

**The First
Congregational
Church in
Stoneham**

The Meetinghouse Messenger

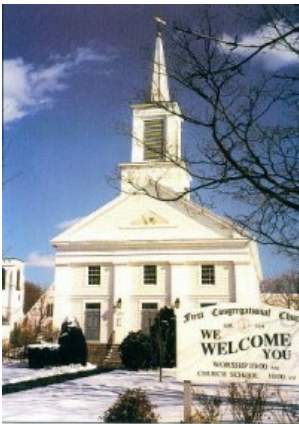
Summer 2011

**United Church of
Christ**

Pastor's Corner

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Christian Ed	3
Daily Lectionary	6,7
Missions	3
Pastor's Corner	1
VBB	2



Coming Events:

August 8-12: VBB

September 18: Rally Sunday

"Wherever you are is home.

And the earth is paradise.

Wherever you set your feet is holy land."

Wilfred Pelletier and Ted Poole

*"Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet,
for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."*

Exodus 3:5

Happy summer, everyone! Know that wherever *you* set your feet over these coming weeks, God is right there with you. May life's problems feel less daunting in these balmy days.

If you worship in another sanctuary this summer, I invite you to bring back a bulletin to share with me! I love to learn what's going on in other houses of worship. Perhaps you'll find something new that will enrich us!

And another request: bring back a small bottle of **water** from your summer travels. You might go camping near a lake, swimming in the ocean, or fishing in a stream. Pack a bottle with you, scoop up some water, and bring it back! We'll bless it on Rally Sunday, September 11, when we come back together. Then after it is duly boiled, we'll use it for **baptismal water** over the next year. You are also welcome to bring a photo and a note describing the location of your water's source and what it means to you.

Finally, remember that we may be the only message of God's love that many people hear and see. You and I carry Christ within us. Let's live this summer in ways that give honor to God!

With prayers for a safe and joyful summer,

Merrie

It's almost time for....

VBB 2011

Shake it Up café

~Where Kids carry out God's Recipe~

August 8-12

9 am-12:00 pm

One of our favorite weeks of the year is almost here! This is a community event where we open our Church and invite our friends and neighbors to come and have a smorgasbord of fun. Who is going to come to our Cooking Party? The program is titled, Shake It Up Cafe: Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe. I am looking for willing volunteers to give their time, talents, and share their enthusiasm for fun. Everything will center around food and Jesus. Since we are a Church that revolves around food related activities this should be another belly full learning experience. I still need more volunteers, teens and adults, to make this all come together.

Prep nights are being held on Wednesday nights from 7-8:30, and there will be setup the day before VBB starts, Sunday August 7 from 2:00-4:00pm. Can you be one of the ingredients to this recipe we refer to as VBB?? Contact Donna Wall with questions, or concerns. Invite your neighbors, bring your friends! The more bodies we have, the better the week is! All are welcome!



Dear Friends at First Church,

I wanted to thank the wonderful members of the congregation who volunteered to bring over meals for me and my family while I have been nursing my broken ankle and injured knee. We really appreciate the thoughtfulness and it has made a world of difference. Also, thanks so much for the beautiful flowers that were delivered to my doorstep on Sunday. I know I will enjoy them all week and think of my friends at First Church. Thank you also for your prayers about my surgery. They replaced the ACL and fixed the medial meniscus, lateral meniscus and took out some arthritis that was hanging around. Just the rehab and recuperation now! Thanks again, Jill Albiani



The First Congregational Church in Stoneham

One Church St.
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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
holyer@thecia.net. THANKS



Missions / Outreach

Travel Toiletries

If you travel this summer, remember that we continue to collect travel sized toiletries for donation to Rosie's Place in Boston for distribution to their guests.

Unopened items can be left in the church office in the basket marked "Missions Toiletries."

Volunteers Needed for Hungry Helpers

Volunteers are needed to assist with our church's Community Dinner meal on the second Tuesday of each month. 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.

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>



Sunday School News

Stay tuned for more One Room
Schoolhouse dates for August.

Thanks to Lynda Allard for providing
this opportunity to the children! See
on Rally Sunday September 18th!



July

- 1 Deborah Herook
- 1 Richard Whittaker
- 5 Jane Gagnon
- 5 Dean Storm
- 7 Darlene Chapman
- 7 Mark Melkonian
- 9 Ken Lumb
- 11 Michael Freeman
- 13 Darren Sawicki
- 14 Bryce Bardell
- 15 Al Freeman
- 15 Camila Devlin
- 17 Iris Cushman
- 17 Jill Geisler
- 18 Doris Parsons
- 19 Jeanette Norton
- 21 Louise Southmayd
- 22 Zachary Daly

- 22 Jennifer McGrath
- 24 Kathleen Daly
- 25 Valerie Dearth
- 25 Stephen Catalano
- 27 Cheryl Savage
- 30 Jon Machnik
- 31 Helen Collins

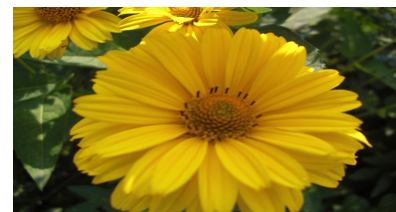
August

- 2 Andrew Clark
- 4 Richard Wallace
- 4 Susan Jepson
- 11 Ron Bergstrom
- 11 Nancy Muise
- 12 Chuck Severance

- 13 Ginny Cummings
- 14 Doris Green
- 14 Justine Sullivan
- 16 Michael Wall
- 20 Cynthia Wade
- 21 Mary Leach
- 21 Danny Lumb
- 21 Robert MacDonald
- 22 Linda Paolini
- 23 Bette Biggio
- 23 Kathleen Vacca
- 26 Gail Wright
- 28 Robert Biggio
- 28 Marion Nelson
- 28 Christopher Wall
- 30 Lynda Chapman
- 31 Zachary Jacques

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!

If you would like to be added to the birthday list, please email heatherwiw@rcn.com



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!

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



The schedule and channels are as follows:

- 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

Messenger Deadline

The deadline for the September Messenger is August 19th. Please leave all submissions in the Messenger box in the office or email to heatherwiw@rcn.com

Thanks!

Thank you all for keeping our sanctuary beautiful with fresh flowers this past year. The summer months are here and we hope that you will remember the 1st church in donations from your garden. Please call me at 781-438-5931, if you plan to bring flowers on a given Sunday. Thankfully yours, Betty Baumann and the Decorating Committee.

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!



Thank You

For 61 days I was away from home somewhere between the hospital for 2 major surgeries and many hours of physical therapy. But, praise God, I never once felt alone.

Your many, many cards and words of encouragement to Dick warmed our hearts. It may not have been well with my circumstances, but it was well with my soul. For in the midst of all my suffering, I knew God had big plans for me and that everything would soon be better.

Now that I have been repaired, rehabbed and restored, I am ready to go again! It was so wonderful going to church on July 3rd and being welcomed 'home' again! Thank you, all, for your cards, words and little gifts. I read and reread the words in your cards for many hours. I am so grateful for all you did to make me feel remembered and cared for. Thank you for being so good to both of us.

May God bless you in all you do.

With love,
Judi and Dick

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Here is our list of "Items of the Week" for the month of July/August. 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 26 – July 2	Coffee
July 3 – 9	Dish Detergent
July 10 – 16	Pasta Salad
July 17 – 23	Baked Beans
July 24 – 30	Cooking Oil
July 30 – Aug. 6	Toilet Paper

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"



Daily Lectionary Scripture References July 2011 (Year A)

Fri., July 1

Psalm 45:10-17
Genesis 27:1-17
Romans 7:7-20

Sat., July 2

Psalm 45:10-17
Genesis 27:18-29
Luke 10:21-24

Sun., July 3

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45:10-17
or Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Mon., July 4

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Genesis 27:30-46
Romans 1:18-25

Tues., July 5

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Genesis 29:1-14
Romans 3:1-8

Wed., July 6

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Genesis 29:31-35
John 13:1-17

Thurs., July 7

Psalm 119:105-112
Exodus 3:1-6
Romans 2:12-16

Fri., July 8

Psalm 119:105-112
Deuteronomy 32:1-10
Romans 15:14-21

Sat., July 9

Psalm 119:105-112
Isaiah 2:1-4
John 12:44-50

Sun., July 10

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Mon., July 11

Psalm 142
Micah 1:1-5
1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Tues., July 12

Psalm 142
Jeremiah 49:7-11
Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Wed., July 13

Psalm 142
Obadiah 15-21
Matthew 13:10-17

Thurs., July 14

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Isaiah 44:1-5
Hebrews 2:1-9

Fri., July 15

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Ezekiel 39:21-29
Hebrews 6:13-20

Sat., July 16

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Exodus 14:9-25
Matthew 7:15-20

Sun., July 17

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Mon., July 18

Psalm 139:13-18
Genesis 32:3-21
Revelation 14:12-20

Tues., July 19

Psalm 139:13-18
Genesis 33:1-17
Galatians 4:21-5:1

Wed., July 20

Psalm 139:13-18
Genesis 35:16-29
Matthew 12:15-21

Thurs., July 21

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Genesis 29:1-8
Corinthians 4:14-20

Fri., July 22

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Genesis 29:9-14
Acts 7:44-53

Sat., July 23

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Genesis 29:31-30:24
Matthew 12:38-42

Sun., July 24

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Mon., July 25

Psalm 65:8-13
Genesis 30:25-36
James 3:13-18

Tues., July 26

Psalm 65:8-13
Genesis 30:37-43
Ephesians 6:10-18

Wed., July 27

Psalm 65:8-13
Genesis 46:2-47:12
Mark 4:30-34

Thurs., July 28

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Isaiah 14:1-2
Philippians 4:10-15

Fri., July 29

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Isaiah 41:8-10
Romans 9:6-13

Sat., July 30

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Genesis 31:1-21
Matthew 7:7-11

Sun., July 31

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21



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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Daily Lectionary Scripture References August 2011 (Year A)

Mon., Aug. 1
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Genesis 31:22-42
Romans 1:8-15

Tues., Aug. 2
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Genesis 32:3-21
Acts 2:37-47

Wed., Aug. 3
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Isaiah 43:1-7
Matthew 15:32-39

Thurs., Aug. 4
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Genesis 35:22b-29
Acts 17:10-15

Fri., Aug. 5
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Genesis 36:1-8
Acts 18:24-28

Sat., Aug. 6
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Genesis 37:5-11
Matthew 16:1-4

Sun., Aug. 7
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Mon., Aug. 8
Psalm 28
Genesis 37:29-36
2 Peter 2:4-10

Tues., Aug. 9
Psalm 28
Genesis 39:1-23
Romans 9:14-29

Wed., Aug. 10
Psalm 28
Genesis 40:1-23
Matthew 8:23-27

Thurs., Aug. 11
Psalm 133
Genesis 41:14-36
Revelation 15:1-4

Fri., Aug. 12
Psalm 133
Genesis 41:37-57
Acts 14:19-28

Sat., Aug. 13
Psalm 133
Genesis 42:1-28
Matthew 14:34-36

Sun., Aug. 14
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Mon., Aug. 15
Psalm 130
Genesis 43:1-34
Acts 15:1-21

Tues., Aug. 16
Psalm 130
Genesis 44:1-34
Romans 11:13-29

Wed., Aug. 17
Psalm 130
Genesis 45:16-28
Matthew 8:1-13

Thurs., Aug. 18
Psalm 124
Genesis 49:1-33
1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Fri., Aug. 19
Psalm 124
Genesis 49:29-50:14
2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Sat., Aug. 20
Psalm 124
Genesis 50:15-26
Matthew 16:5-12

Sun., Aug. 21
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 1:8-2:10
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

Mon., Aug. 22
Psalm 8
Exodus 1:1-7
Romans 2:1-11

Tues., Aug. 23
Psalm 8
Exodus 2:11-15a
Romans 11:33-36

Wed., Aug. 24
Psalm 8
Exodus 2:15b-22
Matthew 26:6-13

Thurs., Aug. 25
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 2:23-24
Ephesians 5:1-6

Fri., Aug. 26
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 3:16-25
2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Sat., Aug. 27
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 4:1-9
Matthew 8:14-17

Sun., Aug. 28
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Mon., Aug. 29
Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 4:10-31
Revelation 3:1-6

Tues., Aug. 30
Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 5:1-6:13
Revelation 3:7-13

Wed., Aug. 31
Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 7:14-25
Matthew 12:22-32



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CONFERENCE

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The Meetinghouse Messenger — Summer 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

Kevin O'Neil, Youth Group Director