



# United Congregational Church



VOICES Newsletter

May 2018



## Message from Deborah Duval

A Word of Gratitude!

What a glorious farewell and blessing you gave me on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. The sun was shining and so were all of you! Thank you for the yummy cake, the beautiful card with all its wonderful messages, and the handmade stole which I will cherish, as it will always remind me of our year together.

As I said in my sermon on Sunday, you have something really special at United. In the short time that I was with you, I witnessed, on countless occasions, your beautiful intentionality to love God, the world, and each other. Thank you for including me in that love.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly and urging me to grow in my ministry. Thank you for showing up with socks and underwear, toiletry items and financial support for Worcester Fellowship whenever I asked. Thank you for attending my book discussion and giving me thoughtful feedback. Thank you for allowing me to fulfill my dream of doing a dual field education ministry; one that included both you and Worcester Fellowship. Thank for providing me with two wise and seasoned pastors, Nancy and Tom, who gave me the gifts of their time, their knowledge, their wisdom, and their laughter. You welcomed me as a friend, helped me to grow and learn, and best of all you loved me.

Jesus said, "The one who showed him mercy, go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37). In just eight months I witnessed so many ways in which you "go and do likewise." I saw it through the beautiful offering of food at fellowship hour each week, I saw it when you answered a call to help a member move, I saw it when you agreed to walk Marilyn back and forth to church on Easter morning, or when you drove Mae to the train station. I witnessed how you love your neighbor. I saw you buy grocery cards and bring food in for Carty's Cupboard. I saw you marching to end gun violence. I saw you supporting refugees as they began a new life here, and I saw you helping the homeless community of Worcester in countless ways.

In closing, I would invite you to celebrate all of the gifts that you have at United! Lift up all the ways that you love God, all the ways that you extend that love to each other and all of the ways that you "go and do likewise!"

With deep gratitude and God's blessing,

**Debbie**



### NANCY'S SCHEDULE

Nancy will be on retreat at the Mercy Center in Connecticut from **May 26 – June 3**. Dave Cote will be providing coverage during that time; please contact Dave at (508)864-8684 or the church office with any pastoral concerns or emergencies during that time.

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### THE REV. BOB BACHELDER RETIRING

**Bob Bachelder** will be retiring as the Executive Director of WAMS at the end of August. We are delighted to welcome him as our guest preacher on **June 10<sup>th</sup>**; please join us for worship that day as we thank him for his ministry.

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## **MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>: ORDINATION FOR DEBRA COTTIS**

**Debra Cottis will be ordained to ministry in the United Church of Christ on Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 in the afternoon, in the Gallery/sanctuary. This is a joyous service, the culmination of many years of hard work and preparation. United is delighted to sponsor her for ordination and to host her ordination service. The last ordination at United was for Mark Seifried, in 2005, and so Debra's ordination is truly a joy for this congregation. Please mark your calendars for May 20<sup>th</sup>, and plan to be at her ordination that afternoon!**

## **Pentecost Sunday ~ May 20!**

On Pentecost, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit into our world with rush of wind and burst of flame! The Easter season liturgically ends with Pentecost ~ and our ministry as the living Body of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, begins! The color for Pentecost is red - so find your red shirts and sweaters, socks, skirts and party hats - and celebrate the coming of the coming of the Holy Spirit by wearing red to church on May 20!!



## **PLANT SWAP, SUNDAY MAY 20**

*Bring your offerings to church, house plants welcome, too.  
(You don't have to bring something to take something.)*

**For Questions Contact : Elisabeth Hyder at: [edhyder@verizon.net](mailto:edhyder@verizon.net)**

## United Calendar



May 20	Ordination for Debra Cottis
May 20	"Walk for Homeless" ~ 2pm Elm Park/Worcester
May 20	Plant Swap
June 10	Annual May Program & Covenant Ministries
June 20	Board of Ministry Meeting

## 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/>)



**Dear Church Friends,**

I can't believe we've been making a 'joyful noise' together for nearly six months! Our worship time is rich in word, prayer and song. Though I had a few 'blips' at first, from missing cabs to Christmas coughs, it's been smooth sailing in the New Year.

Since December, we've been blessed with music from Audrey White on viola, Peter Keck on banjo, and Rich Stroshane on fiddle. Our children and youth led us in a spirited rendition of "Good News!" on Palm Sunday. A special note of thanks goes to Greg Wilfrid, Karen Wilfrid and Chris Vece for their glorious music at Christmas Eve and Easter. I also thank the Jolly Beggars for filling in when I'm away.

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Our enthusiastic Pickup Choir often raises our spirits with harmonious hymns during the Gathering Time. Whether you sing in the shower or the concert hall, you're welcome to join us. No auditions required! We sing easy selections from the hymnal, and I announce them one week in advance. On the day we sing, please come at 9:45 a.m. to rehearse.

Some former bell ringers have expressed interest in picking up (literally!) our beautiful hand bells again. Though I don't have experience with bell choirs, I'm happy to help organize one. Please contact me after worship or at [musicladymae@gmail.com](mailto:musicladymae@gmail.com)

Finally, we are exploring new hymnal possibilities, such as the Chalice (Chalice Press) or Hymns of Promise (Hope Publishing). If you are interested in joining a Hymnal Task Team, please contact me after worship or at my e-mail above. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, we'll hold a hymn sing after worship to try out some new hymns.

I welcome any and all suggestions for musical ideas, and encourage you to share your musical talents at any time.

Cheers!

**Mae Stroshane**

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## ANNUAL PROGRAM MEETING JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>



Our Annual Program meeting will be held immediately after church (well, after we greet and thank Bob Bachelder for his ministry!) on June 10<sup>th</sup>. This is the meeting at which we vote on new ministry members, thank those who are going off of ministries and lift up the work of our many volunteers. Please plan to remain for the annual meeting that day.

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