



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 I write this, we are expecting 95 degree days, after a couple months when it was cold and windy all day, everyday, or so it seemed. With the sun out, I notice my mood is also sunnier. I think that is true for many of us. No matter how deep in technology we get, and how far from nature we become, the weather still has a great effect on us.

There is a meme for when a person is acting crazy on the internet. People say, “Touch grass!” The idea is that if you are having mental problems, touching grass, that is going out in nature, will help your mental health.

Time spent in nature, being seen as good for a person's soul, is an ancient idea. The early monks would go into the desert or other wilderness to be closer to God. Being away from people for a while and being surrounded by God's creation was a route to holiness. In time, the holy monks who were off by themselves attracted other people who wanted to learn from them. So monasteries and towns grew up around what was virgin nature, and the hermit monk in each generation would go deeper into the wilderness.

So I encourage you to touch grass. I, too, will try to be less online and more around plants. It might help all of our mental health.

I think this spring people are more down than they normally are. Even more than the last two springs. The third spring with Covid has exhausted all but the strongest people. Depression is a problem for many people, often suffering in silence. People are afraid to bring it up. I know having a serious discussion is not the most fun thing to do. But it can really help.

Some think that talking about bad things makes the bad things worse. Let's see if that idea works with a physical injury. If someone breaks their leg, are we quiet about it? NO! We yell in pain. We yell for help. We get the person to a doctor and get them treatment. Dealing with depression, or any other mental or spiritual problem, should be the same.

I do not think talking about depression, or asking if someone is doing alright, will lead people down a spiral. Rather, it might help people connect, and feel less isolated.

My mom was the clan babysitter. She babysat for a lot of my older cousins, until I got old enough to baby-sit by myself. After every babysitting job, the one we babysat for would try to pay my mom. This would result in 15-30 minutes of a hand fight as mom gave back the money and the cousin kept trying to give mom the money. It got pretty ridiculous. Two fully grown women trying to slip \$5 into each other's pockets or purse. It was a long night of reverse pickpocketing.

I did not want to do that. I did the one rejection plan.

“How much is babysitting?”

“You are family, it is free.”

“No, I will pay you \$2 an hour.” (Yeah, I am OLD.)

“Ok, thanks.”

The first rejection was the polite rejection. The second rejection was a real rejection.

That is how to start a “serious” talk, I think. Let who you are talking with get one rejection.

“Do you want to talk?”

“No”

“No, I am being serious here. Would you like to talk?”

If that gets another “NO,” then let it drop. Otherwise, let the talk go where it will. Talking about depression is not really talking about depression, it is talking about how much you care about the person. You care enough to notice.

I think the devil loves silence. The devil loves secrets. Silence and secrets isolate people. People are strong in community and weaker when isolated.

It is no accident that God spoke creation into being. Speaking is a holy thing. So if you see friends and family that seem to have changed, say something. It might spark people to get help if they need it.

May we all have a sunny, natural, and joyful summer with lots of visiting and talking.

Pastor Brian



Anthony Gervasi - June 6th
 Alyse Bukoski - June 16th
 Lisa Rockwood - July 21st
 Reanna Largesse - July 26th
 Pat Bukoski - Aug. 5th
 Skip Bigelow - Aug. 10th

SAVE THE DATE!

THE PUMPKINS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE DELIVERED ON SEPTEMBER 24th!

We will need **A LOT** of help with unloading the delivery. Also, please set aside days to cover the pumpkin patch hours, 9/24-10/31. Your help with this church fundraiser is greatly needed and appreciated!

Thank you very much for all your cards, prayers and offers for transportation as I recovered from knee surgery.
God bless,
Laura Koopman

The 2022 Stewardship theme is "Count Me In!"

Each one of us counts as a key part of our church's life and strength. Look for more information when our Stewardship campaign starts in September.

JUNE & JULY SERMON TITLES

June 5 - Children's Sunday
 "They Were All Together"

June 12
 "Justified by Faith"

June 19 - Confirmation Sunday
 "A Nation Apart"

June 26
 "Party on the Mountain"

July 3
 "Don't Be Like Other Nations"

July 10
 "A Soft Whisper"

July 17
 "New Leaders"

July 24 &
 July 31 Pastor Brian will be on vacation.
 Please pray for a time of rest and renewal.



SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

Pastor Brian will be on vacation 7/17-8/1. Denise will be on vacation 8/22-8/29. Since, at times, we will be a one-person office this summer, we suggest you call ahead before coming in.



FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month, National Migraine and Headache Awareness, National Scleroderma Awareness Month, and PTSD Awareness Month.

June 6 is National Cancer Survivors Day

June 8 is Brain Tumor Day

June 13-19 is Men's Health Week

June 14 is World Blood Donor Day

June 18 is Autistic Pride Day

Ticks can be found almost year round, but now that we're outside more, please be careful and check your clothes and body regularly. Be careful removing a tick...use alcohol if possible. Take the tick to the doctor with you.

It's also time to be more concerned about the sun's rays and melanoma. Skin checks are very important. Wear sunscreen when you are outside and reapply as directed.

God Bless!

Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse

Cell: 508-612-4521

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no July or August *Tidings*. Look for our next issue in September. **(SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 15th.)** Have a great summer!

Our Community Yard Sale/Plant Sale is June 11th, 8am-1pm

This is the time of year to thin your perennials, so please pot up any extras for our

PLANT SALE on Saturday, June 11th, 8am-1pm.

Please mark each pot with the name of the plant.

Please list what color and what height the plant is when grown.
(A permanent marker on a white plastic knife is ideal for this purpose.)

Drop off your plants anytime Thursday night or Friday, the 10th.

If you need us to pick your plants up.....call Diane Moore, 508-832-8078 or Lois Therrien at 508-736-9012. Lois would also be happy to dig up any plants in your yard that need dividing.

If you are looking to purchase annuals or perennials before our sale, please go out to Christine's on Whittemore St., directly across from Leicester High School. She donates to our sale. Her house is about a 1/4 mile from Route 56; her greenhouses are on the left, next to a blue cape house. Parking is across the street.

Thank you...Looking forward to another great year making all yards more beautiful.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR GRADUATES & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!



Emma Rae Bloomquist, the daughter of Jeffrey and Toni Bloomquist and granddaughter of Wayne and Gloria Bloomquist, graduated with high honors from Hagerty High School in Oviedo, FL on May 23. She will be attending the University of Central Florida in the fall to study Health Sciences. Emma will be receiving a scholarship from the Jay E. Murray Scholarship Fund.

Nicholas Comeau, the son of Fred and Paula Comeau and grandson of Donna Errede, is graduating from Auburn High School on June 10. While at Auburn High, Nick was part of the school's marching band. He will attend Framingham State University in the fall where he'll major in Psychology. Nick will be receiving a scholarship from the Jay E. Murray Scholarship Fund.

Abigail Morrison, daughter of Michelle and Troy Morrison, will be graduating from Leicester High School on June 6. While at Leicester High, she was the Captain of the Field Hockey Team and member of the National Honor Society and ranked among the top 30 in her class. Abby plans to attend Roger Williams University where she will major in Elementary Education. She will be receiving a scholarship from the George & Barbara Schmalz Scholarship Fund.

Maria Mykhaylyk, the daughter of Roksolana Mykhaylyk and Eric Prouty and granddaughter of Wayne and Joyce Prouty, will be graduating on June 3 from The Bromfield School in Harvard, MA. A partial list of her achievements include: Student Government Treasurer, Spanish Honor Society President, and Co-captain for the Varsity Girls' Tennis Team. Maria plans to major in Neuroscience at Brandeis University. Maria received a scholarship from the Jay E. Murray Scholarship Fund during the worship service on May 22.

Lisa Rockwood, the daughter of John and Carol Rockwood, will be graduating on June 3rd from Whitinsville Christian School. Interests/extra-curricula activities in high school include: member of DECA and Student Council, participated in theater and musicals, and served as volunteer dance instructor. She will be attending Framingham State University this fall majoring in Communications. Lisa will be receiving a scholarship from the Elmeda Scholarship Fund.

Abigail Sullivan is the daughter of John and Amy Sullivan and is Cindy and Mike Dube's granddaughter. Abby graduated from Endicott College on May 21 with a Bachelor's Degree in Sport Management. She is now enrolled in the Master's Degree Program at Endicott to equip her as she pursues her goal of securing an Athletic Director position.



Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 5th**, and plan to join us as we celebrate our children on

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY!

After the worship service that day, we will have our annual church picnic. We are looking for donations of desserts and side salads to round out our menu of hamburgers and hot dogs provided by the Board of Ed. Please see the sign-up sheet in fellowship hall.

All are welcome!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS JUNE 19TH

Our candidates for Confirmation are:

Connor Allain
T.J. Comeau
Devon Hammond
Joshua Hammond
Jillian Morrison
Ben Scobie

Please join us on the 19th as we celebrate with our newest church members in their commitment to God and to our church.

FROM YOUR OUTREACH COMMITTEE

World Central Kitchen (WCK)

Founded in 2010 by Chef José Andrés, World Central Kitchen (WCK) is first to the frontlines, providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises while working to build resilient food systems with locally led solutions. WCK has served more than 70 million fresh meals to people impacted by natural disasters and other crises around the world. WCK's Resilience Programs strengthen food and nutrition security by training chefs and school cooks; advancing clean cooking practices; and awarding grants to farms, fisheries, and small food businesses while also providing educational and networking opportunities. Learn more at wck.org.

"You see, food relief is not just a meal that keeps hunger away. It's a plate of hope. It tells you in your darkest hour that someone, somewhere, cares about you."

This wonderful program was brought to our attention by Pat Bukoski and we could not be more excited to support this wonderful mission. World Central Kitchen is already working in Ukraine along with many other locations. Update: We were saddened to learn that a missile hit the WCK in Kharkiv, Ukraine. We are looking into earmarking our donations to the relief work there. Please continue to pray for Ukraine.

Our Outreach Committee will match all donations, up to \$500, to support **WCK**. Your donations can be given to any Outreach Committee member or placed in the offering plate *clearly* marked **World Central Kitchen**.

CWS Blankets Program

When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets Program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters. When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way. If you would like to make a donation, checks should be payable to the church with "CWS Blankets" in the memo section and may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays or mailed directly to the church at 128 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501. Cards are available if you would like to make a donation in honor of a family member.

WE WILL BE COLLECTING FOR THESE TWO CAUSES THROUGH JUNE 30TH.

In His service,

Outreach Committee: Jennifer Bohn, Cindy Dube, Judy Murphy, Deb Pranaitis, Sheila Skog, and Judi Taft



Please continue in prayer for the Carlson Family due to the recent passing of Alice Carlson.

Alice K. (Jamieson) Carlson passed on April 26, 2022. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Gustaf A. Carlson; and their daughter, Barbara A. MacIntosh.

She leaves her loving son, Wayne G. Carlson, and his wife, Jill; her son-in-law, Thomas MacIntosh, three grandchildren: Gregory Carlson, Amanda Carlson, both of Worcester, and Corey MacIntosh, of North Brookfield; her godchild, Sheila Conroy, and several nieces and nephews. Alice was also predeceased by her siblings, Robert G. Jamieson, Jr., Dorothy M. Eklund, and her twin sister, Barbara Ann Jamieson; and their parents, Robert G. Jamieson, Sr. and Alice E. (Nichols) Jamieson.

Alice was born in Worcester, and raised in Auburn; she graduated from Worcester Girls Trade School, and held several jobs over the years, retiring in 1984 from the Bryn Mawr School, where she worked in the lunch program.

In her free time, she enjoyed sewing, crafting, puzzles, and knitting. Alice was a lifelong, faithful parishioner of the First Congregational Church of Auburn.

Her family would like to thank the staff of 3 East at UMASS University for their compassion and care of Alice.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the First Congregational Church of Auburn, 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501. Services were held privately for Alice's family, and she was buried alongside her beloved Gus in Hillside Cemetery.



Here We Grow Preschool June Tidings

We made it to the end of another school year. While there were still a lot of changes coming at us from the state, and what felt like a lot less guidance than we had last year, we still finished strong and again without having to shut down due to Covid. We are, once again, ending our year a bit later than normal due to staying closed an extra week in January, but it was worth it. 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.

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 are pleased to be able to invite the parents in to watch. The four-year-olds will graduate on the steps of the sanctuary in front of family and friends. We did this last year, and it worked out so well that we decided to continue the new tradition. 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. Katelyn Aguiar, Anne Coyne, Helen Ethier, Abigail Leahy, Jill Myhre, Amy Smith, Jill Stohlman, Courtney Tomaszewicz, these ladies worked tirelessly to keep us going. Currently, enrollment for the 2022-23 school year has openings in all of our classes. If you know of anyone looking for a great school, please send them our way.

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

FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

As a reminder, 2022 statements that cover this year's pledges from January through August will be mailed out in September. To save on postage, those current in their pledges, up to and including August, will not be receiving a partial year statement. Please be assured that from every pledge received, no matter the amount, your gift of love and support, in turn, is blessed and appreciated. As always, thank you for helping us with our yearly budgeting needs.

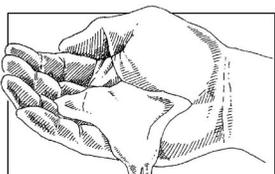
If you have any questions regarding your pledge, contact me (Sue MacPhee) at home: 508-832-9347, or email me at: susiemac2002@gmail.com. Please include your name and call back number with some details that will help me in responding.

Congratulations on Your New Baby!



We celebrate with the Moore/Veau Family on the newest addition to their family. Juniper Elizabeth Veau, the daughter of Zack and Lauren Veau, arrived on May 24th, weighing in at 8lbs., 2 oz.

Proud grandparents are Scott and Lisa Moore Veau and great-grandparents Paul and Diane Moore. We pray God's blessing upon Juniper and her family.



Recently Baptized

On May 15, we celebrated the baptism of Jacob Ford Rozak, the 3½ month-old-son of Alyssa and Alexander Rozak. Proud family members include: grandparents Steven and Cindy Cariglio and great-grandparents Cherolyn Cariglio and Paul and Debra Pellegrino. We pray for God's continued blessing upon Jacob and his family.

FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

We wrapped up our last Sunday school class this week. WOW!!!! That went by so quickly. Our last 2 classes of the year were focused on rocks. First, we discussed the different ways that a rock is mentioned in the Bible. We learned how and why Jesus is our rock; we learned about Simon Peter and why he is/was the "cornerstone" of Jesus' church. The second week was "kindness rocks." How can we use something simple and easy to find, to show another person kindness? We learned that being kind to one another makes God very happy. When you are kind, you have the strength to bring joy to 3 entities. The person receiving your kindness, the Lord with His approval, and the person showing kindness.

We spent 2 classes painting rocks with beautiful scenes and inspiring messages. You will see them placed in our flower gardens, complimenting the splendor of Nan's creations! We invite you to take a rock that "speaks to you." Anyone from our community is also invited to paint a rock and leave it for someone else to find! My hope is that we can continue this tradition of sharing kindness and creativity through rocks, for as long as we can!

On the topic of kindness, I want you all to know how much I appreciate the kindness that has been shown to me these past few months. From my afternoons with Denise, Judy and Pastor Brian, to the volunteers, to the parents of our wonderful children and our entire church family; I am humbled by your love and support.

I began this role in November, not really knowing what to expect. Not knowing which kids, if any, will show up to class. Not knowing how I will prepare my curriculums or if I can reach the kids with my words. Will my silliness bring them in or push them away? So many unknowns... But, we did it! And I think the children were happy! There may even be a chance that they learned something! I would like to say a special "thank you for your kindness" to our Board of Christian Ed. Without these ladies, I would have flopped. Each and every one of you not only showed me love and kindness, but also encouragement that gave me the confidence I needed to succeed. I felt like I was part of team... a winning team!

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity." PSALM 133:1
Although too long to add here, I implore you to open your Bible and read 1Corinthians 12:12-27.

Time to start preparing for Children's Sunday. I look forward to seeing everyone out on the lawn so we can celebrate our children and their accomplishments this year!

Peace and Love,
~ Shannon Hartmann

From Paulette, Our Organist/Choir Director:

Our choir season is over for this year. I want to thank the choir members—Lori Stockhaus, Linda Mahlert, Pam Tentor, Ron Hanks, and Paula Bigelow—for their commitment to this very important ministry. A special thanks to Lori, Linda, and Pam, who formed a trio that kept us going from September through February when Ron rejoined us. A little while later, Paula came back after being away a few months.

Worship is just not the same without the choir. They add fullness, beauty, and joy to our prayer.

As it says in Psalm 98 "Sing a new song to the Lord....Sing praise to the Lord with the lyre and melodious song"

So again I say thanks to the choir for all their hard work and commitment.

Have a restful summer. See you in September!

Peace!





COMMUNITY YARD SALE & PLANT SALE!!!

SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH ~ 8 A.M. TO 1 P.M. ~ RAIN OR SHINE

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

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 Shannon's office. We need all items by 6 p.m. June 10th.

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.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO BAKE ITEMS TO SELL WITH COFFEE AT THE YARD SALE/PLANT SALE. Please wrap items individually and be sure to note if nuts are included.

So, please plan to support this church fundraiser by **VOLUNTEERING TO HELP**. We'll need help with set up (carrying chairs/tables out) on Friday night beginning at 6 p.m. and breakdown at 1 p.m. on Saturday. You may also lend your support by helping at the coffee/bake sale table, or helping out at the hot dog/burger tent. We will need people to cover the church's yard sale tables as well. Consider inviting your friends and neighbors here for coffee and baked goods and/or hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch, followed by a day of bargain shopping!

Please call the church office, 508-832-2845, with your offer to help or text/call Cindy Dube, 774-238-0260.

*** * * THANK YOU TO ALL WHO RENTED A SPACE AND TO ALL WHO ARE HELPING WITH THIS YEAR'S YARD SALE/PLANT SALE! * * ***

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



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OR CURRENT RESIDENT