



Herald of Good TIDINGS

“Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Behold your God!’” **Isaiah 40:9**

From the Pastor:

Christians Versus Waitresses

In the Midwest it is far too common for Christians to be rude and mean to wait staff. Christians would leave a pamphlet on Christianity instead of tipping, or write, “I give God 10% why should I give you 20%?”

A pastor set up a website to try to stop this un-Christian behavior. Like I said, I see this more in the Midwest than I do in New England. Here is one story from the website, “Sundays Are the Worst.”

“Overall, I believe the worst part about restaurant working on Sunday mornings is the look people give you. The ‘I can’t believe you’re here instead of church’ look. Like I’m some rotten heathen going to hell because I’m serving them instead of at church. Let’s be honest, I don’t want to be here, I’d rather be in church. But I’m a college student in debt till I’m 57 and I don’t have the luxury to not work.

I go to a Christian university and live in the heart of the Bible Belt so it is not uncommon to find a gospel track instead of a tip inside the checkbook. Not trying to sound rude, but your track doesn’t pay my rent, electric, phone, car, gas, and especially not my tuition.

And one last thing. To the people who write, ‘I give God 10%, why should I give you 20%?’ Please stop being ignorant. God asks you for 10% of your entire income...we are asking for a measly 15%-20% of your bill. There’s a HUGE difference.”

Somehow these “Christians” cannot figure out that if everyone took Sunday off, the Christians could not go into a restaurant after church on Sunday.

When I lived in Germany the only places open on Sunday were these little closet stores that sold beer. All the stores and all the restaurants were closed. Germany kept the Sabbath. Sundays were also VERY BORING in Germany.

In America we don’t keep the Sabbath, not as a nation. Most places are open and the church has to compete with sports, restaurants, stores, and everything else. To be in church on Sunday means you value church more than the other options out there. I thank you for that.

Let us remember to pray for those whose jobs do not allow them time for church. May they find a time for Sabbath. A time to rest. A time of quiet for the Holy One. Let us never look down on those serving us, even if it is on the Sabbath.

Pastor Brian

Palm Sunday is April 9th. Our worship service will begin at 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service will be held April 13th at 7 p.m.

Good Friday is April 14th ~ Auburn’s Ecumenical Service will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church, 90 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Auburn, **at noon (note time change).**

Easter Sunday is April 16th ~ with our Sunrise Service at 6 a.m. at Hillside Cemetery and two worship services - 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. at the church.

~ All Are Welcome ~



As nominating representatives of the 1st Congregational Church, namely Sue MacPhee, Judi Taft and Melynn Guilford, we are reaching out to our church members by requesting consideration and hopeful commitment toward choosing to fulfill one of the last five 2017 Committee vacancies.

The 2017 vacancies are:

2 members for The Board of Deacons:	Two/3 year terms from 2017 to 2019
1 member for The Board of Christian Outreach:	One/3 year term from 2017 to 2019
2 members for The Board of Christian Education:	One/ 2 year term from 2017 to 2018 One/3 year term from 2017 to 2019

Below are the committee descriptions in Section 1, Section 2 and Section 3, as taken from our Church By-Laws. If you, or someone you know who is a church member, would be interested, please seek us out. If you've never served a committee, we can each attest that our experience in serving has been fulfilling and a perfect opportunity toward personal growth, not just in faith, but also in our personal development. The Nominating Committee has trust and faith in our church members that there is someone interested and willing to step up and assist in the whole continuity of keeping our church active in our community. Our contact information is listed at the end of the By-Law section (on page 3). Also, seek active committee members as a great source of inspiration regarding their experiences or to discuss any concerns about your expectations and level of commitment.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (United Church of Christ)

Section 1 The Board of Deacons should consist of twelve (12) members, four (4) of whom should be elected annually for a term of three (3) years. The Deacons shall act in matters pertaining to membership in accordance with Article II. They shall assist the Minister(s) in administering the sacraments of the Church; with the Minister's(s') advice in spiritual matters, cultivate the evangelistic purpose of the Church; assist the Minister(s) in visiting the sick, the sorrowing, the indifferent, and the stranger; aid in caring for the poor, and attend to discipline during the Church service. The Deacons shall evaluate the Minister(s) on a yearly basis. The Deacons shall provide for the supply of the pulpit during the absence of the Minister(s) including, but not limited to, interim coverage. The Board shall elect one (1) of its members to serve on the Music Committee and recommend one (1) member to serve on the Personnel Committee. This Board shall recommend a Parish Nurse to be approved by the Church Council and shall evaluate his/her performance annually. The same shall apply for any Interim Minister hired under contract.

Section 2 The Board of Christian Outreach should consist of six (6) members, two (2) of whom should be elected annually for a term of three (3) years. This Board shall have in its charge the supervision and correlation of the benevolence plans of the Church. It shall assist in promoting missionary interest, and above all, shall seek to instill and uphold the ideals of Christian charity.

This Board shall make the congregation aware of the social issues that exist in our culture, and propose a Christian response to these issues after considering the Scripture, our faith in God, and discipleship with Jesus Christ.

Section 3 The Board of Christian Education should consist of six (6) members, two (2) of whom should be elected annually for a term of three (3) years. The board shall study the educational needs of the Church. It shall oversee the direction and the programming of the Christian education for this Church, including the activities of the Church school, adult education, confirmation class, and youth fellowship. This Board shall recommend the position of Director of Religious Education to be appointed by the Church Council and shall evaluate that position annually. It shall plan for and purchase equipment and supplies as needed for the operation of our Church school.

The Board shall recommend one (1) member to serve on the Personnel Committee.

The Board shall act as an advisor to **Here We Grow** Preschool and shall have one (1) representative on the **Here We Grow** Preschool Board of Directors.

Continued on page 3 . . .

Nominating Committee Members and their contact information:

Sue MacPhee: House Phone — (508) 832-9347, Gmail: Susiemac2002@gmail.com
 Judi Taft: — (508) 752-2023, email: jtaft01527@aol.com
 Melynn Guilford: — (508) 904-2921, email: melyng3@yahoo.com

We thank you in advance for your consideration. And please note, if you're not ready to commit in this year's 2017 term; then consider committing to one of the board vacancies that will be posted for 2018. Always keep in mind, the committees consist of a 'group' of members and not a committee of 'one'.

Dr. Forrest A. Jacobs, formerly of Auburn and West Chatham, Massachusetts, died on Sunday, March 5, 2017, in New Port Richey, Florida.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Shirley (Holbrook); son, Glenn, and his wife Leslie; two granddaughters, Tara Johnson and her husband, Robert, and Amy Gee and her husband, Brian; three great grandchildren, a sister, Sylvia Alden; nieces and a nephew. His son, Wayne, predeceased him in 1966.

Dr. Jacobs, a lifelong resident of Auburn until moving to New Port Richey, Florida in 2011, was educated in Auburn public schools and graduated from Tufts University's College of Dentistry. His dental practice in Worcester, Massachusetts was interrupted by time in the Panama Canal Zone, where he served as a Captain in the U.S. Army Dental Corp. He resumed his 45-year practice after building an office in Worcester in 1952. He was a member of the Worcester Dental Society, the Massachusetts Dental Society, and the Academy of General Dentistry.

He was a 50-year member of the former Chestnut Street Congregational Church in Worcester where he served as a church schoolteacher, a member of the diaconate, the search committee, and men's fellowship. When the church merged with the United Congregational Church in Worcester, the same dedication continued as it did when he returned to his boyhood church, First Congregational Church in Auburn.

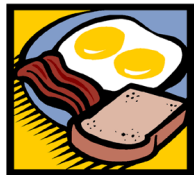
He served as commissioner of Auburn Hillside Cemetery for 25 years and was a town meeting member for 10 years. He enjoyed tennis and Cape Cod with its sunsets, clamming, swimming, and cookouts.

Burial will be at a later date at the Hillside Cemetery in Auburn at the convenience of the family.

Please pray for Shirley and the Jacobs family during this time of loss.

"I am the resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." John 11:25

BREAKFAST



This year's Palm Sunday Breakfast will be held on April 9th beginning at 8:00 A.M. The breakfast is FREE, but a free-will donation will be accepted.

Our speaker this year will be Sonja Carr representing the Auburn Historical Society.

There is a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall so that we may plan for the appropriate number of people.

EVERYONE is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there!

P.S. Our thanks to Jennifer Bohn for committing to prepare the breakfast again this year.



Happy Birthday to:

Ernie Smith - April 9th
 Haydn McPherson - April 10th



“From our Pumpkin Patch” Cookbooks have arrived!!

Each cookbook, containing over 200 recipes, features a washable, hard cover in a 3-ring binder format and also has an added envelope in the back for storing any of your favorite recipes not found inside! It also contains kitchen and household hints on the back side of each divider (excluding the custom “Our Favorite Pumpkin Recipes” divider) and as separate colorful pages found in the back of the book.

At \$15 apiece, they will make a great addition to your own kitchen library as well as a wonderful gift for any occasion - a birthday, anniversary or bridal shower gift or a holiday gift for Easter, Mother’s Day or Christmas. Also, remember, this is a church fundraiser with a portion of the purchase price going to the church’s general fund.

If you would like to purchase a cookbook, please contact Michele Schillinger at 508-259-2239 and leave a brief message along with your name and phone number, and she’ll be sure to call you back. You may also email her at library@auburnfirstucc.org. Please include “cookbook” in the subject line of your email.

Please note: if the cookbook will be shipped, there will be a flat rate shipping charge of \$7.20 per USPS priority envelope. The envelopes can accommodate up to 2 cookbooks.

Also, cookbooks will be available to purchase during coffee hours on Sunday. — Happy Cooking!!

LENTEN SERIES CONTINUES . . . We hope you’ll join us on Wednesday, April 5, when we will continue to meet over soup and sandwiches beginning at 6 p.m. Our Lenten series will conclude with a discussion on questions you provide. Look for red slips of paper in the church pews or email (or post on Facebook) your questions. Soup and sandwiches will be provided by the Music and Memorial/Scholarship Committees.



SAVE THE DATE YARD SALE JUNE 17TH

We will be needing your help for a short time on Friday the 16th at 6pm and again on Saturday the 17th at 1:30 to carry tables out and back into the church. Spaces are available to rent for only \$15 (\$20 for non-Church members).

Returning this year we will be having a church table at the yard sale so when doing your spring cleaning, keep the church in mind. Your items may be dropped off after June 4th. Please make sure your items are clean and in working order.

Books will also be accepted. And, although it is hard to imagine, it will soon be time to start separating those perennials in our gardens. Please keep the plant sale in mind and pot up a few extras to donate.

If you have questions or to rent a space, call Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646.

Coffee Hour Hosts

- 4/2 & 9 ~ Music Committee
- 4/16 ~ Easter - no coffee hour
- 4/23 ~ Financial Secretaries/Treasurers
- 4/30 ~ Historian, Memorial/Scholarship, Nominating & Library Committees

We celebrate with the Klaucke Family on the birth of Andreas Verby Klaucke who arrived on February 7th to parents Jonathan and Jillian. Proud granddad is Ron Klaucke. Congratulations to all!





From Here We Grow Preschool — Spring Has Sprung!

In March we were visited by Neal Primeaux Photography who spent two days with us taking pictures of the children and their classmates. Once again, thank you to the Board of Christian Ed. for allowing us the use of a Sunday school room for the individual pictures.

Here We Grow hosted its Open House on March 7th. We were visited by many new families and some past families. We scheduled the Open House in the morning and had a much better turnout than past years and picked up six new 3-year-olds and two 4-year-olds. I am still getting calls and we have tours going almost daily.

We have the "Reptile Man" coming in for the 4-year-olds and "Love Bug Hollow" coming in for the 3-year-olds. We are so excited!

The 4-year-old children moving on to kindergarten next year had their fingerprinting done by the Amber Alert Team, Massachusetts State Police, Auburn Police, and parent officers.

Here We Grow will be running a summer program June 19-23rd ("Welcome to the Jungle") and June 26-30th ("ALOHA"). If you know of anyone who has children 4 to 8-years-old and would like to send them to our summer program, have them give the school a call for more information, 508-832-8184.

Until next month, stay well and keep looking for those crocuses —
Gina Basili, *Here We Grow* Preschool Director

You're Invited to Easter at Worcester Fellowship

The McPherson Family is planning to spend Easter at Worcester Fellowship. They have been asked to bring flowers to create a cross with the whole congregation. Since this is the 10th anniversary of Easter services they want to make it spectacular. Pictured at right is a prior year's Easter cross.

The McPhersons are inviting anyone to join them on Easter and/or to contribute to the cross. They won't need the flowers until Easter or the day before, since they are fresh flowers and not plants that they will be using.

They will begin forming the cross on the Worcester Common around noon.



SERMON TITLES FOR APRIL

- 4/2 Communion Sunday - "Them Bones"
- 4/9 Palm Sunday - "What Israel Expects"
- 4/16 Easter - 6:00 a.m. Sunrise service: "God Shows No Partiality"
9:00 & 10:30 a.m. at church: "Woman, Why Are You Weeping?"
- 4/23 Pastor Brian on vacation — Jennifer Bohn to preach "Jesus *IS* Love"
- 4/30 "The Road to Emmaus"
Children's Time: "When Is It Okay to Talk to a Stranger?"

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications are available in Fellowship Hall, and in the church office for anyone interested in applying for a scholarship.

Don't forget, applications are due by April 15th.



The Greater Auburn Community Chorus

Under the Direction of Charles J. Pietrello Presents

GACC "Gets Jazzy and Tours the USA"

Saturday, April 8, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. and Sunday, April 9, 2017 at 2:30 P.M.

St. Joseph's Church, 194 Oxford Street North, Auburn, MA

Tickets are \$15 and are available from Pam Tentor and Barbara Allaire



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Happy Easter everyone! I love this time of year with the smell of the new flowers and the warmer days. Typically we begin to see more people outside after the cold winter. Be sure to go say "Hi" to a neighbor whom you haven't seen for a while.

Youth On a Mission would like to thank everyone who helped out in our butter braid/cookie dough fundraiser. We made approximately \$540.00! This was the best one yet. Delivery will be on April 8th with distribution after the service on April 9th, just in time for Easter dinner. If you have not yet paid, please bring your check on that day made out to the church with YOM in the memo section.

YOM has chosen to go to Sky Zone, an indoor trampoline park and candlepin bowling in the near future. We had a good turnout for our St. Patrick's Day sleepover. There were 13 kids who participated, little sleep was had by all.

YOM will serve at the **Palm Sunday breakfast at 8 a.m. on April 9.** Also on **April 9**, after the service, will be the annual **Easter egg hunt. Please sign-up in fellowship hall** on the Sunday school bulletin board; if your child has allergies, post type of allergy next to their name.



Sunrise service will be held at **Hillside Cemetery** on April 16 at **6:00 a.m.** The confirmands will officiate the service, so please come and show your support. If anyone plays the guitar and would like to assist with a few hymns at this service, please call or see Pastor Brian or me ASAP.

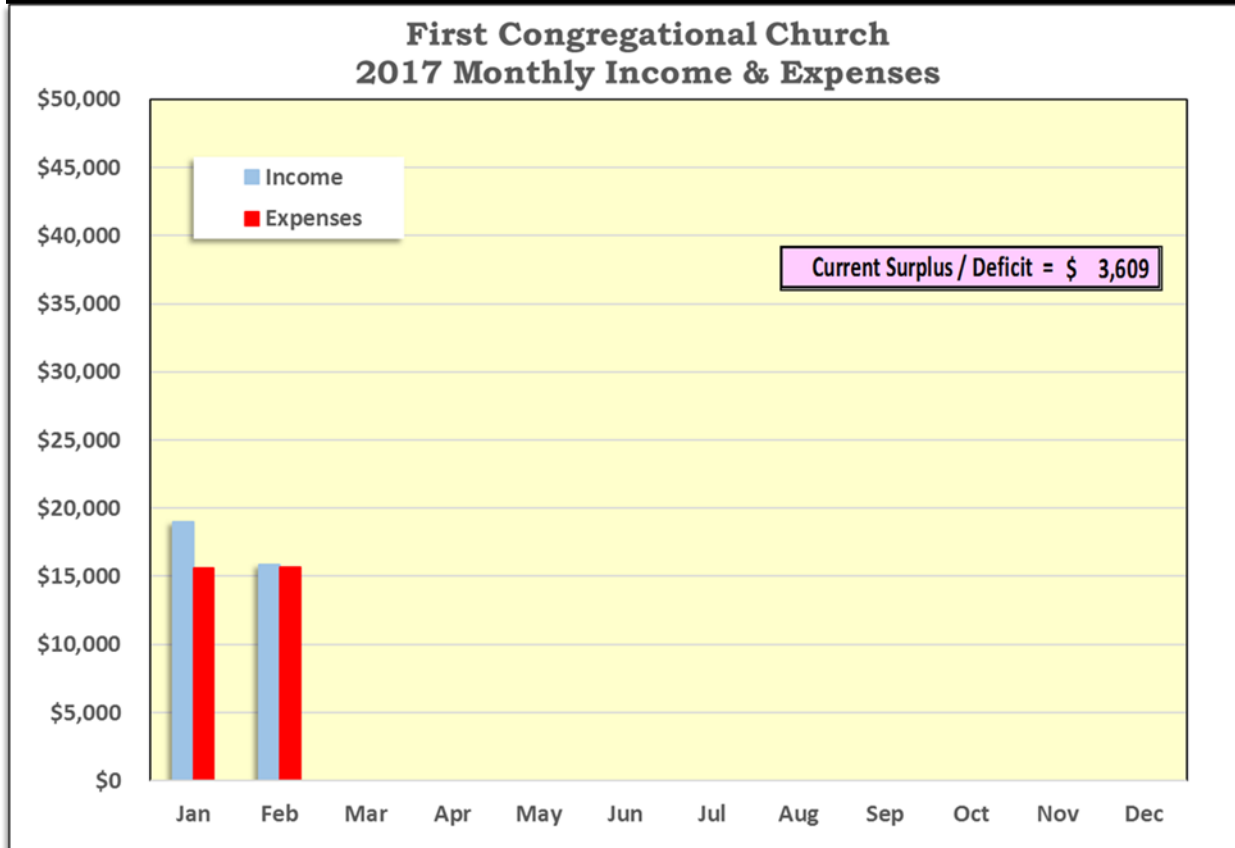
Our Sunday school, as always, is going strong and in need of assistants or teachers. Please talk with me, Shannon Hartmann or Mike Schillinger if you are interested.

Upcoming event dates: Confirmation Sunday - May 21; Children's Sunday and Church Picnic - June 4

"To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all." O. Wilde

Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education

As mentioned in previous newsletters, our Treasurer, Nick Stockhaus, will submit periodic "financial snapshots" in the *Tidings* in an effort to keep the church members informed of church finances.



Easter Plant Order Form

Once again we will be accepting orders for Easter plants. On Easter Sunday there will be a special insert in the bulletin noting who the plant is in honor of and who it's from. This is a wonderful way to pay tribute to a loved one while also decorating our Church Sanctuary. Just complete the order form below and drop it in the offering plate or mail to: FCC, 128 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501. Please submit your order form with payment **by Sunday, April 9th.**

Lilies (1 stem) \$10.00 _____
(2 stems) \$20.00 _____ **(3 stems) \$30.00** _____

Tulips 6" \$10.00 _____ **8" \$18.00** _____

Color Choices: Yellow _____ Pink _____
 Red _____ White _____ Purple _____

6" Hyacinths \$10.00 _____
 Color Choice: blue _____ pink _____

8" Hydrangeas \$28.00 _____
 Color Choice: blue _____ pink _____

6" Pansies (mixed colors) \$7.00 _____

6" Martha Washington Geraniums \$13.00 _____

Color Choice: white _____ pink _____
 lavender _____ purple _____

Contact info: _____

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Dedication **EXACTLY** as it should appear in bulletin (**please print**):



Happy Spring! We welcome the month of April with warmer weather, trees budding their new leaves, and flowers starting to pop up from the earth.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month, National Autism Awareness Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and National Donate Life Month. It is also Occupational Therapy Month and Sports Eye Safety Month.

- April 2-8 is National Youth Violence Prevention Week
- April 3-9 is National Public Health Week
- April 6 is National Alcoholic Screening Day
- April 7 is World Health Day
- April 22-29 is National Infant Immunization Week
- April 23-29 is National Sleep Awareness Week
- April 23-29 is World Immunization Week
- April 24-28 is Every Kid Healthy Week

There are some health fairs coming up that I will be attending. When I get new information, I will put it on the table in Fellowship Hall. I also get pill set ups, and other sample items to share with you. They will be on the table as well.

God bless,
 Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse

EXTRA Easter Plant Order Form

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Questions? Call Michele at 508-259-2239 or the church at 508-832-2845.

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

**First Congregational Church,
 United Church of Christ
 128 Central St., Auburn MA 01501**

Phone: (508) 832-2845
 Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Email: secretary@auburnfirstucc.org
 or PastorBrian@auburnfirstucc.org

*God's church in Auburn Center
 doing Christ's work in the world.*

Web: auburnfirstucc.org



BULK RATE
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April 2017						
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT