



# 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

## Advertising

There are many oxymorons in our culture. Things like jumbo shrimp, and the idea that media does not change people's ideas or actions but it is worth \$5 million to play a 30 second ad during the Super Bowl. If TV doesn't change our minds and actions why are commercials so expensive?

To cut down on activities we think are dangerous, especially to children, ads for tobacco are banned and ads for candy and fast food are regulated. People think ads can convince young people to do things that can hurt them. So remind me again why it is wrong to regulate what is shown on TV and at what times?

I tend to like two kinds of shows, children's cartoons and violent shows like *Walking Dead* and *Game of Thrones*. Cartoons have gotten much better since I was a kid. In my youth Hanna-Barbera used the same *Scooby Doo* animations in every episode. They also had multiple *Scooby Doo* knock offs — *JabberJaws*, *Captain Caveman*, *Speed Buggy*, were all shows about a group of teens solving mysteries along with a talking shark, a superhero caveman, and a talking dune buggy respectively.

Today there are a lot of really original and very entertaining cartoons. Likewise, shows aimed at adults have become more original, but also more violent and reveal more skin. TV shows are not like *Adam 12* or *I Love Lucy* anymore.

When I had kids at home, I tried to limit the shows they watched. The TV can change how we think and the TV shows a very strange and not at all realistic vision of the world. On TV, the world is meaner, more dangerous, and more violent. Every third person on TV is a murderer or a vampire, or a vampire murderer. In real life there are jerks, but most people will go out of their way to help you.

Our politicians raise billions of dollars for a successful presidential campaign and tens of millions to run for governor or senator. Virtually all that money goes to TV commercials. So someone thinks that TV can change people's minds. I find political ads to be especially corrosive. Political ads are mostly negative. The ad has ominous music so we feel the politician being attacked is a close ally to the greatest villains of history. In the last blitz for the N.H. primary, one idea formed from all the ads. The idea that stuck in my head was, “NO ONE IS TO BE TRUSTED.” (This ad was sponsored by some campaign or super PAC.) All the politicians running were not to be trusted, according to a competing campaign. No wonder politicians as a class are so maligned. They do it to themselves. All we get to do is vote for the lesser of two evils.

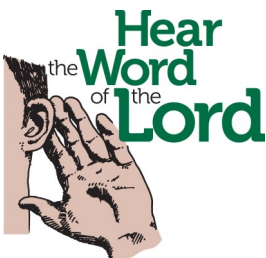
But what if like the world, politicians on TV are meaner, dumber, and more corrupt than they are in real life? Is it possible most of these people would be good at running the nation? Except for that one candidate you hate, of course.

Good luck and may the candidate you support win in the primary on March 1.

Pastor Brian

## SERMON TITLES FOR MARCH

- 3/6 “Happy Are Those Whose Transgression Is Forgiven, Whose Sin Is Covered”
- 3/13 “What Do You Most Value in You?”
- 3/20 The Passion of Christ
- 3/27 “The Light of a New Day”



**Coffee Hour Hosts**

March 6	Personnel Committee
March 13	Board of Deacons
March 20	Prudential Committee
March 27	Easter - no coffee hour
April 3 & 10	Music Committee

**NOTICE TO ALL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:**

There will be a weekend clean out of all storage locations within the church including the attic, basement and stages. The clean out will be either 4/30 or 5/7. We ask that all boards and committees that have items in storage to please go through all items prior to the clean out weekend. We will be throwing out any items that are not labeled to keep in storage. **We will also be looking for help on the clean out weekend to make it quick and easy work.**

Thank you, the Board of Trustees

**YARD SALE to be held JUNE 18TH**

**Please save the date.** We will be needing your help for a short time on Friday the 17th at 6pm and again on Saturday the 18th at 1:30 to carry tables out and back into the church. At

this time, it looks like we will not be having a church table, but spaces are available to rent for only \$15 (\$20 for non-Church members).

If you have questions or to rent a space, call me, Cindy Dube, at 508-832-6646.

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>**

Remember to set your clock ahead one hour when retiring on Saturday evening, March 12th.

**COMMUNITY SUPPER  
Featuring Chicken Piccata**

Saturday, March 19th, at 5p.m.

Adults - \$10 Children - free

Servers: Board of Deacons  
(additional volunteers are always appreciated)

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS  
ARE NOW AVAILABLE**

Scholarship applications are now 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 by April 15th.

**One Great Hour of Sharing — OGHS**

One Great Hour of Sharing is administered by the Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ and provides support to people in over 80 countries. When you make a gift to the offering you become a partner in the refugee, disaster relief, and community development efforts of the UCC in the United States and internationally. Through this fund lives are changed, and sharing brings joy!

You'll find offering envelopes enclosed in this month's *Tidings*. Please drop it in the offering plate on Sunday or mail to: FCC, 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501. Thank you!

**Happy  
Birthday to:**

3/16 - MacKenzie Young

3/26 - Jean McPherson



## Soup and Sandwich Supper



### LENTEN SERIES CONTINUES

We hope you'll join us on Wednesday nights during Lent (through Mar. 16) when we will meet over soup and sandwiches beginning at 6 p.m. We will be viewing VeggieTales movies which contain life lessons for all ages. Titles include:

March 2	"Josh and the Big Wall"
March 9	"King George and the Ducky"
March 16	"Larry Boy and the Rumor Weed"

Committees/Boards were asked to sign-up at the All Committee meeting to provide the soup/sandwiches for the Lenten series. At this time, the supper schedule is as follows:

- Mar 2 Stewardship Committee
- Mar 9 Music and Outreach Committees
- Mar 16 Memorial/Scholarship Committee AND ??? — We're hoping another committee or individuals will come forward to help the 3 member Memorial/Scholarship Committee.

### GOING GREEN

If you currently receive the *Tidings* newsletter via the U.S. Postal Service, and you have internet access, please consider subscribing to the *Tidings* electronically. Here's how it works: just contact the church office (508-832-2845, or via email at: [secretary@auburnfirstucc.org](mailto:secretary@auburnfirstucc.org)) and let us know you're willing to make the switch and we will send you an email notifying you once the latest version of the *Tidings* has been posted. Within the email will be a link to the church's website where you may view the newsletter. If you would rather read from a hard copy you may download and print the *Tidings* onto standard 8 1/2 x 11 paper right in the comfort of your own home (and if you have a colored printer you'll see all the wonderful clip art in color!). Still not convinced to make the switch? There's no risk. If you find you prefer "snail mail," just say the word and we can always change your mailing status back. Keep in mind, we currently print approximately 225 newsletters monthly; however, we need only 200 pieces to take advantage of the bulk mailing reduced rate.



**Palm Sunday** is March 20th. Our worship service will begin at 10 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday Service** will be held March 24th at 7 p.m.

**Good Friday** is March 25th ~ The Auburn Ecumenical Good Friday service will be held at 12:15 p.m. here at First Congregational. The sanctuary will be open for one's personal reflection after the service until 3 p.m.

**Easter Sunday** is March 27th ~ with our Sunrise Service at 6:00 a.m. at Hillside Cemetery and two worship services - 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at the church.

~ All Are Welcome ~



## Here We Grow Preschool

Happenings during the month of March: I cannot believe we are already in March!

Our final fundraiser — the “Prize Calendar” was run. We ran it for the entire month of February, giving parents the vacation week to seek out all family members and friends. The children will start pulling names on March 1<sup>st</sup>. We will post the winners in the outside hallway. There are great prizes and parents have been wonderful.

The children and staff celebrated Valentine’s Day with parties on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. They had a great time. The parents provided snacks which consisted of marshmallows, teddy grahams and M & M’s. We had a wonderful Valentine’s week filled with friendship and passing out of valentines. The children loved it! We also had our pajama day, where even the teachers wore their PJ’s.

We have been busy with tours for next year and getting ready for the remainder of this year. Our open house is March 8<sup>th</sup>, and I am already doing tours constantly. We are looking good.

We will be having our picture days on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, Neal Primeaux will be doing them again. The children love his great personality.

The children have started talking about Easter already. We will be coloring, eating and searching for eggs.

Looking ahead, we had such success with last year’s Intergenerational Day that we have planned another for May 2nd. It will be from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Look for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Until next month, stay healthy and safe.

Gina Basili, *Here We Grow* Director

Please join us for  
**Here We Grow’s Open House**  
 Tuesday, March 8th, from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M.



### FALL FAIR PLANNED FOR OCTOBER

We are looking to repeat the **Fall Fair**. With the foot traffic that is generated by the annual pumpkin patch, we anticipate that the **Fall Fair** will again be a huge fundraiser for the church!

And, once again we’re reaching out to the congregation for your ideas!

As you may recall, in the past we’ve had various themes or themed tables such as crafts, jellies/jams (food items), Christmas/Halloween sections, etc. To ensure its success, the planning must begin NOW!

**Please contact Cindy Ryan at 508-832-3416 with your ideas!**



March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, National Nutrition Month, Save Your Vision Month, National Eye Donor Month, National Kidney Month, American Red Cross Month, and National Poison Prevention Month.

Please don't forget the closet with the medical equipment. I have wheelchairs and a large tub seat available that aren't in the closet. If you don't see something in the closet, please ask me.

Widows/widowers will meet the first Friday of March at 9:30 in the green room. Coffee and... will be provided. I'm getting positive feedback, so I will continue to offer the meetings. The next one is March 4th.

March is a busy month, with Daylight Saving Time, St. Patrick's Day, spring's arrival on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. It ends with Easter....a new beginning.

Happy Spring, Happy Easter!  
Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse  
cell: 508-612-4521

### ESTATE PLANNING?

Have you included the church in your will or estate planning? Please prayerfully consider if the Lord would have you remember your church when completing your will.

*"One of the greatest missing teachings in the American church today is the reminder to men and women that nothing we have belongs to us."*

Gordon MacDonald, American Pastor & Teacher

## PANCAKES AT THE FARM

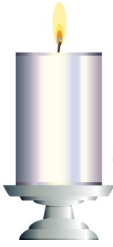
**March 5, 6, 12 & 13      9 am - 1 pm**

**HEIFER FARM      216 Wachusett Street      Rutland, MA**

Reserve a seat for Heifer Farm's annual "Pancakes at the Farm" the first two weekends in March. The meal includes pancakes covered in Heifer Farm's maple syrup and pork sausage with coffee and juice. After breakfast, tour the farm to view the maple sugaring operation, meet the newly born lambs, and explore Heifer's Global Village.

Reservations are required for this popular breakfast feast. The meal is \$12.00 per adult, \$6.00 per child (ages 3-10) and free for children 2 and under. Call 508-886-2221 for reservations.





## Deaths in Our Church Family

Please keep the following families in your thoughts and prayers.

**Ruth Virginia (Landgren) Benson**, 93, passed away at home on Wednesday, February 3rd. Her beloved husband, William R. Benson, Sr. passed away in 1999. Ruth leaves her two children, William R. Benson, Jr. and his partner, Andrea Burgantine, of Worcester and Karen Gustafson and her husband, Bruce, of Millbury; nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Ruth was predeceased by her daughter, Susan Wyman, son, Kenneth Benson, and sister, Alice Cournoyer.

Ruth was born in Worcester, a daughter of Eric J. and Edith T. (Wadelius) Landgren. She graduated from Commerce High School. Ruth worked for many years at Thom McAn Shoes before retiring. She was a longtime member of The First Congregational Church in Auburn. Ruth was a quiet person who was very dedicated to her family and spoiling her grandchildren.

Funeral services and burial were held privately on Saturday, February 6th. Arrangements were in care of Lindquist Lundin Funeral Home, 36 Butler Street, Worcester.

**Charlotte W. (Millay) Cohoon**, 79, of Auburn, died Thursday, February 11, 2016 surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Worcester and raised in Auburn, daughter of the late Philip and Alberta G. (Curtis) Millay. Charlotte graduated from Auburn High School in 1955. She lived in Auburn for 69 years before moving to Millbury in 2006. Charlotte worked in the banking field and was a banker of over 27 years for many banks including, 1st Federal, Freedom Federal, Northeast, Shawmut and Fleet before she retired in 1998. Charlotte was a faithful member of the First Congregational Church of Auburn. She enjoyed spending time with her family; she loved entertaining and was the most gracious hostess. She also enjoyed gardening, knitting, cooking and spending time on Cape Cod.

Her husband of 28 years, Foster A. Cohoon died in 2002. She leaves her loving family, a daughter, Laurie L. Weidman and her husband, Jon, of Holliston; two sons, Scott P. Hemming and his wife, Pamela, and Bruce B. Hemming and his wife, Carol, all of Webster; eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; a sister, Caroline Gilbert of CT; a brother, Philip Millay of Florida; her former husband, Robert Hemming of Millbury; nieces, nephews and many wonderful friends. A sister, Barbara Gallagher predeceased her. Arrangements were entrusted to Britton-Wallace Funeral Home, 91 Central Street, Auburn. Charlotte's funeral was held here on February 16, 2016 with burial in Hillside Cemetery, Auburn.

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

John 11:25

### Confirmation Class

We will be looking to hold an informational meeting in June for parents and their teens who are interested in attending our next Confirmation Class series which will begin in September. These classes are for 8th and 9th grade students and are designed to prepare our youth for their confirmation in 2017.

So, please discuss the classes with your teen and look for more information to come.

Again this year we are planning a Palm Sunday Breakfast which will take place on Sunday, March 20th, at 8:00 A.M. The breakfast is FREE, but a free-will donation will be accepted. Our thanks in advance to chefs Jennifer Bohn and Ron Hanks.

**There will be a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall so that we may plan for the appropriate number of people.**

The Outreach Committee is busy arranging for a guest speaker for this event. Please look for more info in future Sunday bulletins.

EVERYONE is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there!



### FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Happy Easter! I pray by the time you read this we are looking out in our yards and seeing the tulips and crocuses popping up and the grass beginning to green. This is a beautiful time of rebirth and renewal. May we all spend some time renewing our commitments to each other and the church.

The spring brings a very busy time for the young people in our church family as well. First I would like to thank everyone who helped us with our Valentine's Day fundraiser, especially Sue Campbell who gave us the idea and spent time teaching us how to make the hearts. We were able to raise \$119.00. Our next fundraiser is Butter Braids and cookie dough. If you have not already ordered some, please see a YOM member. The butter braids are great to have on hand for Easter breakfast and, well, cookies are great anytime!

I want to thank Jen Bohn for agreeing to help with Youth On a Mission. As a group we have decided to focus more on "mission" work and helping others in addition to our yearly New Hampshire Bible weekend. In March YOM will assist with the Palm Sunday breakfast put on by Jen Bohn and Ron Hanks. That same day YOM will act as "Easter bunnies" and help the little ones with our annual Easter egg hunt.

On Easter YOM will participate in the sunrise service. It will take place in the back of Hillside Cemetery at 6 a.m. This is always a beautiful service because we start in darkness and end as the sun is ascending. We are also looking for one day local mission work that we could participate in. If anyone knows of an organization that may need our help, please contact Jen or me.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

I am overjoyed to announce that Mike Schillinger and Rich McPherson have once again taken the reins and will be teaching the Grade 6 and up group. Thank you, gentlemen! If anyone would like to join them I am sure they would be open to assistance. Anyone that is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up that has yet to be confirmed is invited. They meet in the "green room" Sunday mornings. Anyone wishing to help with Sunday school, please see me to discuss the opportunity.

The annual Easter egg hunt will be Palm Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, at 11:15. As always, I will pray for nice weather so we can have the egg hunt on the front lawn but, rain or shine, we will have it. PLEASE SIGN UP FOR THIS EVENT!!!!!!! I just want to be sure that we have enough eggs for the kids. PLEASE INDICATE ON THE SIGN UP SHEET IF THERE IS AN ALLERGY.



I would also like to welcome the new Board of Ed. members, Laurie Babcock and Mike Schillinger, and thank the returning members: Pat Bukoski, Tricia Gervasi, Shannon Hartmann, and Theresa Stone.

Happy Easter to you all and may the sunshine bring warmth to your body and soul.

Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Ed.

### CONSIDER YOURSELF INVITED . . .



We continue to hold scheduled potluck suppers (a combination of potluck supper and a book/movie club with discussion time). The next get-together will be on **Tuesday, March 15th at 6 p.m.** when we'll be discussing the book *At Home in Mitford* by Jan Karon. It's easy to feel at home in Mitford. In these high, green hills, the air is pure, the village is charming, and the people are generally lovable. Yet, Father Tim, the bachelor rector, wants something more. Enter a dog the size of a sofa who moves in and won't go away. Add an attractive neighbor who begins wearing a path through the hedge. Now, stir in a lovable but unloved boy, a mystifying jewel theft, and a secret that's sixty years old. Suddenly, Father Tim gets more than he bargained for. And readers get a rich comedy about ordinary people and their ordinary lives.

Looking ahead to April we'll be viewing the movie *Babette's Feast* on the 19th beginning at 5:30 p.m. Sisters Martine and Philippa grow to spinsterhood under the wrathful eye of their strict pastor father until one day Philippa's former suitor sends a Parisian refugee named Babette to serve as the family cook. Babette's lavish celebratory banquet tempts the family's dwindling congregation, who abjure such fleshly pleasures as fine foods and wines. **EVERYONE is invited to join us for any or all parts of these get-togethers.**

**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 off at the Church or mail it to: FCC, 128 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501. Please submit your order form with payment **no later than Sunday, March 20th.**

**Lilies (1 stem) \$10.00** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Lilies (2 stems) \$20.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tulips 8" \$10.00** \_\_\_\_\_ **12" \$18** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color Choice: Yellow \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_  
 Red \_\_\_\_\_ Orange \_\_\_\_\_

**Double Tulips 8" \$10.00** \_\_\_\_\_ **12" \$18** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color Choice: Red w/ Yellow edges \_\_\_\_\_  
 Red w/ white edges \_\_\_\_\_

**Blue Hyacinth \$10.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dedication: (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)**  
 PLEASE PRINT YOUR DEDICATION EXACTLY HOW YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR IN THE BULLETIN INCLUDING WHO IT'S FROM.

**In Memory of / In Celebration of/for:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** (contact person) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If you have questions, please call Connie or Ron Hanks at 508-832-4227 or the church office at 508-832-2845.**

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*



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**March 2016**

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**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**