

**The First
Congregational
Church in
Stoneham**

The Meetinghouse Messenger

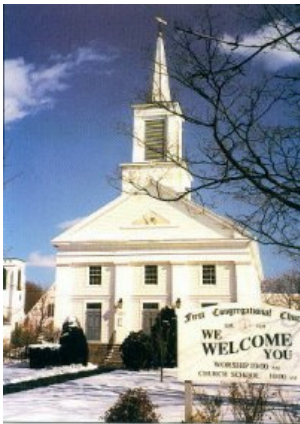
Pastor's Corner

October 2011

**United Church of
Christ**

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Coming Events:

October 16 Golden Age

October 23 Praise Music

November 4-5 Holly Fair

Hi, friends!

Did you have a chance to stop by the First Church crafts table at Stoneham Town Day on September 17? Our table was doing a land office business selling autumn and Halloween decorations, all lovingly made by our "craft ladies." People happily bought handmade wreaths, leggy black spiders, and all manner of fall decor.

In addition to the table-full of handcrafted items, the craft ladies were offering little cellophane packets of dried thyme as a gift to everyone who came along. On each packet was a label that read,

"It's 'thyme' to worship.

10:00 a.m. on Sundays.

First Congregational Church in Stoneham."

It's 'thyme' to worship. This gesture of hospitality was more than a humorous invitation to worship with us. It was a reminder that the Sabbath is God's good gift to us. *We all* need to lay down our burdens after a wearying week. Everyone needs a respite and a chance to bask in the Spirit's renewal.

Give worship a chance to refresh you! Let music, prayers, and the Word preached weave a spell of calm, courage, and renewed determination around you. Let our congregational fellowship increase your joys and lighten your concerns.

Worship with us. Laugh with us. Weep with us. How else might you hear our God say to you, "I love you!"?

Blessings,

Merrie



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

Or

www.facebook.com

Let's Go Green!

We currently have **78** 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 or
holiver@thecia.net. THANKS



Missions / Outreach

Missions Schedule

Tuesday, Oct. 11th 5:30 p.m. Hungry Helpers

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

Small but essential grants are made throughout the year to congregations and organizations engaged in community organizing, public policy advocacy, and direct service. Although grants are made to address a wide range of justice priorities, a significant portion of these grants are made to address issues of hunger and poverty.

Neighbors in Need also supports the work of the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), which is the voice for American Indians in the UCC.

Please look for envelopes in the pews and make a donation.

Volunteers and Financial Donations Needed for Hungry Helpers

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

Volunteers are 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.

Our annual budget is enough to pay for only a few meals each year. The Missions Committee hosts coffee hours and has other fund-raisers to help pay for meals. Any financial donations are greatly appreciated.

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Chocolate

The Missions/Outreach Committee is pleased to once again offer fair trade coffees, teas and chocolates for purchase to support small farmer cooperatives in 19 countries around the world.

All items are produced using sustainable growing methods and most, if not all, are organic.

The quality of these products is excellent and they are offered at very reasonable prices. Check out the items for sale during coffee hour while enjoying a cup of fair trade coffee.

For more information about Equal Exchange, go to <http://www.equalexchange.coop/ucc>

OCTOBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9-2 Iglesia Red Cross Blood Drive
2	3 8-9 AA	4 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Book Study	5 3:30 Chimes 4:30 Drama 7:00 Bible Study 7:30 Iglesia	6 7:00 Cantata Rehearsal	7	8 9-2 Iglesia
9 Family Sunday	10 Office Closed 8-9 AA	11 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Diaconate	12 3:30 Chimes 4:30 Drama 7:30 Iglesia	13 7:00 Cantata Rehearsal	14	15 9-2 Iglesia
16 Golden Age Sunday & Lunch	17 7:00 Books & Choc & Judys 8-9 AA	18 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Book Study	19 3:30 Chimes 4:30 Drama 7:00 Bible Study 7:30 Iglesia	20 7:00 Trustees 7:00 Cantata Rehearsal	21	22 9-2 Iglesia
23 Praise Music Sunday	24 8-9 AA	25 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm. Dinner 7:00 Book Study	26 3:30 Chimes 4:30 Drama 7:30 Iglesia	27 7:00 Cantata Rehearsal	28	29 9-2 Iglesia
30	31 8-9 AA					

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.

It may seem early to plan the tea party, but I wanted to let you all know about this so you can save the date, February 12, 2012. I would like to get our hostess volunteers enlisted early. If you would like to be a hostess, please speak to me at church or call at 781-944-7240 or e-mail at



Crafts

Crafts will meet October 4, 11, 18, 25. Young and old are welcome; Come and join us from 9:30-12:00 in the craft room.

Sign up to help at the **Holly Fair** -

November 4th and 5th

If you are available to help, please add your name to the Fair sign up poster in Fellowship Hall or contact Linda Merrow at 781-933-0414 or lindamerrow@yahoo.com

We need help setting up, cleaning up, making soups and sandwiches for the luncheon, helping sort children's clothes, setting up the white elephant room, baking items for the country store as well as PIES, PIES and more PIES for the Pie Social on Friday night!

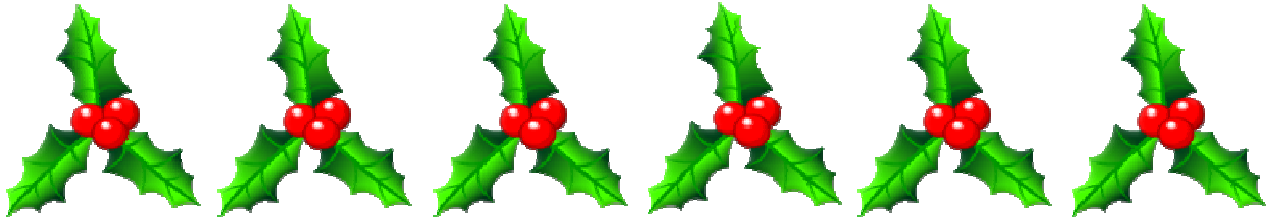
We also need you to volunteer to work Friday night and Saturday to serve breakfast and lunch, help in the book room, the white elephant room, the children's room, and the country store....and well you get it - LOTS OF HELP!

We are also looking for silent auction and raffle items. Gift Certificates, Certificates for Labor (i.e. certificate painting of one room in your house), or items.

Please bring all donations for the white elephant, book room, children's room, to the church, if possible, and leave them on the stage. Donations for the Auction should be left in the office and labeled "for the Auction".

If you have items that need to be picked up, please call the Church Office or Linda Merrow (781-933-0414) and we will try to make arrangements to get the items to the church.

Thank you, The Fair Committee



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

The First Congregational Church

in Stoneham

One Church Street





Sunday School News

Rally Sunday this year was toned down a bit due to the fact it was on the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Nevertheless, we had a fun time! The children stayed in worship a little longer but still got to meet their teachers and friends and learn about the parable of the workers in the vineyard.

We have welcomed 4 new families to Sunday School with 6 new students. If you see new faces, please introduce yourself and welcome these new families.

On September 18th we had a luncheon for our teachers and assistants. Everyone seems to be very enthusiastic about teaching. Teachers will be in the classroom for 3 weeks, and then they will be able to attend worship the rest of the year. This seems to work out so the teachers are able to worship and not be in Sunday school for the entire year.

Thank you to everyone that is willing to teach. We have 23 teachers and 5 teen assistants. If you have not signed up to help, you can still do so.

Some of our teachers will be attending workshops at Mass Bay Community College put on by UCC.

We are looking forward to teaching your children about the Bible.

God's Blessings,
Lorraine Savage

Sunday School Superintendent

Save the Date!

October 16th is Golden Age Sunday. Please call the church office if you are 80 or older and would like to be added to our Golden Age list. We will be having a chicken dinner following Worship on Golden Age Sunday. It will be pay at the door. The cost is \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. \$15.00 maximum per family. Golden Aged eat for free!!!



October

- 3 Linda Merrow
- 4 Wendy Catalano
- 4 Sara Gagnon
- 4 Ron Oliver
- 5 Mandy Sawicki
- 6 Nikki Moccia-Thane
- 11 Richard Jackson
- 14 Mallory Fucci
- 15 Tracy Jacques
- 19 Linda DeAmicis
- 19 Amanda Lumb
- 21 Della Marek
- 22 Barbara Severance
- 24 Denise Doucette
- 26 Judith Catalano
- 26 Nancy Sandgren
- 30 Thomas Vacca

If you would like to be added to the birthday list, please email holiver@thecia.net

Are you interested in learning to operate the video equipment we use each Sunday to record our worship service? Mark Paolini, who has a degree from Emerson College, would be glad to show you the ropes. Because the equipment belongs to Stoneham TV, you must also take a two-hour course there. Filming worship might serve as community service in school. Speak to Mark or Pastor Merrie about this cool opportunity!



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!



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

We will have Praise Music Sunday-Oct 23rd- 10 A.M. during the morning worship.

Chimes and drama began Sept 28th but its not too late to join! Open to ages 5 and up! Talk to Joyce if you are interested.

Cantata rehearsal begins Sept 29th.

**Books & Chocolate**

October 17 will be a movie night at Judy's home at 7pm.

November 28 will be a book night at the church at 7:30pm.

January 16 will be a movie night at Judy's home at 7pm.

We will choose other books and the movies when we meet again.

Youth Group!

We had a meeting in September to plan the year, and we will be trying some new ideas, as well as bring back some old ones. Such as last year we took a trip into Boston and participated at Common Cathedral (this is a program where we make sandwiches for the homeless, hand them out at Boston common, and then join them in an outside church service afterwards). Last year it was just the Youth Group, this year we are inviting the Congregation to join us. This will be on May 6th, AFTER service.

Back by popular demand, the Youth Group will be doing another Haunted House in October. Last year, it provided fun for all ages, and we hope that it will do so again. The Haunted House will take place on Sunday October 30th from 4-6, and the youth group will be meeting EVERY Sunday after church until then to plan and work on it!

Also, this year the Youth Group will partner up with Pastor Merrie in doing a "Blessing of the Pets" day for the entire town (date to be determined).

Just a little taste of some of the activities our Youth will be participating in this year.

Hope to see you all there! Kevin and Kayla

October is Hunger Awareness Month

The Book Oasis in Stoneham is hosting a Shopping Night

to benefit *Gathering Change, Inc.*

Thursday, October 13, 5:30 - 7:30

20% of all sales will go to GCI

and will support Stoneham food pantries.

~ See www.thebookoasis.com or Call 781-438-0077 for More
Information and Directions~

The Book Oasis sells new and used books, children's toys
and greeting cards (GCI note cards are sold here).

Please drop in to support your local bookstore as well as
Gathering Change, Inc.



FOOD PANTRY NEWS

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

Sept. 25 – Oct. 1	Crackers, Cookies & Snacks
Oct. 2 – 8	Jams and Jellies
Oct. 9 – 15	White Tuna
Oct. 16 – 22	Pasta Side Dishes/Rice-a-roni
Oct. 23 – 29	Ready to Eat Soups
Oct. 30 – Nov. 5	Pasta

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)

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 November Messenger is October 19th. Please leave all submissions in the Messenger box in the office or email to holiver@thecia.net

Thanks!

New Transportation Program for Elders and Adults with Disabilities

Mystic Valley Elder Services is introducing a new volunteer driver transportation program in Stoneham called TRIP Metro North. The program is for people 60+ and adults with disabilities who are unable to drive and have no other transportation. TRIP gives you the tools to find and reimburse a volunteer to drive you where you need to go. Call (781) 324-7705 to apply.

Daily Lectionary Scripture References October 2011 (Year A)

Sat., Oct. 1

Psalm 19
Exodus 23:10-13
John 7:40-52

Sun., Oct. 2

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

Mon., Oct. 3

Psalm 119:49-56
Deuteronomy 5:1-21
1 Peter 2:4-10

Tues., Oct. 4

Psalm 119:49-56
Deuteronomy 5:22-6:3
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Wed., Oct. 5

Psalm 119:49-56
Deuteronomy 6:10-25
John 11:45-57

Thurs., Oct. 6

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Exodus 24:1-8
1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14

Fri., Oct. 7

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Exodus 24:9-11
James 4:4-10

Sat., Oct. 8

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Exodus 24:12-18
Mark 2:18-22

Sun., Oct. 9

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

Mon., Oct. 10

Psalm 97
Exodus 32:15-35
Jude 17-25

Tues., Oct. 11

Psalm 97
Exodus 33:1-6
Philippians 3:13-4:1

Wed., Oct. 12

Psalm 97
2 Kings 17:7-20
John 6:25-35

Thurs., Oct. 13

Psalm 99
Exodus 33:7-11
3 John 9-12

Fri., Oct. 14

Psalm 99
Exodus 31:1-11
1 Peter 5:1-5

Sat., Oct. 15

Psalm 99
Exodus 39:32-43
Matthew 14:1-12

Sun., Oct. 16

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

Mon., Oct. 17

Psalm 63:1-8
Exodus 40:34-38
Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20

Tues., Oct. 18

Psalm 63:1-8
Numbers 12:1-9
Revelation 18:21-24

Wed., Oct. 19

Psalm 63:1-8
Numbers 13:1-2, 17-14:9
Matthew 17:22-27

Thurs., Oct. 20

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Deuteronomy 31:14-22
Titus 1:5-16

Fri., Oct. 21

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Deuteronomy 32:1-14, 18
Titus 2:7-8, 11-15

Sat., Oct. 22

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Deuteronomy 32:44-47
John 5:39-47

Sun., Oct. 23

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

Mon., Oct. 24

Psalm 119:41-48
Numbers 33:38-39
James 2:8-13

Tues., Oct. 25

Psalm 119:41-48
Exodus 34:29-35
James 2:14-26

Wed., Oct. 26

Psalm 119:41-48
Deuteronomy 26:16-27:7
Matthew 19:16-22

Thurs., Oct. 27

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Joshua 1:1-11
Romans 2:17-29

Fri., Oct. 28

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Joshua 2:1-14
2 Peter 2:1-3

Sat., Oct. 29

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Joshua 2:15-24
Matthew 23:13-28

Sun., Oct. 30

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

Mon., Oct. 31

Psalm 128
Joshua 4:1-24
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20



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

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The Meetinghouse Messenger — October 2011

The First Congregational Church

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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. Meredith Allen, Pastor

Sara Thompson, Church Secretary

John Piskadlo, Sexton

Joyce Simpson, Music Director

Heather Oliver, Messenger Editor & Treasurer

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