

News from the Pews

First Congregational Church UCC

Ashfield, MA 01330

OCTOBER 2018

FROM THE DEACONS

Dear Friends,

“To care for the spiritual needs of the community.”

That is the primary job description for deacons. Yes, we also put tissues in the pews, bring bread for communion table, set up the sanctuary, oversee worship supplies, set temperature, greet on Sundays, send cards to people who are ill or suffering loss, fill pulpit supply, among other things.

However, our primary duty is to care for the spiritual needs of the community. That alone sounds overwhelming.

Fortunately we are part of a congregation who cares for one another. We recognize that the Love we use to meet our physical and our spiritual needs springs from one Source.

When church members lobby Congress for climate protection, they are not simply working for political change, they are filling our church with Spirit. The Food Pantry is not simply taking up a room in our ground floor, it is holding sacred space that permeates the whole building. When Sherrill travels to Palestine, she is not solely healing the pain overseas, she is healing the pain of the church. The parents caring for our children are parenting us all, whether we know it or not. When Bruce produces the bulletin every week, he is giving us worship to hold in our hands. When you attend meetings, you are strengthening the patience necessary for all our growth. (The deacons have had a lot of practice with that one this year.)

If you only come once in a while to Sunday service to sing, pray, listen, or to simply sit, what brought you through the doors nourishes us all.

Most of us have felt uncomfortable, impatient, annoyed, or antsy at some point(s) during the past year. These are simply nicknames for the feelings we gift-wrap in Awareness. Each Sunday we bring them as offerings.

With everyone doing all the work, what is left for the deacons? We endeavor to provide opportunities and space for spiritual growth and healing. We sit back to view the congregation as a whole. We put out tissues to catch your tears. We wrestle with the difficulties facing the congregation. We pray. We listen, listen, listen. And laugh quite a bit.

-Alice Barrett for the Deacons

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ABOUT OUR CHURCH

Ministry - the Congregation church
628-4470,
home 625-6967.

Sunday morning Worship is at 10:00
am. Children and Sunday School
are concurrent with Worship.

The governing body of the church is
its members, who traditionally
gather the second Sunday of March,
June, September and December at
11:30 am for the Monthly
Congregational Meeting. Call or email

the church clerk, Wendy Pree
(628-3875), wendypree@gmail.com;
or the church Moderator, Keith Obert
(978-502-9166), obert@aol.com with
any issues/concerns you wish to
include on the agenda by the
Wednesday preceding the meeting.

FRIENDS AND MEMBERS ARE
WARMLY WELCOMED!

News from the Pews is published
monthly by the Ashfield Parish, First
Congregational Church, United
Church of Christ. P.O.Box 515, Main
Street, Ashfield, MA 01330,
413-628-4470. Deadline for copy is the
24th day of the month and may be
emailed to the editor,

Victoria Nelson at
nelsonvictoria173@gmail.com.

Choir News



As is customary, the Choir is off Fall Festival Week. However, anyone interested in singing new and old favorites with Alice Parker at the Federated Church in Charlemont is invited to a SING on **Wednesday, Oct. 3 at 7:30 p.m.** (In case you don't know who Alice Parker is, she is world-famous, and lives among us here in the West County!) On **Oct. 14, Crop Walk Sunday**, English anthems based on the famous hymn "O For a Closer Walk with God" will be sung by the Choir. **The Choir also sings Oct. 21, and on Oct. 28**, Reformation Sunday, anthems by German baroque composers Praetorius and Buxtehude will be presented. The Choir fall potluck date and location will be set soon. Anyone interested in Youth or Adult Choir at First Congregational Church is welcome to contact Margery Heins at 625-8461 or speak to her after church.

OCTOBER CHOIR SCHEDULE

Weds. Oct. 3/Sun. Oct. 7 - No Choir (Fall Festival)

Weds. Oct. 10 - 7:15 Rehearsal

Sun. Oct. 14 - 9:00 Rehearsal; 10:00 Service (Crop Walk Sun.)

Weds. Oct. 17 - 7:15 Rehearsal

Sun. Oct. 21 - 9:00 Rehearsal; 10:00 Service

Weds. Oct. 24 - 7:15 Rehearsal*

Sun. Oct. 28 - 9:00 Rehearsal; 10:00 Service (Reformation Sunday)

Weds. Oct. 31 - No Rehearsal

* Please check updated schedule information about whether this is a potluck and

Remembering Marilyn GCC Chorus Concerts Oct. 19 and Nov. 11

Greenfield Community College Chorus lost a beloved accompanist and singer when Marilyn Berthelette passed away at the end of August. The group has decided to dedicate this semester's fall concerts to Marilyn's memory in a two-performance series "Remembering Marilyn." Both concerts are free, and everyone is invited to attend.

Margery Heins, Conductor, with Henry Gaida, Accompanist, and soloists from the chorus.

-- **Friday, Oct. 19, 12:15 - 12:45 p.m.**, The Music Room, S-358, GCC Main Building: Preview Concert

-- **Sunday, Nov. 11, 3:00 p.m.**, Sloan Theater, GCC: Full Performance



SATURDAY OCTOBER 6th

SUNDAY OCTOBER 7th

From the Trustees:

Nose-in Parking

Great news! The shed is back in place, after being hoisted by crane and relocated to its original position back in the corner of our newly paved parking lot. And notice that with the shed now in place, it is important that we not hit it with our cars! Hence the carefully laid out painted white lines in the center's herringbone design to designate parking places AND the helpful white arrows to guide the flow of traffic. You will quickly realize that the ideal way to park your car is "NOSE-IN", so that you do not have to "back and fill" to extricate your vehicle after having apparently backed into a center slot. Also, if you park "NOSE-IN" along the back of the parking lot, there is much less chance of your going over the bank into the gulch beyond! So remember, let's not play bumper cars.... Please be careful (always good advice in so many situations). Coming soon may be some devices to help remind us NOT to go over the back bank.... Stay tuned.

Ted Murray

Stewardship Season

Fall season is upon us, and it will be all we can do to keep track of fast-breaking developments, so watch this space! Soon after Fall Festival, we will begin to think about our annual Stewardship Campaign. This is a time we'll be seeking financial pledges to fund our operating budget for next year. In brief, here are our plans:

Sat., 10/20 To kick off our stewardship season, there will be a Dance Party at church!! This could be a "blowout" occasion, lifting spirits and generating enthusiasm for support of our church. We'll start the evening with a potluck dinner in the dining room (something we're really good at). After dinner there will be a program of entertainment that has to be seen to be believed (of course in addition to believers, we still allow for questioners and questioning believers). Then we have a mystery DJ who has some great musical play lists from the decades as well as an ability to take requests. It will be the kind of music that will help us all get down and boogie. We'll likely even have a couple of two demonstrate a little swing.

Search & Call Coordinating Committee

Good news on the Search and Call front. (But this has a timeline with lots of events, so for all you would-be detectives, get out your calendars and see if you can connect the dates.)

After discussion at our Quarterly Congregational Meeting on September 9, the Profile Committee revised the section of our Profile dealing with the management of conflict, and submitted the Profile to the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ (MACUCC) on September 12. Four days later, on Sunday, September 16, our conference associate minister, Rev. Kelly Gallagher, joined us for morning worship to conduct an installation service for our Search & Call Committee members (Holly Wescott, Krissy Schreiber, Caroline Mack, Alice Barrett, Keith Obert, Margaret Boone, Octavia Crawford, and Richard Prée). Kelly also met with that committee after church for an initial orientation and training session.

In the meantime, Kelly had read carefully our Profile, and she suggested a few small edits that the Search & Call Committee reviewed and agreed with at their meeting on Saturday, September 22. These minor revisions are now being incorporated into our Profile. After a final review of the updated document by the Profile and Search & Call Committees when they meet jointly on Sunday, September 30, we will give the go-ahead to Kelly to publish and distribute the Profile that she has now approved.

And notably, many of us thought that a number of months might pass before we receive any expressions of interest from potential ministers, but Kelly said that sometimes, inquiries occur within minutes (!) of a Profile being posted. So, as always, stay tuned....

Ted Murray

Share the Warmth

will once again be collecting warm clothes to give to Food Pantry clients during the winter. The collection will begin right after Fall Festival on **October 8**. Items can be left in the narthex (right inside the door) of St. John's church any time you wish. Please drop off any articles of warm clothing such as coats, jackets, hat, gloves, flannel shirts, sweaters, winter boots. Everything must be clean and in good condition. We welcome items in all sizes and particularly need more children's clothes. We also need blankets, comforters and sheets. The distribution will begin on **October 23**. If you have any questions, please call **Caroline Murray (628-3954)**. Thank you!

OCTOBER 2018 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN/ORGAN RESTORATION NEWS

In early September the Pipe Decor Study Group met with Bill Czelusniak. Over the summer each member of the group had visited central Mass. George Reed organs with original pipe stenciling. It was a lively discussion, to be continued at a late October meeting, after each committee member has had a chance to visit more organs - this time those without stenciled pipes. Bill Czelusniak is of the opinion that stenciling is original to our organ, and would be part of a full restoration.



The visits to see stenciled pipes over the summer certainly were inspiring, and anyone can plan a similar field trip! Here is the information you will need.

---Second Baptist Church, Palmer - Check with the church for an appointment or Sunday morning schedule. (Located just east of Belchertown.)

---Memorial Congregational Church, Baldwinville. Sunday services at 10:00, or look up contact information online. (Near the Route 2 East as it opens to double highway.)

---The Sewing Center, Charlton (former Methodist-Episcopal Church near Sturbridge.) Directions and retail hours as listed online. See also note of interest below, which could provide one more reason for a visit.*

The *Make a Joyful Noise* Capital Campaign Committee, which gathers quarterly, met in in early September. The group approved the Capital Campaign update letter which everyone should have received by now, and which hopefully has been helpful to all. In addition, it was reported that the Reredos (the wood panel behind the organ bench) has been modified slightly, re-installed meticulously, and should be moved as little as possible, if at all. Coming up will be meetings with Bill Czelusniak to discuss improvements to the wall surface and lighting in the organ chamber before finished pieces of our instrument are delivered.

*The Sewing Center in Charlton, MA is hosting a quilt exhibit from Oct. 15 to Nov. 4 entitled *Threads of Resistance*. This is the only quilt store in the U.S.A. presenting this show, which will be held in many other locations as well. Through much of history, quilts have spoken to many political causes, including temperance, women's suffrage, nuclear proliferation, and AIDS awareness. *Threads of Resistance* addresses current issues: climate change, sexual assault, immigration, refugee crisis, racism, and sexism. (Quotes from the Sewing Center Website.)

Margery Heins

COUNCIL ON AGING

OCTOBER 4th

11:30 am

ELMER'S for lunch

Dear Members and Friends

of First Congregational Church of Ashfield,

I wanted to send along my thanks for the kindness that many of you extended to me as we shared our last Sunday together on August 19th. Some of you offered your thoughts and appreciation; some of you gave gifts that have continued to speak to me of our relationships, and the after-worship buffet and local floral bouquet were so thoughtful. I have yet to use my bookstore gift card, but I've got plenty of ideas as to how!

I also wanted to pass along the following information: By mid-October I will be closing down my ashfieldrev@gmail.com account and so would invite those of you who are interested to please update my contact information with the following email:

nblairs10@gmail.com

My cell phone remains 413-896-5901 for anyone who would like to retain that info as well.

Wishing you God's blessing for continuing transitions,

Rev. Nada Sellers

You Have to Read This – The Headline Won't Tell You!

Jeannine got the name first: “Pauline Productions”...and now “PaulineLive.com” [Where did she get the name? She said her mother's name was Pauline. That's a good name. My Aunt Pauline was a good person.] Jeannine and her theatre company use that name evenings, and occasionally Sunday afternoons.

We might have used that name here Sunday mornings, if Jeannine hadn't used it first. Imagine...“Presenting Paul's Letter to the Romans, Chapter 14, verses 1-4, brought to you by... 'Doo Da-Doo!'...Pauline Productions... 'Pauline Live!'... 'Making the Bible come alive!'”

No, I haven't had too much coffee...I rarely drink the stuff. The analogy just came to me between Pauline Productions and the Pauline Letters, the first of the Epistles...which come after the Gospels in the New Testament. Why? Because it takes energy and creativity to bring them to life. Paul wrote in Chapter 12 about all of us being Christ's body, and each one of us being a part of it. A different part. Does Jeannine have all directors in her plays? No. All actors? No. All sound technicians? No. All stage managers? No. All ticket sellers? No. All set designers? No. As the saying goes, is there an “I” in TEAM? No.

So, what am I getting at? A WORSHIP TEAM!

Yes, you can be a part of what makes it all COME ALIVE on Sunday mornings. Are you interested?

What is your part? Let me know what “bubbles” up for you, please? Blessings,

Bruce Bennett

Interim Prayer

Gracious God who sees us in ways that nurtures all of us to be more loving, open, and enjoying our lives, guide us at this Interim time. Help us all to recognize and say “YES!” to all your gifts to us in this fall season: Thank you for our beloved Fall Festival October 6th and 7th, when we all pitch in working and playing together; For our October 20th party being together, schmoozing, eating together, and kicking up our heels and dancing. God, we are so grateful for your love and our community. Please come dance with us!! Amen

The Weather's Crazy – Doing C.R.O.P. Isn't

I just sent out 74 emails. Maybe one of them was to you. By the time you read this, you might either hate me, or be grateful...or wonder what I'm talking about.

Wow! A donation came through already! It says here that [In less than 5 minutes!] my online CROP account has already raised enough money already to to buy a family a solar fruit dryer, so they can have year-round access to fruits, vegetables, and income! Thank you, anonymous donors (but I know who you are)!

See, it's really possible to raise CROP online! Who knew?

YOU can do this fun stuff too! You can do it at home in your pajamas. I wouldn't recommend doing the actual Walk in your pajamas though. October 14th could be a little brisk for pajamas. A little too much ventilation, if you know what I mean.

So, if you haven't picked up a walker's packet from Rochelle Nahmias or me yet, but you are thinking of being on the Ashfield UCC team, just do this... Go online to crophungerwalk.org and join the Ashfield UCC team, and then...

Go ahead and pick up a packet from me.

Or, if you think you'd like to go the paperless route, just go online, join our team, and skip the packet.

[Wow! Another donation just came in! Can you believe this? I'm not making this up!]

If all this sounds a little fuzzy, PLEASE see Rochelle or me or call or email:

Rochelle Nahmias

(413) 268-9280

rochelle.ot@gmail.com

Bruce Bennett

(413) 628-4523

bennettb1792@gmail.com



Plans for Fall Festival

This coming weekend, Sat. and Sun. Oct. 6 and 7, is Ashfield's Fall Festival, the largest fund raiser of the year for our church. Here's what's happening this last week before the Festival:

Starting Sun. Sept. 30:

Tag Sale items may be put in the shed. Please, no electronics, no TVs, no broken items, no clothing. If you have furniture, know that we need your name on the piece and a promise for you to take it back if it does not sell during the weekend. Connect Shirley Scott, Keith Obert, or me with questions BEFORE you bring over the furniture.

Vintage Treasures items may be put upstairs in the church (Green Room) and labeled for Vintage Treasures, a minimum price you want for the item, and a brief description of the item. Again, items that do not sell will be returned to the donor. Contact Shirley Scott, Diana Bennett with questions. This is a new item for the church - a chance for people to perhaps donate their more valuable items to the church.

Farmers Market donations may be put in the downstairs hallway, along the left wall. Do not block entrances/exits. Pumpkins, gourds, dried and fresh flowers, garden produce, jams, etc.

Driveway Tent: help is needed Wed. late afternoon/early eve to set up the Farmers Market tent. Exact time to be emailed as the date gets closer. That same eve we'll start putting up tables in the Green Room and Dining Room.

General Set up: help is needed starting at 5 p.m. Fri. Oct. 5.

Baked Goods: may be dropped off at the church kitchen any time during the week (counter or refrigerator). Please note your name and name of baked good, if it has nuts and/or if it is gluten-free. Cover all goods securely. (We don't want these goodies going to our church mice.)

More help is still needed. Especially selling books Sat., staffing the Farmers Market both days, and helping with Pumpkin Painting (my favorite thing to do). Caroline and Holly are also looking for a bit more help in the kitchen, especially towards the end of Sat. and Sun.

Call (628-3875) or email me (wendypree@gmail.com) with offers to help / questions re staffing, etc.

Thanks, once again. The church couldn't do this amazing fund raiser without *your* help.

Wendy Prée



If you're in the pews,

You must have news.

News from the Pews

nelsonvictoria173@gmail.com

for Opinions and views

Here's one:

This time of year, or anytime, it's a good idea to wash the windows. With fall colors arriving, we surely don't want to miss out on any of God's beautiful displays!

With the outside windows done and looking so nice and clear, we go inside and realize we still can't see "through a glass darkly".

It occurs to me, that my life is kind of like that. Clean and fresh on the outside when I get ready for church, but then sometime during Worship or prayer, I realize I still have work to do on the inside. My soul could use a good spiritual washing!

Victoria Nelson





First Congregational Church of Ashfield, UCC Calendar October, 2018

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- Oct. 2 - Anna Hoyt
Wendy Swan
- Oct. 8 - Joe Botelho
- Oct. 9 - Hetty Startup
- Oct. 11 - Caroline Murray
Martha Townsley
- Oct. 17 - Marie Fuller
Stein Feick
Matthew Isabella
- Oct. 20 - Robin Cole
Adison Crawford
- Oct. 21 - Kara Cook
- Oct. 27 - Keith Obert
- Oct. 30 - Daniel Bromberg



Mon. Oct. 1- Fri. Oct. 5: Tag Sale donations accepted / shed behind church (no electronics, no clothes. Please, only clean, functioning items. If donating furniture, first contact Wendy Pree.

Tues. Oct. 2: Deacons Mtg. 7 p.m.;
Trustees Mtg. 7 p.m.

Thurs. Oct. 4: Council on Aging lunch at Elmer's

Thurs. Oct. 4: Apple Crisp Peeling Party 9 a.m.

Fri. Oct. 5: Set up for Fall Festival 5 p.m.

Sat. Oct. 6: Fall Festival 10-5

Sun. Oct. 7: Worship 9 a.m. led by Bruce Bennett.

Fall Festival 10-5

Tues. Oct. 9: Food Pantry distribution 3-6 p.m.

Wed. Oct. 10: TaiChi 9:30 a.m.

Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.

Thurs. Oct. 11: Mission and Social Justice.

Potluck 6 p.m. Mtg. 7 p.m.

Sun. Oct. 14: Choir 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. led by Pastor Nancy Sykes. Church Council Mtg. immediately following worship.

Crop Walk, Leyden 1 p.m.

Tues. Oct. 16: Bubble Up 7 p.m.

Wed. Oct. 17: TaiChi 9:30 a.m.

Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.

Sat. Oct. 20: Dance Party! Details to follow.

Sun. Oct. 21: Choir 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m.

led by Rev. Ann Hallstein

Tues. Oct. 23: Food Pantry Distribution 3-6 p.m.

Share the Warmth Clothing distribution 3-6

Wed. Oct. 24: TaiChi 9:30 a.m.

Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.

Sun. Oct. 28: Choir 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. led by Pastor Nancy Sykes. Presentation after worship by Pat Hynes re: Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

Wed. Oct. 31: TaiChi 9:30 a.m.

Centering Prayer every Wednesday at 5:30 at the St. John's House

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH/UCC

BOX 515

ASHFIELD, MA 01330



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14th 1 p.m. LEYDEN, MA