

United Congregational Church, UCC  
6 Institute Road  
Worcester, MA 01609



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# UNITED VOICES

A Newsletter of the United Congregational Church, UCC  
6 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609

508-752-3785 [staff@ucc-worcester.org](mailto:staff@ucc-worcester.org) Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

VOLUME XXIX

JANUARY 21, 2009

NUMBER 1

## PRAYERS

### *Family:*

O Christ of tender care, I give you thanks for the prayers and concern of this community of faith for Lauren – and that she is doing well, looking forward to the birth of their second child. I am grateful, Holy One, that, with the support of this body and its people, I was able to be of help in VA when she wasn't feeling well. And I rejoice for those precious moments with Luke! Praise be for your love shown in care so generously given! Amen!

### *Church:*

O Christ who calls us to be community, your Spirit was born again in the participation of so many in our wonderful Christmas services. Folks braved snow and wind and storm to be here! All who had a special part in the Shepherd Knapp/Children's Pageant arrived, prepared to bring the Christmas story to life. Loving God, you were truly present in the creative energy of a beautifully written and lively pageant! God of surprise, you smiled as our morning also included firefighters roaming the building and a fire truck at our door! And, on Christmas Eve, in the lovely music, many participants, and candlelight, you helped remind us of the quiet and enduring sacredness of your holy Incarnation in a beautiful baby boy – and in us! Alleluia!

O Spirit of discernment and hope, you truly abide in our Merger Exploration Task Team, as they have met and are working on the next steps in our process of discernment. What are you, O God calling us to do? You are in our midst in the lively discussion, impassioned exchanges, and information gathering - moving this group toward greater clarity and new possibilities. Open us all to your wisdom as we hear, at the Financial Congregational Meeting in February, the report of work done to date. We give thanks, gracious Spirit, for other voices (two clergy colleagues), affirming how notable it is that we, your Body, are attempting to consider serious matters regarding our future, not in fearful and desperate ways, but in theological, trusting (if understandably anxious), and faithful ways! Amen!

### *National:*

Christ of wisdom and compassion, enter into the mind and heart and soul of our new President, that he and all who serve with him will truly live out the role of public servant, dedicated to justice-making, peace-seeking, oppression-ceasing, and poverty-ending actions and goals. Help us to support all efforts to achieve those ends. May we seek together to build community, and to include and love all those with whom we are in communion. Amen!

*An Open and Affirming and  
Just Peace Congregation  
of the United Church of Christ*

### **Please be considerate...**

Many of us are involved with projects, ministries and events sponsored by United, and it is tempting to just "ask a simple question" or "say a few words" pertaining to church business to others on Sunday mornings. It has been brought to our attention, however, that some feel interruptions of this nature before and/or during the worship service disrupt the flow of the service and their personal thoughts and prayers. Please be considerate of your fellow worshippers and speak to them at another time.

Please feel free to contact the Pastoral Relations Committee if you have any concerns, suggestions, or affirmations.

Members of the Pastoral Relations Committee for the Rev. Dr. Terry Fitzgerald are:  
Ray Gaspari      Marcus McCorison  
Peg Manoogian      Stacey Mott

### **PASTOR'S SCHEDULE**

**Terry Fitzgerald** is usually at the church Tuesday through Friday. (508-752-3785 ext. 106) She is also available evenings and Saturdays for appointments as needed. Monday is her day off. Her home phone number is 508-753-5867, e-mail: [tfitz47@charter.net](mailto:tfitz47@charter.net).

**If you need to contact the church on Sunday morning**, you may now leave a message on the church answering machine. Follow the instructions contained in the greeting to leave a message. The Sunday Host, Ed Bourgault, will be checking for messages frequently on Sunday mornings.

**Please call the church office directly if you or a loved one is in the hospital.** We recently learned that we are not always informed when a church member is hospitalized. We need you to help us as we try to respond to the needs of our members and friends.

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*Global:*

Prince of Peace, we pray for all violence to cease and for the opportunity for all to live life in safety, good health, and abundance.

*I offer this excerpt from a prayer by the Rev. Michael Kinnamon, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches (USA):*

*God of peace and justice, we come to you in pain and contrition. Forgive us for how we turn away from the suffering of others. Help us to face their agony so that you might use us as instruments of your peace. We know, in the words of the psalmist, that you are the one who can make war cease to the ends of the earth, breaking the bow and shattering the spear; but we also know that you have called us to participate in this holy mission. May this new year be the time... when we will come to love others as we have been loved by you. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen!*

May you all be filled with the tender mercy of Christ: offering peace, reconciliation, hope, and love in the midst of your families, church community, nation, and world!  
Amen!

*Terry*



*FEBRUARY 25*

*Noon and 6:30 p.m.  
Large Parlor*



•Prayers of healing for Jane Martin, recovering from a broken ankle.

•Prayers of healing for Carol Olsen, who is

undergoing rehabilitation.

•Prayers of healing for Joy Hennig's father, Robert Liljegren, continuing to recover at home.

•Prayers of comfort for Marion and Scott Orczyk.

•Prayers of hope and healing for those living with HIV/AIDS.

•Prayers of courage and strength for all men and women who are serving in our Armed Forces, especially in areas of conflict.

•Prayers of courage and peace for the families of soldiers who have died and have been injured.

•Peace and hope for the Iraqi people who are still held captive by unremitting and devastating violence.

•Prayers of hope for the people of Afghanistan.

•Prayers for the people of Zimbabwe, the Congo, the Sudan, Kenya, and Tibet.

•Prayers of hope for all people in this country affected by violence.

•Prayers of hope for all people and countries in the grip of war, conflict, and disease.

•Prayers of strength and comfort for all who have suffered from the winter storms.

•Prayers for peace in the Middle East.

•Prayers of comfort for those who lost loved ones in the Indonesian ferry tragedy.

•Prayers of strength and wisdom and safety for our President, Barack Obama, and the new administration.