



September
2018

Herald of Good TIDINGS

“Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Behold your God!’”
~ Isaiah 40:9

Alone

How often are you alone with your thoughts? Are you ever? Or are you like me and any alone time is soon spent with the smart phone?

I remember childhood as having a lot of time waiting. Waiting for enough time to pass to get up from my nap. Waiting at the doctor’s. Sitting quietly in the car as we drove to a fun place. Just a lot of being quiet with my thoughts.

I sat quietly because I did not want to tell my mom I was bored. If I said I was bored, my mom put me to work on a boring cleaning job. She would say, “If you are bored, you might as well be bored doing something useful.”

The only quiet time I get now is picking blueberries up North. My brother mentioned that blueberry picking was my Zen. I have no cell service in the town I grew up in. So the cell phone can’t draw my attention. Blueberry picking is a simple, useful thing. It does not take a lot of heavy thinking to pick the ripe blueberries. It is a simple, quiet activity.

Now the next part of an essay like this is to encourage us to make quiet time for our kids so they do not lose the valuable lessons quiet teaches us. Not going to go there. I am sure kids are bored even today with tablets and cell phones. I think kids are gonna be fine. They are still at the mercy of what parents want them to do so they have to check out from time to time.

Cell phones and tablets are not going to destroy childhood. If kids could survive living in mud huts while being hunted by saber-toothed tigers, if kids could survive working 16 hour days in textile mills, they can survive the digital age. I think kids find time to just veg out on a couch or on the lawn without adults needing to worry.

I worry more about adults. Do we ever unplug? Do we take a mental holiday? I hope so. God sometimes speaks in a still, soft voice, which is hard to hear when we are buried in our phone.

So, if your friend (or Pastor) does not respond to your text right away, maybe they are quietly contemplating the deep mysteries and they will get back to you later.

Pastor Brian

SERMON TITLES

- 9/2 “The Bible Is Weird”
- 9/9 “Justice and the Poor”
- 9/16 “Getting the Opposite Result”
- 9/23 “Envy”
- 9/30 “Making Enemies” (children’s time)
“Esther and the Jewish Halloween”



Please mark your calendars for **Rally Day**, which will take place on **Sunday, September 9th**. 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. **See you there!**

The Board of Christian Outreach has been busy representing FCC while reaching out to those in need. On June 6th they visited the Mustard Seed in Worcester and on July 12th they helped out at Laundry Love.



Cindy Dube, Chair of the Outreach Committee, presents Mike Boover of the Mustard Seed with a check. The Mustard Seed is a soup kitchen located on Piedmont Street in Worcester. At the Mustard Seed, groups from different traditions work together to help the poor.

Cindy was joined by fellow outreach members Pat Bukoski, Shannon Hartmann, Joyce Ringgard, Kay Shapter and Marion Woodcock as well as Pastor Brian and Ron Klaucke.

Pictured below and at right, Outreach members help with children's activities, while family members are busy with laundry. In addition to our six Outreach members, Pastor Brian, Cindy Ryan and Alyse Bukoski also joined in on the fun that day along with regular attendee Steve Hill.

***** Thank you to all who donated detergent and dryer sheets.**

Laundry Love partners with individuals/groups to care for those struggling financially by providing free laundry services. It also offers free pizza, entertainment for the kids, and family support. But most importantly, it provides peace of mind and brings a little hope to those living below the poverty line. Laundry Love takes place the second Thursday of every month at Suds Up Laundromat in Worcester.



Here We Grow Preschool



Welcome to the 29th year of Here We Grow Preschool being an educational outreach program of the First Congregational Church in Auburn. I am excited to be returning for my second year as Director of this great school. On September 4, 2018 our doors will open as we welcome 94 children and families for another great year of meeting and making new friends and exploring and learning in a beautiful environment. As I mentioned, we have 94 children enrolled, which means we have 20 openings in our T/TH a.m. and p.m. and T/W/TH p.m. classes. Our extended day classes are full. I am still receiving phone calls from families who want to visit HWG and I am conducting tours, but we can't do it without your help. Please spread the word to anyone looking for a great preschool. Check out our website or look us up on Facebook.

I am so happy to report that all of our staff are returning for this year: Room 1 - Courtney Tomaszewicz and Michelle Lempicki, Room 2 - Michele Fuller and Mariann Lavallee, Room 3 - Helen Ethier and Patti Bickford and Room 4 - Anne Coyne and Diana Mancini.

Thanks for all the help we received to get ready for the new school year. During the summer the HWG classrooms were again cleaned by Sally Gagnon. A big thank you to Mike Schillinger for all the help he gives HWG and the great job he did preparing the vestry floor and the floor in room 4. Things are looking great.

With the end of the 2017/18 school year, once again it was difficult saying goodbye to many of our families who had been with us for a while; we wished them well, and asked them to keep sending their friends our way. Many, if not all, feel the Here We Grow Preschool is the best program around.

All end-of-year field trips went well as did all the graduations. The four-year-olds and young fours had day graduations with make-your-own sundae parties. The three-year-olds had a short program in their classrooms which worked out well. All children and their families enjoyed Spree Day with games and entertainment by Pumpernickel Puppets. I am proud to say that we made it through another successful year.

So, off we go to another school year with many new faces, many returning faces, and the hope that we, as a staff, have a positive impact on the lives of these little children.

Until next month, enjoy the weather and stay safe —

Cristi Corey
Here We Grow Director

A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped and contributed in any way to our yard sale last June. Lots of shopping was done, as well as eating. We realized a profit of \$2,323 — 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!)

Dear Church Family,

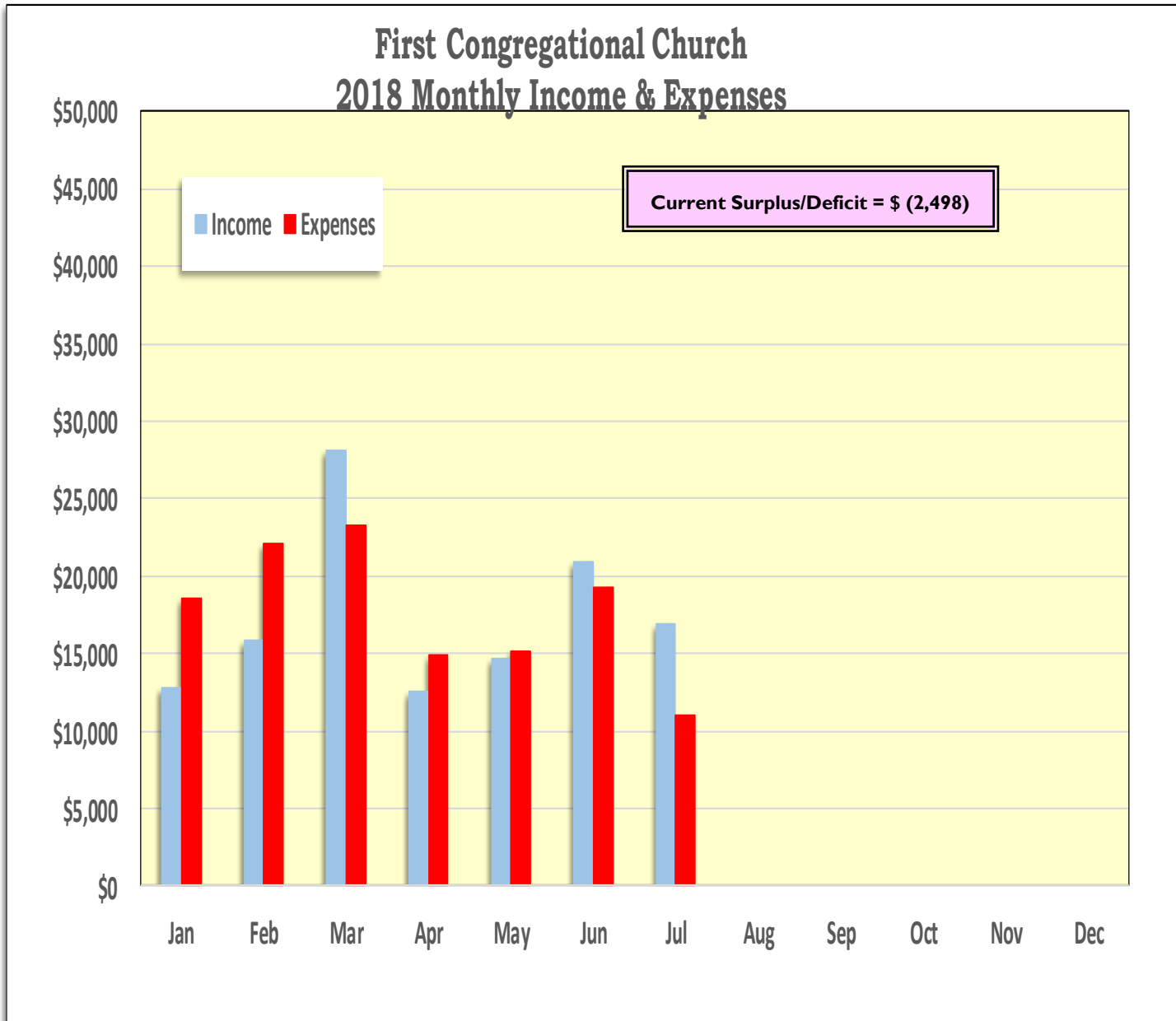
To receive the thoughtful greeting cards with your kind words enclosed gave me much enjoyment. I miss seeing all of my friends at the First Congregational Church of Auburn.

I continue to improve with the assistance of my many therapists, friends and family.

Thank you for thinking of me.

Sincerely,

Shirley Jacobs



Growing Our Faith Through Generosity

We on the Stewardship Committee hope that everyone had a wonderful summer, spending time with family and friends and experiencing God's amazing natural world.

Giving of our time, talents, and treasure to make special memories with loved ones brings us much joy and satisfaction. Similarly, giving of our time, talents, and treasure to strengthen our church and make connections to others helps us feel more spiritually fulfilled: we know we are helping to do God's work in Auburn and around the world.

This fall we will be sharing our thoughts on our theme of Growing Our Faith Through Generosity. As the harvest season approaches, we will gather the fruits of our labors: an increased awareness of God's world and the special place in it for each one of us.

Proverbs 3:9
Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops.



FROM JEAN McPHERSON, OUR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Welcome back, I hope everyone was able to enjoy the summer and you're all ready to "dive" right into Sunday school, Confirmation and youth group.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Rally Day will be on September 9th. As we have in the past, we will celebrate the upcoming year with an ice cream social for the Sunday school kids downstairs in the old kitchen.

PARENTS: PLEASE ACCOMPANY YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN downstairs so YOU will be able to fill out the registration form. PLEASE leave extra time so that you will have time to complete registration for EACH child prior to going up to service. This is important for many reasons and safety is number one. I realize that many of you will be returning and probably not have any information change, but I need records for EACH year.

Also, please consider putting your name on the list to be a "floater" this year. Once I compile a list I will make a schedule so our Child Protection Policy will be covered each week. If we are not able to secure a "floater" for classes we may need to cancel Sunday school for that week and the children will be returned to you to attend service.

If you would like to volunteer for cradle roll, that will be a separate list and we usually use a rotating schedule, but we are open to you only helping out one time if that is your wish, just note that on the form. My goal is to have floaters and cradle roll schedules completed for the first half of the year by the end of September. If you are unable to attend on Rally Day, please be sure to register your child **prior** to you leaving them with a classroom teacher.

YOUTH ON a MISSION

Youth On a Mission (YOM) is open to any student in grades 6-12. Our first meeting will be the annual pumpkin sleepover. This year it will be held on September 28-29. We will meet Friday at 6:30 and then on Saturday morning we will help unload the pumpkins. This is a rain or shine event so plan accordingly. We will have a brief meeting prior to that date so I can get all your information and you can sign up for food to bring to the sleepover. The date has not yet been determined so please watch the bulletin.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is open to students in 9th grade and above. Following worship on Sunday, September 9th, we will have our first class in the green room. If you have not already spoken to Pastor Brian or me about attending, please do so ASAP.

May the love of God be felt in your heart each and every day.

September Birthdays include:

Pastor Brian - Sept. 6th

Jacob McPherson - Sept. 14th

Happy Birthday!



On September 14th
Lori & Nick Stockhaus will
be celebrating their 27th
wedding anniversary -

Congratulations!

POTLUCK SUPPER & MOVIE/BOOK DISCUSSIONS

With summer coming to a close, we will begin meeting again for potluck suppers. The first get-together is planned for Tuesday, Sept. 18th, at 6 p.m. in the "green room." We will be discussing the book, *Faith*, by President Jimmy Carter. We had previously planned to discuss this book, but were unable to meet due to inclement weather. So, it's back on the list. All are welcome to join us for supper and fellowship.



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

Margaret “Peggy” Jean MacLeod Smith died on June 11, 2018. Peggy was born in Springfield, MA on September 28, 1930 to the late Roderick MacLeod and Gertrude Kilb MacLeod. She was preceded in death by her brother, Richard MacLeod.

Surviving relatives include her husband, Ernest "Ernie" Smith; daughter, Bonnie J. Ross; son, Bruce E Smith, and wife, Carol, of Brookline, NH; six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was held on July 21st at Hillcrest Cemetery in Springfield, MA.

Matthew Scott Trottier, 57, died on Monday, June 11. Matthew is survived by his father and step-mother, Gary and Judith (Liard) Trottier; his mother and step-father, Mary Ann (Scott) and Francis Ellis; a son, Trevor Trottier, and his wife, Amanda; three brothers, Mark Trottier, and his companion, Ellie, Christopher Trottier, and his wife, Susan, and Lance Trottier, and his companion, Brenda; three sisters, Yvonne Welch, and her husband, Dan, Michele Schillinger, and her husband, Michael, and Sarah Greenough, and her husband, Bryan; and his former wife, Robbin Trottier.

Mr. Trottier was born in Whitinsville, October 19, 1960. He grew up in Whitinsville and graduated from Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High School in 1978. He was a United States Army veteran of Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Mr. Trottier was a welder and metal worker at Auciello Construction Company. A Memorial Mass was held on Saturday, June 16, in Saint Patrick's Church in Whitinsville.

Violet V. Hanks, 93, of Gainesville, FL, formerly of West Boylston and Auburn, MA, died peacefully on July 1st at E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville after a brief illness.

Vi was born in Worcester, MA to the late John and Anna Bjorklund. She was predeceased by her husband, Gordon E. Hanks, and son, Jeffrey G. Hanks. She is survived by her daughter, Nancy Robinson (Bill), her son, Ronald Hanks (Connie), and her daughter-in-law, Melodie Hanks; 9 grandchildren - Heather Moore (Nathan), Jillian Heenan (Neil), Lisa, Scott (Julianne) and Amy Robinson, Emily and Kelsea Hanks, Jonathan (Katie) and Christopher Hanks, 5 great-grandchildren, Casey, Riley and Leary Moore, Collin and Caiden Heenan.

Vi was a retired executive assistant for the former People's Savings Bank mortgage office. She was active at St. Matthew's Church in Worcester serving on many boards and committees. She was also active while attending church in Gainesville, FL. Vi loved spending time with her family and friends, going to the beach, reading, and baking Swedish family favorites. There was a short service at Britton Wallace Funeral Home on Saturday, July 14th, followed by a private burial next to her husband in Rural Cemetery, Worcester, MA.

Barbara Eleanor Putnam, 92, died peacefully on August 2nd, at High Pointe House in Haverhill, MA. She was born in Pittsfield, MA, married to her late husband, George Osgood Putnam. Family was very important to Barbara. She is survived by four daughters: Deborah Halleran, Mary Pear, Susan MacPhee, Jean Putnam and their husbands, Fred Ursitti, Louis Pear, Stanley MacPhee, and Patrick McFadden; grandchildren, Sarah Parsons, David Halleran (Heidi), Michael Ursitti (Jean), Eric Pear (Jamie), Rebecca Pear, Kevin Eknaian (Jessica), Jeffrey Eknaian (Ashley), Andrew MacPhee and Brian MacPhee (Christy); great-grandchildren, Franklin, Harrison, Noah, Ryan, Jake, Ethan, Adam, Addison, Olivia, Tyler, William and Avery.

A graduate of Fannie Farmer Cooking School in Boston, Barbara was a homemaker residing in Derry, NH until moving to Andover, MA. She was an avid gardener and talented baker. While in Derry, NH, she was an active member at Saint Luke's Methodist Church and later at West Parish Church in Andover. Burial was private. A memorial service, celebrating her life, will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 22nd, at West Parish Church, 129 Reservation Road in Andover, MA.

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

John 11:25

Auburn Walk for Hunger - Sunday, Oct. 21st

I will be the contact person for First Congregational Church and would love to have other members join me. Members from St. Joseph's, North American Martyrs and St. Thomas's will also be walking. All money donated will go to Auburn Youth and Family Service and Kateri's Kitchen. More information will follow closer to the date. Thanks so much.



Sue Campbell

We learned over the summer that Gatto's Flower Shop has sold their business and will be re-opening under new ownership in late September.

Lorraine Olson, the previous owner, met with me over the summer and asked that I pass along her appreciation of the church's business all these many years. As an expression of her appreciation, she is planning to donate several nice vases she has that she feels would be useful for a special occasion (collation, etc.).

We wish Lorraine and her son, Ed, and daughter-in-law, Cheryl, all the best in their retirement.

Please note: Auburn Florist has agreed to honor Gatto's pricing through the end of the year and will bill flower providers directly each week. Please contact me with any questions, 508-832-2845.

Denise, Church Secretary

FROM OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

I would like to thank the Scholarship Committee and the First Congregational Church for selecting me for the Craig Witcher Scholarship. It means a lot to me that I was selected for this Scholarship. I will put this money to good use in paying for my college education at Worcester State University. Thank you again for the Scholarship.

Eric Rockwood

*Dear First Congregational Scholarship Committee,
Thank you so much for selecting me to be a recipient of the Jay E. Murray Scholarship! This Scholarship is greatly appreciated and will be a very helpful contribution towards my tuition at Colby-Sawyer College. I am extremely excited to begin my academic journey of becoming a nurse in the fall.*

*Sincerely,
Katelyn Chalupka
(Judy Taft's granddaughter)*

Dear Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for being a large part in furthering my education. I am so blessed to have been awarded this scholarship! I cannot thank you enough!

*Yours Truly,
Abigail Sullivan
(Mike & Cindy Dube's granddaughter)*

PUMPKIN PATCH FAIR - OCTOBER 20TH



The fair is approaching.....We would like to remind all that the bake table and luncheon are big money makers....we need

pies - apple is always requested
cupcakes in dozens and 1/2 dozens
cookies -- dozens and singles
muffins to serve with coffee in the morning
lemon squares
coffee cakes - whole or halves, etc.

We are also hoping to have many more frozen choices. I will put containers in Fellowship Hall the beginning of October if you need them to put your entrees or single serve meals in. Last year people were looking for meatballs, lasagna, chili, chicken and pasta or any foods that could be heated up. Whole dinners were also great sellers. Meals for 2 or 4 people would be wonderful!

If anyone would like to donate to the luncheon - cheese, bread, hot dogs, condiments, chips, paper goods, it would help...more profit!

Thank you and please call me if there are any questions or you need me to pick up food or donations, or drop off containers. We look forward to another fun and profitable fair. Diane Moore 508 832 8078

ATTENTION JEWELRY LOVERS: Shannon Hartmann and Gayle Farley request that you please keep our fair in mind when you are cleaning out your jewelry drawers or finding great bargains at yard sales. After four years of sales, our stash is getting low. Donations will be accepted now and until the fair. Early donations give Shannon time to repair and clean jewelry. Items such as purses and wallets did quite well last year and the following items would make an interesting 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: a new church fair table will be a headliner this year. 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 NEW 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 Dube at 508-832-6646.

ATTIC TREASURES - please begin to think about what you would like to donate. Please, **no clothes of any kind and no VCR tapes.** We welcome your books, DVD's, CD's, puzzles, games, etc. **Please be sure items are clean and in working condition.**

ANNOUNCING VINTAGE TREASURES - Attic Treasures is a popular part of our Fall Fair. This year we are trying a new category to add to this popular venue. I am seeking donated items for a Vintage Treasures table. Guidelines for vintage, is anything from the 1920's to 1998. 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 BE THINKING ABOUT YOUR BASKETS. HAVING THEM SOONER RATHER THAN LATER IS PREFERABLE. THANKS SO MUCH!!!

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



September is: Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Healthy Aging Month, National Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month, National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, National Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month, Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, Pain Awareness Month, Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, and World Alzheimer's Month.

- 9 - 15 National Suicide Prevention Week
- 10 World Suicide Prevention Day
- 13 National Celiac Disease Awareness Day
- 18 National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day
- 19 Get Ready Day (flu season)
- 19 National School Backpack Awareness Day
- 22 Falls Prevention Awareness Day

I hope everyone had a great summer. If you need information on the above mentioned, please check the table in Fellowship Hall. There are free samples on the table: pill set ups, rubber grippers to open bottles, calendars for 2019, etc. Please help yourselves. Also, don't forget the closet with walkers, tub seats, wheelchairs, etc. The inventory is always changing.

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

**American Cancer Society's
Relay for Life**

Celebrate ~ Remember ~ Fight Back
September 7th - 8th
(6:00 p.m. Friday - 10:30 a.m. Saturday)
at Lemansky Park, Auburn

Coffee Hour Hosts:

- 9/2 Pat Bukoski & Charlotte Steffen
- 9/9, 9/16 Historian, Library, Nominating & Memorial/Scholarship Committees
- 9/23 Board of Deacons
- 9/30, 10/7 Personnel Committee
- 10/14 Outreach Committee
- 10/21 Stewardship Committee
- 10/28 Music Committee & **volunteers please** (it's a small committee)

**SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY
CHURCH SUPPER**

Plan to join us at 5 p.m. on
Saturday, September 15th,
for a delicious **Roast Beef Supper.**

Adults ~ \$10
Children are free!

Servers this month are the Outreach Committee.
Additional volunteers are always appreciated!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Behind the darkest clouds the sun is shining."
- unknown



The Pumpkin Patch will be opening soon!

The pumpkins will be arriving at the Church on September 29th 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. Look for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall in mid-September and relieve stress by signing-up early!

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

THANK YOU!

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

**First Congregational Church,
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*God's church in Auburn Center
doing Christ's work in the world.*

Web: auburnfirstucc.org



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

September 2018

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT