



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,

FROM THE PASTOR

I think November holidays are all about memories. Starting with the day after Halloween, “All Souls Day,” when we remember and honor those who have left the mortal coil and gone to their reward. We will be having a Memorial Sunday on November 6 at which we will be remembering the members of First Congregational in Auburn who have died in the past year, with a flower and a candle. We will also have time for people in the service to come forward to light a candle and take a flower in memory of loved ones they know who have passed on. (You are welcome to name them as you light the candle or keep silent as the Spirit moves you.)

Then we have Veterans’ Day, a day that first commemorates the End of World War I and has now come to honor all veterans of all wars in many countries. For the last decade I have seen a lot more young people in Veterans’ Day observances. In some ways this makes me sad they come because, again, our country is at war and a new generation is facing the dangers, paying the costs and recovering from the damage war does to humans. On the other hand, it makes me happy, because for sometime it was only the World war II, Korea and Vietnam generations to be found honoring veterans. The young generations, including mine, were oblivious to the meaning of their mid November day off.

Lastly, we come to Thanksgiving. There is a movie, *Pieces of April*, where a young woman (Katie Holmes) is trying to explain to an immigrant family what Thanksgiving is about. She starts with, “Well it was the last good time before we started killing the Indians.” But that made no sense to the immigrants. So finally she said, “Once, there was this day... this one day when... everyone realized they needed each other.” That movie is about an estranged daughter and her family trying to reconnect despite their bad memories. For a story about the First Thanksgiving I recommend, *The Wordy Shipmates*, an amusing retelling of the pilgrims’ story from their own writings by the woman who was the voice of the daughter in the Pixar movie *The Incredibles*.

I pray in November you have wonderful memories, new and old, to share.

Pastor Brian





Happy Birthday wishes to:

- Rich McPherson** ~ **Nov. 6th**
- Nick Stockhaus** ~ **Nov. 7th**
- Victoria Stockhaus** ~ **Nov. 14th**
- Pearl Morrill** ~ **Nov. 17th**
- Suzanne Kress** ~ **Nov. 22nd**

Don't forget to turn back your clocks! Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Nov. 6th.

A new Facebook group has been created for our church. Jenney has added a few members to the group. If you have Facebook and would like to join the church's page, you can send a message to /JenneyGrover on Facebook. Or you can search for "First Congregational Church of Auburn" on Facebook and request to join. A picture of our Scarecrows from the Pumpkin Patch is the group photo right now.

Looking forward to building our online presence!

Thanksgiving Donations

We are looking for donations of food items to complete a Thanksgiving turkey dinner with all the fixings we'll be preparing for the residents of Jeremiah's Inn. Items needed include:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| gravy | cranberry sauce |
| canned corn | fresh carrots |
| fresh potatoes | stuffing |
| butter/margarine | rolls |
| half and half | volunteers |

Please place your donations in the designated box in Fellowship Hall. If you're able to help with food preparation and/or serving either Wed. Nov. 23rd or Thanksgiving Day please speak with Jean McPherson.



Please join us at the Community Thanksgiving Eve Service
Wednesday, Nov. 23rd at 7:30 p.m.
Faith Baptist Church,
22 Faith Avenue, Auburn, MA

CRADLE ROLL & SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE



- 11/6 Judy Murphy
- 11/13 Jenney Grover
- 11/20 Elizabeth Allain
- 11/27 Jessie Harrington
- 12/4 Cynthia Dube



- 11/6 Alex Brownwell
- 11/13 Connie Whitehead Hanks
- 11/20 Jenney Grover
- 11/27 Rich McPherson
- 12/4 Judy Murphy

Go "Green" with the Electronic Tidings

The Church currently produces approximately 170,000 copies per year on the office copy machine. In an effort to reduce printing and mailing costs, we are asking that anyone who receives a printed *Tidings* consider receiving the *Tidings* electronically. Anyone that has an Internet connection can view the *Tidings* online at our website, www.AuburnFirstUCC.org by clicking on the **Newsletter** button on the left hand side of the home page. Not only can you view the current *Tidings* on our website, but you can also view past editions going back to 2005.

Another advantage to viewing the electronic *Tidings* is that you get to see all the beautiful color that Denise puts into the newsletter each month. If you would like to go green and start receiving the electronic *Tidings*, please send an email to Tidings@AuburnFirstUCC.org with the word "Subscribe" in the subject line. Each month you will receive an email notifying you when the *Tidings* has been placed on the website (in most cases days before you would receive the mailed version). If for any reason you do not enjoy the electronic version of the *Tidings*, you can go back to the printed version at any time by contacting the Church office. — Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who offered prayers, sent cards, delivered meals and called with well wishes as I recovered from my recent surgery.

Your thoughtfulness was much appreciated.

Pastor Brian

Please plan to join us on
Saturday, November 12th at 5 p.m.

for our

Roast Beef Community Supper

Adults ~ \$10

Children ~ \$5

Servers: volunteers needed



Children's Sermons

- 11/6 "Dead Like Jesus, Resurrected Like Jesus"
- 11/13 "Deborah Versus the Miracle Weapon"
- 11/20 "You Are Not to Say to Yourself"
- 11/27 "The Son of Man"

- "What Is Your Talent?"
- "Giving Thanks When We Have Less"

Coffee Hour Hosts:

11/6 & 11/13	Financial Secy./Treasurers	11/20 & 11/27	Library Committee
12/4 & 12/11	Nominating/Scholarship	12/18	Prudential Committee

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you. I pray that you all will have time to reflect on the many blessings in your lives during this special time of the year.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our YOM pie fundraiser. I hope you all enjoy your purchases. We carved all 25 pumpkins and had a spectacular display from First Congregational Church at the EcoTarium on October 23. Everyone who carved seemed to have a good time and all left without bandages. This project seems to grow every year so be sure to set your calendar for next year.

On **November 13th** we will be having a Thanksgiving craft time after church for anyone who would like to participate. We will have various crafts to create and maybe even some treats to munch on. Please see the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall on the Sunday school bulletin board.

LOOKING AHEAD

Since December is such a busy month for everyone, I wanted to get our dates out early for our activities.

DECEMBER 16 ANNUAL PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Youth On a Mission and the Board of Ed will entertain and feed your children pizza and juice while you take a few hours to do with what you please. Last year the children ate, watched a movie, made crafts and played games. We need people to sign up for this event so we are sure to have enough food and coverage. The signup sheet, as always, is on the Sunday school bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. YOM will have a Christmas party following this event.



DECEMBER 17 ANNUAL POTLUCK AND CAROL SING

We had such a good time last year we decided to make this evening an annual event. Bring your favorite dish to share and voices to join in song and welcome the Christmas season. This year we will also be assembling the Christmas baskets during the evening. With everyone helping this should be a quick activity with very important results. Signup sheets will be in fellowship hall as the date approaches.

DECEMBER 18 COOKIE WALK

Get a head start on your holiday cookie baking and gift giving with the annual cookie walk. Purchase a container and stroll the "cookie lane" to fill your container with a variety of delectable cookies.



This year we will have an Epiphany skit in place of the pageant. Look for more details as the date approaches.

With His Guidance We Serve,

Jean McPherson
Director of Religious Education

Here We Grow Preschool



Here we are already into the third month of the school year and YES, the crying has stopped. With only one month away from the winter holiday programs, the children and staff are very busy.

During the month of November the students of **Here We Grow** will be learning about: Healthy Choices, Exploring the Five Senses, What We Are Thankful For and rounding out the month will be A Tasting Party (our feast days). Our feast days are November 21st & 22nd. Following a tradition that **Here We Grow's** first director, Fawn Robidoux, began over twenty-three years ago, this year's menu is cornbread; made by the three year old children, a friendship fruit salad, cheese and crackers, turkey & ham, and to top it off brownies with cool whip; made by the four year old children. With the help of the **Here We Grow** parents, who will supply and serve the food, it will be a rewarding day for all.

As in the past, the children and families will be participating in "The Giving Basket." All foods collected will be given to Pastor Brian to distribute to families in need during the season of thanksgiving. We hope to continue the tremendous amount of support from the HWG families. The need seems to be greater each year.

Mark your calendars for the FIRST **Here We Grow** Auction. Please join **Here We Grow** and Auctioneer, KathyJo Beamenderfer, in Fellowship Hall on November 17th @ 5:30 and get ready to start your Christmas shopping. This is our first fundraiser of the school year.

During the month of December **Here We Grow** will also be participating in the Toys for Tots Campaign. We will be collecting unwrapped toys which the Marines will be stopping by to pick up and distribute.

Ending the year of 2011, HWG will be entertaining the families with holiday programs on December 21st & 22nd. We are hoping to have a special visitor on those days, time will tell. Another tradition HWG has always done is for the children to sing "Happy Birthday" to Baby Jesus. Our 4 year old classes will also sign it.

Until next month, enjoy the season of fall and stay healthy.

Dawn Murphy, Director
Here We Grow Preschool

On October 16th we celebrated the baptism of Jaina Catherine Weber. Jaina is the daughter of Marcie and Jason Weber. We pray God's blessing upon Jaina and her family.



Library Tidings by Gloria Whitehead

A constant—time brings change. In two, 2005 newspaper articles that were tucked inside the cover of *Your Best Life Now* it speaks of 30,000 people being the average combined attendance of 4 services conducted by Joel Osteen. We can't confirm that news of 6 years ago, but Osteen is still a TV preacher and the popular author of the former bestseller, *Your Best Life Now — The 7 Steps to Living at Your Full Potential*. They're all about how you open up and sense (feel) what God has given you to expand your thoughts, relationships, actions and more to improve your life so it becomes an uplift for those with whom you share it and yourself.

Do You Feel. . .

- Someday things will be better in my life.
- Someday I will be caught up with my work long enough to enjoy making memories with my family.
- Someday I'll earn more money and I won't have to worry about how I'll pay the bills.
- Someday I'm going to get in better physical condition.
- Someday I'll have a better relationship with God and enjoy all of His goodness.

And now, the 7 Steps (without subtitles)

Part 1: Enlarge Your Vision

Part 2: Develop a Healthy Self Image

Part 3: Discover the Power of Your Thoughts and Words

Part 4: Let Go of the Past

Part 5: Find Strength Through Adversity

Part 6: Live to Give

Part 7: Choose to Be Happy

It's not "highbrow," it's very easy reading so the outlines give you the best direct information to get started. Remember, the book will be in the library long after this month's write up so we may put in a little reminder about it in the future. It's a great boost and too good to miss.

Thanks, Shirley and Forrest Jacobs, for the book. We wish you a bright future in Florida; we'll miss you.

HERE WE GROW HOLIDAY AUCTION



Here We Grow Preschool will be holding a Holiday Auction here in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, November 17th, from 6:00-9:00 pm. Doors will open at 5:30pm for previewing. Items to be auctioned include toys, holiday decorations, home decor, gift packs, gift certificates and more.

All proceeds will go to *Here We Grow* Preschool. If you have any questions please contact Kathy-Jo Beamenderfer at 508-864-7848.



Jonathan "Bud" Stevenson, 77, of Auburn died Monday October 17, 2011 in the Life Care Center of Auburn after an 11 year battle with cancer.

He is survived by his two sons: Robert Stevenson and Norman Stevenson, and his beloved granddaugh-

He was born in Worcester; he was the son of the late Jonathan and Rose (Halvorsen) Stevenson. He was educated in Worcester schools, later graduating from the former Commerce High, and the Worcester School of Business Science. Bud served his country as a member of the U.S. Army. Mr. Stevenson worked for the Peat Marwick Company, and later at WPI.

A funeral service was held at Britton Wallace Funeral Home on Friday, October 21st. Burial was at Hillside Cemetery. The Stevensons were members of the church, but were unable to attend in recent years due to failing health. Jonathan is Charlotte Steffen's cousin. Please keep the family in your prayers.



Please pray for the Woodcock Family on the recent passing of Don's sister, Madge L. (Woodcock) Courtney. Madge was 85 and died peacefully at Sterling Village Nursing Home on Tuesday, October 18, 2011 after suffering with rheumatoid arthritis for many years. Mrs. Courtney was predeceased by her husband, Stanley G. Courtney. She is survived by her children, Bradford Wass, Gregory Wass, Jerriann Mason, W. Frederick Burns, Deborah McCulloch, Carol Grubb and Jacqueline Denning; three brothers, Leon "Woody" Woodcock Jr. of Sterling, Donald Woodcock of Auburn, and James Woodcock of North Carolina; nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. A funeral was held on October 22nd with a private burial.

"I am the resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."
John 11:25

A WORD OF THANKS FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees wish to extend their heartfelt appreciation to all who donated to the Fire Alarm Fund. Thanks to your generosity we are now able to complete the new Fire Alarm System. The Board of Trustees would also like to express their gratitude to the Memorial Committee for funding the purchase of the new Church sign located on the front lawn.

Recent projects that the Trustees have been overseeing include: landscaping and a new fence that borders the property on Church Street, repairs to the concrete steps leading to the Sanctuary, and the purchase of a new motor for the Church's clock.

Future projects in 2012 include: significant repairs to the steeple and replacing the Church's front steps (rather than repairing them).

While a donation to the Memorial Fund is a thoughtful way to honor a loved one during a time of loss, donations can also be made to pay tribute to a loved one year round. Contributions may be given to the Church in memory of a family member, and designated for special projects such as those listed above.

Something New!

The Board of Ed has introduced a new program this fall. In conjunction with the Spirit Suppers, we added a book/movie club - "Dinner and Discussion." **Our next get together will be Tuesday, November 1st.** We will meet for a potluck supper in the vestry (old kitchen) area at 6 p.m. The book club discussion will begin at approximately 6:30-6:45.

The book we are currently reading is:

Heaven is for Real by Todd Burpo & Lynn Vincent

You do NOT have to read the book, if you just want to come for food and fellowship, please do!

A complete list of books, movies and dates is available on the table in both fellowship hall and the adult library in the rear of the sanctuary. Please speak with Jen Bohn if you have any questions.

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|--------------------|---|--|
| Tuesday, Nov. 1 | - | <i>Heaven is for Real</i> by Todd Burpo & Lynn Vincent |
| Tuesday, Dec. 6 | - | <i>Facing Your Giants</i> (movie) * <u>5:30 start time</u> |
| Tuesday, Jan. 10th | - | <i>The Year of Living Biblically</i> by A.J. Jacobs |



Neighbors In Need - Another World Is Possible

The Neighbors in Need offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC

Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates) Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska.

Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support. You'll find an offering envelope enclosed in this month's *Tidings*. Please return it to the church, and thank you for your support.

Ladies – have you ever had trouble finding a new purse only to find “the one” on someone else’s shoulder? Have you been put on a purse restriction because you have too many? Do you just want a way to save money by not buying a new purse...even though you really want a new purse?

YOU ARE IN LUCK!!! A new purse-swap is HERE!!!

Who: You and a Friend
 Where: The vestry
 When: November 8 @ 6:30 p.m.
 What: Bring a purse or two (gently used)
 Why: Swap a purse
 How: Duration of swap and rules will be discussed as a group.



***Make sure your name is sewn into the lining of the purse.
 Some tags will be available on that night.***

From Your Outreach Committee



True to New England conditions, the weather has begun to get colder and the Outreach Committee is requesting your help toward the traditional purchase of jackets, hats and gloves for 23 of 'The Goddard Elementary School' children. We'll have the individual requests available on **Sunday, October 30th** with a bag to fill for each child displaying the child's name, their gender & size to assist you with shopping. Please choose a bag and return your purchases the following

Sunday, November 6th with a **deadline date no later than Sunday, November 13th**. Extra hats and mittens will be pleasantly welcomed by the school if you can't afford to fill a jacket bag.

The Goddard School of Science and Technology is located on 14 Richards Street, in Worcester, MA. This urban public school is situated in the Main South section of Worcester with an enrollment of 586 multi-race students, grades K-6. A large number of the students come from families living below the poverty line. With your support, there will be 23 very thankful youngsters with warm jackets this holiday season.

To the walkers and all gracious givers, thank you for helping make a difference in the community of Auburn; specifically, Auburn Youth and Family Services and Kateri's Kitchen. All donations raised by group supporters for Sunday's 10/23/2011 walk were given to both these worthwhile agencies to fill their food pantries. The First Congregational Church in Auburn turned in a total of \$464.47, most of which was collected in two Celtic player basketball sneakers during church services.

Hope for Housing grocery store cards continue to be available for sale in Fellowship Hall every week. They come in denominations of \$10, \$25, \$50 and \$100, and include: Shaws, Hannafords, Big Y and Stop & Shop. Each card you purchase in this important mission puts another 5% of the card's face value toward the HfH program. A recent email from the HfH committee reads: "...the lines have been out the door at the old CMHA office this week, as increasing numbers of families are searching for housing ... and the worst is still to come. In addition to families crowding shelters and doubled up with other families, an incredible eleven hundred families are put up in motels across the state! This is clearly unacceptable! Thank you for continuing to shorten this line, family by family"

In Love, Hope, Peace & Understanding,
 Sue MacPhee, Outreach Committee Secretary



November is American Diabetes Month. This is a time to raise awareness of diabetes prevention and control. In the U.S., 24 million people are living with diabetes and 57 million more are at risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Over time, if not controlled, type 2 diabetes can cause serious health problems like heart disease, stroke, and blindness. You may be at risk for type 2 diabetes if you:

- Are overweight
- Exercise less than 3 times a week
- Are over 45 years old
- Have high blood pressure or high cholesterol
- Have a parent, brother, or sister with diabetes.

November is also Diabetic Eye Disease Month, Foot Health Issues Related to Diabetes Awareness Month, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, National Stomach Cancer Awareness Month, COPD Awareness Month, National Family Caregivers Month, National Healthy Skin Month, National Hospice Palliative Care Month, and Premature Awareness Month. November 6 -12 is Drowsy Driving Prevention Week, the 14th -20th is Get Smart About Antibiotics Week, and the 20th-26th is Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) Awareness Week. November 17th is the Great American Smokeout Day and November 19th is National Survivors of Suicide Day.

I have information about the above mentioned on the table in Fellowship Hall. Please help yourself.

Two things were recently brought to my attention that I want to share with you. (1) If you or a loved one have a (DNR) Do Not Resuscitate order signed by a physician, please keep it on your refrigerator. This is where emergency personnel will look if they enter your home. Do not keep it in a file drawer. (2), if you have chest pain or numbness in one of your arms or legs, if you think you're having a heart attack or stroke call 9 -1-1 immediately. Do Not Wait to see if it resolves. There are medicines that can be administered within a few hours that can help you. There is a much better chance if you are treated right away.

I hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving. God Bless!

Debbie Pranaitis
Parish Nurse



Can you believe Thanksgiving is fast approaching, and soon Christmas will follow? With Christmas around the corner it's time to think about poinsettias.

Once again we are offering the opportunity to purchase poinsettias at great prices. In the past we've decorated the sanctuary with these beautiful plants and at the close of the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service members are able to claim their plants and continue to enjoy them in their own homes, or give them as gifts when visiting loved ones on Christmas Day. You can dedicate your poinsettias in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion, etc.

Rob informed us that the poinsettias are "AWESOME" this year. We will call Rob with your selection the same week that you place the order. It is always hard to judge what flowers will be available later in the season, and we would like to do our best to provide options to those who order early.

Please complete the poinsettia order form below (PLEASE PRINT) and include a check or cash with your order.

You may place your order in the offering plate, mail or drop it off at the church or give it to Ron or Connie Whitehead Hanks at coffee hour. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ron or Connie at 508-832-4227.

It is best if orders with a particular preference are placed by Sunday, November 20th.

Later orders will gladly be accepted and filled to the best of our ability.

New this year we will be offering the opportunity to purchase a grocery card through Hope for Housing. The grocery cards will then be donated to our food pantry to be distributed to those seeking assistance this winter. Either way, whether you purchase a poinsettia or a grocery card, your dedication will be included as an insert in our Christmas bulletins. (Please call the church office 508-832-2845 if you would like to purchase a grocery card.)

2011 Christmas Poinsettia Order

Poinsettia Given By: PLEASE PRINT



Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

In Memory of _____ or _____

In Celebration of _____

Size: (Please indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd color choices.)

1 stem \$10.00
 Color: Red _____ Pink _____ White _____
 Marble _____ Cranberry Ice _____

2 stems \$15.00
 Color: Red _____ Pink _____ White _____
 Marble _____ Cranberry Ice _____

4 stems \$25.00
 Color: Red _____ Pink _____ White _____
 Marble _____ Cranberry Ice _____

_____ Sometimes people are unable to collect their poinsettia after the Christmas services. Please check here if you want the Deacons to bring your poinsettia to be donated to a shut-in or another member of the church family.

Please use a separate order form for each plant.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ron or Connie at 508-832-4227.



THE PUMPKINS ARE GONE!!!

We'd like to thank everyone who gave of their time to help with the pumpkin patch and a big thank you to everyone who purchased pumpkins. We hope to let you know next month just how successful it was!

A HUGE THANK YOU to Diane Moore, Shirley Hill, and Jen Bohn for all their hard work!

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

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

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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
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November 2011

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30			

Or **CURRENT RESIDENT**