



# United Congregational Church



VOICES Newsletter

August 2015



## Message from the Pastor

Dear friends ~

It's always a little disconcerting for me to write the August newsletter article because it means looking ahead to fall ~ and I'm not quite ready to let go of summer! But right now is when we begin anticipating and planning for what fall will bring ~ and truly, that is always exciting, as we have many wonderful things already in the works!

But first – a bit of looking back on the summer (so far!).....I often say that one of the reasons I love being in a church is because it is the one place that engages us throughout our lives ~ “from cradle to grave”. This summer began with a memorial service for a long ago member of United ~ Anna Danelius. As her family gathered at the graveside, we talked about her involvement in this church in her younger years, and I was filled with gratitude for those faithful members whose commitment to Chestnut and Central St churches paved the way for United, laying the groundwork for our ministry and witness today.

A highlight of July, of course, was my daughter Karen's wedding in the sanctuary. I was touched when she said she wanted to be married here because she feels such a connection with this church; she loves being able to play the organ on Christmas Eve and Easter, and treasures her relationships with people here. It is always a blessing to be part of a wedding in which the couple care as much about the blessings of God and the church community as they do about the food at the reception!

This coming Sunday, August 9 (can you tell when I am writing this?!) we will baptize Olive Flynn Eakin ~ and few things bring me as much joy as baptizing a baby! So often we baptize babies whose families might have once been part of the church, but no longer attend, or families who want their child baptized but don't have a relationship with the church ~ ~ so to baptize a baby born into this community is wonderful!

One memorial, one wedding, one baptism: the cycle of life (reversed, I know, but still ~ it's all there!) woven into our life as the Body of Christ, and a reminder that we, as the church, are here to celebrate and bless the people of God as we move through all that life holds for us.

.....and now, a quick look ahead at the fall!

You'll find more details ahead in the newsletter, but a quick overview:

At the end of August, the Board of Ministries will meet with Kelly Gallagher, our Area Minister, to begin a time of intentional reflection about where we are now ~ 4 ½ years after the building was “gifted” to WAMS. We aren't the same church we were 4 ½ years ago, and it's important to look at how we have evolved in this time.

The weekend of September 12-13 is jam-packed! On Saturday, United will once again have a presence at Worcester Pride ~ celebrating our commitment to being an Open and Affirming Church...there's something

for everyone ~ walkers, “table-sitters”, “cheerers on” ~ so look for the sign up sheet or contact Scott Malia or Itiel Febles for more information.

On September 13, Bob Bachelder will join us for worship as we covenant for the coming year with our two seminarians: Serena Leiser and Sarah Jo Gomez-Lorraine. Serena is returning for a second year (yeah!) and we will welcome Sarah Jo (yeah again!); they will each divide their 15 hours/week between United and WAMS.

...and then, after church on the 13<sup>th</sup>: picnic!! Our wonderful end of summer/beginning of fall picnic at Emerson Brooks' home....details to follow, but come to church that morning dressed for the picnic and join us for a hamburgers, hot dogs and potluck salads and desserts, games and fun and fellowship!

Looking way ahead to October 24-25, Serena and Sarah Jo will lead our second annual church retreat at Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham, and hope many will be able to attend.

We have several special worship services planned for the fall – so you won't want to miss any Sunday service!! Lots more is still in the planning stages for this year ahead ~ so maybe it won't be so hard to say good-bye to the summer after all!!

Blessings,  
*Nancy*



Our annual event will be on Sunday, September 13 after church, from noon on, at Emerson Brooks' farm, 12 Nelson Place, Worcester, as in the past. This is a great location, and always a pleasant time and place to get into new and old conversations. Beverages, rolls and condiments and meats for the grill are provided by the church, with Andy Dzaugis as our grillmaster. There is a signup sheet at church, where we hope you'll put your name and that of a dish (salad, dessert) that you can bring. (There will be no fellowship hour at church that day.)

If you have something for entertainment to bring, that would be welcome (croquet anyone?) Anyone who can offer music from their mouths and/or instruments would be gladly heard.

If you don't have your own ride, please beg one from someone at church that Sunday.

For questions or comments, try the Hyders (508-867-7274) or Judy Casalnuova (978-430-1770).

See you there.

Special thanks to Emerson, and to all who come, from the  
Community & Fellowship Committee



## Are You Interested in Becoming a Member of United?



On September 27<sup>th</sup>, we will offer a new member information meeting for anyone who would like to learn more about United and what it means to be a member of this community of faith. We will meet after church and a simple lunch will be provided. If you are interested, please speak to Nancy. We are planning to receive new members into the church during our worship service on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Apply to The Clemente Course and further YOUR Education!

**Worcester Interfaith** in partnership with Mass Humanities, WPI, WSU, Holy Cross College, QCC and Trinity Lutheran Church is pleased to offer **The Clemente Course in the Humanities** beginning this September. The Course is a unique program of free, college-level seminars in literature, U.S. history, moral philosophy, art history, and writing for low-income adults who desire to join together with like-minded students in a supportive, non-judgmental environment to study masterpieces in the fields of literature, history, philosophy and art.

Classes will meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-8pm for eight months at The Worcester Art Museum. Books, transportation, and childcare are provided free of charge. Faculty members are top-level college instructors, skilled at working with non-traditional learners. Bard College, which oversees the program nationally, grants a certificate of achievement to all students who finish the course and six college credits to those who complete it at a high level of academic performance. The credits are transferable to other colleges. Interviews are now being scheduled.

For more information and to apply contact: Elizabeth Bacon at 774-276-1166 or [bacon64@charter.net](mailto:bacon64@charter.net).

## Calendar - United and the Central MA UCC

Aug 26 – Board of Ministries  
Sept 8 – Bible Study  
Sept 12 – Worcester Gay Pride Event  
Sept 13 – Spiritual Life and Diaconate  
Sept 13 – All church picnic at the Brooks Farm after worship  
Sept 14 – Carty Food Cupboard  
Sept 15 – Bible Study  
Sept 22 – Bible Study  
Sept 22 – Women's Religious Book Group  
Sept 23 – Board of Ministries  
Oct 24-25 – Church retreat at Glastonbury Abbey

## Resources

**UCC Lectionary Information** (<http://www.macucc.org/pages/detail/220>)  
**United Congregational Church** (<http://www.ucc-worcester.org>)  
**UCC Mass Conference** (<http://macucc.org/>)  
**National UCC Web Page** (<http://www.ucc.org/>)

## Registration Form: *What Return Can I Make ?*

To register, complete the form below and give with your payment to Serena or  
mail to the church office to Serena's attention.

Make checks payable to United Congregational Church

***Registration deadline is October 4th***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Double room (sharing with \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_ Single room

Special need requirements (i.e. handicapped accessible, dietary restrictions, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact name and phone number (unless they are attending with you).

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