



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

Do you know what happens when you walk into CVS at 5 A.M. and ask for ginger ale? She asks if you want saltines and Pepto as well.

That is what I like when I am sick - ginger ale, saltines, and orange juice. Ginger ale to soothe the stomach, orange juice for vitamins. My first solid food is always saltines. But I found not everyone uses the same home remedies. It is hard to find ginger ale in the Midwest. Even here, I got gifts of Gatorade, Pedialyte, soup, and ice cream sandwiches. Those all make sense to settle a stomach or keep your electrolytes up. I am sure they are comforting. I sipped the Gatorade and had some soup and ice cream. Thank you for the tummy aids; I appreciate them.

But, for me, it will always be what my mom gave me as a kid. Ginger ale mixed with orange juice to stay hydrated and a first meal of saltine crackers. A thousand doctors could tell me it is wrong and I would ignore them. Ginger ale and orange juice feels like my mom is taking care of me. Even at 50, sometimes you want your mommy.

So, what do you still do because your mom did it?
What is your go to stomach ailment drink/first food?

I know being a parent can be overwhelming. It can feel like what you say goes in one ear and out the other. You will be amazed what sticks. Do you think my mom wants to be associated with saltines and ginger ale?

I think she would prefer I remember all the bits of wisdom she told me. I remember some of that. But I also remember weird things. We ate a lot of oatmeal growing up. I stayed away from oatmeal for years. Now I eat it most cold mornings. I associate blueberry pancakes with her. I made them for her these last few years.

Tastes and smell can unlock a lot of memories. What reminds you of your mother? I hope you have little things that remind you of being a little one, safe and cared for in your mother's arms.

Also, remember if you are working the graveyard shift at a pharmacy, anyone that asks for ginger ale probably needs saltines and Pepto as well.

Blessings,

Pastor Brian

APRIL SERMONS

4/1 **EASTER SUNDAY**

6:15 a.m. SUNRISE SERVICE AT HILLSIDE CEMETERY: “They Said Nothing to Anyone”
9 & 10:30 a.m. CHURCH SERVICES: “Mary Stood Crying”

4/8 “Who Controls Our Lives?” — Cliff Peterson will share

4/15 “What Does It Mean to Be Children of God in a World of Child Abuse?”

4/22 “How We Deal with the Government”

4/29 “Philip and the Ethiopian”

Pastor Brian will be on vacation April 2nd through April 8th. Please pray for a time of rest and relaxation.



Scholarship applications are available on the table in Fellowship Hall. We have several scholarships we would like to award to church members seeking to continue their education. Specifically, there are two scholarships dedicated to those studying within the medical field, and one scholarship gives preference to those who are musically inclined, and, of course, we have several unrestricted scholarships as well. **Please complete the application form and return it to the Memorial/Scholarship Committee's mailbox BY APRIL 15TH.**



Happy Birthday to:

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

**SAVE THE DATE
YARD SALE JUNE 23**

Spaces are available to rent for only \$15 (\$20 for non-Church members). If you're not participating in the yard sale, please consider helping out the day of the yard sale.

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 the early part of June (date TBD). 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, would like to offer your help, or to rent a space, please call Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646.

JOIN US!

Our book/movie discussion group plans to view the movie *Risen* on Tuesday, April 17th, beginning at 5:30 p.m. **All are welcome.**

The first forty days after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is told through the eyes of an agnostic Roman Centurion charged by Pontius Pilate to investigate rumors of a risen Jewish Messiah and locate the missing deceased body of Jesus of Nazareth in order to subdue an imminent uprising in Jerusalem. During the Centurion's mission, his doubts of such a supernatural occurrence peel away as he encounters the Apostles and other historic biblical characters and bears witness to the legendary storied events that followed the Resurrection. A great mystery unfolds during the Centurion's quest to find the body and he is deeply affected by his first-person investigation, as his previous beliefs on the matter are forever altered based on what he's now witnessed.

Coffee Hour Hosts

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| 4/1 | ~ | Easter (no coffee hour) |
| 4/8 | ~ | Music Committee |
| 4/15 & 22 | ~ | Financial Secretaries/Treasurers |
| 4/29 | ~ | Historian, Memorial/Scholarship, Nominating & Library Committees |
| 5/6 | ~ | Board of Ed (BOCE) |

**APRIL COMMUNITY
CHURCH SUPPER**

April 21st at 5 p.m.

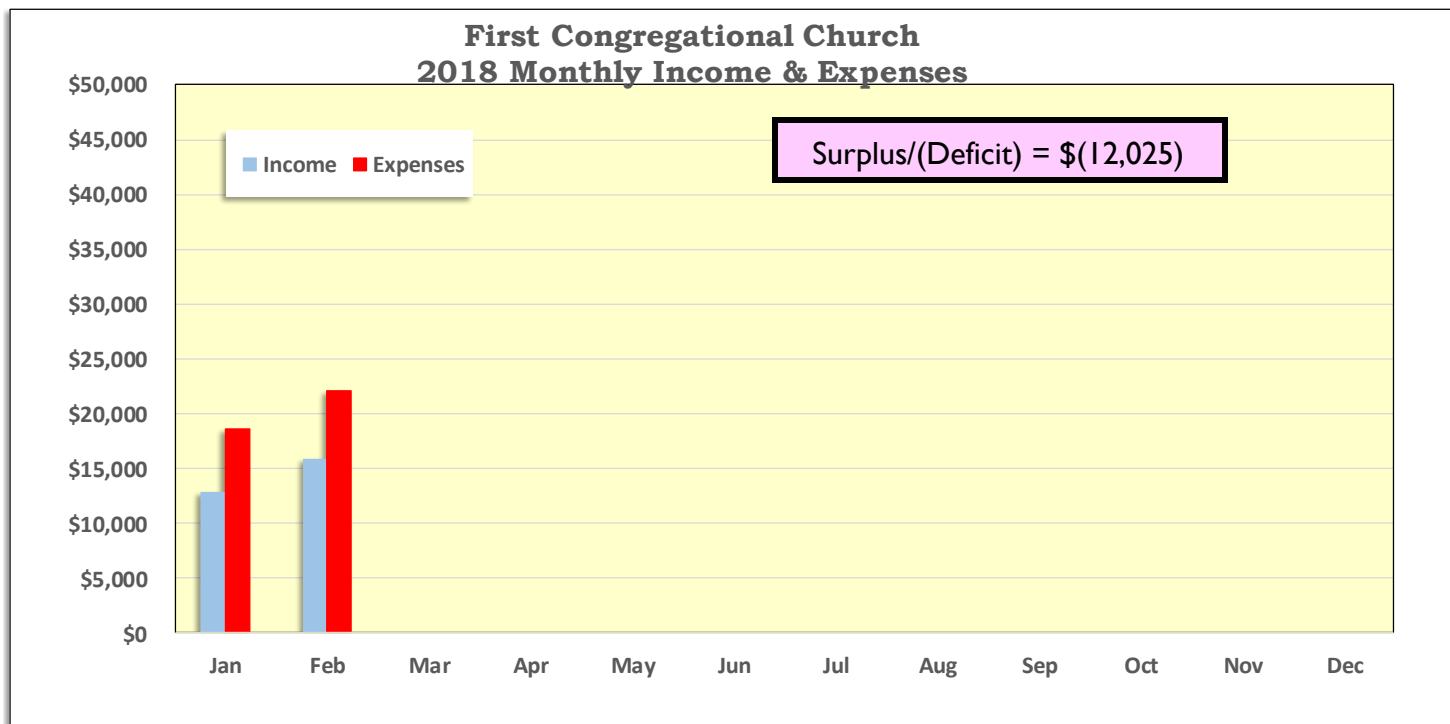
**Featuring: roast pork, squash,
potatoes and green beans**

**Adults - \$10
Children are free!**

TAKE OUT AVAILABLE

**Servers: Board of Deacons
Additional volunteers welcome**

Please support this church fundraiser!



Above is a “financial snapshot” of monthly income and expenses for 2018. These monthly financial updates are provided by Nick Stockhaus, Church Treasurer.



From Here We Grow Preschool



The Calendar says its spring, but Mother Nature doesn't seem to agree yet.

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 6th. We were visited by many new families and some past families.

Here We Grow will once again be running a summer program: June 18-22 (*Gardening Greatness*), and June 25-29 (*Mad Science*) from 9-1:30. If you know of anyone who has children ages 4-8 and would like to send them to our summer program, have them give the school a call for more information, 508-832-8184.

I was asked to talk a bit about how to tell if your child is ready to attend preschool. A few indicators that we look at include, but are not limited to: Age - most programs in our area require children to be at least 2 years 9 months to attend. Independence - are they attempting to do more for themselves, or do they refuse to attempt to do anything for themselves. One of the goals for us at **Here We Grow** is to foster children's independence and help them learn to do things for themselves. Interest in Learning - are they starting to ask questions about the things around them, showing interest in how things work, etc.? Do they spend time with children their own age? For many, preschool is the first time they are in a group of like-aged children; they learn to share and communicate with someone other than Mom or Dad. Finally, what are you hoping your child will get out of preschool? There is no one answer that is right for every family. You know your child best. Visit schools with your child; see how they are responding to the environment and ask questions.

Until next month, stay well.

Cristi Corey - **Here We Grow** Preschool Director



April is Alcohol Awareness Month, National Autism Awareness Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, National Donate Life Month, Occupational Therapy Month, Oral Cancer Awareness Month, Sports Eye Safety Awareness Month, Testicular Cancer Awareness Month, and Women's Eye Health and Safety Month.

April 2-8: National Public Health Week

April 5: National Alcohol Screening Day

April 7: World Health Day

April 21-28: National Infant Immunization Week

April 24: World Meningitis Day

April 28: National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Is this just a coincidence that Distracted Driving Awareness and Donate Life are in the same month? They should be in your thoughts every day.

Also, with regard to prescription drugs, if you have some and aren't able to get them to the police department, let me know and I will do it for you.

Happy Spring!

Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse, cell: 508-612-4521

SAVE THE DATE - The **PUMPKIN PATCH FAIR** will be held on Saturday, **October 20th**.

As in past years, we will need many volunteers to make this a success, so please mark your calendars!

See Cindy Ryan with any questions, ideas or offers to help.



Our thanks, once again, to Michele Schillinger for all her hard work in organizing the Easter flower orders this year.

Jeffrey A. "Jeff" Warren, 73, of Auburn died peacefully on Friday, March 23, 2018. He was born in Worcester and raised in Auburn son of the late Alton and Helen V. (Borglund) Warren.

Jeffrey had been employed as an Electronic Technician for Sprague Electric now known as Allegro Microsystems in Worcester for many years before he retired.

Interests included fishing, archery, hockey (Boston Bruins) and working on engines and repairing cars.

He leaves his beloved wife of 46 years, Elizabeth A. (Vires) Warren; his two loving sons, James M. and Michael S. Warren; a sister, Linda Simmons and several nieces, nephews; and many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law. Funeral services for Mr. Warren will be held privately.

Please pray for Mr. Warren's loved ones during this time of loss.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEARCH

As Nominating representatives of the First Congregational Church, namely Sue MacPhee, Judi Taft and Melynn Guilford, we are searching for committee support on “The Board of Christian Education.”

*Persons on this committee are not required to teach Church School. Per our By-Laws, there are 7 church membered positions and only five members are actively serving their elected terms. If interested, or ready now to commit in joining the current Board of Christian Ed team, please contact one of us regarding either the **one year vacancy from 2017-2018** or the **three year vacancy from 2018 – 2020.***

Our plea and hope is to have the Board of Christian Education (BOCE) fully staffed before the new school year. There are still 2018 vacancies on other committees, i.e., Deacons, Music and Library; however, our focus now is to fill the two BOCE vacancies for full support. If it be your will to oversee the direction and programming of our Christian Education, then may God bless you for your faithful partnership in your work and fellowship at First Congregational Church in Auburn.

Nominating contact information is:

Sue MacPhee: Home 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

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Happy Easter! Easter is a time to rejoice, be thankful, be assured that all is forgiven so life extends beyond the soil of the earth. I pray you are reading this in the warmth of the sunshine. Again, I am writing this on the eve of yet **another** predicted snowstorm. Let's channel our inner “Annie” and remember “the sun will come out tomorrow.....” I just remind myself that, like a kid on Christmas Eve, the anticipation of spring will only let us enjoy it more.

The butter braids/fruit crisps were a great success! YOM thanks you for your participation. The Easter egg hunt went well, as always. I don't have final counts as of yet, but we filled approximately 35-40 dozen eggs. Thank you to YOM and BOCE for their help in this project.

In June we will have a meeting for the upcoming Confirmation Class that will begin in the fall. Please stay tuned for the exact date. For those of you who do not know, Confirmation is for any child grades 8-12. This first meeting, we would like both parent(s) and teen to attend.

Sunday School and Cradle Roll are still in need of assistants. Cradle Roll volunteers work with the birth to age 3 kids and the Sunday School Monitor involves walking the hall and popping into each class for 10-15 minutes to see what's going on. What a great way to see what we do in the Sunday School on a weekly basis. Anyone interested should see Katie Sharr.

So far we have three teens attending Monadnock Bible Ministries this summer. This is the place we go every winter for the High School Encounter Weekend. Anyone interested in family camp or kid camp, please see the brochure on the Sunday School bulletin board in fellowship hall. You have until April 20th to get a discount of \$149.00 per week.

Have a blessed Easter and remember: **He is not here; He is Risen. Mark 16:6**

Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education

“From our Pumpkin Patch” Cookbooks

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).

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 or Mother’s Day. It also makes a great hostess or housewarming gift as well. 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.

Cookbooks are available to purchase during coffee hours on Sundays. — Happy Cooking!!



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doing Christ’s work in the world.*
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT