



# 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

## **Bread and Milk**

The one good thing about the 36 inch snowstorm is that it got the TV news to stop talking about bread and milk. It seems that many winter storms fall on my usual market day. So I am in the market which is full of people shopping for bread and milk to “stock up” before the storm. These bread and milk people are in my way and of others that are truly out of bread and milk. I think if you went to their home you might find plenty of both bread and milk. They are hoarding bread and milk. Will they use it or will most of it go bad?

Is bread and milk needed for a Massachusetts blizzard staple I do not know about? (If so, please email me the recipe; I just started liking bread pudding.) Do you make bread pudding or French toast with all that bread and milk? I do not eat more bread or drink more milk in a blizzard. Except maybe some milk in my coffee. So what was this bread and milk thing all about?

I think it is a minor sign that the main product of TV news programs is not the news, no matter how loosely defined. Their main product is fear. I well remember hearing a news teaser before a commercial, “Will this product kill your child?” After the commercial the answer was...NO! That product will not kill your kid. Nice to know that “NEWS!”

Likewise, the TV can't say about a storm, “It will be ok if you stay off the road unless really necessary to go somewhere and if you have to travel, take care and go slow.”

No, if they said that you might turn off the news. Instead they talk about getting your bread and milk and about what accidents happened the last time it snowed.

So if fear is how they make their money, why has bread and milk stopped? Because there is real news. The “T” service is messed up. People need to clear roofs before they collapse, clear vents and chimneys to help heating systems to work. Clear hydrants so precious minutes are not lost if there is a fire. All the snow has given us real worries. Fake worries need not concern us.

So next time a storm is forecast ask a neighbor if they need anything at the store, if you truly need to go. That way you might not get in a snow rage fight with them over where the snowblower piles the snow.

God bless and remember spring is coming.

Pastor Brian



## **SERMON TITLES FOR MARCH**

- |      |   |      |                               |
|------|---|------|-------------------------------|
| 3/1  | “Isaac - Father of Israel; Ishmael - Father of Mohamed” | 3/22 | “Why the Genealogy of Jesus?” |
| 3/8  | “The Law Lets You Know You Are Doing Wrong”             | 3/29 | “The Fickle Public”           |
| 3/15 | “A Metaphysical Logical Argument”                       |      |                               |

**Coffee Hour Hosts**

March 1	Personnel Committee
March 8, 15	Board of Deacons
March 22	Confirmation Class
March 29	Prudential Committee

We'd like to wish a (belated) Happy Anniversary to Alice and Gus Carlson who marked their 58th wedding anniversary on Feb. 23rd. — Congratulations!



We are saddened by the news of Cynthia Brothers passing. Although obituary details weren't released at the time of this printing, we do know that relatives and friends are invited to gather for a memorial service on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 11 a.m. in the James C. Niccoll Chapel of the Overlook Healthcare Center, 88 Masonic Home Rd., Charlton.

Please be in prayer for Cynthia's family and loved ones during this time of loss.

**Worcester Area Mission Society (WAMS) is seeking an experienced Office Manager to join their team.** WAMS is known and respected for its innovative programs which enjoy national recognition as good works that really work. WAMS works with congregations, social welfare agencies, civic groups, neighborhood associations, public schools, business and government to accomplish its goals. It is located in the newly renovated 6 Institute Road building in Worcester. For details on this position, go to: <http://www.macucc.org/classifiedsdetail/814310>. To apply, send a resume and cover letter **by March 14<sup>th</sup>** to [office@wamsworks.org](mailto:office@wamsworks.org). To learn more about WAMS go to: [www.wamsworks.org](http://www.wamsworks.org).

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>**

Remember to set your clock ahead one hour when retiring on Saturday evening, March 7th.

**COMMUNITY SUPPER  
Featuring Chicken Piccata**

Saturday, March 21st at 5p.m.

Adults - \$10 Children - free

Servers: Outreach Committee  
(additional volunteers are always appreciated)

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS  
ARE NOW AVAILABLE**

Scholarship applications are now available on the table in Fellowship Hall. We have several scholarships we would like to award to church members seeking to continue their education. Specifically, there are two scholarships dedicated to those studying within the medical field, and one scholarship gives preference to those who are musically inclined, and, of course, we have several unrestricted scholarships as well. Please complete the application form and return it to the Memorial/Scholarship Committee by April 15th.

**One Great Hour of Sharing — OGHS**

One Great Hour of Sharing is administered by the Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ and provides support to people in over 80 countries. When you make a gift to the offering you become a partner in the refugee, disaster relief, and community development efforts of the UCC in the United States and internationally. Through this fund lives are changed, and sharing brings joy!

You'll find offering envelopes enclosed in this month's *Tidings*. Please drop it in the offering plate on Sunday or mail to: FCC, 128 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501. Thank you!

**Happy  
Birthday to:**

3/16 - MacKenzie Young

3/26 - Jean McPherson



## Soup and Sandwich Supper



### LENTEN SERIES CONTINUES

We hope you'll join us on Wednesday nights during Lent (through Mar. 25) when we will meet over soup and sandwiches beginning at 6 p.m. and concluding at 7 p.m. Topics include:

March 4	"Baptism, a Nice Bath"
March 11	"Communion, a Loving Meal"
March 18	"What Other Christians Believe and Why We Don't"
March 25	"The Church, What Is It Good For?"

Committees/Boards were asked to sign-up at the All Committee meeting to provide the soup/sandwiches for the Lenten series. At this time, the supper schedule is as follows:

- Mar 4 Chicken/mushroom wild rice soup & mixed grinders provided by the Deacons
- Mar 11 Chili and Italian grinders provided by the Outreach Committee
- Mar 18 Vegetable soup and finger rolls provided by Stewardship
- Mar 25 Chicken noodle soup provided by B.O.C.E. (Board of Christian Education) and grilled cheese sandwiches provided by YOM (Youth On a Mission)

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**Palm Sunday** is March 29th. Our worship service will begin at 10 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday Service** will be held April 2nd at 7 p.m.

**Good Friday** is April 3rd ~ The Auburn Ecumenical Good Friday service will be held at 12:15 p.m. at Faith Baptist Church, 22 Faith Avenue in Auburn.

**Easter Sunday** is April 5th ~ with our Sunrise Service at 5:30 a.m. at Hillside Cemetery and two worship services - 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at the church.

~ All Are Welcome ~

### COMMUNITY YARD SALE ON JUNE 13TH

Do you have an accumulation of things that are just too good to throw away, but you no longer need? Don't have enough to hold your own yard sale? Store those items and plan to join us on the Church lawn for **OUR COMMUNITY YARD SALE on June 13th!** As we've done in the past, we will rent spaces and tables, plus we'll do all the advertising and remember, our prime location can't be beat!

So, mark your calendars for **June 13th** and turn that "trash" into "treasure." Look for more info to come or call Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646.





### Here We Grow Preschool

During the month of February we tried a new fundraiser - "A Calendar Giveaway." Our fundraising committee, consisting of Karen Trilligan and Christine Bahosh, did a great job collecting donations from area businesses. We were able to fill each day in the month of March with great prizes. A *Here We Grow* student will pull a lucky winner every day in March and on Fridays an extra drawing of a gift basket will be awarded. As always, the profit from this fundraiser and the profit from Hebert candy bars (sold in January) goes back to the children who are attending HWG this year.

The children and staff celebrated Valentine's Day with parties on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. We were so happy that we actually had school. The children had the opportunity to be mail carriers during circle time and had a great time. The parents provided snack which consisted of cookies, Jello, and juice.

We have had many new visitors come to *Here We Grow* to check us out for next year. Did you know that most families come to HWG because a friend, neighbor or relative has recommended us? That is our best form of advertising. Our Open House is scheduled for 9:00-11:00 on March 10<sup>th</sup>. We have spots available in the 2-day afternoon session and just a few 4-year-old spots available. We are hoping for the remaining spots to fill up within the next few months.

Looking ahead to March, we will be setting up a time with the Amber Alert and Massachusetts State Police representatives to come in and fingerprint our four-year-olds. Flash drives were purchased, thanks to the donation from the Phillips Fund and Pat Bukoski. Once again Neal Primeaux will be here the first week of March for picture taking. *Here We Grow* is up for re-licensing so a scheduled visit from DEEC and our licenser is set for March 2<sup>nd</sup>. I will let you know how we do.

Until next month, stay healthy and safe —  
Dawn Murphy, *Here We Grow* Director



Please join us for *Here We Grow's* Open House  
Tuesday, March 10th from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M.

### FALL FAIR PLANNED FOR OCT. 10th & 11th

We are looking to repeat the **Fall Fair**. With the foot traffic that is generated by the annual pumpkin patch, we anticipate that the **Fall Fair** will again be a huge fundraiser for the church!

(Last year we raised over \$6,000!)

And, once again we're reaching out to the congregation for your ideas! As you may recall, last year we had various themes or themed tables such as crafts, jellies/jams (food items), Christmas/Halloween sections, etc. To ensure its success, the planning must begin NOW!

This is a great opportunity to get to know the rest of your church family! **Please contact Cindy Ryan at 508-832-3416** and let her know you're interested in being a part of this church fundraiser.





Now that we are entering the month of March, I hope the bitter cold and snow are mostly behind us. I also hope everyone is well, no more flu or norovirus. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) still maintains that hand washing is the best policy for prevention.

March brings to our awareness, National Colorectal Disease and National Endometriosis Disease. It is also National Kidney Month, National Nutrition Month, Save Your Vision Month, and Workplace Eye Wellness Month.

March 2-6 is National School Breakfast Week

March 2-8 is National Sleep Awareness Week

March 8-14 is Patient Safety Awareness Week

March 12 is World Kidney Day

March 15-21 is National Poison Prevention Week

March 16-22 is Brain Awareness Week

March 23-27 is National Youth Violence Prevention Week

March 24 is American Diabetes Alert Day

I have information on the health table in Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to take whatever you are interested in. I attend health fairs and replenish the supply and try to keep it updated.

Also, please remember the closet in the educational wing. It is right inside the door and if there is some medical equipment that you need, please take it. There is no sign out; it's there for the taking. If you no longer need something, please put it in the closet for someone else.

Think spring!

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

## PANCAKES AT THE FARM

**March 7, 8, 14 & 15      9 am - 1 pm**

**HEIFER FARM      216 Wachusett Street      Rutland, MA**

Reserve a seat for Heifer Farm's annual "Pancakes at the Farm" the first two weekends in March. The meal includes pancakes covered in Heifer Farm's maple syrup and pork sausage with coffee and juice. After breakfast, tour the farm to view the maple sugaring operation, meet the newly born lambs, and explore Heifer's Global Village.

Reservations are required for this popular breakfast feast. The meal is \$12.00 per adult, \$6.00 per child (ages 3-10) and free for children 2 and under. Call 508-886-2221 for reservations.



**Pancake Breakfast**

Again this year Outreach will be hosting the Palm Sunday Breakfast which will take place on Sunday, March 29th at 8:00 A.M. The breakfast is FREE, but a free-will donation will be accepted.

There will be a sign up sheet in fellowship hall so that we may plan for the appropriate number of people. Also, please look for guest speaker info in future Sunday bulletins.

EVERYONE is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there!

The Outreach Committee



### FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Hello spring! This is a MUCH anticipated season for all, especially this year! As the weather begins to warm and the grass and flowers begin to blossom and grow, let us renew our commitment to God and each other and bring a “rebirth” to our relationships. May we find ways to help each other and show others how our love of God transcends to our love for all.

Sunday School is going strong! I want to thank Laurie Babcock for being with me almost every week as my right hand. It truly is helpful when others that know the children are present because the tears are less when a familiar face is close by. That is NOT to say I do not need help and I TRULY appreciate all who have been signing up and when they were unable to make it, finding a person to step in. With all the kids we have now I really need the extra hands.

Youth on a Mission (YOM) will FINALLY be going to Monadnock Bible Conference on March 13-15. The confirmation class will also be going to Monadnock and then off to City Reach in Boston the next weekend on March 21-22 to work with the homeless. They continue to work toward their goal of becoming members of the church as well as assisting me downstairs. So, as you can see, they are very busy. If you have a minute, please encourage these young people and maybe share a story or two about your confirmation time.

Look for a sign-up sheet for the **Easter Egg Hunt on March 29**. The egg hunt will be after service on the front lawn. We meet in fellowship hall and go out as a group. **Please be sure to SIGN-UP ahead of time on the Sunday School bulletin board in fellowship hall.**

Jean McPherson  
Director of Religious Education

### CONSIDER YOURSELF INVITED . . .

We continue to hold scheduled potluck suppers (a combination of potluck supper and a book/movie club with discussion time) in the vestry/downstairs kitchen. The next get together will be on **Tuesday, March 17th at 6 p.m.** when we'll be discussing the book, *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson. EVERYONE is invited to join us for any or all parts of the evening.

We welcome book/movie recommendations for future suppers and discussions. Please speak with Pastor Brian to offer suggestions.

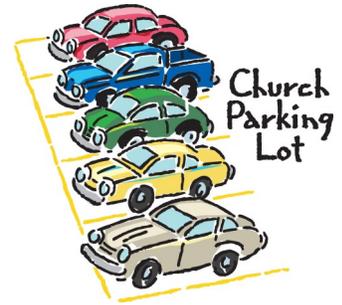


### Driveway Fund Pledges

We're still a little short on driveway fund pledges. So, if you haven't yet made a donation, won't you please consider it today?

Also, if anyone has a question about where they stand with their pledge, please speak with Nick Stockhaus.

Thank you to all who have and/or will help to retire this debt.



### GOING GREEN

If you currently receive the *Tidings* newsletter via the U.S. Postal Service, and you have internet access, please consider subscribing to the *Tidings* electronically. Here's how it works: just contact the church office (508-832-2845, or via email at: [secretary@auburnfirstucc.org](mailto:secretary@auburnfirstucc.org)) and let us know you're willing to make the switch and we will send you an email notifying you once the latest version of the *Tidings* has been posted. Within the email will be a link to the church's website where you may view the newsletter. If you would rather read from a hard copy you may download and print the *Tidings* onto standard 8 1/2 x 11 paper right in the comfort of your own home (and if you have a colored printer you'll see all the wonderful clip art in color!). Still not convinced to make the switch? There's no risk. If you find you prefer "snail mail," just say the word and we can always change your mailing status back. Keep in mind, we currently print approximately 240 newsletters monthly; however, we need only 200 pieces to take advantage of the bulk mailing reduced rate.

### Fuel Fund

As a reminder, there are 4 special offering envelopes for the Fuel Fund throughout the year with the next one coming up in April.

Any additional donations to help defer fuel costs will be greatly appreciated.

Donations to the Fuel Fund can be made at any time throughout the year.

### 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

### Committee Members Please Read

A huge thank you to everyone that agreed to serve on a committee or board this year. The most important thing to remember about being on any committee or board is to communicate! It's important to communicate amongst members of your own committee as well as communicating between other committees and boards.

It is also important to have a Church Council rep that will attend every Church Council meeting for your committee. The Council Rep's responsibility is twofold; first the Council Rep reports to the Church Council on the work of your board or committee. Secondly, the Council Rep reports back to your committee on the activities of all the other boards and committees. This two-way communication is very important to keeping everyone informed of the work of the broader church.

Please make every effort to communicate effectively with your committee and with other boards and committees. Your participation (or lack of) will directly affect the success of your committee and the greater Church.

Thank you,  
The Nominating Committee

**Easter Plant Order Form**

Once again we will be accepting orders for Easter plants. On Easter Sunday there will be a special insert in the bulletin noting who the plant is in honor of and who it's from. This is a wonderful way to pay tribute to a loved one while also decorating our Church Sanctuary. Just complete the order form below and drop it off at the Church or mail it to: FCC, 128 Central St., Auburn, MA 01501. Please submit your order form with payment **no later than Sunday, March 22nd.**

**Lilies (1 stem) \$10.00** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Lilies (2 stems) \$20.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tulips 8" \$10.00** \_\_\_\_\_ **12" \$18** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color Choice: Yellow \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_  
 Red \_\_\_\_\_ Orange \_\_\_\_\_

**Double Tulips 8" \$10.00** \_\_\_\_\_ **12" \$18** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color Choice: Red w/ Yellow edges \_\_\_\_\_  
 Red w/ white edges \_\_\_\_\_

**Blue Hyacinth \$10.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dedication: (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)**

PLEASE PRINT YOUR DEDICATION EXACTLY HOW YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR IN THE BULLETIN INCLUDING WHO IT'S FROM.

**In Memory of / In Celebration of/for:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** (contact person) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If you have questions, please call Connie or Ron Hanks at 508-832-4227 or the church office at 508-832-2845.**

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

**First Congregational Church,  
 United Church of Christ  
 128 Central St., Auburn MA 01501**

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 Email: secretary@auburnfirstucc.org  
 or PastorBrian@auburnfirstucc.org

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

*Web: auburnfirstucc.org*



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 U.S. POSTAGE  
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 Auburn, Mass

**March 2015**

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**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**