



# 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 . . .

### Giving Thanks

Thanks is found in our pew bible 176 times. Thanksgiving is written 69 times. Thanks is an important word for understanding our God. To give thanks we must feel thankful. To feel thankful we must feel blessed. To feel blessed is to know the love of God working in our lives.

We come again to our time for thanksgiving. I have seen many things about this year 2016 as being horrible. We had terrorist attacks, floods, and a particularly nasty election campaign. Maybe the best thing we can give thanks for is thanks that this troublesome presidential election is over. Hopefully, no violence will follow this election as has other elections, most notably 1860. Hopefully, the winner won and the loser took their loss with grace.

It is said we get the leaders we deserve. If so, we need to work to make our country more deserving of good leaders. Would you be willing to go through all the things the candidates for President went through for the last couple of years? I wouldn't.

What can we do to be a better nation? I like what Paul writes to the church in Thessalonica.

*“But we beseech you, brethren, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we exhort you, brethren, admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophesying, but test everything; hold fast what is good, abstain from every form of evil.” 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22*

If we treated people like this what would be missing? We respect our leaders, esteem them in love, not steam or roast them. We would encourage people, get the idle working, encourage those who are discouraged, help the weak, and most importantly — be patient. Has there ever been enough patience?

Then there is giving thanks in all circumstances. Things could always be worse and there is a bright side of every situation. May we give thanks for all we have and not miss what we don't have.

Pastor Brian



Join us at the Community  
Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wed., Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 P.M. at  
Faith Baptist Church,  
22 Faith Avenue, Auburn

## NOVEMBER SERMON TITLES

- 11/6 Guest Preacher, Rev. Meredyth Ward of  
“Walking Together” ministry (see pg. 3)
- 11/13 “Will There Be Work in Paradise?”
- 11/20 “A True Shepherd Came to His Sheep”
- 11/27 First Sunday in Advent  
“Hard to Tell Time”  
Children’s Sermon: “Being Awake”

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with this year's pumpkin patch. At the time of this printing we were at \$18,252 in sales!

**THANK YOU TO DEBBIE MAHLERT, LINDA MAHLERT, SHEILA SKOG, JUDI TAFT AND SUE MACPHEE** for all they did in organizing this fundraiser.

Our thanks to the Auburn community for supporting our fundraiser and supporting the Navajo Indian Reservation in Farmington, NM where the pumpkins are grown on 1,200 acres or approximately 2 square miles of pumpkins. During the harvest months of September and October over 700 Native Americans are employed as well as a full time off-season NM staff that is comprised entirely of Native Americans. This has a positive and lasting impact on a region with 42% unemployment.

Thank you to all for another successful pumpkin patch season!

**Happy Birthday wishes to:**

**Rich McPherson** ~ Nov. 6th  
**Nick Stockhaus** ~ Nov. 7th  
**Victoria Stockhaus** ~ Nov. 14th  
**Suzanne Kress** ~ Nov. 22nd



**\*\*\* PUMPKIN PATCH FAIR \*\*\***

**Once again, the Fall Fair was a huge success! THANK YOU to everyone who participated, whether through donations, by working the fair, making purchases, or all of the above — it was a real team effort! The final numbers are not yet in, but are expected to top \$7,000!**

MANY THANKS to so many who helped behind the scenes with the fair. Special thanks to Cindy Ryan, Judy Murphy and Diane Moore for all their hard work, to Gayle Farley and Joyce Ringgard for taking the lead on the jewelry table, to Jennifer Bohn and Bessie Morgan for handling Grandma's pantry, to Marion Woodcock and helpers for overseeing the "attic treasures," to Mike and Cindy Dube for organizing the books, DVD's, etc., to the faithful who gathered at the craft nights, to Pastor Brian and Randy Bohn and others who helped with clean-up after the fair. And, thanks to anyone we may have overlooked (our apologies).

Once again, I am faced with the task of trying to find the right words to express the gratitude I feel to so many people surrounding the church fair. Once again, I know it is an impossible task. Of course, thank you to Judy Murphy and Diane Moore – my soul sistahs. There are DEFINITELY no words sufficient for them.

To Marian and Jen and Gayle, who headed tables/areas – thank you! I believe their areas were the top money makers, so suffice to say that the fair would either not have happened, or the numbers would have looked VERY different without you.

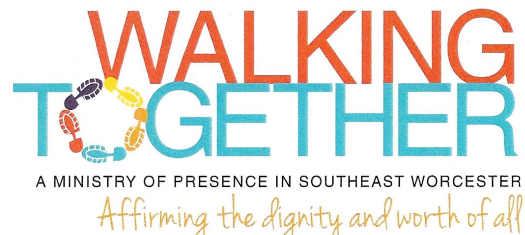
Thanks to Brian, who headed up the clean-up crew for the Attic Treasures – no small task. You were AWE-SOME. To Bessie – thank you for EVERYTHING you did. Couldn't we all learn a lesson from Bessie? To Denise and Judy Bjork – thank you. Denise, why would we be surprised to see that you helped whenever and wherever you were needed – above and beyond what was asked. This fair would definitely not happen without you. Couldn't we all learn a lesson from Denise as well? – how to be one of God's good people. Denise, there are, for sure, no words for you.

Thank you to everyone else who worked the day of the fair, made crafts, helped set up and take down, made items (including delicious soups and beef stew) for the food table. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Silent Auction – including the creative baskets from all the committees. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Thanks above all to God. As always, your Spirit and guidance were everywhere at all times.

Cindy Ryan

After worship on Sunday, November 13, 2016, members of First Congregational Church will be called upon to be present at a Special Church meeting to transact the business of the Church. The special meeting will be held to see if the Church will approve, as requested by the Outreach Committee, to spend interest from the Sibley Fund to support the “Walking Together” ministry located in the Main South area in Worcester. To aid members in making an informed decision, below is a letter detailing the work of this ministry written by Rev. Meredyth Ward, Urban Missioner of “Walking Together.”



Thank you for considering Walking Together for a grant from the Sibley Fund.

Walking Together is a ministry of presence in the Main South neighborhood of Worcester. The initial funding came from the Episcopal Church through a national program targeting underserved communities, and that money was matched by local money — mostly coming from the proceeds of the sale of the former St. John’s Church in Worcester. We began in January of 2015, and moved into our storefront at 799 Main Street in March of 2016.

A ministry of presence is just that—being present in a community. As Urban Missioner, my job is to help connect people to themselves, to community and to God. Social isolation is one of the most painful realities of urban life—you live in close proximity to people, but you are isolated from the community around you.

We began Laundry Love in July of 2015. Since then, the program has grown from paying for 20 or 25 loads of laundry each month to more than 200 loads. Last night, October 13th, we paid for laundry for 53 households—some of them homeless, some in shelters and others marginally housed. We bring pizza, water and juice; activities for the kids (this month it was making pumpkins from orange paper plates), free diapers (courtesy of Lutheran, Methodist and Episcopal parishes in the Springfield area), and lots and lots of detergent and dryer sheets (provided each month by First Congregational in Tatnuck Square).

Since opening the storefront we have begun meeting people in a new way. Instead of running into people by accident, we can hold meetings or plan to get together with folks. We began with one AA meeting, and now host seven 12 step meetings each week. At the request of community members we now offer ESL classes for two hours a week, with teachers from three local parishes offering their skills.

Far more important than any program, however, is the act of being present. Handing out bottles of water on a hot day, or walking along the street allows contact with people who would never walk inside our churches. Offering diapers or feminine hygiene products meets a need not covered by other programs.

Most of all, though, we offer friendship. We offer a safe space with people of goodwill. People come to us who have few resources of their own. Our work is part advocacy, part modeling a different kind of life, and part offering the love of God in Jesus Christ. We take seriously the charge to offer food to the hungry and water to the thirsty. We remember our commitment to affirm the dignity of all people.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Meredyth Ward, Urban Missioner

Join us monthly for our potluck supper get-togethers. The potlucks begin at 5:30 p.m. on movie nights and 6:00 p.m. on book discussion nights. You do NOT have to read the book, if you just want to come for food and fellowship, please do! Our next get-together will be on **Tuesday, November 15th, at 6 p.m.** to discuss excerpts from the *Upper Room*. Please read the November 15th entry in preparation for our get-together (booklets are available on the table in Fellowship Hall). Also, pick up a hand-out copy of the October entry that will also be discussed and is located on the table in Fellowship Hall as well.

In December we will be viewing *Miracle on 34th Street* (on Tuesday, December 13th, beginning at 5:30 p.m.).

### From the Director of Religious Education

Count Your Blessings. As we begin November everyone is "gearing up" for the upcoming holiday season. Before we get caught up in the "hustle and bustle" of the commercialized aspect of the upcoming season, let us stop and reflect on the many blessings we each have. As we look out at the beautiful trees that are a kaleidoscope of color or the pumpkins strewn across the church lawn, we need to take some time to thank the Creator of all things. Without His love and guidance where would your life be?

YOM would like to thank everyone who purchased a pie or cookie dough for our fall fundraiser. We raised \$265 for the youth group. As you prepare to bake your pie or cookie, could you please say a little prayer for the young people of our congregation?

On October 28th we are planning a pizza party and will make apple crisp to share with the children in Sunday School on the 30th. We will also be painting little pumpkins with the Sunday School group on that day. If you would like to stop in and help out, all hands are welcome. After the pizza party, the 6th and 7th graders will be staying for a sleepover.

The Confirmation group along with Outreach will attend Worcester Fellowship, also on October 30.

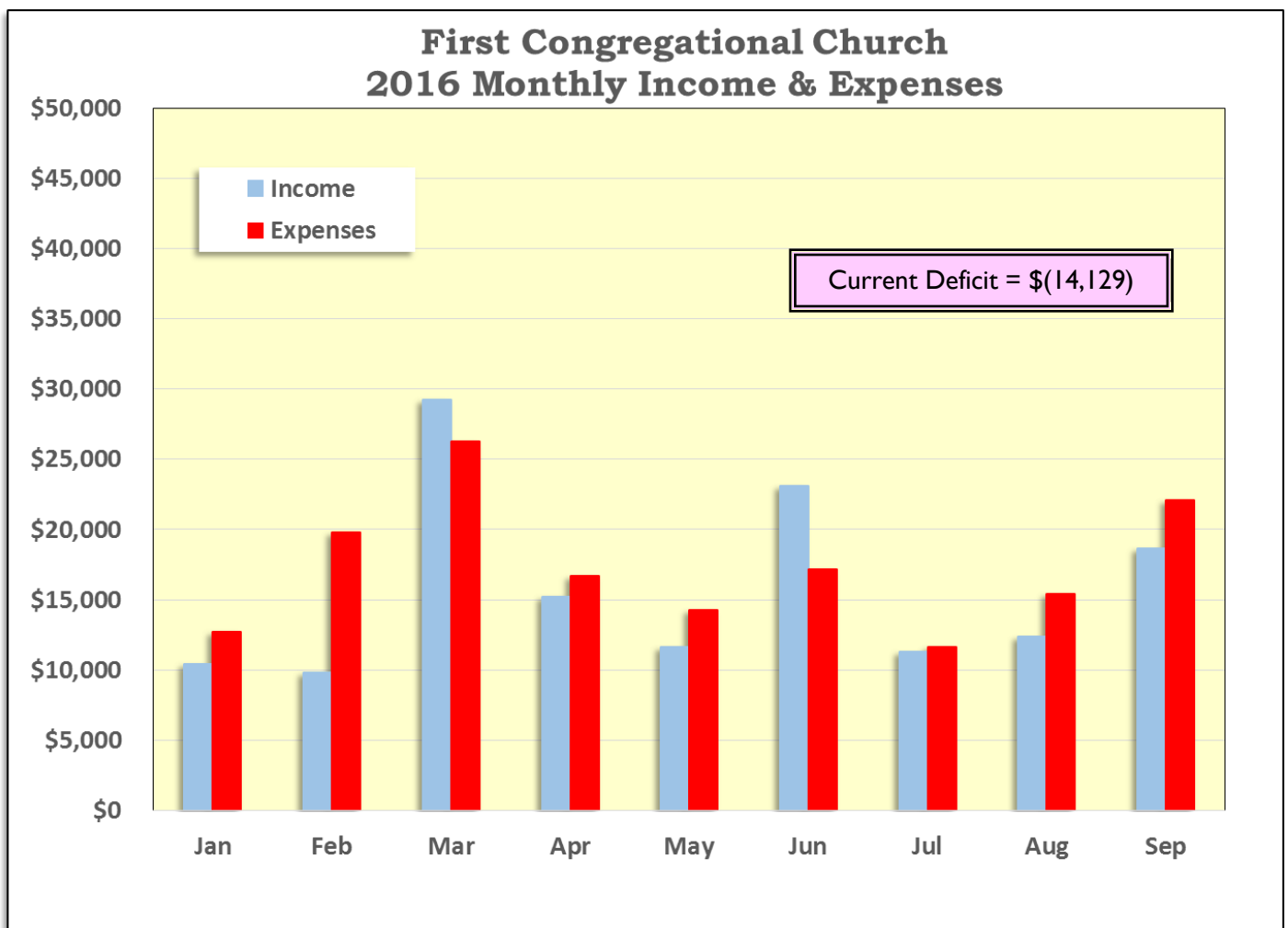
On November 19 the Confirmation class will be attending a conference called "Simply Beautiful" that is put on by Berea. Berea is a Christian camp that we attend for the winter retreat. If you're interested in learning more, look up [SimplyBeautifulconference.com](http://SimplyBeautifulconference.com).

**DON'T FORGET NOVEMBER 20 PIE DELIVERY!**

Upcoming Date: Parents Nite Out December 2nd, 6-8 p.m.

*FAITH is not believing that God can, it is knowing that He will.*

Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education



As mentioned in the April Tidings, periodically we will include financial updates in the monthly newsletter from our Treasurer, Nick Stockhaus, Above is a bar graph depicting 2016 income and expenses through September.



### ***Here We Grow*** Preschool

Welcome, everyone, to the third month of the school year. We've settled in nicely and are ready for Halloween; bags have been made and all the children are excited for their parades. The children and staff are busy planning and preparing for Thanksgiving and the winter holidays.

During October we had visits from the Auburn Fire and Police Departments. The children talked about the safest way to exit their homes in case of fire. The Police talked to the children about Halloween and safety tips they should follow.

Our 4-year-old classes are now full and we have picked up 2 new 3-year-olds. We still have spots in the 3-year-old AM and PM classes.

During the month of November, the students of ***Here We Grow*** will be learning about "Healthy Foods & Bodies," "Manners," and "What We Are Thankful For," the colors blue and brown, and the circle shape.

Our feast days are November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our feast day tradition began over 26 years ago when Fawn Robidoux, ***Here We Grow's*** first director, began this wonderful experience. This year's menu is cornbread, made by the 3-year-olds, a friendship fruit salad, cheese and crackers, vegetables and dip, humus and bread and to top it off — brownies, made by the 4-year-olds with yummy Cool Whip on top. With the help of the ***Here We Grow*** parents, who will supply and serve the food, I know it will be a wonderful experience for all.

Once again the children and families of HWG will be participating in "The Giving Basket." All foods collected will be given to Pastor Brian to distribute to families in need during the season of thanksgiving. We hope to continue with the tremendous amount of support from the HWG families. The need seems to be greater and greater each year.

One of the school's requirements is to offer some type of gross motor every day. With the cold weather fast approaching it reminds the staff, children and families how lucky we are to have the use of a large indoor playground.

Until next month, enjoy the season of fall and stay healthy—

Gina Basili, Director, ***Here We Grow*** Preschool



The Stewardship Committee wishes to thank all of you who have taken the time to fill out and return your pledge cards to us. **It is important that you return your pledge card whether you plan on pledging or not.**

As of this printing we do not have any information to share with you as to how the drive went, but as a committee, we feel hopeful.

Thank you again and may God Bless you.

Your Stewardship Committee

**Bethel Lutheran Church**

**90 Bryn Mawr Ave**

**Auburn**

**Saturday - November 5<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 - 2:00**

Hand made knits  
and vintage Linens

"White Elephant"  
Attic Treasures

Pickles and Cheese

Bake Shoppe  
Homemade pies, cakes,  
breads, cookies and candy

Holiday Shoppe  
and Crafts

Tea Party and Luncheon





November is National Diabetes Month. Diabetes is one of the leading causes of disability and death in the United States. One in 11 Americans has diabetes — that's more than 29 million people. And another 86 million adults in the United States are at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

If you are overweight, have high blood pressure, or are age 45 or older, you are at a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes. The good news is that making healthy changes can greatly lower your risk. To help prevent type 2 diabetes:

- Watch your weight
- Eat healthy
- Get more physical activity

November is also COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) Month  
 Lung Cancer Awareness Month  
 National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month  
 National Family Caregivers Month  
 National Hospice Palliative Care Month

November 19th is the Great American Smokeout.

Happy Thanksgiving!  
 Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse

PLEASE NOTE: We will be suspending the Widows/Widowers' Group meetings at this time.

### **CHURCH COOKBOOK**

We have had a tremendous response to our new cookbook project, both with recipes submitted/entered as well as volunteers to help with proofing and entering recipes....all necessary for success!!

If we can get off to a quick start – which means we need your recipes sooner rather than later – then we might even be able to get the first print in time for Christmas!!  
 Quick Tip: to enter recipes on your own, type *Typensave* into your internet browser, click enter...Morris Cookbook Typensave Login will be an option that comes up.  
 Username is ThePumpkinPatch (all one word) Password is garlic056

**PLEASE NOTE: There will be a Cookbook “Team” Meeting after worship on Sunday, November 6th. All are welcome.**



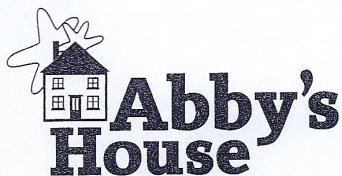

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### **Neighbors In Need**

Neighbors in Need is the UCC's annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries office which offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network, Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, MN. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

You'll find an offering envelope enclosed in this month's *Tidings*. Please return it to the church, and thank you for your help.



52 High Street, Worcester, MA 01609

September 27, 2016

First Congregational Church of Auburn  
128 Central Street  
Auburn, MA 01501

Dear Friends of Abby's House,

On behalf of the women and children served by Abby's House, we would like to thank you for your generous gift of \$300.00, received on September 21, 2016.

Since 1976, Abby's House has been effectively responding to one of the most basic and fundamental human needs - a safe place to stay. With a 9-bed overnight shelter and 77 units of affordable, supportive housing, we have helped more than 13,000 women move beyond the chaos of housing insecurity and homelessness to regain their footing on the path to an independent life filled with hope and dignity. Over that time, and in partnership with countless, generous donors like you, we have successfully delivered on our mission time and again.

With your support, the Abby's porch light that was turned on 40 years ago remains today a beacon of hope for women and their children who are seeking safe, supportive shelter and housing. As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, we honor our past and continue to build our future. And what a bright future it is.

During her recent retirement celebration, Abby's House Founder, Annette Rafferty, reflected:

*"I know there will never be an end to Abby's hospitality, mutual respect, compassion, and empowerment of all our residents and guests. We will continue, as a community, to work together to achieve our mission."*

Thank you for truly making a difference in the lives of so many who need us. You are an important part in helping each woman find her way to a better life.

With warmest regards,

Stephanie Page  
Executive Director

*Thank you for helping to provide hospitality, compassion + shelter/housing to women and children in need!*

**SHELTER • HOUSING • ADVOCACY**

Phone: 508-756-5486 • Fax: 508-798-3299 • www.abbyshouse.org

Remember to turn your clocks back on November 5th before retiring for the evening. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on November 6th.



<b>Coffee Hour Hosts:</b>			
11/6	Financial Sec'y/Treasurers	11/13	B.O.C.E.
11/20	Board of Deacons	11/27	B.O.C.E.
12/4	Historian, Nominating, Library & Memorial/Scholarship Committees		

**2016 Christmas Poinsettia Order**

Once again we are offering the opportunity to purchase poinsettias at great prices. In the past we've decorated the sanctuary with these beautiful plants and at the close of the Christmas Eve or, this year, the Christmas Service members are able to claim their plants and continue to enjoy them at home, or give them as gifts. You may dedicate your poinsettias in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion, etc. Please complete the poinsettia order form below and include a check or cash with your order.

Please use a separate order form for each plant.

**Poinsettia Given By: PLEASE PRINT**



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

or \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

**Size: (Please indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd color choices.)**

**Single Stem \$6.50**

Color: Red \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Marble \_\_\_\_\_

**Double Stem \$14.00**

Color: Red \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Marble \_\_\_\_\_

**Three Stem \$18.00**

Color: Red \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Marble \_\_\_\_\_

**Four Stem \$22.00**

Color: Red \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Marble \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you will **NOT** be taking your poinsettia home.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Michele Schillinger, cell # 508-259-2239.

**ORDERS DUE BY NOV. 27<sup>TH</sup>** 

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

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

Web: [auburnfirstucc.org](http://auburnfirstucc.org)



BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Non-Profit Org.  
Permit No. 6  
Auburn, Mass

**November 2016**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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27	28	29	30			

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**