



September
2016

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

Thank You for Your Condolences

It amazes me how information travels. Some people always seem to know what is going on. They always have the latest news and gossip. I am not in this sense using gossip as a bad thing. If people do not know there is a problem they cannot offer to help. Gossip gets the word out.

Others, like me, seem to be the last to know. I seem to never be in the right place to hear the latest news about family and friends.

News seems to travel fast, yet miss important people. Even though I think everyone would know this news, I am probably wrong. So it is with that in mind that I write you that my mother died this summer. She died 4 days before her 77th birthday.

It has been a hard summer. Mom was quite sick. Death truly came as a friend. She was no longer in her right mind. She saw and talked to people who were not there and was talking in a little girl's voice. She was happy and not in pain, but she had told us many times she would not want to live like that. So it was in many ways a blessing she went so fast and free of fear or pain.

It has been quite eye opening to deal with my mother's death as a son, not a pastor. Some insights I picked up:

1) If people ask what they can do, give them something to do. We had a graveside service and a reception. I asked people to help with that and they did, and did it wonderfully. There were somethings I wanted to do myself that I quickly realized were impossible for me to do. It required being in 2 places at once. Having people who offered to help, who meant what they said, took so much pressure off my brother and me. So thanks to everyone who offered help and did help. Apologies to those who offered to help who I couldn't find work for. Thank you for the offer but there were just somethings I had to do myself, and there were so many offers there was not enough work.

2) Hearing, "I am sorry," can feel like a punch in the gut. The reality of death comes over time. Or the reality of death hurts in different ways over time. People offering comfort somehow made the death a little more real. This is not a bad thing, but in the moment I clam up. I hope that isn't perceived as being rude.

3) Sharing pain is comforting. Some of the greatest times of comfort were with people who had recently had a parent die. Somehow the sharing of tragedy was more comforting. People sharing what they did, how they felt when a parent died, was a touching and comforting time.

4) Boy, did I really want to be angry, annoyed or grumpy, any feeling, really, other than sad. Being sad is hard. Being angry or annoyed is easier. Anger gives us energy. Being sad made me tired and also made it harder to sleep. Being sad was the true emotion. Anger was a way to hide sadness. Anger was a lie. I was not really angry, the anger was a game to avoid being sad. I had to remember time and again to be sad, not angry.

Ecclesiastes 7:2 says, *"It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart."* I think I have handled this time as well as I have because I have been with other people in their times of sorrow. I have seen how people deal with grief. I have seen how exhausting it can be. It was a privilege to be in the houses of mourning. Thank you.

Once again, many thanks. Thanks to the people who sent prayers. I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, prayers, cards and words. I hope you understand if in the moment I do not talk much. Sometimes emotion leaves me speechless. I would like to thank the church for giving me extra time off at the end of August for bereavement. As I write this I am heading north to meet with my brother to pick Mom's gravestone.

Thanks for letting me be your pastor and thanks for ministering to me during these sad, but also happy times.

God Bless you --

Pastor Brian

Please mark your calendars for **Rally Day** which will take place on **Sunday, September 11th**. Rally Day is the official kick-off of Sunday School. Our Cradle Roll and Sunday School are equipped to meet the needs of newborns up to middle school-aged children. **We look forward to seeing you there!**



SERMON TITLES FOR SEPTEMBER:

9/4 "Does the Potter Do Evil?"
 9/11 "Are You the Favorite Sheep?"
 9/18 "What to Do about the Manager"
 9/25 "In Tragedy Comes Hope"

CHILDREN'S SERMONS:

9/11 Welcome & Greetings
 9/25 "Do You Listen to Warnings?"

*** * * THE PUMPKIN PATCH FAIR! * * ***

The October **PUMPKIN PATCH FAIR** will be held **ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, FROM 9 TO 4**, and we hope to get everyone involved. Thank you to all who have already donated items.

FALL FAIR WISH LIST: We need any kind of decorative hooks and outdoor faucet handles to make coat racks, drawer pulls/cupboard handles, furniture (even if it seems beyond repair), scrap wood, vintage jewelry, accessories such as scarves, small (clutch-type) purses, belts, etc. and don't forget donations to our "attic treasures."

Please scour the newspapers or mail for any coupons for Michaels, A.C. Moore, or Jo-Ann Fabrics. The coupons come in handy.

ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEES/BOARDS:

Please be thinking about what to include in your baskets that will be sold at the silent auction.

Speaking of the silent auction, please consider what you may have to donate to it. Ideas include: a vacation home that you could offer for a weekend, teen services for fall leaf raking, someone who's a good cook can offer a meal prepared and served at the taker's location. We're only limited by our own creativity! Please call Cindy Ryan at 508-832-3416 to obtain more info.

CRAFT NIGHTS (held every other Wednesday)

The next craft night will be held on Wednesday, September 7th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. (no special skills required).

GRANDMA'S PANTRY

We will be looking for homemade goodies, baked goods, canned preserves or vegetables for "Grandmas Pantry" at the church fair? We will also be doing the soup bar again. If anyone would like to volunteer to make a crockpot of soup for the occasion. People can contact Jennifer Bohn with any questions. Email: PetuniaBohn@msn.com or 508-407-8710. Thank you!

Please remember to **look for a sign-up sheet to come in the weeks ahead on the table in Fellowship Hall for working at the fair.**

This cannot happen without help from the congregation. Moreover, IT IS SO MUCH FUN, and a great way to get to know your church family.

Please contact Cindy Ryan with any questions, 508-832-3416.



September Tidings from **Here We Grow** Preschool

Happy September! Can you believe we are starting our 27th year at Here We Grow?! We ended our school year in June with a great Spree day and lovely graduations. Summer camp was full, and fun was had by all our space men and Olympians.

At this time we have filled all our 4-year-old spots, we still have spots for 3-year-olds and young 4-year-olds. I have been providing tours throughout the summer to parents and feel we will fill those spots.

Our staff for the year 2016-17 is as follows: room 1 is Anne Coyne and Michelle Lempicki, room 2 is Cristi Corey, Marianne Lavallee and Courtney Tomaszewicz. Room 3 is Helen Ethier, Patty Bickford and Diana Mancini and room 4 is Michele Fuller. Here's to a new year, new faces and new and fresh ideas.

Thank you to the board and church members for having the trees taken down and to Nick Stockhaus for all his work on the computer. Once again Sally Gagnon was hired to clean all the classrooms that HWG uses during the school year. Thanks to Wayne, Dave, and Stan for taking care of the common spaces shared with HWG and all other groups. A special thank you to Judy Bork for preparing all the new HWG family handbooks, personnel policies and papers for children's files. Thanks to Denise for any and all suggestions and help; I don't know what **we or I** would do without her. THANK YOU!!!!

Gina Basili, **Here We Grow** Director

AGING MASTERY PROGRAM®

The Auburn Senior Center will be offering the Aging Mastery Program® for 10 weeks starting Thursday, Sept. 8th at 9:45 a.m.

The Aging Mastery Program® core curriculum is designed for those age 50+ and combines evidence-informed knowledge sharing with goal-setting and feedback routines, daily practices, peer support and small rewards. Classes are led by expert speakers who help participants gain the skills and tools they need to manage their health, remain economically secure, and contribute actively in society.

Topics include: Navigating Longer Lives: The Basics of Aging Mastery; Healthy Eating and Hydration, Exercise and You, Financial Fitness, Healthy Relationships, Sleep, Advance Planning, Falls Prevention, Community Engagement, Medication Management.

Please call 508-832-7799 to register for the program; there are limited spots available. You cannot just attend one session; you must try to make as many sessions as possible.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped and contributed in any way to our yard sale last June. God blessed us with another beautiful day. All of our "vendors" were pleased, lots of shopping was done, as well as eating. We realized a profit of over \$1,700 — a great day all around!

Thank you and God bless,
Cindy Dube

(And our heartfelt thanks to Cindy and her right-hand gal, Judy Murphy, for all of their hard work!)

POTLUCK & MOVIE/BOOK DISCUSSIONS

With summer coming to a close, we will begin meeting again for potluck suppers. Our first get-together is planned for Tuesday, Sept. 20th, at 6p.m. in the "green room."

All are welcome to join us for supper and fellowship, followed by a time of discussion centering on the Gospel of John.

Pastor Brian welcomes your movie and book suggestions.



REMEMBER

We have chosen **REMEMBER** as our theme for the Stewardship drive for this year. Beginning mid September you will be hearing from a member of the Stewardship Committee each Sunday focusing on (remembering) various aspects of being a part of a church. As a committee we are looking forward to the weeks ahead, as we all prepare to make our annual pledges to our church.

Different from the past when we have celebrated Consecration Sunday with a brunch following the service, this year we invite you to our Kick-off Brunch on Sunday, September 18th, after the church service. We hope you will be able to join us.

Sunday, September 25th, we will be reflecting on our years of membership within our church. As this month draws to a close we will be contacting you by mail. Please take time to read our letter and **remember** this church and your church family, truly a gift from God.

Your Stewardship Committee
Cindy Dube, Linda Hardy, Marilyn Kulesa, Shelia Skog, Lauren and Jacob Webb

SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY SUPPER

Plan to join us on Saturday, September 17th for a delicious Roast Beef supper. Did you know people call the church office just to ask if the monthly supper will feature roast beef? It's that good!

Adults ~ \$10
Children are free!

Servers this month are the Memorial/Scholarship Committee members. This is a 3 person committee so additional volunteers would be appreciated!

Coffee Hour Hosts:

- 9/11 Historian, Library, Memorial/Scholarship & Nominating Committees
- 9/18 Stewardship Drive Kick-off Brunch
- 9/25 Financial Secretaries/Treasurers
- 10/2 Personnel Committee
- 10/9 Outreach Committee
- 10/16 Historian, Library, Memorial/Scholarship & Nominating Committees

We rejoice with the following families in celebrating the recent additions to their families.

Isaiah Stephen Chery was born on June 1st, weighing 9 lbs., 6 oz. and measuring 21 inches. Proud family members include parents Allison and Dan Chery and grandparents Steve and Shirley Hill.

Nathan Lawrence Stone, the newborn son of Theresa and Ryan Stone was born prematurely on June 17th, weighing just 4 lbs., 9 oz. and measuring 17.5 inches. Proud family members include Great-Grandma Phyllis Hardy and Great Aunts Debbie Pranaitis and Linda Hardy.

Brady Gordon Sharr made his appearance on August 23rd, weighing 8.4 lbs. and measuring 20³/₄ in. Proud family members include parents Katie and Andy and big brother Andrew!

Congratulations to one and all!





Deaths in Our
Church Family

The following families have experienced losses since the last printing of the *Tidings* in late May. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to mourn the loss of their loved ones.

Bruce C. Martin, Sr., 93, longtime Auburn resident, passed away peacefully in his home on May 25, 2016. Bruce was born in New Britain, CT, son of the late Howard L. and Margaret E. (Rooney) Martin. He graduated from Plainville, CT High School in 1941. He attended Virginia Military Institute, Trinity University and graduated from Columbia University in 1947.

Bruce had worked for State Mutual Life Assurance Co. for over 30 years retiring in 1982 as a 2nd Vice President of the company. Bruce was also a Certified Life Underwriter.

His beloved wife of 60 years, Shirley N. (Finch) died in 2006. He leaves two sons, Bruce C. Martin, Jr.; Christopher B. Martin, Sr.; three daughters - Linda Lee Mayo, Margaret "Peggy" Boyd and Martha Capoccia; 9 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by 2 brothers.

Bruce served in the U.S. Army Air Force. During WWII he was a prisoner of war in Germany and was a recipient of the Purple Heart. He was a member of the First Congregational Church and had served on several committees there. He was a 32 Degree Mason with the Joel H. Prouty Masonic Lodge, member of the Shriners (Melha), member of the Oxford and Auburn Grange and a member of the Auburn Republican Town Committee. A Masonic prayer service was held at Britton-Wallace Funeral Home in Auburn followed by burial in Hillside Cemetery, Auburn.

Howard A. Stevens, 95, a longtime Auburn resident, died June 12, 2016 in his home surrounded by his loving family. Howard was born in Vina, California, son of the late Nathaniel R. and Ruth Lorena (Warner) Stevens. After high school he entered into the U.S. Army Air Corp serving his country proudly during World War II. He owned and operated his own business, Auburn Water Pump and Filter Company, for over 40 years.

Howard leaves his wife of 70 years, Charlotte E. (Russell) Stevens; his children, Robert N. Stevens, Mark C. Stevens, Cynthia J. Gallant and Nancy J. Henderson; four grandchildren, Stephen W. Gallant, Jr., Christine M. Cathcart Gallant, Jeffrey R. Stevens and Gregory R. Stevens; also survived by 9 great-grandchildren; a brother, Robert Stevens, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a son, Gary P. Stevens; a brother, James Stevens, and a daughter-in-law, Kathleen Stevens.

A funeral service celebrating his life was held on June 16, 2016 at Britton-Wallace Funeral Home. Burial will be private at a later date in Hillside Cemetery, Auburn.

Pauline M. (Graves) Rose, 89, of Auburn died June 14, 2016 in the Life Care Center of Auburn surrounded by her family. Her husband, Wesley Rose, died in 1983. She leaves a step-daughter, Nancy Lesley, and a brother, David Graves and a sister, Betty Sachs. Pauline is also survived by step-grandchildren, step great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Pauline was predeceased by a brother, Donald Graves, and 2 sisters, Dorothy Recko and Marian Carpenter.

Pauline was born in Paxton, daughter of the late Howard S. and Hilda E. (Parker) Graves. She graduated from Auburn High School in 1945. After graduation Pauline worked at Norton Company in Worcester where she worked until her retirement in 1979. A private graveside service was held for Pauline at Hillside Cemetery in Auburn.

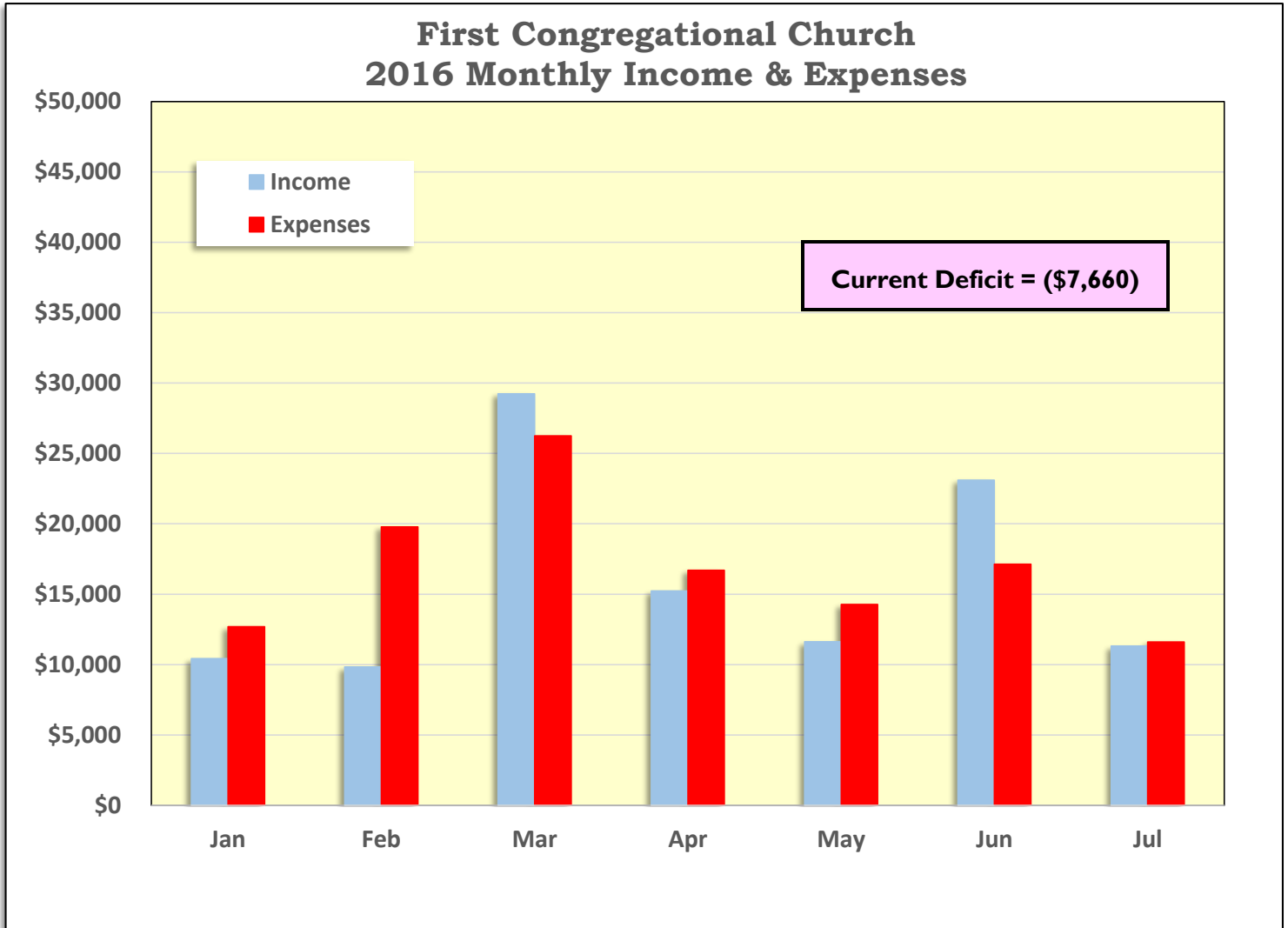
Clara Grover, 76, of Errol, NH, passed away at the Coos County Nursing Hospital in West Stewartstown, on July 24, 2016. Clara was a long-time employee of the Tillotson Rubber Co. in Dixville, and she was active in town government, serving on the Errol Board of Selectmen and on many other boards and committees. She is survived by her two sons, Alex Grover of Errol, and Brian Grover of Auburn, Mass.

A private committal service was held in the Errol Cemetery. A public reception was held at the Errol Fire Station on July 30, 2016. Expressions of sympathy in memory of Clara may be made to the CCNH Residents' Activity Fund, P.O. Box 10, W. Stewartstown, NH 03597.

Helen J. Boria, 96, longtime Auburn resident, died August 3, 2016 in Saint Vincent's Hospital, Worcester. She was born in Worcester and raised in Sutton. A calling hour was held on August 9, 2016 in the Britton-Wallace Funeral Home, 91 Central St, Auburn followed by a funeral service here at First Congregational Church, 128 Central Street, Auburn. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Congregational Church of Auburn.

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

John 11:25



2016 RELAY FOR LIFE

Celebrate ~ Remember ~ Fight Back

September 9th - 10th (6:00 p.m. Fri. - noon Sat.) at Lemansky Park, Auburn

On September 9th and 10th at Lemansky Park 29 teams of people will walk the track in the annual Central South County Relay For Life. Highlights of this event include the survivor and caretaker walk and the luminaria ceremony. Survivors and their caretakers are invited to attend the opening ceremony and walk the survivor lap and attend the dinner immediately following the lap. There will be many activities throughout the event. You may donate online by going to www.relayforlife.org.

What is Relay For Life?

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. At Relay, teams of people camp out at a local high school, park, or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, Relays are overnight events up to 24 hours in length.

Relay began in 1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt*, a colorectal surgeon in Tacoma, Washington, ran and walked around a track for 24 hours to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Since then, Relay has grown into the world's largest movement to end the disease. Each year, more than 3.5 million people gather to raise much-needed funds and awareness to save lives from cancer. Thanks to Relay participants, we are creating a world with more birthdays, a world where cancer can't claim another year of anyone's life. We invite all cancer survivors in the community to attend Relay For Life because they are the reason we Relay.

FROM JEAN McPHERSON, OUR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Welcome Back! I pray you all had a restful and fun summer. We will be starting Sunday school on Sunday, September 11. As we begin another year of teaching, I am still in need of teachers. Please search your heart to see if you would be willing to assist in this very worthwhile program. This year's curriculum will be workbook based, so jumping in will be very easy. As of this writing I have Mike Schillinger and myself for teachers. Mike will be working with the older kids. September 11 will be Rally Day and we will need EVERYONE to fill out a contact sheet for EACH OF YOUR CHILDREN. I need this information to set up the classrooms.



Confirmation class will begin right after church on September 11. Please meet in the green room at 11:15.

Youth On a Mission News: We will be having a pizza party/game night later in the month in anticipation of our sleepover the night before the pumpkin delivery. Please watch the bulletin for more information. Youth On a Mission is for anyone that is in sixth grade or above. Please see Pastor Brian or me with questions.

I pray that everyone returning to school/work has a good transition. Please contact me with any questions.

FAITH is not believing that God can, it is knowing that He will.

Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education

On June 12th we celebrated the baptisms of Emma Jean and Elizabeth Louise Lallier, twin daughters of Matthew and Katrina Lallier. (The girls are now 8 1/2 months old.) Proud grandparents are Marty and Pam Tentor.



On June 19th we celebrated the baptism of Elijah Heath Caouette, the now 4 1/2 month old son of Heather and Lyle Caouette.

On July 3rd we celebrated the baptism of Audrey Marie Gautreau. Audrey is the now 7 1/2 month old daughter of Andrea and Matthew Gautreau. Audrey's great-grandparents are Bob and Carole Murray.

We pray God's blessings upon these precious little ones and their families.

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am writing to express my gratitude for giving me the Craig Whitcher Scholarship. I am deeply appreciative of your support. I am going to be attending the University of Maine at Farmington this fall and will be majoring in rehabilitation services. I believe that God has led me here so that I may help others and thanks to the scholarship my journey to carry out His will has become easier.

*God bless,
Jacob McPherson*

We will feature another note in next month's Tidings.



Choir Practice Resumes

Choir Practice will resume beginning **Thursday, September 8th, at 6:00 p.m.** We will be singing during the worship service on **September 11th.** If you're interested in joining the adult choir, please speak with Heather Moore, our Minister of Music.

Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

Psalm 95:2

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletin & Newsletter Bloopers! These actually appeared in church bulletins/newsletters or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So that ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow...

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

September Birthdays include:

Pastor Brian - Sept. 6th

Jacob McPherson - Sept. 14th

Happy Birthday!



On September 14th Lori & Nick Stockhaus will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary -
Congratulations!

We'd love to recognize your special occasion in an upcoming newsletter. Please complete and return the form below.

I give First Congregational Church permission to put my family member's birthday or anniversary in the monthly newsletter the *Tidings*.

Name Occasion Date

Signature (adult only please)

Please return to Church office.



I hope everyone had a happy, healthy summer. There are still a few weeks until it officially ends, but the fall activities are starting. There are 31 listings for September on the National Health Observance Calendar. Below, I have mentioned some that might be relevant to us.

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Blood Cancer Awareness Month, Baby Safety Awareness Month, Healthy Aging Month, and National Recovery Month. It is also National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, National Cholesterol Education Awareness Month, National Preparedness Month.

September 21st is Backpack Awareness Week. The backpacks should NOT be more than 10% of the child's body weight. They also should sit high on the back and not hang down by the base of the child's spine.

I am trying to set up the Flu Clinic here in Fellowship Hall with CVS. I'm trying for Sunday, September 25th, but it isn't secured yet. They have changed pharmacists since last year and they are checking their protocol. I will keep you posted, but September 25th is my first choice.

A reminder for the health closet in the educational wing and the table in Fellowship Hall. The closet has been useful to many for borrowing equipment and donating equipment. The table in Fellowship Hall has been updated. I also have information for donations for nice clothing that might be for men and women going for job interviews.

The widows/widowers group has been meeting the first Friday of the month, which will be September 2nd. This is open for anyone that would like to come. If you are a widow/widower and don't feel that you want or need to come, that is perfectly okay. We're there if you wish to join us.

Happy, Healthy, Safe Autumn to all.

God bless,
Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse



As mentioned in the June *Tidings*, we are looking to compile a First Congregational Church cookbook.

Due to summer vacations and people being away, it was decided that we would wait until September to kick off the cookbook project! Please watch for messaging to come in the October *Tidings*, as well as weekly bulletins, on how you can participate!! In the meantime, start thinking of favorite recipes you want to share!

From the Martin Family:

To all of you who took care of all of us after our dad's funeral — thank you! Even though we do not attend services, it still feels like "home" to us.

Gratefully,

Bruce, Jr., Linda, Peggy, Chris and Martha

The Pumpkin Patch will be opening soon!

The pumpkins will be arriving at the Church on Oct. 1st. at 8 a.m.

We are hoping for the usual great turnout of people to unload the truck. We will be getting a full truck again this year, so the more people — the faster it will go.

Once again the patch will be managed by Sheila Skog, Debbie Mahlert, Linda Mahlert, and Judi Taft. Please help out by planning now to set aside days to help with the patch. A sign-up sheet is located in Fellowship Hall; so, please, sign-up early!

We're all looking forward to another successful pumpkin patch season!

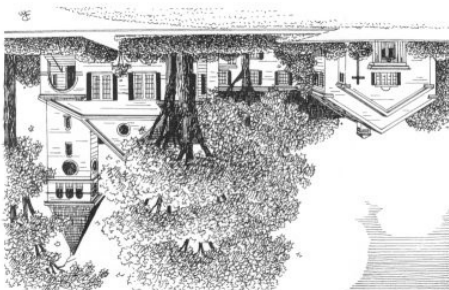
THANK YOU!



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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