



The First Congregational Church of Reading

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST • AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Produced by our Church Family

June 2017

Volume 2017, Issue 6

June First ChurchNEWS

Statement of Purpose

We gather as a faith community to love and magnify God. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we will love our neighbors as ourselves, advocating for peace and justice. We will go out and share our faith in Christ, inviting others to join us. We will be nurturers of the spirit and teachers of the Word. We will welcome and provide sanctuary to all.

Welcome!

At FCCR, you will find joyful hearts, open minds and a caring community. If you are a long-time church member, seeking a new spiritual community, or brand new to the very idea of "church"...if you are young or have young children or are mature beyond your years...if you are single, married, partnered, divorced, widowed, or in transition...no matter who you are, at FCCR, you are welcome to join us in celebrating God's love, sharing warm welcome, and offering sanctuary for all.

Nine Emergency Cleanup Buckets

Clean Up Buckets



The Mission and Social Justice Ministry sends a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who donated supplies and money to fill the Emergency Cleanup Buckets for Church World Service. This year we were able to increase the number filled to **9** thanks to the generosity of this congregation.

In 2016 Hurricane Matthew caused massive damage to our east coast southern states. CWS responded quickly and provided 8,236 buckets to share with the people in need. As a result of these natural disasters there is always a need to restock the warehouses.

At the collection depot, it again appeared that our church was the only one in the North Shore and Metro West area that had delivered buckets. We thank you again for your support of this program which can enable so many people manage the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood, hurricane or tornado.

We are Looking for Summer Music Volunteers

Would you like to offer some music during a summer Sunday in the Chapel? This is a great opportunity to volunteer in a smaller, relaxed environment. We welcome all kinds of music and we invite anyone and everyone to sign up - all ages, groups, solos, vocal, instrumental, etc. If you need help choosing some music, we are happy to help you. For more information and to sign up, please email Rev. Chad at cwkidd@verizon.net. Thank you so much!



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Growing in Faith, Going Out to Serve

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Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10 am-2 pm

Pastor's Ponderings – June 2017

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday, we were privileged to welcome 8 fine young people as they confirmed their faith and joined our church. Each of them wrote their own statement of faith as part of the process. All 8 of them wrote about the warm, welcoming, inclusive, open-hearted community they have experienced at FCCR. Several expressed appreciation for a place of safety and love to which they could always return, while others praised the church as a community in which people of good faith could gather, discuss, and hold different views, and still care for each other.

I believe these descriptions of FCCR are true. If you have not recently experienced the warmth of the welcome and care, or the respect extended to all, I encourage you to come 'home' to FCCR for a visit. Not only will you be embraced with joy, you'll experience God's living Spirit as we sing, pray and reflect together. I hope to see you some Sunday morning soon!

I also hope to see you at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 11th. As we reminded the confirmands when they joined the church, all members enjoy the rights and share the responsibilities of church participation.

In faith, Rev. Lisa

Monthly Good Reads from Rev. Lisa

Every month, as part of my work as your pastor and teacher, I receive 100's of articles and/or links to articles about what's happening in the fields of religion, theology and church 'arts and sciences'. Some of these articles end up in what I call my monthly "Good Reads" collection. On occasion, I share and/or use some of these with different ministries, task forces and study groups, but I am also aware that there might be more general interest in some of the topics.

So, each month I present a few of my good reads, along with a link to the full article. I'm also be happy to provide print-outs of any particular article upon request, if you prefer to read from hard copy - just let me know! This month, I'm sharing an article about what's up with some of the many folks in our society who don't 'do' church.

The 4 Types of Nones by Lillian Daniel

"And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?" – Mt. 5:47 NIV

"These days, one out of three people under the age of 30 checks off "None" as their religious preference. In writing my last book, I came to understand that the people who check off "None" do so for a number of reasons. They are not one group. For simplicity's sake, I think there are at least four types of Nones today: the No Longers, No Ways, Never Haves and Not Yets."

Thanks for "Being There" Through One Great Hour of Sharing



Our church has contributed \$770 so far to One Great Hour of Sharing. OGHS is the special annual mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than 80 countries.

OGHS funds allows the UCC to represent YOU in places where help is needed, both at home and abroad. These efforts are most visible in times of disaster, such as the current floods in the Midwest and South. However, the UCC also works year round with local organizations, to alleviate systemic poverty, and to aid refugees and immigrants to the United States. Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you to everyone who has gotten their pledges in! We still have not received a few and want to have as complete a picture of pledges by the June annual meeting. Forms can be found by the right-side entrance to the sanctuary on the table or contact Julie Redard.

Stewardship
CAMPAIGN

Learning Ministry News

Church School Schedule in June

May 21st marked the end of the Church School year. Learning Ministry will be offering Activities in the Sanctuary for the children on June 4th and 11th.

Getting Involved in the Learning Ministry

The purpose of the Learning Ministry is to provide opportunities for people of all ages, with a focus on children and youth, to learn about God, Jesus Christ, and the Bible; develop personal beliefs; and put faith into action. We usually meet the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 pm during the program year to plan programs to support this purpose.

We are anticipating some turnover in our group next year and would love some new faces to join our ministry. Contact Lesley Kerr at Lesley.kerr@comcast.net or Melissa Carpenter at mjcarpenterot@gmail.com with any questions.

FCCR Celebrates with graduates and their families this spring!

Our warm congratulations on accomplishments of all the graduates in our wider church family.

2017 RMHS Graduates:

Travis Giragosian is heading to Commonwealth Honors College at UMass Amherst to study Biology with a pre-med track.

Nora Jerrett is heading to UNH where she will study Communications. She loved it at first sight.

Devin LeConti is going to UMass Lowell Honors College and will be majoring in Computer Science.

Judie Williams' granddaughter *Arianna Morris* will attend Salem State University in September.

Madeline Rose will be attending University of Massachusetts Amherst in the fall in the Exploratory Track of the College of Health Sciences.

Tim Sanford will be pursuing an as-yet-unidentified field at Tufts University in the fall. After thirteen years of violin study, seven years of District Orchestra and Select Chorus, and numerous FCCR worship offerings, he hopes to keep music in the mix while exploring possible careers.

Jonathan Wilson will be heading to North Shore Community College to study business while continuing to expand and run his stall cleaning business.



And Our College Graduates:

D. C. Brown graduated with a Liberal Arts degree from SUNY Westchester; next he will transfer to another SUNY school to get his teaching degree.

Ian Corey graduated summa cum laude B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Northeastern University on Friday May 5, 2017. He was baptized and confirmed at FCCR and is a long time member of FCCR. Ian is the son of proud parents Connie and Len Corey, the brother of Owen Corey and the grandson of Dorothy Corey.

Eris White's granddaughter *Gillian Evans* graduating with her Masters from Johns Hopkins University in Washington D.C.

William Guyott graduates from Westfield State University with a bachelor degree in computer science.

Angela Juliano graduates from the University of Delaware with a degree in a Neuroscience and a minor in Cognitive Science. She plans to pursue a career in research, leaning toward memory loss and pharmaceuticals while investigating grad schools in the Boston area.

Rebecca Maitland graduated with honors from Wheaton College in Norton MA.

M e g a n

Dining for a Cause: Venetian Moon Ristorante & Martini Bar Fundraiser

Location: 680 Main St, Reading

Date: **Wednesday, July 12, 2017** Time: **5:00 – 9:00 pm**



Your Church Needs You!

As we head into annual meeting and the summer, we are seeking people who are interested in serving God in the church in new and different ways.

Please give some serious consideration and prayer as to whether and how you might help FCCR in the coming year. We are particularly seeking new people to help with the following:

Church Clerk – The Clerk is an officer of the church who participates in and takes minutes of Coordinating Ministry meetings. Also takes minutes at all officially called congregational meetings.

Church Historian – Our long-time historian, John Myers, is moving. A new person, who cares about the history and historical documentation of our church is being sought.

Learning Ministry – If you love children and/or are curious about how children can be encouraged to grow with a love for God and an understanding of faith, Learning Ministry welcomes you!

Worship Ministry/Deacons – All persons interested in worship planning and creating great experiences for Sunday mornings. Folks are welcome to serve as planning and behind the scenes ministry members and/or as Deacons who also participate in leading the worship services.

Resource Ministry – Several areas of church life need passionate workers who don't necessarily like meetings! These include: *Building & Property, Administration & Human Resources, Stewardship & Fund-Raising.*

Delegate to the wider UCC – see the wider church in action by attending association and conference meetings as FCCR's representative.

Representatives to Coordinating Ministry – Coordinating Ministry is the executive board of the church. 'At-large' members have no official role with other ministries or committees, they help keep the 'big picture' perspective.

If you find yourself drawn to any of these roles at FCCR, please contact Rev. Lisa or incoming Moderator Barbara Philbrick.



Old Redding Faire

Date of Faire: Proposed date September 22 & 23, 2017, Friday 5-8pm (earlier end time) and Saturday 10-2pm

Looking for someone to run a separate Used Sports Equipment area. This would fit well with our families/bargains/community service themes. Also, we will need a new Fried Dough (and Pickles) purveyor this year. Who would like to help keep this delicious tradition going?

Please send any comments or ideas to Betsy at betsyschneider7@gmail.com. Thank you!

A NOTE OF



We at E-Marc would like to thank the First Congregational Church for allowing us to use your space for our concert on Friday. It meant so much for our participants, who all had a wonderful time.

Thank you for your generosity and for being such a great community resource for those we serve.

Sincerely,

Ruth Clogston

Flowers for May were given:

May 7 – In Loving Memory of Leon Burns given with love from his wife and daughters Eleanor, Cindy, Linda and families.

May 14 – In Loving Memory of our mothers and all mothers given by the Austin family.

May 21 – In Loving Memory of our mother Julie Gilligan given by her children Bob, Betty, Tom and John (Robert Gilligan).

May 28 – In Loving Memory of our dad Stephen, honoring his service to our country given by Robert Karen and Stephen Dodge.



UCC Tri-Conference Annual Meeting

Friday, June 16, 2017 to Saturday, June 17, 2017

Hartford, CT

June 2017

Why would I go from FCCR? As a local church in the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC, we are members of a larger covenant. Each church is invited to send delegates to the conference annual meeting to represent their local church and to take part in the ministry and mission of the wider church. Being represented at this gathering is not only our right, it is our responsibility as members. PLUS, you will meet great people, the church pays and the gathering is fascinating and fun and filled with the spirit!

Why is this meeting historic? This Annual Meeting marks the first time that our conferences – Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island – will hold our annual meetings **Together, As One**. And it is the first time since the United Church of Christ was formed in 1957 that delegates will be asked to endorse the idea of joining together to form a new conference.

What is this new conference proposal? In January, 2017, following a year of discernment, the boards of directors of the three conferences unanimously approved a resolution to form a new conference. They are now asking delegates to endorse that resolution, and to authorize the development of a detailed proposal for the conference, which would come back to the annual meetings for approval in 2018.

How will this work? At this meeting, delegates and guests from the three conferences will attend a joint plenary session where together they will discern whether this is the right step to take. United Church of Christ General Minister the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer will be part of that conversation. Then, delegates will separate into their individual conference annual meetings to vote on this resolution and take up other conference-specific business. They will then come back together for a final joint plenary.

Join us as we take the lead from Christ, for we are a people on the move. *Together, As One*.

2017 Annual Meeting Warrant

of the Governing Body of the Church on

Sunday, June 11, 2017, following worship in Guild Hall (approximately 11:30 AM)

Light refreshments and childcare provided.

The business of the Annual Meeting is as follows:

- Article I **To celebrate and share our past year together including hearing reports from the officers and Ministries of the church.**
- Article II **To thank those who have worked on behalf of our church throughout the year, and to nominate, elect and encourage next year's officers and leaders.**
- Article III **To hear an updated progress report from the Vision 2020 Teams.**
- Article IV **To vote on the 2017-18 budget.**
- Article V **To vote on two motions related to the endowment.**
1. **To hear and vote on the recommendation of the Coordinating Team that the Governing Body approve the withdrawal from the FCCR, UCC endowment funds of the standard six percent amount (\$69,944.71) for the 2017/2018 fiscal year ending on June 30, 2018. (Simple majority required.)**
 2. **To hear and vote on the recommendation of the Coordinating Team that a supplemental withdrawal be made from the FCCR, UCC endowment funds of an additional one percent (\$11,657.45) for the fiscal year 2017/2018 ending on June 30, 2018. This supplemental withdrawal has been recommended by at least 2/3 of the members of the Finance Team and the Coordinating Team, and requires a 2/3-majority vote of the Governing Body.**
- Article VI **To vote on a motion to resolve an uncollectible asset on the FCCR, UCC Statement of Financial Position.** To hear and vote on the recommendation of the Coordinating Team to write off the Wendy Olapade Mortgage Loan of \$87,000 on the FCCR, UCC Statement of Financial Position as uncollectible because of a property foreclosure.
- Article VII **To transact any other business** that would regularly come before the meeting.



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All are Welcome!

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Worship at FCCR UCC in June



June 4 – Pentecost Sunday with Communion

Preacher: Rev. Lisa Music: Final Sunday for Chancel Choir & Jill

Prayers: Rev. Lisa

Nursery Care & Activities in Sanctuary for Children

Coffee & Fellowship in the Chapel

June 11 – Annual Meeting Sunday with Baptism

Preacher: Rev. Lisa Music: Final Sunday for Handbells & Jill

Prayers: Rev. Lisa Children's Message: Rev. Lisa

Nursery Care & Activities in Sanctuary for Children

Coffee & Fellowship in the Chapel



ANNUAL MEETING



June 18 – Father's Day Sunday – 1st Sunday in Chapel

Preacher: Rev. Richard Nystrom Music: Jill & tbd

Prayers: Rev. Lisa

Coffee & Fellowship in the Foyer

June 25 – Second Summer Sunday in Chapel – DIY Sunday

Preacher: Rev. Lisa Music: Jill & tbd

Prayers: Rev. Lisa

Coffee & Fellowship in the Foyer