



The Messenger

Volume 58 No. 2

First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

March 2009

The First Congregational Church

34 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA
02719

Tel: (508) 993-3368

e-mail: fccof@juno.com
www.firstcongfairhaven.com



Pastor

Rev. Bette McClure
508-990-7513
bettemc2@juno.com

Administrator

Sharon M. Dorian

Music Director

Mr. David Touchette

Organist

Ms. Jackie Maillet

Office Hours

Mon thru Fri
8:30am - Noon



God is Still Speaking,

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Good Friday Program For Children

On Friday, April 10th from 9:30-Noon, we will host a special program for children from preschool through 5th grade (older children are welcome too!) Using a variety of activities including music, drama, crafts and stories we will remember Jesus' life and death and resurrection. The program is free of charge and open to all children in the community. Please pre-register by calling the church office (508-993-3368) by March 23rd.



IMMEDIATE Change in Shaw's Receipts Program

We received notification that Shaw's is changing the way their rewards program will work. Register receipts will no longer need to be collected. From this point on, donations will be automatically recorded when you use your Preferred Savings Card at the register. In order for this to happen you must register your card into the program. Go to <http://www.albertsons.com/cp/shaws/> and follow the instructions to register your card. The Church's ID number is 49001018256. If you need help, or don't have internet access, registration forms can be filled out and returned to the office. Once your card is registered the qualifying percentage of purchases made on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays** will be automatically credited to our account. This has been a good fundraiser for our church and with your help it can continue.

*Annual Reports from committees and organizations are due
March 31st!!*

Dear Friends,

It has been a long winter! There have been the frigid temperatures combined with howling wind that seem to pierce right through to our cores. While we have not had lots of snow, we've had enough, combined with the persistent ice, to make walking treacherous for one and all. Tales of orthopedic mishaps have abounded throughout our area - some of you bear the scars of icy falls. And then, of course, there is the economy. Our hearts sink as we hear the closing figures on Wall Street day after day. Coupled with news of increased foreclosures, layoffs and plummeting retirement accounts, we begin to despair of things ever getting better.

There is something in the human soul, however, something that I believe allows hope to remain alive within us. It is what keeps me glancing down as I come out my back door, looking for the first pinpoints of green peeking through the ground, so certain I am that crocuses will bloom once again this year. Hope is what keeps us looking forward toward better times rather than just becoming lost in the current morass of more bad news.

Throughout the centuries, hope has continued to survive, and, in fact, hope has always seemed to have the last word. Take heart in these assurances:

"Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: You don't give up." Annie Lamott

"We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without the words and never stops at all." Emily Dickenson

"All the great spiritual leaders in history were people of hope. Abraham, Moses, Ruth, Mary, Jesus, Rumi, Gandhi, and Dorothy Day all lived with a promise in their hearts that guided them toward the future without the need to know exactly what it would look like. Let's live with hope." Henri Nouwen

"Our mission is to provide opportunities to experience God's presence and in humble and caring ways to use all of our resources to welcome, love, challenge, and equip each other for Christ's ministry in our community and the world."

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, 'they are plans of good and not of disaster, to give you a future and hope.' "
Jeremiah 29 verse 11

"...and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us"
Romans 5:5

Yours in Hope, **Bette**



-Rev. Bette McClure-

Coming Soon....

Palm Sunday Brunch

Sunday, April 5th,
Immediately following
worship.

Sponsored by the
Confirmation Class

Proceeds to go to
Heifer International

\$6.00 Adults \$3.00 Children



Viewing Films Through A Lens Of Faith

There are many great films that come to theaters around us. It's great to be able to enjoy them merely as entertainment, without thinking too hard about the messages they might reveal to us! But...sometimes it is helpful to take a second look at a movie and see what we might learn from it as people of faith.

This Lent we are offering a 4 week film series on **Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m.** On March 5th we will watch *The Secret Life of Bees* and the following week (March 12th) we will discuss the movie. The group that gathers will also decide what other movie to watch and discuss at the two final sessions (March 19th and 26th).

Join us for one or all sessions and bring your friends. Oh yes – popcorn will be served!

An Invitation To Talk Faith

Would you like to talk with people in our congregation about more than the next committee meeting? Would you like to spend some time considering the big questions with great people in fun ways? Would you like to deepen your faith and grow in your ability to share it? Join us for *Talking Faith*, a four-week course that promises to energize us and get us talking with one another about things that really matter.



Each session will last 1 ½ hours and will include some fun activities, great conversation, and even a snack! Together, we will address such topics as “How Do We Know Anything about God?” “What Does God Do?” and “Who’s to Say What Is Right and Wrong?”

Here is what people who have participated in *Talking Faith* have said about the series:

- “I think my relationship with Jesus developed a lot as a result of the class.”
- “This class was God’s way of answering my prayer because I had been praying for something that would give me the opportunity to share my faith with others. I believe this class allowed me to do that.”
- “I thought this class was going to be a stuffy lecture type – I was pleasantly surprised.”

This program will be offered on **Thursday evenings April 2, 16, 23, 30 from 7-8:30 p.m.** We will also offer a daytime program on **Tuesdays April 7, 14, 21, 28 from 10:00- noon.**

Save these Dates!!

Sunday, April 26th for our **Annual Meeting**

Saturday, May 9th for a **Rummage Sale - Start putting together your treasures to bring in after May 1st.**

Friday, May 15th, 7:00 p.m. for a **fantastic, fundraiser. A great time for all!**

Easter Flowers

Sign up sheets will be available on March 15th for purchasing memorial/celebration Easter flowers. Sign up sheets will be in the William Street foyer or you can phone the church office. The prices are:



Lilies	\$8.50	4-5 bud
Hyacinths	\$6.75	6" pot
Tulips	\$6.75	6" pot
Daffodils	\$6.75	6" pot

You may pay for the flowers when you order or put your payment in the collection plate on any Sunday prior to Easter. Please be sure to pay for your flowers before Easter Sunday.

Pulpit Flowers

On February 15th -- In loving memory of Mary Evelyn Rogers on her birthday by her family.



Congratulations

To Molly Bobola & Sean Lainey on the February 11th birth of their daughter, Lucy. She weighed in at a healthy 7 lbs, 14 oz. and 21 3/4 inches long. Her Grandparents are Mike & Joanne Bobola.

Our Deepest Sympathies

To the family & friends of Florence Rocha - Florence, wife of the late Joseph Rocha, died unexpectedly on February 10th. Her funeral was held here on February 13th. She is survived by her 3 children, Rebecca, William and Robert, 7 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.

Our Prayers are with...

Jean Campbell, Matt Desimas, Karen Elliott, Bob Heskett, Ron Dawson, Karen Elliott, Suzanne Gonsalves, Jean Condon, Grace Battistelli, Lois Goulart, Alma Johnson, Elsie Jacobsen, Ruth Rebello, Dot Holmes, Pete Braley, Ron Simonsen.

The Women's Fellowship will attend the Fairhaven High School Drama Club production of "Annie" on **Friday, March 20th at 7:30 p.m.**



Women's Fellowship

Tickets for the production are \$10.00. A light supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. in Maddaford Vestry for anyone wishing to join us. The cost will be \$5.00. For ticket reservations and/or supper reservations please contact Mabel Filipek at 508-994-6665 or Betty Monk 508-992-2004 before March 16th. All are welcome to join us!



Fairhaven High School
Drama Club presents
"Annie"

March 19, 20, 21, 22, 2009
Thursday, Friday &
Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

**Tickets: \$15 Adults, \$12 Student/Seniors,
\$10 Children under 12**
Box Office Hours are
Monday-Thursdays 6:00-8:00 p.m.

WELCOME SPRING!

An Intergenerational Event

Sunday, March 29th, 2009
3:00 – 6:00 PM

Join us for an intergenerational welcome to long-awaited SPRING! Take part in a variety of activities – games, outreach projects, crafts – and a time for fellowship with church members young and old. Invite your friends and neighbors. Stay tuned for more details – but be sure to SAVE THE DATE!

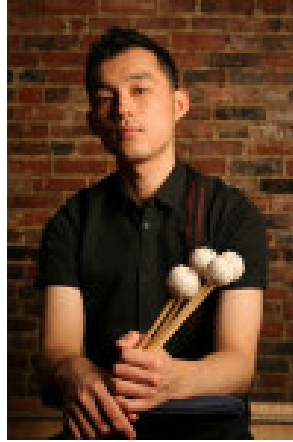
GoodSearch

Use www.goodsearch.com for all your web browsing and on-line shopping. (All your favorite on-line stores!) Indicate the First Congregational Church of Fairhaven as your charity of choice. We will receive at least \$.01 for every search made in our name.

**Fairhaven Community Concert Series
presents
Fumito Nunoya
Marimbist**

**Sunday, March 8, 2009
at 2:00 p.m.**

Fumito Nunoya, is an international award winning musician currently living and teaching in the Boston Area. He has performed concerts in Japan, United States and Europe. Born in Akita, Japan in 1979, Fumito Nunoya began playing the piano at age seven and the marimba and percussion at age seventeen. He graduated from Yamagata University with a music education degree in 2001 and received a masters degree in marimba performance at The Boston Conservatory (TBC) where he was the first marimba (or percussion) major in the school's history to receive an award from the president of TBC and continue his studies in its distinguished Artist Diploma program.



Acclaimed by the Boston Herald as "agile and terrifically talented," and by the Houston Chronicle as "magnetic... impressive," Fumito Nunoya won First Prize at the 2005 Ima Hogg Young Artists Competition in Houston, Texas. As a result, he made his U.S. concerto debut with the Houston Symphony that year. Mr. Nunoya has presented solo recitals worldwide and since 2002, has performed five showcase recitals with various musicians in his home town of Odate, Akita, and recently released his first CD, "Red Dragonfly." The CD includes major marimba repertoire as well as Asian folk tunes.

An active chamber musician, Mr. Nunoya has collaborated with woodwinds, strings, singers and percussionists. He has performed marimba chamber music at The Boston Conservatory and Goethe Institute in Boston, and in Japan at Okayama Symphony Hall, Izumity Hall in Miyagi, Bunsho-kan in Yamagata, and Harmony Hall in Fukui. He has appeared as soloist with the Houston Symphony, Eastern Connecticut Symphony (USA), Odate Wind Ensemble, the Sendai Philharmonic Orchestra, Odate Magewappa Japanese Drumming Group (Japan), and Di Repercussio Ensemble percussioni dell'Istituto Peri (Italy).

The stage curtain is in need of some mending. Anyone who is interested in sewing rips in the hem and lining should speak with John Rogers (508-994-3607).

**Fairhaven
Community
Concert
Series**



<http://fhvncs.googlepages.com/>

2008-2009 Season

**March 8, 2009 2:00
Fumito Nunoya - Marimbas**

**April 26, 2009 7:00
David Langevin, Organ Recital
Spring Dinner 5:30**

**Concert tickets are \$10.
Children are FREE with an
adult.
Dinner tickets are \$10 for adults
and \$5 for children.**

**Help us make
communications
faster/easier.
Receive
announcements,
reminders and the
Messenger
via e-
mail by
sending
your
e-mail address to
fccof@juno.com.**





This year Vacation Bible Camp will be held from **June 22nd - June 26th**. More information about the program will be coming in the next several months. However, it is not too early to volunteer to help out. If you are willing to share your time with our children during that week, please speak with Rev.

Bette or leave your name with the church office.

Financial Position as of Jan 31, 2009

- Al Jones

Total Income: \$95,915
Total Expenses: \$111,887
Net Income: (\$15,972)

Nothing much has changed. The forecast for year end of March 31st will likely show a \$26,000 net loss. However, our current bills are being paid by virtue of good expense control, continuing receipts of Capital Campaign cash pledges, and contributions of Concert Series proceeds, neither of which are reflected in operating income figures. We have borrowed funds meant to repay the loan to ourselves for capital expenditures. In all likelihood we will have to use more. How the year ends depends on more of the above as there is no other source of income at this time.

This will have to change next fiscal year. I still believe it will. We will be okay this year and we are not without resources to find a way next year. You, your faith, your dedication, your ingenuity are the biggest resource. There are already signs of a change and we will focus on how to grow this next year. More to come.

The Women's Fellowship John & May Dampman Scholarship

is available to any High School Senior with ties to our church.

It is given at the beginning of the 2nd semester in college. Applications can be obtained from Ms. Millicent Allen, Mrs. Mabel Filipek, Mrs. Betty Monk or Sharon at the Church Office. Deadline is May 1st.

Scholarships

FCCS Arts Scholarship

A \$600 scholarship will be presented to one graduating member of the Fairhaven High School class of 2009 who will be entering a college program to major or concentrate in music, dance, art, drama or education directly related to one of these areas.

Interested applicants should send a letter explaining their interest and need to The Fairhaven Community Concert Series Scholarship, 34 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719. Complete information is available from the church office or FHS.

