



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS AND WELCOME TO THE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN BILLERICA,
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you as we worship together on this glorious celebration of our Savior's birth. We are glad that you are able to join us, whether in person or online. Please be at home. We are covenantal partners in the United Church of Christ, with roots in the New England Congregational Church (think Pilgrims and Puritans). Our history is old but our thinking is not. We seek to be central to community life in Billerica, caring for members and neighbors alike, while reaching out beyond our boundaries into the world. The ministries of the church seek to be an outreach of Christ's hands and heart for an aching world. We encourage the spiritual growth of old and young, through worshipping as a community of the faithful; through learning in Sunday School, Bible studies, and many special programs; and through the experience of caring for the least of these. Please enter into the life of this faith community as you are ready. Rev. Katherine Adams and the Deacons are available to talk with you about your faith journey. Please let us know how we can walk with you.

MEMORIAL FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| December 5 th | A memorial monetary gift was given in loving memory of "Baba" Lester Thompson by the Thompson family |
| December 12 th | The flowers on the altar were given in loving memory of Alice McCabe from her sister Barbara Brown. |
| December 19 th | A memorial monetary gift has been given in loving memory of their grandparents from Diane and Wayne Thompson and Stephanie and Steve Norman
Poinsettias placed by Diaconate |
| December 26 th | Poinsettias placed by Diaconate |

INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW

UCC CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING Gifts to the Christmas Fund bring relief and hope to those who have dedicated their lives to serving our churches. By supporting the Christmas Fund, you make a huge difference and bring great joy! The Christmas Fund provides Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks for retirees and those facing unforeseen financial hardship.

As is the case for UCC Special Mission Offerings, your Outreach Committee will be making a \$250 donation to this worthy cause. If you feel the call to make an additional donation please label it appropriately for the Financial Secretary.

ANGEL TREE THANK YOUS. Everyone outdid themselves and were very generous with donations! We were able to help a number of families with more than planned. Thank you very much!

ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 23, 2022 The First Congregational Church Annual Meeting is next month. All committee and ministry reports are due on January 3rd. Taryn needs time to prepare the report early enough to send it out ahead of the meeting. Any questions or concerns reach out to her at the church.

"Love is creative and redemptive, Love builds up and unites; hate tears down and destroys. The aftermath of the 'fight with fire' method is bitterness and chaos; the aftermath of the love method is reconciliation and creation of the beloved community." - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Registration is now open for the webinar Building the Beloved Community – Multiculturalism in Billerica.

This webinar is the seventh annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event sponsored by the Billerica Interfaith Association and hosted by First Congregational Church in Billerica. This webinar will feature a diverse panel of your neighbors who will share their dreams of Billerica's future as a community that celebrates the contributions of all the people that call this town their home. Join your neighbors on January 17, 2022 at 10:00 am

To register, use this link <https://tinyurl.com/y5ukaurn> or use the QR Code to the right.

Questions? Problems registering? Email socialjusticefcb@gmail.com



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT THE PANTRY AND GET SOME NEW EASY RECIPES? The Community Pantry has created a cookbook! This is a fundraiser for the pantry, and also a collection of quick easy recipes for our clients. Every client was given a cookbook and we have some to sell for only \$5. Please let Taryn know if you want one, she has them in her office. Thank you for your support!

GIVE! – YOUR SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH IS NEEDED. The church is working overtime to provide online worship and programming, while reaching out to the congregation and community at a time when folks are feeling isolated and afraid. The good news we have of hope, love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness is needed now more than ever. Your financial support makes it possible. Please mail checks to FCCB, 18 Andover Road, Billerica, MA 01821, or go online to fcbillerica.org – click on "Give to the church" at the bottom of the page.



Here is the QR code to make online giving easier. (And if you don't understand what that means, it's okay. Rev Katherine doesn't understand it either. The other methods still work.)

We are thankful for your financial support of the church and our ministries.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Please pray for the family of Olive Thompson as they mourn her passing from this life to eternal life in Christ.

We pray for Matthew Ahern, Eddie Thompson, Kevin Corkery, Jason Pantano and Thomas Knox as they serve our country. Let us pray for protection and safety of all those who serve in the Military and all First Responders. We pray for health care, transportation, and grocery workers, and all who are working in harm's way. We pray for those who have lost their jobs. We pray for all who are sick, grieving, and feeling isolated. We pray for those who have been lifted up by the congregation:

Misty Anaya	Dave Furlani	Nancy & Butch O'Leary
Charlie Antonelli	Linda Russell Gallivan	Arlene Orso
Ernie Ayles	John Gianacopolis	Phillip Orso
Alyssa Barras	Maryann Giardina	Rocky Orso
Edna Battcock	Johnny Gillis	The Pantano Family
Doris Beaudoin	Peter Gillis	Joseph Pitocchelli
Lucy Beland	Carol Goss	Ronald L. Pitocchelli
Christopher Berard	Mary Gottmann	John Polychrones
Debbie Bionelli	Jim Hamilton	Helen Potter
Barbara Bourdon	Patricia Hamilton	Barbara Provencal
David Breen	Al Heard	Harper Reis
Ralph Brooks	Clara	Florine Rogers
Allan Broome	Jane LaBua	Sheryl Roth Rogers
Julie Brown	Bobby Lockett	Rylee Sandland
Victor Campana	Logan	Keara Schmidt
Adam Clark	Karen Lynne	Maureen Schroeder
Travis Cole	Elizabeth Mahoney	Dottie Schumacher
Josh Croteau	Michael Meagher	Ryan Scurka
Jeff Danzig	Abby Metcalf	George Shields
Carol & Richard Dube	Vince Michaels	Artin Shoukas
Noreen Duxbury	Diane Morrison	Colette Shoukas
Cathy Barrett Errickson	Memorie Munson	Louis & Lek Seibert
Christy Fajkowski	Neil Nagle	Michael Ta
Lindsay Ferraro	Barbara Newman	Cindy Tomlin
Claire Flynn	Gloria Norman	Judy Volpicelli
Carol Fournier	Richard O'Brien	Honey Waldman
Eddie Freeley	Rosemary Oeckl	

Prayers for all God's children all over the world.

Prayers for those struggling with their mental health.

Come to me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. – Mt 11:28

Please notify the church office or pastor when you are hospitalized or in need of pastoral care. Due to HIPAA laws we are not notified by hospitals. You can add or remove a name to the prayer list by notifying the church office. Please have permission from the person you are listing.

ONGOING EVENTS TO STAY INVOLVED, **INCLUDING ZOOM INFORMATION**

Sunday Worship, gather at 9:30, worship at 10 am. In person and online

To join online click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82776552946?pwd=NGNnaUZlczRRWHg1ODFnOGg3ZEEvQT09>

Meeting ID: 827 7655 2946 Password: 364377

To be connected by phone (audio only) call 253-215-8782, use Meeting ID: 827 7655 2946 and Password: 364377

Bible Study, Wednesday 11 am-Noon. *Will resume Jan 5, 2022*

To join online click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85104261041?pwd=ci95b28xNHF2ZEdEeW5kY3NOTnpYQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 0426 1041

Passcode: 847812

To be connected by phone (audio only) call 253-215-8782, use Meeting ID: 851 0426 1041 and Passcode: 847812

Meditation, Wednesday 5-6 pm. In person and online

To join online click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86812568982?pwd=NEloQ1p4Ky93aUYwRTVCOVVZa05Ndz09>

Meeting ID: 868 1256 8982 Password: 480414

To be connected by phone (audio only) call 253-215-8782, use Meeting ID: 868 1256 8982 Password: 480414

Wednesday Evening Prayer from 6:30-7:30 pm. *Will resume Jan 5, 2022*

To join online click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89052674342?pwd=RURJWW1yNllxVkJkEvUzAzK0xHLy9JQT09>

Meeting ID: 890 5267 4342 Password: 510800

To be connected by phone (audio only) call 253-215-8782, use Meeting ID: 890 5267 4342 Password: 510800

Pilgrim Fellowship Youth group (grades 7 to 12) 1st and 3rd Fridays from 7 to 9pm

Run by Rev. Katherine and Matt Ahern in the parlor.

Pub Theology, 2nd and 4th Thursdays @ The Emerald Rose Restaurant at 7 pm

For more information, please go to our Meetup page: ([Pub Theology: Beer + Conversation about Stuff that Matters \(Billerica, MA\) | Meetup](#))

Aim Hi Lunch, 3rd Thursdays at noon in the parlor

Bring your lunch, there will be dessert served. Join us for friendship, fellowship and fun activities! Contact Gerry Healey or Taryn to confirm we are meeting and to get more information.

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Adam Clark	Elizabeth Mahoney	Dottie Schumacher
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First Congregational Church
in Billerica United Church of Christ

What's it all for anyway? What is your reason for giving?

"I depend on God alone, I put my hope in him. He alone protects and saves me; he is my defender, and I shall never be defeated. My salvation and honor depend on God; he is my strong protector; he is my shelter."
(Psalm 62:5-7)

This is it. This is what it's all about for me. Yes, it's that time again. Time to think about our yearly giving, so here's your well thought out prerequisite of a letter. When I was tossing around how to begin or end the start of our yearly giving campaign I was thinking of the usual suspects. What bible verse would you expect to hear? What would speak to you and what would fit the bill? I could have used the standard verses you would expect to hear like, in Corinthians 9:7, when Apostle Paul teaches us that God loves a cheerful giver..., or in Luke 21:14 when Jesus' light shines on the widow that has placed two mites in the offering. By doing this she is teaching us that she has offered more than all. She has given all she had and not given as others out of their abundance. I could have started and ended there, put a nice bow on it and sent it out, but this wasn't speaking to me.

I knew I had to bunker down to get the words on the page but none of these verses applied. I was reading from psalms when the words came alive. I thought, this is what it is all about. Yes all the bible verses about giving would fit but what are we giving for? It hit me. This is what we are giving for, this verse says it all for me. I hope that you can find some part or all of it that speaks to you and if not I've mentioned those passages for you that are typically found in an offering request.

Last year I asked you to think of percentage giving. I asked you to talk it over with your family, to pray about it, and to give a percentage of your yearly salary. I hope that this helped and you found it a good jumping off point to a resolution of that struggle of what is a good "tithing" for you and your family. This year I hope to make it even easier for you. I am asking you to increase your giving by 10 percent. This is easy to figure out and hopefully it will bring you that much closer to your family's yearly intent. For example, if you usually give \$30/week \$3 extra would do nicely. If you give \$50/week then \$5 a week would suffice.

While we're all beginning to come out of hibernation let's be thankful and grateful to know that God IS our protector and savior and let's honor our commitment to him and each other as we faithfully give our widow's mite.

Most respectfully submitted with God's love,

Laura Bosworth

Generosity Ministry



First Congregational Church
in Billerica United Church of Christ

**INTENTION TO GIVE
2022**

My gift is an answer to someone else's prayer!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please check one box:

Intention to give amount: \$ _____ per year per month per week

Please allocate my gift accordingly: _____% GENERAL FUND _____% OUTREACH _____% DEACONS' FUND

I will give by electronic funds transfer (Financial Secretary will contact you to set this up)

I will give by check

www.fccbillerica.org

18 Andover Rd
Billerica, MA 01821

978.663.8433



First Congregational Church
in Billerica United Church of Christ

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Please allocate my gift accordingly: _____% GENERAL FUND _____% OUTREACH _____% DEACONS' FUND

I will give by electronic funds transfer (Financial Secretary will contact you to set this up)

I will give by check

Please send one copy to George Bowman, our Financial Secretary and keep one copy for yourself. Thank you!

FCCB CONTACT INFORMATION

First Congregational Church
18 Andover Road
Billerica, MA 01821
www.fccbillerica.org

Sunday Service: 10 am
Wednesday night service: 6:30pm

Church Office:
office@fccbillerica.org
978-663-8433

Office Hours
Tuesday thru Friday, 10:00-4:00

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor, Rev. Dr. Katherine Adams
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508-245-5094

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Pilgrim Fellowship,
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Matthew Ahern

Sexton
Kyle Hamilton
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CHURCH OFFICERS

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Clerk/ Church Council
Sue Hagel 978 987-0880

Treasurer
Jim O'Connor
978-667-3147

Asst Treasurer
JP Durand
978-667-4239

Financial Secretary
George Bowman
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Asst Financial Secretary
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Auditor
Kim Warner
warner@mit.edu

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Diaconate
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Aim Hi
Gerry Healey
978-658-8871

Congregational Relations
Laura Bosworth
978-663-9259

Memorial Flowers
Jackie Phippen
978-663-6264

Lay Shepherds
Glenda Lovegrove
978-667-3596

Music Ministry
Ellen Killam
978-670-6037

Junior Choir
April Goss-Baker
978 670-8993

Outreach Committee
Carol Young
978-663-5658
Bob Miner
978-667-2961

Youth Ministry
Dawn Salter
978-262-9927
Katie Verrocchio
603-305-6290

Mission Trip/Senior High
TBD

Ushers
Donna Ricarte
978-663-4043

Generosity Ministry
Laura Bosworth
978-663-9259

Social Justice Ministry
Andrew Jennings
978-663-8193