

October
2021

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

What is the purpose of tithes and offerings? Our church could not exist without tithes and offerings. Even with our invested fund interest and fundraisers, about 90% of our budget comes from the collection plate.

On October 24 we will have our Consecration Sunday to receive our annual pledges. I say “our” because I pledge as well. I look hard at my income, my responsibilities, and choose a number to pledge.

It is not always easy to give to charity. It means I have to wait to buy certain things. Too often other concerns demand my money and God gets what’s left.

It is hard to put God first when billions of dollars are spent to convince us that we need to buy things to feel good and even more, “He can’t be a man because he doesn’t smoke the same cigarettes as me.”
(Mick Jagger)

I have been shocked at how well our pledges have held up over the Covid times. People are supposed to give out of a sense of blessing and having enough. In a time of fistfights over toilet paper, I worried that fear would end people’s generosity.

Over 90% of pledges are filled or exceeded. Even in Covid, when we were told the world was ending, the pledges still came in. Thank you. You made our budget one thing the church committees didn’t have to worry about. Thank you for worshipping God with your tithes and offerings.

Tithes and offerings come from those God has blessed.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” - Matt 6:21

Pastor Brian

October Sermon Topics

10/3 “Staying Together After the Divorce”

10/10 “That Poor Camel”

10/17 “God Flexing on Job and His ‘Friends’”

10/24 “Do Not Worry”

10/31 “Jesus Loves Me”



MEMORIAL SUNDAY — 10 A.M. OCTOBER 31ST

We have designated October 31st as Memorial Sunday this year. 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 31st, and plan to join us on Memorial Sunday.

Bell Choir

It is with great pleasure and excitement that we note that the handbell choir will resume rehearsals starting on Sunday afternoon, October 3rd. Rehearsal time is 2:00 PM and lasts about an hour.

Ever wondered what it would be like to ring a handbell or hand chime? Perhaps you would like to try your hand with our new mallets? This is your opportunity. We invite you to come to one of our rehearsals and see what is actually involved. No commitment! No musical ability or experience required!

The choir is looking forward to our continued involvement with our worship services. It was rewarding to be able to take part in some services during the pandemic. We hope to expand our role in the coming year.

Herb Mower

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

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!

FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

With your help, the Nominating team is trying to fill 19 Committee/Board positions and the Clerk officer position before 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 2022 nominee. The open vacancies without a nominee are as follows:

Committees 2 for Music
 2 for Stewardship
 6 for Trustees
 6 for Deacons
 2 for Education
 1 for Nominating

Officer 1 Church Clerk

The only requirement needed to join a committee or become an officer is to be an active adult church member who becomes elected at the January Annual Meeting.

If interested in joining one of these committees, **PLEASE** contact us: Sue MacPhee, home ph: 508-832-9347 or email at susiemac2002@gmail.com. Judi Taft, ph: 508-341-4530 or email at jtaft01527@aol.com. Sheila Skog, ph: 978-387-7705, sheilaskog@gmail.com

Here We Grow Preschool



While we welcome in the beautiful month of October, the staff and most of the children have settled into a nice routine. I am happy to report that almost all the crying has stopped.

Currently, we have a few openings in the morning and afternoon 3-year-old classes and the 4-year-old afternoon class. If you know of someone who is looking for a preschool for their child, please have them call the school at 508-832-8184. The highest compliment we can receive is a referral from family and friends. We are also still looking for a non-teaching aide on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30-noon, if you or anyone you know is looking for a fun part-time job.

Our first fundraiser is currently happening. We are working with Bemis Farm in Spencer to build a scarecrow. This event is open to anyone on Saturdays and Sundays from 9-4 until Oct. 17. You must preregister this year at www.bemis.biz. The cost is \$25/ family (there will be very limited walk-ins for \$35) and you get to build a life-size scarecrow, a walk through the pumpkin path, a small pumpkin, and a mum to bring home. There is a flyer posted on the board in Fellowship Hall; this is a great family event. We will also be having another Papa Gino's fundraiser night on Oct. 20 from 4-9. Please see flyer included in this newsletter.

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.

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 once again, and 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.

Coming in October: visits from the police and fire departments, and the Halloween parade and parties.

Until next month-

Cristi Corey

Here We Grow Preschool Director

COFFEE HOUR HAS RETURNED!

On Rally Day, the Board of Deacons hosted coffee hour outside on the church lawn following the worship service that day. This marked the return of coffee hour!

Please look for a coffee hour schedule in fellowship hall for the remaining Sundays in 2021. We are looking for volunteers to sign-up to host coffee hours in fellowship hall following the weekly service.



HWG JOB POSTING: Float teacher needed to assist classroom staff as needed.

Qualifications: meet DEEC qualifications including CORI/SORI and fingerprinting; physical within last 6 months, including TB test and proof of MMR; willing to attend weekly staff meeting. Must enjoy working with and have experience with young children.

Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m. until noon; Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Pay: starts at \$14.25/hour.

Please forward resume to: director@herewegrowpreschool.com.



Happy Fall! Hopefully, we will be able to enjoy some nice fall days. October is Eat Together, Eat Better Month. Being out in the fresh air, maybe participating in or watching fall sports, will help. Working at the Pumpkin Patch is also a very healthy environment!

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Dental Hygiene Month, and National Physical Therapy Month.

October 3-9 is Mental Illness Awareness Week
 October 7 is National Depression Screening Day
 October 12-20 is Bone and Joint Health Week
 October 16 is World Food Day
 October 18-22 is National Health Education Week

Predictions are that there will be a high case load of the FLU this year. Washing your hands is still the best way to prevent the flu. Last year there were less cases, but we weren't going out and, if we did, we wore masks.... Be safe and be careful.

God Bless!

Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse
 cell #: 508-612-4521

After a year and a half absence, the choir will be back starting October 3rd, Communion Sunday. Hooray!! Rehearsals began on Thursday, September 23rd, and will be held weekly at 6pm in the choir room.

Anyone interested in joining the choir, please contact me, a choir member, Denise in the office, or Pastor Brian. We would love to add members to this beautiful ministry that so enriches our Sunday morning services.



Choir Practice Resumes

Paulette



As I write this article, I am both saddened that it is my last submission and excited to see what will come next. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity God has given me these past 13 years to minister to the young people of this church. I love each of the kids dearly and have worked hard in the hope of seeing them grow in both their knowledge and love of our Savior and their love for others.

When I think back to the beginning of my time as your Director of Religious Education, I can't help but be excited at everything that has happened. The youth group consisted of Tori Stockhaus, and Lillian and Jacob McPherson. Our first event was up to Monadnock Bible Conference for an "Encounter Weekend" in the snow. We all found humor in the fact that we only had 3 teens and each had their own "chaperone." This year, Youth On a Mission is looking at a group of 15+ teens. As the saying goes, "We've come a long way, baby." The fact that the majority of the kids in YOM this year were not even born when I began is not lost on me. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3). This is my time to leave.

I still plan to be a part of this wonderful church family and want to thank you all for the many ways you have helped me these past 13 years. May the Lord guide a truly wonderful and caring person to help guide these exceptional children in the discovery of our Lord.

Forever in Christ,
Jean McPherson

Make a Difference - Share Our Faith - Secure Our Future

October 24 is Consecration Sunday at First Congregational Church. This a time of renewing ourselves by solemnly dedicating our pledges to continue our church's life and work in Auburn, the greater community, and beyond. This is a time when we bring forward our annual pledges to the Joash chest, a time when we re-commit our resources to maintaining our church operations, a time we re-commit ourselves to helping bring about the kind of just, loving, compassionate world that we think God intended.



Your Stewardship Committee is looking forward to seeing many of you return to services this fall. We will be sharing thoughts on our theme in the coming weeks: how your pledges and gifts help us to make a difference, share our faith, and secure our future.

Hopefully, there will be an opportunity for fellowship and food on Consecration Sunday. See you then!

In His Love,
Your Stewardship Committee
Nan Johnson, Ron Klaucke, Marilyn Kulesa, Ellie Lowell, Linda Mahlert

The more you share, the more you receive to share. - Lailah Gifty Akita

OUTREACH HAPPENINGS

September has always felt like the start of a new year to me, more so than January. Meetings begin again, sports and clubs for the kids get underway, Sunday School starts, and we hear from our Pumpkin Committee about the arrival and the need for volunteer sales people. That has become one of my favorite fall activities. Sitting in such a beautiful setting as our church lawn, the beauty of the trees and pumpkins, the clear air and hopefully the warmth of the sun. (I've been there in rain and snow too!) But mostly I enjoy meeting and talking with all those who come to find that perfect pumpkin. I love telling them about where the pumpkins come from and how when they purchase a pumpkin from us not only are they supporting our church but, on an even larger scale, they are supporting some of our Native Americans. I mention how this program provides jobs for so many of them throughout the year, as well as the monetary gains for both them and us. Although the sale is not an Outreach Committee program, it speaks volumes for what our church does to help others.

Members of the Outreach Committee met in September and it was voted to send a donation to Food For The Poor, specifically for Haiti. We received an appeal from them before the earthquake that, "Covid-19, civil unrest, lack of jobs and hunger are compounding to create an extreme crisis." They are asking for our prayers as well.

We also voted to donate to Abby's House in Worcester. Abby's, celebrating it's 45th anniversary, began as a shelter for women, with or without children, living on the streets of Worcester. Founder Annette Rafferty, along with a committee of volunteers, rented a brick apartment building on Crown St. and she states, "**On June 7th, 1976 we put the light on the porch and the sign up on the house and 45 years later it's still here.**" They have gone on to add three buildings providing supportive housing to women. From my work at the YWCA, I have come to know many woman who live in one of the rooms on High St. and say how much they love living there and how nice the rooms are. Abby's also offers advocacy services to help those that need support on their journey.

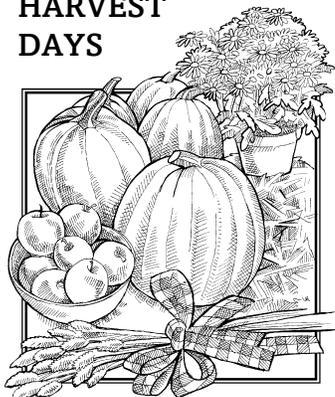
We have also set aside a donation to be given to Worcester Fellowship when our confirmation class, along with Outreach, goes to the service on the Worcester Common in November, more to follow on that next month.

We meet again October 14th. With \$1,000.00 remaining in our annual budget, as always, we welcome your suggestions on needs you may be aware of. Please let a member of our committee know.

Stay safe and healthy, enjoy this wonderful season, and may God watch over all of us,

Cindy Dube, Chair, Pat Bukoski, Judy Murphy, Deb Pranaitis, Judi Taft and Marion Woodcock

HARVEST DAYS



THE DISMAS FAMILY FARM

invites you to their

FALL HARVEST DAYS

Saturdays, October 2nd, 9th, and 16th 11 am - 4 pm

687 Lincoln Road, Oakham, MA

In lieu of their annual festival, they are hosting 3 smaller harvest days.
Join them for hayrides and fall treats at the farm!

Admission Free! ~ www.DISMASISFAMILY.ORG



Raise Some Dough to Benefit

Here We Grow Preschool

We will earn **20%** of the Sales from our Families & Friends during this time!

When: **Wednesday, October 20, 2021**

Time: **4:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

Where: **459 Southbridge Street, Auburn**

Phone: **508-832-6583**

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

- When you place your order, tell us you support this fundraiser! Hand us this flyer or show it on a mobile device, in order for your organization to get credit for your order.
- Online orders enter code **19** at the payment screen and then click apply.
- Papa Gino's will donate 20% of the total pre-tax sales from all the guests that present your flyer during the fundraiser.
- **Fundraiser orders are only valid with regular priced menu items and cannot be paired with coupons or deals.**
- 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 this sale using the POS button 19: Fundraiser.**

Beer & Wine, and Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream

THE PUMPKINS ARE HERE!!!

Thank you to everyone who helped to unload the pumpkins on Saturday morning, September 25th.

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 10AM — 6PM (OR DUSK)
THROUGH OCT. 31ST.**



TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

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doing Christ's work in the world.*

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT