



Herald of Good TIDINGS

First Congregational Church in Auburn MA
128 Central Street, Auburn MA 01501
Sunday Service begins at 10:00 AM
508-832-2845





Dear Church Family,

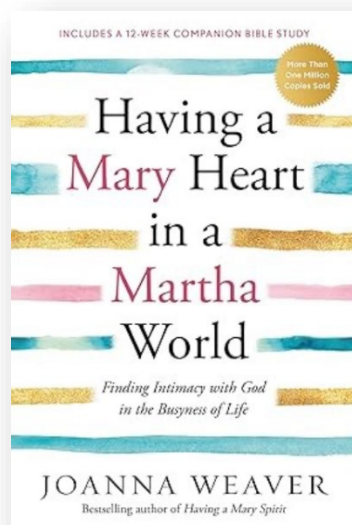
As I write this, we are in sweltering heat on the cusp of Memorial Day, and I just wandered the old cemeteries in Southborough, my hometown, where I still attend the flag event on the Friday before Memorial Day. It's a tradition for scouts and leaders, and I still have one in Troop 1, to gather for a prayer, then fan out in groups with clusters of small American flags, crisp and bright ones, replacing every flag on every gravestone. I think of those flags, weathered and faded after a year, buried under snow last February, proudly perched for every buried soldier all day all night for the year. There is something so beautiful about the lush cemetery getting a brightening of red, white, and blue, beginning in one central place and spreading to every edge of the cemetery.

I don't know yet how Auburn transitions flags from one year to the next, but I do remember seeing their bright colors last year in our fine graveyard and also at Hillside. As we decorate the pastoral landscapes devoted to our departed loved ones, may we take a moment to reflect with this well-known Memorial Day poem to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

In Flanders Fields

By [John McCrae](#)

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



NEXT BIBLE STUDY BOOK

Inspired by our women's retreat and the scripture on Martha and Mary, we will explore these two characters and their very different ways of being faithful in the world.

We will begin this book in July, after we finish "The Heart and Mind of Discipleship."



Bible Study on Tuesdays at 12:30 PM

[Bible Study](#) C.S. Lewis Institute Chapters 4-10



Do YOU have a HISTORY MOMENT?

Every Sunday, we are having a History Moment, a time to remember a photo, an artifact, an event, or a precious memory from our church's rich history. Do you have something to share? Would you like to enlighten us about the church basketball team or dances? Do you know what hymns were sung in our sanctuary 150 years ago? Are you aware of our very first missionaries and where they served?

We want to hear YOU share your piece of history. Let Pastor Julie know if you would like to offer a History Moment.



Church Family,

How aware are you of our larger church, the United Church of Christ, and the many happenings, events, movements, and diverse churches that make up our denomination? You have an opportunity to participate in our Annual Meeting, at the DCU Center this September. I am on the organizing team and will be helping with worship and serving communion at our all-church, high-energy worship. I hope to see many of you there! It is an amazing experience to worship with so many people.

Check out the Annual Meeting info and registration below:

The 7th Annual Meeting of the SNEUCC



When: Friday, September 25, 2026, to Sunday, September 27, 2026

- [Add to my calendar](#)
- [News & Info](#)
- [Speakers](#)

Where: DCU Center & Nearby Locations
50 Foster Street
Worcester, MA 01608 [View map](#)

We will gather for a truly historic moment as we take the final votes to fully and legally complete our journey into becoming the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Our gathering will include:

- An inspiring keynote address by the Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock, U.S. Senator from Georgia
- A dynamic development event on Friday featuring the Imani Village project at Trinity UCC in Chicago

- Workshops and learning sessions throughout Saturday
- Conference-wide Sunday worship streamed into congregations across the region

This will be a milestone in our shared life, one we will celebrate with joy, unity, and gratitude.

Registration for the meeting - for voting delegates and visitors - is scheduled to open at noon on Tuesday, May 26. The first 300 registrants will receive a copy of Warnock's upcoming book, *The Crooked Places Made Straight: Reflections on the Moral Meaning of America* (Penguin Press), which is being released in June. Tickets for the public to attend the keynote address alone will go on sale this summer.



Here We Grow Preschool **WOOSOX**

Calling all members of Here We Grow Preschool...

Come out to Polar Park on Sunday June 7th, 2026, at 1:05 pm for an exciting afternoon of WooSox Baseball with Here We Grow Preschool! Kick off the summer with friends and family to cheer on the WooSox as they take on the Buffalo Bison! Each ticket purchased through this link includes:

University Dental Group Berm Ticket!

Grassy area in left field where towels and blankets are welcome
with first come first serve seating available.

Make sure to stick around until the final out of the game to enjoy our post-game Kids Run the Bases! All fans are welcome to join us and take a lap around the infield.

Please contact Tom Steiger, tsteiger@woosox.com, 508-204-5383,

Worcester Red Sox vs. Buffalo Bisons

Jun 07, 2026, 1:05 PM EDT

Polar Park

100 Madison St, Worcester, MA 01608, US

Purchase Deadline: Jun 07, 2026, 11:05 AM

[Here We Grow link to purchase tickets](#)

Tickets:\$15.24

[Worcester Fellowship](#)



SAVE THE DATE! Our church is 250 years old this year, and we are going to celebrate this birthday with a series of events to honor our history, mission, and community spirit.

Friday, July 24 another [Lumos Concert Event](#) prior to our Birthday Celebration

Saturday, July 25th is the kick-off, with a church open house, lawn games, birthday cake, history display and speakers...and an outdoor movie in the evening.

 **Help Us Celebrate 250 Years!** 

**Our 250th Anniversary celebration is coming up on July 25th,
and we want YOU to be part of making this milestone truly unforgettable!**

We are looking for VOLUNTEERS to help in a variety of ways:

-  **PLAN** fun summer activities for the lawn
-  **COLLECT AND DISPLAY** pieces of our church's rich history
-  **HELP** manage anniversary merchandise (T-shirts and more!) featuring our 250 Year Logo
-  **SERVE** as welcoming hosts during the event – greeting guests, offering directions, and connecting with our community and future congregants
-  **SHARE YOUR VOICE** as a speaker – during the event OR in worship services throughout our Anniversary Year

Do you remember our cheerleaders, bowling team, or church dances? We would **LOVE** your stories and photos to help bring our history to life!

There is a place for everyone to get involved—no matter your gifts or availability. Let us come together to celebrate where we have been and where we are going.

More details to come for our birthday bash!

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN AUBURN, MASS (FCCA)

Job Title: Sexton/Maintenance
 Reports To: FCCA Board of Trustees
 Position Type: Part-time – 10 hours per week
 Hours: Flexible, but Daily
 Revised: 5/18/26

Job Summary:

The Church Sexton acts as the primary custodian and caretaker for church buildings and grounds, responsible for cleaning, maintenance, security, and setting up for services and events. This role ensures a safe, clean, and welcoming environment, inclusive hospitality as well as a reverence for Christian faith and practice in community.

Sanctuary and Adult Library:

- Dust all pews, side display cases, window sills
- Vacuum weekly
- Wash windows as needed

Deacons Closet:

- Vacuum as needed

Choir Room and Robe closet:

- Dust and vacuum weekly

Fellowship Hall:

- Dust window sills, etc.
- Wash floors weekly
- Wash windows as needed
- Clean tables and chairs

Halls, Stairs, and Vestry

- Floors swept and washed weekly
- Tile floors buffed as needed
- Vacuum carpet

Kitchens:

- Floors washed as needed (usually Mondays)
- Deep clean and sanitize (twice per year)

Rest Rooms:

- Floors washed weekly or more frequently if needed
- Replace toilet paper, soap, paper towels as needed

Outside Front Stairs and Porch:

- Swept as needed keep clear of snow and ice

Narthex:

- Dust and vacuum weekly

Church meeting rooms, Offices, Sunday School rooms (excluding historical room):

- Dust and vacuum weekly

All exit Door Windows:

- Washed weekly

Other Responsibilities:

- Snow removal and Leaf from all walkways, exits, and steps prior to the church services (Sundays)
- Change light bulbs, as well as general maintenance
- Trash and Recycling removal from building to dumpster
- Coordinate dumpster empty as needed
- Responsible for maintaining inventory and ordering supplies for facility operations, including paper, cleaning, and winter weather materials.
- Bi-annually reset clocks for Daylight Savings Time reset thermostats
- Ensure church is securely locked upon exit of the building

Special Functions:

Revised 4/2026

Continued next page...

- Open/close church and turn on/off lights.
Weddings ,Funerals,other Rentals, Sexton to be compensated directly by rental parties.

Core Responsibilities

Building Maintenance & Cleaning: Performing custodial tasks, including cleaning sanctuaries, offices, and restrooms.

Event Set-Up & Security: Preparing rooms for meetings, weddings, and services, and ensuring the building is locked and secure.

Grounds Upkeep: Maintaining the church exterior, which include entry ways, clearing walkways of snow.

Facility Management: Monitoring the facility for safety hazards, managing waste removal, and overseeing or performing minor repairs.

Qualifications and Skills:

Customer Service: A positive welcoming attitude and commitment to providing excellent service

Communication: Excellent verbal communication skills. Ability to interact effectively with church members, staff, and visitors in person. And Pre school.

Dependability: Ability to maintain a flexible schedule, including evenings and weekends for services.

Flexibility: Efficient time management and the ability to adjust to changing schedules and priorities based on church activities

Working Conditions: May require early mornings, nights, or weekends

Skills: Basic knowledge of cleaning supplies, facility maintenance tools, and safety procedures

Physical Requirements: Consistent and reliable, on-site attendance is an essential function of this position. Capable of lifting heavy objects 50+ lbs., cleaning, and manual labor.

Respectful Attitude: A respectful demeanor regarding the sacred nature of the building and interaction with congregants.

Experience: Previous experience in custodial or janitorial work preferred

Performance: Reviewed annually by FCCA Board of Trustees, or more frequently if needed.

Other: All other duties as assigned,keeping Trustees aware of potential maintenance issues

Note: Interested individuals should upload their resume to Indeed OR mail it to:

First Congregational Church

128 Central Street

Auburn, MA 01501



Behavioral Covenant

As a congregation, we gather in the spirit of Jesus to create heaven on earth.

To succeed in our mission, we must practice open and honest communication among ourselves and with others.

We will speak from our hearts, trust each other, and assume good intentions.

We will listen carefully and without judging, seeking facts, ideas and inspirations.

We may disagree, and we will do so with respect. When we have concerns or questions, we will bring them directly to the person or group with responsibility.

We will do so with the expectation of being heard and understood and the possibility of deepening our own understandings.

In all this, we will speak with love and nourish our connections by sharing our laughter, our prayers, our lives, and ourselves.

New Member Bios:



Mary K. DeCoursey grew up in Newton, Massachusetts and moved out to Auburn to be closer to her late brother, David, Sr. and his family in December of 2014. As a way to acclimate to living in Central Massachusetts, Mary pursued volunteer opportunities, coached sports and fostered eleven foster children (at different times) while maintaining her relationship with Reservoir Church. (Formally Greater Boston Vineyard).

While serving as a member of the Auburn Public Library Board of Trustees, Mary asked fellow BoT member Nan Johnson about Christ-Centered Houses of Worship in the Auburn area. Nan recommended the First Congregational Church as a warm community of Christians dedicated to walking in faith. Mary and her daughter Leora have been embraced over several months in such a way that makes First Congregational Church feel like home and a natural fit.

Sharon Gagne: I found my way to the church and Pastor Julie last May when my mom passed away. She officiated over her services, and I was quickly ready to start my journey with the church starting with Bible Study. I was honored to be asked to bake the communion bread for Easter Sunday and decided I wanted to offer it every month. Along with being the *Bread Goddess* as pastor Julie has lovingly named me, I run a licensed home bakery out of my home here in Auburn, weekly serving the community, am a mother to five (5) amazing children and Mimi to our beautiful granddaughter Ella Grace.

Christopher Gagne: is the foreman and mechanic at United Rentals in Worcester, is an amazing Husband and human all around. We enjoy camping, four wheeling in Maine and taking long rides on our motorcycle with never a destination in mind. We are truly blessed!

Kirk Huehls: Comes by way of transfer from Paxton Congregational Church where he was a member for 25 years. Having just relocated back to Massachusetts from Delaware, he resides in Sutton MA. Kirk has chosen to join after meeting several people from First Congregational Church in Auburn on the *Laramana Mission Trip* in February. He was a member of the Paxton Congregational Church where he served on many Committees; the Deacons, as well as a Youth Coach leading several Youth Mission Trips over his tenure.

Ginny Julian: I am a mom of three sons and one grandson, live with my kitty, Willow, am a retired former library worker, and love learning about bald eagles. Been attending for less than a year and look forward to being a member!

From OUTREACH



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to those that pitched in their time helping to assemble meal kits over at Bethel Lutheran on May 3rd. These will provide thousands of meals for those in need around Worcester County.

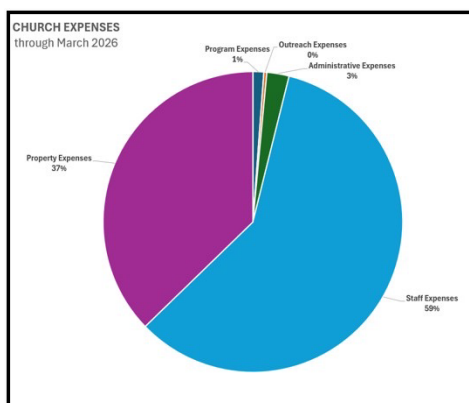
- Please be mindful of the bin set up in the narthex for the collection of new or used Bibles for Kenya. These will be picked up sometime in June for shipment.
- Outreach funds this year continue to be focused on programs that help meet some of the basic needs in our area as well as farther afield.

Please let us know what weighs on your hearts for ways you would like to see the Church show God's grace. Feel free to contact Cindy Dube, Don Patoka, or Mike Schillinger.

Dismas House Wish List:

- √ New twin-sized sheets and blankets. New pillows and bath towels.
- √ Laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, and other cleaning supplies.
- √ New men's work boots, sneakers, and gloves.
- √ New men's sweatshirts, sweatpants, and t-shirts (sizes large-XXXL).
- √ Fuel gift cards to help with transportation costs.

From STEWARDSHIP



The pie chart above reflects the first quarter of the year. As expected, we are still operating at a deficit. However, with the upcoming Pumpkin Patch, Plant Sale, and church merchandise for the upcoming 250th Anniversary, we are hopeful that the deficit will decrease.

I want to thank you all for your continued support, and I look forward to sharing out next quarterly budget report with you!

Women's Wellness Event...SELF CARE BINGO!

≡ Led by ≡
Jan Nowicki

Self Care
BINGO

 **MONDAY,
JUNE 22ND**

 **6:30 PM**

≡ All are welcome! ≡

≡ SELF CARE BINGO ≡

DRINK WATER 	TAKE A WALK 	READ A BOOK 	DEEP BREATHS 	GET ENOUGH SLEEP 
STRETCH 	ENJOY NATURE 	LISTEN TO MUSIC 	WRITE IN A JOURNAL 	SAY SOMETHING KIND 
UNPLUG 	DO SOMETHING YOU LOVE 	FREE SPACE 	TAKE A BREAK 	PRACTICE GRATITUDE 
LIGHT A CANDLE 	MEDITATE 	SPEND TIME WITH PEOPLE YOU LOVE 	ENJOY A HOBBY 	TREAT YOURSELF 
LAUGH 	DECLUTTER A SMALL SPACE 	MAKE SOMETHING 	REST 	BE PRESENT 

be kind to yourself

PAINT NIGHT (Spring Fundraiser)!

Friday, June 26, 2026, in Fellowship Hall, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Refreshments Provided

Cost: \$40 per person (this is a fundraiser) and **friends are welcome. Please SIGN UP** in the Fellowship Hall **by Sunday, June 21** so we know how many to expect and make certain we have the minimum attendance we need for the event to take place.

Payment may be via cash, check or church VANCO (please indicate "June Paint Night").

Here is a sample of the sign we will be painting. You can paint it "as is" or Jayne is prepared for you to add "250 years" on it if you wish to do so. Remember that every painting is different as we add our own touches to it. Bring your creative mind!

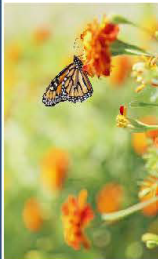


Mark Your Calendars – THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING!

Saturday, September 19, 2026 – VOLUNTEERS needed to help unload at 9:00 AM!



JUNE 2026

Sunday							Monday							Tuesday							Wednesday							Thursday							Friday							Saturday																																																																																																	
							1 Cadets #65016 4:30p							2 ACB 9a Bible Study 12:30p AA-Green Room 5p Cadets #65515 6:30p							3 YOM 6p Conf Mtg 5:30p Cub Scouts 6:30p							4 ACB 9a Boy Scouts 7p							5 Cadets # 65038 4:30p							6																																																																																																	
7 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY							8 Brownie & Jr 5:45p # 65327							9 ACB 9a Outreach 10:30a Bible Study 12:30p AA-Green Room 5p Cadets #65515 6:30p							10 BOCE 6:30P Cub Scouts 6:30p							11 HWG GRAD 9A ACB 9a Women's Fellowship 10a Boy Scouts 7p							12							13 GARDEN SALE! 8a - 1p																																																																																																	
14 Flag Day CHILDREN'S SUNDAY Stewardship 11:30a							15 Cadets #65016 4:30p							16 ACB 9a Bible Study 12:30p Music 2p AA-Green Room 5p Parkinson's/Dementia Support Group 6p							17 Cub Scouts 6:30p							18 ACB 9a Trustees 7p Boy Scouts 7p							19 Juneteenth Cadets # 65038 4:30p							20																																																																																																	
21 Father's Day June Solstice (GMT)							22 Brownie & Jr 5:45p # 65327 Self Care BINGO! by Jan Nowicki 6:30p							23 ACB 9a Bible Study 12:30p AA-Green Room 5p							24							25 ACB 9a UCC Anniversary							26 PAINT NIGHT! 7p - 9p							27																																																																																																	
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First Congregational Church in Auburn, UCC

128 Central Street

Auburn, MA 01501

508-832-2845

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

The Rev. Dr. Julie Cedrone, Pastor

Email: Pastor@auburnfirstucc.org

Church Secretary: Cindy L Johnson

Email: Secretary@auburnfirstucc.org