

The Messenger

June 2018

The First Church of Monson, Congregational/UCC

5 High Street, Monson MA 01057

413-267-3312

office@firstchurchmonson.org

www.firstchurchmonson.org

www.facebook.com/firstchurchmonson

**The Church Office is usually open on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays from
9 AM to 1 PM.**

Please visit our website and calendar at www.firstchurchmonson.org.



Dear Members and Friends,

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven. So writes the preacher in the Book of Ecclesiastes. By the time you read this, the congregation has voted to call Mr. Peter Johnston as the next settled pastor of First Church of Monson, United Church of Christ. It was then time to tender my resignation as the Interim Pastor and begin the final piece of my ministry here, helping to prepare the church for Peter's arrival.

We are now in a season of parting and welcoming. It has been nearly two and a half years since we began this journey through the interim period. On one hand, it still feels like I just arrived. On the other, when I reflect back on our first Advent

and Christmas, our first Lent and our exploration of our transition time, our first Easter and the number of joyful relationships that I have formed, it has been a lengthy journey. For all who have devoted their time and resources to this transitional ministry, for all who worked together to bring yet more light and truth into our congregation and community and for those who offered their care and support to your Interim Pastor, I am most grateful.

When I arrived, David and Permie Sears had just begun their ministry with you. I believe that we formed a wonderful, creative and expressive team. I also believe it is a blessing that the three of us will be departing First Church on the same Sunday. While it is a service of departure, it is also one of sacrament and celebration. I hope you are able to be with us on June 3 to celebrate with us.

From now until then, we will be in that season of parting company and preparing for the next chapter in our lives. Your ministry will be taking you in a new direction with a new and energetic pastor while my ministry will be taking me wherever God leads me next. Ministry is ever the adventure and I am grateful for the adventure I have had here.

Blessings to you,

Rob

Gift of New Paraments

Reverend Gormbley gifted First Church with a set of new paraments (altar cloth, pulpit banner, and bible bookmark). They are reversible, red to white, and we look forward to using them during the special occasions for which they are meant. Sincere thanks to Pastor Rob for this beautiful gift and for his loving touch in our lives.



*It's a Farewell Reception
hosted by Hearts Willing
Sunday, June 3
following the worship service
and
you are invited!*

Please plan to attend this special time

with

Pastor Rob Gormbley

And

Music Directors David and Permie Sears

*as we say goodbye, honor their service with us, and wish
them well.*

*Light refreshments include finger sandwiches, pasta salad,
cheeses, fresh fruit tray, assorted vegetables, desserts, and
beverages*

Children's "Superhero" Sunday

June 10, 2018



"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."

~Timothy 4:12(NIV)

Support our young people as they lead the worship service with their stories and skits about youthful superheroes from the Bible.

Make A "Super Hero" Snack for Children's Sunday

Consider joining in the fun of this special day by making a "Super Hero" snack for fellowship on June 10. There are "superhero" snack ideas next to a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Stop by and learn how to make Thor's Hammers (pretzel sticks and cheese cubes), Wonder Woman Lassos of Truth (fruit Twizzlers), Spidi-berries (strawberries with chocolate eyes), and Captain America Shields (pretzel round, chocolate disc and M&M) just to name a few.



Summer Carnival

Let the fun begin! Lots of rides and games for all ages! Great food!

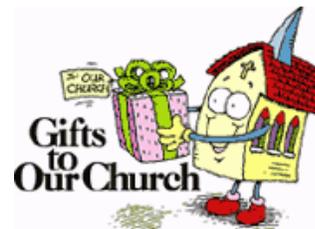
June 14 – 17, 2018

First Church is sponsoring a **Summer Carnival** beginning on Thursday, June 14 and running through Sunday, June 17. The carnival will be held at Veteran's Field behind the Monson Town Office Building and will feature amusement rides, games, and concession stands. Admission is free and open to community members of all ages. Carnival hours are Thursday and Friday from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., Saturday from noon until 11:00 p.m., and Sunday from noon until 5:00 p.m.

Plans are being made to use the church's parking lot for free parking during carnival hours. Further details will be posted in future bulletins and on www.Monsonlife.com.

Your support is needed! This is both a fundraiser for First Church and a community-building event. Volunteers are needed now to help put up posters. Also, we will need volunteers to manage the parking lot and assist people in the crosswalks. Please contact the Church Office at 413-267-3312 roffice@firstchurchmonson.org for more information or to volunteer!

Pentecost was a **red gift day** at First Church! Many thanks to everyone who gave a gift. Your generosity is a blessing to this church community. There are still some opportunities to fulfill some of the wishes from the boards and committees. Wish lists are posted in Fellowship Hall.



Friendly Reminders

The *Messenger* for July and August will be combined into one summer edition. The deadline is Friday, June 15.

Let's Eat breakfast will be on summer break after June 10.

Nursery care will be available through the month of June.

Fellowship hosts are needed for July and August. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

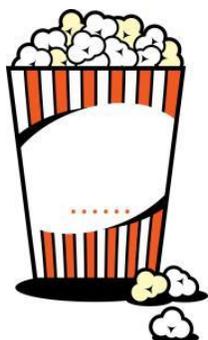
Please wear a **name tag** during worship and fellowship times. Name tags, arranged alphabetically, are located on the racks in the narthex. If you cannot find your name tag, stick-on tags are available. Please ask an usher for assistance. If you need a new name tag, please give your name to an usher and a new tag will be made for you. Different style plastic holders are available. Before leaving church, please deposit your name tag in one of the baskets located in the narthex, Fellowship Hall, or on the windowsill at the front of the Sanctuary. Thank you!

The need for food assistance continues during the summer months. Support the **Monson Open Pantry** by donating non-perishable food. Collection baskets are located in the narthex. Delivery to the Open Pantry takes place on the third Sunday of each month.

Sanctuary Flowers beautify our worship space on a Sunday morning and remind us that God is the creator of all. When delivered to someone who is hospitalized or homebound, the flowers bring our caring thoughts and prayers. This summer, please consider giving a freshly picked bouquet from your home garden; the flower calendar and sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall.

The Daily Lectionary Scripture Readings for June can be found at <https://www.macucc.org/files/documentsdailylectionary/june+2018.pdf>

Volunteers Needed for Fireworks and Summerfest



This year First Church of Monson is selling popcorn and bottled water at the Monson fireworks on Saturday, June 23, and again at Summerfest on Wednesday, July 4.

We will also sell the traditional strawberry shortcake, lemonade, and bottled water at our regular Summerfest booth on July 4.

Volunteers are needed to help Ted Sisley set up and take down the booths. Strong, capable volunteers with carpentry skills are needed.

Volunteers are also needed to make the strawberry mixture, bake the biscuits, and run the two booths. There is something for many of you to do. If you cannot help physically, you may be able to help out financially so that we can buy the supplies that we will need.



Fundraisers are essential to meeting our budget this year, so please plan to help in any way that you can. Thank you.

Please sign up in the Fellowship Room after church or call the Church Office at 413-267-3312 if you can help.

Our Office Administrator, Lee, would like to update the list of individuals serving in the military for the prayer list printed in the Sunday bulletin. If you have a loved one currently serving in the military and would like to have him or her added to our prayer list, please either fill out a prayer request card found in the pews or contact the Church Office at 413-267-3312 or office@firstchurchmonson.org. Please sure to note the name is to be included on the rotating military prayer list.

Invitation to Pastor Peter's Ordination
June 24 at 3 pm
Quincy Point Congregational Church, Quincy, MA



"Ordination is the rite whereby the United Church of Christ through an association, in cooperation with the person and a local church of the United Church of Christ, recognizes and authorizes that member whom God has called to ordained ministry, and sets that person apart by prayer and the laying on of hands. By this rite ordained ministerial standing is conferred and authorization given to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ." - UCC Book of Worship

On June 24, Mr. Peter Johnston will be ordained into the Christian ministry as he covenants with the local church where he holds UCC membership (Quincy Point Congregational Church), the calling body where he is engaged in ministry (First Church of Monson, UCC), and the Association acting on behalf of the United Church of Christ (Pilgrim Association).

Pastor Peter has extended an invitation to have us in attendance on this very special day. To that end, we are looking into options for group travel to Quincy, MA., where his ordination will take place. The general cost, whether by van or bus, is \$25 dollars per person. We would leave First Church at 1 p.m. and return around 7 p.m. If you are interested in traveling as a group by van or bus to Quincy, MA on Sunday, June 24, please contact the Church Office (413-267-3312 or office@firstchurchmonson.org).

Give a Shirt About the Earth *Spring Cleaning Fundraiser*



Need some incentive to get that spring cleaning done?
We are teaming up with Savers to collect gently-used items.

Here's the plan:

1. Look through your closets, cabinets, basement, and attic for items that are **“gently-used.”**
2. Put items into yes, no, and maybe piles. Donate the “no” items, and if you haven't worn or used the “maybe” items in recent months, donate them as well.
3. Please pre-wash or clean the items you are donating and store them somewhere that is dry and clean at your place. Tie shoes together with a rubber band so they stay a happy couple. Wrap fragile items in newspaper or old towels for safety and place them in boxes. You can pick-up 13 gallon trash bags in Fellowship Hall.
4. We will be ready to receive your items on the following days:
 - Sunday, June 17 from 8 am to noon
 - Monday, June 18-Friday, June 22 from 4 pm to 7 pm
 - Saturday, June 23 from 10 am to 2 pm
 - Sunday, June 42 from 8 am to noon

Accepted items for Savers:

Clothing
Shoes
Bedding, Towels
Accessories (belts, scarfs, etc.)
CDs, DVDs

Toys & Games
Small kitchen items
Knick-Knacks
Sporting Goods

Savers does **NOT** accept:

Auto Parts	Mattresses
Tires	Hazardous Materials
Baby Car Seats	Televisions
Furniture	Large Appliances
Building Materials	Weapons

Please contact the Church Office (413-267-3312 or office@firstchurchmonson.org) if you can help staff any of the drop-off times. Volunteer loaders and unloaders as well as drivers are needed on Monday, June 25 to help deliver items to Savers in Springfield. Please contact the Church Office if you can lend a hand! Thank you!

Spread the word to family and friends.

Electronics Recycling Day

Saturday, June 9 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Church Parking Lot



It's time to recycle all those old electronics! Clean out your basement or garage and bring your items to an open-to-all-towns electronic recycling event! The following is a list of recyclable items, including, but not limited to: TVs, monitors, computer towers, laptops, scanners, VCRs, copiers, DVD players, stereo equipment, lighting, vacuums, microwaves, dehumidifiers, radios, any appliances such as stoves, washers, dryers, etc., exercise equipment, lawn mowers, snow blowers, small engine items and flat panel monitors. TVs up to 18" - \$15 each; TVs 19" to 24" - \$20 each; TVs 25" to 31" - \$25 each; TVs 32" to 35" - \$30 each; TVs 36" and larger, wood console and projection TVs - \$35 each; CRT monitors - \$15 each; AC units - \$15 each; microwaves and dehumidifiers - \$10 each; small dorm refrigerators - \$1 each; washers, dryers and stoves - \$20 each; lawn mowers, ride-on included, and snow blowers - \$10 each; grills - \$10 each; any kind of exercise equipment - \$10 each; keyboards, car batteries, cell phones and circuit boards - no fee. Bicycle Recycle - please bring any and all unwanted or under-used bikes to the parking lot. We will be accepting any model of bike in any condition. Our aim is to keep bikes from being thrown out when they can be re-used.