



United Congregational Church



VOICES Newsletter

September 2018

Message from the Pastor

Dear friends –

Another season begins ~ and we have much to look forward to at United! A few highlights for the year ahead (some have more details further on in the newsletter, but consider this a teaser to get you to read the whole newsletter!):

*On **September 9th**, Mae and a group of “enthusiastic pastors” put our beautifully designed new book plates (thank you, Darrell Hyder!!) into our NEW HYMNALS! We thank the anonymous donor whose gift made it possible to purchase 100 copies of the *Chalice Hymnal* and one

accompanist edition. *Chalice* is put out by the Disciples of Christ, our partner church in many areas, and was the hands-down choice of the Music Task Team. Many thanks to them and all who helped bring the hymnals to your seats!

*Also on **September 9th**, we enjoyed our annual church picnic at the home of Emerson Brooks, Liz Brooks and Danielle Montgomery. Many thanks to all who brought food, grilled food and enjoyed food ~ and each other’s company! Especially thanks to the Community and Fellowship Ministry for organizing the picnic, and to Emerson, Liz and Danielle for hosting us!

*On **September 16th**, our new *Chalice Hymnals* (read note above!) will be dedicated; we will continue to use sheet music from the much used notebooks for hymns not in *Chalice*, but will look for your help in returning the inserts after worship each week. We found that many of hymns we sing are in *Chalice*, but there are a few favorites in other hymnals, so we won’t give them up just yet!

*On **September 23rd** we will welcome The Rev. Don Remick to our pulpit. Don is the Interim Transitional Minister and President for the MACUCC, and it is an honor to have him with us for worship. Don will spend time after worship that day for an informal Q&A time with anyone who is able to stay for a little while after church. Don and I were in seminary together, and I, personally, am delighted that he is continuing his long and faithful ministry in the MACUCC in this position.

....and on to October!!

*On **October 9th** there will be a celebration to thank and bid farewell to Frank Kartheiser, who is retiring from his position as Lead Organizer of Worcester Interfaith, after 25 years of his ministry there. It will also be an opportunity to meet the new Lead Organizer. The event will be held at First Baptist Church, from 5:30 – 7:30; tickets are \$50/each, and can be purchased through <http://bit.ly/25YearsofWorcesterInterfaith>.

*On **October 14th**, we will have a gathering immediately after church for anyone interested in becoming a member of United. This will be a time to learn more about United and our ministry; if you are interested, please speak to Nancy or a member of the Spiritual Life and Diaconate Ministry.

*...and in the afternoon of **October 14th**, there will be a celebration from 4-6 pm, in the Common Room, of WAMS ministry and mission and an opportunity to meet the Rev. Sally Norris, the new Minister and President for WAMS.

*On Saturday **October 27th**, we will have our day-long retreat, organized by the Community and Fellowship Ministry, at St. Francis Church in Holden. The theme for the retreat is "A Time Such as This x 2", so named because we have updated it from last fall, when this planned retreat had to be cancelled...more details are further on in this issue of Voices!

*On the evening of Saturday **October 27th** is the fundraiser for the LGBT Asylum Ministry and for the house they home to buy for the asylum seekers they support. We hope to have a "United table"; if you are interested, please contact Ann Day. The evening's festivities (and they ARE festive!) are from 5:30 – 9:30 at the DCU Center; individual tickets are \$90, but \$80 if part of a pre-paid table of 8.

*On **October 28th**, **Reformation Day**, we will receive new members...and celebrate the Reformation by wearing **red!** (We also have a new red pulpit banner which will be debuted that morning!).

*...and a sneak peek in November: **November 4th** is All Saints Day, when we will remember and lift up our loved ones and members of United who have died in the past year. Special music will be provided by 3/5 of the Jolly Beggars.

*...and finally, on **November 18th**, immediately after church, we will have our traditional Thanksgiving Potluck Feast...more details to follow a little closer to the date!

As I write this, I am aware that the three leading interfaith mission and outreach ministries in our city are beginning this season with new leaders: Worcester Fellowship is in the search process for a new director, and Frank Kartheiser and Bob Bachelder are both retiring from positions they have held for many years (can anyone remember WAMS without Bob? Or Worcester Interfaith without Frank?). As we see leadership changes in these vital ministries in Worcester, our witness as a Just Peace and Open and Affirming congregation, and our long-standing commitment to living the Light of God seems even more important. I look forward to continuing our relationship with Worcester Interfaith, Worcester Fellowship, and the Worcester Area Mission Society, and ask your prayers for their ministries as they begin

new chapters with new leadership and vision.

A lot to look forward to as fall begins ~ and what a gift to be beginning this year together ~ our unique, United community of faith!

Blessings,

Nancy



MANY THANKS.....

...to **Tim Camp** for covering the many, many duties of Sunday sexton while **Ed Bourgault** was on a much deserved vacation. Tim not only handled sexton responsibilities, he oversaw the summer fellowship table and Carty Food Cupboard volunteering, preached in July, and made sure everyone had a mic when it was time to offer our celebrations and concerns for prayer....not to mention his responsibilities as moderator...thank you, thank you, thank you, Tim!

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Debra Cottis and **Mary Fitton**, who were married on September 1st at Debra's home. We celebrate this joyous occasion in their life together, and wish for them many blessings and much joy in all the years to come!

PUB THEOLOGY

The subject of Pub Theology for October will be *salvation* -- this being another concept that perhaps mainline churches are not often inclined to meet head on (last month the topic was sin). Please join us at the Sahara Restaurant on **Oct. 3rd** at 7pm for what is likely to be another provocative and free ranging discussion. ~ **Bob Michel**



ONE-DAY CHURCH RETREAT

Coming Saturday, **October 27** from 9 to 3 at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Holden. The theme will be "*A Time Such as This x 2*," led by Nancy Elder-Wilfrid and Tom McMillan. Lunch will be provided, and the cost is \$10 per person (scholarship aid available). If anyone will be bringing children, please let us know by October 14 and we will try to line up child care providers for the nursery there.

Retreats are an excellent way to get to know each other better as well as learning something. This one is not so long and is nearby. Look for a signup sheet and plan to join us.

For the Community & Fellowship Committee

Darrell & Elisabeth Hyder

WAMS CELEBRATION!



On Sunday, October 14 from 4-6 pm, the Worcester Area Mission Society will be celebrating its long history of working with civic, public and private partners to raise and support civic and social awareness and to create program vehicles aimed at helping our community and the people who live here, overcome complex and interrelated personal and social challenges. It will also be an opportunity to meet WAMS' new Minister and President, Rev. Sally Norris. Light refreshments will be served.

United Calendar



- Sept 19 Board of Ministry Meeting
- Sept 23 The Rev Don Remick (interim MACUCC President) preaching
- Sept 24 Carty Cupboard / Wesley United Methodist Church
- Oct 14 WAMS Celebration
- Oct 27 Annual Church Retreat / St Francis Church, Holden, MA

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/>)



MUSIC NOTES

Hello Friends!

I hope you've had a relaxing summer, despite the heat! It's been an eventful summer here at United. One of the highlights has been the approval of a new hymnal to replace both "Voices United" and the UCC Notebook during worship. As of Sunday September 16th, we'll begin using the "Chalice Hymnal," published by the Disciples of Christ. I'd like to thank our Hymnal Task Team, Deacons, Board of Ministries, and everyone who offered me their ideas and opinions.

The Chalice has both familiar hymns and exciting new ones. The font of the pew edition is clear and readable for all eyes. The inside covers are graced with lovely plates with our name and the UCC logo, designed by Darrell Hyder. We look forward to many years of worshipping God with joyous song!

I welcome all of you to join me in weekly worship, whether it's in the Pick-Up Choir, instrumentalist, or soloist. I hope to include our children in more worship songs throughout the year, not just at the holidays. Please feel free to chat with me after worship, or contact me for any questions at: musicladymae@gmail.com or 617-990-7656.

Yours in song,

Mae Stroshane, Music Minister



UNITED AT PRIDE!

United celebrated Pride at the Worcester Pride Parade on September 8 with 14 of us walking alongside other church groups. The joy of the day was perhaps best summed up by a little girl with the group in front of us, who, as the parade started moving, exclaimed with great excitement, "This is the best day EVER!"

