



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

Names Part 2, Electric Boogaloo
You Are Not a Princess!

As I write this, the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle has just occurred. I did not get up at 4 A.M. to watch it, but I had BBC America on as I did dishes and other chores around the house. BBC America had wall to wall coverage of the royal wedding. The British commentators have been careful to call Meghan, Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Sussex, NOT PRINCESS Meghan.

I guess, the only princess in Britain is the Princess of Wales, the wife of the heir to the throne, the Prince of Wales. Well, that is just wrong. Everyone that has ever seen a Disney princess movie knows a princess is any girl that marries a prince or whose dad was a prince or king. The British royal family is NOT more powerful than Disney. Heck, in the Disney show *Sofia the First*, Sophia’s mom marries a prince and Sophia becomes a princess even though the prince was not her biological dad.

So, in this case, I hold that the Disney president must override the Queen of Great Britain so Meghan Markle-Windsor is a princess, and those who say no can go pound sand. Their queen has no power in the U.S.

Who gets to call us what? I had a cousin called Lawrence. His mom hated the name Larry. Lawrence was never called Larry. Then I went to work for him. At work he was only called Larry. I asked, “Which do you prefer, Lawrence or Larry?”

He replied, “It is not about preference. In the family I am Lawrence. At work I am Larry. Larry and Lawrence are a little different but all me. But you better just keep calling me Lawrence, ’cause if my mother, your aunt, hears you call me Larry she will freak.”

We know Lawrence’s mom lacked the power to keep him from being called Larry. Just as the Queen can’t keep us from calling Kate and Meghan princesses. What about you? Who has the power to call you names? Who has the power to tease you or insult you?

“Sticks and stones may break my bones
But names will never hurt me.”

What a lie. We know it is a lie, but it is a lie we have to teach our kids because the world will try to hurt them with a lot worse than some childish names. Our kids need to learn to build armor against the insults that are thrown at all of us. What about the adults? What gets through our armor? Is it a word, or a person that can strip away our armor?

Who do you believe when they say you are not a princess? Should you give them that power?

Pastor Brian

SERMON TITLES

6/3 Children’s Sunday

Children’s Time:

6/10 “Can Anyone Be Richer in Russia than Putin?”

“Is that a Demon?”

6/17 “Kings Are a Great Form of Government, If You Enjoy Assassinations”

“Do You Like Mustard?”

6/24 “David and Goliath”

“Older Brothers, I Mean . . .”

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no July or August *Tidings*. Look for our next issue in September (submission deadline is August 20th.) Have a great summer!

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Well, we made it! Another year is over, and we dive into summer. As many of you go off to vacation homes, and weekends are filled with trips to the beach, we find our Sunday school halls bare and quiet. I pray that, although you are not in church, you all remember the lessons you have learned this year and continue to be a vessel for God's love and understanding to all you meet. I am so happy to see how much each of you has learned this year and what confident young Christians you are all becoming. Thank you for all of your hard work this year.

I would also like to thank all the teachers: Shannon Hartmann, Lillian McPherson, and Michael Schillinger; without each of these remarkable people, we would not have had such an amazing Sunday school year. Words cannot express my gratitude to each of you.

The Board of Ed went way above these past few weeks when I was unable to tend to my class; thank you, Katie Sharr, for stepping up and filling in for me. The rest of the board also filled in whenever needed and at our monthly meetings helped to tackle all issues that would come up in regard to the education of the children.

Last, but by no means least, I would like to thank ALL the volunteers who helped this year. Whether in Cradle Roll or in the classroom, your help is truly needed and very much appreciated. I know some of you were hesitant at first, but I hope after you helped once, you were put at ease and will again volunteer in the fall. (I have a sheet if you want to sign up. ☺)

Please enjoy our **annual cookout** on the church lawn on **Children's Sunday, June 3**. This will be immediately after the service. All we ask is for you to sign up to bring a dessert or salad and your appetite. As always the BOE will provide drinks, burgers, and hot dogs. Thank you to Dan Largesse and Rich McPherson for "volunteering" to cook.

I pray this summer provides opportunities for rest, relaxation, reflection, and fun. Remember to wear sunscreen and hats!

I am honored to be the Christian Education Director here at First Congregational Church and, with God as my guide, I will return in the fall refreshed and ready to explore and teach His word again.

"There is always, always something to be thankful for." — Author Unknown.

Jean McPherson, M. Ed.
Director of Religious Education



Summer Birthdays include:

Alyse Bukoski - June 16th
 Lisa Rockwood - July 21st
 Pat Bukoski - Aug. 5th
 Skip Bigelow - Aug. 10th
 Alice Carlson - Aug. 23rd

Happy Birthday to all!

Jean McPherson wishes to thank everyone for all their cards, well wishes and prayers. Your show of support over the last several weeks, as she recovers from a broken leg, is greatly appreciated.

Coffee Hour Hosts

6/3 Board of Ed

6/10 & 17 Board of Trustees

6/24 Prudential Committee

Please note: committees/boards will **NOT** be hosting coffee hours during July and August. Look for a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall for any individuals/families who would like to host a coffee hour.



Here We Grow Preschool June Tidings

This is a very busy time of the year for everyone associated with ***Here We Grow***. With graduation approaching, we go forward with many mixed emotions. We will be saying good-bye to some families we have known for years, and we look forward to bringing in a group of new families. At this time, we all would like to say thank you for the support and memories that we have all been a part of this year.

Here We Grow will be graduating on June 7th and 8th. Spree Day will be on June 4th. If you have a little one and would like to join us for *Pumpnickel Puppets Show*, please stop in. The show starts at 10:45.

On May 7th, the 3-day and 5-day program classes visited Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary in Charlton for their end-of-year field trip. The weather was perfect for a nature walk, exploring the pond and seeing the animals. On May 10th, the 2-day program classes visited Whittier Farm in Sutton. Again, the weather was perfect for a walk around the farm, checking out where the cows live and what they eat. We even got to try some farm-fresh milk!

The first week of our summer program is not full yet, week 1, Gardening Greatness (June 18-22). The teachers working our summer program are Helen Ethier, Michelle Lempicki, Diana Mancini, Courtney Tomaszewicz, and Cristi Corey (craft room). Our helper is Megan Corey.

As we approach the close of this school year, our enrollment for the 2018-19 school year has a few openings in our 3-year-old and afternoon 4-year-old classes. If you know of anyone looking for a great school, please send them our way.

In closing, I would first like to say thank you to the church members, board members and parents for making my first year as Director of ***Here We Grow*** a great one. I look forward to the fall and continuing the success of this program. Wishing you all a safe and fun-filled summer.

Cristi Corey
Here We Grow Director

GROWING OUR FAITH THROUGH GENEROSITY



The Stewardship committee is pleased to announce that our theme for this year is "Growing Our Faith Through Generosity."

We feel that this theme speaks to us because we are all part of the cycle of giving and receiving. Giving to our church brings us together and helps us feel connected to each other and to God.

Faith nurtures generosity. Generosity makes things happen, which in turn strengthens our faith that God can show us the way to help ourselves and others.

"Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out; yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now." - Saint Teresa of Avila

We encourage you to think about how your generosity of spirit has strengthened your faith and the life of our church.

In service, your Stewardship Committee
Jeanne Avallone, Michelle Bigelow, Nan Johnson, Ellie Lowell, Jake and Lauren Webb



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR GRADUATES & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

Katelyn Chalupka is the daughter of Kathy and Todd Chalupka and granddaughter of Judi Taft. Katelyn will be graduating on June 3rd from Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School where she majored in Health Technology and was a member of the National Honor Society. Katelyn is planning to attend Colby-Sawyer College in the fall to study nursing and was presented with a scholarship from the Jay E. Murray Scholarship Fund.

Jacob Costa is the son of Karen and Joe Costa and nephew of Lori and Nick Stockhaus. His grandparents are Bob Burns and the late Flo and Don Aker. Jacob, a member of the National Honor Society, will be graduating from Seekonk High School on June 1st and plans to attend Bentley University. Jacob was presented a scholarship derived from the Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Joseph Lemke graduated from Suffolk University School of Law on May 20th. His Bachelor's Degree is in Economics from UMass Dartmouth. Joe is currently working as a paralegal for the firm of Pierce, Davis & Perritano in Boston and will be taking the bar examination in July. Joe is the son of Jennifer and Randy Bohn. His grandparents are Michael and Cynthia Dube and Judy Murphy.

Haydn McPherson will graduate from Auburn High School this June. He will be entering the United States Army on July 30, at Fort Jackson in South Carolina. After basic training, Haydn will begin training for his chosen job as Chaplain Assistant. Haydn is the son of Jean and Rich McPherson and grandson of Albert and Kathy Whitney and Bryce and Joanne McPherson.

Emily Richard is the daughter of Tom and Sue Burns and is Lori and Nick Stockhaus' niece. Emily's grandparents are Bob Burns and the late Flo and Don Aker. Emily graduated from Worcester Technical High School where she majored in Early Childhood Education. She currently attends Quinsigamond Community College. Emily received a scholarship from the Ralph and Esther Warren Scholarship Fund.

Eric Rockwood is the son of Carol and John Rockwood. He will be graduating from Auburn High School on June 8th. Eric has placed on the Honor Roll numerous times, is an Excellence in Robotics Award recipient, and has achieved perfect attendance. He plans to attend Worcester State University to prepare for a career in the computer industry. Eric received a scholarship derived from the Craig Witcher Scholarship Fund.

Abigail Sullivan is the daughter of John and Amy Sullivan and is Cindy and Mike Dube's granddaughter. Abigail will be graduating from Monomoy Regional High School on June 3rd and is planning to attend North Carolina State University where she will major in Sports Management. During the worship service on June 10th, Abby will be receiving a scholarship derived from the Craig Witcher Scholarship Fund.

Thank you so much to everyone who has shown me such an outpouring of support following my sister's death. Your cards, prayers and donations to the Alzheimer's Association are so very much appreciated. Mere words are not adequate in conveying how touched I am by your thoughtfulness. God bless you — Denise



On June 10th there will be an **informational meeting about Confirmation** for any and all interested teens **AND** their **PARENTS**. The meeting will take place at 11:15 in the green room (just outside fellowship hall). Any questions, please see Pastor Brian or call the church office, 508-832-2845. Confirmation is open to any individual who has completed 7th grade.



FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

June is Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, Cataract Awareness Month, Men's Health Month, Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month, National Aphasia Awareness Month, National Congenital Cytomegalovirus Awareness Month, National Migraine and Headache Awareness Month, National Safety Month, and National Scleroderma Awareness Month.

June 1 - July 04	Fireworks Safety Month
June 3 - 9	Rip Current Awareness Week
3	National Cancer Survivors Day ®
11 - 17	Men's Health Week
18 - 22	National Lightning Safety Awareness Week
19	World Sickle Cell Day
27	National HIV Testing Day

During July and August, stay safe from ultraviolet rays from the sun. Use sunscreen and sunglasses.

Have a safe and healthy summer.

God Bless!
Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse
Cell: 508-612-4521

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 3rd**, and plan to join us as we celebrate our children on

Children's Sunday.



Following our service that day we will be having our annual picnic. We will be looking for donations of desserts and salads to complement the burgers and dogs supplied by the Board of Ed.

POTLUCK REMINDER

Our monthly potluck supper and discussion group will wrap up for the summer with our meeting on **Tuesday, June 19th**, beginning at 5:30 p.m. as we gather to view the movie *I Can Only Imagine*. All are welcome.

SAVE THE DATE

THE PUMPKINS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE DELIVERED ON SEPTEMBER 29th!

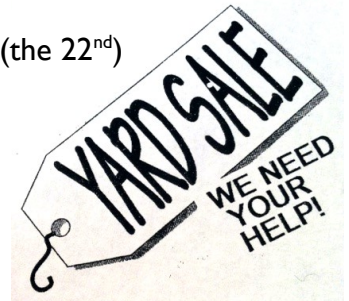
QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"We always get so fixated on the end result that we often forget that God cares more about how we handle the journey than about how it turns out." - D. Macomber

TAKE NOTE: The time to get your veteran pew Bible (Revised Standard Version) will soon be coming to an end. Please plan to pick up a Bible by mid-June. They will soon be packed up off the stage in fellowship hall and retired.

YARD SALE HELP NEEDED

- 8 a.m. 6/14 Pick strawberries. Approximately 3 hour time commitment. We will meet at 8 a.m. in the church parking lot.
- 3 p.m. 6/14 Prepare strawberries. Approximately 2 hour time commitment.
- At home tasks: Biscuit bakers needed, make at home and drop off on Friday (the 22nd) to the church office or early Saturday (the 23rd) morning.
Plants needed: please pot and label for our plant sale.
- 6pm Fri. 6/22 Carry tables and chairs out to lawn.
Approximately 60 minute time commitment.
- 1:30pm Sat. 6/23 Take down tables and chairs and return them to building.
Help with clean-up. Approximately 90 minute time commitment.
- 8am-2pm Sat. 6/23 Come to the yard sale, shop, eat and show your support. Bring your friends and family.
You may also work the strawberry booth or help out with the lunch table.



As you can see, none of these important tasks will demand too much of your time - a pretty easy way to help in raising funds for OUR church. You may call me at 508-832-6646 and let me know how you can help, **or just sign-up in Fellowship Hall.**

And finally, spaces are still available if you wish to participate in that way! Spots are \$15 for members and \$20 for non-church members. Tables are available for \$5 each.

Thank you in advance and God Bless — Cindy Dube



Only 5 months until the Pumpkin Patch FAIR !!!!!!!!

~ October 20th ~

The LUNCHEON and FROZEN meals "To Go" were a HUGE success last year. As we go through the summer and into the fall, please keep this in mind.

Our WISH LIST is:

Frozen meals.....we will have containers in Fellowship Hall for anyone that may need them. Meals are for either 1 person or 4 people. We are hoping for complete meals or starter meals that can be easily added to. Suggestions include: meatballs, lasagna, chicken and beef pies, etc. would all be wonderful.

GIFT cards to markets or donations — we need to purchase the meat, breads, cheese, chips, drinks, plus paper goods, condiments and drinks.

Your TIME is vital.

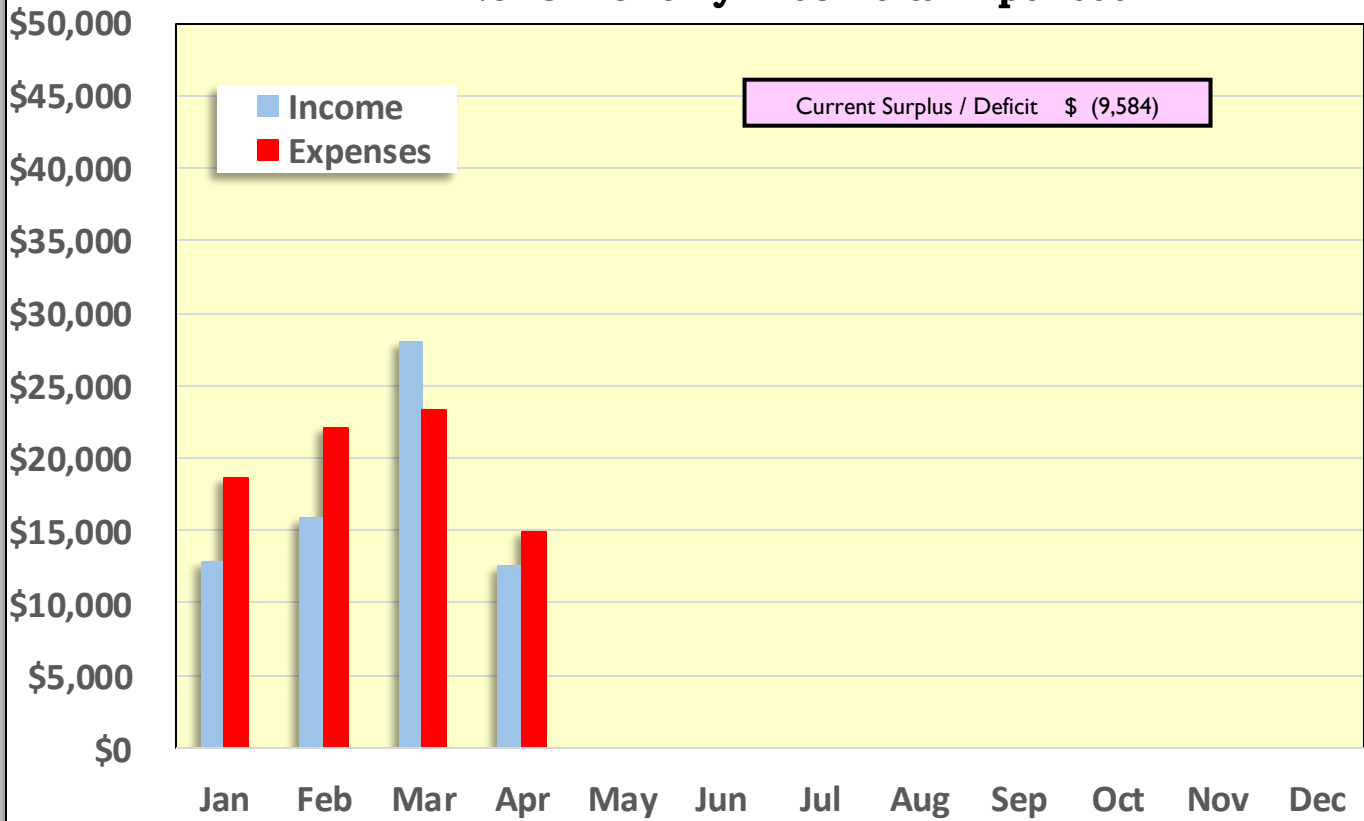
Please call me with any questions, suggestions or donations.

THANK YOU! - Diane Moore - 508-832-8078

New this year: the fair will be opened up to crafters. If you know any crafters who may be interested in renting a space at our fair, please have them call Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646.

Please contact Cindy Ryan, 508-832-3416, with your ideas and/or offers to help at the fair!

First Congregational Church 2018 Monthly Income & Expenses



Although the new Bibles were dedicated at a worship service in February and are now in the church pews, some Bibles remain available for “purchase.” The purchase price of \$12 each allows for a dedication to be printed onto a label and then affixed to the inside front cover of the pew Bible. This is a wonderful way to pay tribute to a loved one.

Please complete an order form and include a check payable to First Congregational Church noting “Memorial Fund – Bible” in the memo section and return to the church office, 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501, or place in the offering plate on Sunday.

BIBLE ORDER FORM

Name _____

Phone # _____

I would like to purchase _____ (quantity) Bibles at a cost of \$12 each.

Label should read: **(PLEASE PRINT)** _____

COMMUNITY YARD SALE---PLANT SALE---COOKOUT

SATURDAY, JUNE 23rd, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Spring cleaning? Don't throw that good "stuff" away. Recycle it by selling it to someone who needs it! Do you have an accumulation of things that are just too good to throw away, but you no longer need? Don't have enough to hold your own yard sale?



**Join us on the church lawn for our
COMMUNITY YARD SALE!**

Spaces are \$15 for church members, \$20 for non-members. Use of a table is \$5 per table. Please contact Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646 or Denise in the church office at 508-832-2845 to secure your spot.

RETURNING AGAIN THIS YEAR . . . We will have a church table. Donated items (**clean and in good working order**) may be dropped off to the church and stored in the Sunday school room across from Jean's office. We are also accepting books.

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

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

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or PastorBrian@auburnfirstucc.org

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT