

OCTOBER



2024

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 Our Pastor — The Rev. Dr. Julie Cedrone

Dear beloved community,

What an arrival! I am thrilled to be serving you, and appreciate your warm welcome, conversations about the church you once were, and daydreams about the church you imagine for the future. For now, we will relish this NOW, which is a pretty wonderful one: a vibrant community with a totally operational structure, deep history of service and care, a devotion to quality worship, dynamic leadership with our children and youth, and a desire to become what is next...and preserve the best of tradition. This is a delicate balance, of course, the path of revering Christianity’s proudest traditions and Auburn’s unique ones, while also opening our embrace to the evolution of our culture and its needs.

I am mapping out scriptures and worships through the fall, and will soon be collaborating with the leaders on the course of our spiritual journey together. As I begin, I strive to listen, to observe, and to ask questions that may seem obvious at first, but truly tug at the theology we hold dear and are not always easy to articulate: What does it mean to be a church? What do we value most? What do we fear? How are we following Jesus’s path, living best as disciples? Are we truly united as one body of believers with each other, with our town, with people of faith and those in need of our love across the globe? Do our children feel loved and connected to the divine?

These are the big, spiritual questions, and they are coupled with a flurry of practical ones: Can we livestream our worship and what kinds of virtual ministry can we offer? Are we advertising our church? Is our committee structure effective or can it be adjusted? Can we find some old directories and start calling the “Lost Sheep,” maybe shepherd them back to church and also direct a few new ones into our flock?

Yes, I am ambitious, and I don’t intend to tackle all of those questions and derive answers next week, but look forward to living into these questions together as we discern and wrestle, reflect and restore. I am asking you to be self-aware, attentive to your identity as a church and whether it is aligned with the desires of the holy.

I have a goal to visit everyone annually (at least) who would like a visit, knowing that relationships are built one conversation, one cup of coffee, one walk, and one sharing of stories at a time. I can already see that you are a well-knitted family, and like every family, there are nuances and complexities for me to understand, but the presence of a deep love and shared loyalty to build a stronger church of now and the future is very clear. I know this from my own observations, and I would love even more to hear you tell me about how you find the sacred in your church family. Please, reach out and schedule a time.

Last week, I had the honor of sitting on Nathan Minor's Eagle Scout Board of Review (a victory!), an impressive conversation that included a theological discussion about our pumpkin patch and Nathan's Eagle project there, the pergola and games. I was grateful to hear that Nathan had considered the pumpkins to be a mission, a way for all ages to come together on the front lawn of our community and find joyful fellowship. After all, much of the scriptures point towards the Lord's harvest, the ongoing spiritual work of tending to the gardens of faith, growing community, cultivating a rich and fertile soil for love.

The pumpkin pergola and old-fashioned games have become a focal point for play and conversation; spend time out there when the school day ends and listen to giddy preschoolers discover and rediscover mini pumpkins and swan gourds.

(continued on page 2)

From Our Pastor — The Rev. Dr. Julie Cedrone (continued from page 1)

I encourage you to get outside, hang out at the pumpkin patch, and enjoy visitors from near and far who are thrilled to study our pumpkins in search of perfection. And, **save the date for the blessing of the pumpkin pergola and patch - October 13th** - when we will process from our sanctuary worship to the lawn and prayerfully (and playfully!) celebrate the pumpkin patch's developments as a fine ministry of our church.

The crimson, gold, and orange colors are bursting around us, a flash of brilliance before the shedding of leaves, the necessary autumn visible around us as the seasons turn with God's drama. It doesn't get much better, really, to be in the wonder of it all, and to welcome others to share in it.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Julie

Bell Choir:

Rehearsals start up again on Saturday, October 5th at 10 A.M. in fellowship hall. No music reading ability needed. Interested in learning more? Come and observe an upcoming rehearsal or speak with Paulette directly.

October Birthdays include:
Eric Rockwood - Oct. 21st
Happy Birthday!



On October 8th
Rich and Jean McPherson will be
celebrating their wedding anniversary.
Happy Anniversary!

A Message from the Board of Deacons

It has been brought to our attention recently that space is needed for Sunday attendees to be able to park in the six spaces in front of the church, across from the handicap parking spaces. Specifically, there are at least one or two church attendees who have limited walking ability, and upon Sunday arrival during the last month, they were unable to find a close spot to park. You might reply that they should arrive earlier; however, with respect, the parking spaces were designed specifically for the elderly and disabled. Just because there's an open parking space, we ask that it not be filled if you are able. (*Please don't ask what constitutes elderly...there are many different opinions*). That said, we are spreading the word. If you are blessed with youth and agility (no matter your "youthful" age), then please do not park in the six spaces in front of the church sanctuary, across from the designated handicap spaces.

We all appreciate the added spaces the Trustees created, and as a church, we could challenge them to come up with a sign for restricted parking...but the bigger challenge is the sign's (*agreed upon*) wording. Plus, any installed signage would impose a hindrance for utility vehicles to access our front lawn.

In summary, if you are older, with mobility challenges or, no matter your age, have an injury or debilitation impacting your ability to walk (but not handicapped), then this area was designed for your safety by allowing for parking close to the sanctuary steps or elevator. To all, please use good judgement because where you park does make a difference and is very much appreciated.

"It's a blessing to leave an open parking space for someone in need."

The 2024–25 stewardship theme from the United Church of Christ is

**Imagine
Together**

How appropriate as we imagine the life of our church together with Pastor Julie!

Can we imagine?

- new children in church school?
- new voices in the choir line?
- new opportunities, reaching into the community?

In the coming weeks, Stewardship will be mailing our letter and pledge card as well as sharing thoughts on our theme. Please plan to return your pledge card on **October 27, 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 the church service, we will be hosting a light brunch to thank you for your continued support.

In closing, there will be many ways for your talents, time and treasures to be used this year. Be ready for the possibilities!

"Be with me, Jesus, and keep me — not just in the safety of your saving grace, but in the fire of imagination." *White China* by Molly Wolf



October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Youth Sports Awareness Month.

- October 13-19 is International Infection Prevention Week
- October 20-26 is Respiratory Care Week
- October 22-25 is National Health Education Week
- October 10 is World Mental Health Day
- October 16 is World Food Day

Please remember that we have medical equipment in the closet and more in the shed in back of the church. Besides the equipment, I have some disposable underwear and bed pads. It doesn't matter who uses the equipment, but it is available and someone is buying these items.

Flu and COVID shots will be given during coffee hour on Sunday, October 6th. I need to give V a head count ahead of time. If you didn't sign-up on the sheets in fellowship hall, please contact me as soon as possible.

Thank you and God Bless,

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



Here We Grow Preschool

As we welcome in the beautiful month of October, the staff and children have settled into a nice routine. So far the weather this fall has been fantastic for getting outside. We are hoping it lasts a few more weeks before the cold starts. Being outside is so good for the body and spirit.

The start of a new school year can be stressful for everyone; 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 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, picking up toys. As they start to bring in coats, etc. we will work with them to put on their own coats using the up and over method.

We currently have limited openings in a couple of 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.

Our first fundraiser is currently happening; we are once again working with Bemis Farm in Spencer to build a scarecrow. This event is open to anyone on Saturdays and Sundays from 9-4 until October 20. Preregister at www.bemis.biz. The cost is \$25/ family (walk-ins for \$30), 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.

For your future planning, we will also be doing another Savers clothing drive this year. We will begin collecting soft items (NO PILLOWS), shoes and books, movies, records, etc. on November 4 and end November 15. Clothing should be in bags; books and other media can be boxed. Items can be left on the stage in fellowship hall or in the Sunday School room. We appreciate all your donations; we couldn't do it without your help.

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 remember with fondness 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

On September 15 we celebrated the baptism of Austin Kenneth Coðerre, the now 7 month-old son of Scott and Nicole Coðerre.



We pray God's continued blessing upon Austin and his family.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

- 10/6 Kathy Holt, Lynn Largesse,
Deb Pranaitis and Sheila Skog
- 10/13 Shannon Hartmann & **volunteer???**
- 10/20 Financial Secretaries/Treasurers
- 10/27 Stewardship Thank-you Brunch

Please sign-up in fellowship hall if you would like to host an upcoming coffee hour — thank you!

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There is a buzz inside our church that I have not felt in years. Do you feel it? It is awesome! How do you measure success? Is it measurable? Is it more of a declaration? Is it based on goals and expectations? Is it different for everyone? Is earthly success different than godly success? How does God measure our success? Or does He? Please take a moment to consider these questions as you read on.

Rally Day was a successful event for our church. It was successful for a plethora of reasons, but here are a few specific things I want to share with you. We had a total of 16 students attend our Sunday School (S.S.) kick off; eleven were familiar faces and five were new faces. There is success in that, because those who are familiar, came back to learn more and are committed to strengthening their relationship with Christ. Adding new faces to our church family is also a success. Not only have they chosen to rest their faith alongside all of us, but they have also chosen to come to church and share in our fellowship! That is a statement of who we are! We are welcoming, we are loving, and we are enthusiastic in our faith.



Our ice cream social was successful, just ask the students who enjoyed a special morning treat! We were successful in recruiting the volunteers we needed, including family members of the students AND past students who came back to support the children. We were successful in herding the students from the sanctuary to the Sunday School wing and then back up to fellowship hall to offer a prayer of gratitude to God for our church family. I believe we had a successful day. Earthly success and godly success. We accomplished our goals and, most importantly to me, the children were happy to be in Sunday School!

²⁷“To this John replied, ‘A person can receive only what is given them from heaven.’” John 3:27

¹³“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” Jeremiah 29:13

We are reaching godly success because every Sunday that the children are here in the sanctuary, listening to Pastor Julie’s lesson, then listening to Michele’s or my lesson, they are seeking God! We, as teachers and mentors, have the privilege to lead our children closer to God by teaching them the Word! It is our job to invite the youngest of the church family to sit at the Lord’s table and rejoice in His gifts!

Learning is a lifelong journey! Can we reach full godly success while walking this earth? Can we seek God with our FULL heart? I am not sure, but that is a great question for Pastor Julie!

Come learn with us! All are welcome to join any of our classrooms downstairs as a volunteer teacher for the day, or longer!

~Shannon Hartmann

From the Pastoral Support Committee:

We would like to extend our gratitude to Nick Stockhaus for the exceptional work that he did this summer for Pastor Julie. Along with getting all the paperwork needed for transferring her benefits to Auburn FCC, he also set up her computer and email address so that she was ready on day one to be a part of our community. He kept in contact with the UCC Pension Board to make sure everything was correct and ready for Pastor Julie to join us. Thank you, Nick!!

Women's Fellowship will be meeting for craft night every two weeks in October (2nd, 16th, 30th) from 6:30 to 8:30pm in fellowship hall. Michele Schillinger will be setting up by 6:00 for those who wish to come by earlier than 6:30pm.

Our next monthly gathering will be on Saturday, October 12th in fellowship hall at 9:00am for "coffee and...". We will also be hosting "Cider and Donuts at the Pumpkin Patch" each Saturday afternoon in October with proceeds to benefit the Pumpkin Patch.

Hoping you can join us for any of the above. Sign-up sheets for craft night and Saturdays at the Pumpkin Patch are on a table in fellowship hall.

ADDITIONAL WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP DATES TO REMEMBER

(Please watch for sign-up sheets to these events.)

- Thanksgiving floral arrangement with Berg Florist - Friday, November 22, 6-9 p.m.
- "Everything Pumpkin" bake sale Sunday, November 24 - watch for sign-up sheets for bakers
- Holiday Marketplace — Sunday, December 8, after church
- Christmas party gathering with a Yankee Swap - Saturday, December 14, from 1-3 p.m.

FALLING INTO FAITH: WORSHIP THROUGH THANKSGIVING

Oct. 6 "World Communion Sunday: Abundant Table"

Scripture: Psalm 8 and John 6:51-58

Visual: breads from around the world

Oct. 13 "The Lord's Harvest"

Scripture: Psalm 22:1-15, Mark 10:17-31

New Member Sunday

Dedication of the Pumpkin Pergola

Oct. 20 "Be Prepared"

Scripture: Job 38:1-7, Mark 10:35-45

Baptism of Kinsley Elizabeth Spencer

Plaque Presentation in Honor of Herb Mower **(Shhh! This is a surprise to Fran Mower)**

Oct. 27 **Consecration Sunday** and Stewardship Thank-you Brunch

Scripture: Job 42:1-6, 10-17 and Mark 10:46-52

Stewardship Testimonies and Joash Chest



MEMORIAL ~ REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY will be held on Sunday, November 10 at 10 a.m.

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 very moving and special to those who have lost loved ones, so please mark your calendars for November 10th, and plan to join us on **Memorial ~ Remembrance Sunday**.

FROM YOUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A very big **THANK YOU** to all who have volunteered in the past as well as into the future! We appreciate your commitment to serve our church.

Below are the current available openings for all Boards and Committees.

Do not be hindered by the length of terms available below; if you are willing and can only offer your services for a year at a time, we would love to have you join us. If you do not think you have the talents needed for a particular board or committee...if one sparks your interest, you'd be surprised by what you can offer. I look forward to hearing from you!

If you are a current member of FCC of Auburn and if any of our boards or committees interest you, please reach out to me @ 508-259-2239 or email me @ chel061759@gmail.com.

~ Michele Schillinger

1 Peter 4:10: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Bd/Comm	1 Yr Term	2 Yr Term	3 Yr Term
Board of Deacons (3 vacancies out of 12)	0	0	3
Board of Education (2 vacancies out of 7)	0	2	0
Music Committee (1 vacancy out of 6)	0	0	1
Board of Trustees (3 vacancies out of 9)	0	1	2
Stewardship Committee (3 vacancies out of 6)	0	2	1
Outreach Committee (2 vacancies out of 6)	1	0	1
Nominating Committee (1 vacancy out of 3)	1	0	0

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: We would like to extend our gratitude to both Bob Murray and Mark Mahlert for helping to remove the section of bushes in our front yard to make way for the Eagle Scout project that is over our front walkway.

Bob helped remove the bushes with his front end loader and then Mark came up with his backhoe to dig out the area and bring up the stone and a power tamper to set the stone in place prior to the delivery of the pergola.

It truly is a great Eagle project by Nathan Minor who, with the help of his Boy Scout troop and leaders, installed it back in August. (Editor's note: please join us on Oct. 13 for the pergola dedication immediately following the worship service.)



THE PUMPKINS ARE HERE!!!

Thank you to everyone who helped to unload the pumpkins on Saturday morning, September 21st.

WE NOW NEED VOLUNTEERS

to man the pumpkin patch. ANY TIME you can donate is appreciated! The Pumpkin Patch Committee (Deb Minor, Tricia Gervasi and Michelle Bigelow) have arranged for an online calendar.

Please sign-up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A4A62CA6FFC16-51067025-2024>

If you are unable to take advantage of this online calendar, you may contact Deb Minor with your availability at debram9773@gmail.com or on her cell, 774-696-4047.

Shifts are split into 2 hour increments and **ideally, we would like at least 2 people per shift.**

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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