

**The First
Congregational
Church in
Stoneham**

The Meetinghouse Messenger

June 2010

**United Church of
Christ**

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Coming Events:

- June 6: Annual Meeting
- June 13: Children's Sunday & Family Picnic
- August 9-13: VBB

VBB—August 9-13, 2010

Vacation Bible Blast is going to be a blast this year. We are traveling to space. The program, Galactic Blast: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God!, is going to give us a glimpse of traveling in space. I am very excited about how our imagination will let us take a leap of faith and take us into the unknown of space travel. If you haven't ever had a chance to experience VBB this is the year to give it a try. Let everyone you know in on the secret of how we have fun at a church event. This event is open to all ages. 2 to 11 year olds are sorted in age-based classes to explore the adventure of space. As a teenager, 6th to 12th grade, you can assist the children in having a blast during VBB. As an adult you can help support the program and offer guidance to the youth. I am looking for many helpers of all ages to come and experience an event like no other we have ever put together. Please volunteer your time and you will be assured to have a fun-filled adventure with your children and others who participate too. Volunteering your time enables you to have your first child attend free. Other children are only \$50 each. We do have scholarships available for those who are financially challenged but would like to participate with us. Answers to ANY questions can be found by calling the church office or talking with Donna Wall. If you can help create decorations, we will be gathering July evenings to get our atmosphere in place

for our adventure. Our wish list is shrinking from the donations that have already come in, and I want to thank those who have made that possible. But we still need some critical items: aluminum pie plates, orange & red cellophane wrap, space themed pictures from magazines or posters, clear contact rolls, 12 black plastic table clothes, disco ceiling balls. We have several large decorations to assemble and create. The undertone for the program and "going green", We are going to try to recycle as much as possible in creating projects and decorations.



Hope to see many of you there. Registration information is available in the church office. sign up early to save a spot for you and your friends.

I am looking for adults to teach the children songs, games, science, lead small class groups, and teens to assist in these same areas and take photos and much more. All program material is pre-prepared and space themed and centered around five bible stories. Please accept this mission in your life you will have a cosmic adventure. Are YOU ready to Blast Off?



The First Congregational Church in Stoneham

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COME WORSHIP WITH US!

Staff of the Church:
Rev. Diane Cusumano, Interim Pastor
Joyce Simpson, Music Director
Sara Thompson, Secretary
John Piskadlo, Sexton
Judi Perry, Sunday School Superintendent
Heather Oliver, Treasurer & Messenger Editor

We are on the Web!

www.firstchurchstoneham.org

Or

www.facebook.com

In addition to providing financial support for a variety of outreach organizations, the Missions/Outreach committee coordinated participation in several outreach activities

The committee led the **Hungry Helpers** group, which is responsible for providing the Community Dinner meal on the second Tuesday of each month. The committee is very thankful for the many volunteers and donors who help support this program.

Missions / Outreach helped **English At Large** attain its goal to raise \$2000 to purchase English language software. In November 2009, eleven new volunteer tutors completed a training class at our church. In April, a new ESL conversation group began at the Stoneham Library.

In December 2009, through the **United Church of Christ Coffee Project**, we began selling fair trade coffees, teas, nuts, and chocolates obtained from a fair trade organization called Equal Exchange, which is a worker owned co-op based in West

Bridgewater, Mass. Through the project, farmers and their families gain more control over their lives, earn a fairer share of income, have access to credit and technical support. The committee sells the items at cost to keep the prices affordable and encourage participation in this program. As of May 16th, our sales for this fiscal year total \$790.

In March 2010, the committee came to the difficult decision to end First Church's preparation of a quarterly Saturday meal for **Bread & Roses**, the Lawrence based soup kitchen. Over the past few years our church members' participation in this Missions/Outreach project decreased to the point that the meal became a burden for a few key volunteers. It is the committee's hope to provide some financial support for the Bread & Roses program in the near future.

Going forward, the Missions / Outreach Committee will continue to reach out to the local community and explore new avenues for raising funds to support our outreach programs.

Missions / Outreach

Missions Schedule

Tuesday June 8th 5:30 p.m. Hungry Helpers

Summary for the Year

At Annual Meeting last year, funding for the Missions / Outreach programs was changed from 12% of collections and special offerings to a fixed budget of \$3000. This funding change resulted in a significant decrease in funds for Missions programs; some annual recipients had to be eliminated while donation amounts for other recipients were reduced. (See annual report for the breakdown.)

On a more positive note, the committee organized two successful fundraisers this fiscal year. The first, at the Dockside Restaurant, raised funds for heating assistance for low-income Stoneham residents and for Bread & Roses meals. The other event, our 2nd Ping-Pong Tournament, raised funds for Partners in Health's Hope for Haiti fund.

The committee also coordinated special offerings for UCC's Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Haiti Relief funds as well as a gift collection for the City Mission Society Christmas Shop.

In January, the committee presented its annual **Missions' Sunday** where we celebrated our church's commitment to missions. We were pleased to welcome The Rev. Dr. Peter Wells, UCC Associate Conference Minister, as our guest speaker.

Don't Forget.....

When traveling this summer, don't forget to bring home the unopened soap, shampoo, and other toiletry items from your travels for our **toiletry collection** for Rosie's Place in Boston. Toiletries may be left in the Missions' collection basket in the church office.

We are continuing to collect for **One Great Hour of Sharing**. Your gift brings shelter, food, water, and medical supplies to disaster survivors, helps refugees find safe shelter and begin to build new lives, aid impoverished communities, and provide medical care and education that strengthens bodies and minds.

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 June or can be mailed to or dropped off in the church office.



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|----|-----------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | John Burke | 19 | Edward Sullivan |
| 2 | George Parsons | 21 | Spencer Little |
| 6 | John Cochrane | 23 | Mikayla Freeman |
| 7 | Benjamin Muise | 24 | Sharon Wade |
| 9 | Sarah Clark | 27 | Carolyn Barrett |
| 10 | Zachary Hodgson | 28 | Gerri Cruickshank |
| 10 | Marilyn Jackson | 29 | John Fucci |

Let's Go Green!

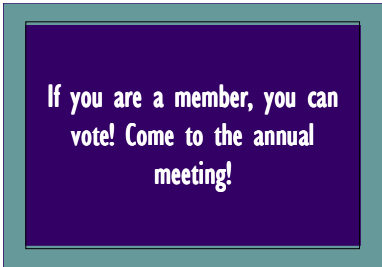
We currently have **67** people out of **230** on the mailing list who have opted to receive their Messenger by email. Let's help the planet and the save the church money by increasing that number. If you are willing to receive an e-messenger, please send an email to the Editor heatherwiw@rcn.com.
THANKS



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.



Save the Date!

The 2010 Church fair will be held November 12th and November 13th. Watch your Messenger in the coming months for more details

First Church is on TV!

Couldn't get to service this week? Loved the sermon so much you want to hear it again? First Church services are re-broadcast all week!

- 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

The schedule and channels are as follows:



Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends in Christ,

June is a time of celebrations—graduations, weddings, Father's Day, the end of the school year, the beginning of summer. We have much to celebrate at First Church. On May 23, the day of Pentecost, five young people—Betsy Albiani, David Albiani, Emily Allard, Christopher Haddad, and Chelsey Keegan—were confirmed and welcomed as new members in our family of faith, a wonderful sign of the new spiritual growth in the congregation. June 13 is Children's Sunday with our children participating in the service and presenting a drama about the parables of Jesus, directed by our beloved Joyce Simpson, followed by the annual picnic, complete with a moonbounce (weather permitting—so please pray for a sunny day).

Summer is the time to forget the cold and gray of winter and get out into the sunshine and enjoy God's glorious creation. The biblical book of Psalms is filled with praises for creation. *The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.* (Psalm 19:1) *Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God commanded and they were created.* (Psalm 148:3-5)

A former parishioner gave me a gem of a little book entitled GOD IS IN THE SMALL STUFF and it all matters. I agree with the authors' outlook that "the world in which we live is one of the greatest proofs for the existence of God". How can a person view the sunrise and sunset, spring flowers, the birth of baby, human or animal, and not believe in the God of creation? They offer some pithy statements about creation: "If God didn't create the heavens and the earth, they happened by themselves. It is impossible for something to come from nothing. Science is not the enemy of God, and religion is not the enemy of science. After all, when God created the world, God made science possible."

As you enjoy the summer months and experience the beauty of the world, may you take time to thank and praise the Creator, our loving God. Make time to meditate on flowers or ocean waves. Lie on your back and gaze at the stars and ponder the vastness of the universe. Open your heart to feel the glory of creation and open your soul to know God through God's creation.

With a prayer for a blessed summer with your family and friends.

Faithfully yours, *Pastor Diane*
Rev. Diane Cusumano, Interim Minister

Rummage Sale Success!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the annual Rummage Sales a huge success! The grand total raised was \$2041.55. Blessings, Lorraine Savage

Food Pantry

Here is our list of "Items of the Week" for the month of June. 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.



- June 6 - Laundry Detergent
- June 13 - Baked Beans
- June 20 - Parmesan Cheese
- June 27 - Relish

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!

Lynn Haddad, Lorraine Savage and Sara Thompson



Thanks for your support!

Thank you for your generous donations to the April 25th coffee hour. With your support we raised \$37.00. The proceeds went to the Relay for Life Woburn which took place on May 22-23, 2010.

Thank you, The Sawicki Family; Darren, Mandy, Caleb & Molly

June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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		1 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm. Dinn 7:00 Book Study	2 3:30 Drama 7:30 Iglesia	3	4 5:30-7:30 Youth Group	5 9-2 Iglesia
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6 8:30 Choir 11:30 Annual Meeting	7 7:00 Search Committee 8-9 AA	8 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm. Dinn 7:00 Book Study	9 3:30 Drama 7:30 Iglesia	10 7:00 55+ Singles	11	12 9-2 Iglesia 3-6 Eagle Court Drama Dress Rehearsal
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13 8:30 Choir Children's Sunday Family Picnic	14 7:00 Search Committee 8-9 AA	15 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm. Dinn 7:00 Book Study	16 7:30 Iglesia	17	18	19 9-2 Iglesia
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20	21 7:00 Search Committee 8-9 AA	22 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm. Dinn 7:00 Book Study	23 7:30 Iglesia	24	25	26 9-2 Iglesia
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27	28 7:00 Search Committee 8-9 AA	29 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm. Dinn 7:00 Book Study	30 7:30 Iglesia			
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Once Upon a Parable

By: Long and Pote

Presented by: The First Congregational Church of Stoneham Drama Group

June 13, 2010 at 10 AM

Jesus was a storyteller. A quick glance at the gospels reveals Him constantly regaling the crowds with tales designed to teach, amuse, puzzle and even irritate. And—two thousand years later, His words are still fresh.

We hope you'll enjoy our attempts to stage the gospel in a new way and discover the underlying surprise in the words and life of Jesus. The love of God is always more than we expect!!

Correspondence

I want to thank all my friends at First Church for their cards and prayers during my lengthy hospital and rehab stays over the past few months. A special thanks to Rev. Diane for her many visits bringing flowers, a lovely prayer shawl and most of all, her words of encouragement. A special thanks also to Betty Baumann and Eleanor Gullette for their visits and bringing flowers once I

was at home. Recovery is slow but I hope to get back to church in a few months.

Yours in Christ, Ellie Teshek

To all our good friends at First Church, Marie and I wish to thank all the good people who took the time to send cards,

letters, flowers, and prayers during our recent illnesses, and especially to Pastor Diane for her many hospital visits, words of comfort and prayers. We are truly blessed to have such a caring and loving person as Pastor. Love 'n lollipops to all,

John & Marie Burke

Stewardship Update

So far we have received \$39,292 in pledges for next fiscal year. The good news is that we have 5 new families pledging! The bad news is that pledges are low, so if you haven't turned in your pledge card yet, please do so soon!



Craft Group

The Craft Group will meet every Tuesday in June at 9:30 am in the craft room. Everyone is welcome! If you are free, come on down and craft with us!

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

Our very own Even Bergstrom will have his Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Saturday, June 12th at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Anyone who would like to see him receive this honor is welcome. Evan recently completed the choir room closet project as part of the Eagle Scout Program. The ceremony will be followed by refreshments ; please RSVP to Kathy Bergstrom if you plan to attend the reception.

Thank you all!

Kathy Bergstrom & Family



Thank you Shawn Garvey!

First Church was blessed to have pastor/singer/songwriter/performer Shawn Garvey perform live in concert at our church on Friday, May 21. He is a phenomenal singer and provided



the small but appreciative crowd with 2 hours of stories and music. We hope to have Shawn back again next year. Don't miss it!

Children's Sunday & Church Picnic

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, including a moon-bounce ! If your last name begins with A-M, please bring a side dish. If your last name begins with N-Z, please bring a dessert! John DeAmicis will once again be manning the grill.



Daily Lectionary Scripture References June 2010 (Year C)

Tues., June 1
Psalm 124
Proverbs 8:4-21
Ephesians 5:15-20

Wed., June 2
Psalm 124
Daniel 1:1-21
Luke 1:46b-55

Thurs., June 3
Psalm 146
Exodus 29:1-9
Acts 22:6-21

Fri., June 4
Psalm 146
Numbers 15:17-26
Acts 26:1-11

Sat., June 5
Psalm 146
Joshua 9:1-27
Matthew 9:2-8

Sun., June 6
10th Sunday – Ordinary Time
1 Kings 17:8-16 [17-24]
Psalm 146
Galatians 1:11-24
Luke 7:11-17

Mon., June 7
Psalm 68:1-10, 19-20
Job 22:1-20
Galatians 2:1-10

Tues., June 8
Psalm 68:1-10, 19-20
Job 24:9-25
Galatians 2:11-14

Wed., June 9
Psalm 68:1-10, 19-20
Job 31:16-23
Luke 8:40-56

Thurs., June 10
Psalm 5:1-8
1 Kings 20:1-22
James 4:1-7

Fri., June 11
Psalm 5:1-8
1 Kings 20:23-34
Romans 11:1-10

Sat., June 12
Psalm 5:1-8
1 Kings 20:35-43
Luke 5:17-26

Sun., June 13
11th Sunday – Ordinary Time
1 Kings 21:1-10 [11-14] 15-21a
Psalm 5:1-8
Galatians 2:15-21
Luke 7:36-8:3

Mon., June 14
Psalm 83
Genesis 31:17-35
Galatians 3:1-9

Tues., June 15
Psalm 83
2 Samuel 19:31-43
Galatians 3:10-14

Wed., June 16
Psalm 83
Malachi 3:5-12
Mark 2:1-12

Thurs., June 17
Psalm 42 and 43
Genesis 24:1-21
Romans 2:17-29

Fri., June 18
Psalm 42 and 43
Job 6:14-30
Galatians 3:15-22

Sat., June 19
Psalm 42 and 43
Proverbs 11:3-13
Matthew 9:27-34

Sun., June 20
12th Sunday – Ordinary Time
1 Kings 19:1-4 [5-7] 8-15a
Psalm 42 and 43
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

Mon., June 21
Psalm 59
2 Kings 9:1-13
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Tues., June 22
Psalm 59
2 Kings 9:14-26
Ephesians 2:11-22

Wed., June 23
Psalm 59
2 Kings 9:30-37
Luke 9:37-43a

Thurs., June 24
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
1 Kings 22:29-40, 51-53
2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Fri., June 25
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
2 Kings 1:1-12
Galatians 4:8-20

Sat., June 26
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
2 Kings 1:13-18; 2:3-5
Luke 9:21-27

Sun., June 27
13th Sunday – Ordinary Time
2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Galatians 5:1, 13-255
Luke 9:51-62

Mon., June 28
Psalm 75
2 Kings 2:15-22
1 John 2:7-11

Tues., June 29
Psalm 75
2 Kings 3:4-20
Ephesians 5:6-20

Wed., June 30
Psalm 75
2 Kings 4:1-7
Matthew 10:16-25



Note: During the period of Ordinary Time, the Revised Common Lectionary provides two parallel tracks: the complementary and the semicontinuous. The latter option, which allows for a more sequential reading through the major themes of certain biblical books, is offered here. The other sequence can be found at commontexts.org.

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Give thanks to
the Lord, for he is
good; his love endures
forever.

Psalm 106:1



The First Congregational Church

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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

Judi Perry, Sunday School Superintendent

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