



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

What is the purpose of tithes and offerings?

Our church could not exist without tithes and offerings. Even with our invested fund interest, and fundraisers, about 90% of our budget comes from the collection plate.

On October 21 we will have our Consecration Sunday to receive our annual pledges. I say “our” because I pledge as well. I look hard at my income, my responsibilities, and choose a number to pledge.

I often used to bargain with God in prayer. “God if you do this. I will do that.” I was an anxious child. When my mom did not come home on time, I worried that she was in a car accident. So I would pray to God that if Mom came home safe, I would eat more vegetables. This is a primitive form of prayer. The pagans used this form and if their prayer was not answered they moved their allegiance to another god.

I do not want our tithes and offerings to be a part of our prayer life like that. “I will tithe; in return I expect a raise at work and easing of my back pain.”

When Mom got home I would too often forget my promise. So this form of prayer, even when answered, did not help me improve my life.

I remember a scene in *The Simpsons* where Bart gave grace saying something like, “Thanks for nothing God we bought all this food and you did nothing.” *The Simpsons*, unlike its reputation, takes faith very

seriously (for a silly cartoon). I think many people of faith, myself included, think we do much and do not see the hand of God in our lives. Like Bart, we can feel we have done all the things to get us to this place, with little help from God.

One of my mother’s favorite phrases was, “There but for the Grace of God go you or I.” Whenever a tragedy — an accident that killed or maimed someone, when a family member had legal troubles due to addiction, my mother would say, “There but for the Grace of God go you or I.”

In many ways we are lucky, or in the hands of God. Our health or infirmity is a gift from God. Many things we accomplish are truly the work of thousands, many we will never know.

What is the purpose of pledging? Do we have enough? Or do we NEED so much more to TRULY be happy? Are we generous or does jealousy and envy make us a miser? These are questions about our soul.

Over 90% of pledges are filled or exceeded. It is a spiritual practice that people take seriously. Take a look at how you use your money. Do you have room in your budget to pledge? Do you have enough resources for the comforts of life? If yes, then perhaps you can increase your pledge.

God bless you,

Pastor Brian

October Sermon Topics

- 10/7 “Divorce”
- 10/14 “Bitter Complaint”
- 10/21 “‘Are Ye Able,’ Asked the Master”
- 10/28 “We Are Like Lazarus”

Join us for **NEW MEMBER CLASSES** beginning on October 14th following the worship service. We will be meeting in fellowship hall for up to 3 consecutive Sundays.

If interested in church membership, please speak with Pastor Brian or a Deacon.



AUBURN WALK FOR HUNGER - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21st, 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.

Please join Sue Campbell for the 2 1/2 mile walk for hunger. The walk begins and ends at Auburn Youth and Family Services. All money raised will support the food pantries at AYFS and Kateri's Kitchen at North American Martyrs Church. **Approximately 250 to 275 individuals in the Auburn community are given food assistance monthly.**

Last year there were 38 walkers (including 1 from FCC). If you would like to walk, please see Sue Campbell or call her at 508-799-2718.

*****Look for the Celtic sneaker collection during the worship service on October 7th.** (If you miss this offering, please feel free to give your donation directly to Sue Campbell.)

Please make checks payable to AYFS Hunger Walk. Thank you for your support!

Coffee Hour Hosts:

- 10/7 Personnel Committee
- 10/14 Outreach Committee
- 10/21 Music Committee **& volunteers**
- 10/28 Stewardship Committee (brunch)
- 11/4 Financial Secretaries/Treasurers

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. This is a large building to heat; any donation to the Fuel Fund is appreciated.

October Birthdays include:

Marjorie Zimmerman - Oct. 7th

Eric Rockwood - Oct. 21st

Happy Birthday!



On October 8th

Rich and Jean McPherson will be celebrating their wedding anniversary —
Happy Anniversary!

To my church family,

On Sunday, September 16th, I was surprised (and a bit embarrassed) as I was recognized for 24 years of organizing the annual yard sale. The flowers I received were beautiful. Mike, who has always been beside me and given many hours to this event, and I are looking forward to visiting the Publick House with the gift certificate I was given as well. Thank you to all who have helped and donated over the years. I am amazed as I think back on how many people, hundreds I'm sure, have been involved. I got to know a lot of church members a whole lot more than I would have. It truly has been a pleasure to serve. Thank you for this special recognition.

I am blessed,
Cindy Dube

Potluck & Movie/Book Discussions

We have begun meeting again for potluck suppers and **you're invited.**

Join us on Oct. 16th at 5:30 p.m., when we will be viewing the movie, *Paul, Apostle of Christ*.

"Risking his life, Luke ventures to Rome to visit Paul -- the apostle who's bound in chains and held captive in Nero's darkest and bleakest prison cell. Haunted by the shadows of his past misdeeds, Paul wonders if he's been forgotten as he awaits his grisly execution. Before Paul's death, Luke resolves to write another book that details the birth of what will come to be known as the church."



Happy Fall! Happy October! Happy Pumpkins and Halloween! Besides the above mentioned, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Eye Injury Prevention Month, National Breast Cancer Awareness, National Bullying Prevention Month, and National Down Syndrome Awareness Month. It's also National Physical Therapy Month, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month.

- October 1-5 Fungal Disease Awareness Week
- October 7-13 Mental Illness Awareness Week
- October 11 National Depression Screening Day
- October 12-20 Bone and Joint Health Action Week
- October 13 Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day

At the end of this month, I hope everyone has a safe and fun Halloween!

God Bless!

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

Please pray for the following families who have suffered the recent loss of a loved one.

Carl A. Anderson, 86, of Webster and formerly of Worcester passed away on Friday, September 14, 2018 at Vibra Hospital, Leicester following a brief illness. Carl was born and raised in Worcester, a son of Carl and Mildred (Werme) Anderson and graduated from Worcester schools. Carl was the longtime owner and operator of Ransford Pest Control in Worcester. He was a member of our Church and the Joel H. Prouty Lodge of Masons of Auburn. For the past 25 years, Carl and his wife, Leona, enjoyed living on the shores of Webster Lake. He enjoyed doing odd jobs around the house, and maintaining his lawn as well as boating, fishing, biking, snowmobiling and travel. He will be lovingly missed by his beloved of 22 years, Leona (Balcewicz); his five children, Christine Lane, Terrance Anderson, Scott Anderson, Maria Richmond and her husband, Eric, and John Anderson; his four step children, Arthur F. Kann, Jr., L. Caroline, Deborah and Theresa R. Kann; his sister, Marion Johnson, many grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A service was held at the Lindquist-Lundin Funeral Home in Worcester on September 19th.

Marilyn E. Plue, age 86, died on Friday September 21, 2018 in her home in Auburn after a lengthy and feisty battle with Alzheimer's. She would have celebrated her 87th birthday on October 2nd. Marilyn is survived by her 'senior companion' Robert LeClaire, and her caretakers Stephen & Joy LeClaire. She is preceded in death by her husband, Bradford B. Plue. Neither Brad nor Marilyn had siblings, and the couple had no children. Marilyn was born on October 2nd, 1931 in Auburn, Massachusetts, to parents Cecil A. Trotter and Clara L. Schrunke. She graduated from Auburn High School and Salter Secretarial School in Worcester with a degree in business. She worked for the Auburn/Sutton School Department and Johnson Steel and Wire in Worcester. Later working for Motors Insurance Company for 15 years, became President of Banner Personnel Consultants, worked as a Trust Administrator at Bowditch & Dewey Attorneys at Law, and finally for 25 years at Paul Revere Insurance Group, starting as the Supervisor of Employment and retired as Second Vice President and Assistant Treasurer, all in the Worcester Office. Marilyn was actively involved with several boards for the majority of her life. A partial listing includes: the VNA, Family Services of Central Mass., UMASS/Memorial Hospital, Colony Retirement Homes, Central Mass Health Care and the Health Foundation, and Peoples Savings Bank. She enjoyed travel, photography, fine cooking and dining, gardening and spending time with her friends and business associates. Marilyn was a kind person who gave generously to many charities. Calling hours and a prayer service were held at Britton-Wallace Funeral Home in Auburn on September 26th. Burial followed at Hillside Cemetery, Auburn.

Please remember the McPherson Family in your prayers due to the recent passing of Jean's mom, **Katherine Whitney**, on September 17, 2018.



WALKING TOGETHER UPDATE

This has been a very busy summer at Walking Together. Each morning we offer coffee, snacks and conversation to between 35 and 40 people. Some want a place to stop for a few minutes, some want help with their problems (often related to housing and/or substance abuse), and others simply want a cup of coffee. The heat and humidity combined to make our air conditioning very popular. We did a brisk business in water and freeze pops as well. If next summer is as warm, we'll need a line item in our budget for ice!

We have been seeing a lot of folks with abscesses this summer. Dirty needles, contaminated drugs and living outside are a bad combination. We've provided basic first aid supplies, and have brought folks to the local free clinics. UMass offers a clinic at APW (AIDS Project Worcester) each Tuesday, and we have brought folks there for treatment.

On the first Thursday of each month we offer training in the use of Narcan—the opioid reversal drug. We partner with AIDS Project Worcester in this effort. Folks come in for a refresher or to renew their supplies. Given the number of overdoses in our neighborhood this summer, we are delighted to make sure people can help each other.

We have also brought several people to detox this summer, including one of our regular friends. He is now in a day program, and is coming to our Tuesday night 12 step group each week. It is a joy to see him with clear eyes and a smile on his face. We are also seeing other people who used to come to our morning drop in times showing up at the 12 step meetings. Many of them have thanked us for providing a space where they could take a deep breath, grab coffee or water, and be treated with respect.

Laundry Love continues to flourish. In July, several members of your Outreach Committee joined us for the event—seeing us in action. We offer pizza and

water or juice, activities for kids (Play doh is always a hit!), a DJ who provides music and occasional direction in Spanish, and an opportunity for fellowship. That, and laundry, too. We serve between 60 and 70 households at each event, doing over 250 loads of wash. Each month we close the evening with a prayer circle—offering the hopes and dreams and struggles of our lives to God, as well as giving thanks for love shared and community honored.

Laundry Love is also a place where our guests can connect with community services. This summer staff from Worcester's Head Start program registered children for this Fall's classes. Student nurses from Worcester State have offered access to baby boxes—a safe, clean space for a newborn to sleep, with helpful supplies packed inside it. We also have staff from the Worcester Family Partnership distributing books for preschoolers. We have become not just a program, but a village—a community helping each other raise healthy and strong kids.

As the summer winds down and the school year begins, we have some changes to our schedule. This semester we will have three students from Holy Cross College joining us on Fridays to learn about the work we do and the community we serve. We will also begin our ESL classes on Wednesday evenings at the end of September, helping our neighbors learn English. Many of them are also preparing for citizenship interviews.

We continue to be grateful for both the financial support given to Walking Together and the prayer support, as well. We rely on the support of many individuals and congregations, and we are grateful that you are part of our network of love and prayer.

In Christ,
Meredyth

The Rev. Meredyth Wessman Ward
Walking Together

MEMORIAL SUNDAY — 10 A.M. OCTOBER 28TH

We have designated October 28th 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 28th, and plan to join us on Memorial Sunday.



Here We Grow Preschool

While we welcome in the beautiful month of October, the staff and most of the children have settled into a nice routine. I am happy to report that much of the crying has stopped, for the children and the parents.

Currently, we have a few openings in the A.M. and P.M. 3-year-old class and in the 4-year-old A.M. class. If you know of someone who is looking for a preschool for their child, please have them call the school at 508-832-8184. The highest compliment we can receive is a referral to family and friends.

This year we have several children in our 3-year-old classes for whom English is not their first language, which brings a different set of challenges to the teachers, but we are up to the task! We look forward to watching these children, as well as all our students, gain confidence and grow during the year.

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 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. For the 9th year we offered a "Meet the Teachers" time before the actual first day of class. Again, we had a good turnout.

Starting the first day of school all the children are taught our prayer that we say before our snack and lunch times. Many of the children teach their families the same prayer at home. I would like to share the prayer with you, as we fondly remember Gloria Whitehead who found this prayer for us.

*Thank You for the World so sweet
Thank You for the food we eat
Thank You for the birds that sing
Thank You God for everything.*

I would like to thank Mike Schillinger, Dave Sampson, Wayne Prouty 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!

Coming in October: Visits from the police and fire departments, and Halloween parade and parties.

Until next month-

Cristi Corey, **Here We Grow** Preschool Director

RECENT BAPTISMS

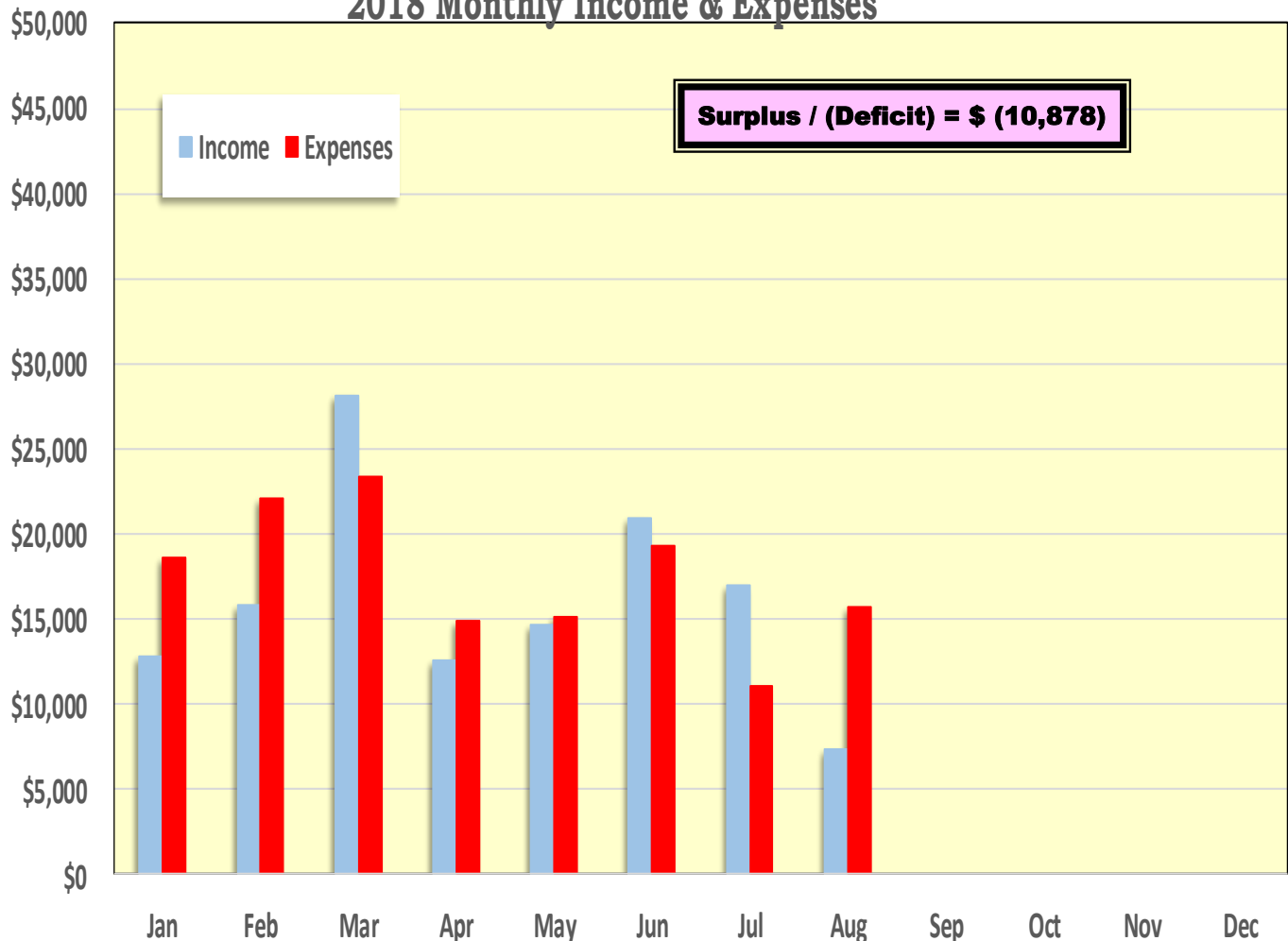
On August 12th we celebrated the baptism of Luke David Angers, the now 8-month-old son of David and Nicole Angers.

On September 9th we celebrated the baptism of Lyla Grace Powell, the now 5-month-old daughter of Matthew and Mikaela Powell.

We pray God's continued blessing upon these precious little ones and their families.



First Congregational Church 2018 Monthly Income & Expenses



Above is a financial “snap shot” provided by Nick Stockhaus, Treasurer.

HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Handbell Choir: the Handbell Choir will start rehearsals at 2:30 PM on Sunday afternoon, October 7th. We welcome back members of the choir and invite any interested potential members to join with us on the 7th. No previous handbell experience required. Also, one does not need to be able to read music to participate. We look forward to seeing you on the 7th.

Herb Mower, Handbell Choir Director

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Chancel Choir: The Chancel Choir will open their season with their first performance on Sunday, October 7th. Anyone interested in joining the choir is invited to come to rehearsals on Thursday nights at 6 p.m. beginning October 11th.

FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Happy fall y'all. The air is crisp, the cider is warm, and the pumpkins are leaving the lawn. As you read this, another pumpkin sleepover will have occurred and hopefully all adults have recovered. Since we decided to have our "get to know you" sleepover to coincide with the pumpkin delivery we have had many more hands to assist in the unloading and distribution of the pumpkins. They will probably not admit it, but the kids have fun standing side by side with people they only see in their "Sunday best" and have not had a chance to talk to. But once you get down and dirty, especially on a rainy Saturday, new friendships or at least admirations are formed.



Youth On a Mission will again be selling pies for Thanksgiving delivery. The pies and cookie dough will be on sale from Sunday, September 30-October 14. Pick-up will be on Saturday, November 10. We will have orders ready for pick up after church on the 11th. Please try and pay upfront and with a check made out to: **First Congregational Church with YOM in the memo section.** Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sunday school is up and running and appears to be going strong. Please consider being a "floater" so we can adhere to the church policy. We have plans for a Harvest Festival for the Sunday school kids again this year (on Sunday, October 28). We will have games and treats as well as a craft or two. After service we will have a parade through fellowship hall. BOE will again provide treats for you to share with our "harvest-goers."

Confirmation Class has started. We have 6 candidates. This year will be a busy one. If you get a chance and see a confirmand helping out with the service, please give them some encouragement.

May you all enjoy the cooler weather and a cup of warm cider and a blessing from the Lord.

In His name we serve —
Jean McPherson, DRE

The world asks: "What does a person own?"
God asks, "How does a person use what he or she has been given?"

Dear Church Family,

Consecration Sunday is coming soon -- October 21. Our thank-you brunch will be held on October 28.

This giving season, we in Stewardship would encourage you to think about how getting closer to God's ideal for us helps us feel closer to God.

~~~ Growing Our Faith Through Generosity ~~~

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

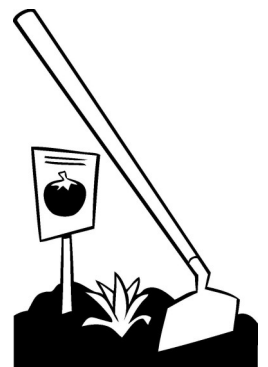
We look forward to sharing with you on **October 21** and serving you a light brunch after church on **October 28**.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Your Stewardship Committee

(Michelle Bigelow, Nan Johnson, Ellie Lowell, Lauren and Jake Webb)



**CONSECRATION  
SUNDAY**



## The Pumpkin Patch FAIR will be here soon!!!

~ October 20<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ~

The LUNCHEON and FROZEN meals "To Go" were a HUGE success last year.

**Our wish list includes: frozen meals and gift cards**

**Frozen meals** — There are containers in Fellowship Hall for anyone that may need them. Meals are for either 1 person or 4 people. We are hoping for complete meals or starter meals that can be easily added to. Suggestions include: meatballs & sauce, lasagna, chicken & beef pies, etc.

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

**We are looking for people to help on the food, soup, dinners, bake table and luncheon table. Can you work Friday night setting up? Saturday, morning or afternoon? Sunday morning to sell and clean up what is left? Please let me know when you are available and we will put you into the schedule.**

**Thank you, Diane Moore, 508 832 8078**

**ATTENTION JEWELRY LOVERS:** Shannon Hartmann and Gayle Farley request that you please keep our fair in mind when you are cleaning out your jewelry drawers or finding great bargains at yard sales. After four years of sales, our stash is getting low. Donations will be accepted now and until the fair. Early donations give Shannon time to repair and clean jewelry. Items such as purses and wallets did quite well last year and the following items would make an interesting addition to the table: jewelry or trinket boxes, scarves, cat/dog figurines, small plates, dresser scarves, doilies, paper weights and anything "vintage". Items may be given to Shannon or left at the Church office (**please mark "for Shannon"**). Contact info: Shannonhartmann5@gmail.com or 339-222-1841 or you can reach her on Facebook.

**ANNOUNCING VINTAGE TREASURES** - Attic Treasures is a popular part of our Fall Fair. This year we are trying a new category to add to this popular venue. I am seeking donated items for a Vintage Treasures table. Guidelines for vintage is anything from the 1920's to 1998. Clean, decorative or useful items, accessories in good condition, will be accepted. However, clothing will not be a part of this category. Contact: Gayle Farley with any questions or items you would like to donate. Phone: 508-753-0285 or e-mail: gayle2bill@gmail.com

**ATTENTION ALL CRAFTERS:** A new church fair table will be a headliner this year. Let's show everyone what talent we have at our church. I'm asking for men and women to show off!! Don't go crazy, just a couple of items. Call me, Shirley Hill, with any questions, 508-832-6335.

**PLEASE** keep in mind the **SILENT AUCTION** if you have something that you have had for years and never used (many times items are still in original packaging, unopened), or gift certificates from your place of employment, favorite restaurant, tickets to a sporting event or entertainment venue, etc. Please consider either asking for it to be donated, or purchasing one yourself to donate. You can always make something as well.

**REMINDER TO ALL COMMITTEES/BOARDS** – **Please put the final touches on your baskets. Having them sooner rather than later is preferable. Thanks!!!**

**Don't forget ATTIC TREASURES** - please drop off donations behind the vestry stage. Please, **no clothes of any kind and no VCR tapes**. We welcome your books, DVD's, CD's, puzzles, games, etc. **Please be sure items are clean and in working condition.**

**\*\*\*As the PUMPKIN PATCH FAIR draws near we need HELP! The fair is from 9am to 3pm. If you have any time we need you. Please call or email me with your availability! Diane Moore 508-832-8078 [p.moore04@hotmail.com](mailto:p.moore04@hotmail.com)**

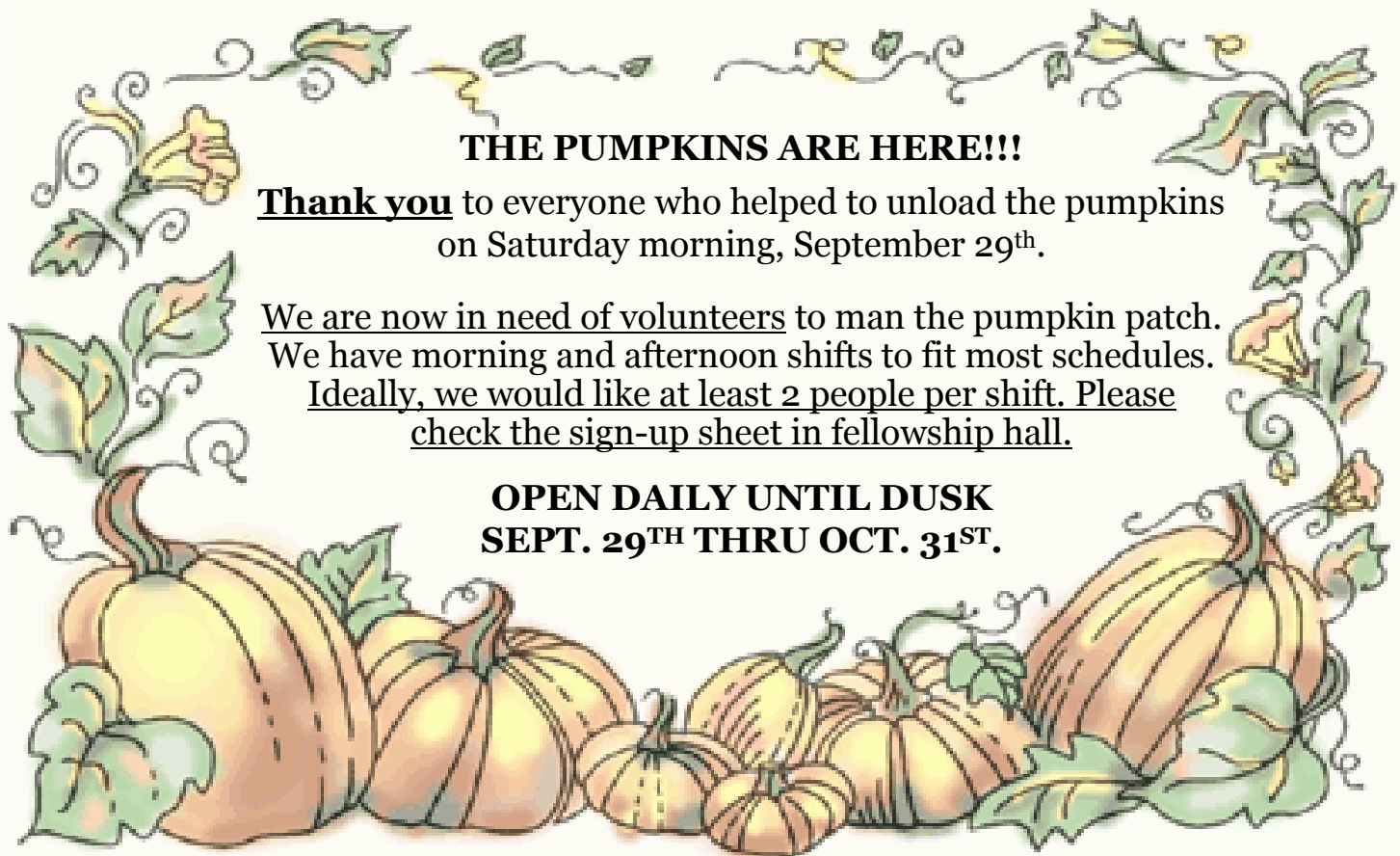


**THE PUMPKINS ARE HERE!!!**

**Thank you** to everyone who helped to unload the pumpkins on Saturday morning, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

We are now in need of volunteers to man the pumpkin patch. We have morning and afternoon shifts to fit most schedules. Ideally, we would like at least 2 people per shift. Please check the sign-up sheet in fellowship hall.

**OPEN DAILY UNTIL DUSK  
SEPT. 29<sup>TH</sup> THRU OCT. 31<sup>ST</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

| October 2018 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 14           | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21           | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28           | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**