

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

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## A JOURNEY OF FAITH, TEARS, AND AMAZING GRACE

3 years of congregational meetings, small group discussions, task teams, panel discussion and response, newsletter articles, and conversations in every setting of the congregation!

*Throughout this entire process, we have explored the following theological questions:*

*What is God calling United Congregational Church UCC to be and do, in light of our vision and mission statements, especially in regard to the building?*

*What ways of doing things will have to die and/or change before we can experience resurrection and new life? For we are a Resurrection people, trusting that Jesus the Christ continually calls us to new life – and to share new life with others!*

3 options for exploration were presented for a vote last year: renovation, selling, merger.

The vote authorized exploration of merger, and the Merger Task Team did the hard work of establishing criteria for merger, visiting other congregations, and engaging in significant dialogue and discussion with 2 other congregations.

Those congregations determined that the time was not right in the life of their churches for merger discussions. Seeing no other viable options at present, the Merger Task Team disbanded.

The Board of Ministries began meeting every two weeks to consider new options – with prayer, listening, sharing (laughter and tears in the mix).

A proposal was presented at the Service of Worship on Nov. 1. A mailing with the proposal and an all-church email followed the next day.

**The letter that was sent is included as an insert in this issue of the VOICES**

3 congregational meetings for input, questions, and discussion – to which all were invited – have taken place. There will be 2 more meetings as a formal proposal for a vote is mailed out. We ceaselessly pray that God will continue to fill us with wisdom and courage, and show us the way.

*In the midst of uncertainty and feelings of sadness, there is still much for which we, as United Congregational Church, can be thankful as we approach Thanksgiving Day –*

*the incredible faithfulness of you who have a vision that United is more than the building, and has a treasure that, well used, can continue United's faithful work of mission and outreach that began with our forebears and will live beyond us;*

*cont. p. 3*

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.



### **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.

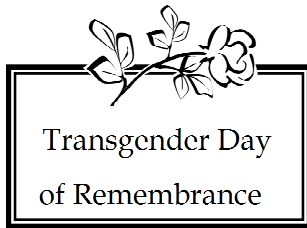
**Please call the church office directly if you or a loved one is in the hospital.** We recently learned that we are not always informed when a church member is hospitalized. We need you to help us as we try to respond to the needs of our members and friends.

*the compassion and communal support that come in realizing that things will change, along with the hope that the people can continue to be the welcoming, safe, worshipping, and proclaiming body of Christ - United Congregational Church UCC, an inclusive and loving embodiment of the gospel of Jesus Christ;*

*the amazing grace that has filled us in our honesty, our grief, our respect for one another, our abiding concern and love for one another, our questions, our fears, and our hope!*

*We give thanks, even on this difficult journey, in the name of the One who gathers us together, fills us with the Holy Spirit, and sends us forth, Jesus the Christ!*

*Terry*



Non-denominational Memorial Service

Friday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m.  
All Saints Church 10 Irving St.  
Worcester

Reception and Open Mic  
Friday Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> 8p.m. - 11p.m.  
Hilton Garden Inn  
35 Major Taylor Blvd.



•Prayers of healing and strength for the Kimballs' grandson, Ken, still struggling with health issues.

- Prayers of healing for Norma Quinzani who is in rehabilitation.
- Prayers of healing and strength for Warren Page's brother-in-law, Gerald, dealing with a diagnosis of cancer.
- 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 comfort for all affected by the shooting at Fort Hood, TX.
- Prayers of courage and peace for the families of soldiers who have died and have been injured.
- Prayers of peace and hope for the people of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, especially in the wake of increased violence.
- Prayers of wisdom and peace for the people and leaders of Iran.
- Prayers for the people of North and South Korea, the Congo, the Sudan, Kenya, Tibet, and for the people of the Middle East.
- Prayers of hope for all whose lives have been devastated in our struggling economy.
- Prayers of wisdom for those in power struggling to achieve health care reform.
- Prayers of strength and clarity for this congregation in the midst of the discussions about our future.

**A World AIDS Day Service**

**will be held Tuesday, December 1**

**7:00 p.m. Large Parlor**