



First Congregational Church

Parish Guide

IT'S
Summer Time

EDITION



First Congregational Church Parish Guide

Volume 92

No. 7

Summer 2018



Literature that will feed your SOUL™

Attitude

John is the kind of guy you love to hate. He is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, 'If I were any better, I would be twins!' He was a natural motivator.

If an employee was having a bad day, John was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation. Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up and asked him, 'I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?'

He replied, 'Each morning I wake up and say to myself, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or... you can choose to be in a bad mood I choose to be in a good mood.' Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or... I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or...I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life.

Yeah, right, it's not that easy,' I protested.

'Yes, it is,' he said. 'Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live your life.'

I reflected on what he said. Soon hereafter, I left the Tower Industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it. Several years later, I heard that he was involved in a serious accident, falling some 60 feet from a communications tower. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, he was released from the hospital with rods placed in his back. I saw him about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, 'If I were any better, I'd be twins...Wanna see my scars?' I declined to see his wounds, but I did ask him what had gone through his mind as the accident took place.

'The first thing that went through my mind was the well-being of my soon-to-be born daughter,' he replied. 'Then, as I lay on the ground, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or...I could choose to die. I chose to live.'

'Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?' I asked He continued, 'the paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and

nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read 'he's a dead man' I knew I needed to take action.'
'What did you do?' I asked.

'Well, there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me,' said John. 'She asked if I was allergic to anything 'Yes, I replied!' The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Gravity.' Over their laughter, I told them, 'I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead.'

He lived, thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude... I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude, after all, is everything. 'Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.' Matthew 6:34.

Author unknown



TREASURER OFFICE

Notes from Treasurer

Mailings with information of contributions/pledges will happen in the beginning of September for this calendar year. Hopefully, I have entered everything correctly into our church program "Servant Keeper". You will receive a detailed report of your contributions through August 31, 2018. If any corrections are required, I will take care of it. Thanks to all that have contributed!

*Ken Ward
Church Treasurer*



PROPERTY OFFICE

Property Committee Happenings:

We have upgraded our phone/internet service. Our new provider is Comcast.

Henry has completely repaired/ painted the hallway and bathroom at the far end of Fellowship Hall. (The one that is in the southwest corner.)

The inspection report concerning the water damage on the north wall of the sanctuary came in. The report states that the water damage was due to ice dams that happened this past winter. We have contacted Flagship about pricing to have heat trace lines installed in the 4 down spouts to alleviate this concern. The installation will happen prior to this coming winter months.

*Ken Ward,
Property Chair*



Here's a picture of the choir having dinner at Simone's in Warren for our choir appreciation dinner June 28th. We discovered this restaurant because we have a vegetarian among us and wanted her to enjoy herself as much as we did -- and it has fabulous seafood, and meat, in addition to vegetables!

Submitted by Judy Conrad



In other musical matters

In July I spent a week at the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada's annual conclave, which was in St. Louis this year. Very interesting. Except that the greatest joy I get out of Hymn Society gatherings is singing hymns with the society, raising the roof in 4-part harmony, accompanied (or perhaps led, but the Hymn Society is hard to lead) by a good organ, also raising the roof. And we didn't get to do much of that this time. St. Louis is just miles from Ferguson, MO, where Michael Brown was shot 5 years ago, and the program coordinator had worked at the Lutheran Church there; he wanted to focus on race relations. We spent a lot of time exploring the music of historically black churches and less on our traditional hymnody. One rather inspirational hymn sing was led by Dr. Ysaye Barnwell, who used to be lead singer in Sweet Honey in the Rock, a female African-American a capella group. We sang by ear, without help of printed notes, with the altos taking the lead, at the bottom of our ranges, and the other parts doing more-or-less improvised rhythmic and harmonic things around us; which I will say we did quite well. There was a frieze over the altar in the Methodist church where that one was held, which was all angels; there was even an angel playing a ukulele (so it appeared to me) sitting at the feet of baby Jesus. When we sang '*All Night, All Day, Angels watching over me, my Lord*', it gave me goosebumps.

Another hymn sing was led by a black Christian Rock group called Urban Doxology, which had four female singers so amplified they drowned out the whole Hymn Society (I think there were about 300 of us, practically all music directors or pastors, and we can sing!), which felt quite wrong to me, both musically and worship-wise. It made us feel like spectators; although I suppose we should have been dancing....

A third hymn sing was at the Catholic Basilica in St. Louis, a giant opulent building that reminded me of the Cathedral in Florence, Italy, there in the middle of the central United States. Holy God, we Praise thy Name, Hail Holy Queen, Jesus My Lord My God My All, To Jesus Christ our Sovereign King. Hymns I remembered from my Catholic childhood. The organ was huge, four manuals with several consoles, 70 ranks or so, umpteen million individual pipes. Probably 4 times the size of the First Congregational organ. It should have been glorious to sing to. But the space was so echoey, the Hymn society was unable to keep together. Parts of the group were often nearly a measure behind other parts, with the organ possibly somewhere else entirely. If you attended church there regularly you would adjust, I imagine. But for us it was a very strange experience.

In addition to the big hymn sings there were smaller sessions all day. Three of them introduced new hymnals from various denominations, one of which was the Christian Science Church, which our own Abby

McWain was brought up in; I got us copies of their new hymnal, their first since 1932, and we should be introducing some new solos from it this fall! I also went to sectionals on 'the hymns of World War 1' which ended 100 years ago this November; an overview of new hymns written in Cuba; and one called 'Singing angry', a selection of hymns meant to protest attitudes and beliefs of the church itself. It started with medieval church leaders who were declared heretics by the popes of the times, went through Martin Luther and John Calvin, and on to the present day efforts to **make churches more inclusive.** We sang one called 'Child of God', based on Romans 8: "You are a child of God; neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers nor things present, nor things to come can separate you from the love of God." There was an androgynous looking seminarian named Sylvia, with short hair that was green on top, who started weeping at the feeling of radical acceptance. She later described herself as 'non-binary'. Practically everybody in the room moved close and put a hand on her. We were all weeping by the end. Our choir will be singing that one, this fall.

An odd thing happened at the Basilica hymn sing: A homeless man came in to listen, and after a while he lay down on the floor. At which point someone told him he had to leave, he started yelling, and we got to watch 3 burly security guards march him out. This after having spent the previous 3 days singing hymns about how 'All are Welcome in the place' and 'You Are a Child of God'. I thought it could have been handled differently. I talked to the incoming president of the hymn society about it, she seemed to think the security guards did what they had to. "People behind me were thinking maybe he had a gun, they were really frightened" she said. Very few homeless people have guns. And imagine how frightened they are, every day. One member of the hymn society had followed and talked to him outside, he said his name was Mike, he had water, he said he was OK. That made me feel better.

We were visited by four ghosts (well, hymn society members with sheets draped over them) during announcement time at the Hymn Society, those of Martin Luther, who wrote *A Mighty Fortress is our God* in addition to founding Protestantism 500 years ago; Fanny Crosby, who wrote *Blessed Assurance* and *To God be the Glory* in the 19th century; hymn-writing medieval nun Hildegard von Bingen; and finally the ghost of Carl Daw, a former hymn society director who wrote three hymns that are in our current hymnal. 'But Carl, you're alive', said the current head of the hymn society. 'But everybody keeps telling me all the hymn writers are dead!' responded Carl. No, they're not. There are lots of new hymns being written, and it was a privilege to experience them.

Submitted by Judy Conrad

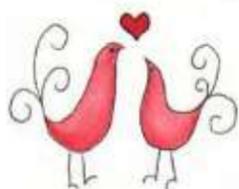


Congratulations and Best Wishes

We know these lists may be incomplete, so we ask that anyone whose name is not included be sure to call the Church Office with the necessary information.

July

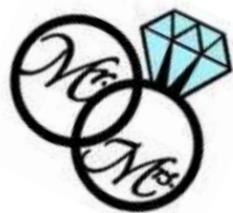
HAPPY
Anniversary!



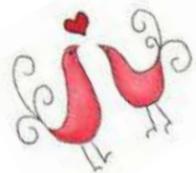
- July-03** **Melissa & Colin Kearney**
- July-06** **Jared & Amy Lanyon**
- July-07** **Kendall & Susan Lanyon**
- July-07** **Rebecca & Darren Soens**
- July-21** **Kathy & Jeff Sanson**
- July-22** **Donald & Sandra Wood**
- July-23** **Robert & Nancy Costa**
- July-23** **Irene & Bob Lavoie**



August



- August-01** **James & Judith Mulrooney**
- August-02** **Kenneth & Denise Ward**
- August-10** **Jennifer & Manny Rezendes**
- August-18** **Seth & Jodi Hockert-Lotz**
- August-26** **Cliff & Cindy Moniz**



Congratulations and Best Wishes

We know these lists may be incomplete, so we ask that anyone whose name is not included be sure to call the Church Office with the necessary information.

- July-02 Christine Mulrooney
- July-02 Virginia Sallum
- July-04 Deborah Nickerson
- July-04 Sydney Rezendes
- July-05 Ricky Tavares
- July-07 Ava LoVerde
- July-09 Melania Moniz
- July-14 Seth Elie
- July-15 Victoria Blanchette
- July-16 Jessica Couture
- July-17 Talbot Lown
- July-18 Frank Hadley
- July-21 Mark Harrison
- July-26 Doris Thornton
- July-29 Dylan Kubic
- July-29 Rachel Westgate

Happy Summer Birthday



- August-01 Ethen Correira
- August-01 Nancy Costa
- August-03 Kenneth Ward
- August-05 Lisa Blanchette
- August-06 Ruth Johnson
- August-07 Samuel Blanchette
- August-08 Sarah Farinha
- August-08 Robert Lawrence
- August-09 Joan Twaddle
- August-10 Kayla Pacheco
- August-11 Luke Donovan
- August-13 Sumner Waring
- August-14 Christine Waring
- August-15 Allison Smith
- August-16 Craig Palmer
- August-17 Richard Cookson
- August-17 Kaylee Moniz
- August-19 Henry Bettencourt
- August-19 Alexander Bishop
- August-22 Sharon Palmer
- August-27 Stephen Nicolan
- August-28 Colin Donovan
- August-30 Nathan Bettencourt

June 2018 Baptisms

June 3 2018

Amiyah' Desantos Violet Duran

JUNE 10 2018

Lucas Brady Wilbur Natijah
Elijah Cherene

June 17 2018

Melanie N. Daigle

June 24 2018

Zayne Bouchard

Grow
in Christ



Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Genesis 5:27) 09-25-2009
IT WAS JUST METHUSELAH'S BIRTHDAY CANDLES AGAIN!



"There's something very positive about this church".





Yoga Classes

There will be
NO classes
in July & August.
Classes will resume
in September.

If you have questions please call
the church office
@ 508-672-5862.



Please remember that

Sunday Worship Service

Has been moved to our Church
Fellowship Hall as of:

Sunday, July 1, 2018
@ 10:00 AM

Until September 2018

Please spread the word!!!!



**Save Paper.
Save Trees.
Save the World.**

Request email delivery
for your Parish Guide!!!!
You can either call the
Church Office
(508) 672-5862 or
email:
fccfallriver@gmail.com
to register.

All Parish Guides are also available at our Web Page,
fccfallriver.com \ **What's Happening**



This has been a
very worthwhile
endeavor that
our church has
embraced

HOWEVER

We need volunteers to help with
the preparation as well as
serving.

SOUP KITCHEN

The meals are planned by Larry
LoVerde and Denise Ward. They do all
the shopping and guide us in the
preparation.

Committed dates:

July 3rd, 2018 August 7th, 2018
September 4th, 2018

Mark your calendars to be at our
church by 2:30 PM



Have you ordered your brick
to help complete our
Memorial Walkway in the
James Ward Memorial
Garden?

Order forms are available in
the Narthex or by calling/
emailing Ivette in the church
office at (508) 672-5862 or
fccfallriver@gmail.com

First Congregational Church

Sunday Worship
and
Church School
10:00 a.m.

Telephone: (508) 672 5862
Fax: (508) 672 2341
Email Address: fccfallriver@gmail.com
Website Address: <http://fccfallriver.com/>
Facebook: www.fccfallriver.com/fccfallriver
Twitter, Instagram, fccfallriver
and YouTube
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
9:00AM - 2:30 PM

The Staff

Interim Minister- *Rev. Bill Harding*

Denise Ward-*Moderator*
Bonnie Braga-*Church School
Superintendent*
Judith Conrad-*Music Minister*
Cheryl Foley-*Bookkeeper*
Ivette Alarcon-*Church Secretary*
Henry Parker-*Sexton*
Doris Thornton-*Health Minister*



FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

July 2018

August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 Felloship Hall Move Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM	02	03 Soup Kitchen @ 2:30PM	04 Independence Day Office Closed	05	06	07
08 Pulpit Supply Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM	09	10	11	12 Wedding Rehearsal @ 5:30 PM	13	14 Wedding @ 4:30 PM
15 Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM	16	17	18 Ken & Denise OOTO Judy OOTO	19 Ken & Denise OOTO Judy OOTO	20 Ken & Denise OOTO Ivette's Vacation	21 Ken & Denise OOTO Ivette's Vacation
22 Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM	23	24	25 Ken & Denise OOTO Ivette's Vacation	26 Ken & Denise OOTO Ivette's Vacation	27 Ken & Denise OOTO Ivette's Vacation	28 Ken & Denise OOTO
29 Pulpit Supply Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM	30	31	01	02	03	04
Ken & Denise OOTO	Ken & Denise OOTO					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM	30	31	01	02	03	04
05 Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM	06	07 Soup Kitchen @ 2:30PM	08	09	10	11
12 Scholarship Sunday Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM Music Committee Meeting @ 11:15 AM	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM	20	21 Staff Meeting @ 10:30 AM	22 Church Council @ 7:00 PM	23	24	25
26 Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM	27	28	29	30	31	01