



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:

What a Difference Four Months Makes!

Yaaay, we made it! :-) The masks can come off. Everything is open. The fear and danger is receding. Life feels better.

In February, I was worried. I felt, and I thought others felt, like we were hanging off a branch by our fingernails. We were at our limit. I wondered how long could I, we, hold on the way things were. It was a worrying, exhausting time.

But the vaccines came. People did what was needed to keep the spread down, and we seem to be through the worst. Yaaay! Good job, everyone.

Plus, we now have warm sun, flowers, and long days; all things that naturally help us feel better and have more energy.

I hope if things got hard, you reached out for help. Or, if things are still hard, or you feel stuck, you will reach out for help. We do not call people weak if they go to a doctor for a broken leg. Someone who tries to heal a broken leg by themselves is a fool. Likewise, if our mind or spirit is broken, or not working right, we would be a fool not to reach out for help. I have been in counseling since before COVID. While therapy did not fix everything, it did help. ALOT!

Now what, from the time of COVID, will we keep? What did COVID teach us that we will always live by? I think the handshake should be done, replaced with

either a wave, fist-bump or a hug; which are all better in their way than a handshake.

I also learned how uplifting casual contact with other people is. Cabbage is, again, a social butterfly. Most people no longer keep their distance. They come over to say hi and I in turn get to have a pleasant talk with people as Cabbage gets his fur patted.

We need people. We need friends and family. But even just a smile and wave, as we walk the neighborhood, can be a great blessing.

Sabbatical

On June 1st, I start my 11th year as your pastor. I will be taking 3 weeks of vacation and 6 weeks of Sabbatical. My last Sabbatical was the summer my mother died. That Sabbatical became about saying goodbye to my mom and grieving her death. That time taught me a lot that I still use to help people in grief.

This Sabbatical, I plan to dedicate more time to my spiritual life and Biblical knowledge. I hope at the end of my Sabbatical to have more tools for sermon writing and to have deepened my spiritual life.

I will be on Sabbatical from June 22 to August 23. I pray you all have a relaxing and blessed summer.

God Bless,

Pastor Brian

SERMON TITLES

- 6/6 “Who Thought Kings Were a Good Idea?”
- 6/13 “Do You Come in Peace?”
- 6/20 “Be Silent; Who Talks Without Knowledge?”
- 8/29 “A Song of Love”

SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**will be Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning June 29.**

With Pastor Brian away this summer, and Denise on vacation 8/23-8/27, we will be a one-person office this summer; so, we suggest you call ahead.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Anthony Gervasi - June 6th

Lisa Rockwood - July 21st

Pat Bukoski - Aug. 5th

Alyse Bukoski - June 16th

Reanna Largesse - July 26th

Skip Bigelow - Aug. 10th

Alice Carlson - Aug. 23rd



HERE WE GROW PRESCHOOL JOB POSTING

Here We Grow is looking for 1-2 teachers for the 2021-2022 school year.

Qualifications:

Meet all current Department of Early Education and Care requirements

Willing to attend after school meetings and functions

Successful completion of a CORI, SORI, BRC and fingerprinting

Certification in First Aid and CPR

Freedom from communicable diseases, proof of TB test, completed physical within last 6 months

Will have experience in ECE program implementation and classroom management

Responsibilities:

Full knowledge of **Here We Grow** policies and procedures

Conduct self in a professional manner with parents, children, and co-workers

Attend all weekly staff meetings and monthly teacher trainings

Be sensitive to children's needs

Supervise and work cooperatively with co-teachers, aides, volunteers, student observers, and parents

Hours/Pay:

Multiple schedules available; starting at \$13.50/hour

Here We Grow Preschool typically follows the Auburn Public Schools' calendar, except that **Here We Grow** usually opens the Tuesday after Labor Day and finishes the beginning of June.

Teacher responsibilities will include 21 paid hours of preparation, 3 hours for teacher orientation, 1 hour of meet the teachers during the week prior to school's opening and will end with 7 paid hours of "putting-away time" after school's closing.

For more information or to request an application, call or email Cristi Corey, Director, at 508-832-8184, or director@herewegrowpreschool.com.

Please be in prayer for Paulette, our organist/choir director, and her family due to the passing of her 18 year-old grandson, Charlie, on May 21, after a courageous battle with leukemia. Please pray for Charlie's parents, Jessica and Jim Fosberry, and their children, George, Alan, Sarah, and Rachel.

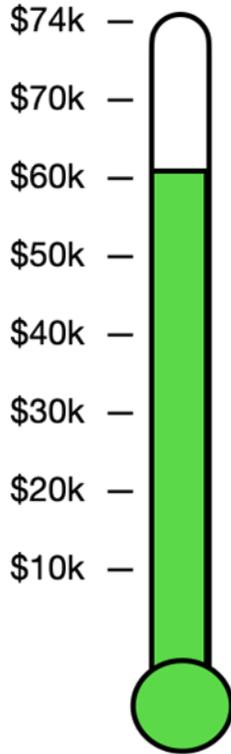


With Deepest Sympathy

First Congregational Church Boiler Fund

Pledge Goal: **\$74,137**

Pledge Total: **\$60,859**
82% of goal



Thank you, once again, to all who have pledged to the Capital Campaign so far. As promised, we are including in the monthly *Tidings* and weekly bulletins a moving thermometer to show our progress on this campaign. We are now looking for approximately \$13,000 to help return the borrowed funds to the church's invested funds. Please look for the next updated thermometer reading in the September *Tidings*.

Remember, you may pledge over the 3 year plan*, make a one time donation, or donate from your own invested funds to this project.

Thank you,
 The Board of Trustees

* Please complete the pledge portion below if you would like to pledge over the 3 year plan.

Please complete this pledge form and return as soon as possible to church address below.

I answer the Trustees' call to support financially the New Boiler Project.
 As part of my response, I will give \$_____ as my (circle one)

Weekly / Monthly / Quarterly / Annual contribution

for a total of \$_____ during 2021 through 2023.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please return to: **First Congregational Church, 128 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501**

Make a Difference, Share our Faith, Secure our Future

Dear Church Family, we'd like to share some food for thought about stewardship, courtesy of Pastor Derek French of the East Hills Moravian Church:

“If we’re honest with ourselves, we have to admit that many Christians think of stewardship primarily in terms of an annual appeal for financial resources to fund the ministries of their home congregation. But congregations which approach stewardship from a Biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay the bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God.”

What’s spiritual about giving money to the church?

Stewardship is an indispensable part of being a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a faith-based lifestyle which recognizes God’s ownership of all things – including our time, abilities and financial resources. As the Psalmist says, “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it...”

(Psalm 24:1)

Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we trust that worshippers are followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship....Faith is brought to completion through those actions which tangibly express our faith (James 2)."

Our faith inspires us to give, to make a difference in the world, and to secure our church's future for ourselves and our children.

Have a wonderful summer.

Blessings,

Your Stewardship Committee: Nan Johnson, Ron Klaucke, Marilyn Kulesa, Ellie Lowell, and Linda Mahlert

“The more you share, the more you receive to share.” - Lailah Gifty Akita

We will have **confirmation classes starting September 19**. Confirmation this year is for students entering 9th grade or above.

We will have an info meeting June 13 on the lawn (or fellowship hall if inclement weather). If you have questions, please contact Pastor Brian for more info.

A NOTE OF



We wish to thank everyone who included Dee in their prayers. Your cards and concerns were of great comfort to our family. While Dee will be missed, we know she is in a better place.

The Rieder Family



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR GRADUATES & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

Carrina Carnrike, the daughter of Gretchen Temple and Jeremy Carnrike, will graduate with honors from Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School on June 5. Her grandparents and great-grandparents are Jen Temple and the late Don Temple, and Marion Woodcock and the late Don Woodcock. Carrina will continue to take classes at Bristol Community College where she is on track to receive an associate degree in 2022. She then plans to pursue a bachelor's degree where she'll major in earth science and minor in English. Carrina will be receiving a scholarship derived from the Mary E. Stone Scholarship Fund.

Hannah Rose Anora Holland, daughter of Wendie and James Holland, and granddaughter of Barbara Cowden and the late Anora Holland, is graduating from Barnstable High School on June 12, and will attend Johnson & Wales School of Culinary Art in the fall.

Addison MacPhee, daughter of Emilee Brown, and Brian and Christy MacPhee. and granddaughter of Stan and Sue MacPhee, graduated 3 years early from Beaufort High School, Beaufort, SC in 2020 at age 15. She has now completed her freshman year at the College of Charleston where she has maintained a 4.0 average as she pursues her B.S. Degree in Computer Science with a minor in mathematics. Addison will be receiving a scholarship from the Ralph and Esther Warren Scholarship Fund.

Rebecca Faith McPherson, the daughter of Rich and Jean McPherson, will be graduating on June 4 from Auburn High School, where she is an honor roll student and member of the student council. She is planning to attend the University of Maine Farmington where she'll major in intensive special needs. Proud grandparents are Albert and the late Katherine Whitney and Bryce and Joanne McPherson. Rebecca will be receiving a scholarship from the Craig Witcher Scholarship Fund.

Emma Shorette, is the daughter of Brittany and Michael Ladue, and the granddaughter of Charlie and Karen Woodcock. She is the great-granddaughter of Marion Woodcock and the late Don Woodcock. Emma is graduating with high honors from Palmer High School on June 6. She is a member of the National Honor Society and is vice president of her class. She will be attending Westfield State University to pursue a degree in elementary education. Emma will be receiving a scholarship derived from the Florence I. Munger Scholarship Fund.

Cassandra Stockhaus is the daughter of Nick and Lori Stockhaus. Her grandparents are Bob Burns and Charlotte Stockhaus and the late Don and Flo Aker and Dick Stockhaus. On May 14, Cassie graduated cum laude from Westfield State University with a double major in biology and psychology and a minor in chemistry. Additional achievements include: Commonwealth Honors and Member of National Society of Leadership and Success. Cassie plans to pursue a position in marine biology.



Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 6th**, and plan to join us as we celebrate our children on

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY!

This year, instead of having our usual cookout, we are asking families to bring a picnic lunch for their family, and we can all share time together in fellowship on the lawn. Individual water bottles, soda cans, bagged chips, and bagged cookies will be provided.

All are welcome!

YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us for our weekly "Fellowship on the Lawn" gatherings on Thursday afternoons beginning at 2 p.m. on the church's front lawn. All are welcome. Please remember your lawn chair and a drink for yourself. (During inclement weather, we will cancel.)

To Church family and friends,

Thank you for the many beautiful birthday cards. They were greatly appreciated.

Charlotte Steffen



Here We Grow Preschool June Tidings

This has been a very interesting year. With the constant changes from the governor as well as EEC, there were days that I didn't know if I was coming or going. But, we made it.

We are ending our year a bit later than normal due to staying closed a couple of extra weeks in January, but we are down to our final weeks.

I am so happy to be able to report that we did NOT have a single shutdown due to COVID exposure all year!! That's not to say that we didn't have anyone associated with the school test positive, but those that did, were not here at a time to expose anyone else.

At this time, we are getting ready for our end of the year programs. Our three-year-old classes will have their programs in the classrooms, which we will record and send home for families to view. The four-year-olds will graduate on the steps of the sanctuary in front of family, one class at a time. We have never attempted an outdoor program, so wish us luck. At this time, I would like to say thank you for the support and memories that we have all been part of this year.

We know that changes will be coming again this fall, and after this past year, we know we can handle anything they throw at us. I cannot say enough how grateful I am to our current staff for all their hard work and dedication this year. Anne Coyne, Helen Ethier, Mariann Lavallee, Michelle Lempicki, Gabbi Lemanski, and Courtney Tomaszewicz worked tirelessly to keep us going. Except for Gabbi, they will all be returning in the fall as well as Jill Myhre and Jill Stohman, who had to take a leave of absence this past year to help their own children with remote learning. We look forward to their return.

Currently, enrollment for the 2021-22 school year has openings in our 3-year-old morning and afternoon classes and our 4-year-old afternoon classes. If you know of anyone looking for a great school, please send them our way. We are also looking for a dynamic teacher or two to join our team for the fall.

In closing, I would first like to say thank you to the church members, board members, and parents for another great year. I look forward to the fall and continuing the success of this program. Wishing you all a safe and fun-filled summer.

Cristi Corey, **Here We Grow** Director

*Dear Church Family,
Many thanks for your prayers,
support, sympathy, and many
cards in memory and cele-
bration of Al's life. He surely
will be missed.*

Love, — The Kulesa Family



We are happy to announce the arrival of Carson Daniel Leszau, the newest member of the Murray Family. He was born on May 3rd weighing in at 6.15 lbs.

Carson is the son of Lauren and Daniel Leszau. Proud grandparents and great-grandparents are Lorna and Joseph Krumpfer and Bob and Carole Murray.

Carson is welcomed by his older siblings, Avery and Jackson. Congratulations to all!

SAVE THE DATE!

THE PUMPKINS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE DELIVERED ON SEPTEMBER 25th!

We will need **A LOT** of help with unloading the delivery. Also, please set aside days to cover the pumpkin patch hours, 9/25-10/31. Your help with this church fundraiser is greatly needed and appreciated!

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no July or August Tidings. Look for our next issue in September. **(SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 29th.)**
Have a great summer!



FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, Cataract Awareness Month, Men's Health Awareness Month, and National Migraine and Headache Awareness Month. It is also National Safety Month, PTSD Awareness Month, and Scoliosis Awareness Month.

June 6 is National Cancer Survivors Day

June 12 is Family Health and Fitness Day

June 14 is World Blood Donor Day

June 14-20 is Men's Health Week

June 18 is Autistic Pride Day

Congratulations to all the cancer survivors! Cancer research has come a long way, but if you get a cancer diagnosis, it must be a very frightening experience. It also mentally affects your family and friends. Please remember all involved.

We're in the time of the year when people are sitting in the sun and enjoying its warmth. Beware of the harmful rays. Use sunscreen and don't forget to reapply it. Also, when you go to the doctor, ask about a skin check. Stay safe.

God Bless!

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

FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Happy summer! I know many of you have been waiting for summer and the relaxation it brings. So, I hope you are able to take advantage of the longer days and sit back and relax with friends.



Sunday school on the lawn has been going well. This past week we made crosses and had a team building event that involved a hula hoop and a tree. Thanks again to Michele Schillinger for helping us out.

We have a Bible trivia obstacle course and build God's nature rainbow collage coming in the next few weeks.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, is the picnic on the lawn. Please plan to bring a lunch for yourself/family and congregate with the church family. Individual water bottles, soda cans, bagged chips, and bagged cookies will be provided. All are welcome!

We have decided Bibles will be given out in the Fall during in-church service, and we will be starting Youth On a Mission and Confirmation classes as well.

Due to the low number of available teachers, and the success of lawn Sunday school, we will continue to meet on the lawn during the fall as well.

I pray you all find comfort in His words and the love of your church family.

Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education



COMMUNITY YARD SALE & PLANT SALE!!!
SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH ~ 8 A.M. TO 1 P.M. ~ RAIN OR SHINE

We have had a HUGE response to our Community Yard Sale!

SO, WE WILL NEED ALL HANDS ON DECK TO HELP!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

FRIDAY, JUNE 11TH, AT 6 P.M. WE WILL NEED HELP CARRYING TABLES AND CHAIRS OUTSIDE. ON SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH, AT 1 P.M., WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THE BREAKDOWN.

PLEASE NOTE: While Mike Dube recovers at home, Cindy will be stepping back from her role as Yard Sale Coordinator. We ask that going forward you direct any inquiries or information to Jennifer Bohn at PetuniaBohn@msn.com or to the church office at 508-832-2845 or email: secretary@auburnfirstucc.org. **ADVANCE NOTICE** of your availability to help with the yard sale is requested in order to reduce stress, please! We also want to take this opportunity to thank Cindy for all her efforts with this fundraiser over the years.

REMEMBER, WE WILL ALSO HAVE A CHURCH TABLE AND WELCOME YOUR DONATIONS.

Please ensure items are **CLEAN** and **IN WORKING ORDER** and drop them off to the Sunday School room across from Jean's office. We need all items by 6 p.m. June 11th. **NO** clothing, VCR tapes, TVs, video/audio/computers, etc.

When separating perennials in your gardens, **PLEASE KEEP THE PLANT SALE IN MIND** and pot up a few to donate. The plants are a huge part of the church's profits.

Please support this church fundraiser by VOLUNTEERING TO HELP at the yard sale - plant sale.
 And thank you to everyone who has rented a space!

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

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128 Central St., Auburn MA 01501

Phone: (508) 832-2845

Office hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Summer hours: T, W & Th 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Email: secretary@auburnfirstucc.org
 or PastorBrian@auburnfirstucc.org

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

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT