



First
Congregational
Church UCC
of Harwich

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*"As a beacon on the top of the mountain, and an ensign on a hill."
~Isaiah 30:17*

September 2020 Beacon

IN THE INTERIM

Friends in Christ,

We enter September, this time like no other. When the pandemic and natural disasters are raging in other states, we have concerns. When the shootings by white supremacists increase, we have concerns. When schools and colleges are deciding whether to hold virtual and/or in-person classes, we have concerns. We realize that the world has changed, and we with it.

Still, we continue to persevere and find meaning in making decisions at our church, balancing between medical information and particular conditions. So far, we can be grateful to God for guiding us in safety, care and compassion. Our July virtual services were surprisingly intimate and served some who cannot yet rejoin us. Our August outdoor worship services have been joyful, even if on one occasion there were a few raindrops. (Now I can brag that I finally conducted worship in rain, just as I once officiated at an outdoor Long Island wedding with kazillion mosquitoes.)

Thank you to *all*, who have graced us with your presence and participation. It has been wonderful to see you even with sunblock, masks, shields, straw and cotton hats, listening to our services, humming our hymns, and waving to each other with warmth of spirit.

Pentecost is that green season when we learn to *follow* Christ (again). This year for us, it began in May with virtual worship (and no Holy Communion) and continues with outdoor worship (with packaged Communion Wafers and Cups)! We are planning what to do when the temperature turns cooler in October. The point is and has always been: we *follow* Him wherever and however He leads, and it is prudently and practically possible to do so.

Over these past few months, I have observed remarkable examples of *following* among us: Officers did what was expected then offered additional hands-on support; Christian Education made sure the children received new Bibles; Fellowship provided water and snacks at services, and served 1000 meals at the

Food4Kids sites; Deacons checked in on members and friends, and provided exceptional hospitality at our services; Trustees managed our campus and set up when we phased in; Scholarship gave one award for a college-bound student; Music developed creative ways to minister both online and distanced outside; Publicity put out up-to-date web, newspaper and magazine pieces; Finance streamlined our budget and formed a new advisory team; Personnel wrote new staff job descriptions and planned long-awaited evaluations; Memorial Garden prepared for one Interment and unveiled a handsome new sign; and the Thrift Shop opened twice-a-week with new directions. In addition, our staff including Marcia, Gail and

Paul have searched for new ways to serve us more effectively.

Jesus never said that life would be without disappointments, challenges and setbacks. He said, “*Follow me,*” and “*take up our crosses.*” (Matthew 16:24b) Take up whatever befalls us – losses, illnesses, under-employment, moves, aging, life changes, *even this pandemic* - and use these to create new and redeemed lives of love and service.

Blessings of fulfillment to those, who have not given up or bailed out, but have “kept their eyes on the prize” of God’s realm, and continue to follow Christ. Love, peace and honor!

Keep the faith,
Pastor Dianne

PRAYER LIST

We encourage parishioners to call or email our Interim Pastor or office by midweek with any new prayers so they can be printed and lifted up at Sunday worship.

Solace & Peace: Families of those, who have succumbed to Covid-19.

Healing & Comfort: Jane D’s grandson Jack, Adelle’s son-in-law Everett, Marcia’s niece Heather, Millie, Rev. David, Wayne & Bobbi Gail’s nephew and niece, Tom, Shirley M., Martha, Ardene, Joanne, Jack, Edie’s granddaughter Heidi, Mark Curran, Char’s sons, the Moyles’ Cindy and Betty, Miles.

Godspeed: Franklin & Jan R on their move from the Cape and Marco Island to Ft. Meyers.

Joys & Celebrations: the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment for women’s

vote, and Kathy S’s official US sash and button for the occasion; **Nancy** & Orin S on their 60th Wedding Anniversary; Milton R, who became a U.S. citizen on August 5th; those celebrating summer birthdays and anniversaries.

Community & World: Congressman John Lewis’ legacy of non-violence and justice, those standing up peacefully for anti-racism; everyone adjusting to a new world caused by Covid-19, especially the hungry, the homeless, ill, those who are unemployed, suffering from addictions, anxiety and depression, all medical staff, first responders and caregivers; children who have been separated from parents; for a sustainable earth; and for peace and justice in the US and around the world.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Katherine Ann Cima

December 5, 1926 – July 12, 2020

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

SUNDAY LECTIONARY

It is our tradition to use the Lectionary, with designated Hebrew Bible, Psalm, Epistle and New Testament readings, and the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible for our worship services, with exceptions. Listed below are our Sunday lections for this month.

Parishioners find it useful to read these designated Scriptures in advance of our services in order to familiarize themselves with the texts, and be more ready to hear our sermons and participate in our worship. They also find it useful to study our Lectionary Guides when they are available.

Sunday, Sept. 6 14th Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday, Sept. 13 15th Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday, Sept. 20 16th Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16

Sunday, Sept. 27 17th Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew

LIVING PLANTS

Given to commemorate Martha M. Mobley, Ph.D.

“a model educator, director and teacher,”

Performance Center, Kean University

by Richard Siegel;

In loving memory of Jack & Cheryl McMillan and Dan Olson

by Barbara McMillan;

In grateful appreciation to those whose efforts allowed us

to be together again for our first outdoor church service

on our beloved church campus

by Ursula Hornig

If you would like to donate toward the Plant Fund, in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one, it is easy to do. The instructions are

on the website at www.firstchurchofharwich.org/deacons. Your generosity is appreciated.

BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

2 nd	Elaine Porter
4 th	Mary Montgomery
16 th	Dana Clark
23 rd	Millie Melling
30 th	Kay Proctor



JOINING FIRST CHURCH

At this time, we wish to extend a warm invitation to any to become church members on Sunday, September 13th at 10:30 am. From time to time, it is our practice to formally receive new members, either into active membership or associate membership, in order to affirm our “walking together with God” as well as the responsibilities and benefits of Covenant.

Our Church Covenant says: *Bound together as a Christian Church, and depending upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us, we covenant together to walk in all our ways, according to the rule of the Gospel, in mutual love and respect to one another, to strive to carry out the teachings of Jesus Christ, and to love the Lord our God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves.*

Active Membership is defined as: Any person who strives to support the Church through attendance at worship services, showing devotion and loyalty to the Church participating in other Church-supported

activities, and/or by identifiable financial support. Active members are eligible to vote at Annual and Special Congregational Meetings. Membership status will be reviewed by the Deacons annually.

Associate Membership is described as: Any person who maintains a primary membership with another church but wishes also to establish an association with the Church, and who meets all of the criteria for Active membership in Article 7, Section C, 1. Associate members are eligible to vote at Annual and Special Congregational Meetings.

If you are in agreement with our Covenant, and wish to be received into membership on **Sunday, September 13th**, please contact Pastor Dianne, or Lead Deacons, DeeDee Dyer and Lynn Carver, at your earliest convenience. We are making plans to welcome new members, and would be delighted for you to be among them!

~Pastor Dianne

A COVENANT FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATION

As people called to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we acknowledge his teaching in Matthew 18:15-17, 21-22 and the Holy Spirit's leadership in Ephesians 4: 15

concerning communication. As a Christian congregation in covenant with Christ as the Head of the Church, we accept responsibility to make God's teaching our watchwords.

Scripture for Communication

Matthew 18:15-17, 21-22

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ..."

Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times."

Ephesians 4:15

Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into Him who is the Head, into Christ.

Guidelines for Communication

When we hear something that raises concerns for us, we shall first make every effort to speak directly, one-to-one with the person involved. A member of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee or the Pastor may be asked to coach us in advance, or to be present to witness communication as Jesus specifies at step two of the Matthew 18 process. If talking one-to-one or with one or two others fails, then concerns may be referred to the relevant group in the church or as a last resort to the whole congregation.

In order to speak truth in love, we shall speak for ourselves using "I" statements, not claiming to represent others or using accusatory "you" statements.

When difficult subjects need to be named, we shall pray for all concerned and seek the guidance of the PPRC or Pastor for help in

speaking the truth in love.

We accept that understanding and respecting each other does *not* necessarily mean agreeing with each other.

We affirm that the Holy Spirit may speak through any of us, so that all of us deserve a respectful hearing, even though congregational decisions are made in person by majority vote.

While all people are welcome in Christian communities, behavior that is unchristian (for example, threatening, taunting, demeaning, abusing, harassing or attacking) conflicts with Christ's teaching and will not be tolerated.

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MUSICAL NOTES

Choir rehearsals are every week now, on **Wednesdays at 4 pm** (except for Sept. 2, when we will not meet). We are a “parking lot choir,” rehearsing in our cars. We are singing through microphones that broadcast through the car radios to each other.

Our first rehearsal last week went well. Because everything goes through a mixer and computer, we are able to record quite easily. We plan to feature some choir selections on the church website.

There will be a concert called “**Divine Duets**” on Saturday, **October 17 at 3 pm**. It will be for church members and friends. You

will need to call the church office and reserve a seat since we can’t have over 50 people. Marcia Hempel, Edie Ruggles, Tom Jahnke and Jeep Mashoke will be singing duets, and we hope that perhaps Gail Johns can sing a duet with Edie. It will be a nice fall concert of beautiful sacred music to lift the spirit!

It is wonderful to have outdoor church services, and have Lynn Carver playing bells and Tom Jahnke, Jeep Mashoke and others singing. It is also wonderful to see all of you again!

~Marcia Hempel

THE DEACONS’ DOOR

. . . is always open.

“Never let the fear of striking out keep you from coming up to bat.”

- Babe Ruth

I think this might be akin to God telling us to keep the faith no matter how bleak things may appear to be. Your Deacons, like all the groups in our Church, may have been affected by the current world events. But we are still

standing here at the plate waiting to help you if you feel you need someone to talk to and support you in order to get to first base.

~ *Diaconate*

FELLOWSHIP

During August, the Fellowship Committee along with other volunteers helped hand out lunches to families at the Monomoy High School in Harwich. This was in support of The **Food4Kids** program and was open to all families with children. A big thank you to Joyce Noyes, Elaine Porter, Mary Ann Janick, Lynn Carver and Sue Perry! In the 7 days that we worked, we handed out almost 1000 healthy lunches.

Looking to September, Fellowship is offering a Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation (**CPR**) course on **September 30th at 3:30 pm**. This is an excellent course for everyone to take. If you would like to enroll in



this opportunity, please call the church office to make a reservation or speak to me.

~Nancy Segall, Chair

MISSION/OUTREACH

The Mission Board is sponsoring a Food Drive for the **Hands of Hope Pantry** during the month of September. To make it simple there is no need to shop. Instead, if you are able, please send a check made out to *First Congregational Church*; memo line: *Hands*

Also...

We just received from the Cape Cod Council of Churches for **A Baby Center**:

A Baby Center shifted to a "To Go" model since the onset of the pandemic. If you can contribute any of these items, please drop them off at *A Baby Center, 81 Willow Ave, Hyannis, Mondays, 10 am to 2 pm or Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10 am to noon.*

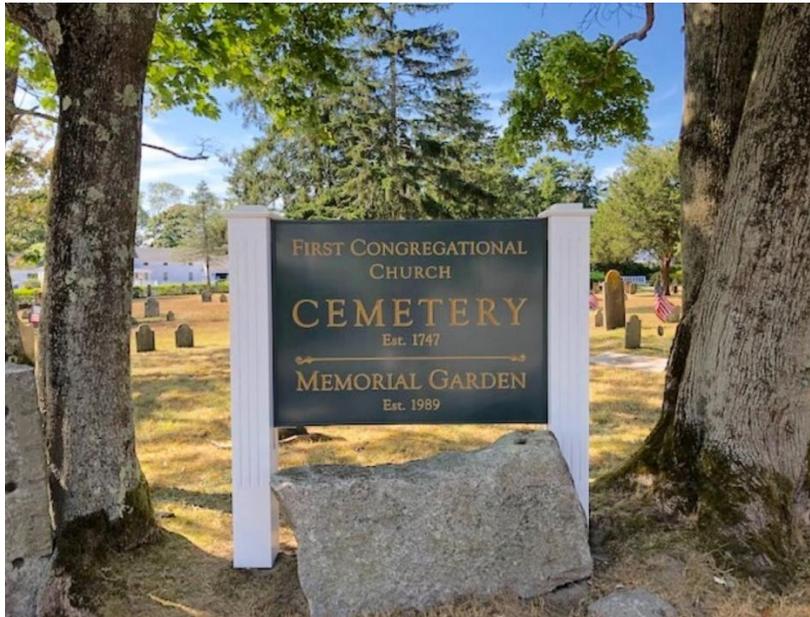
of Hope. Mail to the church, 697 Main Street, Harwich, MA 02645 or drop through the Broadbrooks House door mail slot. Our contributions will be combined to become a check to the Pantry from our church treasurer at the end of the m

All donations are to be handled masked and gloved.

Summer/Fall PJ's, children's books, small toys, receiving blankets & toddler blankets, wash cloths, bibs, burp cloths, lightweight sweatshirts and jackets, baby bath, shampoo and lotion, Desitin or diaper rash cream, and pacifiers.

~Lorraine Frederickson

CEMETERY & MEMORIAL GARDEN



About a year ago, Rick Whitehead approached us and offered to donate a sign for the Cemetery & Memorial Garden on Main Street and Sisson Road.

Rick contributed towards the design, construction, and installation funds to honor his parents, Margaret and George Whitehead.

The Whiteheads were long-time, dedicated members of First Church. They are interred in the Memorial Garden.

We are grateful for such generous support! As you can see, the new sign was designed to complement our church sign on the corner of Main Street and Route 124.

~Mary Montgomery & Lynn Carver

CORNER THRIFT SHOP

After being closed for four-and-a-half months due to the pandemic, the Thrift Shop opened for business on July 31st, 2020. Using strict Covid-19 guidelines, we now welcome customers to the Shop on **Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

We are accepting donations when the Shop is open, or on Mondays, from 9 a.m. to noon.

We are grateful to the volunteer workers, customers, and those who donate!

The Thrift Shop Board was very happy to transfer \$4,000 to the Church on August 20th.

~Susan Baker, Jean Buchanan, Adelle Babin, Joyce Noyes, Sue Perry & Lynn Carver

SEARCH COMMITTEE

We would like to thank all church members and friends, who completed the recent congregational survey!

You have given us a lot of information, which is helping us complete

the FCCH Profile.

~Bob Buchanan, John Bitzer, Mary Ann Janick, Emily Kosoff, Edie Ruggles, Emily Smith & Lynn Carver

LETTER FROM THE SNEUCC

August 20, 2020

Dear Members of First Congregational Church of Harwich:

Keep alive in me the forward look, the high hope, the onward surge. Let me not be frozen either by the past or the present. Grand me, (O God, your) sense of the future without which all life would sicken and die.

~Howard Thurman

It seems altogether fitting that as we all live into a time of global pandemic, that we should think about prayer, with hope for the future.

It has been the practice of the Connecticut Conference staff to pray for churches, their congregations and their leadership, one by one, throughout the year. As we move from being three conferences into one, we should keep those things that make sense and prayer for one another is one of those prac-

tices that we need to continue into the future. Therefore, we select 12 churches each week from our Southern New England Conference to pray for.

This week will be praying for the ministry of your congregation and of your leadership. As followers of Jesus, you all make a difference among yourselves, in your community and in God's wide world. It obviously doesn't need to be just in this week! You should know that any prayers will be held in confidence and not listed in any public forum.

We would also welcome your prayers for our new Conference and the Associations in your public prayers in worship. Your prayers for our mutual ministries sustain us and deepen the covenantal connections between us.

~SNEUCC Bridge Conference Ministers

THANK YOU

I want to thank all the lovely First Church people, who remembered my 98th Birthday with cards and telephone calls on August 11th. I even had a gift over the phone from our favorite Sexton --his and his wife Susan's rendition of Arlo Guthrie's "*Good Mornin' America, How*

Are Ya?'" I had told his mother that that is one of my favorite pieces, and that they do it so well every time they perform in our Coffee House. Wasn't that a unique gift?

~Shirley Moyle



Our 1000-pound historic bell, cleaned but waiting to be restored

BELL RESTORATION FUND

Anyone who wishes to contribute to our historic Bell Restoration Fund is invited to do so. Our bell was taken down in mid-winter and cleaned – but needs much more restoration work.

Please send a check to First Congregational Church, 697 Main Street, Harwich, MA, 02645; memo line: *Bell Restoration Fund*. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

~Tom Jahnke, Treasurer

JULY CABINET NOTES

Attended: James M. (Moderator) Emily S. (Clerk) Dianne A. (Int. Pastor) DeeDee D. (Diaconate) Lynn C. (No Vote) Betty Lou H. (Christian Ed.) Nancy S. (Fellowship) Lorraine F. (Mission/Outreach) John B. (Trustees) Also present Bob B.

Joys and Concerns: Opened with a Pastoral prayer by Pastor.

The June minutes were approved with one correction that Lorraine was present by phone. Nancy S. moved, Betty Lou H. seconded, vote approved.

The July Treasurer's report was approved as written. Bob B. moved and Nancy S. second, vote approved.

Nominating: No meeting, but Nominating is always looking for more people for boards.

Finance: Bob B. went over the budget since Tom J. was not able to be present.

Fellowship: No meeting. Nancy S. said they are doing the CPR class Sept. 30th at 3:30 pm. She looked into the protocol for serving food and will work on how we can do it here. They will be doing the Food4Kids lunches 6 days in Aug. (5,7,13,14,19,20 and believed the 26,27th).

Diaconate: All going well with virtual Sunday services and hoping for August outdoor services..

Trustees: John B. reported that they need more members on the board. He looked into finding someone to restore the bell, got estimates but it is on hold for now.

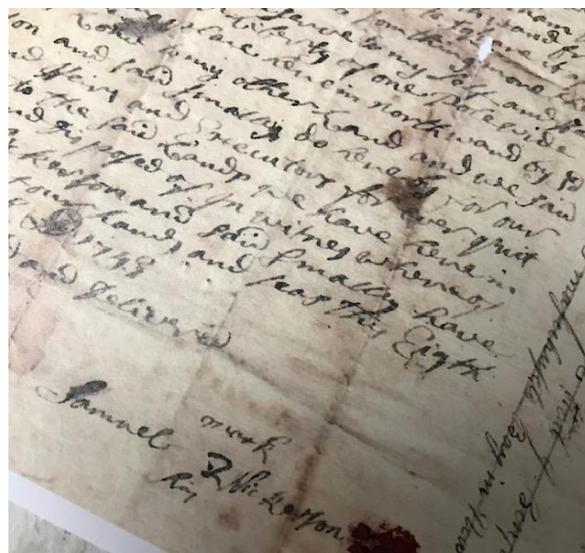
C.E.: No meeting, we love our kids!

Memorial Garden: Lynn C. reported that they had a spigot put in for water. The sign that will take two days, the first day will be putting in the posts and then the next day will be to hang the sign.

Pastor – Stands by her report and is working on general guidelines for church reopening.

Other Business: Thrift shop met and plan on opening July 31st. Friday and Saturday only, 10-2:30. They began moving things around and preparing it to be safer for all. John B. was concerned that the Sanctuary should open before the thrift shop. Put to vote the opening and the aye's had the majority vote. We discussed the start of outdoor services on August 2nd at 10:30 am. rehearsals on July 28 and 30 at 2pm. Voted on the date for outdoor services, and the aye's had the majority vote.

Pastor closed with a prayer.



Samuel Nickerson's signature on the deed

ORIGINAL FIRST CHURCH DEED

A few weeks ago, Dr. Joan Maloney, the historian from the Harwich Historical Society, and Maria Zahn, the Curator of the Brooks Academy Museum, gave First Church the original deed to the church and the cemetery, dated April 17, 1747.

It was found, rather ignominiously, in a cardboard box of old odds and ends that Joan found and went through.

We are delighted that they decided to give us the document for study and safe-keeping. As the 275th Anniversary of our founding will take place in two years, we are happy to now have the deed in our possession. We will try to make something of it then, if not before. Presently, Gail Nickerson, our Secretary, is trying to transcribe it for us.

Our hope afterwards is to share the content more widely with both the congregation and other interested parties. Upon the return of Richard Siegel, the Chair of our Historical Records Committee, we intend to make decisions about where a copy of it should be properly displayed and the original stored. This will encourage us to contact some well-known historical institutions.

This ancient document, written while we were still a British colony and before we were an independent country, directly connects us to our past and the sacred ground on which we still “live and move and have our being.”

~ Pastor Dianne

SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITY PAGE

Please feel free to print out this page for your child to use, to read, to color in, to copy, whatever. It will help them to learn about our Lord.

Departure of the Saints and Strangers

Four hundred years ago, on Sunday, September 6, 1620 the Pilgrims and adventurers, after many problems, finally departed from Plymouth, England on their voyage to the New World.

Two ships were supposed to travel together, the other being the *Speedwell*, smaller than the *Mayflower*. But only a few days out to sea, the *Speedwell* began to leak so badly that they returned to port. All the

passengers from the *Speedwell* crowded onto the *Mayflower*. They totaled 102 souls on board, in addition to the 30-40 man crew. They brought with them their provisions, water, goats, pigs, chickens, two dogs, a mastiff and a spaniel, a printing press, and their faith that their journey would be successful.

There were only 41 Pilgrims aboard. Others called them Separatists because they

had separated from the Church of England. They called themselves Saints. The rest were adventurers, or Strangers as the Pilgrims called them who wanted to go to the new world, acquire land and start a new life. Accompanying them were indentured servants, 4 orphaned children that the Pilgrims absorbed into their family groups, a cooper named John Alden who they hired to come with them to make the barrels needed to send goods back to England and Myles Standish, a soldier for hire, who would teach them how to hunt and defend themselves. Elder William Brewster, their spiritual leader, had been smuggled on board in a herring barrel as there was a bounty on his head. He was hidden in the hold until they were well out to sea.

It was a difficult journey. The people were not used to long sea voyages. Only one of them, Stephen Hopkins, had ever been to the New World before. After a while the food became bad and wormy, the water brackish. The passengers became ill with scurvy and seasickness. Storms had pushed them farther north than they wanted to be. But they never lost their faith that God would deliver them to safety.

On November 11, after 66 grueling days at sea, and a hurricane, they sighted land, the place we now call Provincetown, and dropped anchor.

This was their first step in building a lasting settlement in their Promised Land.

God was good.



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