



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

After our most active month of activities with the pumpkin patch, fall fair, and Saturday supper, I would like to thank the leaders of the groups. The Pumpkin Committee (Judi Taft, Sheila Skog, and Debbie and Linda Mahler), the fall fair group with Cindy Ryan and Judy Murphy and the kitchen crew of the MacPhees, Wayne, David, and . . .

But, rather than talk about our workers, I want to talk about our prayer warriors, our people who pray. There may come a time when you can no longer cut roast beef or move pumpkins, at that point your usefulness is over, right? Wrong, at that point you enter the most important phase, the prayer phase. We all should pray. We all should pray more often than we do. But if there is a choice between doing something and praying I would do something. CPR is probably better than praying, but praying while doing CPR is probably the best. In some cases our work is our prayer, our offering to God.

There is no substitute for time spent in quiet prayer. I know we have quiet prayer warriors around us, people who may not be able to move as well but are still able to get email and pray for those in need. We need those people; the most scary times in life often leave us with nothing to do but pray. The surgery, the recovery of a loved one, are not in our hands. I have had so many people thank me for the prayers of our church. They say they actually felt the prayers. They credit prayer with their recovery.

So I want to thank all our workers this month, especially our prayer warriors. Keep up the good work.

Pastor Brian

NOVEMBER SERMON TOPICS

- 11/1 “Reformation”
- 11/8 “The Kinsman Redeemer”
- 11/15 “I Have Seen a lot of Jesuses on TV” (A Simple Child)
- 11/22 “Is It True? Or Did He Eat Spicy Food Before Bed?”
- 11/29 “He Is Coming, We Know not When”

11/29 Children's Time:
The Crèche
First Sunday of Advent

Join us at the Community
Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wed., Nov. 25th at 7:30 P.M.

here at

First Congregational Church,
128 Central St., Auburn



All former choir members and members of the congregation are invited to sing with the choir for the Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service to be held here on Nov. 25th at 7:30 p.m. Anthems will be, *Where Two or Three Are Gathered* and *We Are One with You, O Lord*. You are invited to rehearse with us in the choir room on either Thursday, Nov. 19th at 6 p.m. or Sunday, Nov. 22nd at 11:15 a.m. We will also rehearse on the day of (Nov. 25th) at 6 p.m.

**KEEPING AUBURN WARM
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER DINNER**

**Saturday, November 7th at 5:30 p.m.
North American Martyr's Church Hall,
8 Wyoma Drive, Auburn**

Featuring roasted chicken, oven roasted potatoes,
pasta and sauce, garden salad, dinner rolls,
beverage and dessert

Tickets \$10 (children 12 and under are \$5)

Please bring along a canned good for Kateri's Food Pantry.

For tickets or information call:
Ann at 774-633-1123 or Wayne at 508-832-3581

Catered by The Heritage Coffee Shoppe

Happy Birthday wishes to:

- Rich McPherson ~ Nov. 6th**
- Nick Stockhaus ~ Nov. 7th**
- Victoria Stockhaus ~ Nov. 14th**
- Suzanne Kress ~ Nov. 22nd**



Birthdays and Anniversaries

I give First Congregational Church permission to put my family member's birthday or anniversary in the monthly newsletter the *Tidings*.

Name	Occasion	Date
Signature (adult only please)		Please return to Church office.



***** FALL FAIR EXTRAVAGANZA! *****

Once again, the Fall Fair was a huge success! **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated, whether through donations, by working the fair, making purchases, or all of the above — it was a real team effort!

MANY THANKS to Cindy Ryan, Judy Murphy and Diane Moore for all your hard work.

There will be a Fall Fair follow-up meeting on November 1st, following worship. All are invited as we assess our successes and consider areas of improvement. Please come, we need your feedback.



Orphanage Home Nepal



You may recall that in last month's *Tidings* we featured excerpts from Orphanage Home Nepal's first ever newsletter in which they mentioned that they were in the process of building bunk beds for the children. So, we decided this month to feature pictures of the children with their brand new beds! Their faces say it all. **Look for additional pictures on the back side of this month's calendar insert.**

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

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with this year's pumpkin patch. At the time of this printing we were at \$18,636 in sales!

WE OWE A HUGE DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO DEBBIE MAHLERT, LINDA MAHLERT, SHEILA SKOG AND JUDI TAFT

for all the work they did in organizing this fundraiser.

From the Director of Religious Education

Happy Harvest! Well, the pumpkins are gone and the holiday season is approaching. We are getting into a very busy season in the Sunday School and for Youth On a Mission (YOM).

YOM News

Pies have been ordered and will arrive on Saturday, November 21. YOM members will be in charge of passing out your orders after church on the 22nd. If you know you will not be available to pick up your order, please contact your seller or me, so we can set a delivery time. A look ahead - the YOM Christmas party and Yankee Swap will be held Friday, December 4th after "Parents Night Out."

Sunday School News

EVERY Sunday in November the Sunday School kids will be going up to see Heather to practice some songs for our December 6th performance. There will just be one song, so the rehearsal should only take 10-15 minutes. The kids will go right from their class up to see Heather. They will meet you in fellowship hall after the rehearsal. This is NOT Joyful Noyse. This is for the ENTIRE Sunday School group. Please encourage your child's/children's participation.



In October we spoke to the kids about Stewardship and giving back to others.

We also had our own Consecration-like ceremony where the kids each passed in a pledge card that included a promise as to HOW they would EARN their offering. I felt it was important, even at a young age, that they should earn \$ to give to others instead of just having it handed to them Sunday morning. We brainstormed ideas on what they could do around the house. They all had very good ideas.

The Bible verse program has begun with grades 1-5 kids. We are not only learning bible verses through different exercises, but how to memorize information which is a lifelong skill. Verses are as follows: for the week of November 1st we'll be memorizing John 3:16, November 8th is John 3:17, November 15th is John 3:18, November 22nd is Jeremiah 33:3, November 29th is Romans 3:23, December 6th is 1 John 1:8, December 13th is 1 John 1:9 and December 20th is Isaiah 1:18.

Usually on the last Sunday of the month we have a group activity; due to the holiday we will have our "craft/cooking Sunday" on November 22. This Sunday after the children's message we will go to the old kitchen and make cornucopias and trail mix along with Thanksgiving themed crafts. This will also happen in December.

LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

December 4th we will have our annual "Parents Night Out." This is always a huge success. The YOM kids will entertain your kids, give them a dinner of pizza and juice and allow you some much needed free time to do with it what you choose. This is 6-8:00 p.m. Please sign up so we have the appropriate number of crafts and pizza. There will be a free-will donation to help with the cost of the winter bible trip. Sign up on the Sunday school board on or BEFORE November 22. Thank you.

May you each have an abundance of blessings this Thanksgiving Season.

Jean McPherson, Director of Religious Education

Join us once a month for our potluck supper get-togethers. The potlucks begin at 5:30 p.m. on movie nights and 6:00 p.m. on book discussion nights. You do NOT have to read the book, if you just want to come for food and fellowship, please do! Our next get-together will be on **Tuesday, November 17th, at 6 p.m.** to discuss the book, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson. It tells the story of six delinquent children who go to church for the first time after being told that the church offers snacks. Despite protests from other church members, they are given roles in the Sunday school's Christmas play, in which they tell the Christmas story in a nonconventional fashion.

In December we will be viewing *White Christmas* (date and time to be announced).

We welcome your suggestions for movies and/or books.



Here We Grow Preschool

Wow, can you believe it is November? The crying has stopped and each morning we are greeted by the smiling faces of the children waiting to be let in. With the month of December fast approaching, the children and staff are busy planning and preparing for the winter holidays.

During October we had visits from the Auburn Fire and Police Departments. The children talked about the safest way to exit their homes in case of fires. The police talked to the children about Halloween and safety tips they should follow.

We still have spots in the 3's and 4's classrooms.

During the month of November, the students of **Here We Grow** will be learning about: Healthy Foods and Bodies, The Five Senses, Manners, What We Are Thankful For, the colors blue and brown and the rectangle shape.

Our feast days are November 23rd and 24th. Our feast day tradition began over 26 years ago by **Here We Grow's** first director, and has continued since. This year's menu is corn-bread, made by the 3-year-olds, cheese and crackers, a friendship fruit salad, all kinds of vegetables and dip and to top it off - brownies made by the 4-year-olds and yummy cool whip on top. With the help of the **Here We Grow** parents, who will supply and serve the food, I know it will be a wonderful experience for all.

Once again the children and families of HWG will be participating in *The Giving Basket*. All foods collected will be given to Pastor Brian to distribute to families in need during the season of Thanksgiving. We hope to continue with the tremendous amount of support from the HWG families. The need seems to be greater and greater each year.

One of the school's requirements is to offer some type of gross motor skill every day. With the cold weather fast approaching it reminds the staff, children and families how lucky we are to have the use of a large indoor playground. Please send a sweater or sweatshirt in your child's backpack. Some children get chilled easily.

Until next month, enjoy the season of fall and stay healthy.

Gina Basili, Director
Here We Grow Preschool



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Count Yourself Blessed,

Thank you to everyone who shared in Consecration Sunday. On that special day, we celebrate our commitment to the church and our connections to each other.

If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please bring it to church or mail it in. **Please do this even if you're not pledging.** Then we'll know we heard from you and won't need to send a follow-up letter.

In His Love,
Your Stewardship Committee — Marge Averka, Randy Bohn, Cindy Dube, Linda Hardy,
Marilyn Kulesa, and Shelia Skog



November is American Diabetes Month, Diabetic Eye Disease Month, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, National Family Caregivers Month, National Hospice Palliative Care Month, and National Stomach Cancer Awareness Month.

November 17-21 Contact Lens Health Week

November 20 Great American SMOKEOUT

November 22 International Survivors of Suicide Day

November 23-29 Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease Awareness Week

Please remember those who have lost loved ones as we approach Thanksgiving and then Christmas. These holidays aren't easy for many people. Also, family caregivers need a break. If you know someone caring for a loved one, it can be very stressful. Offer to sit with the loved one so the caretaker can go for a break. Caregiving can be a 24/7/365 job.

Thank you to all who participated in the flu clinic. Stephanie, the pharmacist, hasn't stopped apologizing. I hope everyone has a healthy and Happy Thanksgiving.

Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse



Bethel Lutheran Church
90 Bryn Mawr Ave
Auburn

Saturday - November 7th
9:00 - 2:00

Hand made knits
and vintage Linens

"White Elephant"
Attic Treasures

Pickles and Cheese

Bake Shoppe
Homemade pies, cakes,
breads, cookies and candy

Holiday Shoppe
and Crafts

Tea Party and Luncheon

Neighbors In Need

Neighbors in Need is the UCC's annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries office which offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network, Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, MN. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

You'll find an offering envelope enclosed in this month's *Tidings*. Please return it to the church, and thank you for your help.



Donald W. Slongwhite, 92, passed away peacefully on September 29, 2015 at Overlook Masonic Home in Charlton after an illness. He was born in East Princeton, the son of Allen and Martha (Schmidt) Slongwhite and had lived most of his life in Princeton then moved to Rutland, Brookfield and Auburn before settling down in Charlton in 2006. Donald graduated from Princeton High School and attended Lowell Tech and Worcester Junior College. He served his country and was an aviation metalsmith 3rd class in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Donald went to work with the Mass DPW before becoming a civil engineer for the MDC at Wachusett and Quabbin Reservoirs for many years before retiring in 1985.

Donald was a member of our Church and was a former member of the First Congregational Church of Princeton for over 50 years. He was a member of the Joel H. Prouty Masonic Lodge in Auburn and the Scottish Rite Bodies of Worcester, Aleppo Temple Shrine in Wilmington and the Worcester County Shrine Club. Donald was a man who loved to work with his hands. Affectionately known as "Birdman," Donald was well known throughout Worcester County for his wood carved birds. He was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather. He leaves his loving wife of 71 years, Carolyn R. (Cooper) Slongwhite; two daughters, Marcia L. Siart and Linda E. Babineau; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by three brothers, Gordon, Stanley and Allen Slongwhite and a sister, Dorothy Martelli.

A graveside service for Donald was held on Saturday, Oct. 3, at Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton, followed by a memorial service at the James C. Nicoll, Jr., Chapel at The Overlook, Charlton.

Please be in prayer for Carolyn and the Slongwhite Family.

Also, please pray for the Stockhaus Family on the recent passing of Nick's aunt, Helen Gibbons.

"I am the resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."

John 11:25

There are no words adequate enough to express my appreciation for the kindnesses you have extended to me over the past weeks.

First of all the flowers Debbie brought to us after the church service early in Donald's illness brought so much cheer.

Your love given to me after he passed has been very uplifting. My church family has been there again when they were most needed.

Thank you to Pastor Brian for his support in so many ways.

*Blessings and love,
Carolyn Slongwhite*

Remember to turn your clocks back on October 31st before retiring for the evening. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on November 1st.

Thank You

Marion Woodcock wishes to thank everyone for their kind offers to help her during her recent recovery from a broken wrist. She is now independent again, but was so very thankful for the assistance she received from her church family while she was unable to do for herself.

Coffee Hour Hosts:

11/1, 11/8	Financial Sec'y/Treasurers
11/15, 11/22	B.O.C.E.
11/29	Deacons
12/6	Historian, Nominating, Library & Memorial/Scholarship



Fall Back

2015 Christmas Poinsettia Order

Once again we are offering the opportunity to purchase poinsettias at great prices. In the past we've decorated the sanctuary with these beautiful plants and at the close of the Christmas Eve Service members are able to claim their plants and continue to enjoy them at home, or give them as gifts. You may dedicate your poinsettias in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion, etc. Please complete the poinsettia order form below and include a check or cash with your order.



Poinsettia Given By:

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

In Memory of _____

or _____

In Celebration of _____

Size: (Please indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd color choices.)

Single Stem \$12.00
Color: Red _____ Pink _____ White _____ Marble _____

Double Stem \$18.00
Color: Red _____ Pink _____ White _____ Marble _____

Four Stem \$28.00
Color: Red _____ Pink _____ White _____ Marble _____

_____ Sometimes people are unable to collect their poinsettia after the Christmas services. Please check here if you want the Deacons to bring your poinsettia to be donated to a shut-in or another member of the church family.

Please use a separate order form for each plant. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ron or Connie at 508-832-4227.



Order by Nov. 22

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of

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

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

Web: auburnfirstucc.org

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