



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,

What Is Shameful?

You may have heard there is a cartoon made originally for girls I enjoy. It is called *My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic*. It is sweet, girly and about friendship. The characters are pink and yellow and purple and are six young adult ponies making their way in their chosen careers of farmer, daredevil, scholar, party planner, veterinarian, and clothing designer. It is also about fighting dragons, helping your friends, confronting your friends when they act evil and other things a good kid’s show should teach.

But what I say, doesn’t really matter. I lost a lot of you at “Little Pony.” I lost others at “girly.” That is fine. There is so much in this world we can not experience it all, we have to make snap decisions as to what we will spend time on.

In an earlier time I might have kept my enjoyment of this girly cartoon a secret. This show, however, has a large group of male fans, who call themselves bronies. (bro ponies). So I am not alone.

I like *Star Trek* but never went to a convention, so I am not a trekker; likewise, with *Star Wars* and *My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic*. There are brony conventions and brony websites. I just watch the show when it is on and that is about it. People make fun of bronies, after all half the internet is trolls. (A wonderful word, troll. A troll is a big ugly monster that lives under a bridge and it also is about the fishing kind of trawling. A troll tries to get people angry by insulting things people care about, hoping someone will take the bait and insult the troll. Do not feed the trolls.) Bronies react to trolls with “I’m gonna love and tolerate the stuffing out of you.” A nice reaction to an internet with too much nastiness, name calling, and hate.

Star Wars and *Star Trek* used to not be cool. Now almost every show and movie reference them in some way. So the geeks and nerds won the culture. Likewise, internet people are unwilling to feel shame for things they love.

I wish young people would better understand that what they put on the internet is forever. Kids have posted videos on the internet of their crimes. Videos that were used to convict them. Other teens post pictures (and a picture is worth a 1000 words) without thinking about what that picture will say to a wide audience. We are not used to our little pictures being seen by others, maybe thousands of others.

Privacy is a rare thing. If there is no privacy, nothing to keep secret and share only with trusted friends, can there be any shame?

We are said to have a natural sense of ethics and morals. We feel shame when we break the natural laws God placed in our hearts. Is the internet, where each group no matter how small or shameful can find a place of safety, going to end shame? I think not, there are still rules; rules strongly enforced on the internet and the internet does use shame and shunning (called banning). Just like our colonial ancestors did.

So what is left to feel shameful for? Being hateful. Trying to hurt others. Being a troll. Being a criminal. Yet time and again, someone is shocked that others object to the picture or video they posted. Even when what they posted is illegal.

Shame is not a bad thing. We can’t have a law against all bad behavior. Some bad acts we need to shame people into not doing. Other things we should just let slide.

If you do not like *My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic* . . . I’m gonna love and tolerate the stuffing out of you.

Pastor Brian

OCTOBER SERMON TITLES:

Children's Sermons

- | | | |
|-------|--------------------------------|--|
| 10/7 | "What Is Worse?" | "What Do You Do When Bad Things Happen?" |
| 10/14 | "Laid Bare" | "The Camel and the Eye of the Needle" |
| 10/21 | "God Is Great" | "Sabbath in Pioneer Days" |
| 10/28 | "A New Heaven and a New Earth" | "Do You Want Law or Grace?" |

Coffee Hour Hosts:

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 10/7 ~ | Personnel Committee | 10/28 ~ | Prudential Committee |
| 10/14, 10/21 ~ | Stewardship | 11/4, 11/11 ~ | Financial Secretaries/Treasurers |

October Birthdays include:

- Eric Rockwood - October 21st
- Carolyn Slongwhite - October 21st
- George DuHamel - October 27th

Happy Birthday!



On October 8th Rich and Jean McPherson will be celebrating their wedding anniversary - Congratulations!

Happy Anniversary to George and Laura DuHamel who will celebrate their special day on October 31st.

JIMMY FUND WALK 2012

Thank you to everyone who supported me in the Jimmy Fund Walk on September 9th. To date I have raised \$1,348 for cancer research. **There's still time to donate.** Either speak with me directly or mail a check (payable to the Jimmy Fund) to: 36 Linda Ave., Millbury, MA 01527.

A huge thank you to everyone who called, texted and facebooked me during the walk. It sure made the time go by faster. Thanks again —

Lori Stockhaus

LOOK WHAT'S NEW!

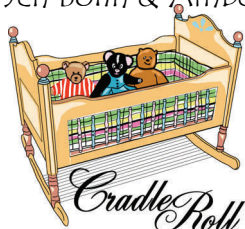
Announcing the birth of **Gianna Isabella Spaziani** on September 18th, 2012, weighing in at 8 lbs., 19½ inches long!

Proud parents are Mark and Valerie Spaziani and grandparents, Bob and Carol Luther. Congratulations one and all!



CRADLE ROLL & SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

10/7 Sue Campbell & Sym Brothers
 10/14 Marion Woodcock & Sym B.
 10/21 Tori & Cassie Stockhaus
 10/28 Bessie Morgan & Julie Green
 11/4 Jen Bohn & Amber Premo



SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Unit 1: Creation

10/7 Lillian McPherson, Connie Hanks, Laurie Babcock, Caitlin Gardner & Julie Green (confirmand)

Unit 2: Stewardship

10/14 - 11/4 Sue MacPhee - Art, Laurie Babcock - Cooking
 Judi Taft - Story, Ron Klaucke - Video

Confirmands:

10/14 David Engstrom & Cassie Stockhaus

10/21 Jake McPherson & Becka Babcock

10/28 Amber Premo

October Fuel Fund

This is a friendly reminder that in October there is a special offering envelope for the Fuel Fund. This is one of four Fuel Fund special offering envelopes that can be found in your offering envelope packets. All money donated through this offering envelope stays in the Church and goes directly towards the heating expenses of the building. With the continued rising costs of fuel, please consider making a donation to the Fuel Fund this fall to help offset these expenses.

Thank You,
 Board of Trustees

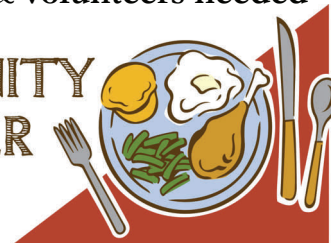
Please plan to join us on
Saturday, October 20th at 5 p.m.
 for our
Roast Pork Community Supper

Adults ~ \$10

Children ~ \$5

Servers: Outreach & **volunteers needed**

COMMUNITY DINNER



Go "Green" with the Electronic Tidings

In an effort to reduce printing and mailing costs, we are asking that anyone who receives a printed *Tidings* consider receiving the *Tidings* electronically. If you have an internet connection you can view the *Tidings* online at our website, www.AuburnFirstUCC.org by clicking on the **Newsletter** button on the left hand side of the home page. Not only can you view the current *Tidings* on our website, but you can also view past editions.

Another advantage to viewing the electronic *Tidings* is that you get to see all the beautiful color that goes into the newsletter each month. If you would like to go green and start receiving the electronic *Tidings*, please send an email to Tidings@AuburnFirstUCC.org with the word "Subscribe" in the subject line. Each month you will receive an email notifying you when the *Tidings* has been placed on the website (in most cases days before you would receive the mailed version). If for any reason you do not enjoy the electronic version of the *Tidings*, you can go back to the printed version at any time by contacting the Church office. — Thank You!

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

By now we have almost one rotation under our belts with our new curriculum. I think this curriculum and model will really become a favorite with the kids. As of Rally Day we have 26 kids enrolled in Sunday School and 7 in confirmation class. This does not include Cradle Roll; so we are growing from the 7 or so when I started 4 years ago. I am very blessed to have the women who stepped up to be our guinea pig shepherds and teach the first unit for me. We are still getting used to our groups and where we all go, but I believe that with practice we will have a smooth working machine.

Pumpkins have been ordered and will be available to carve on Sunday, October 14th downstairs in the old kitchen after service. Like last year, for every pumpkin you order and carve you get a free ticket to the EcoTarium Pumpkin Festival on Saturday, October 20th, from noon to 9pm. No prior carving experience needed, but if you have carving tools please bring them.

The confirmation class and Youth On a Mission(YOM) will have had their lock-in by the time you read this. The lock-in is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 28 - Saturday, Sept. 29, beginning at 7 p.m. with a pizza party. The middle will be filled with food, fun and fellowship. We will end the lock-in with Mr. Brownell's "famous" French toast. This will fuel us up to help out with the pumpkin delivery that just happens to be on this weekend.

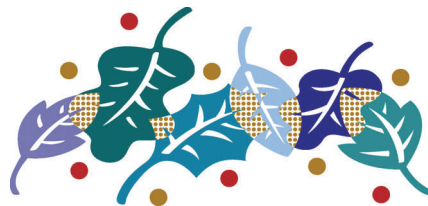
Anyone in grades 6-12 is invited to join Youth On a Mission, our youth group. Please speak to Pastor Brian or me if you have any questions.

As always, if you would like to help out in ANY capacity with Sunday school, please come down and speak with Jen Bohn or me.

By the way, I am looking for CLEAN, baby food jars for our cooking unit this month.

Thank you, and enjoy the nice fall colors and crisp air.

Jean McPherson
Director of Religious Education



On September 9th we celebrated the baptism of **Colin James Wilson**. Colin is the 7½ month old son of Leslie and Peter Wilson. Proud family members include: grandparents, Lois and Russell Therrien; great-grandparents, George and Grace DuVerger; Aunt Lisa and Uncle Eric (Cove) and godparent and cousin, Julie Cove and cousin, Stacy Cove.



On September 16th we celebrated the baptism of **Elsa Rosina Hartmann**. Elsa is the 4½ month old daughter of Craig and Shannon Hartmann. Proud grandparents are Michele and Mike Schillinger.

We thank God for these precious little ones and ask His continued blessing upon Colin and Elsa and their families.

Here We Grow Preschool



While welcoming in the month of October, **Here We Grow** begins its 24th school year. The staff, children and parents have settled into a nice routine. Most of the crying has stopped; for the children and the parents, too.

Here We Grow began the school year with 38, 3 year olds and 76, 4 and 5 year olds. At this time we have openings in all the 3 year old classes. If you know of someone who is looking for a two day program for their 3 year old, have them call the school at 508-832-8184.

Our one new teacher has settled in nicely with the help of the returning staff. It's nice to see the seasoned staff helping and getting ideas from the "new" staff. It's a win, win situation for all. That's what it's all about; **HELPING & SUPPORTING EACH OTHER** for the good of the children and the school.

During the month of September the children became familiar with their teachers, new friends and new surroundings. They had a tour of the entire building and met Denise and Pastor Brian.

Each child received homework the second week of school. Continuing on with one of our traditions, the children created a picture page of their families and added it to their classroom family album. It is one of the ways we become familiar with the many different types of families attending HWG. It is also a great way for the children to open up to someone, just by talking about their families.

We had a great parent turnout for Parent Orientation which was held a week before school started. Many questions were asked and answered with the hope that any and all fears were put to rest. For the third year in a row we offered a "Meet the Teachers" time before the actual first day of class. Once again we had a good turnout.

I would like to thank Wayne Prouty, David Sampson, and Sue & Stan MacPhee for all the help they did in preparing HWG for another school year. We wouldn't have been ready without their continued support. So **THANK YOU!**

Upcoming events for the month of October: apple orchard field trips, visits from the police and fire departments, and Halloween parade and parties.

Until next month, stay healthy.

Dawn Murphy
Here We Grow Preschool Director

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's **Relay for Life** held on September 7th and 8th. To date, this year's walk has raised over \$96,000 with pledges still coming in. It is reasonable to think a final tally will show donations totaling over \$100,000 in their efforts to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. They're already gearing up for 2013 which will mark their 10th anniversary! The South Worcester County Relay for Life expects to break the one million dollar mark next year. Join them as they dedicate themselves to helping the world celebrate more birthdays. Please speak with Garry Mahlert for more information.

Library Tidings by Gloria Whitehead

The Cross Gardener by Jason R. Wright

The story opens with an orchardist named Wayne being introduced to a 4 year old, orphaned lad. He had been delivered by an EMT whose name was John and with that name, the infant became a member of the apple orchard family. Having previously adopted Tim and Scott, Wayne Bevan now happily became the father of 3 boys. There was a family tradition that squeezing the hand 3 times said, "I love you", and a return of 4 squeezes said, "I love you, too." However, hearts were shocked and heavy when Tim drowned on his high school senior trip. In a familiar high clearing in the orchard where Grandpa Devan had been buried for years, Tim was laid to rest. Scott and 9 year old John dug a small hole for the apple wood cross, painted white, that marked the spot.

During harvest time, Father tried to teach the migrant workers English. Among about 30 people, mainly from Mexico and Spain, were Mateo and Jose Miguél, Father's 2 most trusted men who drove the orchard truck. One evening as Father was doing his "apple math" a sheriff's deputy stopped by to see if the truck was missing. It became evident that it had been in an accident when it was found in the woods. The apples had been delivered, but both men were dead before anyone could get to them.

The driver had fallen asleep at the wheel and drove into a bridge abutment. Sorely distressed, Father paid to have their bodies flown home to Mexico. After Church, on the following Sunday, 4 of the family members went to the crash site where they planted 2 apple wood, painted white crosses by the side of the road.

John had met Emma Jean in school and their relationship built beyond marriage, the birth of Lou Lou and later Father had died. He, too, had the treasured white cross ritual. Emma Jean had once referred to the white picket fence she and John had constructed with TLC as a whole series of white crosses.

A yearly highlight for this Bevan family of 3 was the annual Shenandoah County Fair. "Only 1 cotton candy, Lou Lou," Emma Jean had announced. Being pregnant with their excitedly awaited son, Daddy John was in charge of rides this year. The list had about been completed as animals had their visit, when Emma Jean agreed that they could take the long way home for Lou Lou. As Emma Jean's head rested against the window, Lou Lou was fighting sleep in the back seat while snuggling the pink bunny when THA-BOOM! The deer's impact was harder and the sound louder than could be imagined. The van fishtailed. The deer fell in a heap. Lou Lou managed to get to the deer after she opened the automatic door. John was coping at best with a complicated and crucial situation. The shock was too great for a dear, baby boy and when John gave Emma Jean a 3 times squeeze, she replied with 1. Such tragedy left scars and more significant white crosses.

The scene has been set. The dialogues can be slightly excessive at times, but it's almost like a prelude to high points and keeping a reader attentive. When he is consumed with grief, a total stranger appears to John at one of the grave sites. Yes, *The Cross Gardener* becomes the author's messenger of the many lessons and forms of coping with the vicissitudes of life — of the strength and foundation of FAITH. Such it is that John, Lou Lou and the rest of the Bevan family also began to celebrate life again.



SAVE THE DATE!

***Here We Grow* Preschool**
2nd Annual Holiday Auction
at First Congregational Church,
128 Central Street, Auburn
Fellowship Hall – 6:00 to 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, November 15, 2012

New Items Received! Cape Cod weekend getaway in Eastham, YMCA of Central Mass (3 month family membership), private yoga session, Bose Wave III radio, one-hour massage, manicure/pedicure, Worcester Sharks tickets, Santa's Village & Story Land passes, Park 'n Shop gift certificate, Budget Coach basket, Mary Kay basket, and much, much more!

If you should have any new items you wish to donate (gift cards, gift baskets, etc.) please speak with the School's Director, Dawn Murphy.

Thank you in advance for your donations & support!

The Holiday Auction Committee

Dear Church Family,

The time to **Step It Up** is coming soon!

Consecration Sunday is **October 21**.

In the coming weeks, we will be sharing some thoughts on Stewardship and some fun reminders that we are all stepping together in Christian fellowship and service.

When you receive your Stewardship letter, please read it carefully, and prayerfully consider how you can help us "step it up" to serve God and help to grow our church.

We all enjoy seeing the new faces at church. And it's amazing to watch the throng of kids that come up the aisle to see Pastor Brian. Let's ensure that our church will continue to be as strong for them as it is for us! Thank you.

Respectfully,
your Stewardship Committee
(Ellie Lowell, Donna Dube, Linda Hardy, Shirley Hill)

Psalm 37:23 *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*





An evening concert featuring singers and songwriters David Wilcox and Nance Pettit and their "Out Beyond Ideas" album, a collection of ancient mystic poems by Rumi, St. John of The Cross, Yehuda HaLevi, and Dogen Kigen, to name but a few, drawn from across the world's major faith traditions, and made into songs by David and Nance.



David Wilcox

with Nance Pettit

"Out Beyond Ideas" Concert

Saturday, October 20th, 2012
8:00 p.m.

The Congregational Church of Westborough
8 Church Street, Westborough

General Admission \$20.00
(Doors Open at 7:30 p.m.)

For Ticket Information

Order online: www.ihnworchester.org

or call (508) 798-6732

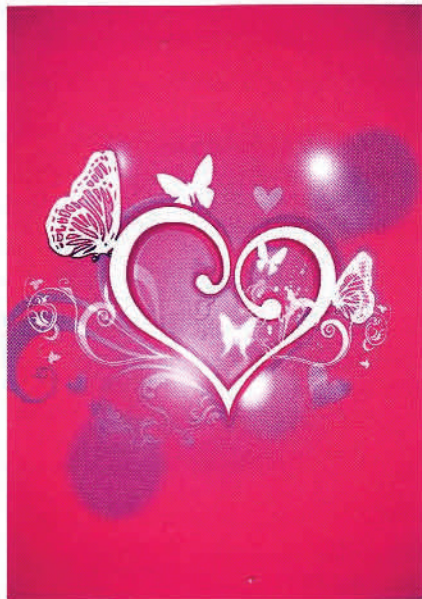
The "Out Beyond Ideas" concert will benefit the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Worcester, a coalition of Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish and Unitarian Universalist congregations that have joined ranks to provide emergency shelter to homeless families with children in Worcester County.

BAKE SALE



We will be holding a **BAKE SALE** Columbus Day weekend **Oct 6th – 8th**. This is a wonderful opportunity to "piggy back" some additional fundraising on the strength of our Pumpkin Patch. ALL proceeds will go to the church's general fund. We will be looking for donations of **any and all baked goods**. They can be dropped off at the church on Friday, Oct 5th or any time during the weekend. Please have your donations labeled and include on the label whether or not your item contains nuts.

If you have any questions or would like to make a donation, please see Jen Bohn.



Adams Square Church Members Transform a Building into a Legacy

The Adams Square Congregational Church closed its doors on January 16, 2011 after a long and fruitful ministry in the Burncoat neighborhood of Worcester. Like most churches which close, despite being a loving and faithful congregation, the dwindling membership became too small to effectively continue. A lasting legacy is left in the hearts of all those who were touched by the church's ministries over the years.

The congregation also left a lasting financial legacy. In addition to gifts to local Worcester churches, Adams Square Congregational Church gave \$50,000 to the Massachusetts Conference. \$10,000 was directed to help victims of Hurricane Irene. More details on this gift and how it has been used can be found at: <http://www.macucc.org/adams>.

The other \$40,000 was unrestricted. The Board of Directors of the Mass. Conference voted to place the unrestricted portion of the gift into the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Endowment Fund. In this way, the legacy of Adams Square Congregational Church will live on through vital congregations who benefit from the Pastoral Excellence Program by having well trained, well resourced and well supported pastors.

From Your Outreach Committee

Your Outreach Committee is planning to attend the Dismas Family Farm Fall Harvest Festival on October 13th and you're invited! The Festival is a time to celebrate the bountiful harvest and spirit of hope that is present at the Dismas Family Farm where we can partake of food, music and festivities on the farm. Remember, the Dismas Family Farm is a unique project, where homeless, former prisoners become a part of their own solution by tending an organic farm and operating a busy woodshop. The farm reconnects former prisoners with the fabric of society, while also instilling in residents a new sense of hope, self-worth and purpose. As you may recall, the members of First Congregational Church voted in 2009 to make a generous donation to the farm. So, come see what God is doing through your faithfulness!

The Outreach Committee is encouraging church members to participate and/or donate to the Auburn Walk for Hunger on Sunday, October 21st. The walk begins and ends at the Auburn Youth and Family Services. Registration is at 12:45 P.M. and the walk begins at 1:00 P.M. All the money raised will go to Auburn Youth and Family Services' food pantry and 10% of funds raised will go to Kateri's Kitchen (North American Martyr's food pantry). Also, please watch for our special Celtic sneakers' offering on October 14th during worship. (Please speak with Sue Campbell if you have any questions about the walk.)

In Love, Hope, Peace, Understanding and Generosity,
 Outreach Members: Pat Bukoski, Sue Campbell,
 Deb Pranaitis & Marilyn Plue



October is Eye Injury Prevention Month, Home Eye Safety Month, National Bullying Prevention Month, and Health Literacy Month. It is also National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Down Syndrome Awareness Month, National Physical Therapy Month, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month.

October 1st is Child Health Day, the 1st -6th is Drive Safely Week, the 3rd is Walk to School Day, and the 7th is Mental Illness Awareness Week. October 12-20 is National Bone and Joint Awareness Week and October 15-19 is National Health Education Week. October 16 is World Food Day.

On Saturday, September 22, I went to a Health Fair all about diabetes. I have a collection of information for anyone interested. I also got some pill containers, if anyone needs one.

Happy Halloween and Safe Trick or Treating.

Debbie Pranaitis
Parish Nurse

MEMORIAL SUNDAY ~ OCTOBER 28TH

We will have a special Memorial Sunday worship service on October 28th at 10 a.m. During the service members will have an opportunity to come forward and receive a flower and light a candle in memory of a loved one.

At this service we will also be dedicating our new hymnals. (The old hymnals will be made available in Fellowship Hall for anyone who would like to take one home to keep.)

This is sure to be a very special service, so please mark your calendars for October 28th, and plan to join us on Memorial Sunday.

CRAFT FAIR

There will be a craft fair here at the church on Saturday, October 27th from 9 a.m. 'til 3:00 p.m. If you're a crafter and interested in renting a table, please contact Gretchen Temple. Gretchen is running this craft fair to help her raise funds for the American Cancer Society. You may contact Gretchen at 508-210-0241, if you would like additional information.





The Board of Ed is continuing to hold potluck suppers featuring a book/movie club entitled -

“Dinner and Discussion.”

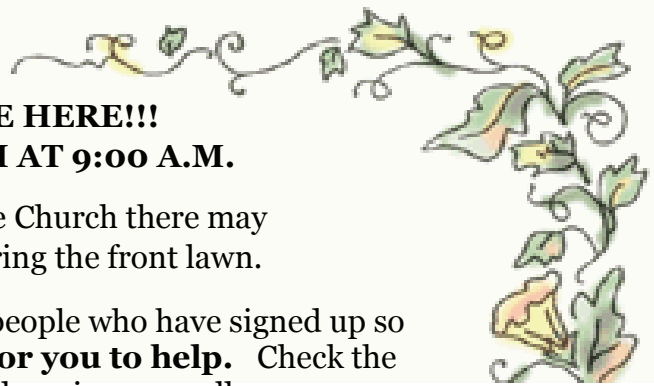
Monthly we will meet for a potluck supper in the vestry (old kitchen) area at 6 p.m. The book club discussion will begin at approximately 6:30-6:45. You do NOT have to read the book, if you just want to come for food and fellowship, please do! The months when we will have a movie up for discussion, we will start the potluck a little earlier at 5:30. The movie will run during dinner, and discussion will follow at its conclusion.

EVERYONE is invited to join us for any or all parts of the evenings. Come for dinner, come for just the discussion. If you're not a reader, join us for the movies. All are invited to participate in whatever way is comfortable for you.

A complete list of books, movies and dates is included below and will be available on the table in both fellowship hall and the adult library in the rear of the sanctuary. See Jen Bohn with any questions.

- Tuesday, Oct. 16 - *Jesus Christ Superstar* * movie - 5:30 start time (Pastor Brian's favorite movie about Jesus)
- Tuesday, Nov. 13 - *Sing You Home* by Jodi Picoult
- Tuesday, Dec. 18 - *Courageous* * movie - 5:30 start time (the film the book we read of the same name is based on)
- Tuesday, Jan. 15 - *Esther* (a short book of the Bible that is rarely read in the Christian Church)
- Tuesday, Feb. 26 - *To Save a Life* * movie - 5:30 start time (a Christian movie about teens, their problems and reactions)
- Tuesday, Mar. 26 - *The Gift of the Jews* by Thomas Cahill (a short history book about the Jewish gift to the history of ideas)
- Tuesday, April 30 - *The Miracle Worker* * movie - 5:30 start time (an animated version of the life of Jesus; it gets repeated on ABC or ABC Family around Easter time; a particularly faithful-to-the-Gospels film about Jesus)
- Tuesday, May 21 - *The Third Jesus* by Deepak Choprah
- Tuesday, June 25 - *Letters to God* * movie - 5:30 start time (Lilly McPherson highly recommended it)

* Potluck suppers start at 6 p.m. except on movie nights we'll begin at 5:30 p.m. in the vestry



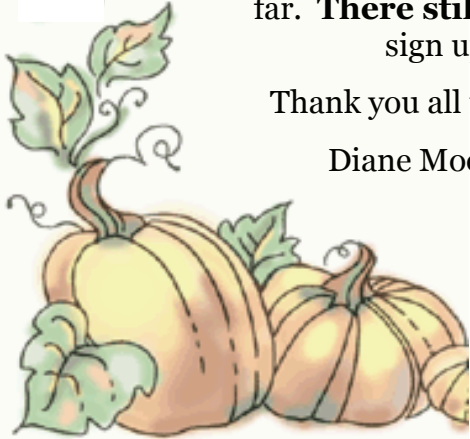
**THE PUMPKINS ARE HERE!!!
AS OF SEPTEMBER 29TH AT 9:00 A.M.**

So, the next time you ride by the Church there may already be a sea of orange covering the front lawn.

We are so excited about the number of people who have signed up so far. **There still is an opportunity for you to help.** Check the sign up sheet in fellowship hall or give us a call.

Thank you all for sharing our excitement for the Pumpkin Patch.

Diane Moore (508-832-8078) Shirley Hill (508-832-6335)



**The Patch will be open daily
Sept. 29th thru Oct. 31st.**

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.

*God's church in Auburn Center
doing Christ's work in the world.*
Web: auburnfirstucc.org



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

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

October 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			