

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 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

VOLUME XXVIII

SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

NUMBER 14

VOTING

In light of our vision and mission statements, what is God calling us to do with our resources, with our building? A vote on Sept. 28 will authorize the Board of Ministries to begin the process of exploring one of three paths as we look at new directions for this community of faith.

Whether you are reading this before or after the vote, and whatever the result, please pray that the mission and ministry of United will be energized and renewed; and that we, the Body of Christ, will continue to be filled with faith and confidence as we move forward.

As we take this process seriously, let us also take seriously the right and responsibility of voting in the upcoming election, especially in light of our commitment as a UCC congregation to exploring issues of peace and justice.

Through the UCC website (www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote), there are suggestions in how to approach the upcoming election from a faith perspective. I quote from a flyer entitled "Going Public With Our Faith" from the Justice and Witness Ministries of the UCC. *As people of faith we are called to be engaged in the public arena we know as politics... It is a way of living out the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves, because politics affects whether justice and opportunity are embedded into the institutions and laws that shape our society... Through Our Faith Our Vote we invite congregations and communities to help make another world possible by changing our course toward environmental destruction, listening to the stories of those in extreme poverty in the richest nation in the world, recreating a sense of hope in our communities, and negotiating with world partners and rebuilding our relationships around the world to achieve peace and mutual respect. Because the challenges before our nation and our world are great, we are called to equip ourselves to make informed, thoughtful decisions about those who will lead us into the future.*

Pray! Listen! Learn! Ask! Demand justice and peace! Vote!

May God be with us on our journeys – individually, as a faith community, and as citizens of this nation and of the world!

Terry

*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.

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.



- Prayers of healing for David Switzer recovering from knee surgery.

- Prayers of comfort for Billy Ackerly on the

death of his mother, Shirley Philie.

- Prayers of healing for Bev, the wife of the Associate Pastor where Cynthia Montalvo is working. Bev is undergoing surgery and chemotherapy.

- Prayers of healing for Chet Orczyk who continues to be seriously ill, and for Marion, Scott, and Penny.

- Prayers of comfort for the family of Rose Ann Russell who died this past week.

- Prayers of safety and strength for Sarie's twins.

- Prayers of healing for Janice Sokol's grandson.

- 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 and countries in the grip of war, conflict, and disease.

- Prayers of strength and hope for those affected by Hurricane Ike.

- Prayers of wisdom for those seeking political office, that they will put the good of the people before self-interest and political considerations.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28,
2008, following worship

Important discussion regarding potential proposals for our next steps in the building discernment process.

Lunch will be provided.

VNA CARE HOSPICE

The Fall Grief Support group is filled.

A new Grief Support Group will be formed in early 2009.

For information please call
Susan Tarantino,
Bereavement Coordinator
at 800-521-5539 ext. 5624
or email

starantino@vnacarenetwork.org



Please forward the email and mailing addresses of your college student(s) to the church office. We would like to keep in touch with each and everyone! Thank you!

November Special Events at United

**209th Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference
Saturday, November 1, 2008**

**United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Road, Worcester
&
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 10 Lincoln Square, Worcester**

- The Meeting will focus on The Congregational Way and Spiritual Discernment, and will be of particular interest to Moderators and others who lead church meetings.
- Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Martin Copenhaver, Pastor of the Wellesley Congregational Church, Wellesley, MA.

The Annual Meeting is a great opportunity to meet with members from other UCC churches in MA. We are looking for volunteers to help host this event. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

**A Day with Martha Grace Reese
Saturday, November 15, 2008**

9:00 a.m – 3:00 p.m. United Congregational Church

WHO: Gay Reese completed a 4 year Lily Study of Evangelism in Mainline Protestant Churches, and her remarkable book, Unbinding the Gospel, focuses on how congregations can reclaim the lost art of Evangelism.

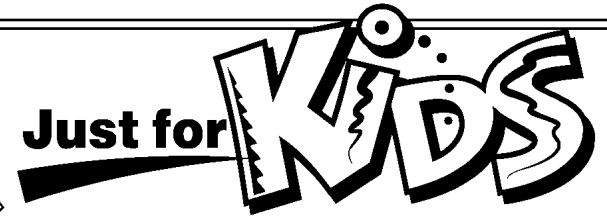
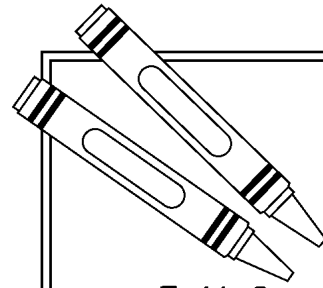
WHY: Learn how to help your congregation share their faith and invite others to church.

WHAT: Learn a proven system of practical steps of faith sharing, prayer, worship and planning that will energize your congregation into new life.

HOW: To be eligible for this workshop, a pastor and a team of at least five lay people must read and do the exercises in Unbinding the Gospel. There will be follow-up coaching of teams after this event.

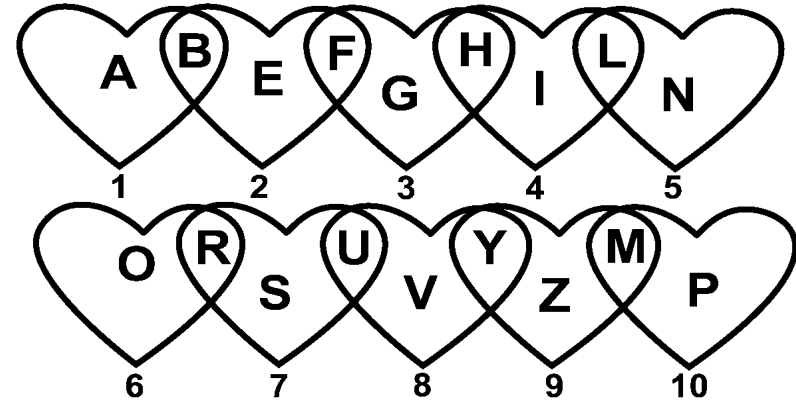
Call the church office to let us know if you are interested in being a member of the team or volunteering the day of the event.

**ONA Celebration Worship
Sunday, Nov. 16 3:30 p.m.**



THE SECOND GREAT Commandment

In the Gospels, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37, NIV). Do you remember what the second great commandment is? Use the code below to discover it.



“L
 4,5 6 8 2 8,9 6 7,8 6,7
 5 2 4 3 3,4 1,2 6 6,7
 1 7
 8,9 6 7,8 6,7 7 2 4,5 2,3”

Matthew 22:39, NIV

Answer: "Love your neighbor as yourself."