



# 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 COLUMN

“Of all the paths you take, make sure a few of them are dirt.” John Muir

We are entering headlong into the Spring of the year and it is delicious. It’s hard to beat some of these days, don’t you think? Even when it clouds over and rains. How wonderful does the rain feel against your skin?

I am so very grateful to be in Lee with all of you at this time of year, to see the gardens at the church coming back to life. The grass greening up, and new buds ready to pop open with cherry and apple blossoms all around town. The delicate shades of Spring green on our hillsides...some days it takes my breath away. And every day is a delight as it brings forth something yet again new.

Here in the church I feel that same energy, creative ideas bubbling up, and high hopes. There are so many ways a caring community of people can make a difference in the world, in the town of Lee, in the life of a single person. So many ways to deepen our relationship with the Divine and with each other. For one, in the wake of our Earth Day celebration, I encourage each one of us to prayerfully consider one thing in your life you can do differently that will help heal our planet. I know you are already doing much, but can you add one more thing? It might be composting. Or picking up trash on the roadside. It might be walking or biking as you are able rather than driving. Or foregoing a perfectly manicured lawn this year...holding off a few more weeks with mowing so the bees have chance to visit the wild flowers.

Look around you. Listen carefully to the earth. It has so many gifts to give us. And it asks so little in return. Can we make an aim this Spring...one thing...

On another note: I am recruiting volunteers to help me with worship planning. Music, liturgy, children’s messages, especially around special Sundays that arise in our church calendar. I promise we will meet only occasionally for planning and keep it simple. Think about it. It might be a meaningful way for you to be involved and fun, as well. Please let me know if you are interested.

*Blessings, Cara*

### **Call to Special Meeting**

A special meeting of members of the First Congregational Church of Lee will take place immediately following the worship service

**Sunday May 28, 2023**

*Discussion and Vote on:  
The Carpeting of the Sanctuary*

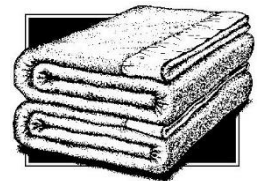
Please plan to attend.

*Melissa Myers, Church Clerk      April 20, 2023*

### **Mission & Ministry**

**BLANKET SUNDAY** –for Church World Service <https://cwsblankets.org/> is on Mother’s Day, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

A \$10 gift enables CWS to send a blanket in times of disaster around the world including parts of Ukraine. Please make checks payable to the church with ‘Blanket Sunday’ in the memo line.



*“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 ATTRIBUTED TO THE FOUNDERS



Rev. Cara Davis, Bridge 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](mailto:uccleechurch@gmail.com) | [www.ucc-lee.org](http://www.ucc-lee.org)



**Save the Date –**  
**Saturday, May**  
**13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Church Supper**  
**Fundraiser**

This year's first of three Church Supper Fundraisers is scheduled for Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. The menu is Meat Lasagna, Salad, Bread with Brownie Sundaes for Dessert. Jane Gleason will have a list of food items needed to prepare the meal as well as teams needed for cooking, set up, serving and clean-up. Your donations and participation will help make this event a success.

Tickets are: Adults -\$15.00, Children (ages 5-11) - \$7.00, Under 5 – Free.

## Volunteers Needed



**COFFEE HOUR** – Are you interested in helping?  
 Coffee, tea and paper products are supplied.

We ask volunteers to provide two food items. If you are new at this, feel free to team up with another member. The sign-up sheet is in the hallway by the church office or feel free to speak to Wanda Klahn.

## Bell Choir Performs at May 14 Service

If you attend the Sunday morning service, either in-person or virtually, you will be treated to the Lee Bell Choir playing music throughout much of the service. The choir, directed by Judy Olds, has been working hard to provide you with a special addition to the service.



Silver Lake Conference Center has openings for summer camp. Information is available

on the community room and hallway bulletin boards and in the office.

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

### Sunday, May 28

Marking the birth of Christianity and celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus

**Wear Red!**  
**Red balloons**  
**everywhere!**



**Congratulations** to Barbara Mahony who received an award at the Berkshire Recognition Awards Ceremony for Service to the Immigrant Community at their second annual dinner on April 23. Over 150 people were in attendance from all walks of immigrant life and support.

## Connecting Conversations Dinner

Saturday, May 20, 2023

Because of COVID, Connecting Conversations Dinners were stopped. Mission and Ministry has determined that it is time to start these again so the date is Saturday, May 20, 2023.

The dinners usually start at 6 but each host can determine the time to begin.

If you are interested in hosting a dinner, please contact Barbara Mahony at 413-464-8308 or at [dbmahony@yahoo.com](mailto:dbmahony@yahoo.com). Hosting means having availability for 6 to 8 dinner guests. (This number includes the host.) Usually there are 4 guests and 1 to 2 hosts or 6 guests and 1 to 2 hosts.

If you want to attend a dinner, please also contact Barbara.

For those of you who have never attended a dinner, the host provides the main entrée and the other participants bring a salad, a vegetable, appetizer or dessert. The host determines what each participant is to bring.

Looking forward to reconnecting with those who have participated in the dinners and also seeing new faces.

## From Mission & Ministry – Stay tuned!

Continuing the very popular and engaging practice begun by Dr. Jay, we are planning our next book study group. Our topic will be Christian Nationalism, as we feel this is a topic we should all know more about. We are in the process of selecting the book, and hope many of you will participate. Also planned for the summer is a public screening of the film, “Traces of the Trade”, a highly regarded documentary reckoning with the history and legacy of slavery in New England, with a discussion facilitated by Multicultural BRIDGE. We all look forward to resuming our “Connecting Conversations” dinners on May 20<sup>th</sup>, and hope you will consider being part of it, especially our new members! Mission & Ministry's next meeting will be Friday, May 5 at 9:30. As always, all are invited!



Stay tuned for the June Messenger where you will hear more about your contributions and purchases.

## Treasurer’s Report: Jane Gleason

Below is our income and expenditures through April 15, 2023

Financial Recap through April 15, 2023		
	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD
<b>Income</b>		
Pledges & Donations	\$46,673.00	\$44,836.00
Fundraisers	(\$205.00)	\$3,836.00
Rental Income	\$4,090.00	\$6,000.00
Missions & Misc.	\$5,151.00	\$664.00
Memorial Donations	\$2,200.00	\$332.00
Investment Transfer	\$0.00	\$6,668.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$57,909.00</b>	<b>\$62,336.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Payroll & Benefits	\$36,806.00	\$46,414.00
Facilities & Finance	\$14,266.00	\$14,160.00
Mission & Ministry	\$3,847.00	\$6,760.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$54,919.00</b>	<b>\$67,344.00</b>

## Carpet update and meetings

Have you noticed that our sanctuary carpet is looking a bit tired lately? Ellen Krupka and her team have been very hard at work looking for options to replace the old carpeting. There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, May 7 following the morning service. Then, immediately following the morning service on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, the congregation will vote whether or not to move forward with the new carpeting. Here are a few details:

### SANCTUARY CARPET REPLACEMENT

The following areas will have new red carpeting: main aisle, side aisles, front/back areas of church, front platform area, and the music corner. Country Carpet has been selected to do the work with an approximate cost of \$28,000. Pews will remain in place & carpet will remain in place in pews.

- Carpet Specifications
  1. Broadloom for heavy traffic area
  2. Fiber – nylon – 20 oz – gauge
  3. Product size 12’
  4. Fire retardant
  5. Stain Resistant
  6. 10-year Warranty
  7. 40 oz (1/2 inch) felt padding
  8. Installation – includes carpet removal/disposal

**Little Free Library** (take a book, leave a book) is now available at the Snow’s house, 185 Summer St. Come take a look. Books for all ages including fiction and religion



**High School and College Graduations** are just around the corner. Do you have a family member who is graduating? Names will be

listed in the June Messenger. Please include student name, school graduating from, what they plan to do upon graduation and their relation to you.



## From the Music Director

Another Easter season has come and gone, and now we have Pentecost Sunday to look forward to. I have to admit I will

miss Marcia's bright red balloons and flaming Bible!

She loved Pentecost as much as I do. This year it falls on Memorial Day weekend, so I plan to start with a patriotic prelude, but then let the fun begin.

Last year there were some sound issues with the stream, but I believe all of that has been resolved.

Thank you Josh and friends.

Three weeks from now will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my dad's death (photo at right).

I have talked about him a little in previous newsletters over the years, but since it has been 40 years since his death due to cancer, I want to do some

music this month that I used to

do with him when he was still well enough to sing.

And sing he could. I mentioned once before that one night I played a song and sang it for him and he told me to stick to playing piano. Naturally The Holy City, which we just did for Palm Sunday, and O Holy Night, which is somewhat out of season, will not be in the program this year. But there are many other songs that have special meaning to me and lots of memories. One thing my dad and I never did agree on was my total love and admiration for Neil Diamond. He thought Diamond had a "rough" voice, and I said that was exactly what made him so great. My dad was a "crooner". He loved Perry Como, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Andy Williams, Eddie Arnold, Patsy Cline, etc., along with our staple TV shows that we would watch every week including Mitch Miller, Ed Sullivan and Lawrence Welk. His lifelong dream was to sing in a large men's choir, but he never had the opportunity. But no matter what I did, he was always there for me. He loved listening to me practice, but he was happy when my hour of classical practice was done and I would just play songs that he knew and he would sing. He played some piano and guitar by ear, never having a lesson. He didn't read music at all and he was a lead singer only. So it was up to me to supply the harmonies. I remember one night when my uncle George was visiting from Canada and he and my dad were in the



living room singing along to some songs that I was playing in my music room. I played a #1 hit by the Seekers called "Georgy Girl" which I really liked, and I "embellished" the instrumental in the middle of the song with a few extra notes, which I always did. I heard George say to dad that I made a mistake. My dad said I didn't. Now dad had heard me play it that way dozens of times. They didn't know I heard them talking, but dad bet George \$5 that if I played it again it would be the same because it wasn't a mistake. So George came in and asked to me play it again. I said fine and I played it again, but intentionally left out the few extra notes. Dad gave George his \$5, and I waited until George had gone home to play it again, and then I played it with the additional notes. Dad just looked at me. I said you won't miss the \$5 and it made George's day. Music has always been about having fun. If we weren't doing music we would be brook fishing or he would be at my baseball or basketball games. Mom hated sports and music. Never did ask her about fishing? My brother is 11 years younger than me so basically the only thing I did with him was babysit. So dad was my best friend. We loved music, sports and horse racing. But over the last 66 years since I started playing the piano, people would tell me that I have a "God-Given" talent to play a song that I just heard for the first time. I would reply that it was my dad who received it from God. He simply passed it down to me, and I will be forever grateful. So if you hear a song this month that you don't know, or doesn't seem to fit the scripture for the day, just know that I am doing it for my dad. And I know he will be listening.

Happy Mother's Day! *Jim Morrison*

## Other Notes of Interest

**Thank you,** Ann Sterlin, for your help with assembling the weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters.

### Worship In Service Attendance (Facebook):

April 2 – 58 (142)

April 6 Maundy Thursday – 29 (90)

April 9 Easter – 84 (176)

April 16 – 55 (110)

April 23 – 53 (145)



# First Congregational Church of Lee Prayer Ministry

*Bible verse of the month:* “And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.” John 16: verse 23.

*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 with you and remember those listed in your personal devotions. If you have names for the prayer list, please notify the church office. Names remain on the prayer list for two months unless otherwise advised.*

## WE PRAY FOR

(updated 4.20.23)

### 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)
- Pat Bracco (friend of Laura O’Shaughnessy)
- Carol Bugley (daughter of Robert Bugley)
- Jill Cozzaglio (daughter 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)
- Ray Gangloff (friend of church)
- Julie Gian (friend of Jim Morrison)
- 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)
- Andrea Lalor Kosowsky (friend of Sandra Cozzaglio)
- Raven Livingston (friend of Amanda Schenker)
- 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)
- Jean Spalinger (member of church)
- David Stone (member of church)
- Brody Tackus (grandson of Isabel Fassell)
- Jessica Terbush (daughter of Jay Terbush)
- Lainey Thomas (great niece of Ellen Krupka)
- Brian Tillotson (brother of Larry Tillotson and church friend)
- Donna Toomey (friend of Peg Biron)
- Eileen Torraca (friend of Laura O’Shaughnessy)
- 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 Becky Bliven
- Extended to the family of Marie Brazee
- Extended to the family of DeeDee Fraser

### Our Friends and Members at Care Facilities:

- Barbara MacNayr and Hank Wingate (Landing at Laurel Lake), Nancy Tucker (Harbor House, Hingham, MA)


**Our Church:** My prayer and yearning for this church is \_\_\_\_\_ (please fill in the blank) Cara Davis, our staff, our congregation, ministries, Council, children around the world supported by our church.

**Our Local Community:** For those 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.




---

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*

**MAY**

The First Congregational Church of Lee, 413-243-1033, on the web: [www.ucc-lee.org](http://www.ucc-lee.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>1</b> 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	<b>2</b> 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	<b>3</b> 5:30pm Community Dinner Lion's Club	<b>4</b> 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	<b>5</b> 9:00am BRIDGE food distribution 9:30am M&M meeting 11:00am Pilgrim's Way	<b>6</b> 8:00am AA SOS 10am - 2pm Lee's Greener Gateway Cleanup (rescheduled) Meet at the Gazebo by the post office.
<b>7</b> 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service & Communion 11:30am Coffee Hour 11:30am Sanctuary Carpet Information Session 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	<b>9</b> 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's 6:00pm Bell Rehearsal	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:00am AA SOS 5:30pm Church Supper Fundraiser 
<b>14</b> 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service & Handbells 11:30am Coffee Hour	<b>15</b> 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	<b>16</b> 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	<b>17</b> 5:30pm Community Dinner Oak N Spruce 7:00pm Facility & Finance Meeting	<b>18</b> 11:00am Prayer Ministry 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	<b>19</b> 9:00am BRIDGE food distribution 11:00am Pilgrim's Way	<b>20</b> 8:00am AA SOS 6:00pm Connecting Conversations
<b>21</b> 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 11:30am Diaconate Meeting	<b>22</b> Messenger articles due into office 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:00am AA SOS 9:30am Food Pantry 10:00am Farmer's Market
<b>28</b> 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service <b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b> 11:30am Coffee Hour 11:30am Special Church Meeting - Carpeting	<b>29</b> 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 3:00pm Lee Chamber Founder's Meeting	<b>1</b> 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	<b>2</b> 9:00am BRIDGE food distribution 9:30am M&M meeting 11:00am Pilgrim's Way	<b>3</b> 8:00am AA SOS 10:00am Farmer's Market

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

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>  
CRAFT FAIR & FESTIVAL IN THE PARK!**



Mark your calendars and spread the word.  
10am – 4pm  
Call for Artists and Crafts people. We are now accepting applications for the annual craft fair.  
Contact the church office.  
The church also has a couple

of booths and can use your help.

**USA Today names Lee “a picturesque village” in their “10 best Northeastern small towns for 2023”!**

<https://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-northeastern-small-town-2023/>

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

**FREE** Concert Featuring  
**The Eagles Concert Band**  
Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 3pm  
First United Methodist Church  
55 Fenn St, Pittsfield, MA  
Featuring Prize Giveaways and Bake Sale!  
[www.EaglesCommunityBand.org](http://www.EaglesCommunityBand.org)  
*Donations are gratefully accepted*