



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

As we come into October, we are quite busy at church. We will have Consecration Sunday (October 13), a baptism (October 20), and Memorial Sunday (October 27). On top of that, we have 3 fundraisers: pumpkin patch (starting September 28 and going until Halloween), the fall fair (October 19), plus our community supper (October 26).

I like the fundraisers that get people into our church. Church for many people can be intimidating, even scary. Many people have had bad experiences with churches.

How many good church experiences have you seen in movies or TV recently? Most depictions of the church that I remember show people being negative or abusive. Our culture seems to tell us that church is a place of judgement and even violence. I hope we don't feel that way about our church.

Getting people with no church background into church can be hard. There are a lot of emotions people can have around church. So, as you are encountering people around the fair, the pump-

kins, or the dinners, please be pleasant (as I know you all are) and have a little thought in your head of how people might have a lot of emotion and negative experiences around the idea of church.

I have noticed in New England several people have said jokingly that they fear the roof of the church will collapse, or a lightning bolt will strike them, if they come to church. Now this is a joke and an excuse not to come, but I think it also has a ring of truth.

People expect to meet the Holy and Mighty One in church and that can be a scary thing. God in Jesus Christ is very welcoming. He called the little ones to come to Him, even though the disciples tried to stop them.

Modern Christians, who are not welcoming, are like those disciples. But Jesus welcomes the little ones and we are to welcome them as well.

I hope we see lots of new people around church this month. I hope they feel welcome.

Pastor Brian

October Sermon Topics

10/6 “On World Communion Sunday Who Is the Greatest?”

10/13 “One in Ten”

10/20 “Persistence”

10/27 “Our Hope in Jesus”

MEMORIAL SUNDAY — 10 A.M. OCTOBER 27TH

We have designated October 27th as Memorial Sunday this year. At this special worship service we remember church members that we have lost in the past year. Also during this service, congregants will have an opportunity to come forward and receive a flower and light a candle in memory of a loved one.

This service of remembrance has proven to be moving and very special to those who have lost loved ones, so please mark your calendars for October 27th, and plan to join us on Memorial Sunday.

AUBURN WALK FOR HUNGER - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27th AT 1 P.M.

TO SUPPORT AYFS FOOD PANTRY AND KATERI'S KITCHEN

The Auburn Walk for Hunger supports Auburn Youth and Family Services and Kateri's Kitchen. The walk is Sunday, October 27th, at 1:00p.m. Registration is at 12:45 at Auburn Youth and Family Services, 21 Pheasant Ct, Auburn. The route begins and ends here and is approximately 2 ½ miles long. All money raised helps local families. Please make checks out to AYFS Hunger Walk.

Bethel Lutheran Church will be open for a bathroom stop and apple snack along the way. Also, Pat Bukoski drives around the route continuously, if anyone should need a lift. Refreshments are served when you check in after the walk. You are welcome to join Sue Campbell for a healthy walk and community fellowship. If you have any questions call her at 508-799-2718. Thank you all for helping to keep Auburn hunger free.

*****Look for the Celtics' sneaker collection during our worship service on October 6th.**
(If you miss this offering, please feel free to give your donation directly to Sue Campbell.)

Please make checks payable to AYFS Hunger Walk and thank you for your support!

On October 8th

Rich and Jean McPherson will be celebrating their wedding anniversary.

Happy Anniversary!



OCTOBER
Birthdays & Anniversaries

October Birthdays include:

Marjorie Zimmerman - Oct. 7th

Eric Rockwood - Oct. 21st

Happy Birthday!

Bell Choir

The handbell choir will be starting up again on October 6th. We welcome anyone who wishes to join with us, or just drop by our rehearsal and learn a little more about this fascinating musical instrument. Our first rehearsal will be on Sunday, October 6th, at 2:30 PM. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Herb Mower at mower@alum.mit.edu or 508-434-2864.

Join us at our

Roast Beef Community Supper planned for **Saturday, October 26th at 5 p.m.**

Adults \$10 and children are free!

Servers are the Board of Ed & volunteers please!

Coffee Hour Hosts:

10/6	Personnel Committee
10/13 & 20	Stewardship Committee
10/27	Music Committee & Historian
11/3	Financial Secretaries/Treasurers

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 and accompanying application form are available in fellowship hall or by calling the church office, 508-832-2845.

ADULT & CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSALS

The chancel choir meets on Thursday nights at 6 p.m. and the children's choir meets after the worship service (and snacks) on Sunday mornings. — All are welcome!

Questions? Please contact Paulette LaBarre, our Organist/Choir Director, 508-832-3420, or pblabarre@yahoo.com.

Here We Grow Preschool



While we welcome in the beautiful month of October, the staff and most of the children have settled into a nice routine. I am happy to report that almost all of the crying has stopped.

Currently, we have a few openings in the morning and afternoon 3-year-old classes, the 4-year old afternoon class, and the 5-day class. If you know of someone who is looking for a preschool for their child, please have them call the school at 508-832-8184. The highest compliment we can receive is a referral to family and friends. This year we have several children in our classes for whom English is not their first language, which brings a different set of challenges to the teachers, but we are up to the task! We look forward to watching these children, as well as all our students, gain confidence and grow during the year.

Our first fundraiser is currently happening; this year we are working with Bemis Farm in Spencer to build a scarecrow. This event is open to anyone on Saturdays and Sundays from 9am-3pm through October 14. If you preregister at www.bemis.biz, the cost is \$20 (\$25 if you pay at the door) and you get to build a life-size scarecrow, take a walk through the pumpkin path, plus get a small pumpkin and a mum to bring home. There is a flyer posted on the bulletin board in fellowship hall; this is a great family event!

During the month of September, the children became familiar with their teachers, new friends, and new surroundings. They had a tour of the entire building and met Denise and Pastor Brian.

Each child received homework the second week of school. Continuing with one of our traditions, the children created a picture page of their families and added it to their classroom family album. It is one of the ways we become familiar with the many different types of families attending HWG. It is also a great way for the children to open-up to someone, just by talking about their families.

We had a great parent turnout for Parent Orientation which was held a week before school started. For the 10th year we offered a "Meet the Teachers" time before the actual first day of class. Again, we had a good turnout.

Starting the first day of school all the children are taught our prayer that we say before our snack and lunch times. Many of the children teach their families the same prayer at home. I would like to share the prayer with you and, again, fondly remember Gloria Whitehead who found this prayer for us.

*Thank You for the world so sweet
Thank You for the food we eat
Thank You for the birds that sing
Thank You God for everything.*

I would like to thank Mike Schillinger, Dave Sampson, Wayne Prouty, and Sue and Stan MacPhee for all the help they did in preparing HWG for another school year. We wouldn't have been ready without their continued support. So, THANK YOU!

Coming in October: visits from the police and fire departments, and Halloween parade and parties.

Until next month-

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

REMINDER:

There will be a memorial service in remembrance of Forrest and Shirley Jacobs here at the church on Saturday, October 12th at noon.



Deb Daley of CIEE (The Council on International Educational Exchange), a study abroad program, is looking for a host family for an Auburn High School student from Spain. She describes him as a sweet, quiet, 10th grade student. He is currently with a welcome family but is in need of a permanent host family while he studies here through the end of the school year in June. He's adapting well at school, and is on the JV soccer team. He also enjoys skiing and dogs. Host families are asked to provide a loving home, 3 meals a day, and transportation as needed (he rides the school bus). He has his own spending money and insurance. If you're interested in learning more, please call Debbie Daley at 774-278-1405. You may also go to their website: www.CIEE.org to learn more about the program.

Sunday School - Fall is here! By now the lawn is full of bright orange pumpkins and fall has officially arrived. Sunday school is underway and everyone is settling into the new year. Lillian McPherson and Shannon Hartmann have teamed up to teach the 4-5th graders, Rebecca McPherson is teaching Kindergarten, and I am teaching 1-2 grade. We are still looking for Middle School leaders. We have a series of questions for you to go over with the kids based on that week's reading. It is only about a 20-minute commitment and usually there is another adult with you. The goal of the Board of Ed is to have different church members lead so that the kids (who will be the next Confirmation Class) meet different people and hear others' opinions and thoughts on the same reading. This is a wonderful opportunity to share with the youth without having a long-term commitment. Please see me or Katie Sharr if you would like to help.

Youth On a Mission - Shannon Hartmann and Lillian McPherson have volunteered to join the YOM leadership team. Thank you, ladies. We had an ice cream party for our first meeting with 7 YOM members attending. We talked about all the changes we plan to implement including meetings twice a month. We will keep you posted on the exciting new things that we will be doing including teaming up with the Outreach Committee. Our annual pumpkin sleepover was September 27-28. There will be a **YOM/PARENT INFO MEETING** after the worship service on Sunday, October 6th.

PIES/COOKIE DOUGH are coming for Thanksgiving - Starting September 29-October 13 YOM members will be selling Lyman Orchard Pies and Otis Spunkmeyer cookie dough. The orders will be delivered on November 17, just in time for Thanksgiving. If you have any questions on the fundraiser, please see Lynn Largesse, who has graciously volunteered to chair this fundraiser. To make this fundraiser go smoother **we are requesting cash only**. If you need to write a check, please write it out to the YOM member/parent so they can cash it before they turn in their totals.



I hope you all enjoy the cooler weather and brilliant colors of fall. We are truly blessed to be able to share in the beauty of God's world. — Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education



Happy Fall! October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Eye Injury Prevention Month, National Breast Cancer Awareness, National Bullying Prevention Month, and National Down Syndrome Awareness Month. It's also National Physical Therapy Month, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month.

- October 6-12 Mental Illness Awareness Week
- October 11 National Depression Screening Day
- October 12-20 Bone and Joint Health Action Week
- October 13 Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day
- October 20-26 Respiratory Care Week
- October 21 National Check Your Meds Day

Reminders: the Flu Shot Clinic is scheduled with the Auburn Pharmacist and will be held here after the worship service on October 6th. Also, keep the medical supply closet in mind when you or someone you know has a need, such as: walkers, commodes, wheelchairs, etc. If you don't see what you need, please ask, as we are also storing items elsewhere.

Be safe and have fun this Halloween!

God Bless!

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

PUMPKIN PATCH FAIR - OCTOBER 19TH - 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

THE COUNT DOWN IS ON!!! ONLY A FEW WEEKS 'TIL THE FAIR!

Consider this one last push to the finish line!

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP!**

PLEASE CLEAR YOUR CALENDARS TO HELP WITH THE FAIR. We will need workers for set up the week preceding the fair and, of course, workers on the day of the fair, and workers to clean-up afterwards. Please let Cindy Ryan know you will help! Thanks!

We want to thank everyone who stepped up and committed to provide donations to our luncheon at the Church Fair. At this time, **we need just 1 more case of soda (some diet).** Please see the sign-up sheet in fellowship hall.

PLEASE PREPARE FROZEN MEALS, as they sold well again last year. Suggestions include: meatballs, lasagna, chili, chicken, pasta dishes, or any foods that could be heated up. Whole dinners have been great sellers in the past. Meals for 2 or 4 people would be wonderful! Please label meals with ingredients and heating instructions.

Thank you for your help. I can pick up luncheon/meal donations or they can be left at church with a note indicating they are for the fair. Please call me if you have any questions or suggestions. — Diane Moore 508-832-8078

CALLING ALL BAKERS . . . We are looking forward to your baked goods to help us again this year. We would appreciate all baked goods to be at the church by Friday the 18th. Pies and large breads (banana, blueberry, cranberry, etc.) were hot sellers last year. Please label all items and indicate if there are nuts. **THANK YOU!** Any questions on baked goods, please call Lois Therrien at 508-832-6684.

ATTENTION JEWELRY LOVERS: Shannon Hartmann requests that you please keep our fair in mind when you are cleaning out your jewelry drawers or finding great bargains at yard sales. Donations will be accepted now and until the fair. The earlier you drop off donations, the better, allowing Shannon time to repair and clean jewelry. Items such as purses and wallets did quite well last year and the following items make a nice addition to the table: jewelry or trinket boxes, scarves, cat/dog figurines, small plates, dresser scarves, doilies, paper weights, and anything "vintage." Items may be given to Shannon or left at the Church office (**please mark "for Shannon"**). Contact info: Shannonhartmann5@gmail.com or 339-222-1841 or you can reach her on Facebook.

ATTENTION ALL CRAFTERS: once again we will have a church fair table. Let's show everyone what talent we have at our church. I'm asking for men and women to show off!! Don't go crazy, just a couple of items. Call me, Shirley Hill, with any questions, 508-832-6335.

ALSO AGAIN THIS YEAR: the fair will be opened up to craft vendors. If you know any crafters who may be interested in renting a space at our fair, please have them call Cindy Ryan at 508-832-3416 or 508-769-2740.

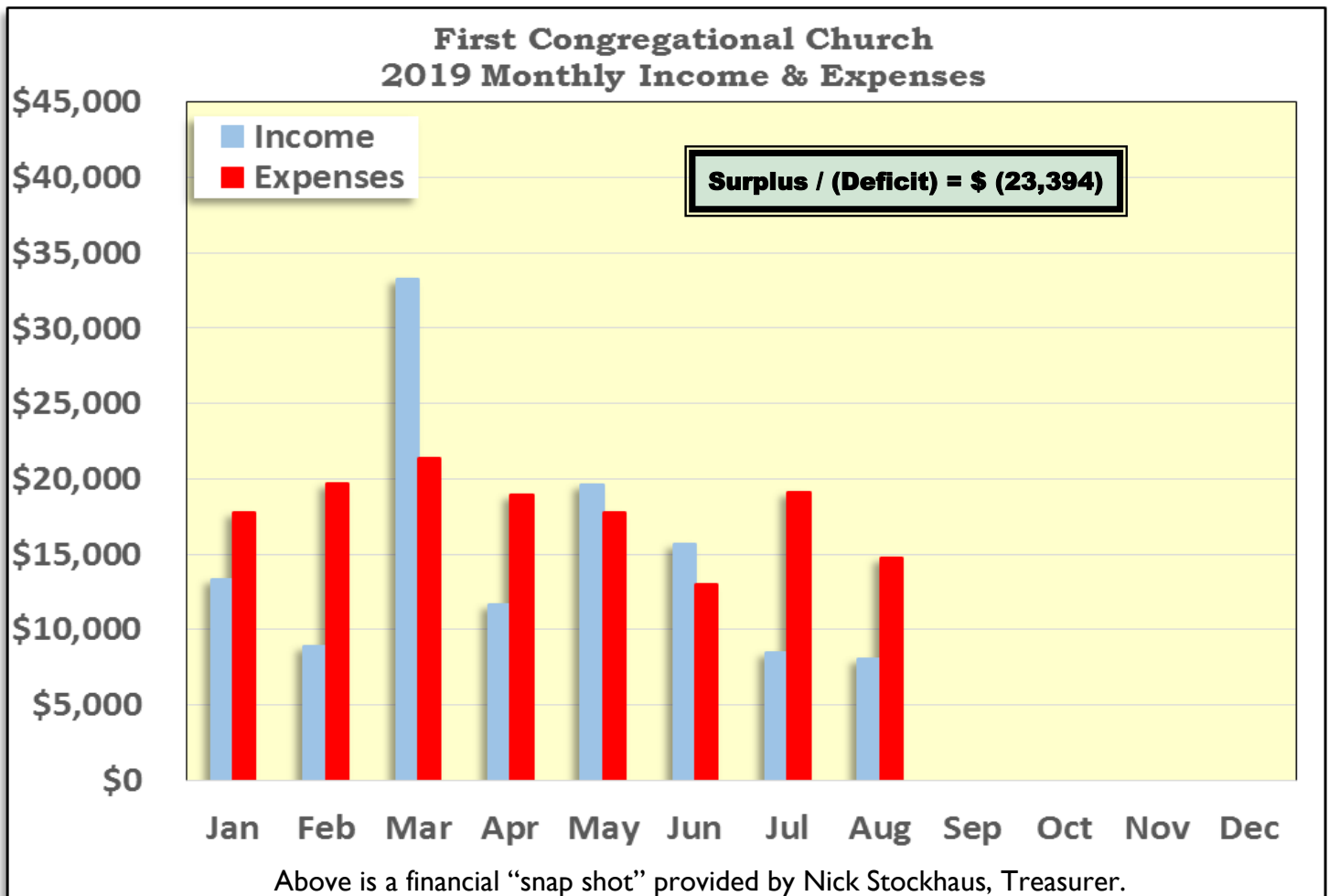
REMINDER - WE WON'T BE HAVING ATTIC TREASURES THIS YEAR.

VINTAGE TREASURES - I am seeking donated items for a Vintage Treasures table. Guidelines for vintage, is anything from the 1920's to 1999. Clean, decorative, or useful items, accessories in good condition will be accepted. However, clothing will not be a part of this category. Contact: Gayle Farley with any questions or items you would like to donate. Phone: 508-753-0285 or e-mail: gayle2bill@gmail.com

PLEASE keep in mind the silent auction if you have something that you have had for years and never used (many times items are still in original packaging, unopened), or gift certificates from your place of employment, favorite restaurant, tickets to a sporting event, or entertainment venue, etc. Please consider either asking for it to be donated, or purchasing one yourself and donating it. You can always make something as well.

REMINDER TO ALL COMMITTEES/BOARDS – PLEASE GET THOSE CREATIVE JUICES FLOWING AS YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR BASKETS. HAVING THEM SOONER RATHER THAN LATER IS PREFERABLE TO ALLOW DENISE TIME TO PRINT UP BID SHEETS. THANKS SO MUCH!!!

Please contact Cindy Ryan (508-832-3416 or 508-769-2740) with your ideas and offers to help with the fair!



**“WITH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE:
HELPING EACH OTHER, OUR CHURCH, AND OUR WORLD”**

Have you ever been amazed at how God shows His presence in the world and helps us to see all of life’s possibilities....

Getting through a dark passage in life and coming out into the light.
Experiencing joy in a way you never thought possible.
Trying something new that you never thought you could do.

Our church has accomplished amazing things, with the help of God and His gifts... and you! With your help, we can all continue to expand the possibilities for ourselves and our children.

Soon we will be sending out our pledge letter, asking you to make a financial commitment to God and our church for 2020. Please listen to your heart and to God as you decide on your gift.

Please plan to return your pledge card on **Consecration Sunday, October 13**. This is a special day in the life of our church and we hope you will be able to join us. The Stewardship Committee will host a light brunch after church as a thank-you for your continued support of First Congregational Church.

Please return your pledge card even if you decide not to make a pledge. This will save us the time and cost of an additional follow-up mailing. Thank you for your continued, faithful support.

In His Love,
Your Stewardship Committee —

Michelle Bigelow, Nan Johnson, Ellie Lowell, Debbie Mahler, Linda Mahler, Martha Pappas

FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

It is getting chilly out there. Although my garden is still growing, the leaves have begun to change. God is telling us, it is time for a new season. It is time to let go of the lazy days of summer and jump into the start of what I call "the busy season!"

Last year, Outreach focused on our homeless population. We cooked and volunteered at soup kitchens, we took donations of socks and underwear. We represented all of us when Outreach, and often Youth on a Mission, were able to put a smile of relief on the forgotten faces of the homeless community. Unfortunately, we learned very quickly that due to the opioid problem this nation faces, most of the community outreach was specific to adults.

After a long discussion, the Outreach Committee has decided to put a focus on children this year. We have reached out to DCF (Department of Children & Families) to see how we can partner with them. The discussion, as of this *Tidings*, is that it seems adolescent females have the biggest need. We are also reaching out to local middle schools to help young women feel comfortable as their bodies begin to change. If you have any ideas related to youth and how we can reach out, please let one of us know!

Pastor Brian, Cindy Dube, and Shannon Hartmann recently attended a wonderful seminar for Habitat for Humanity at WAMS (Worcester Area Mission Society) in Worcester. We learned about local projects, international projects, and projects for the youth, including playhouses for children of veterans and active members of the military. We are going to partner with this wonderful charity! Stay tuned to see how.

Please continue to keep those who are less fortunate in your prayers. God has blessed us with abundance! Including the love and warmth we all experience when we share our time and our resources with one another! Our church. Our members. Our family!!!! May peace be with you always!!!!

Love, — The Outreach Committee



**Harvest
Festival**

THE DISMAS FAMILY FARM

10th ANNUAL FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

687 Lincoln Road, Oakham

Saturday, October 5th ~ 12-4 PM

All food & activities included! Adults \$10 Kids (over 3 yrs.) \$6

Go to: www.dismasisfamily.org **to register online** or
call 508-882-000 with questions. (Rain Date is Oct. 6th)

Message from Nominating Committee for 2020 Committees

Way to go church members! Five committees completely filled with Nominees, as of 9/24/2019. They are: Outreach, Memorial/Scholarship, Board of Ed, Stewardship, and Music. For those who signed up to any of the vacancies, thank you so very much! **Nominees are still needed.** Look for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Board of Deacons: (3 years): 2 Vacancies and (2 years): 3 Vacancies

Board of Trustees: (3 years): 3 Vacancies

Nominating Committee: (continuous): 1 Vacancy

Help on any committee is appreciated; however, it's the commitment that gives the most support and allows for binding fellowship. If you have doubts, try visiting a committee of interest. Our nominating search continues!

Nominating Committee Contact info: Sue MacPhee - (508) 832-9347 (or) Judi Taft - (508) 341-4530



THE PUMPKINS ARE HERE!!!

Thank you to everyone who helped to unload the pumpkins on Saturday morning, September 28th.

WE ARE NOW IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS

to man the pumpkin patch.

We have morning and afternoon shifts to fit most schedules.

Ideally, we would like at least 2 people per shift. Please check the sign-up sheet in fellowship hall.

OPEN DAILY 10AM 'til 6PM ~ SEPT. 28TH — OCT. 31ST

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

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

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

Web: auburnfirstucc.org



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October 2019

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT