



# 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

“Help! I need somebody! Help, not just anybody! Help!”

Great poets speak words that are as powerful now as when they were first written. So it is almost 60 years since Lennon and McCartney wrote “Help.” We all need help. As we need more help, our ability to get it is at record lows.

We have come through 18 months of being encouraged to isolate. Some say we were to self isolate, but isn’t that a redundancy? Can you isolate with anyone other than yourself?

We have stretched, frayed and broken many of our bonds to our fellow humans. We made tough choices as to who would be in our bubble/pods and who we would not see until “things got better.”

Clearly this had consequences for our mental health. Waitresses and store clerks report more abusive and even violent behavior from customers than ever before. It is like people have no chill anymore. People have used up all their inner strength. The slightest pressure and some people snap. They just can’t take anymore.

We all need help. But are we able to ask? There is a concept in business, medical, and disaster relief of “push or pull.” In a disaster, Walmart prepares supplies just outside an area which is going to be hit with a hurricane. In this way they are ready to push needed supplies into the area as soon as the danger passes.

On the other hand, disaster charities ask that people not send clothes or water to a disaster area until asked. This is pull.

If clothes arrive before they’re needed, there might be no place to store it, so it gets wet, then moldy. Then it becomes just more debris to get in the way of recovery. So it is better to wait for a call before sending things people do not need.

Many people, I think, are like me, we want to help, AND do not want to be a pest. So we wait to be asked to help. I would be happy to be asked. So if you need help, please ask true friends and good people would be happy to help.

As Mister Rogers said, when a tragedy happens, look to the helpers. They are doing God’s work. Help them do God’s work by asking for help when you need it.

May God help the helpers and help those in need to reach out in a clear way for help.

God Bless,  
*Pastor Brian*

## SEPTEMBER SERMON TITLES

- 9/4 “Labor Day”
- 9/11 “The Lost Sheep, Why We Search”
- 9/18 “The Two Sinful Brothers”
- 9/25 “Go See the Burned Ruins”

Please mark your calendars for **Rally Day** which will take place on **Sunday, September 11th**. Rally Day is the official kick-off of Sunday School and we traditionally celebrate with ice cream! Sunday school starts at 10 a.m.



*Join us  
Sept. 11*

On September 14th  
Lori & Nick Stockhaus will  
be celebrating their 31st  
wedding anniversary.

**Congratulations,  
Lori & Nick!**

## SEPTEMBER



September Birthdays include:  
Pastor Brian - Sept. 6th  
Jacob McPherson - Sept. 14th  
Beverly Geddes - Sept. 25th

**Happy Birthday,  
P.B., Jake & Bev!**

### COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

- Sept. 4 Pat Bukoski & Bev Geddes  
Sept. 11 **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
Sept. 18 Board of Christian Education (BOCE)  
Sept. 25 Personnel Committee

We are asking for volunteers to host the first two Sundays monthly and committees and boards to host the third and fourth Sundays monthly. In months with a fifth Sunday we will ask for volunteers. Please look for the sign-up sheet in fellowship hall.

**THANK YOU!**

*Thank you for all the cards,  
thoughts and prayers you sent at  
Allen and Justin's passing.*

*Nellie Everitt & Family*

### FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

As a reminder, 2022 statements that cover this year's pledges from January through August will be mailed out in September. To save on postage, those current in their pledges, up to and including August, will not be receiving a partial year statement.

Please be assured that from every pledge received, no matter the amount, your gift of love and support, in turn, is blessed and appreciated. As always, thank you for helping us with our yearly budgeting needs.

If you have any questions regarding your pledge, contact me (Sue MacPhee) at home: 508-832-9347, or email me at: [susiemac2002@gmail.com](mailto:susiemac2002@gmail.com). Please include your name and call back number with some details that will help in responding.

### FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

We have decided to provide bagged lunches for Thursday Café on September 15th. Thursday Café (open from 12:30-2:30) is a joint effort between All Saints Church and Worcester Fellowship (part of a national outdoor church). They provide food, fellowship, and a warm environment every Thursday afternoon from September to May.

**We are requesting your donations of:** juice boxes, soft granola bars or cookies, chips, bananas or cash contribution to purchase meats and rolls. We'll have a box in fellowship hall for drop off. Thank you!



September is Blood Cancer Awareness Month, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Food Safety Education Month, and National Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month. It's also National Cholesterol Education Month, Pain Awareness Month, and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

September 5-17 is National Suicide Prevention Week.

September 20-24 is Falls Prevention Awareness Week.

I hope the mention of these observances reminds you to get your checkups. The health fairs haven't started in-person since Covid -19 shut things down. When they do, hopefully, I'll be able to get information to share with you. When I visit people in their homes, I'm always looking for safety issues... scatter rugs, especially. As we know, falls can happen, but I look for potential issues. Most of the new "help alert" buttons are fall activated. Please stay safe.

I have a date for the **flu clinic on October 2**. I will have the forms and signup sheets on the table in Fellowship Hall. There's a dose for over 65 and under 65. Vrushank, our wonderful pharmacist, will administer the flu shot to participants who are 9 years of age and over.

Any questions, call me at 508-612-4521 or email: [debpra@charter.net](mailto:debpra@charter.net).

Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse

### By-Law Committee

Our By-Laws require a review of our Constitution, and By-Laws every five years. It is time to, once again, conduct our review. I am requesting volunteers from the Congregation who would like to be on the By-Law Committee, which will be approved by the Church Council. I expect this will involve 3 or 4 meetings to complete the review this fall, with the objective of having a draft ready for a vote to approve any revisions at the Annual Meeting in January. If you are interested in being on the Committee, please contact me.

I would also request that all Committees and Boards review their sections and send me any proposed revisions for consideration.

Thanks,

Stu Campbell, Council President

[stucjr@msn.com](mailto:stucjr@msn.com)

cell: 508-667-8663, home: 508-799-2718, Maine: 207-529-5290

**A Grand Total of \$3,691.15** was raised at the June yard sale!

\$1,085.00 FCC Space/Table Rentals

\$1,838.15 FCC Plant Table

\$ 480.00 FCC Yard Sale Table

\$ 178.00 FCC Lunch Grill Table

\$ 110.00 FCC Coffee and Bake Sale Table

*Special thanks to Cindy Dube  
and to all who supported this  
church fundraiser!*

## From the Stewardship Committee

How quickly the summer has passed and now fall is nearly here! We church members are returning to our regular schedule for services and committee participation.

The Stewardship Committee is looking forward to sharing our thoughts with you this fall as we present our annual giving theme:

### "Count Me In!"

There are many ways that members "count" in the life of First Congregational Church to strengthen our Christian purpose. Count me in! For yard sales, pumpkin hauling, choir, outreach, food pantry, Sunday School, and much more! There are so many opportunities for service, fellowship, and sharing. Each of us does our part and together we can accomplish so much.

Step into a new venture with confidence or return to a previous place with renewed energy. Raise your spirit and step forward to say: "Count me in!"

## FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Sue MacPhee and Sheila Skog)

As we prepare for the September *Tidings*, there appears to be twenty-one open vacancies (as of 8/11/2022). The committee vacancies include: Board of Deacons (7), Education (2), Music (3), Board of Trustees (3), Stewardship (1), Outreach (2) and Nominating (3). Sheila and I are in the early stages of identifying all the vacant positions and will make every attempt to try and fill them; if you have a preference for one, we urge you to contact us. A detailed listing will be available in church as soon as it's ready.



It is so very important that all committees have a core group of individuals to assist each other in making relevant and timely decisions. Filling vacancies by 'your' initial contact... works better than 'our' initial contact of request and persuasion. However, once underway in working the vacancy list, contact from us is necessary. We'll try to answer your questions and are always delighted when we have direct conversations with questions and commitments from you.

Our church needs volunteers, and with your committee interests, we (collectively) are capable of: educating our children's faith, keeping our building (God's house) strong and safe, filling our Sundays with our Minister, Deacons, you and lots of music, working toward the continuum of those blessings we currently have as a church family. We must try to be constant in our active roles to serve our church and to 'reach out' with our faith, just as our Savior encouraged us to do from the beginning. So we ask, will you contact us with interest and commitment?

If you noticed, the Nominating Committee shows (3) vacancies. Sheila and I are choosing to leave Nominating and concentrate our efforts toward other committees and church duties. Our bylaws call for a church member's term to be from 1 to 3 years and cannot extend past 6 years without a year off. Nominating isn't held to that limitation but we decided this is our last year. While our service sometimes has been challenging, it's also been fun and enlightening. Again, we will make every effort toward filling the open vacancies by January's annual meeting (with your help).

Summary of (ALL) 58 Positions as of 8/11/2022:

**Open** Vacancies = 21 / **Pending** (Blessed) Nominees = 9 / **Active** 'in term' (Appreciated) Members = 28

### Contact for Nominating Committee:

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

**Sheila Skog:** 978-387-7705 (cell)

## FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Greetings this month from a mama that just sent her kids off to their first day of school!! I hope everyone had a lovely summer filled with blessings and memories made. Although today is not the last day of summer, when school starts I cannot help but feel the end of one season and the beginning of another. Filled with a little sadness, a little excitement, some nerves and some celebrations, I focus on how much potential this new season will have.

Sunday school is going to be wonderful this year! I hope to have full classrooms with not only familiar faces, both on our students as well as our volunteers, but also NEW faces!!! In a letter sent to our extended church family, I invited you to come volunteer and hang out with our youngest group within the church. The importance of our children building relationships with our adult members is immeasurable!

In Job 12:12 it reads "Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?" Today, we are faced not only with a generation relying on electronics to communicate, but we also are in the process of healing from a terrifying pandemic that left many children without consistent interactions with their peers and communities. It is our responsibility to step up and offer these innocent children, our wisdom. Every generation goes through hardships. Every hardship comes with a blessing. We learn how to cope and we learn how to look to the Lord for healing!

For my generation, the event that shook our core was 9/11. The blessing we received from that heartbreaking event was unity. We prayed together, we cried together, we had the same enemy and saluted our flag as one nation. We healed TOGETHER! For other generations it was the Kennedy assassination or WWII or the Great Depression. From the bottom of my heart, I believe it is our duty to embrace the children healing from this generation's challenges and uncertainty. Please consider having a presence in the Sunday school wing this year!

If you have not met one of our newest members, Patricia Hilbert, please offer her a hug or a high five. She will be teaching the elementary class in the Sunday school wing. I will be teaching the middle school class. Without the support of Patricia and our BOCE, this year would not look as bright as it does!!! Thank you from the bottom of my heart! These ladies help make the magic happen!

**We will be kicking off the new school year on Rally Day, September 11<sup>th</sup>.**

In true FCC Auburn fashion, there will be an ice cream social during registration. Hope to see you there!

Peace and Love,  
Shannon Hartmann, Director of Religious Education



### Here We Grow Preschool Cleaning Person Job Posting

**Responsibilities:** Cleaning 4 classrooms at the end of each day. Including, but not limited to, vacuuming, mopping, sanitizing.

**Qualifications:**

Must have reliable transportation

Must be comfortable working alone

**Hours:** Sun.-Thurs. or Mon.-Fri. evenings

**Pay:** 15.00/hour

Send inquiries to [director@herewegrowpreschool.com](mailto:director@herewegrowpreschool.com)

## Here We Grow Preschool



Welcome to the 33<sup>rd</sup> year of Here We Grow Preschool being an educational outreach program of the First Congregational Church in Auburn. Although I am not ready for summer to end, I am excited for the start of another great school year. On September 6, 2022, our doors will open as we welcome our children and families for another wonderful year of meeting and making new friends and exploring and learning in a beautiful environment. We have openings spread through all our classes. I am still receiving phone calls from families wanting to visit Here We Grow and conducting tours, but we can't do it without your help. Please spread the word to anyone looking for a great preschool. Check out our website or look us up on Facebook.

We had some staffing changes for this year, our 2022-23 staff consists of: Room 1 - Courtney Tomaszewicz and Jill Myhre, Room 2 - Katelyn Aguiar and Brenda Carbonneau, Room 3 - Anne Coyne and Mary Soderberg, and Room 4 - Jill Stohlman, and floating assistant, Abigail Leahy. I know these ladies are going to keep Here We Grow the best preschool we can be. We are still looking for a cleaning person if you know of anyone looking for a fun part-time position.

Thanks for all the help we received to get ready for the new school year. We hope you all take a minute to check out the flooring downstairs in the hallway, vestry, and kitchen; it came out fantastic. A big thank you to Mike Schillinger for all the help he gives Here We Grow and the excellent job he did preparing the classrooms and to Stan MacPhee for putting up our new classroom blinds.

Until next month, enjoy the weather and stay safe.

Cristi Corey, Here We Grow Director

**Choir Practice will resume on September 22 at 6 p.m.**

If you're interested in joining the adult choir, please speak with Paulette LaBarre, our Organist/Choir Director.

*Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!*

*Psalms 95:2*



NEW BIRTHS

We are pleased to announce the arrival of the newest addition to the Murray Family. Jacoby Edward Murray, the son of Justin Murray and Ceil Rodriguez, was born on July 25, weighing in at 7 lbs., 14 oz. Justin's grandfather is Jeff Murray and proud great-grandparents are Carole and Bob Murray.

Joe and Debbie Pranaitis welcomed their first grandchild, Adalind Ava-Marie Pranaitis, on August 15. Adalind is the daughter of Eric Pranaitis and Lindsey Blaine.

She weighed in at 8 lbs., 7 oz. and 19 inches long.

Congratulations to both of these families!

Please be in prayer for the following families who suffered losses since the last printing of the *Tidings* in early June.



Remember  
These  
Members  
in Their  
Sorrow

**Nicole T. Simulynas**, 28, of Leicester, passed away suddenly, on Thursday, June 16, at Tufts Medical Center in Boston after complications during surgery. She leaves her adoring mother and best friend, Kelly A. (Connors) Simulynas; her brother, Scott Simulynas, Jr. and his fiancée Alexa D. Foss; her maternal grandmother, Judith A. Taft; aunts, uncles and cousins including her godfather, Kenneth Hynes and godmother, Kathy Chalupka, and many dear friends. She is predeceased by her father, Scott Simulynas, Sr. in 2016.

She was born in Worcester, and graduated from Pathfinder Vocational Technical School in Palmer and Fine Mortuary College in Norwood. She became a licensed funeral director and embalmer and has worked for the J. Henri Morin & Son Funeral Homes of Spencer and Leicester since 2019. In her short career, she was a dedicated, caring person who had a genuine concern for others. She was a member of the Mass. Funeral Directors Association. Nikki enjoyed sharing time with family and friends, trips to the casino, all things Boston Bruins, the beach, sea turtles, and trips to her mother's condo in NH. Funeral services were held on June 21, at the J. Henri Morin & Son Funeral Home in Spencer. Burial followed in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton.

**Justin R. Everitt**, 35, of Danielson, CT, passed away on Sunday, July 10, 2022. He is survived by his mother, Lorri B. (Caplette) DeRoy and her husband Daniel; his 4 children Jayson, Jeremy, Ayden and Raelynn; two brothers, Christopher S. Everitt and his partner Tara, and Scott W. Everitt; his maternal grandmother, Betty E. Caplette; his paternal grandmother, Nellie J. Everitt; his aunts and uncles, and many cousins. He was predeceased by his maternal grandfather, Paul R. Caplette, in 1992; and his paternal grandfather, Richard A. Everitt in 2020.

He was born in Worcester, son of the late Allen S. Everitt. Justin graduated from Shepherd Hill Regional High School in Dudley in 2006, and attended Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester. Justin was a Senior Installer for M.H.S. Global for several years, installing conveyors primarily in Amazon facilities throughout the USA. Previously, he was a Welder for Southbridge Radiator for 12 years. He enjoyed riding his Harley motorcycle, fishing, kayaking and four--wheeling. The special times he spent with his brother, Scott, meant the world to him; they had an inseparable bond. He could always count on his brother, Chris, to lend a helping hand when needed. But, his greatest joy in life was being a Dad. He was loved by many and will be deeply missed.

**Allen S. Everitt**, 59, of Dudley, died Sunday, July 10, 2022, at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge. He is survived by his mother, Nellie J. (MacLennan) Everitt of North Oxford; two sons, Christopher S. Everitt and his partner, Tara Beane, and Scott W. Everitt; two brothers, Joseph M. Everitt, and David B. Everitt and his wife, Paula; his sister, Cynthia L. Manos; his former wife, Lorri B. DeRoy and her husband, Daniel; his special friends, Scott and Shannon Szkutak; and several grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. He was predeceased by his son, Justin R. Everitt, who died earlier the same day.

He was born in Worcester, son of the late Richard A. Everitt, and lived in Dudley since 1997. He graduated from Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School in Charlton in 1981. Mr. Everitt was employed as a CNC programmer/machinist at IMA North America in Leominster, where he worked for over 20 years. He enjoyed gardening and spending time outdoors. On August 7, 2022, a prayer service was held at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford for both Justin and his father, Allen, as they died just hours apart.

**Marjorie Ellen (VanLiew) Zimmerman**, 93, died peacefully on Thursday, August 18, 2022, at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge. She was born in Woonsocket, RI, daughter of the late Albert Lapham and Edith Viola (Henry) VanLiew. She is survived by three daughters, Dawn Lucier and her husband, Marvin, Eileen Keller and her husband, Sheldon, and Ellen "Kate" Flynn and her husband, Timothy; her daughter-in-law, Deborah Zimmerman; her sister, Shirley Nadon; her sister-in-law, Francesca VanLiew; eleven grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Benjamin Earl Zimmerman; her son, Steven Allen Zimmerman; her brother, Robert VanLiew; and her granddaughter, Heather Dawn Flynn.

Marjorie grew up in Worcester, MA and was the youngest of three children. She married Benjamin in 1948. They moved a few times between Worcester and Ohio before settling in Auburn, MA. They raised four children of their own and fostered countless others.

Marjorie's interests included a love of art, music, camping, cats, playing cards, and spending time with her family. The last several years she spent in Assisted Living at Christopher Heights in Webster, MA. A memorial service will be held at 12:00 pm on Sunday, September 25th, at the First Baptist Church, 693 Main Street, North Oxford. Burial will be private at Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

**THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING, THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING!  
HELP IS NEEDED FOR THE PUMPKIN ARRIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>!**

Please mark your calendars to unload pumpkins on Saturday morning, September 24<sup>th</sup>. The pumpkins are due to arrive at 9 a.m., but in the past, the driver often shows up early, so unloading may begin as early as 8:00 AM.

In past years, it was a **very difficult** time due to a lack of manpower, so if we could have **ALL HANDS ON DECK**, that would be awesome. We also need volunteers to cover the daily sale hours of 10 - 2 and 2 - 6, but **ANY hours you can offer would be greatly appreciated!** Please look for a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall. Ideally, we would like to have scheduling in place well ahead of time so that we're not scrambling at the last minute to secure coverage at the patch. So, please check your calendars now. **(THANK YOU!)** You may also call the church office, 508-832-2845, to add your name to the schedule.

**Thank you in advance.**

The Pumpkin Patch Committee:  
Sheila Skog, Deb Minor and Pastor Brian



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doing Christ's work in the world.*  
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BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Non-Profit Org.  
Permit No. 6  
Auburn, Mass

September 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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	

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**