



First Congregational Church
of
Spencer, U.C.C.
207 Main Street
PO Box 187
Spencer, Massachusetts 01562
www.spencerchurch.org

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Rev. William R. Wildman, Jr.
Pastor

wwildmanjr@verizon.net
Direct 508-885-5098

For emergencies after office hours
please call 508-885-5863

The Tie
May 2010

Church Office
8:00 a.m. to noon
fccspencer@verizon.net
508-885-2149

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! As we continue to celebrate the Season of Easter, I hope that you all had a happy and healthy Easter Sunday. I am enjoying the warm weather of spring, and enjoyed watching the coverage of the Boston Marathon on TV. I am very impressed by all of the hard work and dedication that the runners show as they ran across the finish line after 26.2 miles of hills, turns and straight-a-ways. While only one person can be the first to cross the finish line, as far as I'm concerned, anyone who finishes that race is a winner, and has accomplished something amazing and worthy of respect. As we enter the month of May, there are two church holidays that can be compared to a race. One is the end of the most amazing race in history; the other is the beginning of a race that we are still running today.

The two holidays are Ascension Day (Ascension Thursday) and Pentecost. Ascension Day, on May 13th this year, is the feast where we remember Jesus' return to Heaven. 40 days after Jesus rose from the dead and after several meetings with his disciples and appearances to others, the time came for Jesus to return to his Father. This is the day that Jesus crossed the finish line of his earthly ministry: he had taught us his Good News, he had suffered through his passion and death, and had risen from the grave in triumph. Jesus was the first one across the finish line, beating Satan and winning the race of salvation and reconciliation with God for us all. And now that his work was complete, Jesus could finally go home, for he had won the race and gloried God.

The second holiday is Pentecost, the Birthday of the church, on May 23rd. This is where our race, as the church, begins. Pentecost is the day when the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' disciples that were gathered in Jerusalem. This is considered the birthday of the church because, when the Holy Spirit came upon them, they were given the abilities they needed to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ all over the world. The constant guide and support that they and we today, would need to

serve Christ had finally arrived. Now our race was on, the race of serving Christ and teaching his Good News to all ears that were and will be willing to hear it. This is the day that Jesus' small band of followers became the church, the body that we are still a part of to this very day. That is why Confirmation is often celebrated on Pentecost, as it is here at the First Congregational Church of Spencer, UCC.

As we continue our journey through the Easter Season, I am here for you. If you would like a visit, or to get together for a cup of coffee, or have some other way that I can be of help to you, please let me know. Also, if you know of anyone who is sick, or in the hospital or otherwise home bound, please let me know so that I can pay them a visit as well. Feel free to call me at 508-885-2149, stop by the office, or e-mail me at revwilliamwildman@yahoo.com to set up a time to get together. I hope you all have a happy and healthy spring, with God's blessings throughout the year!

In Christ,

Pastor Bill

Bible Trivia Contest for May 2010!!!

Congratulations to Susi Cavigioli for winning last months' trivia contest. The correct answer to last month's trivia question, "Who is the first person Jesus appears to after his resurrection?" is "Mary Magdalene." Would you like to win free coffee and pastry with Pastor Bill? It's easy: just answer the following Bible trivia question:

"In the Book of Acts, which person is NOT selected to be Judas' replacement as one of the 12 Apostles?"

The first person to get the answer to Pastor Bill (either in person, by e-mail or phone) will win the contest for May. So get your thinking caps on and let this month's contest begin... Good Luck!

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Scholarship Applications are available from the office and are due on or before Sunday, June 4, 2010 for consideration. Applications may be picked up Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Attention Church Members' due to fire regulations there is no parking in the horseshoe area in front of the Prouty Housing next door.

CPR and Auto Defibrillator Training

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the First Congregational Church of Spencer UCC, will be receiving an Auto Defibrillator devise (AED) and will also be offering a training course for CPR and Auto Defibrillator use. The course will be offered free of cost! Watch for more information in the Tie and the Sunday service bulletins.

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE **SPENCER PRIDE DAY**

A special thank you to the 37 men, women and children who participated on Saturday, April 17 in the Town Wide Cleanup. We would like to thank the Sheriff's Department for donating the trash bags; the Highway Department for loaning their trucks, the driver for volunteering their time and the Water Department for donating gloves. All the volunteers who picked up trash in the rain, the men who picked up the trash bags, the groups of Cub Scouts and Rainbow Girls, and those who baked goodies, donated food, those who work at registration and the women who help to feed all the volunteers. Without your participation this day would not have been successful.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICES

The Church & Community Committee is selling hearts (in honor and in memory of) for Mothers Day (May 9th). The proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase blankets for **Church World Services**. The donation per heart is \$5.00. Names will be listed in the June Tie.

CHURCH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

This committee met on Sunday April 11th. With much regret we accepted the resignation of LouAnn Bean as Chairperson of the committee. We are looking for a new chairperson. Anyone interested in being chairperson, please notify Lisa Brown or Pastor Bill. We are looking forward to Confirmation Sunday. We are thinking ahead to the Children's Day Service that will be on June 13th. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 16th.

Lisa Brown, Church School Superintendent

CHURCH SCHOOL

At this time, LouAnn Bean will not be able to help as a Sunday School Teacher. We will miss her. I would like to thank her for all her help with Church School. Christilynn Wildman has graciously offered to help with Church School.

We are always looking for help with Church School. Anyone interested in helping out or becoming a teacher, please notify Lisa Brown or Pastor Bill. If you would like to just be a guest to see how the lessons are presented, feel free to stop by.

Church School is going great with good attendance each week. The children are still enjoying the lessons and are looking forward to the parables found in the gold boxes.

I would like to thank Richard Green for his donation for Godly Play. It has been all the generous donations that have helped make the transition to the Godly Play curriculum a great success.

Lisa Brown, Church School Superintendent

DIACONATE

Diaconate meeting for May is May 16th following the Worship Service.

Deacon of the month for May is Jean Vandale

May 16th – Diaconate will meet following worship service. Please note the change from our regularly scheduled date due to Mothers Day.

May 2nd – Dismas House Ministry will be part of our worship service. The director of the Dismas House will speak about the program to rehab prisoners at a farm in Oakham, MA. They are looking for organizations to cook one meal a month for 10 -12 people and visit with them.

May 9th – The Demolay Boys will be at our worship service to do the Mothers Day ritual.

May 30th – American Legion Post 138 will join us for our Memorial Day Service.

Looking forward to greeting and meeting you on Sunday mornings.

Ken Landine
Chairperson

ECONOMY SHOP

ECONOMY SHOP VOLUNTEERS: You are invite to a "Pot Luck" luncheon on Wednesday, May 19th at 12:00. The meal and dessert will be provided by the Women of the Church as a thank you to all our hard working volunteers. Hope to see you there.

FLOWER COMMITTEE

There is an opening on Sunday, May 16th. Anyone interested in sending flowers to be place in the Sanctuary on this date please call Joyce Landine at 508-867-6979.

MEN'S LEAGUE

As of this writing, the Mother and Daughter Banquet is fast approaching. This will take place on Saturday, May 1st at 6:30 P.M.

On Mother's Day Sunday the Men's League will start taking listings for the Community Birthday Calendar. The price of the listings, and the calendar are the same as last year. I hope we will have your support as in the past. This is our main fundraiser for the year, and your support is appreciated. Enclosed is a blue order form. Please fill out the completed form and mail or bring to church.

I hope all the Mothers have a very happy day.

Sincerely,
Al Orne

Men's League Bowling News

The Congregational Church Bowling League ended on April 7 with Ken Gregory 's team of Don Davies, Rich Roberts and Gary Laramée winning the first half and the second half was won by Ross Brown's team of Rob Davies, Harold Giguere and Keith Rutkiewicz. The roll off was held on April 14, between the first half winner and the second half winner and was won by Ross Brown's team of Rob Davies, Harold Giguere and Keith Rutkiewicz.

The high average of 108.52 was won by Ken Gregory, the high triple was won by Louis Maher 2nd 364 and also won the high single of 147. The most improved Memorial Plaque, which he keeps for one year, went to Matt Roushia a 11.95 increase over last years average. Ken Gregory's high average of 108.52 went on the High Average Plaque that stays In the Church.

On April 21 a delicious dinner of roast beef was served by the Women's Fellowship of the Church for our annual Bowling Banquet, and the awards of the past season were passed out. After a short meeting, the bowlers went to Bayberry Bowling Lanes for free bowling, thanks to Bernie Pelletier, where prizes were awarded for the best bowling of the night.

The Men's League is always looking for new bowlers and subs, if interested call Ray Lammi 508-885-2002 or Al Orne Sr. 508-885-2869.

MILITARY WHIST PARTY & PENNY SALE

Will be held on
May 14, 2010
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Refreshments will be served
Donation \$3.00

Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship. If you have items for the penny table or would like to bake for the refreshments, please call Mary Ingalls at the church 508-885-2149.

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Greetings! On behalf of the music committee we would like to thank our music staff, choir, and additional volunteers for making the Easter Season full of meaningful music. Your continued dedication is greatly appreciated. We are pleased to welcome Lynn Danner as Associate Organist for the summer and look forward to the Sundays she will be worshiping with us in July and August. Finally, Music Sunday is approaching! May 16, 2010 marks the culmination of a year's worth of song and commitment to musical development. Stay tuned for additional information and God Bless.

Keith Rutkiewicz
Dave Wentworth
Phil Harding

STRATEGIC PLANNING & CHURCH GROWTH PROJECT TEAM

The committee has been working on a church wide survey. The survey will be comprised of 5 questions. We would appreciate you & your family taking a few minutes to answer the questions. We need your input so that we will be able to meet the needs of our parish family. You may return the questionnaire either by mail, put in the collection plate on Sundays or dropping it off in the box outside the office Monday through Friday from 8 A.M. to noon. You do not have to write your name on the questionnaire. Whatever insight you may have will help us enormously. Please see the enclosed survey. For those who receive their Tie by e-mail, a separate survey will be e-mailed to you.

Thank you!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Annual Women's Fellowship meeting will be on Wednesday, May 19th at 12:00 P.M. This is a "Pot Luck" luncheon. Women of the Church please bring a pot luck.

Thank you to all those who gave to the Church World Service Kits. With the items donated we were able to send 13 - Layette Kits, 12 - School Kits, 15 - Hygiene Kits and 3-Cleaning Kits which were purchased by the Women's Evening Fellowship.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The program "Women of the Bible" which was sponsored by a grant from the Spencer Cultural Council was successfully received. About seventy people attended and enjoyed the performance by Linda Gray Kelley, a widely traveled and well known artist.

The Food Concession and Freewill offering totaled \$491.10 by coffee time on Sunday morning.

I wish to thank all of you, who supported this project by attending, baking and all the other necessary job related to this cause.

Your generous support for the Haiti Disaster Relief Fund will help alleviate their struggles and give hope, where it is needed.

Thanks you,
Pat Stark

EVENING WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The next Evening Women's Fellowship meeting will be on Tuesday, May 4th at Zorba's on route 20 in Sturbridge at 6 PM. We welcome all women from the church to come chat with us.

The June meeting will be the Flea Market held on June 26th.

This year we purchased 3 Church World Service cleaning kits (@\$56 each plus \$3 each for shipping) to help replenish the Church World Service's warehouse.

"2nd Annual Flea Market". We are sponsoring an Indoor / Outdoor Flea Market on Saturday, June 26, 2010. Rent a space: \$20 for 6' table and \$25 for 8' table, which includes one table, two chairs. Set up on Friday, June 25th - 5 to 7p.m. or Saturday at 7 a.m. Unsold items are the sole responsibility of the renter.

Morning "Coffee and" also lunch will be served from 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. To reserve one or more tables, fill out and return the form below with your check, or contact the church office at 508-885-2149 or fccspencer@verizon.net

Reservation Deadline: Friday, June 18, 2010

Space is limited. Please do not sell food at your booth. Remove your own trash after the event.

Table Reservation for June 26, 2010 Indoor/Outdoor Flea Market

Name _____ Email Address _____

Postal Address _____

Day Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Type of items to be sold: _____

I would like to set up on ____ Friday evening (5 to 7pm) ____ I will set up at 7 a.m. on Saturday.

Number of tables to reserve ____ @ 6' tables \$20 = _____ (amount enclosed)

____ @ 8' tables \$25= _____ (amount enclosed)

Please make checks payable to "First Congregational Church of Spencer"

Mail to First Congregational Church of Spencer, UCC, PO Box 187, Spencer, MA 01562. Deadline: June 18, 2010

FYI

The family of Martha Dwelly would like to extend an invitation to all who would like to attend her burial ceremony on Saturday, May 15th at 1 P.M. Pine Grove Cemetery, Route 31 North in Spencer.

The **Strengthen the Church** offering is dedicated to "Faithfully Building the Body of Christ," by starting new churches where the need is great and renewing existing congregations that only need some assistance from us to thrive again. Your contributions to Strengthen the Church help to fund ordained leadership for these congregations. The Strengthen the Church offering also funds programs for youth and young adults, and leadership development for the whole church. Through our gifts to the Strengthen the Church offering, our spirited voices speak about God's deeds of power through The Still Speaking Ministry as well.

Please think about how important a strong and vital church is to you and your family and consider receiving the Strengthen the Church special mission offering as a part of your church's ministry through the United Church of Christ. Did you know that 50% of the offering stays within our local Conference to provide similar ministries? Please return the enclosed offering envelope on Sunday, May 23rd.

Know Somebody in the Hospital? Please let us know...

Do you know of someone from the church who is in the hospital or some other health care facility? Please let us know at the church office so Pastor Bill can pay them a visit. Due to the Federal Health Insurance Privacy Protection Act (HIPPA), hospitals and health care facilities can no longer tell us if anyone from the church is there, even if they have made their church membership known to them. In other words, we have no other way of knowing if someone is in the hospital other than word of mouth. Please let us know the full name that they were admitted by, what the facility name is, and if possible, what their room number is. Thank you so much for your help with the visitation ministry of the church!

ATTENTION ALL CHURCH MEMBERS!!!

PLEASE notify the office of any **changes** to your **mailing information and phone numbers**. It is important for us to keep an accurate mailing list. So please make an effort to contact the office with any **changes**, either **temporary** or **permanent**.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will be meeting on Sunday, May 23, 2010 from 4 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Hot Dog Roast and campfire at the parsonage, 38 Greenville Street. Please see Christilynn Wildman or Pastor Bill with any questions.

CALENDAR

May 1st – 31st Office hours are 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

May 1st **MOTHER & DAUGHTER BANQUET 6:30 P.M.**

May 3rd **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP EXECUTIVE BOARD** meeting 9 A.M.

May 4th **SUNLIGHTERS** meeting 1:00 P.M.

EVENING WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 6:00 P.M. at Zorba's

May 12th **STRATEGIC PLANNING & CHURCH GROWTH COMMITTEE** meeting 6:30 P.M.

May 14th **MILITARY WHIST PARTY & PENNY SALE** 7:00 P.M.

May 16th **MUSIC SUNDAY**

DIACONATE will meet following worship service.

CHURCH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE will meet following worship service.

May 19th **ANNUAL WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETING & POT LUCK LUCHEON** 12 P.M.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE meeting 7:00 P.M.

May 20th **TIE NOTICES** due for June Tie.

May 23rd **PENTECOST SUNDAY** – Confirmation Sunday

YOUTH GROUP – Hotdog Roast and campfire 4 to 6 P.M. at the parsonage.

May 31st **OFFICE CLOSED** Memorial Day

LOOKING AHEAD

June 11th **POT LUCK SUPPER & BINGO NIGHT** 6:30 P.M.

June 26th **FLEA MARKET- 2ND ANNUAL**

HELD AT THE CHURCH

Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Al-A-Teen meeting every Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Deacon of the month for May is Jean Vandale.