

SEPTEMBER²⁰
OCTOBER²⁶

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 RSV

Dear Church Family,

As I marvel over the pumpkin goodness of our yard, I am remembering all the curious people whom I have encountered at the patch over the past two years: the witch, who runs a dancing circle for witches and gets her pumpkins with us every year, the daily visits from Here We Grow kiddos after school, the families who travel from several towns away to get pumpkins with us, as their tradition. It certainly is quite a way to be known, as the Pumpkin Church, and we are going to embrace it. Everyone comes to us, and that is a fabulous opportunity to welcome new people, offer old-fashioned Christian hospitality and love, answer questions about our faith family, and just "hang out" in these colorful Fall days.

In an age when some argue that we are losing the art of conversation to the minimalistic shorthand of texts and social media reels, the **Pumpkin Patch** provides an opportunity to spend time in conversation, to watch the kiddos scamper, and to simply enjoy our perfect Fall spot.

My first request is an obvious one: **sign up for a shift at the Pumpkin Patch** and encourage others to visit. Here is the link:

[FCCA Pumpkin Patch: 2026 Pumpkin Patch](#)

But it doesn't end there...we are bringing some new growth to the Pumpkin Patch. Stay tuned for our **Pancake Breakfast on October 24th**, and I am advocating for pumpkin lattes and pumpkin pancakes to make it complete. There will be **pumpkin decorating** for the kids at the pancake breakfast...and, for older kids and adults, an opportunity to enter a **pumpkin carving contest** later that weekend. That's not all – **Women's Fellowship** is rolling out a **mini-Holiday Marketplace** to showcase and sell their crafts.



I am especially excited for the pumpkin carving contest, a way of displaying beautifully carved pumpkins, each with a candle inside. What a beautiful and eerie Halloween treat for all to enjoy!

Yours, in the spirit of growing pumpkins with far-reaching vines and spirit!

Pastor Julie



PASTORAL CARE GATHERING OCTOBER 18TH, AFTER MORNING WORSHIP

We are a church family, and we take care of each other! If you would like to provide visits and offer support and friendship to our homebound congregants and those in need of some cheering up, especially as we approach the holiday season, **come to this meeting on Sunday, October 18th at 11:30 AM in the Conference Room.** We will discuss needs over the Christmas season and how to best meet them, congregants who need visits, and how to best weave together our family with love.



MISSION TRIP TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – 2027

Are you curious about the mission trip? **We will be traveling to the Dominican Republic**, deep in the sugar cane villages, and providing medical care to the Haitian refugees who live there. We are bringing a team of about 16 people from our church on this adventure, and we would love your support! There are a few more spots remaining, with preference for youth or medical personnel. **The trip will be in February 2027** for one week (school vacation for those of you with kids in the public schools). Flights will be secured by early November.

Our next meeting is October 8th at 7:30 PM, via ZOOM or come to the Conference Room at church.

If you would like more information on the missionaries we are working with, there website is here:

<https://fundacionrenaceraes.org/causes/>

If you can't attend the mission trip, but would like to donate medications and supplies, we need your support! Here is a list of needed medications:

1. CARDIOLOGY

No.	Medication	Strength / Dose	Note
1	Aspirin	81 mg	
2	Enalapril	20 mg	Confirm exact name
3	Losartan	50 mg and 100 mg	
4	Furosemide	—	Dose not specified
5	Bisoprolol	5 mg and 10 mg	
6	Amlodipine	5 mg and 10 mg	

2. STOMACH MEDICATIONS

No.	Medication	Strength / Dose	Note
1	Antacids (Tums)	—	
2	Omeprazole	—	Dose not specified
3	Ranitidine	—	Dose not specified
4	Pepcid (Famotidine)	—	Dose not specified
5	Pepto-Bismol	—	

3. DIABETES

No.	Medication	Strength / Dose	Note
1	Metformin	500 mg	

4. VITAMINS

No.	Medication	Strength / Dose	Note
1	Children's multivitamin	—	
2	Adult multivitamin	—	
3	Vitamin E	—	
4	Vitamin C	—	
5	Folic acid	—	
6	Prenatal vitamin	—	
7	Liquid infant vitamin	—	

5. DEWORMERS

No.	Medication	Strength / Dose	Note
1	Dewormer (Albendazole)	—	Dose not specified

6. PAIN RELIEVERS AND ANTI-INFLAMMATORIES

No.	Medication	Strength / Dose	Note
1	Ibuprofen	200 mg and 500 mg	
2	Acetaminophen	200 mg and 500 mg	
3	Meloxicam	10 mg and 20 mg	

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7. ANTIBIOTICS

No.	Medication	Strength / Dose	Note
1	Amoxicillin	200 mg and 500 mg	
2	Doxycycline	200 mg and 500 mg	
3	Azithromycin	500 mg and 1000 mg	
4	Ciprofloxacin	200 mg and 500 mg	
5	Triple antibiotic / Dexamethasone	—	Name and dose hard to read; confirm

8. COLD, FLU AND RESPIRATORY

No.	Medication	Strength / Dose	Note
1	Cold/flu multi-symptom relief	—	
2	Cough syrup (Tusilicina)	—	Confirm exact name
3	Cetirizine	—	Confirm exact name
4	Benadryl	—	
5	Salbutamol (Albuterol)	—	
6	Cough drops	—	
7	Inhalers	—	
8	Montelukast	—	Confirm exact name
9	Ivermectin	—	Confirm exact name
10	(name illegible)	—	Confirm with the physician

9. INFECTIONS

No.	Medication	Strength / Dose	Note
1	Clotrimazole cream	—	
2	Metronidazole	500 mg	Confirm dose
3	Fluconazole	—	Note text cut off; confirm

50 YEARS *Memories*



Save the Date!

**FLU SHOT
CLINIC**

October 11, 2026

*Coffee
House*
VioLynne

October 23, 2026



October 24, 2026



September 27, 2026

BE · OUR
GUEST

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD, 7 PM

Lynne Canavan is a professional violinist and jazz vocalist from Marlboro, MA. As a violinist, Lynne is a 25 year member of the Milford based **Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra**, and she regularly performs as a violinist in chamber, music, ensembles for weddings, corporate events, and private concerts.



Unique to Lynne's musical offerings is a highly specialized, one of a kind, participatory, strolling VioLynne entertainment program. Although it was designed for senior living communities and senior centers Lynne's program is enjoyed by all ages. She will entertain us with a variety of music while playing the violin, singing, and a giving little bit of history behind some of the songs. Look forward to an hour of upbeat music from patriotic, big band, Disney and other genres. Suitable for almost any age, enjoyed by all. Children taking violin lessons may especially enjoy her talent and be inspired by her program.

As a vocalist, Lynne performs regularly with the Allen Whitney Jazz Ensemble specializing in music from the great American Songbook repertoire.

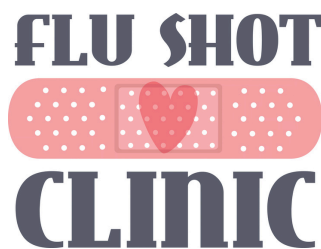
VioLynne

Doors will open at 6:15 PM at which time we will be offering coffee, tea, and cider along with some sweet treats.



Deborah Paranitis, R. N., – Parish Nurse

The fall season is here and that's the **time to get flu shots**. The pharmacist from Auburn Pharmacy will be here **after worship on Sunday October 11th**. The sign up sheets are on the table in Fellowship Hall. One is for ages 9 years through 64 years and the other is for 65 years and older. They are different doses for the different ages. There are forms to fill out on the table as well.



The other thing that is important is the **Grief Seminar at the Holden Senior Center**. It's **sponsored by Miles Funeral Home** and I highly recommend it if you are worried about how you're going to get through Thanksgiving, and Christmas after the loss of a loved one. Pam Reidy speaks from 1 to 2 PM, then we gather at the tables for sandwiches, salads, and cookies. There's coffee, tea, water, and soda. We can talk amongst ourselves. We can share our stories at this time. **Also, everyone gets a book relating to grief and copies of handouts to try to help with your feelings**. I have been to a few of her seminars and I'm going to the next one on November 14. It's **FREE!** The reason for you to **call and make a reservation** is so they know how many books to order and how much food to order. The number to call is **508-829-4434 or 978-422-0100**. You can also register on the Miles Funeral Home Facebook page.

These are my two ways to help you through the fall season and the upcoming holidays! God Bless!

Debbie Pranaitis, Parish Nurse – 508-612-4521.

MINI MARKETPLACE – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH – 9 AM to 2 PM



The Women's Fellowship annual MARKETPLACE has been scaled down to a MINI MARKETPLACE. **Weather permitting it will be held outside (inside if necessary) at the PUMPKIN PATCH**. Included for sale you will find:

**HANDCRAFTED ITEMS • HOMEMADE VANILLA EXTRACT & DRIED SOUP MIXES
GIFT BASKETS • BAKED GOODS**

Our Bake Sale will offer whole pies, cakes, breads, etc., as well as individually wrapped pastries. Select craft items will be packaged ready for giftgiving. We look forward to seeing you on the 24th!

Shannon Hartmann – Director of Religious Education

Greetings church family and welcome back to chilly evenings, busy schedules, PUMPKINS and Sunday School! We have a full autumn schedule at church, including some well-loved traditions and a few new things. But first, let me review one of the many reasons that Sunday School is so important.

Our children need an ANCHOR! They need a place where they are surrounded by peers and grownups that love them and love the Lord! An anonymous author writes a letter in Hebrews, to a group of uncertain baby Christians. Following Jesus was not easy during those times in history. This group of baby Christians wanted to throw up their hands, give up their faith and simply stick to what was easier. You can read the letter in it's entirety by finding the book of Hebrews in your New Testament. Simply put, the author reminds them that they have direct access to God, through Jesus. And by leaning on each other through hard times, we will be okay.

Hebrews 10:24-25 "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another..."

This scripture tells us to surround ourselves with those who act and speak from a place of love. When our children are here in Sunday School, they are experiencing just that. Our teachers and volunteers lead with love and encourage behavior that projects positivity and empathy through prayer and discussion.

As adults, we are older and wiser and sadly we see the darkness out there in the world, especially the digital world that our children are growing up in. On Sundays though, it is a completely different environment than school or sports or any activity. Think about our children starting off the morning in the sanctuary, where they are greeted with love and enthusiasm by teachers, parishioners and our Pastor. When they are downstairs in class, they are talking about the good and the bad of their week and we all take those moments to God in prayer. Coffee hour is a time our children run around on the stage or the playground because this is their home, too! They are loved here! We are their anchor for goodness!

RALLY DAY was a success! We have 16 children registered for **Sunday School** (with more coming) and 6 (six) adults who signed up to **help lead or volunteer** in our classes. We have 2 (two) seniors in high school that are going to be **YOM leaders**. We have a **Communion Class** in the works. We have a **sports and movement initiative** that we hope to grow. So many wonderful things happening, but we need YOU to be active, be present and always communicate.

First official day of Sunday School is October 4th. I look forward to getting started.

Peace and Love,
Shannon Hartmann
Director of Religious Education
339-222-1841



The Ladies had a fun time at **PAINT NIGHT...Self-Care Style!** Join us in November for **Thanksgiving BINGO!**

HERE WE GROW – Preschool

I cannot believe how fast the summer, and the month of September went by. It feels like we just closed for summer break and now we are already a month into the school year!

I want to start by saying **thank you for inviting the Here We Grow teachers & families to be part of your worship service in September**, we appreciate the outpouring of love and blessings.

As we welcome in October, the staff and children have settled into a nice routine, and the crying has ended. So far, the weather this fall has been fantastic for getting outside. We are hoping it lasts a few more weeks before the cold starts, we love having the vestry to play in, but being outside is so good for the body and spirit.

The start of a new school year can be stressful for everyone, for many of our new students this is their first time in the care of someone other than family. They are learning to work in a group, follow directions from new adults as well as valuable self-help skills. At this age children should be encouraged to try to do simple tasks for themselves, such as pulling up their pants, throwing away trash, picking up toys. As they start to bring in coats, etc. we will work with them to put on their own coats using the up and over method.

We currently have limited openings in a couple of our classes. If you know of someone who is looking for a preschool for their child, please have them **call the school at 508-832-8184**. The highest compliment we can receive is a referral from family and friends.

Our first **FUNDRAISER** is currently happening; we are once again working with **Bemis Farm in Spencer** to *build your own scarecrow*. This event is open to anyone on Saturday and Sunday from 9 AM-4 PM until Oct 18th. **You must preregister this year** at www.bemis.biz the cost is \$30/ family, (walk ins for \$35), and you get to build a life size scarecrow in a pot with a small pumpkin and a mum to bring home, they also have a pumpkin path and mini corn maze. There is a flyer posted on the board in Fellowship Hall, this is such a fun family event.

For your future planning we will also be doing another **Savers Clothing Drive** this year. We will begin **collecting soft items (NO PILLOWS), shoes and books, movies, records, and toys etc. on Nov 9th and end Nov 20th**. Clothing should be in bags, books and other media can be boxed, **items can be left on the stage in Fellowship Hall or in the Sunday School room**. We appreciate all your donations; we couldn't do it without your help.

Until next month-

Cristi Corey, *HERE WE GROW* Preschool Director



BAKERS NEEDED



The Woman's Fellowship Group is asking for volunteers to **bake for our BAKE SALE being held on October 24th**. Pies, cakes, breads, squares, etc., are needed. We request you **leave them whole and we will cut them into individual servings as needed**. Please **deliver them to the Fellowship Hall Kitchen on Friday, October 23rd during Office Hours (9:30 AM-2:30 PM)**. *If you plan to attend the VioLynne performance on Friday evening, feel free to drop them off then.*

We greatly appreciate any donations you can provide.

Thank you in advance,
Woman's Fellowship



REACHING OUT



Your Outreach Committee has been busy at work supporting a variety of needs here in town and beyond. Before breaking for the summer, **we voted to contribute \$500 to the Bibles for Kenya program.** This donation was to help cover shipping cost to get the hundreds of donated Bibles to the people of Kenya.

At our August meeting we focused on the Auburn Walk for Hunger scheduled for the end of September. Registration sheets for this fundraising event were made available on the table in Fellowship Hall. Walkers were to seek pledges in an effort to raise money for the Auburn Youth and Family Services Pantry and Kateri's Kitchen. The monthly Deacon's fund offering in September was donated. **In addition, \$200 was allocated from the Outreach budget to help cover the cost of new signage** throughout the town to advertise the walk.

At our September meeting, **we voted to send \$750 to St. Luke's Guesthouse in Southbridge.** This is a 12 bed, short term, non-emergency, shelter, serving single men woman and families. It is not a bed for night, but an opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency and more affordable housing. It is the only one of its kind in southern Worcester County.

Already on the table for October meeting is firming up the logistics to participate in the **Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child"** program and how we can help all those affected by the catastrophic flooding in Nepal.

We are so fortunate to be living in this country, in this comparatively quiet area of Central Massachusetts that is most beautiful time of the year. Enjoy the wonder of the leaves changing, the beauty of the pumpkins on the lawn and the crisp, cool air we welcome in the fall. Don't forget those around the world dealing with natural disasters war, hunger and so much more that it is hard for us to sometimes comprehend. Be grateful, thank God, may He watch over all of us

Your Outreach Committee

thank you

Many thanks to the First Congregational Church of Auburn for their generous donations to The Auburn Walk for Hunger in September. The Celtic Family Sneakers brought in \$302! Well done!



**IMAGINE...OUR OWN BOY SCOUTS COOKING &
SERVING...PERHAPS SOME LIVE MUSIC!**

PANCAKE *Breakfast* and Pumpkin Decorating

All are
welcome!



Saturday, October 24, 2026
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

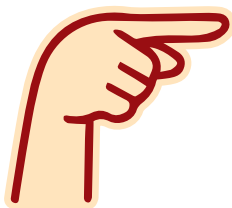
First Congregational Church in Auburn
128 Central Street
Auburn, MA 01501

Support Troop 101 and the mission trip
to the Dominican Republic

\$10 per Person
Kids 5 and under
eat Free!

**Pumpkins purchased
separately**

The list of Committees scheduled to “Shepherd” the Pumpkin Patch is shown below.



***PUMPKIN PATCH
SHEPHERDS SCHEDULE***

2026 PUMPKIN SIGNUP

9/19/26 to 9/25/26

7 Trustees

2 Music

9/26/26 to 10/2/26

10 Deacons

10/3/26 to 10/9/26

6 Prudential

3 Pastor Support

10/10/26 to 10/16/26

7 Personnel

2 Library

10/17/26 to 10/23/26

6 Outreach

3 Memorial/Scholarship

10/24/26 to 10/31/26

4 B.O.C.E.

4 Stewardship

1 Nominating

Reminder

Remember that our contract with Pumpkins USA commits us to being open eight hours daily rain or shine. Thank you!





Being a Christian is Like being a Pumpkin

God picks you from the patch and
brings you in. (John 15:16)

Then washes all the dirt off of you.
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

He opens you up and scoops out all the
yucky stuff. He removes the seeds
of doubt, hate, greed, etc.
(Romans 6:6)

Then He carves you a new smiling
face. (Psalm 71:23)

And He puts His light inside you to
shine for all the world to see.
(Matthew 5:16)

Happy Home Fairy

OCTOBER 2026

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4 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY Special Church Mtg after worship Drills Build Skills 12p	5 Cadets #65016 4:30p HWG Board 6:30p	6 ACB 9a Bible Study 12:30p AA-Green Room 5p	7 Chancel Choir 6p Cub Scouts 6:30p	8 ACB 9a Women's Fellowship 10a Boy Scouts 7p	9	10																																																																																					
11 FLU CLINIC after worship Stewardship 11:30a Cadets #65515 2p	12 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY OFFICE CLOSED NO SCHOOL	13 ACB 9a Outreach 10:30a Bible Study 12:30p AA-Green Room 5p Daisies #65600 6p	14 Chancel Choir 6p B.O.C.E. 6:30p Cub Scouts 6:30p	15 ACB 9a Trustees 7a Boy Scouts 7p	16 Cadets #65038 4:30p	17																																																																																					
18 PASTORAL CARE GATHERING 11:30a Central Mass UCC 2-5p	19 Cadets #65016 4:30p	20 ACB 9a Bible Study 12:30p Music 2p AA-Green Room 5p Parkinsons/Dementia Support Group 6p	21 Chancel Choir 6p Cub Scouts 6:30p	22 ACB 9a Church Council 7p Boy Scouts 7p	23  COFFEE HOUSE CONCERT 7p	24 8 AM - 11 AM  9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Mini Market																																																																																					
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First Congregational Church in Auburn, UCC - 128 Central Street - Auburn, MA 01501

Sunday Worship - 10:00 AM Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30 AM-2:30 PM Phone: 508-832-2845
www.auburnfirstucc.org

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

www.auburnfirstucc.org

