



# 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

“Thankfulness: Can We Make Ourselves Thankful or Must We Already Be Thankful?”

How much control do we have over our feelings? Can we feel thankful just by wishing to or does the world “make” us feel thankful or make us feel cursed? We can have some control over our emotions and we can also get caught in a funk and need help getting over it.

On TV, when they interview a person, they often ask, “How did this (crime/auto accident/fire) make you feel?”

I often reply, “Your brain makes you feel an emotion, not the world.” Some people feel relieved when they survive a car accident. Others never drive again. It is too scary. Same event yet different feelings.

When I was having my worst experiences with anxiety, I told myself over and over again that I should not be anxious. But I was. I had some control over the anxiety, but not nearly enough. That lack of control was probably the scariest part of my anxiety. Thankfully, over time, I learned better tools to control my anxiety.

Is that the way with all emotions? Can we learn to control them? Or will they run free and take over no matter what we do? I think we can get ourselves in the right frame of mind and feel better.

We can be thankful. It is good to have Thanksgiving. Even as I am preparing the feast for the family, running around prepping gravy and mashed potatoes and basting the turkey, I can think about how nice it is to have loved ones to share the meal with. There is also a little sadness for those who cannot gather.

I pray you have many things to be thankful for. May God bless you and yours.

-- Brian Grover



### **NOVEMBER SERMON TITLES**

- 11/7 “Barley Harvest”
- 11/14 “The Ten Commandments Community”
- 11/21 “Jesus”
- 11/28 “Good Work”

The annual **Community Thanksgiving Eve Service** has been suspended indefinitely.

Please look for more information to come on how the Riley Outstanding Citizenship Award, traditionally presented at the Thanksgiving Eve Service, will be presented this year.

**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:**

11/7	The Hammond Family	11/21	Volunteers Needed
11/14	The Music Committee	11/28	Volunteers Needed

Need a gift idea for the upcoming holiday season? Have you considered the church's cookbook? Each cookbook contains over 200 recipes. At \$15 each, they will make a great Christmas or hostess gift. Also, remember, this is a church fundraiser with a portion of the purchase price going to the church's general fund.

If you would like to purchase a cookbook, please contact Michele Schillinger at 508-259-2239 and leave a brief message along with your name and phone number, and she'll be sure to call you back. You may also email her at [library@auburnfirststucc.org](mailto:library@auburnfirststucc.org). Please include "cookbook" in the subject line of your email.

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you for the generous gift, flowers and warm reception that I received on my final Sunday as your Director of Religious Education. All the heartfelt congratulations and well wishes were wonderful. I will still be around, so this is not goodbye, just a chance to try new experiences. Thank you all again. With God's guidance we serve,

— Jean McPherson

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with this year's pumpkin patch. The pumpkin patch grand total sales for the season was a whopping \$30,404.54! Of that amount, 60% goes to support the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico. This year, First Congregational's volunteers have earned our church 40% profit from numerous public sales. Thank you for the generous support. It was a true team effort!

**SPECIAL THANKS TO SUE MACPHEE, PASTOR BRIAN, LINDA MAHLERT, SHEILA SKOG, and JUDI TAFT** 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 their region.

**ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEES & BOARDS**

The Trustees are requesting that all boards and committees submit their 2022 budget requests by their next meeting scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**A "Timely" Reminder**

Remember to turn your clocks back before retiring for the evening on November 6th. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on November 7th.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in Consecration Sunday or returned a pledge card.

Your participation is critical to our success. And it was such a pleasure to break bread with our church family again!

Thank you also to Cindy Dube and the Confirmands for sharing their thoughts with us. And a special shout-out to Michelle Bigelow for sharing her talents to design our beautiful posters and magnets.

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 2022. Knowing who has responded also helps us reduce follow-up letters.

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.

In His love,  
Your Stewardship Committee

Nan Johnson, Ron Klaucke, Marilyn Kulesa, Ellie Lowell, Linda Mahlert

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.” — Teresa of Avila

### **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

### **Neighbors In Need**

Neighbors in Need is the UCC's annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. In 2021, the Neighbors in Need “Unfailing Love” offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities.

One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (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.

Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

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.

You'll find an offering envelope in this month's *Tidings*. Please return it to the church by placing in the offering plate on Sunday or mail to 128 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501, and thank you for your help.

### **Here We Grow** Preschool



Welcome, everyone, to the third month of the school year. This year has brought us a little more normalcy than we saw last year, and we hope to continue on a positive track, but, like we always say, "It's preschool, you never know what's going to happen at preschool."

The weather is starting to get cooler, but we are still going outside as much as we can; it is great for everyone to get fresh air and to be able to remove their masks.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Bemis Farm Scarecrow fundraiser; we hope you had a good time. We are, once again, doing a clothing drive with Savers; we will continue collecting clothing, shoes, purses, belts, towels, blankets, etc. The last day for dropping off will be November 10. Bags can be left in fellowship hall or in the hallway near the Sunday school rooms and we will put them away.

It is our intention to have the children and families of Here We Grow participate, once again, in "The Giving Basket." All foods collected will be given to Denise and Judy to distribute to families in need during the season of Thanksgiving. We hope to continue with the tremendous amount of support from the Here We Grow families. The need for help grows each year.

We are taking this year one day at a time, and are grateful for everyday that we are here for in-person learning.

Until next month, Happy Thanksgiving and stay healthy.

Cristi Corey  
Director  
**Here We Grow** Preschool

### Outreach Update

Over the last several years we have supported Worcester Fellowship many times in many ways. This is the group who conducts a church service every Sunday behind Worcester's City Hall. At this time, they also serve lunch, provided by local churches, consisting of sandwiches and wrapped snacks and, depending on the season, often soup as well as hot or cold drinks. New white socks are available to attendees as well. Since the pandemic, these services have been moved to the parking lot of All Saints Church, a few blocks up Pleasant St. from Main St.

They also run a drop-in program for the homeless and needy of Worcester at the church known as Thursday Café. This is open for several hours and provides a hot meal, a warm place to sit for a few hours, and even cots and blankets for those who might need a nap. There are always bagged lunches available for participants to take for an evening meal. A few years ago we provided the hot meal which, again, are always supplied by a volunteer group. I think I speak for our entire committee when I say it was a most rewarding experience and we met many gracious individuals. There are several regular volunteers who oversee the distribution of donated items such as clothing, shoes, backpacks, and new socks and underwear.

Our confirmands will be supplying the lunch for the service on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. They are asking for donations of heavy weight, men's white socks to bring with them and individually wrapped snacks such as soft breakfast bars and cookies. You can find boxes for these in Fellowship Hall. Outreach will be shopping for the ingredients needed for sandwiches and will also be providing dozens of hard boiled eggs as a take-away item. We will also be sending along a \$200.00 donation for Worcester Fellowship. We will not be bringing clothing at that time but donations are always accepted for distribution on Thursdays and, with winter upon us, men's and women's jackets and warm shoes or boots are in high demand. Please contact a member of Outreach or Pastor Brian if you have something to donate.

Outreach Update *continues on page 6 . . .*



November is American Diabetes Month, COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) Awareness Month, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, and National Family Caregivers Month. It is also Healthy Skin Month, National Home Care and Hospice Month, National Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and Stomach Cancer Awareness Month.

November 1-7 is National Diabetes Education Week.

November 22-29 is Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) Awareness Week.

November 9 is National Diabetes Heart Connection Day.

November 14 is World Diabetes Day.

November 19 is the Great American Smokeout.

Please remain careful; the flu, Covid-19, RSV, hand, foot and mouth disease are going around. Handwashing is very important, but Covid-19, RSV, and flu are airborne diseases.

God bless,

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

### CHOIR MEMBERS WANTED

Rehearsals are on Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the choir room. We appreciate our faithful choir members and would love to add new voices to our group.

Anyone interested in joining the choir, please contact Paulette, a choir member, Denise in the office, or Pastor Brian.

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**A WORSHIP PLANNING MEETING WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> AFTER THE SERVICE.** At this meeting we will go over the details for our special services.

All members are welcome at the meeting if they have input on our Advent – Christmas services. In addition to Pastor Brian, Paulette, and Shannon, **representatives from the Board of Christian Education (BOCE), Board of Deacons and Music Committee are expected to attend.**

**On Nov. 21, the confirmation class will be providing lunch and worshipping with Worcester Fellowship at their Sunday service held outside of All Saints Episcopal Church in Worcester. In preparation for their visit, we are requesting donations of white socks, individually wrapped soft snacks (breakfast bars and cookies) and Dunkin' gift cards (no more than \$10 each) for distribution to those in need at the service.**

**The following is from the Worcester Fellowship website:**

**"A church for all people. — 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."**



On Sunday, October 10th, we celebrated the baptism of Amelia Rae Ayala. Amelia is the 8-month-old daughter of Rachel and Roberto Ayala. Her grandparents are Todd and Donna Dube. Great-grandparents are Judy Murphy and Mike and Cindy Dube.

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

**FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

With a little more than two months before our January Annual Meeting, our committee finds itself lacking the support for needed nominees beginning 2022 terms; specifically, Trustees with only three as of this date. And still, with much gratitude, there are so many dedicated church members that continue each year to serve on church committees. Help is needed to fill 17 vacancies. All committees are important, but the following list is in order of most needed.

- |                                      |            |             |   |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------|---|
|                                      | Term:      |             |   |
| (9) <b><u>Board of Trustees</u></b>  | (3 years)  | 2 Vacancies |   |
|                                      | (2 years)  | 2 Vacancies |   |
|                                      | (1 year)   | 2 Vacancies |   |
| (7) <b><u>Board of Education</u></b> | (3 years)  | 2 Vacancies |   |
| (12) <b><u>Board of Deacons</u></b>  | (3 years)  | 2 Vacancies | <i>Note: Two confirmands are involved with</i>        |
|                                      | (1 year)   | 2 Vacancies | <i>Deacons weekly during services until June 2022</i> |
| (6) <b><u>Stewardship</u></b>        | (3 years)  | 1 Vacancy   |   |
|                                      | (2 years)  | 1 Vacancy   |   |
| (4) <b><u>Music</u></b>              | (2 years)  | 1 Vacancy   |   |
| (3) <b><u>Nominating</u></b>         | Continuous | 1 Vacancy   |   |

Needed requirement to join a committee is to be an adult church member, approved as a nominee at the Annual Meeting. However, don't let that stop you if you're not a member (yet); because, we'll work with Council to expedite a membership (*if you find it in your faithful heart to fulfill a nominating vacancy*).

**Nominating Contact info:**

Sue MacPhee: (508) 832-9347;

Judi Taft: (508) 341-4530;

Sheila Skog (978) 387-7705; or, the church office 508-832-2845 and leave us a message.

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Outreach Update (*continued from page 4*)

We have been doing a lot of research about a young program in Worcester dedicated to women who have been living a life of prostitution and are looking for help in turning their lives around. Lots of information about LIFT, Living In Freedom Together, can be found on the internet if you want to learn more. We have met with Nikki, the founder of this program, and are extremely impressed with her and what she has accomplished in a relatively short time. Two of our committee members, Pat Bukoski and Cindy Dube, had the opportunity to visit and get a tour of one of their two facilities in Worcester.

We have received approval from the Church Council and will be moving ahead with proposing to the congregation that we support this program with a grant from the Sibley Fund. We are thrilled to be having Nikki speak to you during the service on December 5<sup>th</sup> and answer questions you might have. The following week, December 12<sup>th</sup>, we will be voting on whether or not to award them with a grant. Please mark your calendars now (December will be here before we know it!) and plan to attend on these two dates. We will also have some printed materials soon for you to look at if you wish.

May you have many things to be thankful for this Thanksgiving holiday,

Cindy Dube, Pat Bukoski, Judy Murphy, Deb Pranaitis, Judi Taft and Marion Woodcock





Raise Some Dough to Benefit

## Here We Grow Preschool

We will earn **20%** of the Sales from our Families & Friends during this time!

When: **Thursday, November 18, 2021**

Time: **4:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

Where: **459 Southbridge Street, Auburn**

Phone: **508-832-6583**

Valid for Dine-in, Carry Out, Online & Delivery orders!

- When you place your order, tell us you support this fundraiser! Hand us this flyer or show it on a mobile device, in order for your organization to get credit for your order.
- Online orders enter code **19** at the payment screen and then click apply.
- Papa Gino's will donate 20% of the total pre-tax sales from all the guests that present your flyer during the fundraiser.
- **Fundraiser orders are only valid with regular priced menu items and cannot be paired with coupons or deals.**
- Flyers cannot be handed out in or around the Papa Gino's restaurant on the day of your event.
- Flyers made by the organization will not be accepted for the fundraiser event.
- **RESTAURANT ONLY - Ring this sale using the POS button 19: Fundraiser.**

Beer & Wine, and Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream  
available in select locations.

## 2021 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Again this year we have decided to limit the color choice to one color (**red**).

Size: **Single Plant Pot \$8.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Double Plant Pot \$17.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Three Plant Pot \$22.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Four Plant Pot \$28.00** \_\_\_\_\_

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

If you have any questions, call Michele Schillinger, cell # 508-259-2239.

**ORDERS DUE BY DEC. 5<sup>TH</sup>**

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

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

Web: [auburnfirstucc.org](http://auburnfirstucc.org)



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

### November 2021

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**