



The Messenger

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First Congregational Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

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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

Office Hours

Tues thru Fri
8:30am - Noon



**God is Still
Speaking,**

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Choral Workshop Featuring Composer / Arranger Lloyd Larson

Saturday, October 24th

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Workshop: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30 (includes music & lunch)



Registration Forms available from the church office.

Since 1982, Larson has been an active composer and arranger for several major publishing companies. His publications include nearly 300 choral octavos, Christmas and Easter cantatas, several keyboard collections, numerous vocal solo and duet collections, instrumental solo and ensemble publications, orchestrations, and handbell settings. His past includes extensive recording experience as a singer, keyboard player and arranger. He has done arranging for an internationally-broadcast radio program, and frequently is called upon as a guest conductor, composer and clinician.

For Everything there is a Season...A Time to Be Born, and a Time to Die"

Planning for the Time of Death

It's Benjamin Franklin who is credited with saying something to the effect of "there is nothing certain in this world other than death and taxes." Given the inevitability of our own death and that of our loved ones it makes sense for all of us to do some planning for that day. To help with that task we will be offering a series of workshops that will cover various topics including advanced directives/living wills, funeral planning, burial and related issues.

Thursday Evenings, October 15th, 22nd and 29th

7:00 -8:30 p.m.

If there are specific topics you would like included, please let Rev. Bette know.

The Lord's Prayer (in Action)

Our Father who art in Heaven (*put hands together in the prayer position, then stretch up as you open your hands to heaven.*)

Hallowed be thy name (*bring arms from the "heaven" position around in a circle and then touch your lips lightly with fingertips as you hear the word "name."*)

Thy kingdom come (*fingertips touching at waist level, bow head and sweep arms out to the side - a big "kingdom" movement.*)

Thy will be done (*keep hands out to the side, step back on one foot so you can bow your head and body.*)

On earth (*at the end of the bow, reach down and gently touch the floor.*)

as it is in heaven (*bring feet back together, hands together, bringing hands all the way up above head and open when arms are stretched high.*)

Give us this day our daily bread (*put one hand out as a plate, use the other hand to pick up an imaginary piece of bread and pretend to eat.*)

And forgive us our trespasses (*make fists and hold together as if you are handcuffed, headed bowed.*)

As we forgive those who trespass against us (*bring fists toward heart, opening as your lay one hand over another on heart, then extend opened fists outward away from heart in a sweeping motion as if the forgiving of others is a freeing motion.*)

And lead us not into temptation (*"wrap" arms over one another and drape over head as if you're hiding from the time of trial or temptation.*)

But deliver us from evil (*throw arms up and twirl around in a freeing way.*)

For thine is the kingdom (*look to heaven, then bring one arm up and begin twirling.*)

And the power (*lift the other arm to God; continue twirling.*)

And the glory forever. Amen. (*stop twirling with both arms lifted in praise to God; on "Amen", kneel in prayer, stretch head towards the floor and bring arms back behind you.*)



-Rev. Bette McClure-

Dear Friends,

There are many ways to pray and worship God. On Sunday mornings we primarily use words and music and certain rituals like Holy Communion. Some of you praise God through nature, the arts, meditation, jogging, etc. No one way fits all people or even all times in one person's life. Variety, after all, is the spice of life, even faith life.

For more than a year now, a group of us have gathered at Fort Phoenix beach one morning a week to join in a prayer walk. We use prayers from different traditions, spend some time in silence gazing at the beauty of God's creation and listening to the many sounds around us, and share the concerns of our hearts. More recently we have taught ourselves to pray the Lord's Prayer not using just words but also movement. It has become our own little ritual and we almost (almost!) have it memorized (the motions that is). It's a dance of sorts, though we are certainly not dancers, nor are we ready to take it on the road! We are hoping to teach the prayer to the children and then join with them to teach it to all of you some Sunday. To give you a heads-up, I am including it here. Try it out in the privacy of your own home - I guarantee you will not ever pray the Lord's Prayer the same way again! Oh, but be careful, sometimes we twirl too much and we fall down!

Blessings,

Bette

"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."



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Here's What Happened at the Church Discussion

On September 19th, a group of church folks met to talk about where our church should go in the areas of worship, hospitality, outreach and youth programs. After sharing a meal together, we joined together in smaller groups to brainstorm and come up with some concrete ideas of how to proceed. It was a lively discussion with many thoughtful ideas and suggestions. Some of those suggestions have already been implemented. Here's what we came up with – we'd love to add your proposals to the list. Many ideas came up in more than one of the categories, so we are simply listing them together.

- NAME TAGS – wear name tags to help everyone, especially guests, get to know each other and have name tags for guests, too
- MUSIC – continue to explore blending more contemporary music along with our well-loved, traditional hymns; play CD's with different types of music prior to the service as people are gathering
- INVITE A FRIEND SUNDAY – research shows that the vast majority of people attend a church for the first time when they are personally invited by someone they know
- HOSTS – rather than simply have greeters on Sunday morning, have hosts who greet folks, introduce them to others, show them around the building, invite them to coffee hour, etc.
- FUND RAISING DINNERS/EVENTS – for causes such as Habitat for Humanity
- FLYERS – include flyers about the church and events in bags when items are purchased at the Heavenly Treasures Thrift Shop
- JUNIOR HANDYMEN – include youth in some handyman projects, perhaps teaching them new skills and allowing youth to keep some of the income
- WEDDING EXPO – have a booth at local wedding expos to advertise our church facility and services (originally an idea from Joe Dawicki!)
- AFTER CHURCH LUNCHEON – for newcomers to help them to get to know each other – for longer-time members to re-welcome them to the church
- HALLOWEEN ON THE CORNER – have a presence on Halloween, offering treats to trick-or-treaters on our church lawn
- SUGGESTION BOX – put up a suggestion box to solicit even more ideas for ways to grow our church in spirit as well as numbers
- YOUR IDEAS GO RIGHT HERE! – add them to this list

World Communion Sunday

October 4, 2009

World Communion Sunday is a day when various Protestant denominations around the world join in unity around Communion Tables. We will be using bread from other countries in our communion service as a way of celebrating our connection with the entire world.

Blessing of the Animals



A special Blessing of the Animals on our lawn on **Sunday, October 4th at 2:00 p.m.** You are invited to bring your pet on a leash or in a cage/carrier. There will be a brief time of general prayer honoring God's creation and then each animal will be given a special individual blessing. Pets of all kinds – dogs, cats, birds, lizards, guinea pigs, rabbits, snakes – all are welcome. All pet owners are welcome also – children, youth, adults, seniors – whether from our church or not. Spread the word!

Wish List

Electric Weed Trimmer
Electric Edger
Leaf Blower
Rakes, Shovels
Hand Gardening Tools

Pulpit Flowers

On September 6th -- In celebration of **Jackie Maillet** as she begins her new position at Friends Academy.

On September 20th -- In loving memory of Bette's mother, **Lucille McClure**, on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

On September 27th -- In loving memory of **Harry & Janet Whiting** by their family. Flowers were also given in loving memory of **Juliet Tripp** by her family.

Congratulations

To **Sean Lainey & Molly Bobola** on the September 27th baptism of **Lucy Louise Lainey**.

Our Deepest Sympathies

To the family & friends of **Violet Braley** -- Vi, Pete Braley's mother, died on August 29th following a long illness.

To the family & friends of **Barry St. Germain** -- Barry, husband of Susan (Whitney) St. Germain, died suddenly on September 10th due to complications from diabetes.

To the family & friends of **Lois Goulart** -- Long-time member Lois died at Sacred Heart Nursing Home on September 18th. She was 95. A memorial service will be held at the church at a time still to be determined.

Our Prayers are with...

Jean Campbell, Matt Desimas, Bob Heskett, Ron Dawson, Priscilla Faber, Suzanne Gonsalves, Jean Condon, Grace Battistelli, Alma Johnson, Elsie Jacobsen, Ruth Rebello, Dot Holmes, Ron Simonsen, Katie Gilmore



On October 27th there will be a meeting of **Old Colony Women's Fellowship** at Mattapoisett Congregational Church. This is a great opportunity to meet

with other women in our area. Please call Betty Monk 508-992-2004 or Carol Gage 508-994-7901 by October 17th if you can attend.

Hold the date of December 3rd for meeting to wrap Christmas gifts for a family. We will be looking for Christmas cookie bakers for fellowship while we wrap.

Also hold a couple of Thursday nights in early November for our cake decorating offered by Jean Arbec. This will be just in time for the holidays. Jean talked about cupcakes.....they are the big thing now and maybe we can decorate and eat our cupcakes!

See you there!

I'd like to thank all of my wonderful church friends for your thoughts, visits, cards and prayers following the death of my mother Vi. She was a special lady who put a tie on me as a little boy and brought me to church when I didn't want to go. She made me sit up straight, introduced me to the Lord and taught me to sing his praises in choirs and pageants. Church fellowship was always a big part of my mom's life and your kind words reminded me of what a great family we have here at the ole brick church.

Pete, Priscilla, Sarah, Doug, Kat and Matt

New Organist

The position of organist/accompanist has been filled by Bruce Gardzina. Bruce was our music director in the late 1980's. He will officially begin some time in October.