



# First Church of Christ, Congregational United Church of Christ

## May 2018 Newsletter



### Pastor's Message

Neil Plantinga, one of my favorite writers and speakers, came up with this scenario: Suppose you are in the supermarket checkout lane. The woman in front of you has a fair amount of groceries but that's okay. However, when it comes time to pay, suddenly everything slows down to a snail's pace. She produces from her purse not one, but two, three four and finally five different checkbooks. She writes five checks for different amounts, each one having to be individually processed. It seems like it's taking forever and you cannot understand what's going on. Your impatience begins to boil up within you. How rude! Does this woman think the people behind her in line have all day?

But then suppose after you eventually check out yourself, you go into the parking lot and notice this woman with her grocery-laden shopping cart making her way to a van with a number of senior citizens in it. She hands each person a checkbook and then a bag of groceries. And then you realize the truth: this woman was serving these folks by buying their food for them. They were too frail to do it themselves. In retrospect, the way you construed the situation in the store was wrong. Your impatience now seems petty. You feel bad.

Suppose, then, that you learn something from this experience such that the next time you move through a slow-moving checkout lane because some person in front seems to take forever to pay the cashier. You construe the reasons why this is happening more charitably. You try to think the best of this person. Maybe he has to use food stamps for some items, a WIC card for others, cash for the rest. Perhaps this is someone just trying to provide food for hungry kids from a low income community. If you can look at the situation through these eyes, you have a much better chance at being kind, patient and compassionate.

So much of how we behave hangs on how we construe a situation. Is the driver in front of your just pokey? Well, you can lay on the horn, swerve around them to pass them, making a rude hand gesture. But what if you suspect that the vehicle's driver is someone's grandma? Your grandma? You don't make rude gestures at grandma, so take it easy, be patient and kind. If you are really in a hurry, go around the other car when it is safe and convenient and avoid any actions that would make the other driver feel diminished.

In some ways, this is pretty obvious. But I sometimes wonder if the times we're living in is making this harder to do than we realize. The way we construe the world is getting more and more molded by social media or cable news, filled with angry exchanges of people talking at each other.

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### Sunday Worship 10:00 am

**Church Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 9:00 am-3:00 pm

**Church Office Phone:** 781-275-7951

**Church Office Fax:** 781-275-4063

**Church Office Email:** fchurchb2@verizon.net

**Website:** www.firstchurchbedford.org

**Senior Pastor:** The Reverend John Castricum  
cell phone: 857-939-0711

**Director of Christian Nurture:** Kate Byers

**Music Director:** Susan Capestro

**Church Administrator:** Suzie Barry

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ment, it is getting harder to construe the people and events around us in a kind, compassionate way.

But that is what we are called to do as followers of Jesus. That is how we can be counter-cultural in an angry, harsh world. Jesus looked with compassion upon those who were generally despised. Instead of seeing a tax collector, a prostitute, a poor person as wicked, lazy or corrupt, he talked to them, listened to them, ate with them. Instead of forming opinions based upon what he saw, he learned what their lives were like. He construed their lives with an open mind and deep respect.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to do the same. Not just as we watch the news or look at our Facebook feed, but as we drive on Great Road and wait in line at Market Basket. This world needs kind, compassionate “contru-ers” more than anything else these days, and we are ones to lead the way. Let us make this a reality in Bedford and beyond. ~ **Pastor John**

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### **Bible and Bagels**

Pastor John continues his “Bible and Bagels” bible study on **Thursdays mornings, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** at Bruegger’s Bagels in Bedford. As always, this is a drop-in bible study: show up anytime you’re free to go over a Bible passage with John. No prior knowledge of the Bible is necessary. This is an introductory session aimed at those who don’t know much about the Bible, but are curious to learn more.

Bible and Bagels will then take a summer break from June through August and will be back again to study another book of the Bible.

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### **Coffee and Conversation at Bruegger’s**

Pastor John will be continuing his “Coffee and Conversation” in May. He will be at Bruegger’s Bagels on Great Road on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Drop by to talk about anything you want: faith, the Red Sox, weather or anything else on your mind.

Coffee and Conversation will then take a summer break from June through August. Pastor John will be happy to meet with anyone at Bruegger’s during the summer. Just give him a call to set up a time.

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### **May Wonderful Wednesday**

**May 16, 2018 Dinner at 6:00 pm in UFH  
Followed by First Church Jeopardy...Join Us!!**

**May Deacons Collection  
on Sunday, May 6, 2018 is for  
Habitat for Humanity**



## **Christian Nurture**

**Pre-School:** During May, the children will learn about Fruits of the Spirit. This unit should help children learn about blessings from God and about Pentecost. It will also help our youngest kids prep for Nurture Sunday. This class is looking for additional teachers. If you are interested in helping, please talk to Kate or Kate.

**Elementary School:** During May, the children will learn about Fruits of the Spirit. This unit should help children learn about blessings from God and about Pentecost. It will also help our youngest kids prep for Nurture Sunday. This class is looking for additional teachers. If you are interested in helping, please talk to Kate.

**Youth Forum:** During May youth will spend some time thinking about Fruits of the Spirit, Pentecost, and the ways we are blessed by God. This will have youth lined up with the elementary school class some weeks and the adults other weeks. The entire unit should prepare youth for Nurture Sunday.

### **Youth Group**

#### **Youth for 2017-2018**

On May 19<sup>th</sup> the youth are heading on a fellowship adventure of their choosing. See your email and bulletins for more info.

May 19<sup>th</sup> – Fun event chosen by youth

June 9<sup>th</sup> – Marching in Boston Pride

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## **Church Garden Group Welcomes Help**

Our core church gardening group (Nancy McKinney, Carol Jamison, Kate Trigg, Judy Watkins, and Susan Wingfield) have all agreed to continue maintaining the church gardens this year. Not all of us are available every week. Some of us are limited in what we can physically do, but we do what we can. Our job is to clean up the gardens in the spring, divide perennials that are too big, and meet once a week to weed and to water the urns and back shade garden. Again in the fall we clean up. We appreciate whatever help we can get, even if just for one time! The sprinkler system in the front gardens and along the side by the driveway have made our job much easier and faster.

If you would like to help with planting, cleanup, watering, weeding, deadheading, or contributing to the cost of the plants, a bag of soil, and fertilizer, please contact Susan Wingfield (susanw1@verizon.net or 781-275-9389) with your name, email address, and phone number.

~**Susan Wingfield**



## Music Notes

Music is bustin' out all over at First Church during the month of May:

- May 6th, Jubilee Ringers and accompanying musicians will play the gorgeous handbell arrangement of Michael K. Smith's *Agnus Dei* with synthesizer, shaker and bell tree.
- *Grace Alone*, one of the Adult Choir's favorites, has a wonderful theme for mid-May.
- Music Sunday, May 20, begins on a quiet note, with Adult Choir selections to include an SAB arrangement of the Christian chart topper, *Holy Spirit* by Bryan and Katie Torwalt. Later in the service with true pentecost spirit, the Jubilee Ringers will start a fire in our hearts by rocking out on Adele's *Rolling in the Deep*, with guitar, bass, synthesizer and drums. Music Sunday is also likely to include an appearance by a college student or two.
- Music on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend features some of our instrumentalists. Have anything you'd like to play and/or sing in church? Let us know!

### May Music Rehearsals:

- Thursday, May 3, 7:30 pm: Adult Choir  
 Sunday, May 6, 8:45 am: Jubilee Ringers, Synthesizer and Percussion  
 Sunday, May 6: Adult Choir is off  
 Monday, May 7, 7 pm: Jubilee Ringers, Synth, Guitar, Bass, Drums  
 Thursday, May 10, 7:30 pm: Adult Choir  
 Thursday, May 10, 8:30 pm: First Church Men's Gospel Choir  
 Sunday, May 13, 9 am: Adult Choir  
 Monday, May 14, 7 pm: Jubilee Ringers, Synth, Guitar, Bass, Drums  
 Thursday, May 17 : Adult Choir, no rehearsal (Wonderful Wednesday Week)  
 Sunday, May 20: Music Sunday- Music Call Times TBA  
 Monday, May 21, 7 pm: Jubilee Ringers rehearsal/party  
 Thursday, May 24, 7:30 pm: First Church Men's Gospel Choir  
 Sunday, May 27; Instrumental Music Call Time TBA  
 Monday, May 28: Jubilee Ringers, no rehearsal Memorial Day  
 Thursday, May 31: Adult Choir, no rehearsal  
 ~ Susan Capestro, Director of Music

### Memorial Gifts

In memory of Gordon Pedersen  
 Mission Trip Fund: Barbara Byam  
 General Memorial Fund: Pete & Lenora Campoli

## News from the Outreach Board

### Dinner for Bedford Community Table :

On Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup> First Church provided dinner for 80 at the Bedford Community Table. The Bedford Community Table and Food Pantry offers dinner each Thursday, provided by community volunteers, at the Bedford Town Center on Mudge Way. All are welcome and it is a wonderful community event that supports those who need assistance and those who enjoy sharing a dinner with others.

First Church served a delicious homemade meal of ham, mac & cheese, coleslaw, and brownies. Very generous servings were provided and there were lots of compliments. Dinner was a hit and appreciated by all. Special thanks to our cooks; Pastor John, Rick Burke and Nancy McKinney. And our setup and serving crew; Margie Burke, Cathy Gray, Claire Maxon and Judy Watkins.

### Flatbread Fundraiser: Tuesday May 15<sup>th</sup> 5-9 pm:

Please join us at a West Virginia Mission Trip fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza, 213 Burlington Road, Bedford. Enjoy great pizza and help contribute toward Mission Trip expenses. We will receive \$3.50 from every large and \$1.75 from every small pizza, dine in or take out.

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### Note from the Treasurer

Each year for a number of years now, the Church's local operating budget has ended up with a significant deficit. The largest accounts in our operating budget are the personnel/payroll accounts, and stewardship accounts that include insurance, utilities, snow and trash removal, custodial expenses, and meeting house/manse maintenance expenses. The deficits are covered by withdrawing money from our endowments. We are very fortunate to have these endowments that we can use to help cover our operating deficits.

This year is no different as our current operating deficit is about \$33,000 and we are entering the time of year where the deficit typically grows rapidly as we approach the end of our program year and then summer. Our fiscal year ends on June 30th. Using endowments at the rate that we have been for the past few years is not sustainable over the long term.

Please remember the church in coming months. Any donations or pledge payments will help the church control the deficits that we will have to cover with further withdrawals from our endowments.

Thank you.

~John Guetersloh, Treasurer



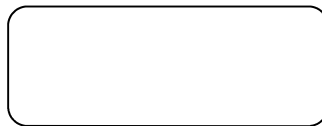
~ May Worship ~



May 6, 2018 Communion	10:00 am	<i>"Do You Love Me?"</i>	John 21: 15-19 Rev. John Castricum, Sr. Pastor
May 13, 2018	10:00 am	<i>"You're On Your Own"</i>	Acts 1: 1-11 Rev. John Castricum, Sr. Pastor
May 20, 2018 Pentecost Music Sunday	10:00 am	<i>"Wind and Flame"</i>	Acts 2: 1-21 Rev. John Castricum, Sr. Pastor
May 27, 2018	10:00 am	TBA	Guest Preacher

Thank you for your help in publishing our newsletter on time. Our next Newsletter deadline is **May 7, 2018** Our next mailing is **May 23, 2018**. Please send you email articles to: [fchurchb2@verizon.net](mailto:fchurchb2@verizon.net). Thank you.

Please let us know if you change your address.  If you do not want to receive newsletters, check this box and mail this page to us at the above address or email the office at [fchurchb2@verizon.net](mailto:fchurchb2@verizon.net).



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## Daily Lectionary Scripture References May 2018 (Year B)

### **Tues., May 1**

Psalm 80  
Isaiah 32:9-20  
James 3:17-18

### **Wed., May 2**

Psalm 80  
Isaiah 65:17-25  
John 14:18-31

### **Thurs., May 3**

Psalm 98  
Isaiah 49:5-6  
Acts 10:1-34

### **Fri., May 4**

Psalm 98  
Isaiah 42:5-9  
Acts 10:34-43

### **Sat., May 5**

Psalm 98  
Deuteronomy 32:44-47  
Mark 10:42-45

### **Sun., May 6**

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 10:44-48  
Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6  
John 15:9-17

### **Mon., May 7**

Psalm 93  
Deuteronomy 7:1-11  
1 Timothy 6:11-12

### **Tues., May 8**

Psalm 93  
Deuteronomy 11:1-17  
1 Timothy 6:13-16

### **Wed., May 9**

Psalm 93  
Deuteronomy 11:18-21  
Mark 16:19-20

### **Thurs., May 10**

*Ascension of the Lord*  
Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 24:44-53

### **Fri., May 11**

Psalm 47  
Exodus 24:15-18  
Revelation 1:9-18

### **Sat., May 12**

Psalm 47  
Deuteronomy 34:1-7  
John 16:4-11

### **Sun., May 13**

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9-13  
John 17:6-19

### **Mon., May 14**

Psalm 115  
Exodus 28:29-38  
Philippians 1:3-11

### **Tues., May 15**

Psalm 115  
Numbers 8:5-22  
Titus 1:1-9

### **Wed., May 16**

Psalm 115  
Ezra 9:5-15  
John 16:16-24

### **Thurs., May 17**

Psalm 33:12-22  
Genesis 2:4b-7  
1 Corinthians 15:42b-49

### **Fri., May 18**

Psalm 33:12-22  
Job 37:1-13  
1 Corinthians 15:50-57

### **Sat., May 19**

Psalm 33:12-22  
Exodus 15:6-11  
John 7:37-39

### **Sun., May 20**

*Day of Pentecost*  
Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21  
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

### **Mon., May 21**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Joel 2:18-29  
1 Corinthians 12:4-11

### **Tues., May 22**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Genesis 11:1-9  
1 Corinthians 12:12-27

### **Wed., May 23**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Ezekiel 37:1-14  
John 20:19-23

### **Thurs., May 24**

Psalm 29  
Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20  
Romans 8:1-8

### **Fri., May 25**

Psalm 29  
Isaiah 2:1-5  
Romans 8:9-11

### **Sat., May 26**

Psalm 29  
Isaiah 5:15-24  
John 15:18-20, 26-27

### **Sun., May 27**

*Trinity Sunday*  
Isaiah 6:1-8  
Psalm 29  
Romans 8:12-17  
John 3:1-17

### **Mon., May 28**

Psalm 20  
Numbers 9:15-23  
Revelation 4:1-8

### **Tues., May 29**

Psalm 20  
Exodus 25:1-22  
1 Corinthians 2:1-10

### **Wed., May 30**

Psalm 20  
Numbers 6:22-27  
Mark 4:21-25

### **Thurs., May 31**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Samuel 1:1-18  
Acts 25:1-12



**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**  
**MASSACHUSETTS  
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~ May 2018 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 6a AA (UFH) 9a Coffee & Conversation (Bruegger's) 6:45p AA (Room 5) 7p Masons (LFH)	<b>2</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7a Men's Group (V) 7p Outreach Board (V)	<b>3</b> 6a AA (UFH) 8a Bible & Bagels (Bruegger's) 9a Coffee & Conversation Bible Study (Bruegger's) 7:30p AA (UFH) 7:30p Adult Choir (MR)	<b>4</b> Pastor John Day Off 6a AA (UFH) 6:30p AA (UFH)	<b>5</b> 6a AA (UFH) 11a Lynne Pease Memorial Service (S) 12p Pease Collation (UFH)
<b>6</b> COMMUNION 6a AA (UFH) 8:15a 8:15 Discussion Group (V) 8:45a Jubilee Bells (S) 10a Worship (S) 11:30a Deacons Meeting (UFH) 6:30p Prayer Group (P)	<b>7</b> June 2018 Newsletter Deadline 6a AA (UFH) 7p Jubilee Bells (MR)	<b>8</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7:30a Women's Fellowship Breakfast (Riverview-Billerica) 9a Coffee & Conversation (Bruegger's) 6:45p AA (Room 5) 7p Cabinet (V)	<b>9</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7a Men's Group (V)	<b>10</b> 6a AA (UFH) 8a Bible & Bagels (Bruegger's) 9a Coffee & Conversation Bible Study (Bruegger's) 7p Nurture Board (V) 7:30p AA (UFH) 7:30p Adult Choir (MR) 8:30p Men's Gospel Choir (MR)	<b>11</b> Pastor John Day Off 6a AA (UFH) 6:30p AA (UFH)	<b>12</b> 6a AA (UFH)
<b>13</b> Mother's Day 6a AA (UFH) 8:15a 8:15 Discussion Group (Vestry) 9a Adult Choir (S) 10a Worship (S) 6:30p Prayer Group (P)	<b>14</b> 6a AA (UFH) 10a La Lech <sup>e</sup> League (V) 7p Jubilee Bells (MR)	<b>15</b> 6a AA (UFH) 9a Coffee & Conversation (Bruegger's) 5p Mission Trip Fundraiser (Flatbread Pizza, 213 Burlington Road, Bedford, MA) 6:45p AA (Room 5)	<b>16</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7a Men's Group (V) 6p Wonderful Wednesday (UFH/K/V)	<b>17</b> 6a AA (UFH) 8a Bible & Bagels (Bruegger's) 9a Coffee & Conversation Bible Study (Bruegger's) 7:30p AA (UFH)	<b>18</b> Pastor John Day Off 6a AA (UFH) 6:30p AA (UFH)	<b>19</b> 6a AA (UFH)
<b>20</b> MUSIC SUNDAY PENTECOST 6a AA (UFH) 8:15a 8:15 Discussion Group (V) 10a Worship (S) 6:30p Prayer Group (P)	<b>21</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7p Jubilee Bells (MR)	<b>22</b> 6a AA (UFH) 9a Coffee & Conversation (Bruegger's) 6:45p AA (Room 5)	<b>23</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7a Men's Group (V) 10a Newsletter Folding (MR)	<b>24</b> 6a AA (UFH) 8a Bible & Bagels (Bruegger's) 9a Coffee & Conversation Bible Study (Bruegger's) 7:30p AA (UFH) 7:30p Men's Gospel Choir (MR)	<b>25</b> Pastor John Day Off 6a AA (UFH) 6:30p AA (UFH)	<b>26</b> 6a AA (UFH)
<b>27</b> 6a AA (UFH) 10a Worship (S) 6:30p Prayer Group (P)	<b>28</b> Memorial Day Office Closed 6a AA (UFH)	<b>29</b> 6a AA (UFH) 9a Coffee & Conversation (Bruegger's) 6:45p AA (Room 5) 7:30p NAMI (Room 4)	<b>30</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7a Men's Group (Vestry)	<b>31</b> 6a AA (UFH) 8a Bible & Bagels (Bruegger's) 9a Coffee & Conversation Bible Study (Bruegger's) 7:30p AA (UFH)		