



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

April! the first of the girl-named months. The girl names’ season that begins with April and continues with May, goes to June and ends with July. There are boys named August, and an actress named January, but few people are named for any month other than April, May, June, and to a lesser extent July.

Why is that? June is often lovely weather. I can see a June being a sunny, warm person. But April and May can bring all kinds of weather. I remember a Memorial Day when it was warm enough to wear shorts and a Memorial Day when I was reciting “In Flanders Fields” with big, giant snowflakes hitting me in the face and fogging my glasses.

The names we give express our hopes and dreams. We pick names hoping our child is like their name-

sake: a mighty hero or a beloved saint. In the cemetery next to church are many women named for virtues: charity, chastity, temperance.

Maybe with May and April we are hoping for a person who can be ready for anything. Ready for snow and rain or bright sun. Ready for flowers to bloom and the days to be longer. Ready for new life to come bursting from the tomb.

In April we will prepare to receive our Lord fresh from the tomb, ready to lead us to new life. So I hope you are ready for what April will bring us.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

APRIL SERMONS

4/7 “Wrath”

4/14 “The Stones Would Shout”

4/21 **EASTER SUNDAY**

5:30 a.m. SUNRISE SERVICE AT HILLSIDE CEMETERY: “The Road to Emmaus”

9 & 10:30 a.m. CHURCH SERVICES: “Easter Is a Busy Day”

4/28 Pastor Brian will be on vacation 4-22 through 4-28 and returning to the office on 4/29. Please pray for a time of refreshing.

~ All Are Welcome ~

Palm Sunday is April 14th. Our worship service will begin at 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service will be held April 18th at 7 p.m.

Good Friday is April 19th ~ The church sanctuary will be open from noon until

3 p.m. for one’s own personal time of prayer and reflection.

Note: there will be no community Good Friday service this year.

Easter Sunday is April 21st ~ with our Sunrise Service at 5:30 a.m. at Hillside Cemetery and two worship services - 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. at the church.



Holy Week



April is Alcohol Awareness Month, National Autism Awareness Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, National Donate Life Month, Occupational Therapy Month, Oral Cancer Awareness Month, Sports Eye Safety Awareness Month, Testicular Cancer Awareness Month, and Women's Eye Health and Safety Month.

April 1-7: National Public Health Week

April 7: World Health Day

April 11: National Alcohol Screening Day

April 15: National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

April 22-28: World Immunization Week

April 24: World Meningitis Day

I shipped a package to Thomas Bigelow today. I am so pleased to see the donations. I'm sure the men and women serving our country will be grateful. Please note: aerosol sprays aren't accepted.

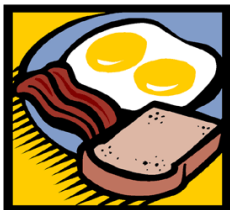
Happy Spring!

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

YOU'RE INVITED . . . Join us at our monthly potluck suppers (a combination of potluck supper and a book/movie discussion). The next get-together will be on May 21st at 6 p.m. when we will discuss the book, "VOX" by Christina Dalcher.

Jean McClellan spends her time in almost complete silence, limited to just one hundred words a day. Any more, and a thousand volts of electricity will course through her veins. Now the new government is in power, everything has changed. But only if you're a woman. Almost overnight, bank accounts are frozen, passports are taken away and seventy million women lose their jobs. Even more terrifyingly, young girls are no longer taught to read or write. For herself, her daughter, and for every woman silenced, Jean will reclaim her voice. This is only the beginning...

BREAKFAST



We hope you can join us for our annual PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST on April 14th beginning at 8 a.m. Our guest speaker will be sharing about the veterans hospital in Boston. Please be sure to sign-up in fellowship hall to aid us in determining amounts to purchase. Thank you!

Also, our thanks to Jennifer and Randy Bohn for agreeing to prepare the breakfast!

LENTEN SERIES CONTINUES

We hope you'll join us on Wednesday nights during Lent as we meet over soup and sandwiches beginning at 6 p.m. This year the discussion time is centered on the retelling of the life of Christ in the movie *The Miracle Maker*. The remaining supper schedule is:

- 4/3 Board of Ed (BOCE) - broccoli cheddar, chicken noodle, and vegetable soups with grilled cheese sandwiches
- 4/10 Stewardship Committee - potato dumpling soup, beef stew, and sandwiches

The confirmands and Outreach Committee are planning to attend the Worcester Fellowship service on the Worcester Common on Sunday, April 7th. All are welcome to join them following our church service that day. **We are collecting new white socks for distribution to those in need.**

Worcester Fellowship imagines a church where people with housing and people without housing gather together to share worship, to build community, to know God's infinite love and find 'home' as part of the Body of Christ, the Church. They meet outside every Sunday on Worcester Common, serving lunch to those in need and then gathering for worship. Their mission is *to end isolation by nurturing community and providing pastoral care.*



We pray God's blessings upon the following families who recently celebrated a baptism and a new birth.

On February 3rd we celebrated the baptism of Grant MacLeod Grimshaw. Grant is the now 13-month-old son of Carrie and Benjamin Grimshaw.

We welcome Paige Amelia O'Neill who was born on Tuesday, March 12th. Paige weighed in at 6lbs, 13ozs and measured 19.5 inches. Proud family members include her parents, Kyla and James O'Neill; big sister, Kennady; grandparents, Jennifer and Randy Bohn; great-grandparents, Judy Murphy, and Mike and Cindy Dube. Congratulations to all!

Easter Plant Order Form

Once again we will be accepting orders for Easter plants. On Easter Sunday there will be a special insert in the bulletin noting who the plant is in honor of and who it's from. This is a wonderful way to pay tribute to a loved one, while also decorating our Church Sanctuary. Just complete the order form below and drop it in the offering plate when it's passed or mail to the church, 128 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501.

Order form with payment is **DUE BY SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH.**

Lilies (1 stem) \$10.00 _____

Lilies (2 stems) \$20.00 _____

Lilies (3 stems) \$30.00 _____

Tulips 6" \$10.00 _____ **8" \$18.00** _____

Color Choice: Yellow _____ Pink _____
 Red _____ White _____ Purple _____

6" Hyacinths \$10.00 _____

Color Choice: blue _____ pink _____

8" Hydrangeas \$28.00 _____

Color Choice: blue _____ pink _____

6" Pansies (mixed colors) \$7.00 _____

6" Martha Washington Geraniums \$13.00 _____

Color Choice: white _____ pink _____
 lavender _____ purple _____

***** PLEASE COMPLETE DEDICATION IN SPACE PROVIDED AT RIGHT.**

Contact info: Name _____

Phone # _____

PLEASE **PRINT** YOUR DEDICATION **EXACTLY** AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR IN THE BULLETIN. **ALSO, BE SURE TO INCLUDE WHO IT'S FROM IN YOUR DEDICATION IF YOU WANT IT INCLUDED IN THE BULLETIN.** Suggestions for dedications include, "In memory of" . . . or "In celebration of" . . .

Happy April showers my fellow Christians! What a wonderful time of year. We are in the midst of the Lenten season which brings us right up to Easter. A time for us to rejoice as Jesus has risen! Spring flowers are popping up here and there, too; another reason to rejoice as warmer days are ahead of us! Outreach has been super busy over the last few months, as cold days create a need for warmth and nourishment for many who are less fortunate than we are!



On behalf of your Outreach Committee, I would like to take a special moment to offer a humongous THANK YOU to all of you!!! We raised \$757 on Blanket Sunday. That is amazing! That is the most we have raised for this very important cause. WOW!!!!

Another WOW! You donated \$467 worth of food for our food bank in February! Simply incredible!

Here is another big number to feel good about: \$2,092 went to Mass. Conference UCC for the Christmas Fund, Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, CWS Blankets and Tools of Hope!

Lastly, we donated \$250 to Abby's House and \$125 has been allocated to purchase items for CityReach.

Palm Sunday breakfast is a favorite of mine!!! I love having fellowship and enjoying a delicious breakfast with Church family. This year, we will have a friend from the Veterans Hospital in Boston. Marion has worked with her for years in a capacity representing both Auburn Comfort Blankets as well as your Outreach Committee. I look forward to hearing all about the great things they do for our veterans!

God Bless each and everyone of YOU! The Outreach Committee does many wonderful things and supports many people in need. We represent this congregation. Without your generous offerings and donations, we could not do what we do! If you see me in church, we should high-five! Job well done!!!!

Thank you,
Shannon Hartmann

Scholarship applications are available on the table in Fellowship Hall. We have several scholarships we would like to award to church members seeking to continue their education. Specifically, there are two scholarships dedicated to those studying within the medical field, and one scholarship gives preference to those who are musically inclined, and, of course, we have several unrestricted scholarships as well. **Please complete the application form and return it to the Memorial/Scholarship Committee's mailbox BY APRIL 15TH.**

From Here We Grow Preschool



The weather is warming up and we are so happy to be getting back outside with the children. We are so fortunate to have access to the vestry all winter long; not many schools in our area have an indoor playground like we do, but we are ready to go out.

This month we are looking forward to Neil Primeaux coming in once again to do our school pictures; he has been doing photos for the school almost since we opened. We will also be having the state and local police in to do fingerprinting with our four-year-old children who are going on to kindergarten. We are so fortunate to be able to access this valuable service for our families.

Here We Grow will again be running a summer program, June 17-21 ("Pirates Life for Me") and June 24-28 ("The Wonderful World of Wizards") from 9-1:30. If you know of anyone who has children 4 to 8-years-old, and would like to send them to our summer program, have them give the school a call for more information, 508-832-8184. We also have availability in most of our classes for the 2019-20 school year; if you know anyone looking, please send them our way.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our calendar raffle fundraiser last month. This month, once again, we will be offering cards for sale. For \$30 you get 30 beautiful cards in a storage box. There are boxes available with all occasion cards, kids cards, and some blank inside. We have a sample box in the Here We Grow office and will leave an order form with Denise for anyone interested.

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Happy Easter! I pray you are enjoying the nice spring weather.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in YOM's recent fundraiser. Your items will be available after service on Palm Sunday, April 14.

As you read this, the confirmation class will have just completed an overnight with CityReach. This program is out of the kids' comfort zone but in the past all the teens have enjoyed the experience and found some lasting insight into the world of homelessness.

Sunday School is continuing to go strong. We will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday. Please sign-up BEFORE April 4 so we can be sure to have enough treats. If you have ANY allergies please note the allergy on the sign-up sheet so we can accommodate the allergy.

Starting last month, the Sunday school kids have started saving money from their offering to purchase an animal from Heifer International. We talked about ways to help people from far away that they will never meet. They discussed ideas of jobs they could perform to help others and how as children they could do this. We talked about how instead of just asking for offering money that they come up with chores that they could do to earn their offering. The Board of Ed. has agreed to match our totals. We will keep you posted on our progress and, hopefully, by Children's Sunday we can share with you the animal we have purchased.

If you are interested in attending family camp or sending your child to Monadnock for summer camp, please do so soon so you will be able to use the discount. If you have questions please see me.

I pray this Easter will renew your spirit and commitment to God.

"It is in our lives and not our words that our religion must be read." T. Jefferson

Jean McPherson
Director of Religious Education

Coffee Hour Hosts

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| 3/31 | ~ | Music Committee & Historian |
| 4/7, 4/14 | ~ | Financial Secretaries/Treasurers |
| 4/21 | ~ | Easter — no coffee hour |
| 4/28 | ~ | Memorial/Scholarship, Library & Nominating Committees |
| 5/5 | ~ | Board of Ed (BOCE) |

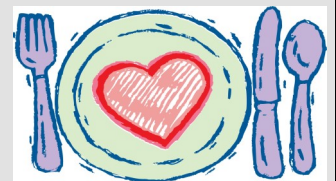


Happy Birthday to:

Ernie Smith - April 9th
Haydn McPherson - April 10th

COMMUNITY CHURCH SUPPER **April 13th at 5 p.m.**

Featuring:
a delicious roast
beef dinner with all
the fixings!



Adults - \$10
Children are free!

COMMUNITY DINNER

TAKE OUT AVAILABLE

Servers: Music Committee
Additional Volunteers Needed

Please support this church fundraiser!

COMMUNITY YARD SALE to be held JUNE 15TH 8am-2pm PLEASE SAVE THE DATE



As usual spaces are available to rent for only \$15 (\$20 for non-church members). Tables will be available to rent for \$5. Please tell your family, friends and neighbors about our well attended yard sale and how easy it is to participate.

Returning this year we will be having a church table at the yard sale. So, when doing your spring cleaning, keep the church in mind. Your donations may be dropped off the early part of June (date TBD). Please make sure they are clean and in working order. Books and sports equipment will be accepted but **please NO clothing or VCR tapes**. It will soon be time to start separating those perennials in our gardens. Please keep the plant sale in mind and pot up a few extras to donate. This is important because the plants are a big draw and a huge part of the church's profits for the day. Speaking of plants, I am looking for another person to work with Connie Hanks, who so graciously said yes when asked, to coordinate the sale of plants as Shirley Hill and Diane Moore are retiring from this job. They are willing to work with Connie and... to guide them thru the process.

A BIG THANK YOU TO SHIRLEY AND DIANE FOR ALL THOSE YEARS OF HARD WORK!!! I HOPE YOU HAD FUN!

We will also be offering coffee and donuts, strawberry shortcake, and burgers and dogs throughout the day. If you are not going to be a participant in the yard sale, please consider helping out on Friday night for an hour or two or on Saturday at one of the above mentioned church ventures.

If you have questions, would like to offer your help, or to rent a space, please call Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646.

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

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or PastorBrian@auburnfirstucc.org

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

Web: auburnfirstucc.org



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April 2019

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT