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**MARCH**

# 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

For March, our book and movie club is reading the story of Martha Ballard, her diary from 1785 to 1812.

Martha was a wife and mother and a midwife. She delivered over 600 children in her career. She was originally from Oxford, Mass but during the time of the diary she was living in Hallowell, soon to be called Augusta, Maine.

I have found it to be an immensely fascinating book. Things were very different back then (for example, a young wife needed two pots and a skillet to set up housekeeping). Could you imagine a wedding registry today that only had two pots and one skillet on it?

Of course, the bride-to-be also had to do a lot of sewing and she had to have bed clothes, baby clothes and all the other cloth necessary to set up a house. So the sewing to be a bride could take well over a year. Martha rarely bought cloth. She took the raw fiber, turned it into thread, turned it into cloth on a loom and then turned it into clothing for her and her family.

But even more fascinating, was how things have remained the same. Her main source of happiness was her daughters and sons, as they set up housekeeping and families of their own. Likewise, her main source of anxiety and pain were when her sons and daughters didn't live up to her teaching, ignored her or insulted her.

The American Revolution has almost no place in her diaries. Once again, the most important things in her life were what was happening in her family and how her patients were doing, both mother and child.

I highly recommend the book, especially if you're interested in colonial history or if you're just interested in the lives of women and want to hear a story of how life used to be.

Pastor Brian

*The potluck and movie/book discussion group will be meeting on March 20th beginning at 6 p.m. The book is titled, “A Midwife’s Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785–1812” by Laurel Ulrich.*



~ All Are Welcome ~

**Palm Sunday** is March 25th. Our worship service will begin at 10 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday Service** will be held March 29th at 7 p.m.

**Good Friday** is March 30th ~ Auburn’s Ecumenical Service will be held at our church, at 12:15 p.m.

**Easter Sunday** is April 1st ~ with our Sunrise Service at 6:15 a.m. at Hillside Cemetery and two worship services - 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. at the church.

**Coffee Hour Hosts**

March 4	Personnel Committee
March 11	Board of Deacons
March 18	Prudential Committee
March 25	Board of Trustees
April 1	<b>No coffee hr. - Easter</b>

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Mark your calendars for our **annual Palm Sunday breakfast** which will be held on **March 25th** this year. Look for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall as the date approaches.



## Happy Birthday to:

- 3/16 - MacKenzie Young
- 3/26 - Jean McPherson
- 3/28 - Ryan Minor
- 3/29 - Everett Webb

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>**

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. Please complete the application form and return it to the Memorial/Scholarship Committee.

**Auditor Wanted**

The Board of Trustees is seeking a new Church Auditor. The position does not require a CPA degree, but someone with a strong financial background. The position requires approximately 2 weeks of your time each year to audit the Here We Grow Preschool and Church financial records. Per the recent bylaw changes, the Church Auditor does not have to be a member of the Church, however the Trustees would like to keep this position within the Church membership. If you (or someone you know) may be interested in this position, please speak to the Trustee Chairperson, Todd Dube, or the Church Treasurer, Nick Stockhaus.

**COMMUNITY ROAST BEEF SUPPER**

**Saturday, March 17th, at 5p.m.**

Adults - \$10    Children - free

Servers: Nominating, Memorial/Scholarship, Music & Library Committees

(additional volunteers are always appreciated)

**LENTEN SERIES CONTINUES**

We hope you'll join us on Wednesday nights during Lent as we meet over soup and sandwiches beginning at 6 p.m. This year we are studying the Exodus story as depicted in the movie, *The Ten Commandments*. As in the past, boards and committees were asked to sign-up at the All Committee meeting to provide the soup/sandwiches for the Lenten series. The remaining supper schedule is as follows:

- Mar. 7    Board of Christian Ed. (B.O.C.E.) — chili and grilled cheese
- Mar. 14    Cindy Ryan & Sheila Skog — unstuffed cabbage & meat platter
- Mar. 21    Board of Deacons — corn chowder and meat platter





March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, National Endometriosis Awareness Month, National Kidney Month, National Nutrition Month, Problem Gambling Awareness Month, Save Your Vision Month, Trisomy Awareness Month and Workplace Eye Wellness Month.

March 4-11 is National Sleep Awareness Week

March 6-10 is National School Breakfast Week

March 8 is World Kidney Day

March 10 is National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

March 11-17 is Patient Safety Awareness Week

March 12-18 is Brain Awareness Week

March 18-24 is National Poison Prevention Week

March 19-23 is National Youth Violence Prevention Week

March 20 is National Native American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

March 24 is World Tuberculosis Day

March 27 is American Diabetes Alert Day

According to the Center for Disease Control, CDC, the flu is on the down side, but still be careful. Hand-washing is the best preventative.

A reminder about the closet with medical supplies, walkers, wheelchairs, tub seats, etc. Please help yourself, if you need something and it's available. Also, on the table in Fellowship Hall there are pill set ups and wallet sized med lists to have a list of your medications handy.

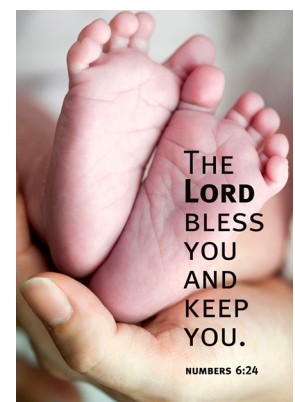
God Bless!

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

Congratulations to Nicole and David Angers on the birth of their son, Luke David Angers, arriving on February 1st and weighing in at 6 lbs., 14 oz. and 19 inches long.

On February 11th we celebrated the baptism of Elsie Lynn Webb. Elsie is the 8 month-old daughter of Jake and Lauren Webb.

We pray God's continued blessing upon these little ones.





### Here We Grow Preschool

March already? This year is just flying by! We have a lot going on. Our final fundraiser, the "Prize Calendar" has gone home. We ran it for the entire month of February, giving parents the vacation week to seek out all family members. The children will start pulling names March 1<sup>st</sup> and we will post the winners in the outside hallway. There are great prizes donated by local businesses and direct sales people.

The children and staff celebrated Valentine's Day with parties on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. They all got to play mail carrier while passing out valentines to classmates. The parents provided snack which consisted of marshmallows, teddy grahams, M&M's and yogurt raisins. The children loved it! We also had our pajama day, where even the teachers wore their PJ's.

We have picture days coming up on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Neal Primeaux will once again be here doing them for us. He does a great job and the children love his personality.

Our open house is Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping to have a great turnout. I have been doing tours on a regular basis for the last month, and we still have spots available for next year.

We are lucky enough to once again be having a visit from New England Reptiles in for the 4-year-olds this year. It's a lot of fun to see how much the animals have grown from year to year. It also forces the staff to put their fears aside and get up close and personal with some creatures they may not normally like.

The children have started talking about Easter already. We will be coloring, eating and searching for eggs at the end of the month.

Until next month, stay healthy and safe.

Cristi Corey  
Here We Grow Director

Please join us for  
**Here We Grow's Open House**  
Tuesday, March 6th, from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M.

Although the new Bibles were dedicated at the worship service on February 18th, 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 St., Auburn 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)** \_\_\_\_\_

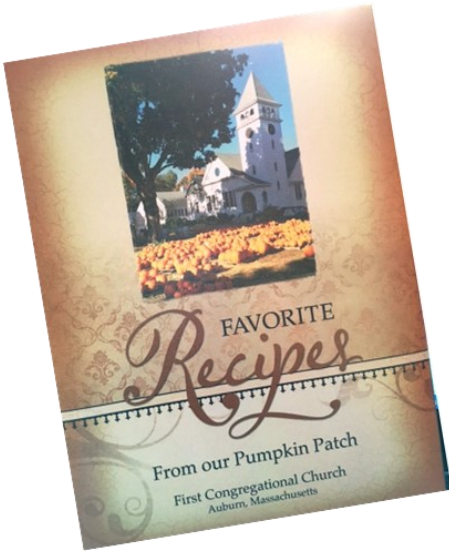
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### “From our Pumpkin Patch” Cookbooks



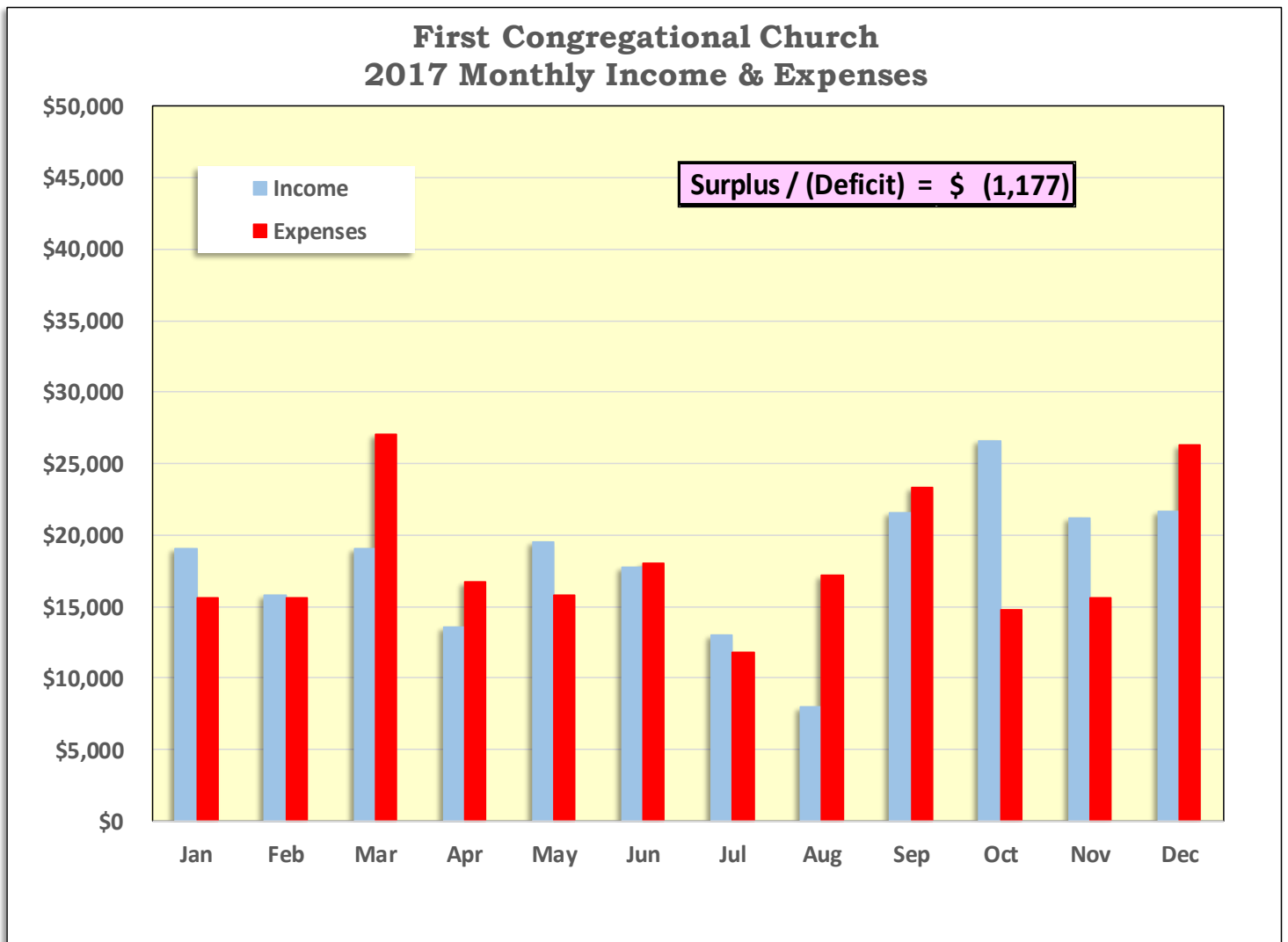
Each cookbook, containing over 200 recipes, features a washable, hard cover in a 3-ring binder format and also has an added envelope in the back for storing any of your favorite recipes not found inside! It also contains kitchen and household hints on the back side of each divider (excluding the custom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

If you would like to purchase a cookbook, please see Michele Schillinger at coffee hour on Sunday or call her at 508-259-2239. You may also email her at [library@auburnfirstucc.org](mailto:library@auburnfirstucc.org). Please include “cookbook” in the subject line of your email. — Happy Cooking!!



Our thanks to Church Treasurer, Nick Stockhaus, for providing us with the chart below depicting year-end totals for 2017.





## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Welcome to Spring! As I write this, we are preparing for another icy winter storm. Sometimes it is hard to believe that all this snow and ice will help nurture all the flowers and grass to bring us a beautiful spring full of spectacular flowers and lush green grass. That is the same with the trials that we go through in life. Amid the trying time, it is sometimes hard to hold on to the fact that God is always in control and He will always guide us through if we allow ourselves to concentrate on Him and listen to His guidance.

Monadnock didn't disappoint, as usual. We had an amazing time. Some of the kids shared with you during service what they experienced. As you heard, it was both spiritually meaningful and fun. Some of the teens are thinking of going to week long summer camp and some are looking into going on a mission trip to Haiti this summer. I have a brochure on the Sunday school bulletin board about summer camp. There is teen camp as well as kid and family camp. Due to the fact our youth group attended Encounter weekend, the ENTIRE church is entitled to a substantial discount until APRIL 30. Lillian has worked as a counselor for the younger kids and Rebecca has attended teen camp the last two summers, so feel free to talk to them or me with questions.

On March 25 we will be delivering your butter braids and fruit crisps after service. Thank you to all who participated.

Sunday school is beginning the last quarter of the year and we are still in need of "floaters" or assistants. This is a great way to see what goes on downstairs in one visit. Speak to me or Katie Sharr if interested. Cradle Roll could use a few more in their rotation as well.

As we prepare for the warmer weather and all the beauty that the spring brings, let us remember who deserves all the glory for the beauty we get to experience.

With His guidance we serve,

Jean McPherson  
Director of Religious Education



### CALLING ALL CHILDREN . . .

Our Easter Egg Hunt will be after the service on Palm Sunday, March 25th. Look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

### SERMON TITLES

March 4 "What are the Rules?"

March 11 "Bronze Snakes not Golden Bulls"

March 18 "(Talking to Greeks leads to talk of Death) Who is the Son of Man?"

March 25 "Hosanna in the Highest Heaven"

**Deborah Rose Haff**, 67, of Newton, NJ, passed away on January 18, 2018. Born in Worcester, MA, Deborah was raised in Auburn. She received her BA from New England College in 1972 and received her Master's in Early Childhood Education from Newark State College in 1976, and a second Master's Degree in LDT-C (Learning Disability Teacher-Consultant) at Jersey City State College in 1981. Deborah became a Certified Paralegal at Sussex County Community College in 2009. She was a certified Learning Disability Teacher-Consultant for 40 years working at the Sussex County Juvenile Detention Center, the M. E. McKeown Elementary School and retiring from the Kittatinny Regional High School after nineteen years. Following her retirement, she started DRH Consulting Group LLC. Deborah is survived by her husband of 45 years, Dennis R. Haff; her sons, Darius R. Haff and wife, Andrea, and Daniel R. Haff, and three granddaughters. She is also survived by her brothers, Kenneth Holstrom and wife Kim, and Gordon Holstrom; her sister-in-law, Cheryl Dozier; and her cousin, Nan Johnson and husband, Will. She was predeceased by her parents, Floyd and Mary (Prescott) Holstrom, and her grandson, Easton Haff. Services were held on Saturday, January 27, 2018, at Baleville Congregational Christian Church in Newton, NJ. Please keep the family in your prayers.

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

### 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 when it's passed or mail to the church, 128 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501. Please submit your order form with payment **by Sunday, March 18th.**

**Lilies (1 stem) \$10.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lilies (2 stems) \$20.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lilies (3 stems) \$30.00** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Color Choice: 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE DEDICATION IN  
SPACE PROVIDED ON BACK.**

### YOU'RE INVITED . . .

Join us at our monthly potluck suppers (a combination of potluck supper and a book/movie discussion). The next get-together will be on March 20th at 6 p.m. when we will discuss the book, *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812* by Laurel Ulrich. In 1991, *A Midwife's Tale* received the Pulitzer Prize.

### DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>

Remember to set your clock ahead one hour when retiring on Saturday evening, March 10th.

### One Great Hour of Sharing — OGHS

One Great Hour of Sharing is administered by the Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ and provides support to people in over 80 countries. When you make a gift to the offering you become a partner in the refugee, disaster relief, and community development efforts of the UCC in the United States and internationally. Through this fund lives are changed. You'll find offering envelopes enclosed in this month's *Tidings*. Please drop it in the offering plate on Sunday or mail to: First Congregational Church, 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501.

Thank you!

### YARD SALE to be held JUNE 23rd — PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

Due to a scheduling conflict, the yard sale has been changed from June 16th to **June 23rd**. Please be sure to mark your calendars! Spaces are available to rent for only \$15 (\$20 for non-Church members). Tables are \$5 each. Please block off time to help with the yard sale on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm for set up and throughout the day on Saturday (unless, of course, you're renting a space). If you have questions or to rent a space, call me, Cindy Dube, at 508-832-6646.



