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October

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

As I write this, it is pushing 90°F in late September. It does not feel like school should be in session. It does not feel like fall. I find I am not doing my normal September activities; it is just TOO hot. I can't imagine pumpkin spice is selling well when it is over 80°F.

The weather still has a great effect on us. It influences our moods. We all know we have less energy in the winter when there is less light, and crime, especially violent crime, goes up in the summer when it is hotter and there is sunlight for longer. Lately, there were several road rage incidents in the news. I wonder if the hot September contributed to it. Though, mostly, it was the fault of men who never learned to control their temper.

We sent our first \$1,000 to the orphanage in Nepal. They were going to use \$600 to build bunk beds, 6 sets. Excerpts from the orphanage's newsletter can be found on page 10. You will see they are an active group.

We have our normal busy October. We have the youth group sleepover on October 2nd. Pumpkins arrive on October 3rd. The Fall Fair is October 10-11. Memorial Sunday is October 25. Plus, we have 2 October weddings. Rebecca Richardson marries Michael Gallo on October 3rd and Nicole Valente marries David Angers on October 24. Add to this the *Here We Grow* kids going apple picking and dressing up for the Halloween parade and there will be lots going on at First Congregational.

Pastor Brian

OCTOBER SERMON TITLES:

10/4	“God Expects More from His People”	10/11	“The Patience of Job (Does not Exist)”
10/18	Jonathan Lee, UCC Guest Speaker	10/25	“Jesus Preached at No Funerals”

Consecration Sunday, October 18th

Our theme this year for the Stewardship Drive is *“Count Yourself Blessed,”* and how blessed we have been with the beautiful weather. I hope you have many ways that you feel blessed.



We are now into October, the time of year when you will be asked to make your annual pledge to your church. Although finances are not always a pleasant topic, it is an important one. Our church can not survive without your support. In the coming days you will receive a letter from us, the Stewardship Committee, asking you to carefully consider what you can pledge for the coming year.

We invite you to join us on Sunday, October 18th, for Consecration Sunday. There will be a time during the service to put your pledge card into the Joash Chest and then we would hope you will join us for a light brunch following the service. We hope to see you then.

Your Stewardship Committee,
Marge Averka, Randy Bohn, Cindy Dube, Linda Hardy, Marilyn Kulesa, and Shelia Skog

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



October Birthdays include:
Eric Rockwood - Oct. 21st
Carolyn Slongwhite - Oct. 21st
Happy Birthday!

Coffee Hour Hosts:

- 10/4 ~ Personnel Committee
- 10/11 ~ No coffee hour (Fall Fair at 11 a.m.)
- Coffee will be available to purchase at the Fair (50¢).
- 10/18, 10/25 ~ Stewardship Committee
- 11/1, 11/8 ~ Financial Secretaries/Treasurers

Potluck & Movie/Book Discussions
 We have begun meeting again for potluck suppers. We met on September 24th in Fellowship Hall for supper, a time of fellowship, and discussion centered on the Book of Hosea from the Old Testament. We will have a viewing of *Avengers 2* followed by a time of discussion on **October 22nd beginning at 5:30 p.m. in fellowship hall.**
 Pastor Brian welcomes your suggestions of movies and/or books.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - TIDINGS OCTOBER 2015

I am glad to see the leaves beginning to turn and the days getting cooler. Sunday School is off to a great start! The three separate classrooms really help us to teach to the age level and keep everyone interested. We are planning to have a group activity the last Sunday of each month after the children come down from the children's message.

I have not heard from the EcoTarium in regards to the pumpkins but we have enough on the front lawn if you want to carve.

Youth On a Mission (YOM) had a fun pizza party and are looking forward to the "lock-in" the first weekend in October. I find it interesting that each year it just happens to fall on the night before the pumpkins arrive. We will be starting fundraisers to begin saving toward our winter trip to Monadnock. We will start with selling pies and cookie dough for Thanksgiving. These items freeze well so don't forget to order for Christmas. Place your orders with one of the youth beginning October 3rd and ending October 11th. More info will be in the bulletin.

Enjoy the spectacular color we are fortunate enough to experience here in New England with the changing of the leaves. If you have any questions, or would like to help in Sunday school, please see me.

Jean McPherson
Director of Religious Education

Please join us on **Saturday, Oct. 24th at 5 p.m.**
 for our **Roast Pork Community Supper**
 Adults ~ \$10 Children ~ Free!
 Servers: Memorial/Scholarship & volunteers please!



JOIN US! - NEW MEMBER CLASSES

New Member Classes will be starting October 18th following worship. Look for us at a table in Fellowship Hall.

Classes will run approximately 15-20 minutes for 3 consecutive Sundays (Oct. 18, 25 & Nov. 1).

Please contact the church office if interested in learning more.

William C. "Bill" Richardson was 82 when he passed away September 2, 2015. Bill is survived by his wife of 45 years, Joyce (Larson), children - William Jr., Linda, Andrew, Rebecca, and Kimberly and many grandchildren who called him "Papa." Bill loved to travel. He loved Nova Scotia, cruising, and going "Over the Bridge" to Maine. Bill was a member of our Church where he once served on committees and belonged to our bowling team. He was also a member of the American Legion Tuttle Post of Auburn. He was born in Millville, and graduated from Grafton High School in 1952. Bill was drafted by the Army before he could accept a minor league contract with the Philadelphia Phillies. He worked for 40 years at Polselli & Sons in Grafton retiring in 1993. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him. Bill's parents Mary Evelyn (Scobie) and Marcus, a brother, Howie, and sister, Sandra, predeceased him. A funeral service was held Wednesday, September 9th, at our church followed by burial with military honors at Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton. Please keep Joyce and the Richardson Family in your thoughts and prayers.



Michael J. "Tiny" St. Jean, 54, of Auburn, died peacefully on August 28, 2015 in his home surrounded by his loving family. He leaves his wife of 27 years, Laura (Holland) St. Jean; a daughter, Jillian, and a son, Stephen St. Jean, his mother, Cynthia Sullivan, and her husband, Joseph; two brothers, Peter and Kevin St. Jean; two step brothers, Kenneth and Douglas St. Jean; a half-sister, Christina Fairbanks, and a step-sister, Deborah Geddes; many uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, and cousins. Michael was born in Worcester, son of the late Donald C. St. Jean. He attended Auburn High School and became a talented and well respected mechanic in the area. He had been working for Hydrograss Technology in N. Oxford when he had to take a leave due to his illness. He enjoyed spending time with his family and close friends. His funeral was held here on Thursday, September 3, 2015. Burial was private. Please keep the St. Jean Family in your prayers.

Gerald I. "Jerry" Smith, 92, of Auburn passed away September 13, 2015 at the Rose Monahan Hospice Residence after a brief illness. Gerald leaves his sister, Birdie Schofield, two sons, Stephen and Kenneth, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He also leaves his long-time friend, Margaret (Peg) Lapinsky. Gerald is predeceased by his brother, Russell, and former wife, Marjorie. Jerry was born in Port Williams, Nova Scotia, son of the late Ralph and Flora (Bauckman) Smith. Jerry worked on a farm as a youngster (a profession he dearly loved) before proudly serving in the US Army, Armored Division, in N. Africa, Corsica, and Italy during WW II, working primarily with tanks. Jerry worked for 45 years at Reed & Prince Mfg. Co. in Worcester until retirement. He was a member of the Auburn Grange, the Joel H. Prouty Masonic Lodge and the Chester P. Tuttle American Legion Post. Burial was held privately. Please pray for Jerry's family. (Jerry is Deb Pranaitis' uncle.)

*To my Church family,
Thank you for all your prayers while I was very ill at Auburn LifeCare. I also want to thank the gentleman who delivered the beautiful floral arrangement that was on the altar in memory of his wife. Thank you so much to everyone for thinking of me.*

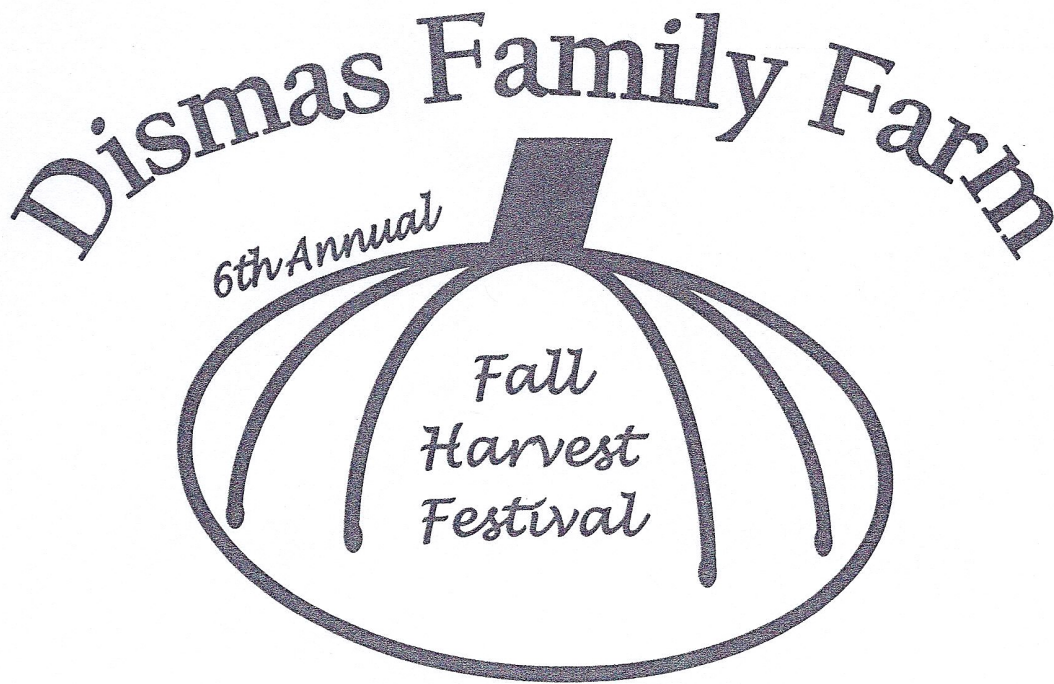
*Sincerely,
Jane Standing*

To My Friends at Church,

Just want to take a moment to thank everyone who came to Bill's calling hours and funeral. Seeing you there meant so much to me and my family.

Also, for the many cards and prayers, phone calls and hugs you gave. Thank you for your time in doing these special things. All was very much appreciated.

*Love,
Joyce Richardson*



Saturday, October 3rd, 12 - 4 PM
687 Lincoln Road, Oakham, MA

- Hayrides
- Hay Maze
- Farm Tours
- Games & Family Activities
- Delicious, Seasonal Eats
- Live Music

Adults \$10
Kids \$6
Under 4 Free!
Register Online
and Save!

Our one, low, admission price includes all-you-can-eat lunch, hayrides, activities and a free mini-pumpkin for kids! Register online by October 2nd at www.dismashouse.org and save \$1 per ticket! For more information visit us on Facebook at 'Dismas Family Farm' or call us at (508) 882-0000!

Rain Date: October 4th

www.dismashouse.org

Spiritual Companionship with Homeless and at risk folk.



WALKING WITH THE VULNERABLE: Spiritual Companionship

Working with homeless people, those who are at risk of being homeless, the addicted, mentally ill and those at the margins requires a special approach and set of skills and tools. The Rev. Liz Magill, National Coordinator for Ecclesia Mission Ministries and Desiree Bernard from Chaplains on the Way in Waltham, MA will be our guides for the day.

October 10, 2015 from 9:30 am to 3 pm

Cost is \$50 per participant with a cap of \$150 per group

Scholarship Funds are available. Please bring your own lunch. Beverages and snacks will be provided.

St. Michael's on the Heights, 340 Burncoat St. Worcester, MA

Register with Warren Hicks at office@worcestershlp.org

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's **Relay For Life** held on September 11th and 12th. We do not have a final tally for this event, or for the D.U.C.K.S. fundraising, but will update you as this information becomes available.

Thanks for your support. Together we are helping the world celebrate more birthdays.

***** FALL FAIR EXTRAVAGANZA! *****

The October **Fall Fair** will be held Columbus Day weekend (Saturday, October 10th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, October 11th from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.) and we're hoping everyone gets involved! Please take another look around for items you can donate to our "attic treasures" (no clothes please!). These items should be clean, in excellent condition and ready for sale. Also, please consider other ways to donate, such as: sporting event tickets, a vacation home that you could offer for a weekend, teen services for fall leaf raking, someone who's a good cook can offer a meal prepared and served at the highest bidder's location. We're only limited by our own creativity!

"Attention Jewelry Lovers" - We are looking for donations of older or vintage jewelry to enhance our jewelry table, some to be sold as is or recreated into a new piece. We are also expanding to include accessories, such as belts, scarves and small (clutch-type) purses. Any donations are greatly appreciated. Questions? Contact Joyce Ringgard at 508-882-1024 or at jcringgard@yahoo.com.

FALL FAIR WISH LIST: Michael's 50% off coupons, scraps of wool, men's pants for scarecrows, etc., spindles from old kitchen chairs, furniture (small tables, bureaus, bookcases, etc.) to refinish or re-purpose, small wooden spools, old clay pots, drawer pulls/handles, monetary donations appreciated, too!

ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEES/BOARDS:

Please put those finishing touches on your baskets that will be sold at the fair.

FALL FAIR SET UP BEGINS AFTER COFFEE HOUR ON OCTOBER 4TH AT WHICH TIME WE'RE HOPING FOR SOME ABLE-BODIED MEN TO HELP SET UP. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ALL WEEK FOR SET UP (OCT. 4TH—9TH) DAY & EVENING. ANY TIME YOU CAN DONATE WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

You may call Cindy Ryan at 508-832-3416 to obtain more info about the Fair.

PLEASE SEE THE SIGN-UP SHEET IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AND INDICATE YOUR AVAILABILITY TO WORK THE FAIR — THANK YOU!!!

WITH YOUR HELP, we look forward to another successful Church fundraiser!



GRAMMA'S PANTRY



Fall is in the air and the church is preparing for our fair Columbus Day weekend. I'm making a plea to all of our bakers. Gramma's Pantry is looking for ALL types of baked goods and sweet treats. We are also looking for any home canning items you may have prepared this summer from your gardens such as jams, jellies, pickles, relish, etc. These were all big sellers last year.

Please have your baked items and treats packaged and ready for sale. All items should be at the church no later than 4:30 p.m. on Fri., October 9th.

If you have any questions about Gramma's Pantry, please call Jennifer Bohn at 508-407-8710 or 508-864-9610.

AUBURN WOMAN'S CLUB

HALLOWEEN

DOLLAR\$ FOR \$CHOLARS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 2015 5:30 PM

NORTH AMERICAN MARTYR'S CHURCH HALL

ROAST CHICKEN DINNER

Cost: \$10.00



Children
under 12
\$5.00

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SCHOLARSHIPS

Costumes are optional but highly encouraged.

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY

Contact Ann Marie 508-832-3083

Email: amwizz@verizon.net

THERE WILL BE NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR.

Here We Grow Preschool



While welcoming in the month of October, the staff, children and parents have settled into a nice routine. All of the crying has stopped, for the children and the parents, too.

Here We Grow began the school year with thirty-six 3-year-olds and sixty-five 4 and 5-year-olds. At this time we have openings in all the morning 3-year-old classes, young 4's and 4-year-old afternoon classes. If you know of someone who is looking for a 2 day program for their 3-year-old, or a 3 day program for their 4-year-old, have them call the school at 508-832-8184.

Our 3 new teachers have 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 AND 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 6th 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 Marc Vandall, Wayne Prouty, Dave Sampson and Sue and 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.

Gina Basili,
Here We Grow Preschool Director

JIMMY FUND WALK 2015

Thank you to everyone who supported me in the Jimmy Fund Walk on September 27th. **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

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. As you're able, please consider making a donation to the Fuel Fund this fall to help offset this expense.



Happy Fall! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. October is Fire Safety and Fire Prevention Month. It is also Children's Health Month, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Healthy Lung Month, Health Literacy Month, National Chiropractic Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, National Dental Hygiene Month, National Bullying Prevention Month, and National Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month.

The Widows/Widowers Group will meet October 1st at 9:30 in the conference room. Anyone is welcome and refreshments will be available.

Flu shots will be available on Sunday, October 4th, after worship. A pharmacist from CVS in Auburn will administer them. There is a stronger dose for the 65 year olds and older. The pharmacist will bring both strains. Someone will be available to help fill out the paperwork.

The closet at the beginning of the educational wing continues to help many. Items come and go frequently, which is great. Thank you to all who donate items, borrow items, and spread the word about this resource.

Have a safe and healthy month!

God Bless!
Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse
(508) 612-4521

AUBURN WALK FOR HUNGER - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH AT 1 P.M.

TO SUPPORT AYFS FOOD PANTRY AND KATERI'S KITCHEN

Registration is at 12:45 P.M. at Auburn Youth & Family Services, Pheasant Court, Auburn. The 2 ½ mile long route begins and ends at AYFS.

All money raised is used to help local families who need the services of these food banks.

Sue Campbell would love for you to join her on this walk. (Sue is the contact person for our church.) You may obtain a walker envelope from Sue which you can fill out and return on the day of the walk (along with one non-perishable food item). If you're unable to participate in the walk, won't you please consider donating to this most worthy cause? (Checks should be made payable to AYFS Hunger Walk.) Please see Sue or call her at 508-799-2718, or email: suecq4@aol.com if you have any questions. **THANK YOU** for being generous with your time and donations! *****Look for the Celtic sneaker collection on October 4th.**

MEMORIAL SUNDAY ~ 10 A.M. OCTOBER 25TH

We have designated October 25th as Memorial Sunday. At this special worship service we remember church members that we have lost in the past year. Also during this service, congregants will have an opportunity to come forward and receive a flower and light a candle in memory of a loved one.



This service of remembrance has proven to be moving and very special to those who have lost loved ones, so please mark your calendars for October 25th, and plan to join us on Memorial Sunday.

Here's a Little Update on Orphanage Home Nepal

Hello Everybody!

Here's our first ever newsletter. We hope you enjoy it!

We were all safe during the earthquakes — everybody is well and there has been no damage to our home. On the day of the earthquake we were in the city for sightseeing. We never made it to Durbar Square due to the earthquake, but this was actually lucky — had we been there, the story might have been very different. For one and a half months we stayed in a tent for safety. We were all very relieved to move back into our home after this.

Two weeks ago our Dad left to go to South Sudan for a year where he will continue his peace development program with the UN.

What we've been up to . . .

Learning to Swim!

It's monsoon season, but the days are very hot. We took our children swimming for the first time a few months ago. Since then we've been four times and are planning more trips! Manoj, Bimala and Mandip are the best swimmers! Basanta, even though he uses the ring, is so excitable in the water, but we still have to persuade Babu to get in.



Plans for new bunk beds . . .

Currently the children are growing fast, so we are in the process of making bunk beds. This means they will have private space and individual drawers for clothes. Bunk beds will also give more floor space where we want to put some study tables for homework. Hopefully these will arrive in the next few weeks!

We've restarted our Women's Empowerment Classes

We want to provide women from our local community with an opportunity to learn better English and Nepali, as well as more about the world. One of our volunteers, alongside sister Usha, is helping us run this every weekday. Sometimes we have as many as 10 women in our class.

**THE PUMPKINS WILL BE HERE SOON!!!
ARRIVING ON OCTOBER 3rd AT 9:00 A.M.**

And we need all hands on deck, to ensure the success of this year's pumpkin patch. Remember, this is a HUGE fundraiser for the church. So, your help is needed, **beginning with the unloading of the truck on Saturday, Oct. 3rd.**

We are also in need of volunteers to man the pumpkin patch. We have morning and afternoon shifts to fit most schedules. Please check the sign up sheet in fellowship hall or give us a call.

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

Debbie and Linda Mahlert, Sheila Skog and Judi Taft

**THE PATCH WILL BE OPEN DAILY UNTIL DUSK
OCTOBER 3RD THRU OCTOBER 31ST.**



TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

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

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

Web: auburnfirstucc.org



BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
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Permit No. 6
Auburn, Mass

October 2015

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