

Silent Auction & Luncheon to benefit Steeple Fund
Sunday, May 23 11:30 am



THE MEETINGHOUSE MESSENGER

**The First Congregational Church
in Stoneham
May 2010**



The Meetinghouse Messenger

The First Congregational Church in Stoneham
United Church of Christ * May 2010

Church Staff

Rev. Diane Cusumano, Interim Pastor
Sara Thompson, Secretary
John Piskadlo, Sexton
Joyce Simpson, Music Director
Heather Oliver, Treasurer
Donna Wall, Youth Director
Judi Perry, Sunday School Superintendent

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY May Birthdays

- 6 Abigail Bilbo
- 19 Robert Clark
- 19 Katherine Selander
- 21 Marjorie Gould
- 23 Meredith Bilbo
- 24 Christine Freeman
- 25 Lina Laycock
- 29 Christopher Bilbo

If you would like to be added to the birthday list, please call the church office or email Heather.

MESSENGER DEADLINE

The Deadline for the June 2010
Messenger is Wednesday, May 19.

LET'S GO GREEN!

We currently have **65** people out of **230** on the mailing list who have opted to receive their Messenger by email. Let's help the planet and the save the church money by increasing that number. If you are willing to receive an e-messenger, please send an email to the Editor heather@wyc@ycu.com. THANKS!



SAVE THE DATE!

***Dinner and Silent Auction
Sunday, May 23, 2010
11:30 am in Fellowship Hall***

***Proceeds will go toward
The Steeple Fund***

***The menu is:
Chicken Marsala, Delmonico Potatoes
Peas, Caesar Salad, Rolls
Dessert: Strawberry Angel Food Cake***

***Tickets: Adults - \$7.00
Children under 12 - \$4.00***

The meal will be prepared by Judy Clark

***Tickets will be available for purchase at
coffee hours during May.***

***Or please call the church office at
781-438-0097
for reservations.***

Youth Group

May 7 Fri 5:30-7:30 meeting youth lounge

June 4 Fri 5:30-7:30 meeting youth lounge

Annual Meeting

The Annual Business Meeting will be held Sunday, June 6 after the service. If you are a member, please attend this important meeting to discuss any business and vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Annual Reports from each committee are due in the office by Sunday, May 9th.

Crafts

Crafts will meet May 4, 11, & 25 at 9:30 am in the craft room. Everyone is welcome to come!

SAVE THE DATE!

The Fair will be held November 12th & November 13th!
Watch your Messenger for more details later!

Correspondance

Dear Church Family,

Just a note to express my daily comfort from the prayer shawl which was given me. Each time I wrap myself I am warmed not only by the yarn but by the faithful love within, which assures me that God lives! Your prayers & mine float all around and by his grace I may return to you all very soon.
-Carole Paulis

Missions Schedule

Tuesday May 11th 5:30 p.m. Hungry Helpers

Sunday May 16th 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

Dinner Leaders Needed for Hungry Helpers

Every once in a while, a substitute captain is needed to lead the Hungry Helpers meal. Lynn Haddad, who currently leads the Hungry Helper dinners, occasionally has conflicts with the meal dates and is unable to oversee the start of the dinner.

Captaining a meal is quite simple; if you can lift pans, turn on the oven, dress a salad and delegate to others then you have the ability to captain a meal.

Lynn will continue to coordinate the meal plans and Jocelyn Wise, the caterer, will continue to prepare the entrée. If you'd like to learn more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact Lynn Haddad.

Many thanks to Donna Wall who graciously volunteered to lead the April and May Hungry Helpers dinners.

One Great Hour of Sharing Collection

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries.

The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Your gift brings shelter, food, water, and medical supplies to disaster survivors. You help refugees find safe shelter and begin to build new lives. You aid impoverished communities in securing dependable sources of food and clean water. And you help provide medical care and education that strengthens bodies and minds and creates brighter futures.

Remember the feeding of the 5,000? The disciples thought their resources could never meet the people's great need.

Contribution checks should be made payable to First Congregational Church. Please write OGHS in the memo section of the check. Donations can be placed into the offering plate any Sunday during May or can be mailed to or dropped off in the church office.

Toiletry Collection

Don't forget to bring home the complimentary soap, shampoo, and other toiletry items from your travels.

These items will be delivered to Rosie's Place in Boston for distribution to their patrons.

Unopened, travel-size toiletries may be left in the Missions' collection basket in the church office.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST May 23

Come celebrate the birthday of the church universal on Sunday, May 23, The Day of Pentecost when we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit. Everyone is encouraged to wear red clothing which is symbolic of the flames of the Holy Spirit. We will also welcome the newest members of the church, some of our teens who will be confirmed. Come and rejoice with us.

Christian Education

We are thankful that the Season of Eastertide continues! As such, our Sunday School classes are still learning about some of the events of Holy Week. These subjects include Jesus washing the Disciples' feet and His arrest and crucifixion.

Please take note of the butterflies on the bulletin board outside the classroom on the way to Fellowship Hall. For us, these butterflies symbolize new life in Jesus Christ and have actually "transformed" from little cocoons right before our eyes!

We are excited to have two new teachers in our Junior High. Kathy Bergstrom and Kevin O'Neil have agreed to team teach or alternate Sundays (depending on Kevin's schedule). The class continues to learn a Bible verse for each letter of the alphabet and are also making the decisions on what to do with the money we raised for Heifer. If you could help them find some verses for the letters after "T" that would be great. Try looking in some of the Psalms. We would like to find meaningful verses that will see them through to adulthood.

To date, we have collected \$204.39! Praise God and thank you very much for participating in this effort. It hasn't yet been decided what we'll buy with this money but the youth would like to have it go to a family within the United States. Some of them would like to buy a pig and we have enough for that - only \$120.00. Everyone will help decide how else to spend the money.

Please continue to pray for all our teachers. They are doing a great job! Thank you!

Judi Perry, Sunday School Superintendent

SAVE THE DATE: Children's Sunday will be Sunday, June 13. The congregation will be treated to another fabulous drama production, presentation of camperships, scholarships, other awards, etc,etc. The service will be followed by the annual church picnic. Time to get out the recipe for your favorite cook-out dish to bring! There will be fun and games for the whole family!

Food Pantry News:

Cub Scout Food Drive Results

On March 27th, Stoneham Cub Scout Pack 551 spent a cold Saturday at Shaw's and Stop and Shop grocery stores in Stoneham asking for donations of food and money for our food pantry. Their efforts paid off fantastically as they collected 100 tubs of food and \$621! Many thanks to the scouts (and their parents) for all their hard work.

Excelsior Realty Designated Food Pantry Drop Off

Excelsior Realty Group, located at 61 Main St in Stoneham, recently designated their office as a drop off location for our food pantry. Also, Excelsior's web site (www.excelsiorrealty.net) features a list of some of the most needed items for the pantry. The support provided by Excelsior Realty for our food pantry is much appreciated!

Upcoming Postal Service Food Drive

The annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive will take place on Saturday, May 8th. On that day, Stoneham residents are asked to leave a bag or box of non-perishable food by their mailbox where letter carriers can pick up the food on their postal routes. Our food pantry is one local recipient of this food drive from the Stoneham community. We are currently serving nearly 400 individuals in 130 households which is a 60% increase from 2008 to the end of 2009. The donations collected through the Letter Carrier Drive enable the Food Pantry to provide assistance to those families and individuals in need throughout the summer months.

Donations of the following protein items would be most beneficial: beef stews, hearty beef canned soups, chili, chowders, corned beef hash, baked beans, and canned pastas such as raviolis and spaghetti and meatballs as well as small canned meats of turkey or chicken and canned hams. The most needed non-protein items include: canned beets, potatoes, and mixed vegetables, applesauce snack packs, pancake mix and syrup, 2lb boxes of sugar, salt & pepper, jams and jelly (other

than grape), instant potatoes, rice and rice pilaf, ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, salad dressing, coffee, tea, juice and iced tea mixes and juice boxes. The food pantry currently **does not** need pasta, canned peas or green beans.

It is very important to note that we cannot accept any food items that have been opened or are past their expiration dates or canned goods with dents and rust. In the past, we have had to throw away hundreds of food items that were unacceptable which is problematic for us as we do not have a dumpster.

We also need donations of paper copier boxes (or similar size) and volunteers to help pick up the food from the post office sometime after 4:00 pm on Saturday, May 8th and deliver it to the church. In addition, volunteers are needed during the following week days and evenings to help sort food. This is a great opportunity for high school students who need to fulfill their community service requirement. Please call Sara in the church office (781-438-0097) for more information about dates and times for volunteering.

Here is our list of "**Items of the Week**" for the month of April. Please remember to pick up these items when you are grocery shopping. Please do your part to help stock our pantry for those in need in our church community and in Stoneham and the neighboring communities.

May 2 - 8 - canned meat

May 9 - 15 - canned chowder

May 16 - 22 - instant potatoes

May 23 - 28 - pasta side dishes

May 30 - June 5 - pancake mix & syrup

We have been fortunate to be able to buy quite a few items for the pantry with coupons at great discounts. If you would like to help the food pantry in this way, please leave your coupons in the church office.


Thank you all for your continued help!



SHAWN Garvey

First Congregational Church
Stoneham, MA

Friday, May
8 PM \$15



**"An elegant
musicality that
touches the soul."
-Livingston Taylor**

The Search Committee is hosting a concert by Shawn Garvey on Friday, May 21 @ 8 PM in the sanctuary. Shawn is a singer/songwriter, performer and pastor at a UCC church in New Jersey. Admission is \$15.00 per person at the door. Shawn performs a mix of classic folk songs, contemporary music, his own original material as well as spiritual music. He has also toured and performed with Livingston Taylor. You can visit his website to hear his music and learn more about him at www.shawngarvey.net. Join us for an evening of music and fellowship. For further information about the concert speak to a committee member.

Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Faith,

Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen, Indeed!! We are in the season of Eastertide, the fifty days following the resurrection of our Savior Jesus until the Day of Pentecost, May 23, when we will celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit. This is a joyous season to rejoice and revel in God's grace and mercy given to us through the miracle of the cross and resurrection to eternal life.

Our Easter Season was joyful and inspirational thanks to many in the congregation who gave of their time and talents. Palm Sunday began with a delicious breakfast prepared by the men of the church and worship was delightful with the children waving their palm branches.

Easter Worship for more than one hundred, including many guests, was glorious thanks to the beautiful flowers adorning the altar. The music, as always, was inspiring thanks to Joyce and our choir.

On Holy Humor Sunday, we worshiped, we thank God for the gift of Jesus, and we laughed and enjoyed Christian fellowship. As I stood at the main church entrance to greet folks, there were only a few because most headed directly to Fellowship Hall. I thank God that our Coffee Time has truly become an extension of worship.

May is a busy month as we prepare reports and budgets for the annual meeting scheduled for June 6. As I look back over my interim year with you I am encouraged, indeed, I am pleased with the new spirit among you. More smiles, more laughter, greater cooperation among committees, amazing fellowship such as at the Rummage Sale. And caring for one another in prayer and in the knitting, blessing and giving so generously of prayer shawls to members and the wider community. I have been blessed to serve God among you.

I ask for your continued prayers for the Pastor Search Committee as they begin interviewing potential candidates for your new pastor. May God guide them to discern the one that God will send to lead this family of faith into the future.

The season of Eastertide is a time for new life. Just as the trees and flowers are bursting forth during this lovely spring season, I pray that the life of The First Congregational Church in Stoneham will continue to blossom with God's promise that "I will make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)

Yours in the love of Christ, *Pastor Diane*

FIRST CHURCH SERVICES ON TV

Here is the schedule and channels for the 1st Church Service broadcast.

Comcast users: Channel 9
Verizon users: Channel 34
RCN users: Channel 3

Weekly Schedule:
Monday 6:00 PM

Tuesday 10:00 AM

Wednesday 4:00 PM

Thursday 10:00 AM

Saturday 8:00 AM

Sunday 8:00 AM

SHARE THE SPIRIT SUNDAY

We want to share our worship, music and fellowship with the community. Please pay about who you will invite to join us that day – family members, co-workers, neighbors or folks who have drifted away from First Church. May 16 will be a family Sunday – all the children are welcome. Our children's Chime Choir will play for us. The Missions Committee will host Coffee Hour. Let's continue our celebration of the Eastertide season.

ADULT MUSIC CAMP 2010

July 22-25 Craigville Conference Center

Craigville Beach, Cape Cod

Pastor Diane has a friend who attends this annual event and highly recommends this opportunity to join other musically minded Christian adults for a long weekend making beautiful music together concluding with a Sunday afternoon concert.

See poster on bulletin board by church office or at

<http://www.niacdc.org/leadership/musical-ways.html>

May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9-2 Adventista
8:30 Choir 2 10:00 Worship 11:30 Confirmation 11:30 VBB Presentation 1:30 Search Comm.	7:00 Search 3 8-9 AA (Lounge)	9:30 Crafts 4 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Book Study (Parlor)	3:30 Chimes 5 4:30 Drama 7:30 Adventista (Chapel)	6	5:30-7:30 Youth Group 7	8 9-2 Adventista
8:30 Choir 9 10:00 Worship "Stewardship Dedication Sunday"	7:00 Search 10 8-9 AA (Lounge)	9:30 Crafts 11 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Book Study (Parlor)	3:30 Chimes 12 4:30 Drama 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Adventista (Chapel)	7:00 55+ singles 13	14	15 9-2 Adventista Red Cross Blood Drive
8:30 Choir 16 10:00 Worship "Share the Spirit Sunday" 11:30 Confirmation	7:00 Search 17 8-9 AA (Lounge)	11:00 Prayer Group 18 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Book Study (Parlor)	3:30 Chimes 19 4:30 Drama 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Adventista (Chapel)	20	8:00 pm 21 Fundraiser Concert: Shawn Garvey	22 9-2 Adventista
8:30 Choir 23 10:00 Worship Confirmation Silent Auction & Luncheon 30	7:00 Search 24 8-9 AA (Lounge) 31 OFFICE CLOSED	9:30 Crafts 25 11:00 Prayer Group 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Book Study (Parlor)	3:30 Chimes 26 4:30 Drama 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Adventista (Chapel)	27	28	29 9-2 Adventista



VBB - SAVE THE DATE!

What are your plans for this summer? Specifically for August 9 - 13, 9am - 12 noon? Would you be interested in experiencing a *Galactic Blast*? Vacation Bible Blast is a multi-generational event for our Church. We are looking for volunteers to make this program *A Cosmic Adventure Praising God*. Speak with Donna Wall about an opportunity you don't want to miss. Your contribution of time or talent will mean the world to us.

We are looking for adults and teens to volunteer their time to help with this program. When a family or teen volunteers, the first family child (5th grader or younger) is free, each additional child will cost just \$50 for the week. Scholarships are available, approach Donna with your need. Post cards will be arriving in the mail shortly. If you know of a family we should invite, please let me know. Registration forms are available in the office.

Check out the opportunities to help with this program.: Publicity, puppeteer, assist the assembly director, music leader, music support group (song and dance crew), craft leader, snack leader, bible story leader, games leader, discovery time leader, small group leaders, create signs, gather large cardboard(refrigerator boxes) create scenery, create decorations, help with set up on August 8. There is so much you can do, but even if you can only help a little, it will be appreciated! Talk with Donna or come to a VBB presentation on May 2 at 11:30 in the Parlor or call Donna at 781-438-4469.

Check out the supplies we are looking for.:

8 -12 refrigerator boxes, glow-in-the-dark- tempera paint, aluminum pie plates, pipe cleaners, flat bed sheets (blue or with stars/moons/planets), orange and red cellophane wrap, Poster or pictures from magazines of space and space type objects, cylindrical cardboard containers (ie, stuffing, raisins, bread crumbs, oatmeal empty clean containers), black plastic sheeting, space stickers, silver disco balls, inflatable planets.

We are going to outer space, *Church style*.....use your imagination as you change the seasons in your home and clean out closets and drawers. All donations are welcomed. This is going to be a BIG BLAST! See you there

**Daily Lectionary Scripture References
May 2010 (Year C)**

Sat., May 1
Psalm 148
Daniel 7:27
Revelation 11:16-19

Sun., May 2
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

Mon., May 3
Psalm 133
1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42
Acts 11:19-26

Tues., May 4
Psalm 133
2 Samuel 1:4-27
Acts 11:27-30

Wed., May 5
Psalm 133
Leviticus 19:9-18
Luke 10:25-28

Thurs., May 6
Psalm 67
Proverbs 2:1-5
Acts 15:36-41

Fri., May 7
Psalm 67
Proverbs 2:6-8
Acts 16:1-8

Sat., May 8
Psalm 67
Proverbs 2:9-15
Luke 19:1-10

Sun., May 9
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Mon., May 10
Psalm 93
1 Chronicles 12:16-22
Revelation 21:5-14

Tues., May 11
Psalm 93
2 Chronicles 15:1-15
Revelation 21:15-22

Wed., May 12
Psalm 93
2 Chronicles 34:20-33
Luke 2:25-38

Thurs., May 13
Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

Fri., May 14
Psalm 97
Exodus 33:12-17
Revelation 22:6-9

Sat., May 15
Psalm 97
Exodus 33:18-23
John 1:14-18

Sun., May 16
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17,
20-21
John 17:20-26

Mon., May 17
Psalm 29
Exodus 40:16-38
Acts 16:35-40

Tues., May 18
Psalm 29
2 Chronicles 5:2-14
Acts 26:19-29

Wed., May 19
Psalm 29
Ezekiel 3:12-21
Luke 9:18-27

Thurs., May 20
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Isaiah 32:11-17
Galatians 5:16-25

Fri., May 21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Isaiah 44:1-4
Galatians 6:7-10

Sat., May 22
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
2 Kings 2:1-15a
Luke 1:5-17

Sun., May 23
Day of Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21
John 14:8-17 [25-27]

Mon., May 24
Psalm 48
Joel 2:18-29
1 Corinthians 2:1-11

Tues., May 25
Psalm 48
Ezekiel 11:14-25
1 Corinthians 2:12-16

Wed., May 26
Psalm 48
Numbers 24:1-14
Luke 1:26-38

Thurs., May 27
Psalm 8
Proverbs 3:13-18
Ephesians 1:17-19

Fri., May 28
Psalm 8
Proverbs 3:19-26
Ephesians 4:1-6

Sat., May 29
Psalm 8
Proverbs 4:1-9
Luke 2:41-52

Sun., May 30
Trinity Sunday
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

Mon., May 31
Psalm 124
Proverbs 7:1-4
Ephesians 4:7-16



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Provided by the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ - made possible by contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support and Fellowship Dues.

The First Congregational Church

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E-mail: firstchurchstoneham@verizon.net

NEW! Website: www.firstchurchstoneham.org

Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Staff of the Church

Rev. Diane Cusumano, Interim Pastor

Sara Thompson, Church Secretary

John Piskadlo, Sexton

Joyce Simpson, Music Director

Heather Oliver, Messenger Editor & Treasurer

Donna Wall, Youth Director

REJOICE!
in all times and places