

Tewksbury Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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Press Release

“Blessing of the Animals” service slated for October 15 at 2pm

All are welcome to bring their animal companions for a blessing

Tewksbury, MA, October 15, 2017: Tewksbury Congregational Church is hosting a “Blessing of the Animals” on Sunday, October 15, at 2 pm in the church’s Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to bring their animal companions to be blessed during this special ceremony which should last about 30 minutes.

“In blessing our pets,” said Norman Bendroth, the interim pastor at the church, “we are participating in a practice started by Francis of Assisi 800 years ago. Francis introduced the idea that human beings are only one of the myriad of creations in God’s universe that are blessed.” The practice goes back even further in Judaism. Some Jewish congregations bless their animals after the High Holy Days, when they read the biblical story of Noah and the ark.

All are welcome to bring their pets if they are either caged or on a leash and behave well with other animals and people. If not, you are invited to bring a picture or a stuffed animal to be blessed in their stead. All participants will be sent home with a “goody bag” and a card with a blessing printed on it. Areas will be sectioned off for dogs, cats, rodents, and reptiles and for humans who don’t care for animals.

“Animals have always been part of human communities,” said Rev. Bendroth. “They delight us, entertain us and teach us about faithfulness, friendship, love, and forgiveness. They bring laughter, joy, comfort and companionship! They are gifts from God!”

Come share in a service of celebration and thanksgiving for our pets.

For more information call Tewksbury Congregational Church at: 781-851-9411 or email them at secretary.tewksburycc@gmail.com.