



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 — "The Widow's Mite"

Luke 21:1-4 As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ² He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³ "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. ⁴ All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

It has been humbling to see your faithfulness to our church in this crisis. Giving and tithing has remained stable through this time of uncertainty. Truly a sign of deep faith. It is more common to pull back when times get tough. But our church has remained faithful, and I thank you for that.

With COVID, many fall activities have been cancelled. Here We Grow will not be going apple picking. The Walk for Hunger is cancelled this year. Donations can be sent to: AYFS Hunger Walk, and mail to 21 Pheasant Ct., Auburn, MA 01501.

We could not think of how to quickly, safely, and with social distancing, unload the pumpkin truck. So we will not be having our Pumpkin Patch this year.

Some things will continue. The last Sunday in October we will remember those who have gone to their reward at Memorial Sunday. We will also be taking food donations and donations to our Deacons' Fund on the first Sunday in October.

On October 18th, we will be consecrating our tithes and offerings. We will not have our usual brunch. Instead, Stewardship is asking for pictures of multigeneration families to post in church and online.

I thank you, again, for the generosity to the church and pray God's blessings be upon you.

Pastor Brian

October Sermon Topics

- 10/4 "Ten Commandments and Evil"
- 10/11 "Your Calling Must Bring New Clothes to Be Worth Anything"
- 10/18 Consecration Sunday - "Is the Lord in this Place?"
- 10/25 Memorial Sunday - "What Have You Sold Yourself into Slavery For?"

~ MEMORIAL SUNDAY SERVICE ~

OCTOBER 25TH AT 10 A.M.

We have designated October 25th as Memorial Sunday this year. At this special worship service, we remember church members that we have lost in the past year.

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.



The Auburn Walk for Hunger was scheduled for October 25, but has been cancelled due to the pandemic. We will not be passing the Celtic Family sneakers this year. However, the committee would like to encourage residents of Auburn, who have supported the walk in the past, to consider making a donation to the food pantry at Auburn Youth and Family Services. During the pandemic, the food pantry has delivered many meals and bagged lunches to ensure that no family goes hungry.

March - 113 households, 265 people

April - 177 households, 457 people

May - 126 households, 271 people

June - 128 households, 300 people

July - 151 households, 289 people

A donation in any amount is helpful and much appreciated. Thank you to all who donate to keep Auburn families fed. Donations can be made out to AYFS Hunger Walk and sent to 21 Pheasant Ct., Auburn MA. 01501. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Campbell at 508-799-2718.

Bell Choir: the bell choir will resume rehearsal immediately following the morning worship service on Sunday, October 4th. We are always open to welcoming new members to our group. Face masks and social distancing will be a part of our program.



OCTOBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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!



Consecration Sunday

October is the time of year when we will be asked to make our annual pledge to our church. Pledge cards will be mailed to households soon. Pledges made in advance allow the trustees time to prepare a budget for the coming year. There will be a time during the church service on October 18th to put your 2021 pledge card into the Joash Chest or mail it directly to the church at 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA. Thank you.



Thanks to Paulette

COVID-19 has challenged us. We miss singing in church. We miss the anthems.

Many thanks to Paulette who has so ably filled these voids for us by increasing the musical numbers and for her solos. We greatly appreciate you, Paulette, and thank you for your contributions to our service.

Herb Mower
Music Chair

The Worcester Public Library has announced it will be naming its newly renovated children's room the, "Arthur M. and Martha R. Pappas Children's Center."

"Drs. Arthur and Martha Pappas have been leaders in the Worcester community for more than half a century," said Timothy Loew, president of the Worcester Public Library Foundation and member of the foundation's Capital Campaign Committee. "They have always been kind, thoughtful and committed to causes that make our lives better, and their focus on children is so inspiring. We could not be happier or more proud to name the new children's center in their honor."

The "Writing the Next Chapter" campaign has a goal of raising \$4.1 million to support the \$12.7 million renovation project. To date, \$3.9 million has been raised.

On behalf of the Arthur M. and Martha R. Pappas Foundation, Martha R. Pappas will be receiving the 2020 Dr. Richard E. Greene Founders Award in recognition of her inspirational support of the library's children's center renovation. The award is presented annually to an individual or organization that has contributed to furthering the mission of the Worcester Public Library Foundation.



FROM YOUR OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Happy fall, everyone. It won't be as beautiful around Auburn Center this year without our Pumpkin Patch, one more thing that Covid-19 has taken away from us. I, for one, will miss the fun of working together and also meeting and talking to so many people who came to shop.

At our September meeting, we voted to send \$500.00 to Pumpkins USA, who we get our pumpkins from. Our church has benefited tremendously from their program and, at the suggestion of member Pat Bukoski, we decided to support them. The loss of sales for this group (tribe?) must be huge. The Pumpkin Patch is their major source of income. Thank you, Pat, for your suggestion!

We received a request from Dismas House seeking support. They have had to cancel their fundraising events, including the Farmers Market. As stated in the letter we received from Dave McMahon, Executive Director, "Any support will help Dismas residents as we continue to house and feed them on their journey to wellness." It was decided to send them \$250.00.

We are discontinuing our collection of prescription bottles for the time being. Thank you to all who donated these bottles. Two large boxes were shipped to Matthew 25 Ministries.

In closing, I am sad to say that the Outreach Committee has been affected by Covid-19 as well. Our very enthusiastic and loving member and Secretary, Shannon Hartmann, has resigned from the committee so that she may homeschool her 2 children. We are going to miss Shannon very much; she brought lots of energy (and cupcakes) to our meetings. We love you, Shannon!

Cindy Dube for the Outreach Committee:

Pat Bukoski, Cindy Dube, Joyce Ringgard, Kay Shapter, Marion Woodcock

PHOTO UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has given us photos! Our “Family Tree” is growing! If you haven’t given us photos yet, please either mail them to Michelle Bigelow or Denise, email them, or drop them off. (Put your name on the back, please, so we can easily return them.) There will be a basket in the Sanctuary where you can drop the photos off on Sunday.

***** We need all photos by Sunday, October 4. *****

We’re creating some collages to celebrate our church family in the theme “Generations of Generosity” for Consecration Sunday. We’d love to include as many of you as possible.

On another note, we’re disappointed that we won’t be having a brunch this year. We realized that it’s just not prudent to gather all of us together yet. We very much appreciate all of your support and are looking forward to feasting together next year.

In His love,

your Stewardship Committee:

Michelle Bigelow, Nan Johnson, Ron Klaucke, Ellie Lowell, Debbie Mahlert, Linda Mahlert

I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver. – Maya Angelou



It’s now fall and the corona virus is still with us. It’s a very trying time for all of us. Then it’s flu season, to add to the issues we’re already dealing with. The pharmacist from Auburn Pharmacy will come to the front lawn of the church on October 4th. This year, the children have to get the flu shots. The pharmacist will give shots to children 9 years old and up.

Older people tend to have weakened immune systems. They are more likely to get sick from the flu. Pneumonia is the most common complication of the flu. Other complications of the flu are bronchitis, dehydration, ear infections, and sinusitis. Influenza can worsen the following chronic conditions: asthma, diabetes, and heart disease.

To help get through these times, we need to continue to reach out to others. The weather is getting cooler and people are going to be inside. If you’re feeling down and lonely, call a friend. They too might be feeling down. We need to continue to reach out to others.

We’re in this together and God is there to help us through.

God Bless!

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

On Sunday, September 20th, we celebrated the baptism of Kaydance Faith Świderski in a private service here at the church. Kaydance is the daughter of Hayley and Adam Świderski. Kaydance’s grandmother is Carol Johnston and her great-grandma is Bessie Morgan.



We pray for God’s continued blessing on Kaydance and her family.



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 almost all of the crying has stopped.

Currently, we have a few openings in the morning and afternoon 3-year-old classes and the 4-year old afternoon 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 from family and friends.

Our first fundraiser is currently happening; we are working with Bemis Farm in Spencer to build a scarecrow. This event is open to anyone on Saturdays and Sundays from 9-5 until Oct 20. You must preregister this year at www.bemis.biz. The cost is \$20/ family, (there will be very limited walk-ins for \$30) and you get to: build a life-size scarecrow, walk through the pumpkin path, and receive a small pumpkin and a mum to bring home. There is a flyer with more information included in this month's *Tidings*. This is a great family event.

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 Here We Grow. It is also a great way for the children to open up to someone, just by talking about their families.

The children are doing well wearing their masks during the school day. We are very grateful to Michele Fuller's button project, with the help of the Auburn School Department and Jess Hughes Photography, for providing buttons to all of the teachers so that the children can see our faces, even though we are in masks as well. Michele knew that a smile was important for children to see every day.

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 and, once again, 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.*

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

Until next month-

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Happy fall! I hope you are all enjoying the cooler weather. This has certainly been an unusual year so far. As we are unable to hold Sunday school as we have in the past, we will try and get the children together at least once or twice a month as long as it's possible. Rally Day this year was filled with music and tie dying of masks, instead of the usual ice cream party. All the kids seemed to love getting to see all their friends that they have not seen since March. I will keep you all posted on future "Lawn Sunday School" events.

I want to thank everyone for their patience with the butter braids; I hope you can enjoy them this fall. YOM was able to raise \$450.00.

I am not sure what this year will bring, but please know I will do my best to keep the kids meeting and learning during this turbulent time.

May the knowledge of God's never ending love and guidance bring you some peace.

Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education

Make a Scarecrow, Make a Difference

Fundraiser to benefit Here We Grow Preschool

What's included?

- ***Make one scarecrow per family** (or sign up for more than one).
- ***Play Games** in the pumpkin Path.
- ***One Sugar Pumpkin**
- * **One Garden Mum**

\$20 per family

Due to state Covid-19 restrictions, pre-registration is required this year (choose a date AND time). We need to spread the crowd out so that we don't exceed current allowable occupancy limits. If there happen to be any openings, we will accept walk-ins for \$30 per scarecrow.



Held at:
Bemis Farms Nursery
 29 N. Brookfield Rd
 Spencer, MA

Sept 19 & 20
26 & 27
Oct 3 & 4
10, 11 & 12
19 & 20
 9 am - 5 pm

What's The Pumpkin Path?

An enchanted field where pumpkins grow on trees!
 It has farm-themed games like Pumpkin Bowling, Corn Hole, Bushel Basket Bean Bag Toss, Witches Hat Hoola Hoop Toss and so much more!

Kids can climb, explore, play games, pose for pictures, and have some good, old-fashioned fun!

Register at
Bemis.biz

CONSIDERING ACTIVELY SERVING ON A COMMITTEE?

“NOMINATION OPENINGS” for 2021 Church Boards/Committees

New terms for 2021 Nominees will begin in January 2021 upon installation. The open Clerk Officer position, as noted below, can be expedited upon the earliest Council meeting vote.

All vacancies are open to FCC “MEMBERS.”

Per By-Laws of FCC for this **OPEN POSITION AS CLERK OFFICER**: “...The Clerk shall take the minutes and keep the records of the Business Meeting of the Church, and the Church Council. The Clerk, with the assistance of the Church Secretary, shall keep a record with addresses of the members of the Church, dates and modes of their reception and removal, and a record of Baptisms, marriages, and deaths. The Clerk shall issue letters of transfer voted by the Church Council, preserve on file written official reports, give notice of all meetings when necessary, prepare all correspondence not otherwise provided for, and perform other duties as needed to facilitate maintaining the records of the Church.”

Board of Education (6 Members)	<u>1 Vacancy</u>-3 year term
Stewardship (6 Members)	<u>1 Vacancy</u> -3 year term
Board of Deacons (12 Members over 18 years of age) <i>(Acolytes confirmed may be called upon to assist Deacons on Sundays)</i>	<u>2 Vacancies</u>-3 year term <u>1 Vacancy</u>-2 year term <u>1 Vacancy</u>-1 year
Board of Trustees (9 Members over 18 years of age)	<u>2 Vacancies</u>-3 year term <u>2 Vacancies</u>-2 year term

Is your committee ready for next year? Do you have suggestions on how Nominating can help fill 2021 vacancies? Please share and encourage committee information.

NOMINATING CONTACT INFORMATION AS FOLLOWS:

Sue MacPhee — House: (508) 832-9347, Text/Cell (508) 864-2454, susiemac2002@gmail.com

Judi Taft — Text/Cell: (508) 341-4530, jtaft01527@aol.com

Sheila Skog — Text/Cell: (978) 387-7705, sheilaskog@gmail.com

NOMINATING VOLUNTEER SLIP

I'm interested in: _____ Committee/Board

My name is: _____ My Contact number is: _____

Best time to call is: _____

Please turn the slip into the church or contact the Nominating Committee as quickly as possible. Thank you!

NO PUMPKINS THIS YEAR!!!

Due to concerns about COVID-19, we've decided to cancel the pumpkin delivery this year. Please help us in passing the word, and we'll see you next year

THANK YOU!



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

Web: auburnfirstucc.org



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October 2020

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT