

---

# 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

This year we are hosting the Community Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, November 27th. We will invite the community to our church to give thanks for the good things of the last year. We might even give thanks for the bad things that might become good as time goes on and we look back on them.

It is also good to give thanks for the great people who make our town a better place to live. At this service the town will be giving out the John E. & Ethel E. Riley Outstanding Citizenship Award. (John and Ethel are Martha Pappas’ parents.) This award was created in 1976 to honor the Rileys for their contribution to serving and making life better for Auburn citizens. John served as the Town Clerk from 1922 to 1975 and Ethel served as an Assistant for many years. There was money donated and put into a Certificate of Deposit. The interest earned is given to the recipient chosen each year. The committee consists of the:

- Chair of the Selectmen
- Commander of Chester P. Tuttle Post (American Legion)
- Grand Knight of the Auburn Knights of Columbus
- High School Senior Class President
- Master of the Masonic Lodge
- News Media Person Covering News in Auburn and a Citizen of Auburn Named by the Selectmen
- President of the Auburn Ecumenical Cluster
- Town Clerk
- Town Meeting Member chosen by the Moderator, an educator named by the School Committee

Some people who are associated with the church who have won the Riley Award for their good works are: Bob and Carole Murray, Pat Bukoski, Lee and Rev. Fenby, and George Fournier. I am sure I am missing others as well.

I hope you will join us Wednesday night, November 27th, at 7:30 p.m. to give thanks.

Pastor Brian



### **NOVEMBER SERMON TITLES**

- 11/3 “A Bad Dream?”
- 11/10 “Is Marriage About Love?”
- 11/17 “A Delight and a Joy”
- 11/24 “Christ the King”

### **Community Thanksgiving Eve Service**

7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>  
here at First Congregational Church.

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



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

**Coffee Hour Hosts:**

11/3	Financial Secretaries/Treasurers
11/10 & 17	Board of Ed
11/24	Board of Trustees
12/1	Nominating, Library & Memorial/Scholarship Committees

Sue Campbell wishes to thank everyone who gave so generously to the Auburn Walk for Hunger. The passing of the Celtics' sneakers on Communion Sunday (October 6th) resulted in \$479 for the Auburn food pantries at Auburn Youth and Family Services and Kateri's Kitchen.

Thank you so much for helping feed many hungry families.

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 19th, at 6 p.m.** when we will discuss the book, *The First Gardener* by Denise Hildreth Jones.

*"Jeremiah Williams has been tending the gardens of the Tennessee governor's mansion for over twenty-five years. He has come to realize that his gift of gardening is about far more than pulling weeds and planting flowers. It's about tending hearts as well. A Southern tale of loss, love, and living, The First Gardener reminds us that all of life is a gift, but our heart is the most valuable gift of all."*

In December we will be viewing the film, *The Bells of St. Mary*.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with this year's pumpkin patch. The pumpkin patch total as of the end of the day October 24th = \$17,072. 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 7 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.

**ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEES & BOARDS**  
 The Trustees are requesting that all boards and committees submit their budget requests by their next meeting scheduled for November 21st.



**A "Timely" Reminder**  
 Remember to turn your clocks back before retiring for the evening on November 2nd. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on November 3rd.

Fall sports are coming to an end, warm nights have turned into chilly mornings, and the leaves left on the trees are beautiful! All that hustle and bustle to start a new school year is in the rear view, as we start to look ahead to another crazy holiday season. Halloween is the kick-off for sure, but Thanksgiving starts the true love of the holidays! A time to be thankful for all we have and a time to remember those who have much less. This season, let's focus on our children! Outreach is here to help guide you with your giving and also represent you as we help to lift up the children, many of whom are stuck in darkness.

Because there will be children in this world that are starving, your Outreach Committee has donated \$250 to "Feed My Starving Children." This is a group of approximately 500 volunteers that package 100,000 meals for hungry children all over the world. They work out of St. George's Cathedral in Worcester. Our donation can feed 6 children for an entire year! We are so pleased to have been introduced to this organization and hope to volunteer next year!

Because there are children without families to spoil them, your Outreach Committee has partnered with NFI Massachusetts (North American Family Institute). NFI is a locked, co-ed, intensive, residential program for teens aged 13-19 that may have a mental health diagnosis or suffered from trauma (often a combination of both). Some of these children come from the foster program because there is no place for them. We have allocated \$500 to purchase Christmas gifts and will also be asking for in kind donations of ALCOHOL FREE toiletry items throughout the month of November. Thank you in advance for your participation!!!

Although not specific to children, your Outreach Committee also donated \$1,000 to UCC disaster ministries for the damage from Hurricane Dorian. Through the UCC, we know that 100% of our donation goes directly to those in need!

Lastly, you have donated \$97 toward our food pantry for this month! You guys are awesome!

The generosity of YOU, the members of our church, is an answered prayer to children and families all over the world... including our neighbors here!!! God works through all of us. Please continue to think of those less fortunate than us and pray for all of those that will help them!

Thank you and God Bless,  
Your Outreach Committee

Items requested for in kind donation for NFI: (NO alcohol and NO aerosol cans)

ChapStick lip balm	Body wash/soap/lotion
Nail polish	Shampoo/conditioner; hair accessories (brush, comb, elastics, etc.)
Band-aids	Face wash & wash cloth
Deodorant	Feminine products (please, name brand only on feminine products to ensure quality)
Oral hygiene	Makeup sets; compact mirror
Water bottles	Playing cards, puzzles, fidget spinners
Flashlight	

(If anyone is trying to get rid of a stationary bike or a treadmill, please contact Shannon Hartmann 339-222-1841.)

## 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 United States.

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



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

November 9th is National Diabetes Heart Connection Day

November 12th-18th is U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week

November 15th is the Great American Smokeout

November 17th-23rd is Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease Awareness Week

November 23rd is International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day

November 28th is National Family Health History Day

I've acquired a little more storage space for medical equipment. If you need something and it's not in the closet, please check with me. Thank you for the support with the flu shot clinic. The people who got the shingles vaccine need a second injection and I will set a date for it after the first of the year. You will also be able to get the first shingles injection at that time, if you so desire. There were 39 injections administered at the flu shot clinic — thank you, again.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and God bless!

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

#### FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Happy thanksgiving! I pray that you can spend time with loved ones this Thanksgiving. We are all very fortunate and I hope you all take time to thank God our Father for all your blessings.

I would like to thank Lynn Largesse for taking over the fall pie/cookie dough fundraiser; this is a good fundraiser and I appreciate the assistance. As I shared last month, Lillian McPherson and Shannon Hartmann have joined in leading the group this year. Our plans are to meet twice a month. The first Sunday of the month we will meet for a bible-based curriculum that we received at Monadnock last year and to plan our activity for the coming month. The YOM kids helped with the Harvest Festival on October 27 with the Sunday school kids. Our outing will be an Escape room. Our mission for November will be a shoe box campaign and we are teaming up with the Outreach Committee to fill the boxes (see list in Outreach article on page 3). The boxes will then be distributed to local children. If you have any shoe boxes, please bring them to church and give to me or any YOM member.

Looking ahead, we will hold the annual Parent's Night out on Friday, December 6, from 6-8pm, with the YOM party following from 8-9pm. The annual Cookie Walk is December 15, more information coming in November. Our Monadnock weekend is targeted for January 31-February 2.

The Sunday school is going well, and I appreciate Judi Taft for volunteering to be this month's "floater" and thank Sheila Skog for volunteering last month. This job is very low key, but very helpful to the teachers. October 27 we celebrated a Harvest Festival which concluded with our annual "Halloween Parade" in fellowship hall following the service.

We are still looking for middle school leaders and cradle roll volunteers. Please see Katie Sharr or me if you're interested.

I count you all as a blessing in your own way and I am very thankful for each of you. I pray as we begin this holiday season that you all feel the love that is given freely to us all without hesitation.

With His guidance we serve,

Jean McPherson

Director of Religious Education

## Here We Grow Preschool



Welcome everyone to the third month of the school year. I want to take a moment to apologize for not making it to the service I planned on attending; I was, unfortunately, not feeling well that weekend. My plan was to, once again, thank all of you for your continued support of **Here We Grow**. We as a staff are all grateful to be part of an amazing school/church community. We wouldn't be the amazing program we are without the backing and support of this church.

We do still have some openings available for this school year and could use your help spreading the word to your friends with children/grandchildren who are 2.9 years old and up. We are unique in that, unlike some programs in our area, we offer a rolling admission; so families do not have to wait until September to enroll their children. We accept new enrollment up until February. We also want to invite anyone who would like to see what we do to come on in and spend the day visiting in a classroom; the children love to have visitors.

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 and got to check out the fire trucks that came to visit. The police talked to the children about Halloween and gave them tips they should follow to stay safe while trick-or-treating.

The children and staff are busy planning and preparing for Thanksgiving and the winter holidays. During the month of November the students of **Here We Grow** will be learning about: Healthy Foods, Manners, What We Are Thankful For, and the First Thanksgiving. Our feast days are November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Our feast day tradition began over 28 years ago when Fawn Robidoux, **Here We Grow's** first director, began this wonderful experience.

The children and families of HWG 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. The need for help grows each year.

We are also, once again, collecting coats for Auburn Youth and Family Services. There is a large blue box outside the HWG office if you would like to drop off coats/winter wear.

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

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



We celebrated the baptism of Paige Amelia O'Neill on Sunday, October 20th. Paige is the 7-month-old daughter of James and Kyla O'Neill. Her grandparents are Jennifer and Randy Bohn. Great-grandparents are Judy Murphy and Mike and Cindy Dube.

We pray for God's continued blessing upon  
Paige and her family.

### Message from the Nominating Committee:

January's Annual Meeting is just around the corner and there are still seven nominee vacancies ready for your church spirit of volunteering.

Nominees from our FCC membership are still needed for filling Board of Deacons (5 vacancies); and Board of Trustees (2 vacancies).

Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall; or, please contact one of us.

We continue to count our blessings with the support provided by all members currently serving on a committee and to those who have chosen to be nominated in January 2020. Thank you.

Nominating Committee Contact info:

Sue MacPhee - (508) 832-9347 (or)

Judi Taft - (508) 341-4530

With God, All Things are Possible...

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in Consecration Sunday or returned a pledge card. As of October 16, First Congregational Church has received 64 responses for a total of \$106,000.

If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please do so (whether you're making a pledge or not) so that we can plan the budget for 2020. The Deacons or the church office can help you if you don't have a pledge card. No pledge is too small, and if your situation changes your pledge can be changed at any time.

Your support helps First Congregational thrive. When we all work together, as with the Pumpkin Patch and Fall Fair, we accomplish amazing things!

In His love,  
Your Stewardship Committee  
Michelle Bigelow, Nan Johnson, Ellie Lowell, Debbie Mahler, Linda Mahler, Martha Pappas

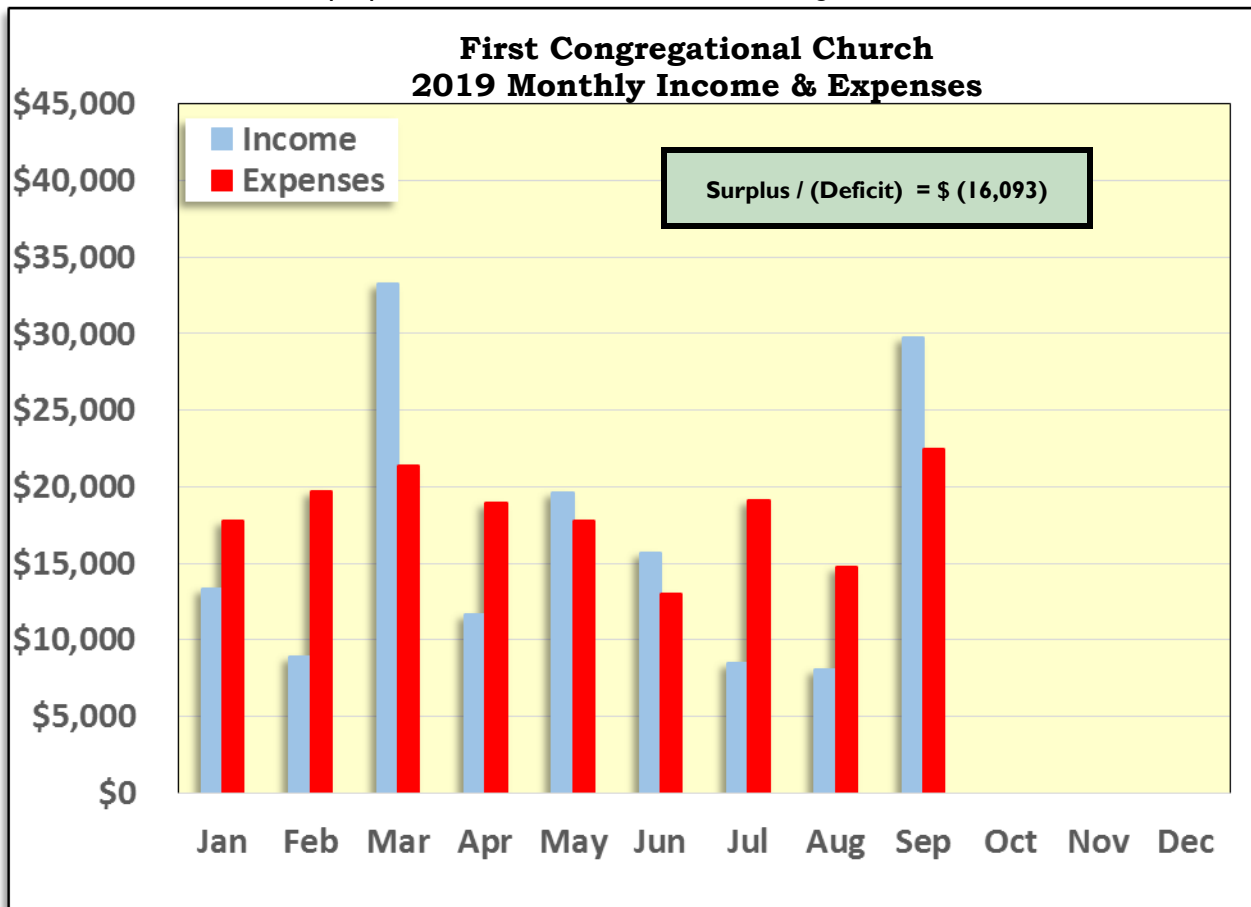
When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed. - Maya Angelou

From the Church Secretary

I recently experienced some trouble receiving emails. Please note that I always try to make a point of responding to emails. So, now and in the future, it's a good idea to assume I didn't receive your email if I haven't sent you an acknowledgement.

Thanks,  
Denise

Below is a chart depicting 2019 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.





## NEW!! — CRAFT CLUB

While at the Fair, a group of us were discussing getting together to try out some new craft ideas. From that conversation blossomed the idea to form a Craft Club here at FCC. This will be an adult activity. There will be a fee to cover the cost of supplies. Any excess money collected that is not spent on that month's craft, will be turned into the church (it has not been decided for what use at the time of this printing).

Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, December 11, at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall. We will be making a wall hanging of a Christmas tree made from repurposed jewelry. By the end of the evening, all participants will have a finished product to take home with them. Go on Pinterest and search "Christmas tree made from jewelry" to get an idea of what yours might resemble.

The activity is limited to 15 people and must be paid for by Sunday, December 8th. Please feel free to sign up a friend to come with you. You will be informed of what you need to bring with you when you register.

You can fill out the form below and put it, along with your payment, in the collection plate, in the mail slot on the outside door, or leave it with Denise. (**Checks should be made out to Cindy Dube.**) If you have questions, you may contact Cindy by calling or texting her at 774-238-0260.

CHRISTMAS TREE CRAFT December 11th at 6:30 pm

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

# of people attending \_\_\_\_\_

\$20.00 per person    Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



Please update your church directory with Cliff Peterson's new address: 88 Masonic Home Road, R108, Charlton, MA 01507.

Please remember Cliff and his family in your prayers due to the recent passing of his daughter, Christine Rawley.



Also, please be in prayer for Kathy Holt and the Holt family due to the passing of Dave Holt. Arrangements were incomplete at the time of this printing.

Thank you to **EVERYONE** who contributed to the pumpkin patch fair! The final numbers are not yet known, so please look for more information in the December *Tidings*.

Earlier this year, the Church Council approved the implementation of a new fundraising policy. If you're involved with a fundraiser here (whether benefitting the church or an outside organization) please familiarize yourself with the policy well in advance of your event in order to meet specified deadlines. The policy, with attached application form, is available in fellowship hall or by calling the church office, 508-832-2845.

**2019 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. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Include above name(s) in dedication? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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 \$16.00**

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, call Michele Schillinger, cell # 508-259-2239.



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

**November 2019**

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**