



2022

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

“Time Is Weird”

It seems just the other day it was 90 degrees and 100% humidity. Now we are preparing for October. As a child, I remember the time between the start of school and Halloween taking FOREVER. Now it goes in the blink of an eye.

The saying with kids, “The days are long but the years are short,” matches my life. Last week we saw some of our Sunday School kids for the first time since early summer. Without exception they were all taller, and more grown up looking than I remember. All this while I stay the same, or grow more white hair.

Time seems to go faster the more we age. Time flies when we are having fun and crawls when we are bored or in pain. In the army we were told we could ask for any resource we needed except more time. Time is a nonrenewable resource; once it is used, it isn't coming back.

As the writer of Ecclesiastes writes, *“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.”*

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

May we use our time wisely and well. May we build memories with those we love and cherish our time with them.

God bless you all.

Pastor Brian

October Sermon Topics

- 10/2 “How We Do Communion”
- 10/9 “Doing Right Is Right Whether You Are a Foreigner or Not”
- 10/16 “Jacob/Israel, a Strange Hero”
- 10/23 “Which Man?” (the Pharisee & the Tax Collector) - Consecration Sunday
- 10/30 “Who Has a Good Life?” - Memorial Sunday & Children’s Sunday

MEMORIAL SUNDAY — 10 A.M. OCTOBER 30TH

We have designated October 30th 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 30th, and plan to join us on Memorial Sunday.



On October 8th

Rich and Jean McPherson will be celebrating their wedding anniversary.

Happy Anniversary!



October Birthdays include:
Eric Rockwood - Oct. 21st

Happy Birthday!

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

We are pleased to share with you the news that Marion Woodcock was recently honored as “Auxiliary Member of the Year” for the Department of Massachusetts American Legion Auxiliary. The American Legion Auxiliary is composed of spouses, mothers, daughters, granddaughters, and sisters of American war veterans. Founded in 1919, the ALA is dedicated to serving veterans, military, and their families.

Marion received this award in recognition of the many activities that she performs for the Veterans of Massachusetts. Specifically, Marion has used her talents over the years to brighten the day of others by making countless blankets, quilts for Veterans and residents of area nursing homes and rest homes, knitting hats, as well as sewing hundreds of masks and headpieces for surgeons during the pandemic. She performs this labor of love on a daily basis where you'll find her either at her table cutting, at her machine sewing, or on the floor putting it all together.

As an award recipient, Marion was recently honored at the National Convention, the 101st American Legion Convention held in Milwaukee, WI, August 29th through 31st. In addition to recognition for her many deeds done on behalf of Veterans, Marion was also honored as the entire 784 delegation sang, “Happy Birthday” to her on August 29th, her special day.

Wonderful conversation and memories were made during the trip as Marion was accompanied by her daughter, and fellow Auxiliary member, Jen Temple. Marion has been a member of the Auxiliary since 1951.

We join with the Auxiliary in saluting Marion for a job well done!



Marion is pictured here with her fellow award recipients.

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. We are hoping the nice weather lasts a few more weeks; being outside is so good for the body and spirit. The start of a new school year is both stressful and exciting for everyone - staff, students and parents, it doesn't matter if you have been here 1 year or 20. The new staff that joined us this year are bringing fresh ideas as well as new excitement to Here We Grow, and our veteran staff are nothing but supportive and welcoming. We are looking forward to a great year!

For many of our new students this is their first time in the care of someone other than family. They are learning to work in a group, follow directions from new adults, as well as gaining valuable self-help skills. At this age, children should be encouraged to try to do simple tasks for themselves, such as pulling up their pants, throwing away trash, and picking up toys. As they start to bring in coats, etc., we will work on putting on their own coats using the up-and-over method.

Currently, we have a few openings in all our 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. The highest compliment we can receive is a referral from family and friends.

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.

Our first fundraiser is currently underway; 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 16. 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 in a pot with a small pumpkin and a mum to bring home. They also have a pumpkin path and mini corn maze. 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. The **Savers Fundraiser** will be returning soon! The collection will run **October 17 through November 3**. Please begin to gather your donations of linens, clothes, belts, purses, and shoes (please no pillows or stuffed animals). Sorry, due to a lack of storage space, we are unable to accept donations before October 17.

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.*

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

Until next month -

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

FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

With your help, the Nominating team is trying to fill **18** 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: Board of Deacons (6), Education (2), Music (3), Board of Trustees (3), Stewardship (1), and Nominating (3). If you have a preference for one, please contact Nominating Committee Members, Sue MacPhee or Sheila Skog, as soon as possible.

Contact info:

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

Sheila Skog: 978-387-7705 (cell)



Happy Fall! This is the beginning of the flu season. If you didn't get your flu shot at the church, you should talk to your doctor about whether you should get one or not. The third Covid booster shot has been released.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Eye Injury Prevention Month, Healthy Lung Month, and National ADHD Awareness Month. It is also National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Bullying Prevention Month, National Dental Hygiene Month, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month, National Down Syndrome Awareness Month, and National Substance Abuse Awareness Month.

If you have unused medication in your home, you can take it to the lobby in the police station. If you are unable to do that, I will do it for you. Please don't keep any drugs around that you don't use.

At the end of the month, we will be celebrating Halloween. Please be careful with the children's costumes. Make sure they can see. If you're driving, watch out for the children and parents walking house to house.

Have a safe and enjoyable month. Enjoy God's creation with the leaves changing colors.

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

Bell Choir

The handbell choir will resume rehearsals starting on Sunday afternoon, October 9th. Rehearsal time is 2:00 PM and lasts about an hour.

We invite you to come to one of our rehearsals and see what is actually involved. No commitment! No musical ability or experience required!

Herb Mower

Join us for **NEW MEMBER CLASSES** beginning on October 2nd following the worship service. We will be meeting in fellowship hall during coffee hour. Classes will last 15-20 minutes for up to 3 consecutive Sundays.

If interested in church membership, please speak with Pastor Brian or a Deacon.

Rehearsals began on Thursday, September 22nd but it's **not too late** to join the choir! Rehearsals are 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.

Paulette

Count Me In!

October 23 is Consecration Sunday at First Congregational Church. This is 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 when we re-commit ourselves to helping bring about the kind of just, loving, compassionate world that we think God intended.

In the coming weeks, Stewardship will be mailing our letter and pledge card as well as sharing thoughts on our theme. We hope that we can "count you in" to support our church.

Please plan to return your pledge card on Consecration Sunday. This is a special day in the life of our church, and we hope you will make a special effort to join us. Following church service, we will be hosting a light brunch to thank you for your continued support.

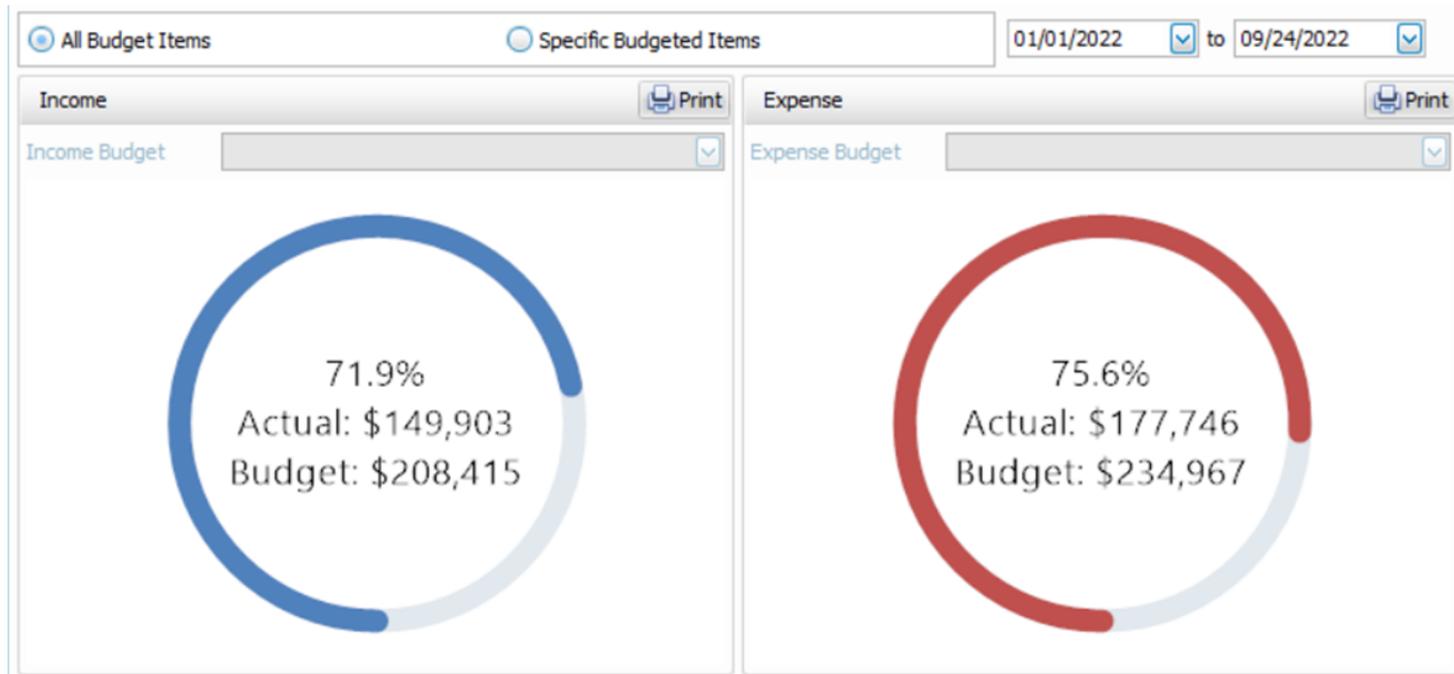
We are looking forward to sharing with you!

In His Love, your Stewardship Committee

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



Below our treasurer, Nick Stockhaus, has created a plot comparing church income and expenses, actual versus budgeted. Please feel free to contact Nick with any questions.



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

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

It is so hard to believe that we are already in October. Although, as I age, I find myself saying that every single month! Time flies!!!! I wonder what the people who lived when Jesus walked the earth, thought about time. If you want to ponder and discuss, let's grab a coffee and do so!

This month and next, our children will be busy running around with fall sports and scouts and other extracurricular activities. Often, this leaves a little gap in their attendance in Sunday School as well as Youth On a Mission activities. Oh how I wish Sundays were for worship and family only. But alas, we cannot change the system as it is today. So we must think outside the box to get our Christian message of God's love and church family support, across in other ways.

I am requesting that you send me information on any and all activities that your children (up to age 18) are involved in. Game schedules, concert dates, fundraisers, etc. The BOCE and I are brainstorming ways to show the kids how much we love and support them, even if they cannot make it to church activities. Suggestions are always welcome!

Thank you to all the parents, teachers and volunteers that were there for Rally Day. We had a successful morning with a lot of children listening, participating in crafts and enjoying ice cream.

As we move forward with this year, I would like to remind everyone that I am still a work in progress and am learning as I go forward. There may be changes here and there to accommodate the needs of our children and alleviate any new challenges that may arise. Please do not hesitate to call, text or email me with any questions, concerns or recommendations.

Romans 15:4 "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the scripture, we might have hope."

Thank you for the love and support you continue to show me, the BOCE, and our children!

Shannon Hartmann, DRE@auburnfirstucc.org



THE DISMAS FAMILY FARM

invites you to their

FALL HARVEST DAYS

Saturdays, October 1st and 8th 12 - 4 pm

687 Lincoln Road, Oakham, MA

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: **Thursday, October 20, 2022**

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
available in select locations.



THE PUMPKINS ARE HERE!!!

Thank you to everyone who helped to unload the pumpkins on Saturday morning, September 24th.

WE NOW NEED VOLUNTEERS

to man the pumpkin patch. ANY TIME you can donate is appreciated! 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 or call/email during office hours to have your name added to the list. (**Note:** Denise will be on vacation 10/10 - 10/14.)

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

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

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

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