

**The First  
Congregational  
Church in  
Stoneham**

# The Meetinghouse Messenger

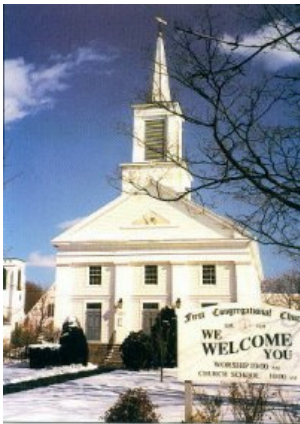
**November 2011**

**United Church of  
Christ**

## Pastor's Corner

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### Coming Events:

**November 4-5 Holly Fair**

**December 4 Cantata**

**December 5 AMICA**

My dear friends,

I recently read a Stillspeaking devotional\* that made me grin in agreement. In it, Lillian Daniel reflects on the story of Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law, who was very sick. Jesus "raised her up. No sooner had the fever left than she was up fixing dinner for them."

Daniel muses that we could make a feminist analysis of this cure in which we (women in particular) gripe about the subservient status of women in that era. But Daniel chooses to pull something else from this story of Peter's mother-in-law: **the joy of nurturing those we love.**

And suddenly what Peter's mother-in-law did makes perfect sense! I think about how much I love to feed my family, and about the special meals my daughters request when they come home. I think about how I enjoy experimenting with new recipes and how my friends are such loving and enthusiastic "guinea pigs."

Then I begin to think about how much this church nurtures others. You feed one another through Hungry Helpers, Community Dinner, and the Food Pantry. You nurture one another through bringing meals to those who are ill or grieving. There are the many other ways you offer nurture, too: with a phone call, a ride to an appointment, a bouquet of flowers, help in repairing something.

How I rejoice to be a part of the Body of Christ with you! You incarnate his love in countless tangible ways, and together we really do make a difference in the world. In this season of Thanksgiving I am grateful for you!

Blessings, Merrie

\*You too can subscribe to the Stillspeaking Devotional and a new one will arrive in your email inbox every morning: <http://www.ucc.org/feedyourspirit/daily-devotional/>

Try it; it's free and it's good!



## The First Congregational Church in Stoneham

One Church St.  
Stoneham, MA 02180  
781-438-0097  
781-438-0238 (fax)

**COME WORSHIP WITH US!**  
**Sundays, 10AM**

Staff of the Church:  
Rev. Meredith Allen, Pastor  
Joyce Simpson, Music Director  
Sara Thompson, Secretary  
John Piskadlo, Sexton  
Lorraine Savage, Sunday School Superintendent  
Kevin O'Neil, Youth Group Director  
Heather Oliver, Treasurer & Messenger Editor

**We are on the Web!**

[www.firstchurchstoneham.org](http://www.firstchurchstoneham.org)

Or

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

## Let's Go Green!

We currently have **81** people  
out of **219** 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](mailto:heatherwiw@rcn.com) or  
[holyer@thecia.net](mailto:holyer@thecia.net). THANKS



## Missions / Outreach

### Missions Schedule

**Tuesday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m.** Hungry Helpers

**Sunday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>**, Missions' coffee hour

### Mission 1: 11.1.11-11.11.11

Mission 1 is a campaign by the national United Church of Christ. In 11 days, the goals include:

raising more than \$1 million items of food and household items (in Stoneham, for our Food Pantry)  
raising more than \$111,111 for Neighbors in Need  
generating more than 11,111 letters to Congress, asking our government to reform foreign assistance to more effectively benefit hungry and poor people worldwide

Consider donating 1 item or food or a household item (cleanser, etc.) for each day during this period or donating extra money to Neighbors in Need.

Our Sunday School students will also be helping with this project.

### Dockside Fundraiser

Our 4th annual fundraiser at the Dockside Restaurant in Wakefield will be held on **Wednesday, December 14.** You must bring a certificate with you and present it at the Dockside. First Church will receive 25% of the check's value for any dine-in, take-out or delivery. Please give copies of the certificates to your family and friends. Certificates will be available as the date gets closer.

### Volunteers Needed for Hungry Helpers

On the second Tuesday of each month, our church, through the Hungry Helpers, hosts the Community Dinner.

Volunteers are also needed to assist the meal. If you can help out, arrive at 5:30 to serve or come a bit later to assist with clearing tables and washing up. For more information, contact Lynn Haddad.

# November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm Dinn 7:00 Book Study	2 3:30 Chimes 4:30 Drama 7:00 Bible Study 7:30 Iglesia FAIR SET UP	3 7:00 Cantata Rehearsal  FAIR SET UP	4 FAIR SET UP  7-9 Pie Social	5  FAIR 9-3 9-2 Iglesia
6 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:30 Church Council	7 8-9 AA	8 5:45 Comm Dinn 7:00 Diaconate	9 3:30 Chimes 4:30 Drama 7:30 Iglesia	10 7:00 Cantata Rehearsal	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12 9-2 Iglesia
13 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship	14 7:00 CE 8-9 AA	15 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm Dinn 7:00 Book Study	16 3:30 Chimes 4:30 Drama 7:00 Bible Study 7:30 Iglesia	17 7:00 Cantata Rehearsal	18	19 9-2 Iglesia
20 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship	21 8-9 AA	22 5:45 Comm Dinn 7:00 Interfaith Service @ Saint Pats 7:00 Book Study	23 3:30 Chimes 4:30 Drama 7:30 Iglesia	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 9-2 Iglesia
27 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship Family Sunday	28 7:30 Books & Chocolate 8-9 AA	29 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm Dinn 7:00 Book Study	30 3:30 Chimes 4:30 Drama 7:30 Iglesia			

## Valentine Tea Party - Sunday, February 12, 2012



It is time to announce that we are having another biannual tea party since we have not had one since 2010. For those who are new to these productions here is a summary:

The most important component that makes the tea party work is to have 10 to 15 women volunteer to host a table, 2 women can share this duty if they like. The hostess duties are to find 8-10 women and /or girls to join you at your table, they can be church members or family and friends. The hostess provides a chocolate dessert for her table. Sandwiches, scones, condiments, and chocolate covered strawberries and shortbread will be prepared ahead of time. The hostess sets up and decorates her own table with her dishes and utensils, or she can use one of the two tea sets and the silverware we have at church. A complete list of what is needed will be provided to each hostess.

The cost of the tea party is \$15 per person and the profits go to the Steeple Fund.

This year we will have Michael Maloney, who substitutes in church for Joyce, play the piano and sing romantic tunes. We had him for entertainment last time and he was very well received. We will have a door prize and a number of raffles as well. We will be looking for several men to help serve the tea and sell the raffle tickets.

For the last two months I have been announcing the plans for a tea party in February. Here is an update on our tea party plans. So far I have four(4) hostesses enlisted to host tables. We need to have at least 8-10 to make this a worthwhile adventure. Please speak to Judy Clark or e-mail me at [clark98765@msn.com](mailto:clark98765@msn.com) if you are willing to host a table. Remember two women can do a table together. this event will benefit the Steeple Fund.



### Crafts

Crafts will meet November 15 & 29. Young and old are welcome; Come and join us from 9:30-12:00 in the craft room.

Children's Grief Group

Tuesdays, November 8– December 13, 2011

The Bertolon Center for Grief & Healing at the Hospice of the North Shore is offering a free 6-week bereavement support group available for children ages 6-12. It will be held on Tuesday from 6-7:30 pm at the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church, Wellesley Hills. Groups are a wonderful place for children to express their feelings in a safe environment after a death. This group will involve the expressive arts (music, art, writing, movement, drama) to help children find creative outlets and build new coping skills. For additional information, contact Maureen Forbes at 978-750-9335

Thanks!

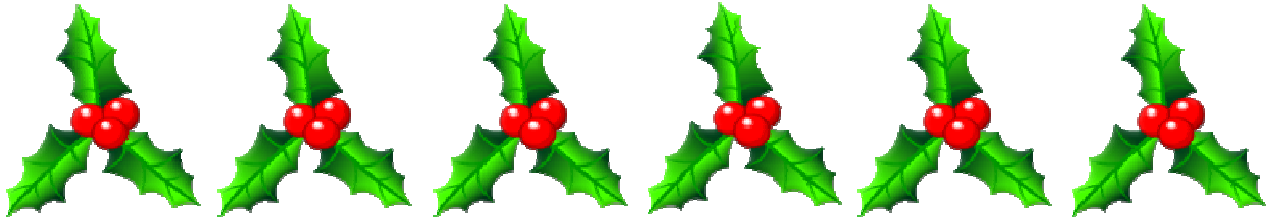
To the Church and Marge Dearth,

Thank you for remembering me on Golden Age Sunday with the goodies. They were great!

Thank you again,

Mary Samour





# Holly Fair

## November 4th and 5th

**Friday, November 4th 7-9 PM**

Fair and Pie Social

**Saturday, November 5th 9 AM-3 PM**

Fair, Coffee Hour, and Luncheon

- \*Handmade Crafts
- \*Handmade Knit and Cotton Items
- \*Country Store
- \*Tasty Treats and Homemade Candy
- \*Book Room
- \*Attic Treasures and Jewelry
- \*Children's Clothes and Toys
- \*Amazing Silent Auctions and Raffles

**The First Congregational Church**

**in Stoneham**

**One Church Street**



The Fair is our BIGGEST fundraiser of the year, please come down and support it!



## Sunday School News

During the month of October, the children have learned stories that Jesus has told. Such as, the Parable of the Vineyard, Workers in the Vineyard, the Wedding Banquet, and the Greatest Commandment. The stories are all from the Scripture Lessons of Matthew. The children are really enjoying their time in Sunday school.

The lessons are teaching them responsibility, keeping your word, accepting everyone equally and loving one another.

In November they will be bringing home an ark to fill with money for Neighbors in Need and also collect food for our food pantry. From November 1<sup>st</sup> to November 11 ...One United Church on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry. The last day for this mission will be Friday, 11-11-11.

Third graders will be receiving their Bibles on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. If there is anyone else (including adults) who has not received a Bible and would like one, please contact Sara in the church office by Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

God's Blessings,

Lorraine Savage





Please do not bring food & drinks into the Sanctuary.

To keep our Sanctuary beautiful, comfortable and focused on worship, please do not bring food or drinks (except bottled water) into the Sanctuary.

Thank You!



**November**

- 3 Betty Baumann
- 13 Emma Ryti
- 14 George Cushman
- 16 Heather Houde
- 16 Mary Samour
- 16 Susan Gagnon
- 19 Madelyn Machnik
- 20 Sandra Barrett
- 20 Neal Collins
- 22 Judith Clark
- 23 Kevin Daly
- 24 Mark Paolini
- 30 Eleanor Teschek

**If you would like to be added to the birthday list, please email [holiver@thecia.net](mailto:holiver@thecia.net)**

**No Power? *Lights for You What a Great idea !***

Last week, a thunderstorm rolled through our neighborhood and a huge oak tree came down on some power lines, creating a power outage for a large area around us. We lost power for about 5 hours.

We were scrambling around in the darkness, looking for matches, candles, flashlights,.

We looked outside, and noticed our solar lights shining brightly all around our patio, stairs, dock, etc. They were beautiful. Pat walked outside, and brought several of the solar lights inside.

We stuck the solar light pipes into plastic drink bottles containers and they made the nicest, brightest, safest, lighting you could ever imagine.

We put one in the bathroom, the kitchen, the living room, etc. There was plenty of light. There are all types of solar lights available. We bought ours at Harbor Freight. We put them all around our yard. They look nice and they do not attract flying bugs like the outdoor lights around our doorway.

The lights we have fit into the small (20oz) water bottles and they also fit into most of the larger liter bottles. If you need a weight in the plastic bottle to keep them from tipping over, you can put a few of the pretty colorful "flat marbles" that they put in aquariums, and vases. (you can also use sand, aquarium gravel, etc., whatever you have available).

The lights we have were perfect inside our home. They burn all night long if you need them.

The next day, you just take your solar lights back outside and they will instantly recharge and be ready for you to use again any time you need them.

**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 rebroadcast all week!



The schedule and channels are as follows:

- Comcast users: Channel 9
- Verizon users: Channel 34
- RCN users: Channel 3
- Mondays @ 6pm
- Tuesdays @ 10am
- Thursdays @ 2pm
- Sundays @ 11:30am



### **Bible Study!**

The Bible Study will meet every other Wednesday. We've been meeting from 7:00 to 8:00 in the pastor's office. *Everyone* is welcome! We've been reading *Grace In a Tree Stump*, a book of short chapters on various events in the Old Testament. The reading leads to lots of lively discussion about what God was doing in people's lives long ago and what God is doing in our lives right now. Please let Merrie know if you'd like her to order a book (\$15) for you. And please join us!

### **Notes from Joyce**

The Cantata will be on December the at 7 pm Cantata rehearsals have Begun, they are on Thursday evenings in the music room at 7pm. \*\*\*There is a children's portion in this cantata...boys and girls are welcome. Rehearsals will be after the worship service on Sundays (11:30 am) in November (Nov 6, 13, 20, 27) . Come on down! The more, the better!



### **Books & Chocolate**

November 28 will be a book night at the church at 7:30pm. We are reading "Year of Wonders" by Geraldine Brooks.

January 16 will be a movie night at 7pm.

### **Youth Group!**

The Youth Group had their second annual Haunted House on October 30th, from 4-6 pm. Everyone involved kids put in a ton of work and did a great job on the haunted house and halloween party. Thanks for your support! There were children from the church and lots of children from the community who attended.

## AMICA

**Monday, December 5 at 6pm**

It is time for all the interested ladies in our church family to get together again for a fun evening to welcome the holiday season. We will enjoy a modified potluck meal with the entree and Caesar Salad provided by the church. Guests should bring an appetizer, vegetable, or dessert or \$5 to cover other costs. We will have our traditional 'Yankee Swap' of a holiday item valued around \$10, wrapped, please.

All are welcome to join us, young and old alike! Please speak to Judy Clark at Coffee Hour or e-mail me at [clark98765@msn.com](mailto:clark98765@msn.com) to RSVP. We will have signups at coffee hours as well by mid November.

### Coupons Wanted!

The food pantry could use your coupons! By donating your unwanted store and manufacturer coupons, you can help us stretch our dollars to purchase groceries to fill our pantry shelves. Since August 2008, the number of households using the pantry has almost doubled. Because of this increased demand, we often need to purchase groceries to keep the pantry shelves stocked with the most requested items. However, by using coupons and watching the sales, we're able to save *at least 35%* when shopping. Please bring your unwanted coupons to church on Sunday or drop them off in the church office during the week.

### Messenger Deadline

The deadline for the December Messenger is November 19th. Please leave all submissions in the Messenger box in the office or email to [holiver@thecia.net](mailto:holiver@thecia.net)

Thanks!

### Church Council

The next church council meeting will be on Sunday, November 6th at 11:30 am. Reminder that a representative from every committee should try to attend this meeting.

## FOOD PANTRY NEWS

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

Oct. 30 – Nov. 5	Pasta
Nov. 6 – 12	Lipton Side Dishes
Nov. 13 – 19	Hearty Soups
Nov. 20 – 26	Pasta Sauce
Nov. 27 – Dec. 3	Cookies & Crackers



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!

The "Food Pantry Crew"

(Lynn, Lorraine, Sara and Kim)



## Daily Lectionary Scripture References November 2011 (Year A)

**Tues., Nov. 1**  
*All Saints Day*  
Revelations 7:9-17  
Psalm 34: 1-10,22  
1 John 3:1-3  
Matthew 5:1-12

**Wed., Nov. 2**  
Psalm 128  
Joshua 10:12-14  
Matthew 15:1-9

**Thurs., Nov. 3**  
Psalm 78:1-7  
Joshua 5:10-12  
Revelation 8:6—9:12

**Fri., Nov. 4**  
Psalm 78:1-7  
Joshua 8:30-35  
Revelation 9:13-21

**Sat., Nov. 5**  
Psalm 78:1-7  
Joshua 20:1-95  
Matthew 24:1-14

**Sun., Nov. 6**  
*32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Psalm 78:1-7  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

**Mon., Nov. 7**  
Psalm 78  
Joshua 24:25-33  
1 Corinthians 14:20-25

**Tues., Nov. 8**  
Psalm 78  
Nehemiah 8:1-12  
1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

**Wed., Nov. 9**  
Psalm 78  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Matthew 24:29-35

**Thurs., Nov. 10**  
Psalm 123  
Judges 2:6-15  
Revelation 16:1-7

**Fri., Nov. 11**  
Psalm 123  
Judges 2:16-23  
Revelation 16:8-21

**Sat., Nov. 12**  
Psalm 123  
Judges 5:1-12  
Matthew 12:43-45

**Sun., Nov. 13**  
*33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Judges 4:1-7  
Psalm 123  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30

**Mon., Nov. 14**  
Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18  
Judges 4:8-24  
Romans 2:1-11

**Tues., Nov. 15**  
Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18  
Exodus 2:1-10  
1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

**Wed., Nov. 16**  
Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18  
Esther 7:1-10  
Matthew 24:45-51

**Thurs., Nov. 17**  
Psalm 100  
Genesis 48:15-22  
Revelation 14:1-11

**Fri., Nov. 18**  
Psalm 100  
Isaiah 40:1-11  
Revelation 22:1-9

**Sat., Nov. 19**  
Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 34:25-31  
Matthew 12:46-50

**Sun., Nov. 20**  
*Reign of Christ*  
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 100  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46

**Mon., Nov. 21**  
Psalm 28  
Numbers 27:15-23  
2 Timothy 2:8-13

**Tues., Nov. 22**  
Psalm 28  
Zechariah 11:4-17  
Revelation 19:1-9

**Wed., Nov. 23**  
Psalm 28  
Jeremiah 31:10-14  
John 5:19-40

**Thurs., Nov. 24**  
*Thanksgiving*  
Deut. 8:7-18  
Psalm 65  
2 Corinthians 9:6-15  
Luke 17:Rev 11-19

**Fri., Nov. 25**  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Zechariah 14:1-9  
1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

**Sat., Nov. 26**  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Micah 2:1-13  
Matthew 24:15-31

**Sun., Nov. 27**  
*First Sunday in Advent(Year B)*  
Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

**Mon., Nov. 28**  
Psalm 79  
Micah 4:1-5  
Revelation 15:1-8

**Tues., Nov. 29**  
Psalm 79  
Micah 4:6-137  
Revelation 18:1-10

**Wed., Nov. 30**  
Psalm 79  
Micah 5:1-5a  
Luke 21:34-38



Note: During the period of Ordinary Time, which comes after Trinity Sunday, the Revised Common Lectionary provides two parallel tracks: the complementary and the semicontinuous. The semicontinuous, 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](http://commontexts.org)

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The Meetinghouse Messenger — November 2011

## **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. Meredith Allen, Pastor

Sara Thompson, Church Secretary

John Piskadlo, Sexton

Joyce Simpson, Music Director

Heather Oliver, Messenger Editor & Treasurer

Lorraine Savage, Sunday School Superintendent

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