an idea for the float itself. In previous years, we have had choir members ride on it and sing, and we have had tee shirts made up to wear, but all ideas are welcome.

We need someone to head this up. It can be simple, but it is a perfect opportunity to advertise our church! Let's Do It!!

Please let any Council member know of your interest or leave your name with Jane in the office.

Thank you in advance to anyone who steps forward.

Sue Krebs

ANNIVERSARIES IN JUNE

Dave and Cindy Westover	6/1
Leroy and Cheryl Watson	6/2
Don and Jana Sellarole	6/4
Bruce and Jan Martin	6/15
Curt and Betsey Congdon	6/26

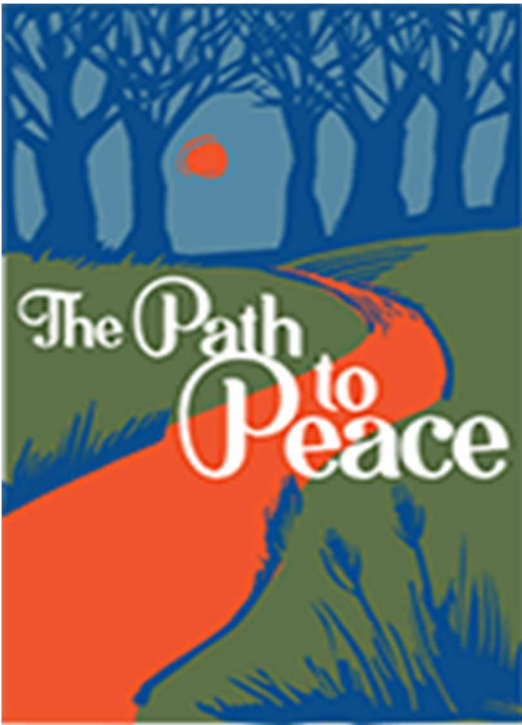


BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

June Houghton	6/03
Virginia Putnam	6/05
Martha Kingsbury	6/09
Erin Bowen	6/13
Daniel Bemis	6/18
Sue Durgin	6/18
Becky Pearson	6/18
Debbie Clark	6/19
Tim Foley	6/19
Debbie Timon	6/19
Jeanne Cloues	6/20
Pat Kingsbury	6/21
Eryn Sellarole	6/24
Jane Vesper	6/24
Tom Winmill	6/25
Alicia Keller	6/27
Karin Mallory	6/28
Shirley Byczkowski	6/29



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