

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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## FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

*Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this. (Esther 4: 14b)*

In this intriguing story, Esther - prepared in mind, heart, and soul for such a time as this - courageously stood up to a king and saved the Jews from death. Interestingly enough, in this story from Scripture, there is no mention of God. And, yet, there is a sense, throughout this story, that God was present in the silence.

For such a time as this – we strive more earnestly to find God in the silence and uncertainty! We strive to move forward courageously in this time of critical discussion and decision-making. For we realize that we don't yet know the way, even as we relentlessly seek to understand on what path God is calling this congregation, United Congregational Church UCC. In the midst of this uncertainty, we continue to trust that God is indeed present; that Jesus continues to walk with us. For we have engaged in this discussion in faithful and honest ways, and we will continue to do so until the answer comes.

For such a time as this – we ask you to support ever more strongly – with your time, talent, energy, and resources – the ongoing ministry to our children, to our community and world, and to one another. Regardless of the circumstances of our personal lives, or of our faith community, we are still God's beloved and Christ's followers. God loves each one of you just as much as when you were surrounded by 600 other worshippers in our sanctuary. Christ expects each one of you to be just as faithful as when there were hundreds of active congregants. There is nothing, ever, that will keep Jesus from loving you – and there is nothing that can stop you from worshipping God, and living and proclaiming the Gospel message!

*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.

*cont. p. 3*

For such a time as this, we come to prayer more intently, and trustingly, and hopefully, that we may hear God in the silence. As I often do, I quote a prayer by Ted Loder from Guerillas of Grace (LuriaMedia, San Diego, CA; 1984, p. 25)

*O Holy One,  
I hear and say so many words,  
yet yours is the word I need.  
Speak now,  
and help me listen;  
and, if what I hear is silence,  
let it quiet me,  
let it disturb me;  
let it touch my need,  
let it break my pride,  
let it shrink my certainties,  
let it enlarge my wonder.*

*Terry*

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The **NEIGHBORS IN NEED** special offering will be received **Sunday, October 4**, during morning worship.

This special offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States and funds a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

Make out your checks to *United Congregational Church* with **NEIGHBORS IN NEED** in the memo line. You may also mail your gift to the church.

Make this year's **NEIGHBORS IN NEED** offering a special one for our fellow brothers and sisters.



•Prayers of healing for Jo Metcalf who is in rehabilitation after a fall.

•Prayers of comfort and strength for the family, friends, and children of Leesa Trim who died on Monday.

•Prayers for Chuck and Mud's friend, Valerie, struggling with cancer.

•Prayers for a granddaughter that has some health problems.

•Prayers of healing for Warren Page, following a hospitalization.

•Prayers of healing for Karolyne White, Audrey White's mother, who has been hospitalized.

•Prayers of comfort for Pat Keck on the death of her mother, Dorothy Graham Patterson.

•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 people of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

•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 for all affected by the flooding in Georgia.

## Easy Applesauce Muffins

This healthy recipe will make a great start to your day, a great snack or a great gift for your teacher and classmates.

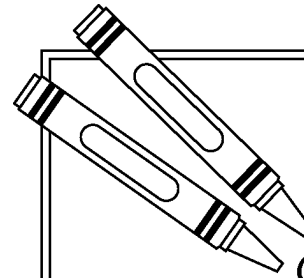
### What you need:

- 6 tablespoons butter
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 2/3 cup brown sugar
- 1 1/2 cups chunky applesauce
- Baking cups



### What you do:

1. With an adult's help, heat the oven to 375 degrees. Line a 12-cup muffin tin with baking cups and set aside.
2. In a small, microwave-safe bowl, melt the butter on high for about 30 seconds; set aside to cool slightly.
3. Sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and salt in to a large mixing bowl.
4. In another large bowl, whisk together the eggs and brown sugar. Stir in the applesauce and melted butter until the mixture is smooth.
5. Pour the apple mixture over the flour mixture. Stir with a wooden spoon just until the flour disappears. (This will produce muffins with a nice, crumbly texture.)
6. Fill the baking cups about two-thirds full with batter. (For mess-free muffins, use an ice-cream scoop to spoon batter into the baking cups.)
7. Bake for 20 minutes or until light brown. Test for doneness by inserting a toothpick in the middle; if it comes out clean, the muffins are ready to eat. Makes 12.



## Just for KIDS

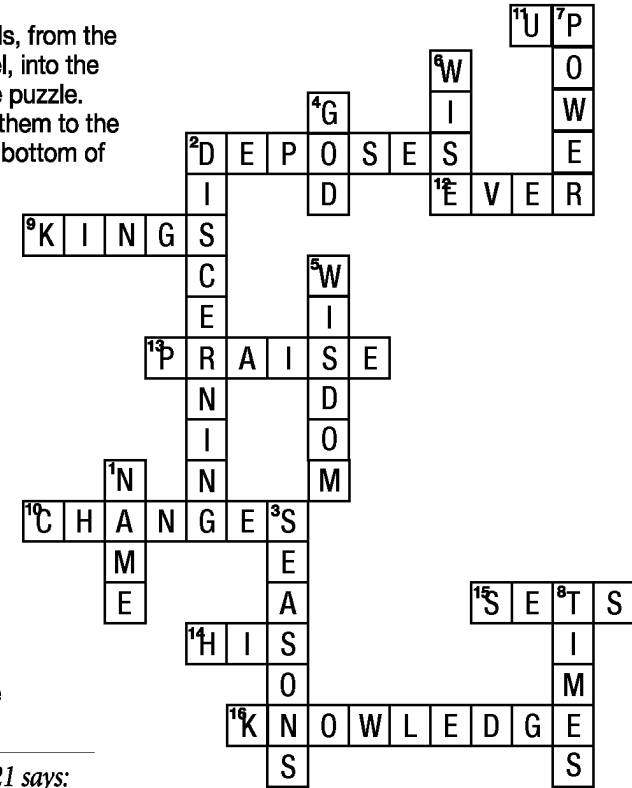
### God Does Wonderful Things!

October is a season of change. God causes all things to change for his purpose. Find out some other things God does.

Fit these words, from the Book of Daniel, into the squares of the puzzle. Then transfer them to the blanks on the bottom of the page.

#### Word List

- up
- God
- his
- ever
- sets
- wise
- name
- power
- times
- kings
- praise
- wisdom
- changes
- seasons
- deposes
- knowledge
- discerning



Daniel 2:20-21 says:

“ Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever ;  
 wisdom and power are his . He changes times and seasons ;  
 He sets up kings and deposes them .  
 He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning .”

Answer: “Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; He sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.”