

# THE MESSENGER

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Rev. Bruce T. Arbour, Pastor*

16 Court Street, Westfield, MA 01085

413-568-5818

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Website: <http://umcwestfield.org>



## SEPTEMBER 2020

### GETTING READY TO DO CHURCH A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY!

It is not just worship that has changed because of COVID-19. We will be doing meetings differently, via zoom, which means accessibility to meetings just got easier. No driving at night and join the meeting from the comfort of your home.

Nominations will begin this month with our Church Conference happening on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Vacancies include: **Property Committee** (3), **Staff Parish Relations** (2), **Finance Committee** (2), **Nominations** (2), and **Vision Committee Members at Large** (3).

We are also in need of a **Lay Member to Annual Conference** and an **Alternate Member to Annual Conference**. Any of these spark an interest?

Have a question about what a particular committee does?

Share with Rev. Bruce at [pastor01085@gmail.com](mailto:pastor01085@gmail.com).

### BUILDING TO OPEN FOR WORSHIP

**We will be opening our building for worship on September 13<sup>th</sup>.**

The guidelines require masks to be worn inside the building. Once you are seated you can remove them, but we ask that ***if you can tolerate it please continue to wear it.***

**The service will not include singing as singing increases the likelihood of spreading the virus.** Until the weather turns too cold to do so, we will have the windows open to increase fresh air circulation. Ushers will direct you to a pew. Every other pew must remain empty and people need to sit according to their bubble (household). If communion is shared, we will invite you forward to receive it and then leave the sanctuary. **We ask that you maintain social distancing as you wait in line to receive the sacrament.**

**We realize that this may feel odd, and we ask for your patience** as we attempt to keep the worship experience safe for everyone. We will continue to offer Facebook Live.

## TECHNOLOGY BOOST

After a long struggle with trying to provide our service remotely we finally have the internet upgrade that is making it possible to deliver a trouble-free live session of worship. All this didn't just happen. Joyce did the research and kept calling to get the service installed. Lindsey, Ben, and Rev. Bruce worked to assess what we need and created steps to bridge us to the day when the internet would be adequate to provide the service. It literally is taking a team to make this happen and we hope by sharing this we will not only offer our thanks for their efforts but inspire you to join in the efforts to keep this ministry open for all.

Through sharing over Facebook Live we have reached out to so many people we couldn't have otherwise. We continue to explore ways to expand our virtual congregation through Facebook Live and other virtual offerings such as group studies via zoom or other formats.

## WEEKLY UPDATES

Each week we send out an update notice to keep communications open on issues like worship, hymn sings, and other important information to keep us connected. If you are not getting them and would like to receive them please reach out to the church office at [FUMC01085@gmail.com](mailto:FUMC01085@gmail.com).

Be sure to type **“Weekly Updates”** in the subject line and **“Please include me in the weekly update emails.”** Doing this will keep your mailing from getting sent to the spam folder.

## PRAYER CORNER

Let us be in prayer for **Betty Wyckoff**, **Sally Templeton**, and **Kevin Vance** for continued healing. Prayers of celebration for Judy & Kevin Mealey's new Grandson, Garrison.

**We will be offering this Prayer Corner in our weekly updates. You can submit your prayer requests to the church office or share them through Chat during the Facebook Live sessions.**

### **Special Arrangement for CHURCH CONFERENCE on OCTOBER 1.**

**On October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm we will gather via ZOOM to hold our Annual Church Conference.**

This year we have a **new District Superintendent, Rev. Megan Stowe**. It would be great to have as many people participate (attend) as possible. We realize that everyone does not have access to Zoom so Rev. Bruce will set up a participation center in the sanctuary. We can accommodate 20 people in person. We will require reservations. Reserve your spot today by calling the church office or email Joyce at [FUMC01085@gmail.com](mailto:FUMC01085@gmail.com).

## MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

**Join Us!** The next Mutual Ministry Team meeting will be

**Tuesday, September 15TH at 7:00 PM on ZOOM**

Members are not appointed or elected. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring your ideas for programs or simply attend to get an understanding of this important team work in our church. Please call the church office or email us at [fumc01085@gmail.com](mailto:fumc01085@gmail.com) for the zoom link.

## SINGING BY HEART

**Wednesdays 7:00-8:00pm via Zoom beginning September 16!**

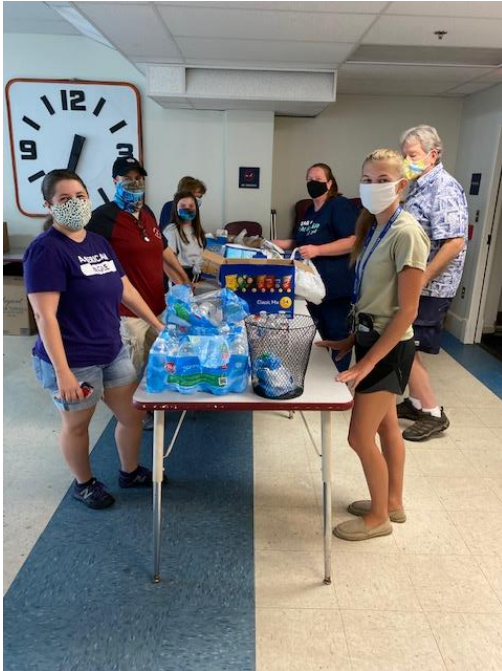
At the beginning of this year, as the world began shutting down around us in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we made the difficult decision to suspend in-person church services and along with it, choir rehearsals abruptly halting, what is for many of us, ***one of the most nourishing parts of our spiritual lives***. Although cases in Massachusetts have gone down significantly and many places begin to reopen, the numbers from the rest of the country make clear that COVID-19 remains a threat. ***Moreover, studies have shown that singing remains one of the most dangerous activities for virus transmission.***

As we anticipate the day when we can again safely raise our voices together in worship, **Singing by Heart** is an opportunity for us to maintain weekly fellowship, grow in our knowledge of singing and music, and explore other ways of praising God during this pandemic.

**Singing by Heart** is open to anyone and everyone, regardless of past choir or church membership or musical ability. We will use our time together to dive into the history, meaning, and theology of music used in worship; revisit the fundamentals, which help us to be better musicians; and pray and move together as one conscience toward in-person singing.

**All sessions will be held via Zoom from 7-8pm on Wednesday evenings, beginning September 16th.** If you are interested in joining, please email Ben at [benjiman.durfee@gmail.com](mailto:benjiman.durfee@gmail.com). **A zoom link will be provided in our weekly updates.** Drop-ins are welcome to check it out, though consistent attendance will be encouraged!

# WESTFIELD SOUP KITCHEN



## **Covid-safe meal prep at the Westfield Soup Kitchen Friday night, August 21!**

I think we were all smiling behind those masks. We packed bag lunches of water, sandwiches, chips, fruit and dessert. Also **thanks to those who contributed food and water** (*Dawn, Lindsey, Sandy, Heather, Ann, Tink, Mary, Wayne, Betty, Judy & Kevin*).

The need at the Soup Kitchen is greater than ever. **Next month our night is Friday September 18th. Please consider donating or helping pack lunches (took us about 15minutes).**

Feel free to call if you have any questions.

(L to R: Lindsey, Dawn, Charlotte, Sandy, Heather, Kevin and Sarah).

## **E-VANGELISM**

Up here in the Northeast, the “E” word is not something we often like talking about. **E**vangelism, the commitment to spreading the Gospel message, often means stepping out of our comfort zones. Since the pandemic, **the boundaries of church have changed a lot**. Now you can catch any number of services you want from different geographical locations, at any time you want, any day of the week. I know someone who jumps from church to church on a Sunday, visiting London, D.C., Nebraska, and their own home church in Northampton. Someone once compared **E**vangelism to recommending your favorite book to a friend. If that’s the case, virtual worship has changed the church from a bookstore to a lending library!

One simple way you can help us spread the Gospel message is by sharing our Sunday worship on your own Facebook page. It’s passive, yet a powerful way to reach people. You never know who might be scrolling through Facebook and find themselves filled by what we offer. Over the past few months, I’ve shared a few of our services on my own personal page. Because of that, now my parents are regular weekly attendees, my cousins from CT watch the hymn sings, and I’ve heard from many people from all different areas of my life letting me know that they’ve watched. Just one click could provide community for someone who didn’t even realize they were searching.

*Ben Durfee*

# FUMC FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S STEWARDSHIP REPORT AS OF JULY 31, 2020

Here's how we're doing on our stewardship:

## July, 2020

Number of givers:	45
Amount pledged:	\$ 43,275.62 for January-July, 2020
Amount given:	\$ 42,548.00 for January-July, 2020
Amount <u>under</u> :	\$ 727.62 through July, 2020

Thank you for all of your gifts to FUMC, especially in these difficult times!

**The FUMC Scholarship Committee is happy to announce  
this year's scholarship recipients.**

**Please join us in applauding these recipients  
and wish them well as they pursue their academic advancement.**

### **Ryan MacDonald**

Son of Paul and Sandra MacDonald

He will be attending UMASS Amherst majoring in Secondary Education/History.

### **Madison Wallis**

Daughter of David and MaryBeth Riley-Wallis

she will be attending Westfield State University majoring in Music/ Music therapy.

### **David Wegiel**

Son of Steve and Karen Wegiel

He will be attending Westfield State University majoring in Early childhood  
Ed/Psychology.

**FRIENDS IN NURSING HOMES**  
**DAVID BARRY**  
**Hearthstone at New Horizons**  
**Memory Care Center**  
**402 Hemenway Street**  
**Marlboro, MA 01752**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
**OVER 80!**

**IF YOU WISH YOUR BIRTHDAY TO BE  
LISTED PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH  
OFFICE AT 568-5818 OR EMAIL US AT**  
[\*\*FUMC01085@GMAIL.COM\*\*](mailto:FUMC01085@GMAIL.COM)



**THANK YOU**

*Dear Scholarship Committee members:*

I would like to extend my deepest thanks for your generous scholarship of \$500. This money is really going to be a lifesaver when paying for my College expenses, and it is all **THANKS TO YOU!**

I hope you are all in good health during these times and best wishes!

With Gratitude, *Ryan Macdonald*



**It's A Boy!**

**Congratulations to Judy & Kevin Mealey on the birth of their Grandson, Garrison Charles Mealey,**

**Born 8/24/2020 and weighing in at 8 lbs. 9ozs.**

**Garrison has an older brother, Whitaker who is 2 ½ years old.**

**Nathan & Erin Mealey are Garrison's proud parents.**

**WORSHIP IN-PERSON STARTS**

**SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> AT 10AM**

*ALTHOUGH THE CHURCH BUILDING IS STILL*

*CLOSED DURING THE WEEK*

**CHURCH MINISTRY IS OPEN**

PASTOR  
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY  
CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT  
NURSERY DIRECTOR  
SEXTON  
MESSENGER EDITOR  
TREASURER  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

REV. BRUCE T. ARBOUR  
JOYCE M. SCANLON  
BENJIMAN DURFEE  
HEATHER WHITE  
KAREN WEGIEL  
LEE ST.ONGE  
JOYCE M. SCANLON  
SALLY J. TEMPLETON  
LARRY GRIFFITH

# SEPTEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 10AM FACEBOOK LIVE WORSHIP SERVICE	7 <b>OFFICE CLOSED: LABOR DAY</b>	8 <b>REGULAR OFFICE HOURS START TODAY 9AM-1 PM MON-FRI</b>	9 6:00PM RE-OPENING COMMITTEE MEETING VIA ZOOM	10 9AM ZOOM STAFF MTG  7PM VIRTUAL HMN SING	11	12
13 <b>KICKOFF SUNDAY</b>  10AM FIRST WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE BUILDING	14	15 7:00 PM MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM MEETING VIA ZOOM	16 7-8 PM "SINGING BY HEART" VIA ZOOM	17	18 <b>FUMC AT SOUP KITCHEN</b>	
20 10AM WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE BUILDING	21	22	23 7-8 PM "SINGING BY HEART" VIA ZOOM	24	25	26
27 10AM WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE BUILDING	28	29	30 7-8 PM "SINGING BY HEART" VIA ZOOM	<b>MARK YOUR CALENDARS:</b> <b>ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE:</b> <b>OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup> AT 7PM via zoom</b> <b>More information in future updates.</b>		



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if your**

- email has changed
- your telephone/cell phone has changed
- your mailing address has changed
- if you know of FUMC members or friends in the hospital