



The MARCH 2023 Messenger



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

Pastor's Piece

Recently I have been thinking about endings and beginnings. These times happen frequently in our lives because life events bring people into our lives and people move out of our lives. Though sad, endings of relationships can also be a time for taking stock, for sharing together what the relationship has meant and how one has benefited from the love, caring and support of the other.

Steven Swartz, the lyricist for the Broadway musical "Wicked" has penned a beautiful tribute to the power of relationships. For nearly 20 years whenever I am ending a ministry I find my mind and heart affirming the truth of these words. I quote them as a way for me to say to all of you how grateful I am for the time we have been in ministry together.

*I've heard it said
That people come into our lives for a reason
Bringing something we must learn
And we are led
To those who help us most to grow
If we let them
And we help them in return....
Because I knew you
I have been changed for good*

*It well may be
That we will never meet again
In this lifetime*

*So let me say before we part
So much of me
Is made of what I learned from you
You'll be with me
Like a handprint on my heart
And now whatever way our stories end
I know you have re-written mine
By being my friend....
Because I knew you
I have been changed for good*

I will hold each of you in my prayers! And I will pray for future pastoral leadership which will come. God bless you dear people of God, followers of Jesus, learning to love God and others! My heart is full of gratitude!

Dr. Jay

Dr Jay's New Ministry

Several people have been asking me about my new calling, so here are some of the things I know about Immanuel Congregational Church in Hartford. I am going to be the Transitional (interim) Pastor for a congregation that has something like 250 members and current Sunday in person attendance of something like 80 people. They have been dramatically affected by the COVID pandemic. Before COVID worship attracted 150 people. Immanuel's people come from the neighborhoods

"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



Rev Dr Jay Terbush, Transitional Pastor
Tari Wheeler Roosa, Administrative Assistant

Jim Morrison, Music Director
Jason Matthews, Sexton

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around the building, as well as from the suburbs. The congregation is diverse, including a substantial percentage of LGBTQ+ folks.

The church has a significant outreach to their neighbors, including a 5 day a week lunch meal offered to anyone who comes. They have a sister congregation of mostly African Americans in the north end of Hartford, with whom they share services several times a year. Immanuel is involved in many ecumenical and interfaith organizations seeking to help the city, and is deeply committed to environmental and justice causes.

Some of the issues we will deal with include: budget issues and deferred maintenance in a beautiful old building, staff and program priorities, recovering after COVID, and (as so many churches face) attracting new people, especially young families, and rebuilding programs for children and youth.

So, I ask for your prayers for your former pastor as I am going on to a new church family, with many wonderful strengths and resources, a number of significant challenges and wonderful opportunities for ministry and service.



We will celebrate Dr Jay's time with us here at the church this Sunday, March 12 with a Potluck Luncheon following the church service. Please bring a main dish, side dish, or a dessert to share or just bring yourself!

Welcome to our Newest Members!

This past Sunday we welcomed SEVEN new members into our church family. Please introduce yourselves to them and share some of the activities that you are involved in here at the church. Who knows, they might also be interested in getting involved. Welcome to Nate & Leda Buller, Elaine Gross, Tim & Maggie Hill, Mary Melius and Amanda Schenker.

Remember, you can access information about our friends and members via the Online Church Directory.

Have you moved? Changed phone numbers? New to the church?



CHURCH
DIRECTORY

Send us your update or edit your own entry in the Instant Church Directory! If you haven't yet submitted a photo, please contact Elaine Scott to take your picture (can't miss her--she's the tall redhead with the Texas drawl).

Not signed on to the directory yet?

To begin, you need to create your account:

Members and friends can log into the Online Member Directory at

<https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>

You can put the app on your phone or iPad (it's really easy):

Apple App Store: Get the iPhone / iPad app [here](#)

Google Play Store: Get the Android app [here](#)

You will be prompted to enter your email address (if it's not the one we have currently listed in the directory, it won't work) and then to create a password. You will then get an email from ICD to confirm that it's you.

Speak with Dorothy Phillips or Tari Roosa (church office) if you need assistance.

Pastoral Search Committee update:

The Pastoral Search Committee has submitted our Church Profile to Rev. Terry Ogawa, the Area Conference Minister of the Northwest Region of our UCC Conference. She has reviewed it and we are making a few changes that she has suggested. The Profile document is over thirty pages long and covers a lot of ground. This Profile, when complete, will be posted on the UCC national website and any UCC pastor seeking a change will have access to it. Based on that, we should start receiving resumes. The committee then moves into the second part of our job and reviews the resumes hoping to find the one that seems to be the person we are looking to call as our settled pastor. The good news is that by working through the Conference, these applicants are fully vetted. We can be certain that they have Conference standing and approval from the Conference to apply for a position as pastor of a local congregation.

One of the questions that arises is when might we have a match and expect someone to join us. That isn't a question with a simple answer. If on the first round we have a candidate that seems to be a good fit and we extend a call, then we might have someone fairly quickly. Or we might have several candidates to look at, which will take more time. Moving and housing are then things to be solved. So it's hard to predict how long the process might take. In the meantime, there's a committee that is working on filling the pulpit until we have a settled pastor.

Please keep our church and this search process in your prayers. It is very important that we discern what God has for us. We cannot move forward just to complete a process, but rather need to move forward as God leads us. Thank you.

Garth Story, Co-chair of the Pastoral Search Committee

Update from the Bridge Pastor Search Committee

Some of you may be wondering what will happen after Pastor Jay leaves us. A group of us (Susan Stone, Dave Markham, Dorothy Phillips, Tari Roosa, Margy Ohman & Wanda Klahn) have been working together to make sure our spirit-filled worship will continue uninterrupted. We are pleased to let you know that, between Jay's last Sunday and early June, we will have a rotation of four women UCC pastors who will bring fresh perspectives to our Sunday worship. We will be drawing on talent from our congregation to help worship remain lively and engaging.

We are still hoping to hire a short-term bridge pastor to maintain continuity until we welcome our settled pastor, not only for Sunday worship, but also up to 10 hours a week for meetings, pastoral care, and to assist us with issues that may arise, but we have not yet found someone who can fill this role. We are told by our area minister, conference staff and Dr. Jay that there are fewer interested and available clergy than there are open positions. We are continuing efforts to attract a bridge pastor through various means and hope that these efforts will bear fruit.

In the meantime, we look forward to listening for God's voice in the messages from our supply preachers. Pastor Jay may be leaving us, but we are in God's hands!

Open Lay Leadership Positions

As of March 1, the positions of Moderator and Assistant Moderator are still vacant. We are introducing a trial of term limits to make the prospect of serving as a lay leader less intimidating. After one year, the Assistant Moderator will become the Moderator and the Moderator will rotate out of the office, so no one would need to serve for more than 2 years. If you are interested in either position, please talk with Dave Markham or Dorothy Phillips.

Mission & Ministry



•\$275 send a girl to school ... In many places, it is almost impossible for a girl to go to school

Please be generous this Lenten Season. Checks can be made out the church with "Heifer" in the memo.

Boxes and giving jars are currently available at the church, and the collection will take place on Easter Sunday, April 9.

Daily Lenten Meditations can be found on the UCC website at:

<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>

Last year's Lenten readings are available in a three-ring binder the community room. Individual readings are also available to take home.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Every Lent, the United Church of Christ, and many other mainline denominations, take up a special collection for World Mission. The UCC calls this offering the *One Great Hour of Sharing* which is at work all year round. This special mission offering involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration and development ministries throughout the world. When people are displaced, you are part of the response and recovery, helping to provide relief to the most vulnerable.

Collection will take place on Sunday, March 19th and giving envelopes will be available that day. Checks may be made out to the church with OGHS in the memo.



Heifer International

This is the time of our annual collection for Heifer International, a global outreach organization aiding those in

poverty.

Examples of what can be purchased include:

- \$120 goat - Source of milk and meat, clears the land
- \$30 beehive - Honey can be sold
- \$20 flock of chicks - Source of meat and eggs, which can be sold

Lee Bell Choir
presents
**Cabin Fever Concert
&
Ham Dinner**
Come and relieve some
of the "wintertime blues"

at the
Lee Congregational Church
25 Park Place, Lee, MA

Saturday, March 25th
4:00pm- Concert- admission FREE

5:15pm- Ham Dinner Fund Raiser
\$15-Adult \$10- Senior
\$5- Youth 6-12 yrs old
Youth 5 & under- free

COME TO ONE OR BOTH!!!

Fund raising dinner is
for purchasing handchimes

Church is handicap accessible

Church phone # 413-243-1033

Cabin Fever 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 6-12 \$5, and children 5

and free. The tickets can be purchased either before the event or 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 handchime set. The handchimes 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..



From the Music Director

Well today is March 1, 2023. That means that Dr. Jay only has two more services as our Interim Pastor. So I think it is only fitting that my topic for this newsletter should be Pastor Jay Terbush.

Dr. Jay has spent the last 26 months with us. Probably longer than he expected but hopefully not longer than he wanted? I have thought a lot about Jay since he announced to his staff that March 12th would be his last service with us. From my 55 years of working with ministers, Interim ministers were usually “fill-ins” for the vacationing pastor, or accepting an interim position with the hopes of being considered for a full-time position in that church. I cannot say that there were no occasions where someone accepted an interim position but only wanted a short period of time. However that was usually maybe a “retired” pastor who only was willing to work a few months at the most, or someone who had plans to relocate somewhere else and was only seeking to find employment for a short period of time. So as far as I can remember, (which is a much shorter period of time than what it once was) I cannot recall a pastor that I worked with knowing that his or her desire was to be an interim in this church and then move on to another church as an interim. Now I am sure that there are others like Dr. Jay and many of you who serve on select committees are aware of them. But as the Musical Director, I do not get involved with any of those meetings, so this was new to me.

Full disclosure, I am a creature of habit. I usually keep my cars for 10 years. I played in the Housatonic church for 44 years. I have been married to Gail for 50 years in August. I have lived in only 2 towns in my life, Housatonic and Stockbridge. I worked at the same place for 40 years. My lawn tractor is 43 years old. I have more lifelong friends than I could ever count which I thank God for, and you get the idea. So the idea that someone wants to find a job for a year and a half was so foreign to me. Truthfully, that made me nervous.

So about Dr. Jay’s 3rd day on the job, we had our “meeting”. Did I mention I really dislike meetings? Many of my normal weekdays for 40 years were consumed with meetings. So I prepared myself for my first meeting with Jay and hoped that we would “play nice in the sandbox” together. But I understand that I am not your “normal” church Music Director. And because of that, I almost anticipate a problem. To my surprise, when I explained my agenda, my goals for the choir, and my openness and idea of a musical “family” in this church, he loved it. At that point, I really wanted to beg him to stay here forever, but he made it clear that we would work together for about the next 12-18 months. But I left that meeting feeling very good about those next 12-18 months.

I could go on and on talking about the last 26 months that Dr. Jay and I have worked together, but it would add 2 more pages to the newsletter.

So I will close with this statement. I have enjoyed very much the time that Jay and I have worked together. There are many things in life that we don’t agree with, and that is OK. Because there is always that mutual respect and understanding that it is OK to be different, have different opinions, but to understand that the goal at the end of the day is the same, even if we think there are different paths to reaching those goals. Thank you Dr. Jay Terbush for your patience with me, for allowing me to be myself and run my music program as I see fit, and most of all, best of all, for the spiritual journey that you took us all on for 26 months. We will miss you. I will miss you, and I hope to make these last 2 Sundays special for you. God Bless.

Jim Morrison

THANK YOU NOTES:



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Souper Bowl of Caring/Tackle Hunger project. We collected \$324 as well as an abundance of food, cleaning supplies and paper goods for the food pantry.

Thank you to Scout Troop 3 for their help during the Souper Bowl of Caring and church service on Sun, Feb 12th.

Donations Sought for Youth Going to Camp

The experience of going to summer camp can change a person’s life, especially one based on the Christian faith, like Silver Lake Camp in CT. We have children/ youth who attended last year and there is interest in attending again this year. The cost is over \$500 per week per participant. We are asking for our members to be generous in supporting a Campership Fund for youth from our church to go to Silver Lake this summer. If you can help out, please specify your donation for “Silver Lake scholarships” in the memo or envelope. Thanks for helping to change a youth’s life for God!!



Order Flowers for EASTER Sunday (April 9)

Orders due to the church office by April 2

___ Lily \$15.00

___ Tulip \$15.00

In honor / memory of: (circle one)



From _____

Phone _____

Please specify: *Leave flowers at the church* _____
I will take the flowers home _____

Please write a separate check made out to the church with memo designated “Easter Flowers.”

Attach check or cash to your order form and place in the offering plate or mail to:

**First Congregational Church of Lee,
PO Box 395, Lee, MA 01238.**

Questions: Judy Morehouse, 243-2891



First Congregational Church of Lee Prayer Ministry

Bible verse of the month: "As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe." Matthew 5: verse 36.

The Prayer Ministry meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:00 am in the Parlor to pray for each person whose name appears below. Everyone is invited to participate in this Prayer Ministry. Please take this prayer sheet home. If you have names for the prayer list, complete the request form and place it in the offering plate or give to the church office. Names remain on the list for 2 months unless otherwise advised.

WE PRAY FOR

(updated 2.16.23)

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)
- 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 Barry Hawley

Extended to the family of Kenneth Herlihy

Extended to the family of Loren Kinnaman

Extended to the family of Missy Mosca

Our Friends and Members at Care Facilities: Barbara MacNayr, and Hank Wingate (Landing at Laurel Lake), Marie Brazee (Springside), Nancy Tucker (Harbor House, Hingham, MA.)

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: _____ Tel: _____



Reason for request (will not be printed on prayer concerns):



PLEASE PRAY FOR

MARCH

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 7:30pm Diaconate Meeting via Zoom	28 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	1 4:00pm Hospice Grief Support 5:30pm Community Dinner	2 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	3 9:30am M&M meeting 11:00am Pilgrim's Way	4 8:00am AA SOS
5 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service & Communion 11:30am Coffee Hour 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	6 Messenger articles due into office 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	7 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	8 4:00pm Hospice Grief Support	9 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	10 9:00am BRIDGE food distribution	11 8:00am AA SOS 1 - 5pm Birthday Party
12  6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Potluck Luncheon and send off for Dr Jay 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	13 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	14 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	15 4:00pm Hospice Grief Support 5:30pm Community Dinner	16 11:00am Prayer Ministry 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	17 11:00am Pilgrim's Way 	18 8:00am AA SOS 4:30pm Pinewood Derby/Blue & Gold
19 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service and ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 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 4:00pm Hospice Grief Support 7:00pm Facility & Finance Meeting	23 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	24 9:00am BRIDGE food distribution	25 8:00am AA SOS 9:30am Food Pantry 4:00pm Cabin Fever Bell Concert and Dinner
26 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 1:00pm DAR meeting 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	27 Messenger articles due into office 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	28 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	29 4:00pm Hospice Grief Support	30 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	31	1 8:00am AA SOS

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

Worship Attendance: Feb 5 – 64 in person (93 on Facebook)

Feb 12 – 74 (146); Feb 19 – 58 (192)

Feb 22 (Ash Wed) – 19 (46); Feb 26 – 46 (173)



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

Daylight savings time begins, Sunday, March 12. Move clocks AHEAD one hour.

Daily Lectionary Readings: Copies may be picked up in the church office or access:

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

Lenten Readings: <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>

9-volt batteries available: Our choir uses 9-volt batteries for Sunday morning services.

Once they reach 8.4 - 8.5 they cannot be used for the microphones.

If you know of someone who might be able to use 'gently used' 9-volt batteries, please let Jim or the office know. We would be happy to share them with you. Possible uses are children's toys.