



The Epistle

June 2022

The Diaconate invites you to a special musical service on Sunday June 12th at 9:30. A Choral Reflection will be provided by the International Veterans Chorus.

The International Veterans Chorus was founded in Sept 2002 by Donna Allard with the idea of educating children in our schools about the important role our veterans have played so that we may live in a free democracy.

The chorus started with 10 members and has had as many as 45 members at one time. We currently have 22 members and have another roster of auxiliary members that we continue to invite to special events.

The IVC is based out of Leominster Veterans Center. We are a community chorus with members coming from various towns, including Clinton and Templeton. We sing patriotic and seasonal songs at civic events, schools, and churches.

Our members range in age from 41 to 96. Over the years our members have served in the British Army, the Hungarian and Japanese Forces.

All members are Military Veterans. We have a support team that is staffed by those with a heart for veterans. All members and leaders are volunteers. We have a board of directors, and are a 501c3 financed by donations.

Our performance seasons are Sept to Dec, and March to June.

Strawberry Shortcake Booth

The last Town Benefit Day on Academy Hill was held in 2019. The 2020 and 2021 events were cancelled due to the pandemic.

As a form of Christian outreach within our local community, our Church was asked if we would like to participate in the Town Benefit Day events by supporting a Strawberry Shortcake Booth, similar to what we had at the old Yankee Street Fair events.

This year's event runs from 11:00 AM until 5:00 PM on Sunday, August 14th. In the past, the strawberries, biscuits, and whipped cream were provided by a generous Church member as well as a local restaurant with the bowls, spoons and napkins provided by the Town Benefit Committee. The Church participation is mostly providing labor for six hours maximum (typically broken into 2 hour shifts). The muscles used most are facial with smiles and laughter throughout!

Please consider volunteering. It is a wonderful day of good fun and sharing our presence with the wider community. Join up with a friend and spend some quality time together.

Previous experience is not required. Just an open heart and willingness to help out. Please email Ellen Holmes at

eholmes.fccw.moderator@gmail.com

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Sally Calhoun	Nell Naideth
Donna Zehring	Eddie Hannula
Dolores Tamulen	Tariq and Marilyn Malik
Shirley Saari	Eleanor Brogan
Bobbie DiBattista	David Wilson
Jason Murphy	Jan Gordon
Kathy Miller	Derek Barry
Brian & June Coombs	James Gallant
Lizete Dasilva	Dot
Charlie Snell	Audrey Brogan
Bob Andersen	Lorna Ducharme
Sara Calhoun	Roxxe and Chris
Lindsey Kuchta	Brian Castle
Seve Collar	
Peter's mom, Mary	

For our members, family and friends hospitalized, ill and in need of prayers, may God bless and watch over you:

Members of our Armed Services,. When sharing joys and concerns in worship please remember that the services are recorded and be respectful of others' privacy by refraining from giving too much detail. More information can always be shared privately with the church secretary, Lisa at fcw.westminster@gmail.com or call the church office at (978) 874-5790.

THANK YOU

May 8, 2022

First Congregational Church
Mission Account
PO Box 477
Westminster, MA 01473

The Westminster Community Food Pantry greatly appreciates your generous donation of \$145.00. It is through the generosity of individuals, organizations, and local businesses that the pantry is able to continue to help families on our area. On behalf of the pantry volunteers and families we serve, thank you for caring and helping.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Murphy
On behalf of the volunteers of the WCFP



June 5 being Pentecost Sunday, we are asking all who attend church that day to wear the colors of red, orange and yellow to represent the flame.

Thank you!



The office will be closed Monday and Friday's beginning June 13

On-Line Giving using Bill Pay

Many people in our congregation have already discovered that On-Line Giving using Bill Pay is an easy way to donate to the church. A big Thank-You to them.

If there is anyone who would like to try this way to complete your pledge but needs help in figuring out how to do it, please let me know and I will be happy to help you do it. John Aalto, Church Treasurer (johnaalto@verizon.net or

Sign up for Lemonade and cookies!

Clipboard is outside of the church office



Sunday, June 12 will be Children's Sunday. Also, the Veteran's Chorus will be joining us with a special musical presentation.

We hope to see you!





Virtual Worship Service

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the recording, editing, and posting of our Sunday Worship Service.

Since it's early development, Pastor Ray has continuously improved the process to where we are today. If you are comfortable navigating around a couple of websites, the learning curve should be short.

The more volunteers the better, as long as each Sunday is covered.

If you're interested, have questions, or know of somebody, please contact me.

Thank you for your consideration

Doug Greenlee (Diaconate Chairperson)

dougreenlee05@gmail.com

978-289-3126

Christian Education



Hi families!

I am excited that we will be having the first in person Children's Sunday in two years on June 12. Practice for this will be taking place in church school during regular class time on May 29 and June 5. The kids have anxiously been waiting to show you their creations that they made for the Christmas pageant which we will be incorporating into our children's day skit. Please join us afterwards on the side lawn for our annual ice cream social following the service.

June 12 will commence our school year as the last church school day for the year. Keep an eye out via mail chimp and our social media pages for more info on summer Bible lesson take-home kits which you will be able to pick up at designated times throughout the summer. These kits will be filled with a Bible story lesson plan, work sheets, and crafts to keep little minds and little hands busy thinking about Jesus while we are on vacation.

As always thank you for supporting our church school program. From where we were at the start in September to how we were able to finish strong in June. We have grown this year together and I am so looking forward to seeing what the future brings.

Have a safe, healthy, and happy summer break!

In his love,

Devon

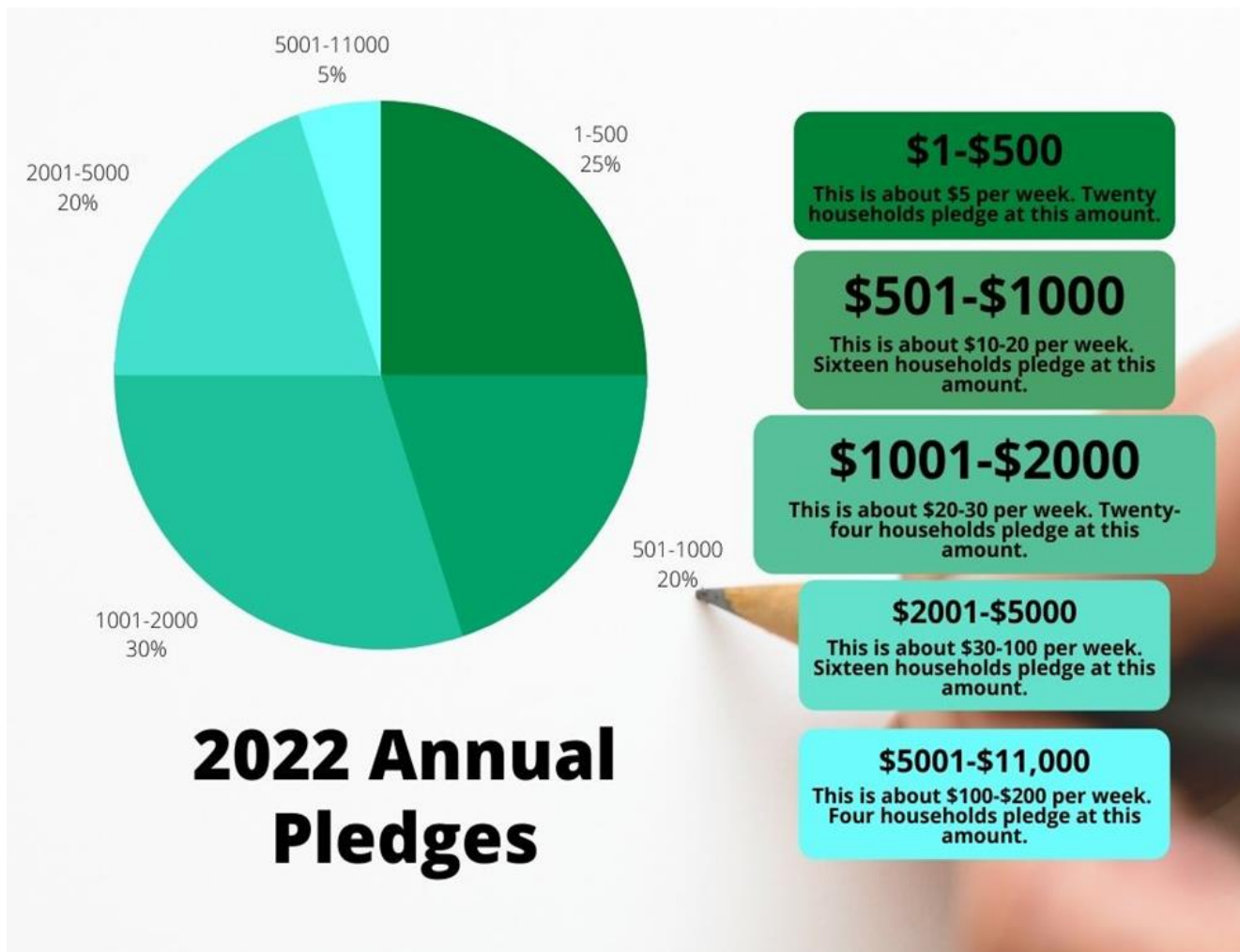


Generous Giving

How do our church pledges look? At a recent Generous Giving Ministry meeting, we discussed that it would be helpful to see how church members and pledgers make their pledges to the church. Having transparency in how folks give could help folks see how their pledges are part of this whole pie. So, we are sharing some insights of how the pledges have come in for the 2022 year. Here are some main themes:

- * This year, we received about 80 pledges
- * Half of pledgers pledge between \$10-30 per week.
- * Most pledges come in between \$20-30 per week

We still occasionally have a pledge or two come in. It's not too late to pledge, and consider what your contribution to this pie is. What surprises or inspires or do you have questions about how our church family gives? Ask the Generous Giving Ministry!





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 PM AA (FH)	2 7:00 PM Trustees (FH)	3 Office closed	4
5 9:30 AM Church School (classrooms) 9:30 AM Worship/Communion Service 11:00 AM Church Council (zoom)	6 5:45-7:30 Cub Scouts (FH)	7 8:00 AM Yoga (Zoom) 10:00 AM Staff (Parlor) 7:00 PM Diaconate (FH)	8 7:00 PM AA (FH)	9 6:30- 7:30 PM Food Pantry	10 Office closed	11
12 9:30 AM Children's Sunday Veteran's Chorus (Sanctuary) 10:45-11:30 AM GGM (Parlor)	13 Office Summer Hours Begin Office closed	14 8:00 AM Yoga (Zoom) 10:00 AM Staff (Parlor) 5:45-7:30 PM Cub Scouts (FH)	15 7:00 PM AA (FH)	16 6:00- 7:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:30- 7:30 PM Food Pantry	17 Office closed	18 8:00 AM Town Wide Yard Sale
19 9:30 AM Worship Service <i>Father's Day</i>	20 Office closed	21 8:00 AM Yoga (Zoom) 10:00 AM Staff (Parlor) <i>First Day of Summer</i>	22 7:00 PM AA (FH) EPISTLE DUE	23 6:30- 7:30 PM Food Pantry	24 Office closed	25
26 10:30 AM CE (CH) 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM Welcoming Committee (Parlor)	27 Office Closed	28 8:00 AM Yoga (Zoom) 10:00 AM Staff (Parlor)	29 7:00 PM AA (FH)	30 6:30-7:30 PM Food Pantry		



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office closed	2
3 9:30 AM Worship/Communion Service	4 Office Closed <i>Independence Day</i>	5 8:00 AM Yoga 10:00 AM Staff (Parlor) 7:00 PM Diaconate (FH)	6 7:00 PM AA (FH)	7 6:30- 7:30 PM Food Pantry	8 Office closed	9
10 9:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)	11 Office closed	12 8:00 AM Yoga 10:00 AM Staff (Parlor)	13 7:00 PM AA (FH)	14 6:30- 7:30 PM Food Pantry	15 Office closed	16
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24 9:30 AM Worship Service	25 Office Closed	26 8:00 AM Yoga 10:00 AM Staff (Parlor)	27 7:00 PM AA (FH)	28 6:30- 7:30 PM Food Pantry	29 Office closed	30
31 9:30 AM Worship Service						



Come share the joy of music. Answer the bell and becoming a ringer. Do you know left and right? Can you tell the difference between red and green? Then we want you!!!! Bring a friend or two. Let's make some music together and have fun as we revitalize our bell choir. The only requirement is to be available for Thanksgiving service. If you are interested, please contact Candi Hitchcock 978-668-5462.

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Search for : First Congregational Church of Westminster

**The First Congregational Church
of Westminster
United Church of Christ
138 Main Street • PO Box 477
Westminster, MA 01473**

The Epistle
June 2022

Phone: 978-874-5790

Email: fccw.westminster@gmail.com

Visit our Website at www.westcong.org



June 22, 2022

OCEAN WATER

After a busy summer day, relax in the shade with this cool drink.



What you need:

- 3 Tablespoons water
- 3 Tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon coconut extract
- 3 drops blue food coloring
- 24 oz. (2 cans) lemon-lime soda
- Clear cup or glass
- Ice
- Swedish Fish candy

What you do:

1. In a small microwave-safe bowl, combine the water and sugar. Heat for 1 minute. Stir until sugar is dissolved.
2. Pour the mixture into a pitcher. Add coconut extract, food coloring and soda. Stir.
3. Pour into cup. Add ice and fish. Enjoy!