
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 the leaves change color and start to fall, the days become more precious. Each nice fall day can feel like it could be the last nice day until spring. Soon we will have bitter winds, biting cold, and possibly snow piled higher than our heads, or at least Cabbage’s head. So we need to take advantage of every-day we have.

For me, one of the joys of October is standing in the pumpkin patch talking to people and giving stickers to the kids. If the sun is out, it is often warm enough to be out in just shirtsleeves.

As I write this, it is a warm, very humid day. A tropical storm is due which is supposed to drop an inch or more of rain. Snow and cold seem far away, but soon it will be with us.

I pray you get all your projects done before the weather turns. I pray you have a nice big pile of leaves for the young ones to jump in. And lastly, I hope you enjoy the snow. :-)

Pastor Brian

October Sermon Topics

October 1
“Collective Punishment Is Lazy”

October 8
“The History of Judaism or Not?”

October 15
“Strange Parties”

October 22
“In Spite of Persecution . . . Joy”

October 29 — Memorial Sunday
“Memory” (children’s time)
“Good Law”



Consecration Sunday, October 22nd

The Stewardship Committee is looking forward to our annual Consecration Sunday brunch following worship on October 22nd. We hope you will join us, and we look forward to seeing you there. Our gifts to the congregation will be a continuation of our theme, "Gods gifts, your gifts." Each family will be given a gift of 2 magnets. One for your refrigerator, and one to pass on to a loved one. We hope you continue to enjoy one of the greatest gifts New England has to offer, the fall season. Filled with beautiful colors, tastes and weather.

“Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Potluck & Movie/Book Discussions

We have begun meeting again for potluck suppers and **you're invited.**

Join us on Oct.17th at 6 p.m., when we will be taking a second look at the book, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* by Robert Fulghum. Here Fulghum engages us with musings on life, death, love, pain, joy, and sorrow.

Pastor Brian welcomes your suggestions of movies and/or books.

Coffee Hour Hosts:

- 10/1, 8 Personnel Committee
- 10/15 Outreach Committee
- 10/22 Stewardship Committee
- 10/29, 11/5 Financial Secretaries/Treasurers

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Don't wait for peace to come accidentally. Pursue it, go after it." - J.Meyer

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

October Fuel Fund

This is a friendly reminder that in October there is a special offering envelope for the Fuel Fund.

This is one of four Fuel Fund special offering envelopes that can be found in your offering envelope packets. All money donated through this offering envelope stays in the Church and goes directly towards the heating expenses of the building. This is a large building to heat; any donation to the Fuel Fund is appreciated.

Birthdays &



Anniversaries

On October 8th

Rich and Jean McPherson will be celebrating their wedding anniversary - Happy Anniversary!

October Birthdays include:

- Marjorie Zimmerman - Oct. 7th
- Eric Rockwood - Oct. 21st

Happy Birthday!

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.

FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The chill is in the air and the leaves are giving us a beautiful display of color. Let us all be thankful for the beauty in the changing of the seasons. As you read this, our front lawn will again be invaded with the beautiful pumpkins and gourds for sale. Thank you to all who helped with the distribution. YOM had their first sleepover in preparation for the delivery. Thank you to Lynn Largesse for taking my place so I could attend family weekend at Jacob's school in Maine.

THE PIES ARE COMING! Starting on Sunday, October 1 through October 15, Youth On a Mission will be selling pie and cookie dough for delivery in time for your Thanksgiving feasts. Please see a YOM member or contact me at 508-832-5677 or crazyclan6@live.com with orders or questions. Same as last Year, we would like payment upfront whenever possible and a check is preferred. Please have the check written out to: First Congregational Church with YOM in memo section.



The church fair is next on our list and YOM will be having a game and craft table to help offset the cost of our upcoming outings. Please come and try your hand at our "match the duck" game or make a craft with a young one.

Also in the works is a Harvest Party, tentative date is Saturday, October 21st, 11-1. We are still in the planning stages but the old-fashioned games like doughnut on a string and bobbing for apples are on the agenda.

Sunday school is now in full swing. It is wonderful to see the kids coming back each year and we usually grab a few new students to add. If you would like to join us, we have a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall on the Sunday school bulletin board as well as with me or Shannon Hartmann. The Sunday school is growing and we would love to see some new faces helping.

Rebecca has agreed to help in Cradle Roll. I always encourage newly confirmed members to find their "gift" and contribute back to the life of the church. Rebecca has a good rapport with the little ones but we need adult supervision to assist her. Please consider sitting down for a Sunday or two and get to know the littlest ones in our family.

No detail in your life is too insignificant for your heavenly Father's attention.

Jean McPherson, DRE

AUBURN WALK FOR HUNGER - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22nd AT 1 P.M.

TO SUPPORT AYFS FOOD PANTRY AND KATERI'S KITCHEN

Registration is at 12:45 P.M. at Auburn Youth & Family Services, Pheasant Court, Auburn.

Please join Sue Campbell for the 2 1/2 mile walk for hunger. The walk begins and ends at Auburn Youth and Family Services. All money raised will support the food pantries at AYFS and Kateri's Kitchen at North American Martyrs Church. Approximately 250 to 275 individuals in the Auburn community are given food assistance monthly. **The total of individuals for 2016 was 3,232.**

Please make checks payable to AYFS Hunger Walk.

If you would like to walk and want a collection envelope, please see Sue Campbell or call her at 508-799-2718.

Thank you for your generous donations!

*****Look for the Celtic sneaker collection during the worship service on October 1st.**
(If you miss this offering please feel free to give your donation directly to Sue Campbell.)

***** PUMPKIN PATCH FAIR! OCTOBER 14TH 9 am to 4 pm *****

Please be sure to sign-up in Fellowship Hall for the hours you're available to help out at the Fair on October 14th. That is the Saturday AFTER Columbus Day weekend.

Assignments are as follows:

Cindy Ryan and Diane Moore - co-chairs and Silent Auction/Grandma's Pantry/ Food

Judy Murphy - Crafts Gayle Farley - Jewelry Sheila Skog - Attic Treasures Pat Bukoski - Publicity

PLEASE keep in mind the silent auction if you have furniture that can be repurposed, or something that you have had for years and never used (many times items are still in original packaging, unopened), or gift certificates from your place of employment, favorite restaurant, etc. Please consider either asking for it to be donated, or purchasing one yourself and donating it. You can always make something as well.

CALLING ALL BAKERS . . . We are going to get in touch with all church bakers soon. If you are not called.....we have already put a check after your name knowing that you have baked in previous years and we are looking forward to your baked goods to help us this year. We would appreciate all baked goods to be at the church on Friday the 13th of October as we will be setting up for the fair that day. Please label all items and indicate if there are nuts. Thank you and let's make it a great day for FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH! Any questions, or if we can pickup your baked goods (or a monetary donation), call me at 508-832-8078. — Thanks, Diane Moore
P.S. We will also be looking for donations for our new frozen dinner section.

ATTIC TREASURES — Please keep those donations coming! But, remember, no clothes of any kind and no VCR tapes. We welcome your books, DVD's, CD's, puzzles, games, etc. Drop your donations off for storage behind the stage in the downstairs vestry.

*** **NOTE:** Pastor Brian is looking for manpower to help with clean-up of attic treasures area (the vestry) when the fair ends (4 to 6 p.m.). Also in need of a pick-up truck for a Savers run. Please let him know you can help.

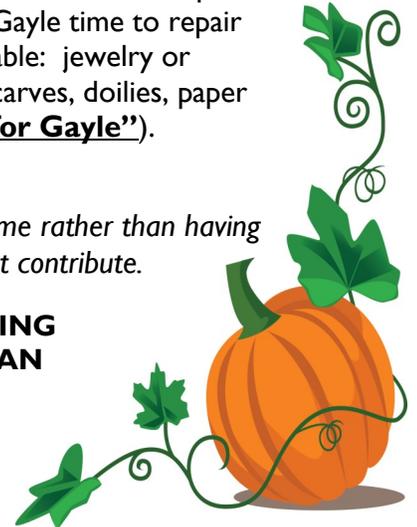
ATTENTION JEWELRY LOVERS: Gayle Farley requests that you please keep our fair in mind when you are cleaning out your jewelry drawers or finding great bargains at yard sales. Donations will be accepted now and until the fair (thank you to all who have already donated). Early donations give Gayle time to repair and clean jewelry. The following items would make an interesting addition to the table: jewelry or trinket boxes, scarves, small pocket books, cat/dog figurines, small plates, dresser scarves, doilies, paper weights. Items may be given to Gayle or left at the Church office (**please mark "for Gayle"**). Contact info: gayle2bill@gmail.com or 508-753-0285

All crafters – WE NEED YOU! This year we are asking that you make items at home rather than having craft nights at the church. Please let Judy Murphy know your ideas and what you might contribute.

REMINDER TO ALL COMMITTEES/BOARDS – PLEASE PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON YOUR BASKETS. HAVING THEM SOONER RATHER THAN LATER IS PREFERABLE. THANKS SO MUCH!!!

Cindy Ryan (508-832-3416 or 508-769-2740)

WE, OF COURSE, WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH CLEAN-UP FOLLOWING THE FAIR. PLEASE CLEAR YOUR CALENDARS & THANK YOU!



HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Our Hand Bell Choir is starting up again this fall. Rehearsals will be at 2:30 PM on Sunday afternoons starting on Sunday, October 8th. All are welcome to join with us. Coming to a rehearsal to see what we do is NOT a commitment to join the choir, though we would love to see you there.

Do you have children or grandchildren up through the 12th grade who might be interested in trying the bells? We are thinking about having 10-18 year-old youth doing a number at the Family Christmas Eve service.

Herb Mower, 508-434-2864

Walking Together

When we began the Urban Ministry in Worcester three years ago, we could not have imagined the growth in numbers and support which we have experienced. Over the past year, thanks to the support of your parish and others, we have increased both the hours and the programming at Walking Together, our storefront at 799 Main Street in Worcester, as well as continuing the ministry of presence which is central to our mission in the city.

Walking Together is now open each morning from about 8:30 to noon, offering coffee and snacks and conversation and support to all who come by. We serve between 35 and 50 people each morning, some coming in to grab a cup of coffee, some to charge a cell phone or get in out of the rain, and others to talk about their lives.

We offer help in getting into detox, give information about programs and services available in the community, and create a safe space for people to rest and connect in the midst of their day. Some people come in each day, others stop by once or twice a week. Most we know by name. Many share their gifts with us, whether by sweeping the floor, filling a coffee carafe, or sharing their experience, strength and hope with others.

The storefront is well used by the wider community as well. We have regular AA and NA groups, as well as a single fathers' support group, ESL classes, an exercise class and a job skills class. Many of those who stop by each morning are part of one or more of the other groups who use the building.

This summer we offered a Wednesday afternoon parent/child activity time. The first week we had one mom come with her child. The next week we had two moms and two kids. Week three had three moms and four kids! We plan to offer similar drop-in time during school vacations this year, and hope to have something next summer as well. We had supplies for jewelry making and knitting and crocheting for the mothers, and shared books and blocks and music with the kids. Each child left with a small toy—bubbles, sidewalk chalk, or the ever-present Play-doh!

Play-doh remains a feature of Laundry Love as well. On the second Thursday of each month we offer free laundry, a simple meal of pizza and juice and water, and activities for kids. We serve between 50 and 60 households each month. We show up with detergent, dryer sheets and trash bags (for instant laundry bags), as well as six party-sized pizzas, paper plates and napkins, cases of water bottles and juice boxes. The volunteers who help with the kid area bring Play-doh, Legos, books and craft supplies.

One of the wonderful things about Laundry Love is the way different groups have collaborated with us over the past year. In the Spring we had student nurses joining us to offer “baby boxes” which provide a safe space for a newborn to sleep. They also did wellness checks with some of the pregnant moms. We also have regular visitors from the Worcester Parenting Alliance who bring books to give to each child. And volunteers from ACTS bring clothing and other items to share with our guests.

We gather for prayer each night at Laundry Love. The circle stretches all around the laundromat at the end of the night. We pray in thanksgiving for the time we share and the community gathered, offer prayers for those in need, and mark occasions and offer prayers on behalf of those in the circle.

Maundy Thursday fell on a Laundry Love night this year. We offered foot washing during the evening, and we were blessed to have a massage therapist join us as well. After we washed people's feet, she gave them a foot massage. One woman, who lives in a truck with her husband who has dementia, told us that it was the first time in years that someone had taken care of her. At the end of the evening we celebrated communion at one of the folding tables, thanking God for the gift of community and service.

This year we have been blessed by volunteers from several different parishes and communities. We had an intern this summer through the chaplain's office at Holy Cross College, and we now have an Episcopal deacon assigned to Walking Together. The Rev. Deacon Julie Butcher joins us at the storefront once a week, and joins me at the parishes where I preach each weekend. She brings a compassionate heart and gentle spirit to our time together.

I continue to be grateful for the gift which you offered from the Sibley fund. I hope that many of you will come join us for a morning at the storefront or an evening at the laundromat.

Meredyth

The Rev. Meredyth Ward
Walking Together

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers the Fenby-Lazerick Family due to the recent passing of Rev. Robert Fenby. Rev. Robert F. Fenby, a longtime area minister died peacefully on Sunday, September 24, 2017 at Saint Francis Home, Worcester. He was 85. Bob was born and raised in Quincy, son of the late George and Edna (Ellis) Fenby.

He graduated from Quincy High School, New England College, Henniker, NH and the Hartford Theological Seminary, Hartford, CT and attended Pastor's School at Furman University, Greenville, SC. A proud veteran of the US Navy, Bob was stationed in Newport, RI. and served as the assistant to the Chief Chaplain for 3 years.

Bob first served the Dane Street Congregational Church in Beverly. He was then called to the Hadwen Park Congregational Church in Worcester, where he was pastor for 34 years, before retiring in 1998. Following retirement, Bob began a new ministry with Bethel Lutheran Church in Auburn through an agreement with the Congregational and Lutheran Churches in Massachusetts. He served that congregation for 12 years until his retirement in 2010. He was a member of the Auburn Clergy Association, served on several committees with the Massachusetts Council of the United Church of Christ and was past president of Worcester Council of Churches. Bob also served on numerous community boards and organizations including Auburn Youth and Family Services Board of Directors, the chairman of the Worcester and Auburn CROP Walks and chairman of the Auburn Walk for Hunger. He was a proud member of the Joel H. Prouty Lodge of Masons in Auburn, where he was chaplain for many years, and a master counselor of DeMolay. He was a recipient of several awards including the John E. and Ethel E. Riley Outstanding Citizen Award as well as the Children's Friend Award from the Auburn Youth and Family Services and the God and Country Award from the Boy Scouts of America.

He leaves his loving wife of 61 years, Leona F. (Ciardelli) Fenby; his daughter, Pamela A. Lazerick and her husband, John, and their two children, Zachary Robert and Gabriel John Lazerick.

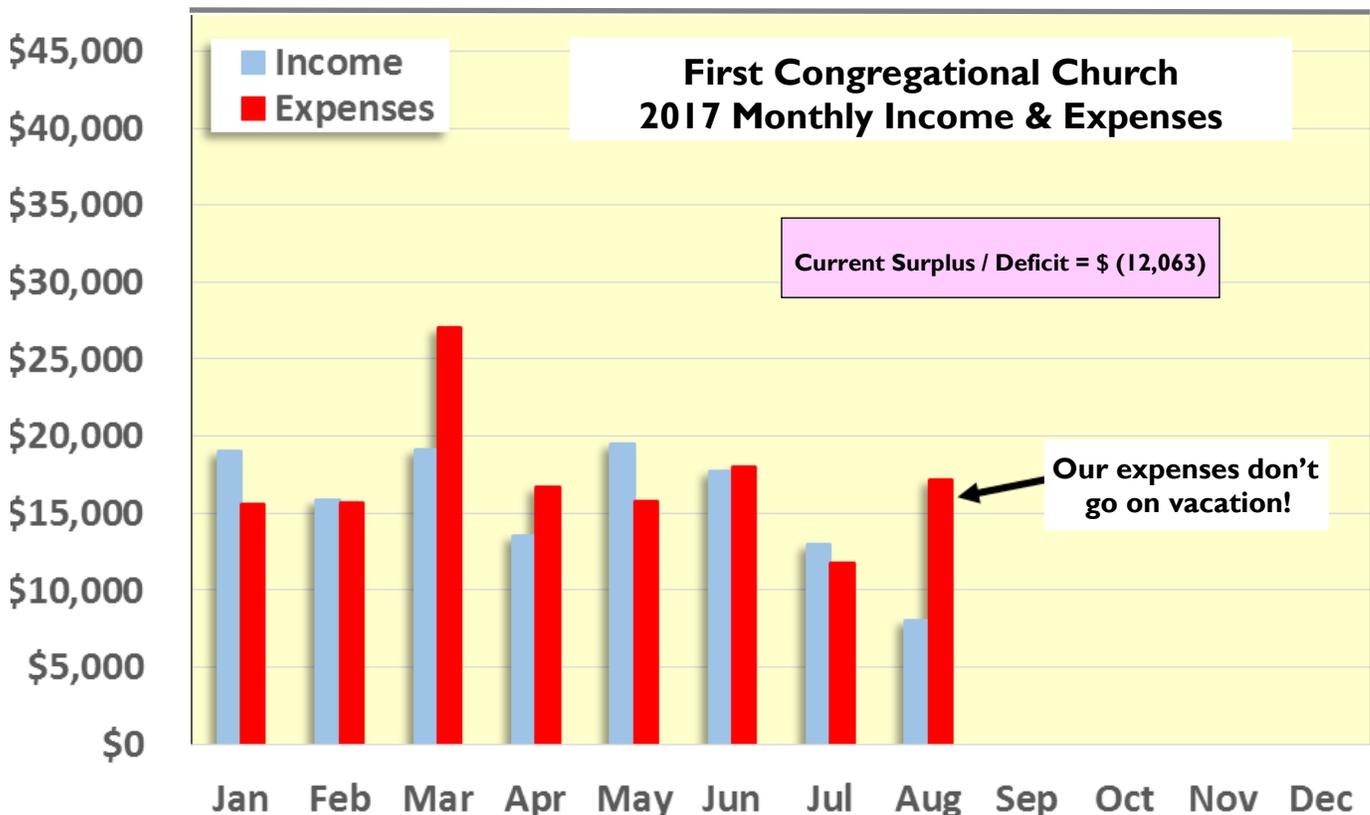
Relatives and friends are invited to Bob's life celebration and memorial service on Friday, September 29 at 11 a.m. at the Bethel Lutheran Church, 90 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Auburn. Burial with military honors will be held privately.

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

John 11:25

FROM THE TREASURER

Below is a financial "snapshot" of the church's monthly income and expenses through August 2017.





Here We Grow Preschool

While we welcome in the beautiful month of October, **Here We Grow** begins its 28th school year. The staff and most of the children have settled into a nice routine. I am happy to report that much of the crying has stopped, for the children and the parents.

Here We Grow began the school year with 39 three-year-olds and 60 four and five-year-olds. Currently, we have a few openings in the A.M. & P.M. three-year-old class and a few openings in the four-year A.M., P.M. & EXT. day classes. If you know of someone who is looking for a preschool for their child, please have them call the school at 508-832-8184.

During the month of September, the children became familiar with their teachers, new friends and new surroundings. They had a tour of the entire building and met Denise and Pastor Brian.

Each child received homework the second week of school. Continuing with one of our traditions, the children created a picture page of their families and added it to their classroom family album. It is one of the ways we become familiar with the many different types of families attending HWG. It is also a great way for the children to open up to someone, just by talking about their families.

We had a great parent turnout for Parent Orientation which was held a week before school started. Many questions were asked and answered with the hope that all fears were put to rest. For the 8th year in a row we offered a "Meet the Teachers" time before the actual first day of class. Again, we had a good turnout.

Starting the first day of school all the children are taught our prayer that we say before our snack and lunch times. Many of the children teach their families the same prayer at home. I would like to share the prayer with you as we fondly remember Gloria Whitehead who found this prayer for us.

*Thank You for the world so sweet
Thank You for the food we eat
Thank You for the birds that sing
Thank You God for everything.*

I would like to thank Mike Schillinger, Dave Sampson, Wayne Prouty and Sue and Stan MacPhee for all the help they did in preparing HWG for another school year. We wouldn't have been ready without their continued support. So, THANK YOU!

Upcoming events for the month of October: Apple Orchard field trips, visits from the police and fire departments, and Halloween parade and parties.

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

Cristi Corey, **Here We Grow** Preschool Director

NEWLY BAPTIZED

On September 17th we celebrated the baptism of Alaina Beverly Lange, the 4 month-old-daughter of Andrew and Amanda Lange.

Alaina is the great-granddaughter of the late Shirley and Bruce Martin.

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



As nominating representatives of the First Congregational Church, namely Sue MacPhee, Judi Taft and Melynn Guilford, we are reaching out to our church members by requesting consideration and hopeful commitment toward choosing to fulfill one of the upcoming 2018 committee term vacancies.

In our busy fall season we can't forget to prepare to welcome in 2018 with full staffing commitments on each committee. For some of our members, currently serving on various committees, their terms will end this year. It is important for all of us to recognize the many blessings each member currently achieves through their ongoing time, talent and commitments. The vacancies open to **ALL MEMBERS** of our church in 2018 are:

<u>COMMITTEES</u>	<u>VACANCIES</u>
Deacons	6 Members
Education	3 Members
Music	2 Members
Memorial/Scholarship	1 Member
Outreach	2 Members
Prudential	2 Members
Stewardship	2 Members
Trustees	3 Members

From now until each committee has a full 2018 staff, it will be our pleasure to assist with any questions or placement nominations toward a commitment in the New Year. Please shed hesitation and join, or rejoin, a fellowship that is in service to this church and our Lord.

Our contact information is as follows:

Sue MacPhee: House Phone — (508) 832-9347, Gmail: Susiemac2002@gmail.com

Melynn Guilford: — (508) 904-2921, email: melyng3@yahoo.com

Judi Taft: — (508) 752-2023, email: jtaft01527@aol.com (Note: Judi is unavailable for committee calls from September 26th until October 11th)

We thank you in advance for your consideration. Always keep in mind, the committees consist of a 'group' of church members and not a committee of 'one'.

MEMORIAL SUNDAY 10 A.M. OCTOBER 29TH

We have designated October 29th as Memorial Sunday. At this special worship service we remember church members that we have lost in the past year. Also during this service, congregants will have an opportunity to come forward and receive a flower and light a candle in memory of a loved one.

This service of remembrance has proven to be moving and very special to those who have lost loved ones, so please mark your calendars for October 29th, and plan to join us on Memorial Sunday.

Please join us on

Saturday, October 21st at 5 p.m.

for our **Roast Pork Community Supper**

Adults ~ \$10 Children ~ Free!

Servers: Nominating, Music and
Memorial/Scholarship Committees

Additional volunteers are always
welcome & appreciated!



October is: Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Eye Injury Prevention Month, Health Literacy Month, Home Eye Safety Month, International Walk to School Month, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Bullying Prevention Month, National Dental Hygiene Month, National Down Syndrome Awareness Month, National Medical Librarians Month, National Physical Therapy Month, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month

- 2 - 8 Mental Illness Awareness Week
- 2 - 6 National Primary Care Week
- 4 Walk and Bike to School Day
- 6 National Depression Screening Day®
- 12 - 20 Bone and Joint Health Action Week
- 13 Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day
- 15 - 21 International Infection Prevention Week
- 15 National Latino AIDS Awareness Day
- 16 - 22 National Healthcare Quality Week
- 16 - 20 National Health Education Week
- 16 World Food Day
- 19 World Pediatric Bone and Joint Day
- 21 National Check Your Meds Day
- 22 - 28 Respiratory Care Week
- 22 International Stuttering Awareness Day
- 23 - 31 Red Ribbon Week
- 29 World Psoriasis Day

I am sponsoring a flu shot clinic on Sunday, October 8th. A pharmacist from CVS will be here at 11:00 to administer the flu vaccine. I will have the forms before that and will be able to assist with filling them out. If you have any questions, call me at 508-612-4521. You can still get the flu shot on October 8th if you didn't fill out a form ahead of time. There is a different vaccine for people over 65 years, so please let me know. The pharmacist will have both.

God Bless,
Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse
Cell #: 508-612-4521

Get Your "From our Pumpkin Patch" Cookbook Here!

Our cookbook contains over 200 recipes! In addition to "Our Favorite Pumpkin Recipes" section, we have Appetizers & Beverages, Soups & Salads, Vegetables & Side Dishes, Main Dishes, Breads & Rolls, Desserts, Cookies & Candy, and "This & That" (miscellaneous recipes that don't quite fit into the other categories).

Our cookbook will be available for purchase at the Church's Pumpkin Patch Fair on October 14th! If you come by the table at the Fair, there might even be a treat or two from the cookbook available for tasting!! At \$15 apiece, they will make a great addition to your own kitchen library as well as a wonderful gift for any occasion - a birthday, anniversary, bridal shower or housewarming gift or a holiday gift for Christmas...

Need additional incentive? This is a church fundraiser; a portion of each cookbook sold goes to the church's general fund. Cookbooks are available to purchase during coffee hours or call Michele at 508-259-2239.

You may also email her at library@auburnfirstucc.org. Please include "cookbook" in the subject line.



THE PUMPKINS ARRIVE ON SEPT. 30TH!!!

Thank you in advance to everyone who will help to unload the pumpkins on Saturday morning, September 30th, at 8 a.m.

We are now in need of volunteers to man the pumpkin patch. We have morning and afternoon shifts to fit most schedules. Ideally, we would like at least 2 people per shift. Please check the sign-up sheet in fellowship hall.

**OPEN DAILY UNTIL DUSK
SEPT. 30TH THRU OCT. 31ST.**

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of
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 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



BULK RATE
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Non-Profit Org.
 Permit No. 6
 Auburn, Mass

October 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

OR CURRENT RESIDENT