

2026

Herald of Good TIDINGS

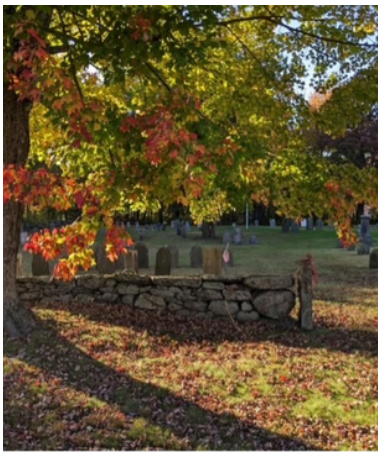
Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" **Isaiah 40:9 RSV**

Dear Church Family,

What a splendid autumn! I never tire of the majestic trees welcoming us to church with their brilliant colors, and wish to bask in all the colorful glory as long as possible. Gratefully, I have a few shifts at the pumpkin patch this week, which are sometimes buzzing with sales, sometimes all about great conversations, and always an opportunity to proudly relish our special spot in town as a center of all good things growing. As you heard me say in a sermon a few weeks ago, pumpkins are one of the most aggressively growing vines – about five inches per day – and since we don't grow our own pumpkins, our work is to be the great connecting vines between our church and a widening faith family.







As I write this morning, before dawn in the early Fall chill, pumpkin-flavored coffee nearby, I ordered my candy for the **Here We Grow Trunk or Treat Halloween Parades** this week, a truly hilarious and joyful spectacle of our preschoolers, in costume. Needless to say, after they collect their candy, all erupts in giggly pandemonium in the Pumpkin Patch. I love it, that generations of kiddos have our pumpkin patch as their play space.

Hallowtide is a Christian season, the time of year when the veil is thin between this world and the next, when we honor those who have departed from earth and their spiritual presence among us. While there are certainly Christians who oppose Halloween on the grounds that it is a time when evil forces are amuck, the history and scholarship suggest otherwise. **All Hallow's Eve**, in a religious context, is intended to be an evening to reflect upon those who have departed from this world, and how to honor them on **All Saint's Day (November 1)** and **All Soul's Day (November 2).**

After all, the word Halloween means season of holiness, and while it did not start as a season of sugar rush and candy, it was a time to visit neighbors door to door and offer "treats" to one another, especially those in need of sustenance.

However you celebrate Halloween, my prayer is that you come to church the next morning, for a moving ***Remembrance Sunday*** and opportunity for us to honor our deceased loved ones in a service devoted to grieving with tenderness and intention in a community. Come, light a candle for those you mourn, gather with your faith family, cry and pray and sing. Christianity promises us that love endures forever, and we will embrace this truth with hope.

May your Hallowtide season be meaningful!

Love,
Pastor Julie

This is the poem read in worship on October 25, 2026, as part of the theme of "Love your Neighbor as Yourself," with emphasis on loving your self.

Love After Love

Derek Walcott
1930 – 2017

The time will come
when, with elation,
you will greet yourself arriving
at your own door, in your own mirror,
and each will smile at the other's welcome,

and say, sit here. Eat.
You will love again the stranger who was your self.
Give wine. Give bread. Give back your heart
to itself, to the stranger who has loved you

all your life, whom you ignored
for another, who knows you by heart.
Take down the love letters from the bookshelf,

the photographs, the desperate notes,
peel your own image from the mirror.
Sit. Feast on your life.





Autumn

John Clare
1793 - 1864

I love the fitful gust that shakes
The casement all the day,
And from the glossy elm tree takes
The faded leaves away,
Twirling them by the window pane
With thousand others down the lane.

I love to see the shaking twig
Dance till the shut of eve,
The sparrow on the cottage rig,
Whose chirp would make believe
That Spring was just now flirting by
In Summer's lap with flowers to lie.

I love to see the cottage smoke
Curl upwards through the trees,
The pigeons nestled round the cote
On November days like these;
The cock upon the dunghill crowing,
The mill sails on the heath a-going.

The feather from the raven's breast
Falls on the stubble lea,
The acorns near the old crow's nest
Drop pattering down the tree;
The grunting pigs, that wait for all,
Scramble and hurry where they fall.

SATURDAY Supper

All are welcome!



November 14, 2026 5 - 6PM

Sponsored by: First Congregational Church in Auburn & Boy Scout Troop 101
128 Central Street
Auburn, MA

$20 in advance (by 11/12)
$30 per person at the door
Kids 5 and under eat Free!

PLAN TO JOIN US AT 5PM FOR A TURKEY DINNER
Served Family Style!

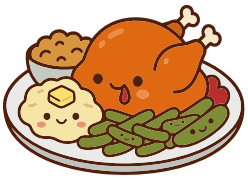
Tickets available for purchase online,
or call the church @ 508-832-2845

Click HERE to purchase tickets online!

Remember These Dates!

THERE OUR HEARTS WILL BE

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
November 8, 2026



SATURDAY SUPPER
November 14, 2026

Samaritan's Purse OPERATION Christmas Child

SHOEBOXES DUE
November 15, 2026



TROOP 101 SALE
November 29, 2026

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

We will feast together as a church family following Worship on **Sunday, November 22nd**.

This will be a Grand POTLUCK, with hearty main dishes, casseroles, soups, breads, and delicious desserts.

Look for a Sign-Up Sheet in Fellowship Hall soon – gratitude happens over a big meal with big love and all the people we love.





HOLIDAY GIVING AND GATHERING FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

As we approach the holidays, we have two goals: to ensure that nobody is alone during the holidays and to assist our families with creating a special Christmas season.

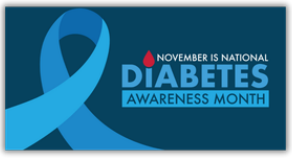
Kindly let Pastor Julie know if you would like help with Christmas gifts for your children, a Christmas tree, or if you do not have a place to spend the holidays...

AND

Kindly let Pastor Julie know if you can host an extra person or two or three at your holiday table, Thanksgiving or Christmas, and if you are willing to donate gift cards, wrap presents, or buy gifts for children in our church family who need extra care.

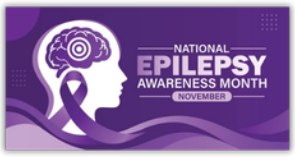
Deborah Paranitis, R. N., - Parish Nurse















NOVEMBER is **Lung Cancer Awareness Month**, **Diabetes Awareness Month**, and **National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month**. It's also **National Hospice and Palliative Care Month**, **National Epilepsy Awareness Month**, and **National COPD Awareness Month**. **November 19th is THE GREAT AMERICAN SMOKE OUT!**

Saturday, November 14th, is the next Grief Education Seminar at the Holden Senior Center. It's at 1-3 PM.

Pam Reidy speaks for the first hour then we can get sandwiches, salad, cookies and something to drink and sit together and chat. They ask for you to **please call to register**, so they can get a head count for the food and the books they provide. It's all FREE.

I'm going to be there, so if you have any questions, you can call me, or just call Miles Funeral Home at 508-829-4434.
The address for the senior center is 25 Bascom Pkwy Holden MA.

God Bless!
Debbie Pranaitis Parish Nurse

Parish Nurse

Paulette LaBarre - Organist & Choir Director



Dear People,

We begin this month with a beautiful service of remembering our loved ones gone before us, but who live on in the hands of God and in our hearts. Music helps us remember, grieve, and rejoice as we sing together.

We continue singing and ringing throughout the month with **Chanel Choir rehearsals at 6:00 PM on Wednesdays and Bell Choir at 10:00 AM on Saturdays** (Bell time might change but will be in the bulletin). Let us know if you're interested in joining us - we have good fun!

Blessings! Paulette

GIVING GOES FURTHER: Unlock the 501(c)(3) tax benefit, even if you don't itemize.

Did you know you can reduce your taxable income by making charitable donations to 501(c)(3) organizations, including your church donation, even if you don't file an itemized deduction. A special tax rule allows non-itemizers to claim a limited deduction for qualified cash contributions. Every dollar given, up to $1000 for single filers or $2000 for joint filers, directly lowers your adjusted gross income, maximizing your impact for both your favorite cause and your personal tax situation. Don't miss out on this opportunity to make a difference while enjoying a tax advantage. Consult a tax professional or the IRS.gov website for specific details on how this relates to your tax situation.

*Save your receipts, canceled checks or bank records to support your deduction when you file your 2026 tax return during the 2027 filing season.

Shannon Hartmann - Director of Religious Education



Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory... Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.. Hosanna in the highest.

A call for worship. A call of adoration.

For Americans, November is a time of thanksgiving. It is a time of the year that we are called to be grateful for all the blessings the Lord has bestowed on us.
For Christians, every day is a time of thanksgiving. Every moment, we should be called to give thanks unto the Lord Almighty.

Lord, I thank you for this church family. Thank you for filling our classrooms this Sunday with happy joyous children. Thank you for the abundance of grown ups that are willing to be a part of the Sunday School leadership team. Father in Heaven, you have given us the tools we need, to sing about your Glory to all who will listen. In gratitude, we will continue to adore you each and every moment of all our days. In Jesus name – AMEN

There is a special power that we create in the Sunday School classrooms. The energy of each child is combined with another child and when we are all together praying to God and learning about Jesus' love; it is beautiful. It is a foundation for the children to have when they leave the safe space of our church and head back to a world that can be quite unsettling for many. Make Sunday School a priority for your child. You will be planting seeds that will grow and grow forever.

Thank you to all who participated in our S.S. Trick or Treat. We had 17 children, some of whom were dressed in costumes.

Remembrance Sunday may be a tough one for our children. In S.S. we will be creating "Memory Balls" for the children to bring up to the sanctuary and celebrate a loved one (including a pet) that we are missing.

Thank you to everyone for all your love and support!
~Shannon Hartmann



Trying to think of that perfect gift for someone special?

For $10, you can purchase Our Pumpkin Patch Cookbook for that special cook in your life...

Our church cookbook contains recipes from church members, friends of the church and our favorite "in memoriam" recipes copied from 2 previous church cookbooks (with permission from the families, of course!). It also contains special tabs with cooking tips and is ring bound with an added "pouch" so your special cook can collect all their personal favorites in one place!

If you are interested in purchasing one or would like to see one before making your decision, please contact Michele Schillinger at 508.259.2239 or you can contact the Church Office.

HERE WE GROW – Preschool





Welcome everyone to the third month of the school year. Even though the weather is getting colder, spending time outside is still so important for all of us. Fresh air and sunshine are one of the best things we can do for our bodies and minds.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Bemis Farm Scarecrow Fundraiser, we hope you had a good time.

The children had a lot of fun on their **Halloween Trunk or Treat** during the parades. If you were in the area, we hope you got to see them.

We have been having a great year so far and are now entering our busy season. We are planning for our **Thanksgiving Feast**, the **Clothing Drive**, **Holiday Toy Collections**, and **Holiday Programs**. The next two months go by so fast!

We are once again doing a clothing drive with Savers. We will start collecting clothing, shoes, purses, belts, towels, blankets, etc. on Nov 9th. This year we are also taking toys, books, movies, and CDs in boxes. The last day for dropping off will be Nov 20th. Bags/boxes can be left in Fellowship Hall or in the hallway near the Sunday School Rooms and we will put them away.

Here We Grow will be closed on Wednesday, November 11 in honor of Veteran's Day, we want to say thank you to all who have served or are currently serving our country.

We will be closed Wednesday-Friday November 25-27 for Thanksgiving Break. We hope you are all able to enjoy some time with family and friends for the holiday.

Cristi Corey, Director, *Here We Grow* Preschool

It's that time of year again to start thinking about **ordering Poinsettias for the Christmas Holiday**. If you are interested in ordering one or more plant(s) this holiday season, please complete this order form and return it along with the appropriate payment to:

First Congregational Church
128 Central Street
Auburn, MA 01501
ATTN: Poinsettia Order

Orders may be placed throughout November, with final orders due by December 6, 2026.

2026 Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

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 then **at the close of the Christmas Eve service, members can claim their plants to continue enjoying them at home or to give them as gifts.** You may dedicate your poinsettia 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.

Please use a separate order form for EACH plant.

PLEASE PRINT **ORDERS DUE BY DEC 6, 2026**

Poinsettia Given By:

Name(s): _____

Include above name(s) in dedication? ❑ Yes ❑ No

Phone: _____ Email: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

_____

_____

OR IN CELEBRATION OF: _____

_____

_____

SIZE:	**Single Plant Pot $11.00**	**❑ Red ❑ White ❑ Pink ❑ Marble**
	Double Plant Pot $20.00	**❑ Red ❑ White ❑ Pink ❑ Marble**
	Three Plant Pot $29.00	**❑ Red ❑ White**
	Four Plant Pot $35.00	**❑ Red ❑ White**

❑ Please check here if you will **NOT** be taking your poinsettia home.

If you have ANY questions, call Amy Castellano (cell #774-633-0331).

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN AUBURN
128 Central Street – Auburn, MA 01501 – 508-832-2845
www.auburnfirstsucc.org



As in past years, our Church is participating in the Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child"® program by filling shoeboxes with gifts for children to be distributed worldwide. We've only a few weeks left to go before the boxes are picked up. This year the Outreach committee will be paying the $10 shipping fee per box.

For children around the world, a shoebox is often their very first gift. Given together with the Good News of Jesus Christ, it communicates God's love to a boy or girl in need. So, it is important to make sure your gift is:

FUN—includes a "wow" item and other quality toys
FULL—packed to the brim with additional school supplies and personal care items
PERSONALIZED—prayed over and contains a note and photo, which are often the child's favorite items!

Thank You to those who have already completed a Shoebox!

DEADLINE For packed boxes is Sunday November 15th

Visit the link below to learn more about:

- Gift Suggestions
- How to Pack a Shoebox

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD®

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Text of Stewardship Testimony shared during Morning Worship on October 25, 2026 by LoriAnn Stockhaus.

Good morning everyone. When I was asked to speak about Stewardship, I started thinking about what this church means to me and how much of my life has been spent here.

My story with the First Congregational Church begain when I was just nine years old; when my mom and dad got married here. My dad was already a member of the church, so in many ways this church has been a part of my life for as long as I remember.

I started out in the Junior Choir and then moved up to the Senior Choir when I was 17. Then in 1991, Nick and I were married right here in this church. Because so many of you are more than just church friends - you are our church family - many of you were invited to share that special day with us.

Today, Nick and I have two daughters (Cassie & Tori) now ages 27 and 29, and a grandson, Caleb, who is age seven. When I look back, I realize just how much of my life and my family's life has been connect to this church.

My more active involvement began 26 years ago in the year 2000, when I took over as Financial Secretary from Nana, also known to many of you as Florence LaPlante. I held that position for 15 years before becoming Assistant Financial Secretary when Sue McPhee took over. I've also served on the Memorial Committee, the Scholarship Committee, and the Stewardship Committee.

Today, I continue to help manage everyone's Pledge Cards, and with Nick's much-appreciated help, we are able to record pledges and donations accurately.

We've certainly put a lot of time into this church over the years! We've never really though of it as just a job or a responsibility - to us, it's been a way of giving back to a place that has given so much to us.

That's what I'd like to talk about today.

You see, this church isn't just a building. It's a lifetime of memories.

This is where my parents started their married life. It's where I grew up. It's where I sang in the choir as a young girl. It's where Nick and I began our married life. It's where so many of you have become more than friends - you've become family.

Ove the years I've watched people come and go. I've seen changes in our church and I know we've faced challenges along the way. Things aren't always the way they used to be, and sometimes I think back to those earlier years and all the memories we've made.

However, when I look around this room, I see people who have shared a part of my life. I see familiar faces, friendships, kindness, and memories that I will always treasure. I think about how much it would mean for future generations to have the same opportunities we have had.

I want children to have a place to sing in the choir, just as I did. I want families to celebrate life's special moments here. I want people to know that when times are difficult, they have a church family to turn to. And, I want this church to continue to be a place where people feel welcome, loved, and supported.

For this to happen, *we need each other*. This is why Stewardship is so important.

It's true - our church needs financial support to pay its bills, maintain the building, and continue its work. Our pledges and donations really do matter.

But Stewardship is about much more than money. It's about giving our time. It's about volunteering. It's about sharing our talents, helping when help is needed, and supporting one another.

I realize that everyone is in a different place in their lives, that not everyone can give the same amount - and that's okay.

What matters it that we each do what we can.

Because a church isn't kept alive by its building. It's kept alive by the people who care enough to support it.

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So, as you consider your pledge this year, I'd ask you to think about what this church means to you. Think about the memories you've made here, the people you've met, the comfort you've found, and the ways this church has been part of your life.

Then think about what you want it to mean to the people who come after us.

I have spent most of my life in this church. I've watched my own life change, my family grow, and the church change along with us. After all these years, I still love this church, and the people in it.

I would love to see The First Congregational Church in Auburn continue for many, many more years. I'd love to see children and grandchildren grow up here and make their own memories. I'd love for this church to be here for the next young couple getting married, the next family looking for a church home, and the next person who needs a little kindness, comfort, or support.

But, we can't just hope that will happen. We need to help make it happen. So I'm asking you, from my heart, to please give what you can!

If you can make a financial pledge, please do. If you can't give as much as you'd like, give what you can. If money is difficult right now, give your time. Volunteer. Lend a hand. Show your support. Let this church know why it matters to you. [Remember] every pledge, every donation, every hour of volunteering, and every act of kindness helps to keep us going.

I would hate to think that someday, the memories we've made here would be all that was left of our church. I want there to be a future here, not just a past.

I want others to experience the love, friendships, and sense of family that I have been fortunate enough to experience throughout my life. This church has been here for so many of us in so many different ways. Now it's our turn to be here for our church.

Thank you for being part of my life, for being part of my church family, and for whatever you can give to help keep The First Congregational Church in Auburn alive and thriving for generations to come. Let's make sure that the story of our church doesn't end with us - let's make sure there's a next chapter.

Thank you, and God bless you all.
LoriAnn Stockhaus

TRAVELING PUMPKINS

Debi from the **Oxford Farmer's Market** has visited our Pumpkin Patch for the last few years and invited us to sell pumpkins at the October market. This year **Randy Lennox and Ron and Connie Whitehead Hanks** offered to host a table and give it a shot.

With showers and thunderstorms forecast on Friday afternoon, the market was moved into the Community Center. It was hardly a robust market that day with pumpkin sales of only $24, but we were able to connect with other vendors and share the church's presence and mission with those that braved the weather and change of location. People appreciated the fact that the fundraiser was not just for the church's benefit, but also to benefit the people of the Navajo Nation.

The day was more about connections and community than gleaning income from pumpkins. On those terms, it was a fun success, and you never know where those community connections will lead.







THE SNEUCC ANNUAL MEETING @ THE DCU CENTER







NAN JOHNSON'S GRANDCHILDREN, BRADY & KENDALL, NOW AGES 18 & 17!





NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Saving Ends REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	2 Cadets #65016 4:30p HWG Board 6:30p	3 Election Day ACB 9a Bible Study 12:30p AA-Green Room 5p	4 Chancel Choir 6p Cub Scouts 6:30p	5 ACB 9a Boy Scouts 7p	6	7 Auburn Bells 10a
8 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY	9	10 ACB 9a Outreach 10:30a Bible Study 12:30p AA-Green Room 5p Daisies #65600 6p	11 VETERANS DAY OFFICE CLOSED NO SCHOOL	12 ACB 9a Boy Scouts 7p	13	14 SATURDAY SUPPER 5PM - 6 PM Ticketed
15 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES DUE!	16 Cadets #65016 4:30p	17 ACB 9a Bible Study 12:30p AA-Green Room 5p Park/Dem Sup 6:30p Women's Fellowship Floral Arrangement 7p	18 Chancel Choir 6p B.O.C.E. 6:30p Cub Scouts 6:30p Trustees 7p	19 ACB 9a Church Council 7p Boy Scouts 7p	20	21 Auburn Bells 10a
22 THANKSGIVING POTLUCK *After Worship*	23	24 ACB 9a Bible Study 12:30p AA-Green Room 5p Daisies #65600 6p	25 HWG THANKSGIVING RECESS - NO SCHOOL	26 THANKSGIVING BREAK OFFICE CLOSED	27	28 Auburn Bells 10a
29 1st Sunday of Advent Troop 101 Christmas Greenery Sale!	30					

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS FOR NOVEMBER:
Nov 1 - Prudential Committee
Nov 8 - Stewardship Committee
Nov 15 - Outreach
Nov 22 - Personnel Committee
Nov 29 - Board of Deacons

October 2026

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				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	31

December 2026

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		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	31		



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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

Troop 101 Christmas Greenery Sale!
November 29th & December 6th - Church Parking Lot
Details being finalized, more info to come!

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