

The 2023 Messenger



Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Lee, Massachusetts
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Pastor's Page

I want to begin my second to the last newsletter column by saying how much I have enjoyed being Transitional Pastor for this church. And now we are coming to the time to say "Goodbye!" and "God bless you!" as we go our separate ways. After March 12th I will no longer be the Transitional Pastor of this church. I will be going on to another ministry.

Soon you will be sharing ministry with a new temporary Pastor, while the search for your next settled Pastor continues. And I want to affirm this vitally important thing: God is with you! The Spirit of God will guide you, give you wisdom, and reassure you through the future, which in some ways is largely unknown.

I want to share a few words about what it means to be your former Pastor. In a sentence, it means that I will not perform any pastoral function for you and will not discuss with you any specific aspects of the on-going life and ministries of the church. You must look to your new temporary minister for those functions and you must discuss with one another issues related to the life of this church. I will in this way support the ministry of your new temporary minister and ultimately the new settled minister.

While it is not easy for me to write these clear and specific words, it is necessary and the right thing for me to do. I will be your former minister and while I will always hold you in my heart with deep affection in Jesus Christ, I want to encourage your relationship with and reliance on your next minister. That is why this boundary must be very clear. At some future point I could be invited back to this church to perform a pastoral function, but that will only come at the initiative of the minister who is then your Pastor.

Now a word about our personal relationships. I leave my ministry carrying you in my heart with deep affection and prayerful thoughts. We have spent two years together and have shared many special events and life experiences. While we are ending our formal relationship as Pastor and people, our personal relationship will also undergo changes. I do not expect to encounter you in the grocery store, but I am sure that in the future, some of our paths will cross in various ways from time to time. I will be friendly and ask about how you are doing. And I hope that you do the same. One additional thing that I will not do is specifically reach out to you and initiate communication via social media. That does not mean I don't care; it means we have to respect the realities of new relationships with one another.

As we say our goodbyes over the next few weeks, I will wish you God's blessings as our paths go in new directions!

Dr Jay

"It is the aim of this church to present a religion as considerate of persons as the teachings of Jesus; as devoted to justice as the Old Testament prophets; as responsive to Truth as science; as beautiful as art; as intimate as the home and as indispensable as the air we breathe."

STATEMENT BY THE FOUNDERS



Reverend Doctor Jay Terbush, Transitional Pastor; Jim Morrison, Music Director
Tari Wheeler Roosa, Administrative Assistant; Jason Matthews, Sexton

First Congregational Church of Lee, United Church of Christ, 25 Park Place, PO Box 395, Lee, MA 01238
413.243.1033 | uccleechurch@gmail.com | www.ucc-lee.org

Calendar of Events

Women's Book Group meets Saturday, February 4th at the home of Margaret Markham at 10 am to discuss the book *A Walk on the Beach* by Joan Anderson. Please RSVP to: margmark47@gmail.com

Berkshire Interfaith Organizing would like to invite you to a continuation of the conversation which began two weeks ago with Rev. Lauren Cannon. BIO is in the process of what we call a **Listening Campaign**.

Our goal is to reach out to people in our member organizations, to share our experiences, get to know each other better and to hear our stories. A lot of what BIO has done was based on personal experiences which can lead to ideas about what BIO might do in the future. We will be holding listening sessions here in our church. **There will be some time for Coffee Hour and then we will meet in the Chapel at 11:45am on Sunday, February 5 and 12.** Please RSVP



Have you ever tried to calculate how much money is spent on the NFL Superbowl each year between stadium tickets,

tacklehunger.org advertising, televising of the game and parties that people host on this event each year? What if all that money was directed toward feeding the needy?

You will have a chance to help contribute to our local food pantry on Sunday, February 12th when we will collect non-perishable food items and take up a collection at the end of the church service.

Nonperishables can be left in front of the lectern prior to the Sunday morning service. Let's challenge ourselves to match the 2022 Thanksgiving food collection!



Scout Sunday is also on Sunday, February 12th. The local scout troop and pack will participate in our time of worship. All are welcome to support and honor their character-building ministry with youth! Please welcome our youth on this day.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. You are invited to participate in worship as we begin our Lent Journey at 6:30pm that evening. This meditative service will include scripture, music, prayers that set a reflective tone for the season of thoughtful self-examination and rededication to living the love and justice to which Jesus calls us.



HEIFER
INTERNATIONAL

Heifer Collection runs during Lent culminating on Easter, April 9. Collection boxes will be available in church starting February 26th.

Heifer International is a global nonprofit working to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable, values-based holistic community development.

www.heifer.org

CABIN FEVER POTLUCK AND GAME NIGHT

Are you ready to get out of the house?

Please join us for a meal of soup and bread. You are invited to bring your favorite dessert to share (potluck) with others. Following the meal, we will break into groups to play games. You are invited to bring your favorite game to share or join in with another group. Saturday, February 25 at 5 p.m.



CHANGES IN OFFICE HOURS

Tari will be away Feb 24 – March 3.

Therefore, contributions for the March Newsletter will be due in on Monday, March 6th.

Office hours will be:

Tuesday, February 28 9am – 12pm

Thursday, March 2 9am – 12pm

COMING IN MARCH



Cabin Fever Hand Bell Concert & Dinner !!!!

Tired of the winter doldrums???? Want some uplifting activity??? The Lee Bell Choir will be playing a "Cabin Fever" Concert followed by a ham dinner. This will be held on Saturday, March 25th at the Lee Congregational Church. The concert will start at 4pm and the dinner at 5:15pm. The concert is free while the dinner will be done as a fund raiser for the bell choir. People can come to either or both. Tickets for the dinner will be adults \$15, seniors \$10, children 5-12 \$5 and children under 5 free. The tickets can be purchased either before the event or at that night. Joe Sorrentino will be our chef.

Are you asking what we are raising funds for.... it is for the purchase of either a 2 or 3 octave hand chime set. The hand chimes will be an added enhancement to the bells. How much.... about \$1500 for 2 octaves and \$2500 for 3 octaves. So come and enjoy. Any questions, please ask Judy Olds or Tari Roosa.

Beginning to Feel "at home"?

Have you been worshipping with this church for a while? Are you finding this a community that supports and nurtures your spiritual life? Do you have a growing sense of this being a 'home' for you? Then:

We invite you to consider what it means to be an official member. Dr Jay will be happy to talk with you and there will be a gathering for you to learn more about the church and how it functions. No pressure or obligation, just a friendly invitation to prayerfully think about this. Let Dr Jay know or contact the church office.

Volunteer opportunity with BIO

Would you like to help with childcare for immigrants learning to speak English?

Times are currently Mon & Wed at 10 am in Pittsfield as follows...

Please share this volunteer opportunity with BIO, especially those connected to the immigrant justice group. It's a wonderful chance to support recently arrived refugees and immigrants who are learning English, and for the volunteer, it's a chance to interact with adorable small children (which incidentally, as I just read, is good for one's health if one is an older person no longer parenting young children). Please ask anyone interested to contact Jenny Greenfeld.

I am reaching out to ask if you know of anyone else who may be interested in volunteering to do childcare during our ESOL classes? The class is on through May (for now) on Mon and Wed, 10-noon at the Berkshire Immigrant Center, located at St. Stephen's Church.

Stay safe and well and THANK YOU!

Jenny Greenfeld
Office Manager/Administrative Assistant
Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts
67 East Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201
j.greenfeld@jfswm.org
413-464-8075

From the Music Director

Well, we are in 2023! Neil Diamond just turned 82 a few days ago. Elvis would have been 87 a few weeks ago, and I just turned 70. I started playing in church at age 16, which means I have been doing this for 54 years. When I first took the job as organist / music director in the Housatonic Congregational church at age 16, it was a matter of economics. I could play Friday and Saturday nights at high school hops, and we got paid \$60!! No, not \$60 EACH, it was divided 5 ways. So that was \$12 EACH. But minimum wage then was \$1.25 per hour, so \$12 to play music for 3 hours and have a good time doing it, was a great deal. However, \$15 to play in church for an hour Sunday morning and not having to drag around an organ, was a much better deal. So, for the next 30 years I did both.

January is always a month where I can usually take a breath, re-charge and start preparing for the brand-new year. It has kind of always been that way. December was always a very busy month in the churches, and back in the band days, the Christmas parties and the normal Friday/Saturday nights stuff kept me busier than I would have liked. But I was younger, much younger, and it was fun despite the chaos of the schedule.

I am always amazed at the personal conversations, letters and emails that I receive after our Christmas Concerts informing me of how much people enjoyed them. Most of the time I am given much more credit than I deserve. The main job I have in the concerts is to make sure that I assign the right people to the right songs. Songs that not only fit their range, but also fit their style and presentation. That is what I do best, at least in my own mind. And I am blessed to have a Christmas Angels Chorus that understands that is what I try to do, even if they always don't agree with me. Back in the Earth Angels days, when people stopped me on the street and talked about the show they came to, the first question I always asked was "What was your favorite song"? I wanted to know what the song was that they were singing in the car driving home.

Each year many of you also let me know what you liked the best. That is all valuable information for the person putting next year's show together. So, I do thank you and your comments, good or not so good, are always welcome. And as I always tell you, without you, our audience, there would be no Christmas Concerts. Thank You ALL sincerely for your support. And everything that I do is always with the help of my wife Gail, and my best friends, Maria and Judy. I could not, and would not, do it without them.

In closing I don't often share emails or messages that I receive from people, but after getting permission from the author to do so, I decided to share this one with you. It comes from Frank Mazzearelli and his wife Dr. Carla Mazzearelli. Frank was the owner and my boss at the Egremont Country Club, after I retired in 2008. Although they now reside in Florida all winter, they wait until after Christmas because they love to come to the concerts. So, for all of the people that ask why I put the hours and effort into what I do, this is the reason.

*Good Morning Jim,
It's actually hard for me to find the words to express how much Carla and I enjoyed your production of the Christmas Angel's. Each and every year it seems to both of us, how much more talent is on that stage. However, we realize that the personalities behind that talent require a director with impeccable skills to put it all together. No matter your project in life, Earth Angel's, Christmas Angel's, Sunday Organ Music, or your responsibilities at ECC during your retired years, you are a man, and a friend, possessing tremendous talents yourself. Carla & I feel "Honored" to call ourselves your friend. You and Gail have touched many, many folks in and around the Berkshires and the community is much better off having benefited from those efforts. As we age together, please take the time to look back and recognize how many lives you have touched, but more importantly, keep up your excellent commitment to your neighbors. You are one of a kind and we are fortunate to have you in our lives.*

Best Regards, Frank & Carla

Happy Valentine's Day everyone!! *Jim Morrison*

BAND CONCERT



The Lee High School Band and Eagles Community Band combine forces to bring you a FREE concert on Wednesday, February 8th at 7pm in the H.T. Zukowski, Lee High School, 300 Greylock Street. All are invited.

Church musicians participating in the concert are Ruth Melbourne, Tim Franchere, Judy Olds and Tari Roosa.

This concert will also include Charles DiNunzio, long time band director for the Lee School System.

Former band members are strongly encouraged to attend this concert.



Berkshire International Club
member

Don Jordan and the
Nutshell Playhouse

present

"SPY JINKS!"

Wednesday, February 22 at
10:30 am

Lee Library, 100 Main
Street, Lee;

and Thursday, February 23
at 2 pm

Berkshire Athenaeum, 1
Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield
Admission is free to both
events,

and is for both children and
their families.



First Congregational Church of Lee Prayer Ministry

Bible verse of the month: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.." Matthew 7: verse 7.

WE PRAY FOR

(updated 1.19.23)

Our Friends and Neighbors

- Colleen Adams (mother-in-law of Brian Matarazzo)
- Rev. Dawn Adams (friend of Cheryl Beeman)
- Gloria and John Arnold (members of church)
- Joan Bertelli (friend of Sandra Cozzaglio)
- Becky Bliven (friend of Carol Blakeslee)
- Pat Bracco (friend of Laura O'Shaughnessy)
- Carol Bugley (daughter of Robert Bugley)
- Jill Cozzaglio (daughter of Sandra Cozzaglio)
- Jonathon Cozzaglio (grandson of Sandra Cozzaglio)
- Margie Farnham (sister of Judy Morehouse and Marilyn Fennelly)
- Isabel Fassell (member of church)
- Janice Fassell (daughter of Isabel Fassell)
- Mary Franchere (relative of Ruth Melbourne)
- DeeDee Fraser (member of church)
- Ray Gangloff (friend of church)
- Christine Hamilton (friend of Barbara Mahony)
- James Harwood (brother-in-law of Denise Harwood)
- Johnny Harwood (family member of Denise Harwood)
- Mike Jordan (friend of Tari Roosa)
- Michael Koperek (friend of Jill and Dave Topham)
- Lexi Lloyd (member of church)
- Loralei (friend of Judy Morehouse)
- Yannette and Thomas Lucas (friends of church)
- Chris Ludwig (mother of Jessica Drenga)
- Betty Massidda (friend of Ruth Melbourne)
- Betsy Matarazzo (member of church)
- Judy McNutt (member of church)
- Allison Miller (friend of Paul and Joyce Monachina)
- Joyce and Paul Monachina (members of church)
- Judith Monachina (daughter of Paul and Joyce Monachina)
- Paul Monachina, Jr. (son of Paul and Joyce Monachina)
- Terri Moore (friend of church)
- Rochelle O'Gorman (friend of Monda Driscoll, Melissa and Karl Myers)
- David Ohman (son of Conrad and Margaret Ohman)
- Suzanne Sheaffer (cousin of Dave and Margaret Markham)
- David Stone (member of church)
- Brody Tackus (grandson of Isabel Fassell)
- Jessica Terbush (daughter of Jay Terbush)

- Lainey Thomas (great niece of Ellen Krupka)
- Donna Toomey (friend of Peg Biron)
- Eileen Torraca (friend of Laura O'Shaughnessy)
- Nancy Tucker (member of church)
- Susan Tucker (member of church)
- Trevor Tucker (grandson of Nancy Tucker)
- Claire Way (Paul and Joyce Monachina's daughter-in-law's mother)
- Robert Wespiser (friend of church)
- Jane Maroni Williams (relative of Sheila Maroni)
- Debby Wright (friend of Wanda Klahn)

Sympathy

- Extended to the family of Frank Consolati
- Extended to the family of Barrymore Hawley
- Extended to the family of Loren Kinnaman

Our Friends and Members at Care Facilities:

Barbara MacNayr, and Hank Wingate (Landing at Laurel Lake), Marie Brazee (Springside)


Our Church: My prayer and yearning for this church is _____ (please fill in the blank) Jay Terbush and family, our staff, our congregation, ministries, Council, children around the world supported by our church.

Our Local Community: For those who are in need of employment, food, shelter, financial assistance, friendship.

Our Country: For our citizens and our elected officials to have the courage to carry out the message of the gospel of Jesus to trust in God's love to overcome all fears and hatreds; to bring justice to refugees, undocumented immigrants, unaccompanied minors, veterans, the unemployed, and all persons in need.

All Those Who Serve & Protect: Military, police, fire fighters, EMS, and their families.

Our World: For the victims and their families of Covid-19 pandemic, victims of persecution based on sexual orientation and identity, people displaced by ethnic violence, all who are suffering the results of catastrophic climate change, and all those whose lives are affected by war.



PLEASE PRAY FOR: _____

Requested by: _____




Requester's telephone: _____

Reason for request (will not be printed on Prayer concerns) _____

Place request in offering plate or submit to the church office

FEBRUARY

The First Congregational Church of Lee, 413-243-1033, on the web: www.ucc-lee.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30pm Community Dinner	2 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	3 9:30am M&M meeting 11:00am Pilgrim's Way	4 8:00am AA SOS 10:00am Women's Book Group 6:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting
5 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service & Communion 11:30am Coffee Hour 11:45am BIO Listening Session 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	6 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	7 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	8 Birthday of Scouting 	9 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	10 9:00am BRIDGE food distribution	11 8:00am AA SOS
12 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SCOUT SUNDAY 11:30am Coffee Hour 11:45am BIO Listening Session 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	13 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	14 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's 	15 5:30pm Community Dinner 7:00pm Council Meeting	16 11:00am Prayer Ministry 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	17 11:00am Pilgrim's Way	18 8:00am AA SOS
19 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	20 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	21 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	22 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service 	23 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	24 9:00am BRIDGE food distribution	25 8:00am AA SOS 9:30am Food Pantry 5:00pm Cabin Fever Potluck Supper & Game Night for All
26 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	27 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	28 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	1 5:30pm Community Dinner	2 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	3 9:30am M&M meeting 11:00am Pilgrim's Way Messenger articles due into office	4 8:00am AA SOS

If you have a meeting/event to schedule, or would like to rent space, contact the church office.

Donate online!!!

<https://www.facebook.com/Lee-Congregational-Church-UCC-1933569256904620>

Look for the Vanco Online message

It is quick and easy to use - pledge, donation, and many more options for mission contributions!
or: <https://ucc-lee.org/> Select 'Ministry' Tab and click on 'Support Our Church'

Worship Attendance in person and virtual attendees (Facebook viewings):

Jan. 8 – 68 (80); Jan. 15 – 63 (71); Jan. 22 – 62 (82); Jan 29 – 59 (no FB, tech issues)

Office Hours: Monday through Friday: 8:30am-12:30pm

Daily Lectionary Readings: www.sneucc.org/lectionary