



2018

# 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*

## GIVING THANKS

We come again to our time for thanksgiving. Again, we can say there is nothing to be thankful for; there were fires and hurricanes, tsunamis and floods. Every year we can say that there is nothing to be thankful for.

If we have nothing to be thankful for, the pilgrims had even less. They arrived in the New World in December. They landed a thousand miles from their destination in Virginia. Half of the people who made landfall would be dead in 2 months, as an epidemic swept through Plymouth.

At one point there were so many sick that only 6 or 7 people were healthy enough to nurse the rest. Of 110 passengers who set sail, only 47 survived to the first Thanksgiving; half of the Mayflower’s 30 man crew died that winter as well. Not one family that came over on the Mayflower was intact when spring came. Each and every family lost a child and/or a parent.

The mortality rate for people coming to the New World boggles the mind. 25% of sailing and early steam ships setting out on the journey across the Atlantic never made it. As late as the 1880’s, shipwreck was a serious risk to travel.

During colonial times 50% of people who arrived in the New World would die within a year of arriving. It seems New World germs were almost as deadly to Europeans as Old World germs were to Native Americans.

Yet, still people gave thanks. They were grateful for the blessings they had received.

Even in the face of death and rocky New England soil, the Pilgrims gave thanks. They gave thanks, even though they grieved loved ones they had just laid to rest.

To be thankful is not to forget what we lost. Giving thanks is to make room in our loss to acknowledge what we still have. God does not leave us utterly bereft. Blessings flow like a never ending stream even when times are tough. May we never lose hope or become so despondent that we have nothing to be thankful for.

Pastor Brian



### **NOVEMBER SERMON TITLES**

- 11/4 “In-laws”
- 11/11 “Obed’s Mom and Dad”
- 11/18 “What Is Great Will Be Torn Down”
- 11/25 “What Is Truth?”

### **Community Thanksgiving Eve Service**

7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>  
at Faith Church, 22 Faith Ave., Auburn

A monetary offering will be taken to benefit the less fortunate in our community.

**Happy Birthday wishes to:**

- Rich McPherson ~ Nov. 6th
- Nick Stockhaus ~ Nov. 7th
- Victoria Stockhaus ~ Nov. 14th
- Suzanne Kress ~ Nov. 22nd



**Birthdays & Anniversaries This Month!**

Happy Anniversary to Skip and Paula Bigelow who will be celebrating their special day on November 29th.

**Coffee Hour Hosts:**

- 11/4 Financial Secretaries/Treasurers
- 11/11 & 18 Board of Ed
- 11/25 Board of Trustees
- 12/2 Historian, Nominating, Library & Memorial/Scholarship Committees

I am proud to be a member of such a generous church family. I turned \$443 in to the Auburn Faith Walk for Hunger. We have passed the Celtic family sneakers for at least 10 years now and they have amazingly brought in over \$3,000 for the Auburn food pantries at Auburn Youth and Family Services and Kateri's Kitchen. St. Joseph's and North American Martyrs also use these sneakers in their fundraising so they have brought in even more! Thank you so much for helping feed many hungry families.

Sue Campbell

**"Timely Reminder"**

Remember to turn your clocks back on November 3rd before retiring for the evening. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on November 4th.

**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



We celebrated the baptism of Emmeline Grace Bjork on Sunday, October 14th.

Emmeline is the 3½ month-old daughter of Corey and Laura Bjork and the grand-niece of Judy Bjork. We pray for God's continued blessing upon Emmeline and her family.

**Neighbors In Need**

Neighbors in Need is the UCC's annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries office which offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network, Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, MN. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

You'll find an offering envelope enclosed in this month's Tidings. Please return it to the church, and thank you for your help.

\* \* \* **PUMPKIN PATCH FAIR** \* \* \*

**THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the fair fundraiser, whether through donations, by working the fair, making purchases, or all of the above — it was a real team effort! The final numbers are not in yet, but early tallies show profits totaling over \$7,000!!!**

MANY THANKS to so many who helped behind the scenes with the fair. Special thanks to Cindy Ryan, Diane Moore and Judy Murphy for all their hard work, to Gayle Farley for heading up our newest category, "Vintage Treasures," to Shannon Hartmann for all her efforts overseeing the jewelry tables, to Cindy Dube for recruiting and organizing craft vendors, to Shirley Hill for encouraging church members to show off their crafting talents, to Sheila Skog, Pat Bukoski, Michelle Bigelow and Stephanie Sanborn for their helping hands. **Thank you to everyone who helped the day of the fair** (too numerous to mention here, but know you are appreciated) and to all who helped with clean-up after the fair. And, to Mike Schillinger, our sexton, for all his hard work. Lastly, thanks to anyone we may have overlooked (please accept our apology).



**THANK YOU** to everyone who has helped with this year's pumpkin patch. The pumpkin patch total as of the end of the day October 23rd = \$16,528. Of that amount 67% goes to support the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico. From Christian support and with diligent coverage, First Congregational's volunteers (to date) have earned our church 33% profit from numerous public sales. With 8 more days (as of this writing) until the close of our patch, there is hope and faith that sales will continue to bless us. Thank you for the generous support.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO DEBBIE MAHLERT, LINDA MAHLERT, SHEILA SKOG, JUDI TAFT and SUE MACPHEE** for all they did in organizing this fundraiser.

Our thanks to the Auburn community for supporting our fundraiser and supporting the Navajo Indian Reservation in Farmington, NM where the pumpkins are grown on 1,200 acres or approximately 2 square miles of pumpkins. During the harvest months of September and October over 700 Native Americans are employed as well as a full time off-season New Mexico staff that is comprised entirely of Native Americans. This has a positive and lasting impact on a region with 42% unemployment.

Thank you to all for another successful pumpkin patch season!

Join us monthly for our potluck supper get-togethers. The potlucks begin at 5:30 p.m. on movie nights and 6:00 p.m. on book discussion nights. You do NOT have to read the book, if you just want to come for food and fellowship, please do! Our next get-together will be on **Tuesday, November 20th, at 5:30 p.m.** when we will view the movie *Moana*. *"An adventurous teenager sails out on a daring mission to save her people. During her journey, Moana meets the once-mighty demigod Maui, who guides her in her quest to become a master way-finder. Together they sail across the open ocean on an action-packed voyage, encountering enormous monsters and impossible odds. Along the way, Moana fulfills the ancient quest of her ancestors and discovers the one thing she always sought: her identity."*

In December we will be viewing the 1954 film *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (on **Tuesday, December 18th, beginning at 5:30 p.m.**) *"During the 1850s, Milly (Jane Powell), a pretty young cook, marries Adam (Howard Keel), a grizzled woodsman, after a brief courtship. When the two return to Adam's farm, Milly is shocked to meet his six ill-mannered brothers, all of whom live in his cabin. She promptly begins teaching the brothers proper behavior, and most importantly, how to court a woman. But after the brothers kidnap six local girls during a town barn-raising, a group of indignant villagers tries to track them down."*



November is American Diabetes Month, Bladder Health Month, COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) Awareness Month, Diabetic Eye Disease Month, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, National Family Caregivers Month, National Healthy Skin Month, National Hospice Palliative Care Month, and Stomach Cancer Awareness Month.

November 9th is National Diabetes Heart Connection Day

November 13-19th is U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week

November 16th is the Great American Smokeout.

November 17th is International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day

November 20-26th is Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease Awareness Week

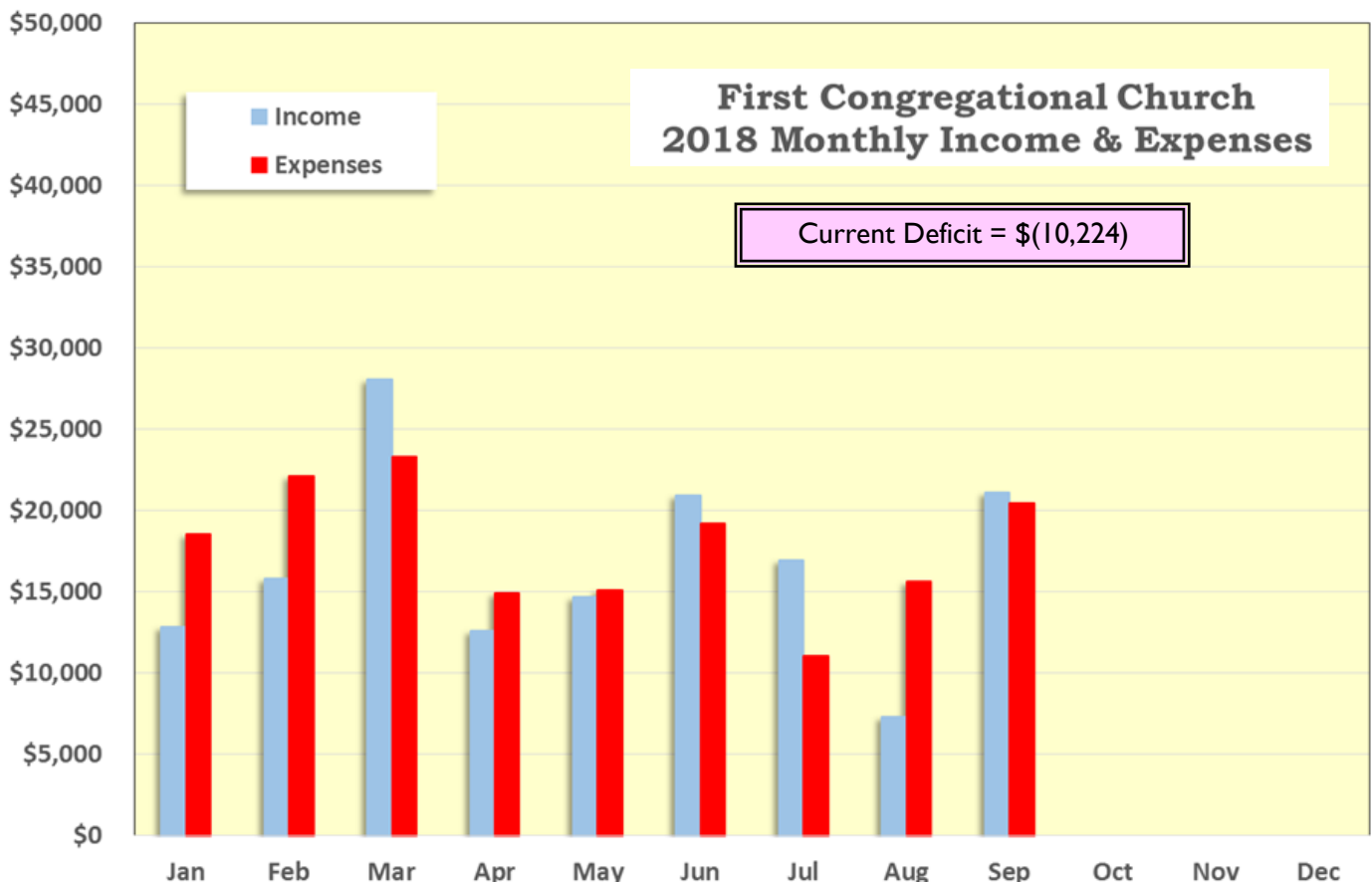
November 22nd is National Family Health History Day

If you know of anyone that needs medical equipment, please check the closet. If the item you need isn't there, please ask me because I know some people are storing items at home.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and God bless!

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

Below is a chart depicting 2018 income and expenses through September. In an effort to keep the congregation informed of church finances, each month the Church Treasurer, Nick Stockhaus, prepares a chart for inclusion in the *Tidings'* newsletter.



### From Jean McPherson, the Director of Religious Education

I can't believe it is already November! I want to thank everyone who participated in our pie/cookie dough fundraiser, YOM raised \$249.00. The pies will be delivered November 11, after service. If you have not paid, please bring a check (made out to the church with YOM in the memo) with you.

Sunday school is busy and learning about God's acceptance and forgiveness and how we can accept and forgive others. We hope you enjoyed our Harvest Parade during coffee hour. Prior to "entertaining" you, we had a celebration downstairs to celebrate the harvest season and all the bounty we are blessed to receive.

#### LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

**PARENTS' NIGHT OUT will be Friday, December 7th.** For those of you who do not know, Parents' Night Out (PNO) is an annual event here at church. The youth group, along with chaperones, will feed and entertain your children and give you some much needed time to do whatever it is you want. Some take the time to shop or bake, while others just go to dinner for some much needed relaxation. The choice is yours. We only ask you to **SIGN UP AHEAD OF TIME**, and, of course, return for your children. We will also need to know if your child/ren have an allergy; we usually serve pizza, juice and something sweet.

**The cookie walk will be on Sunday, December 16.** As always, any and all donations are welcome. I believe that we are all set for cookie tins, but if you have a favorite tin/container that you would like to bring, by all means bring it and we can price it for you that morning.

May the memories of your loved ones keep you warm as the temperature gets cool. As you sit around the Thanksgiving table and share grace, remember those who are still seeking the comfort of our Father's love. Pray that this season will bring them understanding and acceptance of His unending love and forgiveness.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

### Here We Grow Preschool



Welcome everyone to the third month of the school year. Everyone has settled in nicely and we are greeted each morning by happy, smiling faces. The children and staff are busy planning and preparing for Thanksgiving and the winter holidays.

During October we had visits from the Auburn Fire and Police Departments. The children talked about the safest way to exit their homes in case of fire. The Police talked to the children about Halloween and safety tips they should follow.

During the month of November, the students of **Here We Grow** will be participating in feast day. Our feast day tradition began years ago when Fawn Robidoux, **Here We Grow's** first director, started this wonderful experience. We will again be participating in "The Giving Basket." All foods collected will be given to Pastor Brian to distribute to families in need during the season of Thanksgiving. We hope to continue with the tremendous amount of support from the HWG families as the need for help grows each year.

Have you been thinking about sending your child to preschool? Are you unsure if your child is ready for school? Some of the things we ask parents to consider are: how much interaction does your child have with other children? What are you hoping to get out of school? When will they be going to kindergarten? For the younger children, the focus should be more on socialization, rather than academics. We want children to learn to be comfortable with adults other than Mom and Dad and to get along with others. We want them to gain some independence, to learn to share and to know that they cannot always have what they want the moment they want it. As they get a little older and are preparing for kindergarten, we turn our attention to proper pencil grip, letter recognition and printing as well as other skills needed to move up to the "big" school.

As you're thinking about school and looking at different programs available, try to keep in mind that most children at 3 and 4-years-old are not physically or emotionally ready to sit for long periods of time and focus on "academics." They need a good balance of structured learning time and free play time; they learn a lot during that play time.

Until next month, enjoy the season of fall and stay healthy.

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



**2019 COMMITTEE SEARCH NOMINEES WANTED**

As Nominating representatives of the First Congregational Church, namely Sue MacPhee, Judi Taft and Melynn Guilford, we are searching for continued committee support. If you are a church member and interested in joining any committee vacancy listed below, then please let us know. Please complete a Nomination request form and drop it off in our Church Office; or, contact one of us directly. If you're hesitant and have questions, please contact us or other members for more details.

**Open Nomination Committee Vacancies are as follows:**

<b>Deacons:</b>	4 vacancies @ <b>Three year term</b> from 2019-2021 2 vacancies @ <b>Two year term</b> from 2019-2020 1 vacancy @ <b>Partial term</b> from Present 2018-2019
<b>Stewardship:</b>	2 vacancies @ <b>Three year term</b> from 2019-2021 1 vacancy @ <b>Partial term</b> from Present 2018-2019
<b>Trustees:</b>	1 vacancy @ <b>Two year term</b> from 2019-2020
<b>Board of Education:</b>	2 vacancies @ <b>Three year term</b> from 2019-2021
<b>Memorial/Scholarship:</b>	1 vacancy @ <b>Three year term</b> from 2019-2021
<b>Music:</b>	1 vacancy @ <b>Three year term</b> from 2019-2021
Terms begin following election at the January 2019 Annual Meeting and end date (i.e., 2019, 2020 or 2021) extends until the following January's Annual Meeting changeover. (Example: a term ending 2020 would extend until the changeover at the January 2021 annual meeting.) Per our revised 2018 By-Laws, extended terms by a member cannot exceed 6 years without a one year break. As such, nominee openings not listed above were thankfully filled already and waiting for January's approval.	

To all current Committee persons, God bless you and THANK YOU for your faithful commitment and continued fellowship at First Congregational Church in Auburn. Our Nominating Committee will continue to do its best toward collecting member nominees for open vacancies beginning 2019. To all other members, please ask your questions and join a committee so these groups won't become short staffed. Making friends and working within a team binds us together in church fellowship that's filled with love of our church and our faith.

Our contact information is:

**Sue MacPhee:** Home Phone — (508) 832-9347, Gmail: Susiemac2002@gmail.com

**Judi Taft** — (508) 752-2023, email: jtaft01527@aol.com

**Melynn Guilford:** — (508) 904-2921, email: melyng3@yahoo.com

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**NOMINATING VOLUNTEER SLIP**

I'm interested in: \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_ My Contact number is: \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to call is: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please turn in your slip to the church secretary's inbox located on her office door.)

Greetings from your Outreach Committee!

If you are anything like me, chances are you do not know the breadth of outreach that we do here at First Congregational Church of Auburn. Here is an outreach update to help bring you out of the darkness and into the light.

One thing we do, we collect nonperishable food in a grocery carriage every Communion Sunday (the first Sunday of the month). The carriage is right there where we are pleasantly greeted by a warm smile, a handshake, or if you are lucky, a hug! Did you know that FCC in Auburn has our very own food pantry? About 12 families come to church a month! Each family gets to fill a bag with food and get a \$10 Shaw's card. Your donations stay local and help support families right here in our community! Although we are a small food pantry, many families depend on the generosity of our congregation to feed their family! Here is what we have donated in pantry items the last three months, in monetary form: June 2018 - approximately \$33, August 2018 - approximately \$40 and September 2018 - approximately \$102.

With the Holiday season right around the corner, your Outreach Committee and Here We Grow, alongside Pastor Brian and Denise, are ramping things up. Here We Grow holds an annual food drive for Thanksgiving. Outreach has agreed to donate \$500 towards turkeys for those local families in need during Thanksgiving. This, combined with a generous monetary donation from Britton Wallace, will go a long way in helping families in need this holiday season. We also support any Here We Grow families that find themselves in tough times. So, the food bank is something the church is actively participating in every month.

Do you ever wonder what Outreach is supporting that the congregation may not see? I certainly did! Here are a couple of groups that we have partnered with.

In April, Outreach donated \$250 to Dismas House, located in Oakham Ma. Here is their mission statement: "The mission of Dismas is to reconcile former prisoners to society, and society to former prisoners, through the development of a supportive community." There are 35 acres of farmland in Oakham and a housing location in Worcester. Dismas is celebrating 28 years of serving former prisoners and their families. They create a hard working, family environment teaching skills and work ethic. The farm is a working farm with crops and animals, candle making and woodworking. No one stays for free. You work at the farm or have a full time job. If you would like to learn about this fantastic organization go to [www.dismasisfamily.org](http://www.dismasisfamily.org).

First Congregational Church in Auburn partners with Church World Service (CWS) as part of the United Church of Christ. Over 70 years old, partnering with 17 denominations, the CWS has been responding to US disasters at the request of its member churches since the 1970s. Their mission is: "Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, comfort the aged, shelter the homeless." CWS began during the aftermath of WWII, collecting over 11 million pounds of food, clothing and medicine to war torn countries. From there, the group has helped refugees, planted over 20 million fruit trees in North Africa to help prevent erosion and create food and was also right there in North Carolina helping evacuees by offering blankets. The reach of this organization is vast and strong. Outreach will be sending \$250 to CWS for Hurricane Florence Relief. By donating through the CWS we know for sure our money is going directly to help those most in need!

Outreach also designated \$250 to help those affected by the gas situation in the Merrimack Valley. A check was sent through the Mass Conference office in Framingham.

Your Outreach Committee always has it's ears open for new groups or organizations to partner with. Our mailbox is right next to the elevator, feel free to share any information you would like us to discuss!

Thank you and have a wonderful day!

Shannon Hartmann, Secretary - Outreach



Jean McPherson wishes to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and cards following the recent passing of her mother, Kathy Whitney.

### **"Growing Our Faith Through Generosity"**

The Stewardship Committee wishes to thank all of you who have taken the time to fill out and return your pledge cards. To help us save on costs associated with a follow-up mailing, **it is important that you return your pledge card whether you plan on pledging or not.**

Thank you again and may God bless you.

Your Stewardship Committee

**2018 Christmas Poinsettia Order**

Once again we are offering the opportunity to purchase poinsettias at great prices. In the past we've decorated the sanctuary with these beautiful plants and at the close of the Christmas Eve service members are able to claim their plants and continue to enjoy them at home, or give them as gifts. You may dedicate your poinsettias in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion, etc. Please complete the poinsettia order form below and include a check or cash with your order. Please use a separate order form for each plant.



**Poinsettia Given By:** PLEASE PRINT

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

**Size: (Please indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd color choices.)**

**Single Plant Pot \$8.00**

Color: Red \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Marble \_\_\_\_\_

**Double Plant Pot \$15.00**

Color: Red \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Marble \_\_\_\_\_

**Three Plant Pot \$22.00**

Color: Red \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ no marble \_\_\_\_\_

**Four Plant Pot \$28.00**

Color: Red \_\_\_\_\_ no pink \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ no marble \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you will **NOT** be taking your poinsettia home.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Michele Schillinger, cell # 508-259-2239.

**ORDERS DUE BY DEC. 9<sup>TH</sup>**

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

**First Congregational 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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November 2018						
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**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**