

2012



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,

FROM THE PASTOR

Hello! Did you have a nice relaxing summer? Did you get away for vacation, or have a stay-cation? Did the garden turn out alright, or did that dry time in July ruin your lawn? What were the kid's up to this summer? Was there a wedding? A graduation? A grandbaby born?

Now you can't answer all of those questions right now. (Maybe when I greet you at the start of worship?) I ask these questions to show how busy we can be in the summer. I tend to think of the summer as a time of rest and relaxation. But, it is only relaxing if we take time to relax. Something we do not always do. We say we will relax when summer comes. Did you?

I was up north in the great north woods for a couple weeks in July. I had a lot to do. Drive my mom around. Meet old friends. Get more exercise while the weather is good, so I walked the dog more and on longer walks, went paddling in a canoe, I also took some time to sit in the sun, stand in the water, nap and just generally relax.

As many of you know, there is no cell coverage in the town my mom lives in. It was nice for a week to be without the beeping, ringing cell phone. (After a week I was really missing internet and other electronic communication.) It is nice to be fully present in a moment with no cell phone to distract or take me out of the moment.

So what did I learn this summer? If you want to relax, you need to put relaxing on your schedule. How can I relax, if all I think about is what I have to do. In that case you really need to relax so you can re-learn how to relax. It is no accident that recreation has "creation" in it. Studies find children do a lot of learning when they free play. Studies show people who take time to recreate to relax are better workers and happier people.

As we enter the busy fall, back to school with the holidays soon to follow, we have a lot to do. There is the pet blessing Saturday, September 8th, pumpkins arrive on September 29th. We also have the community supper and the start of our book and movie group. In all the busyness I hope you have time to relax.

God bless,
Pastor Brian

SERMON TITLES FOR SEPTEMBER

- 9/2 "Your Anger Does Not Produce Righteousness"
- 9/9 "Children Get the Blessing Because They Also Take the Damage"
- 9/16 "Baptism and Unity"
- 9/23 "Caring for the Little and Least"
- 9/30 "The Cost of Sin"

Children's Time:

- 9/2 "How Do We Get Sick?"
- 9/9 "A Clean Start"
- 9/16 "What Does a Baby Need?"
- 9/23 "Who Keeps Your House Going?"



9/30 "Needing Help"

The Board of Ed is planning to continue their 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, Sept. 11 - *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* - Marcus Borg
(A short, 137 page book on the "historical" Jesus)
- 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 - *Letters to God* (movie) * 5:30 start time (Lilly McPherson highly recommended it)
- 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* - Deepak Choprah
- Tuesday, June 25 - *To Save a Life* (a Christian movie about teens, their problems and reactions)

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



SAVE THE DATE!

Here We Grow Preschool

2nd Annual Holiday Auction
at First Congregational Church,
128 Central Street, Auburn
Fellowship Hall – time TBA

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Items Received so far: Weekend rental of a log splitter, American Girl Doll, Ecotarium passes, New England Patriot tickets, Boston Bruins tickets, Weekend rental in Pine Point, ME, Discovery Museum passes, New England Aquarium passes, OSV passes, Boston Winery donation, Red Sox memorabilia, rental of a 20x20 party tent 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

PLAN TO JOIN US ON:



Saturday, September 8th when we'll gather on the Church lawn at **4 p.m.** for the **Blessing of the Pets**. Animals are an extension of the family and therefore, very much loved by their owners. By honoring the significance of these special family members, we provide joy and comfort to their owners and our pets benefit as well. So, grab the leash, crate, cage, etc. and come on over! (Rain date: September 9th at 4 p.m.)

SPECIAL SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY SUPPER

Our next Community Supper will be held on Saturday, September 22nd at 5 p.m. It will be a special outreach supper and many church volunteers will be needed to ensure its success. So, please purpose today to be a part of this event. Look for more info to come in future bulletins or call the church office. Thank you!

We want to thank everyone who contributed to the success of our annual golf tournament. Whether you played, sponsored a hole and/or joined us for dinner, we extend our appreciation. We also want to acknowledge the organizational efforts of Paul Gemme, Todd Dube and Dave Sampson. This fundraiser realized a profit of approximately \$3,500!

The following families have suffered losses since the last printing of the *Tidings* in early June. Please keep them in your prayers:



Lillian E. (Munger) Koehler, 98, of Southbridge, formerly of Auburn, died May 22, 2012 in the Radius Healthcare of Southbridge after an illness. Her husband, Robert L. Koehler died in 2003. She is survived by her two sons, Lincoln A. Koehler, of W. Yarmouth, and Robert E. Koehler, and his wife, Jean, of Mesquite, NV; her 3 grandchildren, Brandon L. Koehler, of Thornton, CO and Joan Chappell and her husband, David, of Olympia, WA, and Grace Sortland and her husband, Jon, of Brier, WA; 4 great-grandchildren, and a sister, Patricia Magnusson of Greenfield. Lillian was born in Worcester; daughter of the late George and Grace E. (Bosworth) Munger. She was educated in Auburn schools and later graduated from Worcester Girls Trade School. Lillian worked as a cook and chef for the Auburn schools. She was a member of the First Congregational Church in Auburn, and was a Girl Scout Leader for many years. Her funeral service was held on Friday, June 8, 2012 in the Britton-Wallace Funeral Home, 91 Central Street, Auburn. Burial followed in Hillside Cemetery.

Dorothy Romaine "Dot" Klaucke, 88, of Worcester, passed away on Saturday, June 23, 2012, after a short illness. Her husband of fifty-seven years, Rowland Klaucke, passed away in December 2001. She is survived by her two sons, Ronald Klaucke and his wife, Susan, of Auburn and their two sons, Christian Klaucke and Dr. Jonathan Klaucke, M.D. and Dorothy's other son, Robert Klaucke, with whom she lived. She was born in Corsica, PA, the only daughter of Myrtle and Merrill Ehler. She graduated from the local high school and began taking clerical courses in an area college. Upon passing a Civil Service exam, she began working in the Federal Government Printing Office in Washington, DC where she met and married her husband, an Army serviceman. Shortly after WWII ended and her husband was discharged from the Army, they moved to Worcester, where she has lived for the last sixty-seven years. Dot worked locally for both Grants and Woolworth's Department Stores. She would later work as a pharmaceutical clerk at Memorial Hospital in Worcester, retiring fifteen years later. She and her husband were active in Adams Square Congregational Church. A funeral service was held on June 30, 2012 at Mercadante Funeral Home in Worcester with burial in Worcester County Memorial Park.

"I am the resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."

John 11:25

ATTENTION ALL 8TH AND 9TH GRADE STUDENTS

We will be starting a Confirmation Class this month.

Confirmation Classes will be held weekly on Sundays in the green room from 11:30a.m. - 12:30p.m. beginning September 9th.



If you're interested in making your confirmation, please speak with Pastor Brian, or call the church office, 508-832-2845.



On July 29th we celebrated the baptism of Cole John Guilford. Cole is the 3 year old son of Rufus and Melynn Guilford. We pray for God's abundant blessings upon Cole and his family.

From the Library Committee

Summer is almost gone, but the memories linger on. And, haven't you been re-charged for some good reading this fall? Remember, the Children's Library located downstairs has some new books among lots of old favorites. Also, pre-school, 6 and 7 year olds, 8 and 9 year olds and up through high school books await you.

Look forward to the story of "The Cross Gardner" in October.

Jeremiah's Inn

Looking to get rid of those mismatched plates and mugs? Jeremiah's Inn located at 1059 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01603 is looking for donations of dinner plates and mugs. They can be dropped off at the Main St. office or contact Walter Spencer, director, at 508-755-6403.



This summer, thirteen scouts and six leaders of Boy Scout Troop 101 traveled to Maine on a 6 day, 50 mile canoe and whitewater raft experience. They shared a sense of adventure in doing what most hadn't done before.

They went over 5 hours north to Moxie Outdoor Adventures in The Forks, Maine, and spent the next 4 days and 3 nights canoeing in and camping along the shore of the Moose River. The canoes had to carry all the scouts' clothes, equipment, food and water.

After returning from 4 days in a canoe, they spent the next day doing exciting white water rafting on the Kennebec River. The last evening, they took a group picture in front of the Moxie sign.

The next morning, they stopped for breakfast at an all-you-can-eat restaurant. The price was good. The food was great. But priceless was a little sign on the wall, some of which said, "Life: Seize it and make it AMAZING. Have Adventures. Surround yourself with good friends. Follow your dreams. Today is the day.....Don't let it pass you by." And that's what they did.

Boy Scout Troop 101 of Auburn believes in challenge. We go a lot of places, and we try to camp monthly. If you have a son who is looking for adventure, look us up. We will be starting our Fall program in early September, and new boys are welcome. You can reach Scoutmaster George Fournier at 774-239-2240, and Asst. Scoutmaster Laurence Reich at 508-612-4976.

Boy Scout Troop 101 meets weekly on Thursday nights here at First Congregational Church. Our very own Pastor Brian joined the scouts whitewater rafting on the Kennebec River. If you look closely at the picture, you'll see a few familiar faces.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

WELCOME BACK! I hope everyone had a relaxing summer filled with friends and family.

Rally Day will be September 9th with an ice cream social and games for the children. I need at least one parent to come down and fill out a registration form for each of your children. As always, we

NEED TEACHERS!!!! This year's curriculum is rotation based which means you see a different age group each week and you only need to sign up for one unit at a time. The "stations" we have are: cooking, video, art and storytelling. Each unit will run for one month, but you are only scheduled for three out of the four weeks in that month. If you are not comfortable leading the class, we also need shepherds to assist the leaders of each group. Please consider taking the time to spend a few weeks with the children. I have sample lesson plans available and you are always welcome to join us downstairs any Sunday to observe a Class.

I would like to thank those who have volunteered to lead for the month of September. Music : Lillian McPherson, Art: Connie Hanks, Cooking : Laurie Babcock and Storytelling: Caitlin Gardner.

Confirmation will also begin on Rally Day. Every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. we will meet in the green room for class. If you know of anyone entering 8th or 9th grade that has not signed up, please speak to Pastor Brian, Alex Brownell or me for more information.

Believe it or not, I have already been contacted about carving pumpkins for the EcoTarium Pumpkin Festival on October 20th. I will have a sign up sheet in fellowship hall. The date to carve will be Sunday October 14th right after church. Please, if you would like to carve more than one pumpkin, then sign up for the amount you would like to carve. Last year we ran out of pumpkins and some people were not able to carve. This is always a fun activity and we have some very talented carvers in our midst.

I pray you will all take some time to really think about helping out with the children. If we all pitch in, we can make this a GREAT year for all.

With His Guidance We Serve,

Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education



September Tidings from **Here We Grow** Preschool



On September 4, 2012 **Here We Grow** Preschool will be opening the school for the 24th year. WOW! With a licensed enrollment of 134 children, we will start the year with 120 children; leaving us with openings only in our 3 year-old sessions. Each day I receive phone calls from families wanting to visit HWG. I am hoping that we will be almost filled by September.

Our staff for this year are: in room 1 is Anne Coyne & Cristi Corey, room 2 is Michelle Lempicki, Kathleen Lanava and Tracey Osche', room 3 is Helen Ethier, Patti Bickford, and Mariann Lavallee and room 4 is Michele Fuller.

Thanks to Dave Sampson, Wayne Prouty, Stan MacPhee, (probably Sue, too) and Sally Gagnon for preparing the rooms for HWG. Thanks to Craig Premo for cleaning up the vestry, hallways and bathrooms. Things are looking great.

With the end of 2011/12 school year it was difficult saying goodbye to many of our families who had been with us for awhile; we wish them all well, and asked them to keep sending their friends our way. Many, if not all, feel that **Here We Grow** Preschool is the best program around. They are our best form of advertisement.

All end-of-year field trips went well, as did all 4 graduations. The young fours had a day graduation with a make-your-own sundae party. The 3 year olds had a short program in their classrooms which worked out very well. All children and their families enjoyed Spree Day with games and entertainment by Fran the Magician. The 4's going on to kindergarten in the fall had 2 night graduations. They were spectacular. So, we made it through another successful year. And, off we go to another school year with many new faces, many returning faces, and the hope that we, as a staff, have a positive impact on the lives of these little children.

Until the fall, have a great summer.

Dawn Murphy
HWG Director

Please mark your calendars for **Rally Day** which will take place on **Sunday, September 9th**. Rally Day is the official kick-off of Sunday School. Our Cradle Roll and Sunday School are equipped to meet the needs of newborns up to middle school-aged children. **We look forward to seeing you there!**



2012 RELAY FOR LIFE

Celebrate Remember Fight Back

September 7th - 8th (6 p.m. Fri. - noon Sat.) at Lemansky Park, Auburn

On September 7th and 8th at Lemansky Park over 40 teams of people will walk the track in the annual Central South County Relay for Life. Set up begins at 8 a.m. and will continue until the event begins. Highlights of this event include the survivor and caretaker walk and the luminaria ceremony. We invite you to join us. If you have some time available Friday, September 7th, come to Lemansky Park to see how you can lend a hand. Survivors and their caretakers are invited to attend our opening ceremony and walk the survivor lap and attend the dinner immediately following the lap. There will be many activities throughout the morning on Saturday. It is not too late to join a team. For more information contact Garry Mahlert at 508-864-0086. The Relay for Life is a fundraising event for the American Cancer Society and we are dedicated to helping the world celebrate more birthdays.

What is Relay For Life?

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. At Relay, teams of people camp out at a local high school, park, or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, Relays are overnight events up to 24 hours in length.

Relay began in 1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt, a colorectal surgeon in Tacoma, Washington, ran and walked around a track for 24 hours to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Since then, Relay has grown from a single man's passion to fight cancer, into the world's largest movement to end the disease. Each year, more than 3.5 million people in 5,000 communities in the United States, along with additional communities in 19 other countries, gather to take part in this global phenomenon and raise much-needed funds and awareness to save lives from cancer. Thanks to Relay participants, we are creating a world with more birthdays, a world where cancer can't claim another year of anyone's life. We invite all cancer survivors in the community to attend Relay For Life because they are the reason we Relay.



JIMMY FUND WALK

I'll be participating in the Jimmy Fund Walk again this year. I'll be walking 26.2 miles on September 9th to raise funds for cancer research. I started doing this walk for my mom when she died almost 14 years ago. This will be my 12th walk. I do it in memory of Nick's dad now and in honor of my friend, Karen, who beat cancer. If you'd like to sponsor me, you can donate online by going to: www.jimmyfundwalk.org and clicking on give, then support a walker and entering my name. Or, you can mail a check (payable to the Jimmy Fund) to: 36 Linda Ave., Millbury, MA 01527.

Either way, please call or text me to see how I am doing. It is a long walk and talking to people makes the time go by faster. My cell number is 508-317-7747.

Thanks in advance,
Lori Stockhaus

Since its founding in 1948, the Jimmy Fund has supported the fight against cancer in children and adults at Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, helping to raise the chances of survival for cancer patients around the world. **Because it takes more than courage to beat cancer.**



Choir Practice will resume beginning **Thursday, September 6th at 6:00 p.m.** We will be singing during the worship service on **September 9th.** If you're interested in joining the choir, please speak with Heather Moore, our Minister of Music. We are also encouraging any interested children (or a parent) to speak with Ms. Moore if you would like to learn more about **Joyful Noyse**, our children's choir. **Joyful Noyse** will have their first rehearsal following worship on **September 9th.**

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! Psalm 95:2

By-Law Committee

Our current Constitution and By-Laws require a complete review every 5 years by a committee representative of the congregation, and approved by the Council. The review is due next year, so the Council is requesting volunteers who are interested in being a part of this group, so we can approve the committee to begin the review process. I have also requested the individual boards and committees to begin a review of their portion of the bylaws so they can provide input to the new By-Law Committee. Please let me know if you are interested in being part of this committee.

Thanks,
Stu Campbell, Chairman Church Council

On September 23rd at 3:00 p.m. the Central Association of the Massachusetts Conference United Church of Christ will be installing Rev. Robert H. Jackson as settled pastor of First Congregational Church of Worcester (1070 Pleasant Street). This installation is of particular interest to us, since you may recall that we hosted the neutral pulpit for Rev. Jackson back in January of this year. Our best wishes and congratulations to Rev. Jackson and to the FCC of Worcester — God bless!

Coffee Hour Hosts:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 9/2 ~ Trustees | 9/23, 9/30 ~ Historian/Memorial/Scholarship/Nominating |
| 9/9 ~ Board of Education | 10/7 ~ Personnel Committee |
| 9/16 ~ Music Committee | 10/14, 10/21 ~ Stewardship Committee |

September Birthdays include:
Jacob McPherson - Sept. 14th
Laura DuHamel - Sept. 19th
Happy Birthday!



On September 14th Lori & Nick Stockhaus will be celebrating their 21st wedding anniversary - Congratulations!



I hope everyone had a nice summer. There's still a few weeks left to enjoy. Now it's back to busy schedules in and out of church.

September is National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, National Cholesterol Education Awareness Month, National Food Safety Education Month and Baby Safety Awareness Month. It is also: National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, Children's Eye Health and Safety Month, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, National Pain Awareness Month, National Preparedness Month, Healthy Aging Month, National Yoga Month, Prostate Health Month, Leukemia and Lymphoma Awareness, Sports and Home Eye Safety Month.

I am working on having a flu clinic after church either the end of September or the beginning of October. I haven't secured the date yet, but it is going to happen! I'm also working on getting someone to speak about Medicare, even before the election! If anyone is on Medicare and is hospitalized for 3 or more days, go to billing and make sure the patient is listed as an inpatient NOT ON OBSERVATION! Yes, you can be in the hospital, having all kinds of tests, CT scans, MRI's, etc, and still be considered on OBSERVATION! If you find this to be the case, ask for the patient representative and get it changed! Medicare will bill you and you will owe! A supplemental insurance may pay some, but watch your status! Stay tuned. I will get more information!

God Bless!

Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

I attended the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC in Sturbridge. I traveled with Reverend Bob Fenby. The Worship at annual meetings is almost always wonderful. The musicians were quite good and presented a lot of music I had never heard before. I think it is better to blend old familiar, with new and different. That way worship does not feel like an hour long music lesson.

There was not much business at the meeting that would affect the church, but one area that might is: the Conference wishes to look at an alternative to dues. One suggestion is to give a percentage of the Church income, rather than a set amount per member.

Conference for me is mostly a chance to talk "church stuff" with other people and reunite with old friends and hopefully make new ones.



New hymnals have been selected to replace the old ones. What better way to remember loved ones than to purchase hymnals in their honor and memory and raise our voices in song?

We will be purchasing 300 copies for a total expenditure of \$4,500. The purchase price is \$15 each. **We need final orders by September 16th.** Won't you please purchase one or more in honor of and/or memory of loved ones? We will have labels for your dedications. Just complete an order form and include a check payable to First Congregational Church earmarked "Memorial Fund – Hymnal." We will dedicate the new hymnals on **Memorial Sunday, Oct. 28th.** Following the service the old hymnals will be made available for the taking on the stage in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for your help.
The Memorial Committee

HYMNAL ORDER FORM

Name _____ Phone # _____

I would like to purchase _____ (quantity) hymnals at a cost of \$15 each.

Book label should read: **(PLEASE PRINT)**

2nd hymnal book label should read: **(PLEASE PRINT)**

3rd hymnal book label should read: **(PLEASE PRINT)**

(Deadline to order is September 16th.)

The Pumpkin Patch will be opening soon!

Would you love to:

- Sit in peace and beauty?
- Be surrounded by God's grace?
- Meet lots of cheerful men, women and children?
- Make a difference in the future of our church?
- Feel the warmth of volunteering in a spectacular setting?

Those of us who have experienced these blessings would love to share them with you.

Soon there will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please sign -up for the days and times that work for you, your family and friends. Call Diane Moore (508) 832-8078 or Shirley Hill (508) 832-6335 with any questions. **The pumpkins are scheduled to be delivered on September 29th at 9 a.m. and we'll need many hands to unload the truck. Please sign-up in Fellowship Hall.**



Last year this fundraiser yielded \$5,000.00 in proceeds for the Church!

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



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OR CURRENT RESIDENT