



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 PASTOR BRIAN

In honor of Saint Patrick's Day I give to you Saint Patrick's Breast Plate, a hymn in the style of a Druidic incantation meant to protect travelers on their way.

**I bind unto myself today
The strong Name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same
The Three in One and One in Three.
I bind this today to me forever
By power of faith, Christ's incarnation;
His baptism in Jordan river,
His death on Cross for my salvation;
His bursting from the spiced tomb,
His riding up the heavenly way,
His coming at the day of doom
I bind unto myself today.
I bind unto myself the power
Of the great love of cherubim;
The sweet 'Well done' in judgment hour,
The service of the seraphim,
Confessors' faith, Apostles' word,
The Patriarchs' prayers, the prophets' scrolls,
All good deeds done unto the Lord
And purity of virgin souls.
I bind unto myself today
The virtues of the star lit heaven,
The glorious sun's life giving ray,
The whiteness of the moon at even,
The flashing of the lightning free,
The whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
The stable earth, the deep salt sea
Around the old eternal rocks.
I bind unto myself today
The power of God to hold and lead,
His eye to watch, His might to stay,
His ear to hearken to my need.
The wisdom of my God to teach,
His hand to guide, His shield to ward;
The word of God to give me speech,**

**His heavenly host to be my guard.
Against the demon snares of sin,
The vice that gives temptation force,
The natural lusts that war within,
The hostile men that mar my course;
Or few or many, far or nigh,
In every place and in all hours,
Against their fierce hostility
I bind to me these holy powers.
Against all Satan's spells and wiles,
Against false words of heresy,
Against the knowledge that defiles,
Against the heart's idolatry,
Against the wizard's evil craft,
Against the death wound and the burning,
The choking wave, the poisoned shaft,
Protect me, Christ, till Thy returning.
Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.
I bind unto myself the Name,
The strong Name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One and One in Three.
By Whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.
May God bless you in your travels through life.**



Coffee Hour Hosts

- March 2 & 9 Outreach Committee
- March 16 Deacons
- March 23 Personnel Committee
- March 30/Apr. 6 Prudential Committee



It's a Girl!

We are happy to announce the birth of Madeline Scott Lallier, daughter of Katrina Tentor Lallier and Matthew Lallier of Danvers, and granddaughter to Pamela and Marty Tentor and Ted and Erna Lallier. Madeline was born Feb. 14, 2014, at 12:19 a.m., weighing in at 7lbs 12.8oz, and 19.5 inches long.

Congratulations Pam, Marty & Family!

NEW MEMBER CLASS

We are looking to start up a new member class in March. If you're interested in finding out more about becoming a church member, please speak with Pastor Brian or a Deacon.



Happy Birthday to:

- 3/16 - MacKenzie Lillian Young
- 3/26 - Jean McPherson

COMMUNITY SUPPER
Featuring Chicken Piccata

Saturday, March 15th at 5p.m.

Adults - \$10 Children - \$ 5

Servers: Outreach Committee
 (additional volunteers are always appreciated)

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Scholarship applications are now available on the table in Fellowship Hall. We have several scholarships we would like to award to church members seeking to continue their education. Specifically, there are two scholarships dedicated to those studying within the medical field, and one scholarship gives preference to those who are musically inclined, and, of course, we have several unrestricted scholarships as well. Please complete the application form and return it to the church office by April 15th.

One Great Hour of Sharing — OGHS

One Great Hour of Sharing is administered by the Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ and provides support to people in over 80 countries. When you make a gift to the offering you become a partner in the refugee, disaster relief, and community development efforts of the UCC in the United States and internationally. Through this fund lives are changed, and sharing brings joy!

You'll find offering envelopes enclosed in this month's *Tidings*. Please drop it in the offering plate on Sunday or mail to: FCC, 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501. Thank you!

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 9TH

Remember to set your clock ahead one hour when retiring on Saturday evening.



SERMON TITLES FOR MARCH

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3/2 "The Word of God" | 3/9 "Not a Den of Thieves, a Marketplace" |
| 3/16 "How Can a Grownup Have New Life?" | 3/23 "The Woman at Jacob's Well" |
| 3/30 "Jesus Troubles the Powerful" | |

Children's Time:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3/2 "It Was Good" | 3/9 "The Babysitter's Dilemma" | |
| 3/16 "The Ball Game Scripture" | 3/23 Living Water | 3/30 "How Are You Known?" |

Soup and Sandwich Supper

**LENTEN SERIES BEGINS MARCH 12TH**

We hope you'll join us on Wednesday nights during Lent (3/12 - 4/9) when we will meet over soup and sandwiches beginning at 6 p.m. and concluding at 7 p.m. Our time will include a brief video on the parables of Jesus. Topics include:

- March 12 Talents
- March 19 Lost Coin
- March 26 Unmerciful Servant
- April 2 Debtors
- April 9 New Wine

Committees/Boards were asked to sign-up at the All Committee meeting back in January to provide the soup/sandwiches for the Lenten series. At this time, the supper schedule is as follows:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 12 | Shepherd's Pie supplied by the MacPhee's |
| March 19 | Friendship Soup supplied by the Deacons (we need a group to supply sandwiches) |
| March 26 | Group/individuals needed to supply both soup and sandwiches |
| April 2 | Chicken soup and grilled cheese sandwiches supplied by the Board of Ed. |
| April 9 | Chili and Italian subs supplied by the Outreach Committee |

COMMUNITY YARD SALE ON JUNE 21ST

Do you have an accumulation of things that are just too good to throw away, but you no longer need? Don't have enough to hold your own yard sale? Store those items and plan to join us on the Church lot for our **COMMUNITY YARD SALE on June 21st!** As we've done in the past, we will rent spaces and tables, plus we'll do all the advertising, and remember, our prime location can't be beat!

So, mark your calendars for **June 21st** and turn that "trash" into "treasure." Look for more info to come or call Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646.





March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, National Endometriosis Awareness Month, National Kidney Month, National Nutrition Month, Save Your Vision Month, and Workplace Eye Wellness Month.

| | |
|------------|---|
| March: 2-9 | National Sleep Awareness Week |
| 2-8 | Patient Safety Awareness Month |
| 3-7 | National School Breakfast Week |
| 7-11 | National Youth Violence Prevention Week |
| 10-16 | Brain Awareness Week |
| 16-22 | National Poison Prevention Week |
| 25th | American Diabetes Alert Day |

I have "File of Life" folders on the Health table in Fellowship Hall. Please take them, fill them out in pencil, if you can, and put them on your refrigerator. On stainless steel refrigerators, place the files on the side, as the magnet won't stick on the front. The emergency help and medical people look on the refrigerators for the File. This saves them time getting your information and getting you the help that you need. Anyone who is at home and wants a copy, please call my cell, 508-612-4521, and I will gladly bring you one. I am also available to help fill them out.

On March 1, I am going to a workshop put on by the UCC about "Companioning the Dying" and "Advance Directives." I will have information available about both workshops.

Happy Daylight Saving Time on March 9th, and Happy Spring on March 20th.

Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse



FALL FAIR PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 11TH

We are looking to resurrect the **Fall Fair**. A date has already been discussed of Oct. 11th! With the foot traffic that is generated by the annual pumpkin patch, we anticipate that a **Fall Fair** has the potential to be a huge fundraiser for the church! All we need is YOU and your ideas! In the past we had various themes or themed tables such as crafts, jellies/jams (food items), Christmas/Halloween sections, etc. To ensure its success, the planning must begin NOW! Consider what a great opportunity this is to get to know the rest of your church family and you will be amazed at the feeling of camaraderie that results! **Please contact Cindy Ryan at 508-832-3416** and let her know you're interested in being a part of this church fundraiser.

By the way, this is also a great way for our youth to fulfill community service hours (which always looks good on college applications).

Here We Grow Preschool



Our Hebert Candy Bars fundraiser is once again a huge success. We ran it for the entire month of February giving everyone time to seek out all family friends and relatives and encourage them to buy, eat, and put on weight all the while enjoying CHOCOLATE.

Our scheduled Valentine's Day parties had to be changed because of the wonderful snow storm we had. Our 4-year-old parties were on the Wednesday before vacation. The children had the opportunity to be mail carriers during circle time. Everyone had a great time. The parents provided snack which consisted of cookies, ice cream/Jello, and juice. Our 3-year-olds will be celebrating Valentine's Day the week after vacation. You know the saying, better late than never.

February has been a busy time since we started receiving outside calls for visits with the possibility of attending **Here We Grow** next school year. Did you know that most families come to HWG because a friend, neighbor, or relative has recommended us? That is our best type of advertising. Our Open House is scheduled for March 5th, 12:30-2:00. We do have spots available in most of our sessions. We are hoping for the remaining spots to fill up quickly. With the economy as it is, we are seeing a slight decline in enrollment. If you know of anyone looking for a preschool for their child, please send them our way. Many visitors remarked on how bright the classrooms are, and loved that we can offer an indoor playground.

Looking ahead to March, we will be having Neal Primaeux here during the first week of March for picture taking. We are still trying to set up a visit with the Tooth Fairy to talk to the children about healthy teeth. Once again, State Trooper Kevin Kennedy is organizing the fingerprinting of our 4-year-old classes. We may be doing them a little later this year. I'd like to thank Pat Bukoski and Wayne Prouty for helping HWG receive a check from the Phillips Foundation enabling us to purchase the thumb drives needed for the fingerprinting. All in all, we are looking forward to a busy, exciting March.

Until next month, stay healthy, warm and safe.

Dawn Murphy, **Here We Grow** Director



Please join us for *Here We Grow's* Open House
Wednesday, March 5th from 12:30 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.

PANCAKES AT THE FARM

March 1, 2, 8 & 9 9 am - 1 pm

HEIFER FARM 216 Wachusett Street Rutland, MA

Tour the farm, visit the sugar shack and enjoy a farm-to-table pancake breakfast with Heifer Farm maple syrup and sausage!

Adults: \$12 ~ Children: (3-10) \$6 ~ 2 and under are free

**Reservations are required; please let Jen Bohn know
if you're interested in attending.**



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Happy Spring! Hopefully you will be looking at flowers as you read this. I am looking at mountains of snow as I write this.

I would like to thank Tracee Skog and Rufus Guilford for attending the "Ransomed" weekend. Youth On a Mission and I would like to thank you all for allowing us to go to Monadnock Bible Conference during Feb. 14-16. The theme for the weekend was Mark 10:45: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom of many." Everyone had a good time. These are some of the comments the kids used to describe the weekend: "Fun filled learning," "This weekend was uplifting and brought us closer together," "A weekend filled with uplifting music that brought the spirit of the Lord into our souls." We learned that you need to do what you need to do to follow God even if it means going against the crowd. To see almost 300 people singing praises to the Lord is an amazing experience, especially since the majority of them were high school students.



Sunday school is going well; we still need a few more teachers, so if you are interested please see me.

The Board of Ed is circulating a questionnaire to see the interest in Vacation Bible School. (see back page) If you have not filled one out, and are interested, please see one of the Board of Ed members: Alex Brownwell, Pat Bukoski, Donna Dube, Melynn Guilford, Judy Murphy and Carole Murray.

The Relay for Life D.U.C.K.S. team is thankful for all your help with our bake sale. We also had a fundraiser at the McDonald's on Auburn St. We are always looking for others to join our team. For more information, please speak with a team member: Alex Brownwell, Barbara Cowden, Shirley Hill, Jean McPherson, Bessie Morgan and Bev Scobie.

Jean McPherson
Director of Religious Education

ESTATE PLANNING?

Have you included the church in your will or estate planning? Please prayerfully consider if the Lord would have you remember your church when completing your will.

"One of the greatest missing teachings in the American church today is the reminder to men and women that nothing we have belongs to us."

Gordon MacDonald, American Pastor & Teacher



Pot Luck Supper

CONSIDER YOURSELF INVITED . . .

We continue to hold scheduled potluck suppers (a combination of potluck supper and a book/movie club with discussion time) in the vestry/downstairs kitchen. The next get together will be on **Tuesday, March 18th at 6 p.m.** when we'll be discussing the book, *What's So Amazing About Grace?* by Philip Yancey. **EVERYONE** is invited to join us for any or all parts of the evening.

Looking ahead - on April 22nd at 5:30 p.m. we will be viewing the movie, *Osama*, about a girl in Afghanistan. On May 20th at 6 p.m. we will be discussing the Gospel of John and on June 17th at 6 p.m. we will continue to discuss the Gospel of John.

We hope you'll mark the dates on your calendar and plan to join us.

Driveway Update

As of January 31st, the remaining balance on the Driveway Loan stands at \$13,525. While some of this money has been pledged for the coming year, we are still short on pledges by approximately \$5,000 for the Drive for a Driveway fund. If you are able, please consider contributing to the driveway project so that we may retire this debt as soon as possible.

Thank you,
The Board of Trustees



GOING GREEN

If you currently receive the *Tidings* newsletter via the U.S. Postal Service, and you have internet access, please consider subscribing to the *Tidings* electronically. Here's how it works: just contact the church office (508-832-2845, or via email at: secretary@auburnfirstucc.org) and let us know you're willing to make the switch and we will send you an email notifying you once the latest version of the *Tidings* has been posted. Within the email will be a link to the church's website where you may view the newsletter. If you would rather read from a hard copy you may download and print the *Tidings* onto standard 8 1/2 x 11 paper right in the comfort of your own home (and if you have a colored printer you'll see all the wonderful clip art in color!). Still not convinced to make the switch? There's no risk. If you find you prefer "snail mail," just say the word and we can always change your mailing status back. Keep in mind, we currently print approximately 250 newsletters monthly; however, we need only 200 pieces to take advantage of the bulk mailing reduced rate.

Fuel Fund

Fuel costs are again on the rise and so are our heating costs. This year we project that we may exceed \$13,000 in fuel costs alone to heat the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall wing of the Church. As a reminder, there are 4 special offering envelopes for the Fuel Fund throughout the year with the next one coming up in March.

As many of you may be aware, the Church is faced with a huge deficit this year and any additional donations to help defer fuel costs will be greatly appreciated.

Donations to the Fuel Fund can be made at any time throughout the year.

Bless all of you for your continuing prayers. Thank you for your lovely cards and enjoyable visits.

Love to all of you –

Jane Standring



**Think
Spring!**



We encourage you to stop by our Church Libraries when time allows. You're sure to find something of interest for young and old alike amongst the vast books available in both our Adult and Children's Libraries.

"The most technologically efficient machine that man has ever invented is the book."

– Northrop Frye



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

WE ARE TRYING TO GAUGE THE INTEREST IN A VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FOR THIS SUMMER. PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO FILL OUT THIS SURVEY & DROP IT IN THE COLLECTION PLATE, OR RETURN IT TO A B.O.C.E. MEMBER, OR MAIL IT DIRECTLY TO THE CHURCH. THANK YOU.

(B.O.C.E. members include: Alex Brownnewell, Pat Bukoski, Donna Dube, Melynn Guilford, Judy Murphy, and Carole Murray.)

- Do you have any children/grandchildren who would be interested in attending VBS? Y N

Ages m/f _____

- Would you be willing to teach VBS? Y N
- Are you willing to assist, if not able to teach? Y N

- Are you interested in a 5 day or 3 day program?

5 day _____
3 day _____

- Are you interested in:
morning(10-12noon) _____
day time (1-3) _____
night time(5-7pm) _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

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doing Christ's work in the world.*

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT