



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATE

Friends,

We have come through Christmastide, celebrated Epiphany, and now enter into Ordinary Time until Lent begins on March 2. Ordinary Time does not mean ho-hum boring... it means that the weeks are counted, as in ordinal, ie. 1st, 2nd, 3rd. Our liturgical color is green. This week we begin with Jesus' baptism and then we'll spend the next 6 weeks in the Sermon on the Mount. This is the most famous of Jesus' sermons, recorded in the Gospel of Matthew in chapters 5 through 7. On hard days I cling to Matthew 6:33-34, "Seek first God's kingdom and righteousness, and all these other things will be added unto you. Do not worry about tomorrow, for each day has enough trouble of its own." I'm looking forward to sharing in Jesus' wisdom with you.

I invite you to join us Monday for the Martin Luther King Jr Program. It's a webinar that begins at 10 am. Preregistration is required. See the info on the next page. Then next week PF will build beds on Saturday, and we will have our Annual Meeting after worship on Sunday. Taryn has sent out the Annual Report by email, and hard copies will go out to those she knows do not access email. If you need a copy let her or me know. The meeting warrant is attached.

Remember to reach out to others during these dark winter days. It's easy to feel lonely as we enter into the third year of a pandemic, so drop a note, give a call, or send a text and let someone know that you are thinking of them. And don't forget to be gentle with yourself.

Blessings to all, Katherine

MEMORIAL FLOWERS FOR JANUARY

January 2nd The flowers on the altar were in celebration of the life of our friend, Rita McIsaac, who passed away this past week.

January 9th The flowers on the altar were given in loving memory of Rena F. Simmons by her family.

January 16th The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of Mary and Roger T. Elliott by their family.

The flowers on the windowsills are given in loving memory of Steven Keyes by his parents Jon and Katherine.

January 23rd The flowers on the altar are given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Richardson by their late daughter Dorothy.

January 30th is open, if someone would like to share memorial flowers, please let Jackie Phippen know.

GENEROSITY MINISTRY invites you to prayerfully consider your gift to the church for the 2022 year. Please see the letter and the annual intention to give form that is attached. Our church leadership is more able to forecast our financial position when we commit our support. This spiritual discipline opens us to commit beyond our personal needs and blesses us into a future with hope.

INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW

ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 23, 2022 The First Congregational Church Annual Meeting is this month. The annual report has been emailed out, and mailed to those we know don't have email. If you didn't get it, please let Taryn know.

AIM HI LUNCHEON cancelled for January. We do not meet in February, so we look forward to seeing you in March!

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR PROGRAM

"When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something. Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself." – John Lewis, a civil rights activist who served in the US House of Representatives from 1987 until his death in 2020. 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>

Questions? Problems registering? Email socialjusticefccb@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 fccbillerica.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 m AIM HI LUNCHEON AIM HI LUNCHEON inistries.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PRAYER LIST

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

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.

January 2, 2022

**To All Members of the First Congregational Church in Billerica,
Massachusetts**

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday January 23, 2022 immediately following the Worship Service on Zoom.

The Agenda includes:

1. Reports of the officers and committees
2. 2022 Church Operating Budget
3. Other such business as may properly be considered at the Congregational meeting.

Susan Hagel

Clerk

First Congregational Church, Billerica, MA



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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I will give by check

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

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. Online only for January.

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

Wednesday Evening Prayer from 6:30-7:30 pm. Online only for January.

To join online click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89052674342?pwd=RURJWW1yNlIxVkJkEvUzAzK0xHLY9JQT09>

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- resuming in March

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. No meeting in January or February.

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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Pilgrim Fellowship,
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Matthew Ahern

Sexton
Kyle Hamilton
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CHURCH OFFICERS

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Sue Hagel 978 987-0880

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Asst Treasurer
JP Durand
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Financial Secretary
George Bowman
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Asst Financial Secretary
Don Lovegrove
978-667-3596

Auditor
Kim Warner
warner@mit.edu

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Acolytes
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Aim Hi
Gerry Healey
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978-987-1146

Memorial Flowers
Jackie Phippen
978-663-6264

Lay Shepherds
Glenda Lovegrove
978-667-3596

Music Ministry
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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