



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

JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR NEW INTERIM PASTOR!

We are pleased to introduce you to our new interim pastor, Rev. Dr. Virginia Child. Pastor Child has been hired on a part-time basis and her first day in the office will be Tuesday, September 5. Her first day in the pulpit will be on Rally Day, September 10th! So, please mark your calendars and help us in welcoming her to our church!

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

The Rev. Dr. Virginia Child



Just the other day, someone asked me the world's most complex question: "Where are you from?" "Well, it depends on what you mean. I was born in New Jersey, raised around Philadelphia, graduated from high school in south Florida, and have lived in New England for most of my adult life." My family roots are deep in Connecticut; my cousins still run the farm that has supported us since 1817. I have one brother, two nieces and a nephew, and two of the most beautiful grand-nieces anyone could boast about.

In the last ten years or so, I've been the interim at our UCC churches in Grafton, Upton, Wareham, Somerset, Bethany, CT, and, most recently, the First Church in Middletown, CT. I've been an ordained pastor since

1980 and have served churches in Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Michigan, sometimes as interim, sometimes as settled pastor.

In the late 1990s, I served as a consultant to the Connecticut Conference, working in the areas of stewardship and mission development. For four years I worked at Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre, MA, as Director of Church Relations and then as Director of Admissions.

Denominationally, I've served on Association and Conference boards and committees, and am now the Chair of the Committee on Ministry of the Old Colony Association of the Southern New England Conference. I spent one term on the old United Church Board for World Ministries, and have served on mission-related committees in the Maine and Massachusetts Conferences. While in Connecticut, I was on the Conference Board of Directors, Moderator of the Conference and Vice-Chair of the Conference Minister Search Committee.

I received a BS in Business Administration from Castleton State College in Vermont, the MDiv, and STM degree from Andover Newton Theological School and a DMin from Hartford Seminary, concentrating in Congregational Studies. Before entering the ministry, I worked as a legal secretary, sales clerk, various college jobs, and spent seven and one-half years in the United States Marine Corps.

I live in East Providence, Rhode Island, and when I am not working, attend the Newman Congregational UCC just up the road from my home. In my spare time, I play classical mandolin and make futile attempts to weed my garden.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Sept. 3	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Sept. 10	Board of Christian Education (BOCE)
Sept. 17	Personnel Committee
Sept. 24	Music Committee & Historian

We are asking for volunteers to host the first two Sundays monthly (except as noted) 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!

A Grand Total of \$3,042.50 was raised at the June yard sale!

- \$ 800.00 FCC Space/Table Rentals
- \$1,933.28 FCC Plant Table
- \$ 147.22 FCC Lunch Grill Table
- \$ 162.00 FCC Coffee and Bake Sale Table

Many thanks to Cindy Dube for organizing the yard sale, and to Diane Moore and Lois Therrien for overseeing the plant sale. Thank you to the Trustees for handling the grill and to Sue MacPhee for taking care of the financial end. Thank you to **ALL** who supported this church fundraiser!



Please mark your calendars for **Rally Day** which will take place on **Sunday, September 10th**. Rally Day is the official kick-off of Sunday School and we traditionally celebrate with ice cream! Weather permitting, Rally Day will be held on the front lawn! See you there!

FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

As a reminder, 2023 statements that cover this year's pledges from January through September will be mailed out in October. To save on postage, those current in their pledges, up to and including September, will not be receiving a partial year statement. Please be assured that every pledge received, no matter the amount, is greatly appreciated.

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

September Birthdays include:
Jacob McPherson - Sept. 14th
Kim Davis - Sep. 14th
Beverly Geddes - Sept. 25th

**Happy Birthday,
Jake, Kim & Bev!**



On September 14th
Lori & Nick Stockhaus will
be celebrating their 32nd
wedding anniversary.

**Congratulations,
Lori & Nick!**

Bell Choir: the bell choir will be starting its 2023-2024 season with rehearsals on Sunday afternoons beginning in October.

Specifics will be in the October *Tidings*. New members, or anyone just interested in the handbells, are welcome to join with us.

Herb Mower

FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Welcome back to a fresh new year of Sunday School!!!!

I always find it a bit difficult transitioning from lazy fun days of summer to a new season of schedules and studying. Anyone else have that same struggle? I am sure many of you said, "YES! Me too!" Getting up and heading to church on Sunday morning can also be a bit challenging; especially when you are tasked with getting a child (of any age) dressed in nice clothes and a positive attitude! But when you make Sunday School a priority or habit or simply part of your crazy schedule, you will find that it's not as daunting as you anticipated. In fact, you will more than likely find your child will look forward to Sunday School.

We are a beautiful and loving church community. From the halls of Sunday school, through Fellowship Hall, past Paulette and our choir, sit a group of people that truly love you and your children. Push aside the anxiousness you may be feeling about who will be behind the pulpit and focus on those of us who are still here!!! Focus on the feeling of acceptance and support that our church family has provided and will continue to provide each and every Sunday (and often between Sundays!).

This will be another year of "new" for all our children and those who support Sunday School. We have a new group of teenagers that will begin preparing for **Confirmation**. This class may look a little different, but the message of Confirmation will remain the same. Classes, for the foreseeable future, will be held on Tuesdays beginning September 19, 7-8 p.m. **I am requesting that parents attend the first class with their teen.**

There will be a new group of preteens joining our Youth On a Mission program. They will be challenged with a new expectation of maturity and new opportunities to get to know their classmates and have fun!!!

My goal this year is to have 3 active classrooms and a bustling cradle roll. In order to achieve that goal, I need the help of our church family. I am looking for (1) adult to make a commitment to a classroom each Sunday. We currently have (2) teachers, but in order to provide our children with age-appropriate instruction and materials, we need a third classroom. If the Spirit moves many of you, I am happy to create a rolling schedule of some kind to give everyone a chance to worship in the sanctuary. Similarly, I am looking for an additional adult to be present in the cradle roll room. We will have Confirmation student support, but following our own Child Protection Policy, there needs to be an adult present as well. Again, I would be so grateful to provide a rolling schedule if multiple hearts are drawn to the Sunday School wing.

Rally Day will be September 10th, outside on the lawn (weather permitting). Please arrive with your child by 9:45AM for registration. There will be an ice cream social while we learn about the Fruit of the Spirit as Paul writes in Galatians 5:22-23. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions or interests please do not hesitate to reach out!!!

Lastly, do not forget to reach out to our children as you see them mingling throughout the church before and after Sunday School. Make them feel loved!!!! Ask about their hobbies and interests. Show them that they belong here and are an important part of our church family. Compliment them when they do something noteworthy and correct them gently if they step out of line. We were all children once and mistakes are just an opportunity to learn!!!!

God Bless,

Shannon Hartmann, Dir. of Religious Ed.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN SEPT. 19th

Confirmation classes will begin on Tuesday, September 19th, from 7 until 8 p.m. Parents, please plan to attend our first class with your teen.

If you would like to learn more about our confirmation classes, or have any questions, please contact Shannon Hartmann at dre@auburnfirstucc.org.

Here We Grow Preschool



Welcome to the 34th 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 5, 2023, 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 a limited number of openings still available for this year, 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 are very excited that all our staff from last year are returning this year. They are a fantastic group of ladies who bring joy and excitement to our program. Please help me welcome back Katelyn Aguiar, Brenda Carbonneau, Anne Coyne, Jill Myhre, Mary Soderberg, Jill Stohlman and Courtney Tomaszewicz. These ladies are truly the heart of our program.

Thanks for all the help we received to get ready for the new school year. 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. My husband Matt and daughter Emily came in and cleaned up the playground as well as the garden in the courtyard area. I couldn't get it all done without the extra help.

Here We Grow wants to extend a warm welcome to the new interim minister of the Church, Rev. Dr. Virginia Child; we look forward to working with her while she is here.

Our deepest condolences to Linda Mahlert and the family of Judy Bjork; we were all saddened to hear about your losses this summer.

Until next month, enjoy the weather and stay safe.

Cristi Corey, Here We Grow Director



NEW BIRTHS

We are pleased to announce the arrival of the newest addition to the Woodcock Family. Arthur Charles Cantwell arrived on June 19th, weighing in at 7 lbs., 7 oz. and 21 in. long. Arthur is the son of Caitlin and James Cantwell and grandson to Charles and Karen Woodcock. Proud great-grandma is Marion Woodcock.

The Murray Family welcomed great-grandchild Julieta Murray on July 19th, weighing in at 8 lbs., 1 oz. and measuring 20 inches. Julieta is the daughter of Justin Murray and Celi Rodriguez. Proud grandparents include Jeff Murray, grandfather, and great-grandparents Carole and Bob Murray.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to both of these families!

JUNE BAPTISMS

We celebrated two baptisms on June 25th. During the church service Landon William Powell, the 2-year-old son of Matthew and Mikaela Powell, was baptized.

Later that day, Jonah Michael Bjorklund was baptized in a private ceremony. Jonah is the 3½-month-old son of Ken and Chelsea Bjorklund and grandson to Bruce and Kelly Fant.



We pray God's continued blessing upon these families.

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

Judith L. “Judy” Bjork, 76, lifelong Auburn resident, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 1, 2023 at Harrington Hospital in Southbridge.

Judy is survived by her sister, Jean K. Koleshis, of Ware; sister-in-law, Linda M. Bjork, of Oxford; fifteen nieces and nephews; many great-grandnieces and nephews; seven cousins, and many wonderful friends. She was predeceased by her siblings, Carl O. “Nick” Bjork, Jr. and his wife Murial, Joanne H. Riendeau and her husband Henry, William E. “Bill” Bjork and his wife Susan; and Robert E. “Bob” Bjork.

Judy was born in Worcester, daughter of the late Carl O. and Mildred (Knowlton) Bjork. She was raised and educated in Auburn, graduating from Auburn High School with the Class of 1966. She worked, for many years, as a Dental Lab Assistant at Roucette Dental Labs.

Judy also dedicated many years helping in the office at the First Congregational Church of Auburn, which she considered her second home. In her free time, Judy loved completing jigsaw puzzles and was an avid collector.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association (www.heart.org/donate) or to our church: First Congregational Church of Auburn, 128 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501.

Judy’s funeral service was held on Saturday, July 8, 2023 here at the First Congregational Church of Auburn, 128 Central Street. Burial will be held privately at a later date for Judy’s family.



Jean E. (Marvin) Brothers, 92, of Auburn, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 15, 2023, with her loving family by her side.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Edward C. “Ed” Brothers; her son, Douglas E. “Doug” Brothers; her infant granddaughter, Katelyn Louise Mahlert; and most recently, her daughter, Deborah L. “Debbie” Mahlert, in 2021.

Jean leaves her daughter, Linda J. Mahlert and her husband Gordon of Auburn, MA; her son-in-law, Mark A. Mahlert, of Auburn; her grandchildren: Stacie Cone and husband Kevin of Chesapeake, VA, Daniel Fitts and wife Debra of Sturbridge, Andrew Mahlert and fiancée Jennifer Saarinen of Auburn, David Mahlert and wife Holly of Millbury, Matthew Brothers and wife Lauren of Auburn, and Michael Brothers of Hollywood, CA; fifteen great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild; along with many nieces and nephews. She was also predeceased by her brothers, John P. Marvin, Lawrence G. Marvin, Jr., and Frederick E. Marvin.

Jean was born in Worcester, one of four children of the late Lawrence G. and Ethel L. (Wilson) Marvin. She was a 1950 graduate of Commerce High School, prior to beginning her career as a teller at the Worcester County National Bank. Jean retired from T.D. Bank North in Auburn.

She and her husband Ed lived in Auburn for almost three decades, before moving to Brookfield, then Shrewsbury. They spent their winters in Carlsbad, CA for 25 years and several years in Florida as well. Jean moved back to Auburn for the last 5 years of her life to be closer to her family.

In her free time, Jean loved bowling, puzzles, card games, and most especially, going out to eat every Friday evening and Sunday morning with her family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association (www.heart.org/donate) or the American Cancer Association (www.cancer.org/donate).

Jean’s funeral service was held on July 19, 2023 here at First Congregational Church of Auburn, 128 Central St., Auburn. Burial followed at Hillside Cemetery.

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.’” — John 11:25 (NIV®)



September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, National Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month, National Food Safety Education Month, Healthy Aging Month, and National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. It is also National Food Safety Education Month, National Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month, Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. These are reminders to stay on top of your medical checkups. Often, early detection can mean a good outcome.

We have a standing date with the Auburn Pharmacy for flu shots on the first Sunday of October. This year it is October 1st. The pharmacist, Vrushank, will be in the conference room after church. He is also offering to give the shingles shot if you want. The shingles shot is still a two shot deal, but you can get the first dose the same day as the flu shot. **I will have sign up sheets in Fellowship Hall and the vaccination form so we know how many vaccines to prepare.** There's still a dose for 65 and over and under 65. He will give flu shots to anyone 9-years-old and over. Any questions, see me at church or call me at 508-612-4521.

God Bless!

Deb Pranaitis
Parish Nurse

FLU SHOT CLINIC ON OCT. 1ST

Call Debbie, our Parish Nurse, for more information, 508-612-4521 or the church office at 508-832-2845.

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth” Ps.96 vs. 1

Choir season is about to begin. Our services will be filled once more with anthems of praise and songs to move our hearts closer to God.

I’m sure you all agree that music is an essential part of our worship. With that in mind, whether you are young or of a certain age, please prayerfully consider being a part of this essential ministry.

If you are interested but aren’t sure, I or one of our choir members is always willing to speak with you and fill you in on the details of being a choir member.

We rehearse for one hour on Thursdays at 6 p.m. and meet on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.

Until we hear from you, continue to do as the Psalmist said,

“Sing joyfully unto the Lord.” Ps. 98 vs.1

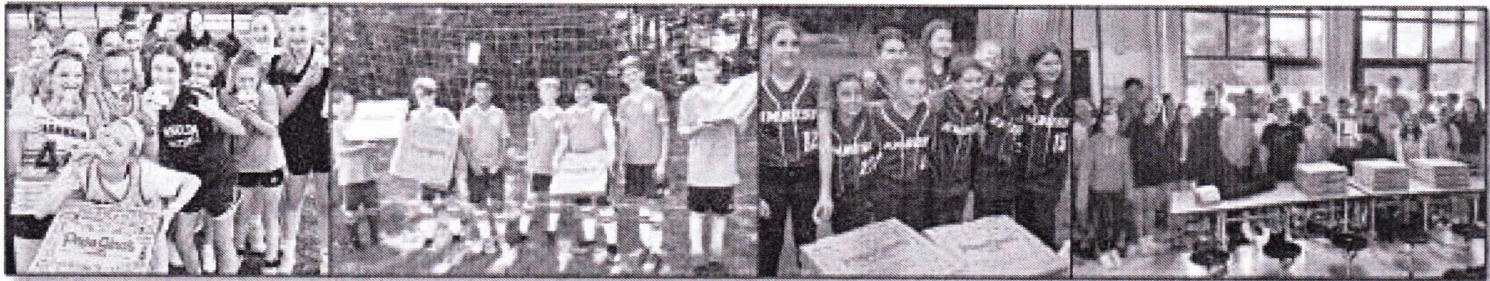
Be at Peace!

Paulette



Papa Gino's

PIZZERIA



Here We Grow Preschool

will earn 20% of all qualifying sales
from orders placed on September 20th.

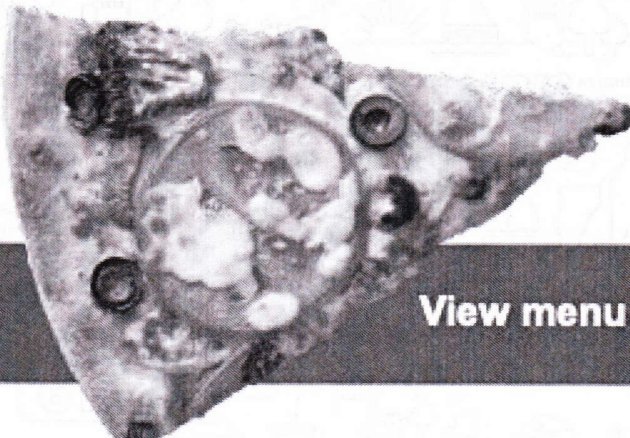


Wednesday, September 20, 2023

4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Auburn • 459 Southbridge Street • 508-832-6583

- **Walk-in or phone orders:** Mention this fundraiser when you place your order for the organization to get credit for your order.
- **Online orders:** Enter code **19** at the payment screen and then click redeem.
- **Fundraiser orders** are only valid with regular priced menu items and cannot be paired with coupons or deals. Fundraisers are not valid on third party orders.



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

View menu & place online orders @ papaginos.com

THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING, THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING!

HELP IS NEEDED FOR THE PUMPKIN ARRIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 23RD!

Please mark your calendars to help unload pumpkins on Saturday morning, September 23rd. This ends up being a fun time for both the young and young at heart. 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. (Unloading is a rain or shine event.)

In past years, it was **very difficult**, due to a lack of manpower, to form a human chain from the truck to each pallet. 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. (**THANKYOU!**) 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:
Deb Minor, Sheila Skog and Linda Mahlert

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

**First Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
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



NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #6
AUBURN, MA

September 2023						
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

OR CURRENT RESIDENT