

### SAVE THE DATE... June 8<sup>th</sup>

After worship we will gather for lunch and continue the conversation “*What is God calling us to do with our building?*”. As you requested, Booklets chronicling our discernment process to date will be available. We will also review the April 27<sup>th</sup> panel discussion and presentations (as we work towards the formulation of our next actions). Please come!

### SAFE HOMES 2008 PEOPLE OF COURAGE AWARD

United Congregational Church United Church of Christ is the recipient of this year’s People of Courage Award from Safe Homes for our support of and efforts on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth. We are honored to be recognized for our advocacy, and the ways in which we are welcoming and hospitable. The award will be presented at a ceremony on June 4 at 6:00 at Coral Seafood Restaurant.

### GATEWAY PROJECT UPDATE WITH DAVID FORSBERG Thursday, June 5 7:00 p.m.


On Thursday, June 5, there will be a meeting with David Forsberg, president of The Worcester Business Development Corporation. The WBDC is working closely with WPI on the Gateway Project. He will provide us with an overall project update including the status of the former Voke buildings. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

### RECOGNITION SUNDAY – JUNE 8 Attention all Graduates!

Your church family would like to recognize your achievement by including your name in the Recognition Sunday Service as well as an upcoming issue of the Voices!



Please contact the church office so that we can include you.

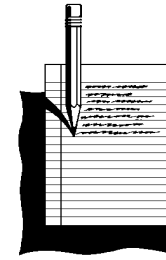

  
**TO EACH AND EVERYONE  
WHO HELPED WITH THE  
POSTAL FOOD DRIVE!**

### The GREEN ROOSTER CoffeeHouse



Doors open 7:30  
All shows 8:00 p.m.

	<i>Watch for a Green Rooster in the Park concert this summer... ...and we'll be starting strong next fall with Cormac McCarthy followed by Aztec Two-Step, Tony Bird, and Amy Gallatin &amp; Stillwater.</i>
	<i>Thanks for dropping in! We always need volunteers</i>



### Historian’s Notebook

by George Blanchard

A couple of weeks ago I received an email from a woman who was seeking information about a relative who she believed had attended our church in the late 1700’s. The only problem was that our church wasn’t organized until 1820.

I sent her an email suggesting that she contact First Congregational Church and also the Worcester Historical Museum library and the American Antiquarian Society. She replied back within a half hour saying that she had contacted all three and would let me know what she finds out.

One of the books in my collection, a copy of *First Church Old South in Worcester 1716-1956* had no mention of her ancestor John Colbreath, but I did find some information about old Worcester which was most interesting. It describes the area around the common and there have been many changes through the years. First Church stood at the present site of City Hall. At the opposite end of the common was an extremely wide street called Salem Square. Franklin St. was originally called Park St. Now back to the chapter in the book -

Old South’s Neighbors.

“When Old South moved from the common [to the corner of Main and Wellington Streets and most recently merging with Tatnuck Congregational Church], the First Baptist Church, which was organized in 1812, first stood on Salem Square where the Notre Dame Church now stands and the place was called Baptist Hill. The Baptist Church was burned in 1836, re-built in 1837 and in 1902 was sold

to Notre Dame Church which had been worship-ping in what was originally the Park Street Methodist Church, standing where Hotel Bancroft now stands [at the corner of Portland Street]. In 1874 the Park Street Methodist Church moved to the corner of Chandler and Main Streets and became Trinity Methodist Church, later merging with Grace and Laurel Methodist Churches to make Wesley Methodist Church.

“On the Front Street side of the common at that time was Union Church and on the Salem Square side, beside the Baptist Church, was the Salem Street Congregational Church now Salem Covenant Church. [That building was torn down to build Worcester Center and a new church built on East Mountain Street]. Salem Street Congregational Church united with Union Church after it moved to Chestnut Street. Later Plymouth and Piedmont Congregational Churches, which had united, joined them and the amalgamated four became Chestnut Street Congregational Church. [Chestnut merged with Central Church to form United Congregational Church in 1982.]

Old South’s nearest Congregational neighbor to the south might almost be called its child. Mrs. Nathaniel Mighill, widow of a former pastor of Old South, gathered a little Sunday School in her home. This grew and became the nucleus of a church, Pilgrim Congregational Church. Organized in 1885 it became the ninth Congregational Trinitarian Church in Worcester.”

I hope you are not too confused for I realize that most people are not as interested in Worcester and Church history as I am. But where would we be without history. **Page 4**

*Confirmation continued*

After Peter, Micayla, and Laura had presented these wonderful statements, we saw a great Power Point presentation. I offered this blessing on the last frame.

*May God bless these delightful, faith-filled, Spirit-filled young people with abundant joy, courage for life's journey, and a deep desire to change the world! Amen!*

*Terry*



**STATEMENTS OF FAITH  
(EXCERPTS)**

From Peter Dzaugis: I believe in God... I would describe God as being there whenever He is needed most. If you are lonely, scared, or mad, God is there to warm your heart. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God... Jesus performed many miracles to show his special relationship with God, which gave new-found faith in God to many. Jesus wants us to be loving, considerate, and good Samaritans... The Holy Spirit is a part of you and is always with you. To be more like Jesus, Christians would help those in need, care, and love each person, and forgive. It is good to offer forgiveness... If you forgive people, hopefully they will forgive themselves for what they did wrong too. To work for peace and justice is important because God would want people to be safe and out of the way from those who would harm them. Our church is inclusive and does not

segregate people. God would want none to be outcasts. The UCC came into being when the E & R Church joined with the Congregational Christian Churches to form the United Church of Christ. We believe that Christ is the leader of our Church and that anyone who believes can be part of the church. We are an open and affirming church. Our church gives to the needy and provides temporary homes through the Interfaith Hospitality Network. I want to be confirmed at this time in my life because I believe that being confirmed would bring me closer to the church and to God.




From Micayla Goodrow: I believe in God... God created Earth and gave humans life... God loves all of us and will help those most in need. I would describe God as caring, loving, and intelligent. Jesus' Christ relationship with God is what I think of as a close and trusting friendship. Jesus Christ was a messenger sent by God... He wanted to express God in the world and make a difference to better the future of God's people... When Jesus was resurrected, it showed people God's power over death. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and the spirit given by Christ. The Holy Spirit leads us to accept everyone and respect all even if they are of a different faith... The Holy Spirit strengthens the worship of the church and helps us through our life struggles. Sharing the gifts with which we are bestowed, around the world, expresses how we want to be like Jesus. Offering forgiveness is very important... I believe that everyone

deserves a second chance. I had a friend who became my enemy, but as time passed we were both able to set aside our differences. After putting the past behind us, we became inseparable, and she has become one of the most trusted friends I have to this very day. We work for justice and peace for this exact reason. By working through your problems, peace and happiness will follow you. By being inclusive we take into account everyone and their feelings. The United Church of Christ came into being in 1957... In our church there is a friendly and welcoming presence that reaches out to everyone. It would be my honor to be confirmed at the United Congregational Church United Church of Christ... I have realized my Christian faith as... we have explored and learned more about God and Jesus Christ throughout the year.



From Laura Owanisian: I believe in a higher power, a force, which is God. I believe that God is what holds the universe together and is what gives our lives significance. I'd describe God simply as an energy, or a force. However, I think God is very real. I believe that Jesus had a relationship with God that was more powerful than any other human. Because of his close relationship to God, Jesus could see when things weren't right and knew how to fix them. Jesus taught people about God's expectations of them. Jesus showed unbelievable kindness towards people who were normally rejected during his time... As Christians, we learn the importance of forgiveness. It is important to offer forgiveness because life is short. Being bitter and holding grudges are wastes

of time. We've been blessed to have a life, and it's best to make the most of it. I believe that while we're here, we should do our part to make this world a better place. Our denomination, the United Church of Christ, was the first Christian denomination to support same-sex marriage. I think this is something to be very proud of, and I admire how our church was the first to cross a major barrier. At first, I wanted to be confirmed because I like experience. I like to learn and I like to discover. I hoped to learn more about myself and my beliefs through this experience, and I have. I have more faith in God than I did a few short months ago. The discussions during our meetings have gotten me thinking about who I am and what I believe... Being young, I can't promise I'll grow up any certain way. I love our church, however, and I believe it's one of the most beautiful places in the world. No matter what, I know this place will always accept me, just like they always accept everyone else. Hence, I can't think of a better place to be confirmed. That is why I'm choosing to be confirmed, here, at United Congregational Church.

**BIBLE STUDY**   
**FRIDAYS 10:00 a.m.**  
**SMALL PARLOR**



**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

Miriam Rogers-Montalvo	2
Elsie Wanerka	3
Robert Healey	4
Mustafa Fofana	6
Sue Withington	
Earl Ward	
Chester Orczyk	
Peter Mott	10
Lorna Snow	12
Kit Murray	15
Cheryl Laliberte	16
Kyle O'Donnell	
Marion Orczyk	17
June Quarfordt	18
Marilyn Brooks	19
Sandra Dumais	21
Stanton Whitman	
John Henry	
Walter Cushman	24
Mattina Falco	25
Cheryl Stuart	26
Dorothy Wright	29
Cynthia Maki	30
Jeanne Berggren	

**Project E.D.U.C.A.T.E Fundraiser  
and Program Held at United**

Project E.D.U.C.A.T.E. is a youth initiative with the goal of decreasing the spread of HIV among adolescents by increasing their awareness and knowledge of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

On April 25<sup>th</sup> Project E.D.U.C.A.T.E. held a major fundraiser at United and the organizers are currently recruiting participants ages 13-16 to attend a series of four workshops to be held in June at United. These educational workshops will not only provide the participants with an increased awareness of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases but also prepare them to educate their peers about the risks and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

The Project leaders Marilyn Rodriguez, Priscila Rodriguez and Wilma Sanchez wish to thank Terry Fitzgerald, the Board of Ministries and the members of United for their commitment to the social issues affecting Worcester children and families.

If you want to make a donation or contact the project's group members you can do so by emailing us at [projecteducateinc@gmail.com](mailto:projecteducateinc@gmail.com)

  
**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!**

**PETER DZAUGIS  
MICAYLA GOODROW  
LAURA OWANISIAN**

