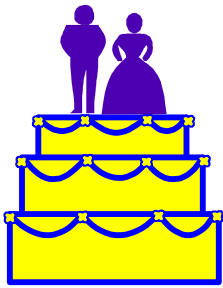
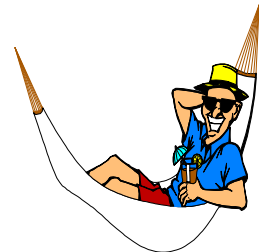
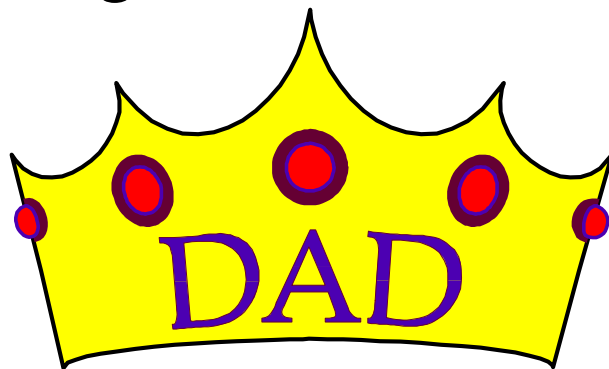


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
39 Exchange St
Milford, MA. 01757



THE MESSENGER JUNE 2007



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
39 Exchange Street
Milford, Massachusetts 01757
The Rev. Dorothy Asare, Pastor
Church (508) 473-4252 Home 508-655-9457

June 2007

Annual Conference

The Messenger

A word from the Pastor.....

Daddy God adopts us by Grace.

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,

but you have received a spirit of adoption.

When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Romans 8:14-16

A little girl who was adopted as a baby, explains her relationship with her parents this way; "Mom & Dad chose to have me so they took me home". God created all people, and extends providential care to all. So in a sense, God is the Father of all. But when we say "yes" to God in Christ Jesus, we are adopted by God, led by the Spirit of God, and our relationship with God becomes intimate. We can call God, Abba or Daddy, and the Spirit of God bears witness with our spirits that we are children of God. We can freely call on Daddy God, we have access to Daddy God in prayer and worship. We have access to Daddy God in our relationship with the rest of Daddy God's creation. As children of God we live with the abundance of God's love, and perfect love casts out all fear (2 Tim 1:7). Let us walk in confidence as beloved children of the Mighty God.

The beauty of spring is all around us, the bushes are aflame with color, the grass is green, the birds are chirping to wake us up, Daddy God has blessed us with the beauty of nature. Indeed the Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. Let us continue in the leading of the Spirit and the warmth of Daddy God's love. Blessing,

Pastor Dorothy

The Annual Conference of the New England United Methodist Church will gather at Gordon College in Wenham, Mass. from June 7-10. Please keep the Annual Conference and Bishop Peter Weaver in your prayers.

Fathers Day –June 17

We thank God for all Fathers and the Fathers of the church. We will celebrate fathers in church on this Sunday. We also will be baptizing an infant.

Vacation Bible School

Our church family will provide a vacation bible school this summer. Laurie Lovell & Lanie Bushell will be Co -directors. VBS will be held on July 9- 13, at 5:30pm each day. Please we need your support for this wonderful ministry. Invite your children and grand children. It will be a fun-filled learning time.

Higher Education and Campus Ministry

To all our college students:

Have a great summer!

When you know your fall address, please let the church office know so that we can stay in touch with you during the school year.

Thank you....

Your support of us in the Relay for Life cancer walk is deeply appreciated. Thank you for your part in helping make it a success.

Sara Milo and Laurel Milo/Rodrick

Readers for June

June 3	Teresa Creber
June 10	Donna Kling
June 17	Scott Vanseth
June 24	Fran Hollister

Ushers for June

June 3	Cyndee Mc Govern, Paula Malnati
June 10	Betty Milo, Elaine Quinn
June 17	Fred Sprague, John Beattie
June 24	Ed and Fran Hollister

Greeters & Coffee Hour Host

Cyndi Rothwell

To All the Outstanding Acolytes

I just wanted to thank you for another successful year. You all did a great job. Good luck with the remainder of this school year and have a happy and relaxing summer.

Thank you,

Mrs. Cashin

High School Graduate

Congratulations to Cynthia Richter! She is graduating from Ursuline Academy on June 3, 2007. She plans to attend St. Mary's College, St. Mary's City, Maryland in the Fall.



June Birthdays

If your or your child's birthday is not listed, please call the office so we can update our Birthday List. Thanks!

June 1	Dick Ashcroft
June 2	Marsha Hastings
June 5	Fred Sprague
June 8	Lisa Ahronian
June 9	Allison Chu Larry Milo, Jr. Robert Rao
June 11	Thomas McGovern Paul Stewardson
June 12	Marion Morrison
June 13	Cheryl Lemon
June 18	Joyce Beard
June 19	Christine Beattie Kathryn Bruner-Clifton
June 24	David Prickett
June 25	Matt Iacovelli
June 26	Genevieve Gardner

Dear Church Family,

Your outpouring of love and support during our great loss is appreciated more than words can ever express.

Thank you for your notes, cards and prayers for Lawrence while he was still with us; he appreciated each and every one.

The caring thoughts of our Church Family have been "wrapped around our broken hearts to keep them safe until we're strong again".

May God Bless you all,

Betty Whitney and Family

SERVE Moves

For 17 years SERVE has met at our church offering people the opportunity to purchase quality food at a discounted price. The only requirement was to volunteer 2 hours per month for each food unit ordered. Our own John Lemon would drive to Worcester to pick up the food each month and Joanne Smith-Barnes kept the records for SERVE. John and Joanne have passed on their responsibilities to members of the Bethany Assembly of God Church in Mendon and SERVE will now be located at that church.

Thank you to John and Joanne for their many years of faithful service.

Sunday School Ends for the Summer

Sunday, May 20 was the last day of Sunday School until September. During our church service we took a few minutes to recognize our Sunday School teachers:

Nursery/Child Care-

Sue Kozlowski

Kind – 5th grade

Teri Creber, Lisa Ruscitti, Jennie LeBlanc, Cheryl Stewardson, Kim Cashin, Hollyanne Knust-Graichen,

6th grade – 8th grade

Laurie Lovell

Senior High –

Donna Kling

Bible Study, Adult Sunday School,

Disciple Study

Pastor Dorothy Asare

Confirmation Class

Lisa Ruscitti

Jr. & Senior (very faithful) Substitutes

Cheryl Creber, Brian Richter

Materials Secretary

Helen Sprague

A BIG round of applause and thanks to all our Sunday School teachers who give so much for this mission of our church.

Summer Pastoral Coverage

Pastor Dorothy will be on vacation from June 19 through July 3 and from August 23 through September 6. During those times Rev. Leigh Dry of Grace United Methodist Church, Hopkinton, will be available for pastoral emergencies. We are very fortunate to have members of our congregation conduct church services during our pastor's vacation time:

June 24 – Donna Kling

July 1 – John Beattie

August 26 – Laurie Lovell

September 2 – Brian Richter

Do you ever have Questions....

Do you ever wonder who you can ask about something related to the church? Why do we do this in our service? Why is the pastor doing this? What does this mean? Etc.

Well, there are people in the church who are prepared to help you find the answers to your questions – the people on the SPRC (Staff/Parish Relations Committee). So if you have questions, concerns, and complaints, contact one of us and we'll help you find the answer, talk to the right person, or whatever needs to be done. Here are the members of SPRC:

Donna Kling (chairperson), Gail Perry, Lisa Ruscitti, Cheryl Creber, Teri Creber, Brian Richter, Laurie Lovell, and Pastor Dorothy.

Feel free to talk to any of us, we're a friendly group and are eager to help.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is on its way – July 9 through July 13 from 6pm to 7:30pm. We will once again enjoy adventures, singing, games, crafts and whatever else comes our way.

We need helpers – snack preparers, musicians, crafty people, team leaders, etc. If you are ready for an exciting time, please contact Laurie Lovell at 508-473-7327.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN!!!!!!

Tithing

Tithing is an issue that many people struggle with and are confused about. The best place to start when you are confused or struggling is to look into the Bible to see what God has to say about it.

So, rather than give you my opinion about tithing, I would like to tell you my understanding of what the Bible says about it.

Tithing is an **Old Testament** concept. The word tithe comes from an Old English word meaning "tenth." Tithing, then, is the practice of giving back to God 10 percent of our income.

There were four tithes in the Old Testament described in the books of Deuteronomy and Numbers.

- ◆ The first tithe was general tithe to the Levites (Numbers 18:21)

All the tribes of Israel, except the Levites, had a designated geographical area as their inheritance. But the Levites — in return for their work for the nation — received their income as 10% of the income from the rest of the tribes.

- ◆ The second tithe was a tithe paid by the Levites (from the first tithe) to the priests (Numbers 18:25-26)

All of the priests came from the Levites, but there were Levites who were not priests. The priests had specific responsibilities related to the Temple worship. The second tithe guaranteed the financial security of the priests.

- ◆ The third tithe was to pay for their annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 14:22-23)

The people of Israel were required to assemble three times a year at Jerusalem (as the place chosen by the Lord) for the major feasts. This was meant to be a time of rejoicing and the Lord ensured that everybody had sufficient resources available to enable them to fully enter into the rejoicing by

commanding that they set aside 10% of their annual income for that purpose.

- ◆ The fourth tithe was for the poor, the orphans, and the widows (Deuteronomy 14:28-29)

This tithe was payable once every three years, which equals one-third of a tenth annually.

Thus, the total tithes paid by the Israelites were 23.3% of their annual income.

The **New Testament** does not command that Christians submit to a legalistic tithe. Instead it states that believers should give **willingly** and **cheerfully**, according to **what they have in response to need**.

2 Corinthians 9:7 *You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.*

What this means is that we should give what we are genuinely happy to give.

We are to give according to what we have.

2 Corinthians 8:12 *Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have.*

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 *Now regarding your question about the money being collected for God's people in Jerusalem. You should follow the same procedure I gave to the churches ... On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. ...*

The New Testament nowhere assigns a certain percentage of income to set aside, but only says it is to be "**put aside a portion of the money you have earned**". Sometimes that means giving more than a tithe, sometime that may mean giving less than a tithe. It all depends on the ability of the individual and the needs of the church. Each and every Christian should diligently pray and seek God's wisdom for how much he or she should give. James 1:5 says: **If**

you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 says that the churches gave to those sharing the gospel from their own free will; they saw giving as a privilege. Paul wrote, **Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem.**

Our giving stems from our relationship with the Living God.

Mat 6:19-21 **Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.**

The Bible also teaches that we should respond to genuine need.

Acts 11:27-29 **During this time some prophets traveled from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them ... stood up in one of the meetings and predicted by the Spirit that a great famine was coming upon the entire Roman world... So the believers in Antioch decided to send relief to the brothers and sisters in Judea, everyone giving as much as they could.**

They responded to need.

Our faith to tithe is founded in the realization that God owns everything, including ourselves, and that we recognize Him as both our Creator and the Giver of all good things.

Psalm 24:1 **The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.**

A tithe is something that we give back to honor God and to acknowledge that He gives everything to us. We tend to think that what we possess is because of our own personal efforts; when in fact God is the source of our existence and all of our blessings.

As with all obedience to God's laws, whether we tithe or not will always be based on our own decision.

Making a decision to tithe is a matter of faith. For most of us just the necessities of life consume almost all of our income. Stepping out in faith to tithe encourages reliance on God.

In 1 Corinthians 9:13-14 Paul drew on an analogy to demonstrate that, as those ministering in the temple were supported by the offerings given at the temple, so those ministering in the Church should receive support from the Church. He wrote, **Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.**

In giving back to God a tenth of our income, we enter into a special relationship with our Creator. We dedicate ourselves to serving Him and financially supporting Christ's commission to preach the gospel and nourish the Church. Tithing, then, is an intensely personal matter between you and God—a small but tangible way of demonstrating the depth of your commitment to, and relationship with, God.

For me, 10% of my before tax income (that is my 1st fruits) is the amount that I have chosen to tithe for the work of the Lord. It is the amount that gives me peace.

Many of the answers for the struggles and confusion we have around tithing and other challenging issues are given in the Bible. The Bible is God's word, written down for us to use to help guide our lives. When you live in obedience to God's word so many of the complications in life that are caused by consequences to our poor choices are removed. I would like to take this opportunity to offer to purchase a Bible to anyone here today that does not have one of their own to read. Even if your spouse or sibling has a Bible that you share with them, if you

would like your own, please come and see me after the service and I will make sure that you get one.

Resources:

- ◆ Bible passages were taken from the New Living Translation
 - ◆ What Does the Bible Teach About Tithing? From the Good News Magazine
 - ◆ What does the Bible say about Christian tithing? Got Questions Ministries
- Tithing: What Does the Bible Really Teach? by Henry G. Sheppard