

JUNE
2023

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:

Dear Church Family,

It is with sadness that I announce my resignation as pastor of the First Congregational Church of Auburn. I’ll be resigning effective July 16, 2023 with the last Sunday in the pulpit being July 9.

I have taken the job as pastor of the Monadnock Congregational Church in Colebrook, NH. I will be about 20 miles from the home I grew up in and where my brother still lives.

It has been a joy being your pastor for these last 12 years, and I hope that a new pastor will help lead you in new ways, from strength to strength, continuing the wonderful work you do in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

May God bless you all,

Pastor Brian

JUNE & JULY SERMON TITLES

June 4
“Even Risen There Are Doubters”

June 11 - Children’s Sunday
“Mercy Not Sacrifice”

June 18 “Ask the Lord of the Harvest to Send Out Laborers”

June 25 - Scholarship & Baptism Sunday
“Teacher & Student”

July 2
“Abraham’s Future Is Isaac”

July 9 - Pastor Brian’s last Sunday
“Paul”

PLEASE JOIN US IN HONORING PASTOR BRIAN ON JUNE 11

Please be sure to join us on June 11 as we honor Pastor Brian and bid him farewell. While his last day with us will be July 9, we recognize that vacations have been scheduled, and we want to be able to include as many people as possible in giving him a proper send-off. So, it seemed like a good idea to honor Pastor Brian as part of our Children’s Sunday service beginning at 10 a.m. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!



Shhhh . . . We would like to take a monetary collection to present to Pastor Brian as he leaves our church and accepts the pastorate position with Monadnock Congregational Church in Colebrook, NH. Please put donations in an envelope addressed to Lori Stockhaus and place it in the offering when it’s passed, or mail to her attention at the church, 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501, or to Lori’s home address, 36 Linda Ave., Millbury, MA 01527. Checks should be payable to the church with Pastor Brian in the memo section. Thank you.

SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS will be Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 9 a.m.—2 p.m. beginning June 27.

Denise will be on vacation 6/9-6/21 and 8/8-8/10. Since, at most times, we will have a one-person office this summer, we suggest you call ahead before coming in, just to be sure the office is open.

THE TRUSTEES ARE REQUESTING HELP WITH OFFICE COVERAGE on 6/9 and 6/16 and 8/8-8/10. Please call the church office, 508-832-2845, if you’re available to help out. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE!

THE PUMPKINS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE DELIVERED ON **SEPTEMBER 23rd!**

We will need **A LOT** of help with unloading the delivery. Also, please set aside days to cover the pumpkin patch hours, 9/23-10/31.

Your help with this church fundraiser is greatly needed and appreciated!

FROM OUR ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Another choir year has ended. Thanks SO MUCH to the faithful, giving, and talented people who make the choir possible: Paula Bigelow, Ron Hanks, Linda Mahlert, Lori Stockhaus, and Pam Tentor. They have devoted hours to make music for the services, and we know how much their singing adds to our prayer and worship!

As we enter the summer, the services will be a little quieter. Please take this time to ponder whether YOU could add YOUR voice to the choir in the fall. You can speak to me anytime after service.

Please give your prayerful consideration to joining us in praising God through making music together.

Have a restful summer! God bless you and give you peace!

Paulette



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Anthony Gervasi - June 6 Reanna Largesse - July 26

Alyse Bukoski - June 16 Pat Bukoski - Aug. 5

Lisa Rockwood - July 21 Skip Bigelow - Aug. 10

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Kim & Bob Davis - July 14

SAVE THE DATE
Scholarship Sunday is June 25th



COMMUNITY NEWS — Did You Know?

In the 1920's, the town of Auburn realized it was spending too much money on tuition and transportation of Auburn residents attending Worcester high schools. In 1926, the town acquired land on the Dunn property on Auburn Street, but it wasn't until a special town meeting on August 29, 1933 that money was appropriated to build a school.

On March 5, 1935, plans drawn by Lucius Briggs were accepted and within a month work had started on Auburn's first high school. Nine months later, on December 16, 1935, the first classes were held, with the formal dedication of the high school on January 16, 1936.

The Green Dome stood high upon the main entrance and quickly became an icon of both the school and the town of Auburn. When the 72 year old building was demolished, the Green Dome was able to be removed from the building and saved. It had fallen into disrepair as it passed from several town departments, the Historical Commission and the Town Manager's office. It now sits on Auburn High School property where it has been restored and renovated and will be preserved as a lasting memory of all the dedicated teachers and students who have passed through those halls.



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, and Cataract Awareness.

June 4 is National Cancer Survivors Day

June 8 is Brain Tumor Day

June 12-18 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 the warmer weather is here, please be careful and check your clothes and body regularly. Be careful removing a tick...use alcohol, if possible. Remember to 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.

Please keep the medical supply closet in mind if you or someone you know has a need.

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 20th.)** Have a great summer!

Our Community Yard Sale/Plant Sale is June 10th, 8am-1pm

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

PLANT SALE!

A big seller is RHUBARB! (cut and bundle in 6 stalks).

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 Friday, the 9th.



Need to drop off your plant donations early? Email Diane Moore at p.moore04@hotmail.com or Lois Therrien at appletq@charter.net

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.



Here We Grow Preschool June Tidings

We made it to the end of another successful school year. We are getting ready for our end of the year programs. Our three-year-old classes will have their programs in the classrooms, with just their parents in attendance. The four-year-olds will again graduate on the steps of the sanctuary in front of family and friends. While we did not enjoy many things during Covid, we do love this new tradition that came out of necessity.

At this time, I would like to say thank you to the members of the HWG Board, Pastor Brian, Todd Dube, Nick Stockhaus, Michele Schillinger, Deb Minor, and Carrie Grimshaw, and parents Eri Ortiz, Michelle Wagaman and Nicole Vecchio for the support this year.

I cannot say enough about how grateful I am to our current staff for all their hard work and dedication this year: Katelyn Aguiar, Brenda Carbonneau, Anne Coyne, Jill Myhre, Mary Soderberg, Jill Stohlman, and Courtney Tomaszewicz. These ladies worked tirelessly to keep us going. I am looking forward to working with these fantastic ladies again in September. Currently, enrollment for the 2023-24 school year has minimal openings left. If you know of anyone looking for a great school, please send them our way.

In closing, I would like to say goodbye and good luck to Pastor Brian in his new endeavors. Your guidance and support of Here We Grow has been much appreciated.

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, 2023 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.



Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 11th**, 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 in fellowship hall.

All are welcome!

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Join us for a church outing to the **WooSox baseball game on June 21**, which is Auburn Night at Polar Park. The BOCE is hoping to achieve their goal of connecting our youth with our adult members through common interests where they can enjoy fellowship outside of the church setting.

Katie Sharr, of the Board of Ed, has arranged for a special link to allow church members to purchase tickets in the same section of the ball park. The link was included in the church-wide email that was sent on May 1st. If you don't currently receive church emails, call the church office, 508-832-2845, to have the link emailed to you.

Pastoral Search Committee

With the resignation of Pastor Brian Grover, I hope you will all join me in thanking him for his 12 years of service with our congregation, and to wish him the best in his new ministry at the Monadnock Congregational Church in Colebrook, New Hampshire.

We have begun the process to find a new minister for our Congregation by forming a Pastoral Search Committee. **We have only one spot remaining on the committee.** If you are interested in serving on the Pastoral Search Committee, please let me know, so I can submit your name to the Church Council for consideration to serve on the committee.

The responsibilities of the Pastoral Search Committee are specified in Article V, Section 10 of our By-Laws:

Section 10 a) Pastoral Search Committee/Pastoral Support Committee When a vacancy occurs in the Minister(s) position, the Church Council shall solicit names of Church members and appoint a committee from that list to serve through the first year of the new Minister's service. The Committee should consist of eleven (11) members, but no less than nine (9) members who shall represent a diverse cross section of the congregation. The Committee shall, with the cooperation of The Central (MA) Association of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, make a canvas of available ministers. This Committee shall, by a minimum of two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, recommend the candidate who in their judgment should be called to the pastorate. This Committee shall then introduce this Minister to the Church at a duly called meeting to propose his or her election. (See Article III, Section 1) This Committee shall also function as a Pastoral Support Committee for the first year of the new pastorate to help foster mutual trust between the congregation and the new minister(s).

Thank you for your support as we go through this time of transition.

Stuart Campbell, President
Church Council

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THE YARD SALE



- At home: bake for our coffee/baked goods table. Please wrap items individually (baggies work) and be sure to list if item contains nuts and drop off to the church on Friday (be sure to call ahead during the day to ensure someone is here or come at 6 p.m. Friday, June 9) or *early* Saturday morning, June 10.
- 6pm 6/9: bring tables out on Friday night (approximately 60 minute time commitment)
- 1pm 6/10: carry tables back into building at end of yard sale and help with general clean-up. (approximately 90 minute time commitment)
- 7-9am & 9-11am Sign-up for a 2 hour shift at our coffee and baked goods table at the yard sale on Saturday morning, June 10th.

As you can see, none of these important tasks will demand too much of your time.

PLEASE LOOK FOR THE SIGN-UP SHEET IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AND OFFER YOUR HELP OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR GRADUATES & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!



Graduation Announcements

Lorenzo Cariglio, the grandson of Cherolyn Cariglio and the late Lawrence Cariglio, will be graduating with honors from Auburn High School on June 2. While at Auburn High, Lorenzo has been involved with chorus, basketball, and football and received the 12th Man Award in football. He is planning to attend the Electrical Program at The Peterson School in Worcester in the fall.

Juliana D'Orazio is the daughter of Kerry and John D'Orazio. Her grandparents are Jackie Knox and the late Rev. Dr. Kenneth Knox. Juliana graduated magna cum laude from Endicott College on May 20 where she earned a Degree in Digital Media with a Concentration in Filmmaking. Juliana has accepted an internship with Disney in Florida beginning in the fall.

Anthony Gervasi, son of Tricia and Reno Gervasi, will be graduating with honors from Auburn High School on June 2. Anthony's interests while in high school include soccer, tennis and bowling. He will be attending Bridgewater State University as he pursues his goal to become a physical education teacher. He also plans to minor in coaching so he may remain involved in his favorite sport, soccer. Anthony will be receiving a scholarship from the George & Barbara Schmalz Scholarship Fund during the worship service on June 25, Scholarship Sunday.

Gabriel Lazerick, the son of Pam and John Lazerick, and grandson of Lee Fenby and the late Rev. Robert Fenby, will be graduating with honors from Auburn High School on June 2. Gabe's interests include: ski club, bowling team, and baseball. He is an Auburn Baseball League Sportsmanship Award recipient and has achieved Eagle Scout with Troop 53. Gabe will be attending Assumption University in the fall where he plans to study mathematics with a concentration in data science. He will receive a scholarship from the Memorial Scholarship Fund during the worship service on June 25.

Zachary Lazerick, the son of Pam and John Lazerick, and grandson of Lee Fenby and the late Rev. Robert Fenby, graduated with honors from the College of the Holy Cross on May 26 with a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and a Concentration in Statistics.

Cameron Scobie, the son of George and Bev Scobie, will be graduating from Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School in early June. His focus in high school has been in Business Technology. After another summer of lifeguarding in Old Orchard Beach, Maine, he will be attending Westfield State University this fall. While there, he will be studying his passion, all things music, with intentions of pursuing a career in music production. Cam will be receiving a scholarship from the Elmeda Scholarship Fund during the worship service on June 25.

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 20 with a Master's Degree in Sports Science. She is continuing her position as Assistant to the Marketing Director with the New England Patriots organization.



On May 21, we celebrated the baptism of Ryland David Coderre, the 6 month-old-son of Scott and Nicole Coderre.

On May 28, we celebrated the baptism of Anthony David Denham, the 2 month-old son of Amanda and Matthew Denham. Anthony's proud great-grandmother is church member Cherolyn Cariglio.

We pray for God's continued blessing upon these precious little ones and their families.

FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

All good things must come to an end. Although, lucky for us, there is really no end for our current Sunday school students this year! Our junior high class will be moving on to confirmation classes and a brand new Sunday school (SS) year will begin in September.

I would like to address the proverbial “elephant in the room.” I can imagine many of you are wondering what SS and confirmation will look like without Pastor Brian. I certainly am a little nervous about it, as Pastor Brian has been a key element for my growth as DRE and SS teacher. And truth be told, change can be very scary. I encourage you to grab your Bible and read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. “For everything there is a season...” Our church family is entering a new season. Feel the fear and do it anyway!!! It is ok to be scared, but you must recognize your fears and continue forward knowing that God has a plan and we are all part of it. All youth encounters will move forward as usual. Rally Day will be September 10th and confirmation class will begin shortly after. Youth On a Mission will have fun activities throughout the year including, but not limited to, Monadnock!!! The Board of Christian Ed and I will be working closely with the Deacons to ensure that the spiritual needs of our children will be met. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me!!!!

This past year has been a wonderful year for our students. We have had a few new faces, which is always such a blessing, and a lot of familiar faces that has maintained familiarity and joy! I have seen friendships forged and fears overcome. There has been a unity reignited between the adults in our church and the children in our classrooms. I am lucky enough to have had 3 outstanding teachers help me lead our classrooms and many volunteers come down to share in our lessons. The Lord has blessed all of us with an opportunity to grow in our faith, through the eyes and voices of the children.

I hope to see as many of you as possible for Children’s Sunday on June 11th as we celebrate the hard work and achievements of our children and all those who supported Christian Ed in one way or another. We will also be celebrating Pastor Brian and his 12 years as pastor here at FCC Auburn. It seems fitting to combine these celebrations as Pastor Brian has played a crucial role in developing young minds in understanding not only their faith, but also their role in our community.

Thank you to Michele Schillinger, Lillian McPherson and Patricia Hilbert for all your work with our students. Thank you to all our volunteers who gave up worship in the sanctuary to spend the morning with us! Thank you to Denise and Pastor Brian, for your mentorship and guidance!

It takes a village. I leave you with these (2) passages that I find fitting for this *Tidings*:

Mark 10:13-16

¹³ *And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” ¹⁶ And ^she took them in his arms and blessed them, ^laying his hands on them.*

Hebrews 13:8 ⁸ *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

Peace and Love,

~ Shannon Hartmann

WORCESTER FELLOWSHIP SOCK COLLECTION

Dear friends - we are in a crisis situation for new white adult socks for the homeless in Worcester. We would be grateful for any donations.

Our thanks and blessings — Sue

Susan Pellerin, Administrative Director, Worcester Fellowship, Inc.

Please look for a designated box in fellowship hall to place your donations of new white socks. Thank you!



COMMUNITY YARD SALE & PLANT SALE!!!

SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH ~ 8 A.M. TO 1 P.M. ~ RAIN OR SHINE

WE WILL NEED ALL HANDS ON DECK TO HELP!

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.

Note: We will NOT be having a church table at the yard sale this year, so we will NOT be accepting any donations to the yard sale. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.



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.

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/baked goods table. Please invite 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 see the sign-up sheet in fellowship hall and offer your help with the yard sale, or call the church office, 508-832-2845, or text/call Cindy Dube, 774-238-0260, to add your name to the list.

***** 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,
United Church of Christ
128 Central St., Auburn MA 01501**

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

Web: auburnfirststucc.org



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June 2023

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT