



# United Congregational Church



VOICES Newsletter

July 2019

## Message from the Pastor



Dear friends,

As you might remember, this past May 5<sup>th</sup>, United and the Worcester Area Mission Society co-hosted the annual Program Meeting of the Central Association, UCC. It was a wonderful opportunity to show our friends and colleagues in area UCC churches what has happened at United in the past 8 ½ years, since we gifted our church building to WAMS. In May, I included the presentation Carolyn Dzaugis (United's moderator through the transition) made at the Program Meeting, in which she told the story of how United made the decision to gift the building and endowment to WAMS. As you remember, it was a long, complicated decision, with many ups and downs – as well as many moments of grace. After Carolyn spoke at the Program Meeting, Sandra Johnson told the story of what United's gift has meant to WAMS. As promised, here are her words (with only a few edits!):

*I am Sandra Longvall Johnson and like Carolyn I have been a member of United for a long long time, as well as a member of WAMS for some 25 years. I am so grateful to have been part of such an amazing gifting, being involved in both the giving of United and the receiving by WAMS. Carolyn, I hope, conveyed the almost mystical look back of United's decision to gift WAMS with this glorious facility and adequate funding to support its continued use.*

*So what has this gifting meant for the wider community our UCC sisters and brothers and WAMS?*

*With regards to the wider community, Central Mass Housing Alliance is housed here under a long-term lease. They are the largest non-profit agency in Central Mass that addresses housing challenges and has the funding to help families in need. Check out their website (<http://cmhaonline.org>). There are some 40 employees working here daily to provide services and funding for those who are in crisis with their housing. You should know that WAMS also houses the Central Association offices and their meetings, United Congregational church has its worship center upstairs, and WAMS has its offices, meeting rooms and convention space, such as today when we can all gather here in this beautiful gallery. We consider this a valuable mission piece of WAMS to have been able to facilitate this location for all these folks because of this gifting.*

*With regards to our UCC sisters and brothers, the gifting allowed WAMS to hire an administrative assistant for Bob Bachelder during his tenure. Most importantly, WAMS was able to bring on board Mary Robbins, our Vice President of programming who has, as many of you know, effectively looped ropes of connections with the churches via Reach out*

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*Worcester, Summer Cubs, Learn and Serve Worcester, and deep conversations with civic/political leaders in the Worcester area ~ connections so necessary to function in an urban area. She is truly a dynamo in the WAMS organization and has expanded the capacity for churches to engage in mission with us.*

*For WAMS now: there are meetings, conventions and collaborative engagements both with churches, non-profits and civic/political conversations that could not have easily taken place or been successful without this facility. Stronger credibility in the civic arena and a voice backed by capacity for funding has been critical to making the inroads and having our voice heard in the secular world. WAMS has developed and hosted numerous conference events in the gallery, looking to explore and implement institutional reforms that move us from addressing symptoms to solving problems Hop onto our website ([wamsworks.org](http://wamsworks.org)) for more in depth coverage.*

*Quoting our Chairwoman of the Board, Rev Linda Michel (also a member of United):*

*Our challenge is not to become overwhelmed by all the possible area of need, but rather to focus on how we can partner with others in ways that can be integrated into a collaborative effort. No easy task, but with your support, Involvement and enthusiasm WAMS will continue to be on the front line addressing those issues that can help to lift up all who are low to a potential that they can achieve. Bridging, collaborating, connecting..that's what we do.. WAMSWORKS greater opportunity for that is a direct result of United's gifting. Bob Bachelder President and Minister retired last year after 33 years of bringing WAMS back to life. We now are blessed with our new President and Minister, Rev. Sally Norris, who brings that same passion, caring and drive that brought WAMS to this level. We at the Board look to the future with Sally for bold new ways to do the work.*

*I imagine my time is running out, as you might note my enthusiasm is not. We at United may have thought we were giving up all and perhaps would just fade away. WAMS thought, "Oh no – what will this mean for the WAMS organization now?" And yet, in faith and with complete assurance that God is Still Speaking, both United and WAMS reached out and embraced each other, and the circle was complete, and we understood even now, that God is Still Speaking!*

When we talked about co-hosting the Central Association meeting, it seemed to us a wonderful opportunity not only for other churches to hear our story – especially as more and more churches are facing similar concerns to the ones that led United to make the radical decision to gift our building and endowment – but also for us to reflect back on the process we went through, and see all that has unfolded since that time. Eight years ago, we had no way of knowing what United would become; today it is clear that this leap of faith resulted in many blessings for United and for the larger community! And it's wonderful to imagine what the next eight years might bring!

Blessings,  
**Nancy**

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## THE JOLLY BEGGARS

### THE JOLLY BEGGARS ~ LIVE IN SUMMER CONCERT!!

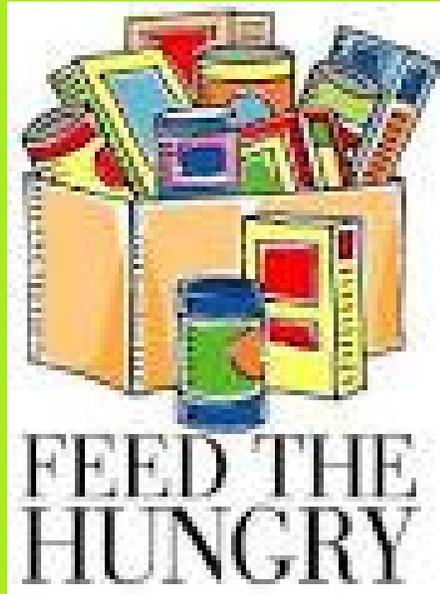
Are you looking for a little Celtic music to brighten up your summer? If so – come on down to the Gale Free Library in Holden (or the Holden Senior Center in case of rain) on **Thursday, July 11** when the Jolly Beggars will perform from 6:30 – 7:30. Guaranteed to be a fun evening event for all ages!!

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### PASTOR NANCY'S VACATION SCHEDULE

**Nancy will be on vacation from July 15-21 and July 21-29. In case of pastoral concerns or emergencies, please contact the church office or the pastor covering for her: July 15-21 – Tom McMillan; July 21-29 – Emily Castner.**



## HELPING TO END HUNGER

Summer is actually one of the busiest times for food pantries, and the Carty Cupboard is no exception. Supported by our church and many other downtown congregations, Carty is one of the largest pantries in Worcester, feeding hundreds of people every month.

This summer, Carty needs non-perishable foods like Cereal, Soups, Pasta, Rice, Canned Fruits, and Peanut Butter. Low salt, low sugar and whole grain varieties of the above items are especially appreciated. Personal care products such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and deodorants are also welcome. All donations can be left in the collection hamper in Merriman Chapel.

Another way to support Carty's ministry to those in need is through donations of Hope For Housing gift cards. Carty gives these cards to clients with special diets (such as gluten free or diabetic), so they can purchase the needed items themselves at local supermarkets. The Hope For Housing cards can be purchased in \$10 or \$25 denominations at church Sundays, and left with Pastor Nancy or Tim Camp (United's contact with Carty). Purchasing these cards has an additional benefit, as supermarkets donate a percentage of their profits from these cards to local housing programs in our communities!

Please contact Tim Camp at [timbcamp@aol.com](mailto:timbcamp@aol.com), or 508- 798- 6997, if you would like more information. And many thanks to all who support the Carty Cupboard and its vital mission!

## United Calendar & Prayer Intentions



### **CALENDAR:**

July 15 - 29 Pastor Nancy's vacation  
July 29 Carty Food Cupboard ~ 5:30pm  
August 12-26 Pastor Nancy's vacation  
Sept 8 FRIENDLY REMINDER: Summer Picnic!

### **JULY PRAYER INTENTIONS:**

We are a community of faith: praying for and with each other! Each week in our Sunday bulletin, we list several members of United for whom we pray during the coming week. We are including that list in Voices so that those who are unable to come to church will know who is being prayed for, and can join their prayers with ours.

For Sunday, July 7TH: Kristen & Megan Farrar, Itiel Febles, Mary Flynn & James & Olive Eakin. We pray for them to feel the blessing of our prayer as deeply as they feel the loving presence of God.

For Sunday, July 14TH: Peter Fraga, Pat Gibb, Ruby Nazir, Arthur Gill, Karry & Harry Gill, Dorista & John Goldsberry.

For Sunday, July 21ST: Cherie Grant & Steven Pietrowicz, Stacy Heath, Amy Hennig & Angelina Johnson.

For Sunday, July 28TH: Joy Hennig & Gloria Beaudry, Norma Holmes, Elisabeth & Darrell Hyder.

### **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/>)