



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

November holidays are 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 Memorial Sunday, the last Sunday in October, at which we will be remembering the members and friends of First Congregational in Auburn who have died in the past year. We will also have time for people to come forward to light a candle or take a flower in memory of loved ones 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 commemorated 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. Thanksgiving, even more than Christmas, is about doing things like we always did it. Eating the things we always eat. Remembering how things used to be.

Strangely, there are not a lot of movies about Thanksgiving. I wonder why? Maybe being thankful isn’t something Hollywood knows how to do? I talked before about the only Thanksgiving movie that comes to mind, “Pieces of April,” a melodrama about a family where everything goes wrong preparing for Thanksgiving.

A young woman named April (Katie Holmes) is hosting her first thanksgiving for her parents and siblings and her stove breaks, the first of a string of tragic occurrences. She goes to her neighbors’ house to cook the turkey. April tries to explain to the 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 new immigrants. So finally she said, “Once, there was this day... this one day when... everyone realized they needed each other.”

In the movie April and her family try to reconnect despite their bad memories. The movie ends bittersweet. Family can be messy. But, often the love of family can heal... if the hurting has stopped and people truly seek forgiveness.

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

-- Pastor Brian

NOVEMBER SERMON TITLES

11/6 “Things Will Be Splendid”

11/13 Baptism Sunday — “Where Does God Live?”

11/20 “The Stomach Is a Cruel Tyrant”

11/27 First Sunday in Advent — “But You HAVE To Sleep”

A “Timely” Reminder

Remember to turn your clocks back before retiring for the evening on November 5th. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on November 6th.



ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEES & BOARDS

The Trustees are requesting that all boards and committees submit their 2023 budget requests by their next meeting scheduled for November 17th.

THANK YOU to everyone who has helped with this year’s pumpkin patch. At printing, the pumpkin patch sales are just under \$26,000 for the season (and counting)! Look for final tallies in an upcoming church bulletin.

SPECIAL THANKS TO SUE MACPHEE for handling the financial end of the patch and to Pumpkin Committee Members: **PASTOR BRIAN, LINDA MAHLERT, DEB MINOR and SHEILA SKOG** for all they have done in organizing this fundraiser.

Our thanks to the Auburn community for supporting our fundraiser and supporting the Navajo Indian Reservation in Farmington, NM where the pumpkins are grown on 1,200 acres or approximately 2 square miles of pumpkins. During the harvest months of September and October over 700 Native Americans are employed as well as a full time off-season New Mexico staff that is comprised entirely of Native Americans. This has a positive and lasting impact on their region.

Thank you to all for another successful pumpkin patch season!

NOVEMBER



Happy Birthday wishes to:

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

Happy Anniversary to

Skip and Paula Bigelow who will be celebrating their special day on November 29th.

We would be happy to include your special occasion in an upcoming newsletter. Please complete the form below and leave it in the church office or email the information to Denise at: secretary@auburnfirstucc.org. If emailing the info, please be sure you receive an email confirmation.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

I give First Congregational Church permission to put my family member’s birthday or anniversary in the monthly newsletter, the *Tidings*.

Name
Occasion
Date

Signature (adult only please)

Please return to Church office.

Neighbors In Need Offering

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is the UCC's annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. The 2022 Neighbors in Need theme is "Behold," based upon James 5:4: "Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you." The offering focuses on economic justice. With inflation impacting all of our households, the UCC wanted to provide a way to discuss this topic through a faith lens as they work toward fair and just wages for all.

As in the past, One-third of NIN funds continues to support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). (CAIM) is the voice for American Indian people in the UCC. CAIM provides Christian ministry and witness to American Indians and to the wider church. Justice issues that affect American Indian life are communicated to the whole UCC by CAIM.

Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. CAIM supports these local churches and their pastors. In addition, CAIM strives to be a resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations and to strengthen their participation in the life of the church.

Two-thirds of the NIN offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

At present, the UCC is pleased to state that nearly 100% of the monies raised from NIN is used to fund mission projects and programs which include the largest commitments to NIN grants and CAIM.

You'll find an offering envelope in this month's *Tidings*. Please return it to the church by placing in the offering plate on Sunday or mail to 128 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501. Checks should be payable to our church with NIN in the memo section. Thank you for your help.



November is American Diabetes Month, Bladder Health Month, COPD Awareness Month, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, and National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. It is also National Epilepsy Month, National Family Caregivers Month, National Home Care and Hospice Month, National Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, and Stomach Cancer Month.

November 13 is World Kindness Day

November 14 is World Diabetes Day

November 17 is the Great American Smokeout

November 29 is Giving Tuesday

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. Stay safe.

God bless,

Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse

cell: 508-612-4521



Here We Grow Preschool

Welcome everyone to the third month of the school year. This year seems to be flying by. I cannot believe it is already November. Even though the weather is getting colder, spending time outside is still so important for all of us. Fresh air and sunshine is one of the best things we can do for our bodies and minds.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Bemis Farm Scarecrow fundraiser; we hope you had a good time. We are, once again, doing a clothing drive with Savers. We will continue collecting clothing, shoes, purses, belts, towels, blankets, etc. The last day for dropping off will be November 2. Bags, with attached note "for Savers," may be left in fellowship hall or in the hallway near the Sunday school rooms, and we will put them away.

It is our intention to have the children and families of HWG participate, once again, 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 with the tremendous amount of support from the HWG families. The need for help just keeps growing.

Here We Grow will be closed on Friday, November 11, in honor of Veteran's Day; we want to say thank you to all who have served or are currently serving our Country.

We will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25, for Thanksgiving break. We hope you are all able to enjoy some time with family and friends for the holiday.

Cristi Corey, Director
Here We Grow Preschool

CHOIR MEMBERS WANTED

Rehearsals are on Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the choir room. We appreciate our faithful choir members and would love to add new voices to our group.

Anyone interested in joining the choir, please contact Paulette, a choir member, Denise in the office, or Pastor Brian.

Dear Members and Friends of FCC,

Can you believe it is that time again when we need to consider the poinsettias we purchase to grace our sanctuary during the Christmas Season??? The order form is included in this *Tidings* but I wanted to drop you a brief note to let you know the prices have gone up.

The word I received from our supplier is that things are getting more expensive, yet again, this year regarding heating costs for the poinsettias. The greenhouses need to run 64-degree nights from October through Thanksgiving in order to have the plants in color for December and they are looking at 30% higher fuel costs and 65% higher electrical costs than last fall; therefore, plant pricing will be higher.

With that being said, Colonial Gardens can offer us red, white and pink plants rather than just the traditional red offered last year. They can also offer the 3 stem plants again so you will be able to purchase plants with 1, 2, 3 or 4 stems.

Thank you, as always, for your plant purchases! The sanctuary always looks so beautiful and festive during the holiday season.

Michele





RAISE SOME DOUGH!

Here We Grow

Preschool

**will earn 20% of all qualifying sales
from orders placed on November 15th.**

When: Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Time: 4:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Where: 459 Southbridge Street, Auburn

Phone: 508-832-6583

- When you place your order, tell us you support this fundraiser! Hand us this flyer or show it on a mobile device for your organization to get credit for your order.
- Online orders: Enter code 19 at the payment screen and then click apply.
- **Fundraiser orders are only valid with regular priced menu items and cannot be paired with coupons or deals. Fundraisers are not valid on third party orders.**
- Flyers cannot be handed out in or around the Papa Gino's restaurant on the day of your event.
- Flyers made by the organization will not be accepted for the fundraiser event.
- **RESTAURANT ONLY - Ring in this sale using the POS button 19: Fundraiser.**

Valid for all Dine-In, Carry Out, Online & Delivery orders!

View menu and place online orders at: www.papaginos.com

FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Genesis 1:14 *And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years,"*



Driving north this weekend for a football game, I took my time so I could take in the beauty that surrounded me. The colors of the trees are so vibrant and the contrast of yellows, reds and oranges, with the remaining greens of the spruce and the pines, are breathtaking. In these moments, I know God surrounds me. He lives in not only the beauty of this earth, but also in the changes of the seasons. With each season there is a beauty worthy of our breath. It is like a whisper from the Lord, that all is well.

Our elementary classroom is learning how God made the world and gave us everything we need to live. He gave us land and sea, light and dark, seeds to sow and even oxygen and gravity. God loves us! Such a wonderful lesson for our youngest children to learn, and for us adults to be reminded of.

Our middle School classroom is learning about doubt. Doubt is not bad nor good. Doubt is where you are before you embark on your journey to truth. Some doubt can be relieved through a quick search in a dictionary or encyclopedia (dare I say only a few students knew what that means) or Google (ah... now I get it!). However, some doubt requires a longer journey. Such as it is when we have doubt in our Lord. Doubt in the Bible. Doubt in our faith. The main purpose of this lesson is for the children to understand that doubt is not only ok, but also expected! For the journey toward truth will bring you peace and an understanding of what it means to believe that Jesus is a gift from God and to have Him in our hearts is a blessing and that we should strive every day to be the person God knows we can be.

We learned about Elijah and how he doubted God, but God comforted him through a whisper. It was not an earthquake or thunder; it was a whisper. "How do we hear the whisper?" asked the children. God whispers to us in the rustling of the leaves in the fall, in the croak of the tree frog on a hot summer night, in the cheers of your loved ones as we celebrate your success. Open your heart and listen closely. While you investigate your doubts, God is on this journey with you.

On another note, we will be having our annual Halloween walk through Fellowship Hall on October 30th. Our first YOM event is on November 4th. We look forward to our cookie walk and Christmas Caroling in the sanctuary and our Christmas Eve children's service. Things will be happening quickly once the leaves have all fallen, so if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to grab me at coffee hour or give me a call or send me an email.

We are ALWAYS looking for volunteers and helpers for the Sunday School. This is a great opportunity to get to know the children!

Thank you for your continued support. I appreciate and am inspired by all of you!

Peace and Love,
Shannon Hartmann

On Sunday, October 16th, we celebrated the baptism of EIVA Mae Crone. EIVA is the 2-year-old daughter of Peter Crone and Angela Muller-Crone.

We pray God's continued blessing upon
EIVA and her family.



THANK YOU to everyone who participated in Consecration Sunday or returned a pledge card. Your participation is critical to our success. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please do so (whether you're making a pledge or not) so that we can plan the budget for 2023. Knowing who has responded also helps us reduce follow-up letters.

The Deacons or the church office can help you if you don't have a pledge card. No pledge is too small, and if your situation changes, your pledge can be changed at any time.

In His love,

Your Stewardship Committee

Pat Bukoski, Nan Johnson, Ron Klaucke, Marilyn Kulesa, Ellie Lowell, Lori-Ann Stockhaus



“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV®)

FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

With your help, the Nominating team is trying to fill **15** Committee/Board positions prior to the January Annual Meeting. Please review the following list of committee vacancies, and consider contacting a Nominating member or the church office to submit your name as an incoming 2023 nominee.

The committee vacancies include:

(# of Members)	Board/Committee	Term:	
(9)	<u>Board of Trustees</u>	(2 years)	1 Vacancy
(7)	<u>Board of Education</u>	(3 years)	2 Vacancies
(12)	<u>Board of Deacons</u>	(3 & 2 years) (1 year)	3 Vacancies total 2 Vacancies— <i>Confirmed Acolyte</i>
(6)	<u>Stewardship</u>	(3 years)	1 Vacancy
(4)	<u>Music</u>	(2 years) (3 years)	2 Vacancies 1 Vacancy
(3)	<u>Nominating</u>	Continuous	3 Vacancies

Requirement to join a committee is to be an adult church member, approved as a nominee at the Annual Meeting. However, don't let that stop you if you're not a member (yet); because, we'll work with Council to expedite a membership.

Nominating Contact info:

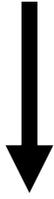
Sue MacPhee: (508) 832-9347 (home) or 508-864-2454 (cell/text) – email: susiemac2002@gmail.com

Sheila Skog (978) 387-7705 (cell); or call the church office, 508-832-2845, and leave us a message.

2022 Christmas Poinsettia Order

Once again we are offering the opportunity to purchase poinsettias . In the past we've decorated the sanctuary with these beautiful plants. At the close of the Christmas Eve service or Christmas Day service, members may claim their plants and continue to enjoy them at home, or give them as gifts. You may dedicate your poinsettias in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion, etc. Please complete the form below and include payment (cash or a check to the church noting poinsettia in the memo section) with your order.

Please use a separate order form for each plant.

Poinsettia Given By: PLEASE PRINT 

Name(s): _____

Include above name(s) in dedication? Yes _____ No _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

In Memory of _____

_____ or _____

In Celebration of _____

Color: red _____ white _____ pink _____

Size: Single Plant Pot \$ 9.00 _____

Double Plant Pot \$18.00 _____

Three Plant Pot \$25.00 _____

Four Plant Pot \$32.00 _____

_____ Please check here if you will **NOT** be taking your poinsettia home.

If you have any questions, call Michele Schillinger, cell # 508-259-2239.

ORDERS DUE BY DEC. 3RD

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

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

Phone: (508) 832-2845

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Email: secretary@auburnfirstucc.org

or PastorBrian@auburnfirstucc.org

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

Web: auburnfirstucc.org



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November 2022

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT