



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**

Sabbath

“Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.” (Exodus 20:8-11)

It is a fun conversation starter to question which is the most broken commandment. Is it, “Thou Shalt not Covet?” There is a whole lot of keeping up with the Joneses going on. Keeping up with the neighbors, wanting what they have, that is pure coveting — seeing what someone else has and wanting it for themselves.

This week my candidate for most broken commandment is keeping the Sabbath. What businesses are closed on Sunday? Or closed Saturday for the Jewish Sabbath? Or Friday for the Muslim Sabbath? Some store clerks are expected to be available 7 days a week to be scheduled to work. This prevents store workers from having two jobs because even if the store only gives them 20 hours a week they expect them to be available 24/7.

Office workers face the same with their cell phones. They answer work calls, texts, and emails late into the night and even answer messages from work on vacation.

One of my favorite scenes from the *Little House* series is the story Pa tells Laura after she is punished for being too rowdy on the Sabbath. The Sabbath for the Ingalls girls involved sitting quietly and hearing the grown-ups read from the Bible. The story of what Pa and his brothers did to earn a licking on Monday for upsetting the Sabbath is amazing. It is contained in *Little House in the Big Woods*. Keeping Sabbath was once a big deal enforced by law. People had to take a quiet day off every week.

When we live our lives without a break we wear down. There is little time left for a Sabbath in the new workplace. This is sad. Sabbath is a spiritual exercise with physical benefits. Studies show people who play, recreate, are re-created into people able to do more and better work after the break. We need time off to be our best at work.

In my contract I am given, “After 5 years service . . . 3-4 months of sabbatical leave.” I am planning to take 2 weeks sabbatical followed by 2 weeks of vacation. So I will be gone from July 4 to 31. I had originally planned to do a formal retreat during my sabbatical, but it has been a busy year so instead I will do a Sabbath. I will be quiet, walk in nature, study scripture, and listen for the still, small voice of God. I will be in an area where cell phones rarely work so I will have to be present in nature without the distraction of text, email, or the *Angry Birds* video game.

While I am gone, Debbie Pranaitis will cover emergencies and Pastor Haringa will cover funerals. It will be weird to be gone from church that long. Hopefully, I will come back renewed, reenergized, and a re-created Pastor. May we all have timeout to live a Sabbath.

Pastor Brian

SERMON TITLES

- 6/5 “Paul Is Challenged”
- 6/12 “Early Eminent Domain”
- 6/19 “The Demons and the Pigs”
- 6/26 “The Remnant”
- 7/3 “What Cities or People Think They Are Holy?”

CHILDREN’S TIME

- “Communion”
- “What Would You Do if You REALLY Wanted Something?”

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no July or August Tidings. Look for our next issue in September and have a great summer!

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Can you believe another year in Sunday school is gone? I want to thank EVERYONE who helped in any way to make this another successful year. Our numbers are growing and, more importantly, they are consistent in attendance. Of course, we have the occasional visitor, but this year we have had families or friends of kids that came to visit and decided to stay! We are truly blessed to have people who are willing to show God's love through teaching.



June 5th is the **Annual Children's Sunday picnic**. Please sign up to bring a salad or dessert to share and enjoy a hot dog or burger on the Board of Education. Even if you just *think* you will come, please sign up, just so we have enough food to share. As always, we will have games on the lawn for EVERYONE to participate in.

June 12th will be the **first Confirmation meeting** for any and all interested teens **AND** their **PARENTS**. The meeting will take place at 11:15 in the green room (behind fellowship hall). Any questions, please see me or Pastor Brian. Confirmation is open to any individual who has completed 7th grade or is 13 or older.

I pray you all have a wonderful summer that is filled with good weather, memorable times, and the love of our Father in your hearts. We will see you on September 11th for Rally Day!

Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education

Coffee Hour Hosts

MANY THANKS to Nick Stockhaus and his brother, Steve, for picking up 25 tables at BJ's and delivering them to the church.

Funds for these tables were provided by proceeds from last year's Fall Fair.

6/5 Board of Ed

6/12 Music Committee

6/19, 26 Prudential Committee

Please note: Committees/boards will not be hosting coffee hours during July and August. Look for a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall for any individuals/families who would like to host a coffee hour.



FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

June 1st-July 4th is Fireworks Safety Month. June is Cataract Awareness Month, Men's Health Month, National Safety Month, and National Scleroderma Awareness Month.

June 5-11 is National Rip Current Awareness Week

June 5 is National Cancer Survivors Day

June 13-19 Men's Health Week

June 19-25 is National Lightning Safety Awareness Week

June 19 is World Sickle Cell Day

July is Cord Blood Awareness Month, Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month and July 28 is Hepatitis Day.

August is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month, National Breastfeeding Month, and National Immunization Awareness Month.

Have a Safe and Healthy Summer! Remember the sunglasses and sunscreen!

God Bless!

Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse, 508-612-4521

**GIFTS FROM THE PAST LEAD THE WAY FOR OUR FUTURE.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE IN THE NEXT GENERATION'S MISSIONS?**

Have you noticed the construction happening on the side of the church? Thanks to a generous planned-giving gift from Pearl Morrill, a long-time member of the First Congregational Church of Auburn, an easily accessible elevator is being installed adjacent to the sanctuary.

Do you remember how the church was able to help the orphanage in Nepal after the disastrous earthquake two years ago? Thanks to the Sibley Fund, a planned-giving gift given to the church by Miss Tolman, a teacher in the Auburn schools for decades and another long-time member of the church, we have been able to provide outreach to many, many needy friends of the church through the designated community outreach of the fund.

Have you or your children been the recipient of a church scholarship? Generous living gifts and gifts in memory of someone have provided those funds to support the youth of our church membership.

We have all benefitted from the generous gifts of those who have gone before us. Their gifts continue to make us smile and to perpetuate our church's desire to do God's work in the world. Would you be interested in learning how to provide a gift to help ensure the good work of the church? Gifts may be given by including the church in your will, or they may be given while you are living so you can see the benefits of your generosity.

Any member of the Prudential Committee would be happy to help you learn how to get started. A simple discussion does not require that you make any commitment. Planned giving takes time and thought. While we are not professional or certified investment advisors, we are happy to guide you along the way. Speak to one of the members of the committee at church, or speak with Pastor Brian or Denise if you would like someone to contact you.

Prudential Committee Members: Co-Chair, Robert Luther; Co-Chair, Connie Whitehead Hanks; Todd Dube, Gayle Farley, Wayne Prouty, David Sampson, Nick Stockhaus

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 5th**, and plan to join us as we celebrate our children on
Children's Sunday.



Following our service that day we will be having our annual picnic. We will be looking for donations of desserts and salads, so please look for a sign-up sheet on the Sunday school bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

AUBURN YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES PUBLIC HOUSE FUNDRAISER

On Monday, June 13th, a fundraiser supper will be held at the Publick House in Sturbridge. The ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT Classic Barbeque supper includes: pulled pork, baked beans, barbeque chicken, cornbread & watermelon. Coffee, tea, soda & iced water included.

Adults - \$14 and \$5 for children
\$2 from each meal will go to AYFS and
\$2 to Boy Scout Troop 281.

Two seatings: 4:30-6:15 & 6:30-7:30

For tickets, contact Sue Campbell, 508-799-2718,
or Christine Benvenuti, 508-755-8548.

Graduation Announcements



Todd S. Campbell received his Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Northeastern University. Proud parents are Sue and Stu. Todd was the first recipient of the Jay E. Murray Scholarship! He continues to work for the Boston Celtics.

Erika F. Costa, daughter of Karen and Joe Costa, will be graduating from Seekonk High School on June 3rd and plans to attend Curry College to major in Communication - Film Editing. Erika has been awarded a scholarship from the Florence I. Munger Scholarship Fund. Her grandparents are Bob Burns and the late Flo and Don Aker.

Julie A. Cove, daughter of Lisa and Eric Cove, graduated from Fitchburg State University on May 21st. Julie received her B.S. in Nursing. Julie is the granddaughter of Russell and Lois Therrien, Donna Cove, and Louis and Christine Cove. Julie's great-grandparents are the late Grace and George DuVerger.

Joshua L. D'Orazio, son of Kerry and John D'Orazio, will be graduating from Coventry High School in Coventry, CT on June 11th and is planning to attend Roger Williams University to major in Mechanical Engineering. Joshua will be receiving a scholarship derived from the Ralph and Esther Warren Scholarship Fund. His grandparents are Jackie Knox and the late Rev. Dr. Kenneth Knox.

David W. Engstrom, a 2015 graduate of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, has been busy this past year as an Apprentice with Gustafson Plumbers in Worcester. David has decided to continue his education at Quinsigamond Community College and upon completion he plans to attend EMT class. He will be awarded a scholarship from the Jay E. Murray Scholarship Fund. David's mother is Lynn Largesse, his step-father is Daniel Largesse, and his grandparents are Beverly Geddes, and the late Robert Geddes.

Jacob D. McPherson, son of Rich and Jean McPherson, is graduating from Auburn High School on June 3rd. His grandparents are Albert and Kathy Whitney and Bryce and Joanne McPherson. Jacob will be receiving a scholarship from the Craig Witcher Scholarship Fund and plans to attend the University of Maine to pursue a Master's Degree in Social Work.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR GRADUATES & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

RECENT BAPTISMS & NEW BIRTHS

On May 8th we celebrated the baptism of 6-month-old Kaitlyn Rose Boehnke. Kaitlyn's parents are Shannon Premo and Justin Boehnke. Proud family members include grandparents Lisa and Craig Premo and Aunts Amber and Jennifer Premo. We pray the Lord's continued blessing upon Kaitlyn and her loved ones.



We are pleased to announce the birth of Elijah Heath Caouette, born on April 6th weighing 7 lbs., 9 oz. and measuring 20 inches. Elijah's proud parents are Heather and Lyle Caouette.

Parents Kelsi Burns and Jarrod Borey welcomed their son, Lukas, born April 22 and weighing 6 lbs., 11 oz. and measuring 20 inches long. Grandparents are Tom and Sue Burns. Great-grandparents are Bob Burns and the late Flo and Don Aker. Great Aunt and Uncle are Lori and Nick Stockhaus.

We are happy to announce the arrival of William Kevin Eknaian born May 2nd and weighing in at 10 lbs., 5 oz. and measuring 22 inches. William is the son of Kevin and Jessica. Proud grandparents are Sue and Stan MacPhee.

The Richardson Family welcomed Kelley Anne McDermott arriving on May 11th. Kelley weighed in at 6 lbs., 10 oz. and measured 20½ inches at birth. Kelley's parents are Kimberly and Derek McDermott. Grandparents are Joyce Richardson and Colleen McDermott and the late Bill Richardson and Lon McDermott.



Here We Grow Preschool June Tidings

Here We Grow will be graduating on June 7th, 8th, and 9th. Spree Day will be on June 6th. If you have a little one and would like to join us for Pumpnickel Puppets Show, stop in. He starts at 10:45. It is a very busy time of the year for everyone associated with **Here We Grow**. With graduation fast approaching, we go forward with many mixed emotions. We will be saying good-bye to some families we have known for a few years. But with that, it is also a time when we will be bringing in a group of new families. At this time, we all would like to say thanks for the support and memories that we have all been a part of these last few years.

On May 9th and the 16th, the 3-day and 5-day program classes visited the YMCA of Westborough for their end-of-year field trip. The weather was great; the children, parents and staff had a great time. It was nice to see the children running and having fun; and the teachers, too. On May 19th the 2-day program classes visited Stowe Farm. The children had a hayride, visited and fed live animals, planted sunflower seeds, jumped in the bouncy house, and played in the playground. The weather was great. I especially enjoy going to Stowe Farm because I know the owner of the farm rescues many of her horses from auctions, and the money we pay to use her facility helps feed those beautiful, safe horses.

At the closing of this school year our enrollment for the 2016-17 school year has a few openings in all our classes. We have a very low enrollment of 3-year-olds for the upcoming school year. If you know of anyone looking for a 3 or 4-year-old spot, please send them our way.

Our two weeks of summer programming are not full yet — week 1, *Out In Space* (6/20-6/24) and week 2, *The Olympics* (6/27-7/1). Please call 508-832-8184 for more information on our summer program. The teachers working the program are Helen Ethier, Cristi Corey, Michelle Lempicki, Diana Mancini and Gina Basili (craft room). Our helper is Megan Corey.

Our flower sale was a success and we will do it again next year.

Thank you to Holiday Pizza for supplying (at their wholesale price) our napkins and cups for the year.

In closing, I'd like to wish all church members and their families a safe and fun-filled summer.

Gina Basili
Here We Grow Director

We have changed the name of the fall fair!!

THE PUMPKIN PATCH FAIR

The other big change is that it will only be held for one day –
Saturday, October 15, 2016, from 9-4.

I will be giving regular updates – including dates for craft nights. Right now, I ask that everyone PLEASE think hard about what they can contribute for the Silent Auction....get creative! It is so much fun to see what people can do. As always, please remember too that we will be asking for baskets from each committee.

Committees of three or less can combine if they would like to.

Looking forward to making this the best fair ever!!! Call with any questions.

Cindy Ryan, 508-832-3416 or 508-769-2740.



SAVE THE DATE

THE PUMPKINS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE DELIVERED ON OCTOBER 1st!

YARD SALE HELP NEEDED - Below are tasks listed in order of urgency.

- 1:30 pm Sat. 6/18 Take down tables and chairs and return them to building. Help with clean-up. Approximately 90 minute time commitment.
- 6pm Fri. 6/17 Carry tables and chairs out to lawn. Approximately 60 minute time commitment.
- 3pm Thurs. 6/16 Prepare strawberries. Approximately 2 hour time commitment.
- 8 a.m. Thurs. 6/16 Pick strawberries. Approximately 3 hour time commitment.
- At home tasks: Biscuit bakers needed, make at home and drop off on Friday (the 17th) to the church office or early Saturday (the 18th) morning.
Plants needed: please pot and label for our plant sale.
- 8am-2pm Come to the yard sale, shop, eat and show your support and bring your friends and family.
Sat 6/18



As you can see, none of these important tasks will demand too much of your time - a pretty easy way to help in raising funds for OUR church. You may call me at 508-832-6646 and let me know how you can help, or just sign-up in Fellowship Hall.

And finally, spaces are still available if you wish to participate in that way! Spots are \$15 for members and \$20 for non-church members. Tables are available for \$5 each.

Thank you in advance and God Bless,
Cindy Dube



Birthdays

Summer Birthdays include:

- Alyse Bukoski - June 16th
- Lisa Rockwood - July 21st
- Sue Anderton - July 30th
- Pat Bukoski - Aug. 5th
- Alice Carlson - Aug. 23rd

Happy Birthday to all!

Thank you to everyone who donated library books to the Children's Library. There was a great response to our request, and it's very much appreciated.

2016 RELAY FOR LIFE

Celebrate ~ Remember ~ Fight Back
Sept. 9th - 10th, Lemansky Park, Auburn

Beginning at 6 p.m. on September 9th and continuing through noon on the 10th teams of people will walk the track at Lemansky Park in the annual Central South County Relay for Life. Highlights of this event include the survivor and caretaker walk and the luminaria ceremony.

The Relay for Life is a fundraising event for the American Cancer Society and is dedicated to helping the world celebrate more birthdays.





A WORD FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Hebrews 13:16 "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Your Stewardship Committee hopes you are blessed with a safe and enjoyable summer.

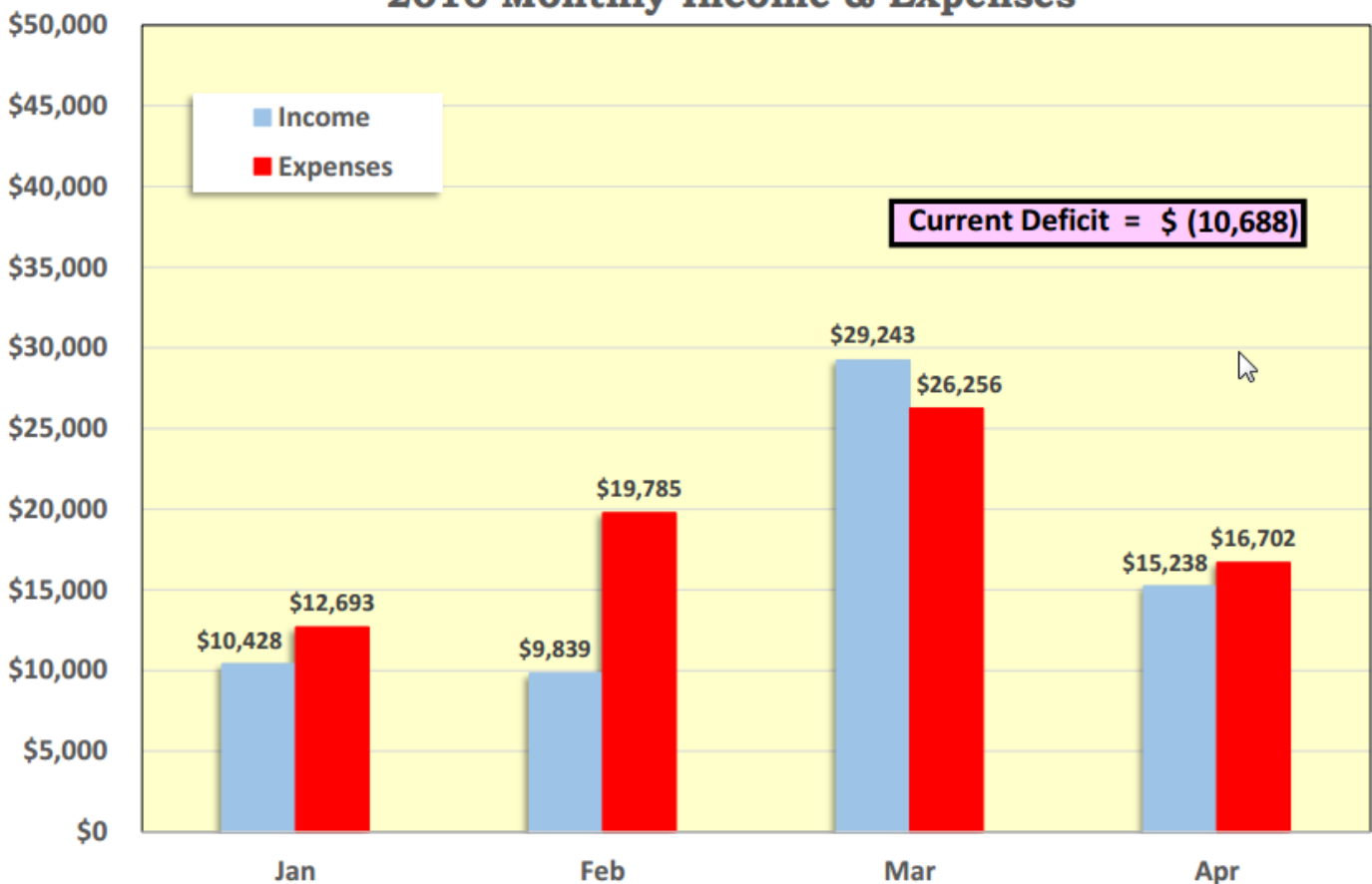
We are looking to compile a First Congregational Church cookbook in time for this year's Pumpkin Patch Fair (formerly known as the fall fair).

Please be in thought about recipes you can contribute. We will be looking for main meals, desserts, hors d'oeuvres, and more. We would love to include a children's section (easy recipes that can get the whole family involved while creating life-long memories in the process).

Stay tuned . . . Michele Schillinger will be forthcoming with more details.

Our thanks to Kendall Johnson's Daisy Troop (Troop 11040) and Cub Scout Pack 101, both of which meet at FCC, for their generous contributions of flower plantings here at FCC. Also, thank you to Nan Johnson for guiding the scouts on the best locations to plant.

**First Congregational Church
2016 Monthly Income & Expenses**



COMMUNITY YARD SALE---PLANT SALE---COOKOUT

SATURDAY, JUNE 18th, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Spring cleaning? Don't throw that good "stuff" away. Recycle it by selling it to someone who needs it! Do you have an accumulation of things that are just too good to throw away, but you no longer need? Don't have enough to hold your own yard sale?

Join us on the church lawn for our

COMMUNITY YARD SALE!

Spaces are \$15 for church members, \$20 for non-members. Use of a table is \$5 per table. Please contact Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646 or Denise in the church office at 508-832-2845 to secure your spot.

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

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

Phone: (508) 832-2845

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Email: secretary@auburnfirstucc.org
or PastorBrian@auburnfirstucc.org

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

Web: auburnfirstucc.org



BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Non-Profit Org.
Permit No. 6
Auburn, Mass

June 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

OR CURRENT RESIDENT