



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
200 Main Street, P.O. Box 1300 - Wellfleet, MA 02667-1300
Worship Services – Sundays at 8:30a.m. and 10:00a.m.

The Rev. Jon Elsensohn
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From The Pastor's Desk-

So raise a glass to turnings of the season, and watch it as it arcs towards the sun. And you must bear your neighbor's burden within reason, and your labors will be borne when all is done.

-The Decemberists, "Don't Carry It All"

Many of you may be unfamiliar with the Portland based band, The Decemberists. They rose to popularity when I was in college, singing songs about obscure topics ranging from dowager queens, the violence in Northern Ireland, shapeshifting cranes, and the simple beauty of nature. However, the line I included above -about bearing one another's burdens, and having our own borne as well- has always stuck with me. The Decemberists are not a Christian band, but they key into one of the central tenets of our faith.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus instructs his listeners: *if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile* (Matthew 5:40-41). While this value of radical service is often mocked by the world, it remains central to our walk with God. We are encouraged to consider the needs of all whom we encounter, and to do our best to meet them.

As the season turns and arcs towards the sun, there are many ways to meet the needs of our neighbors. In early July, we will hold a pie sale to fund scholarships for local youth. Stop by the Farmer's Market any Wednesday and you will find that fundraising for the annual CROP Walk, which combats hunger at home and abroad, has already begun. In September, we will resume our monthly community luncheons.

There are so many ways to have an impact on the lives of our neighbors. This Summer, as you enjoy the warm weather and time spent with friends and family, may you also find an opportunity to reach out to someone in need. By doing so, we make manifest the love of Christ, the love God has for all creation, and remind those around us that we are never alone.

Pastor Jon

New Website-

On Thursday June 1st, First Congregational Church will go live on a new website design. This digital makeover is designed to streamline access to all of the content on our page, and to make it more intuitive to access for site visitors. We are beginning by launching a basic version of the site, and in the weeks and months to come we will expand and import content. Take a look and tell us what you think!

From the Moderator....

We need to underpin our church's good works with careful and effective management of its resources. Thanks to hard work in February and March by a group of ten volunteers, our church kicked off an improved financial management system on April 2, the date the Congregation voted to approve the church's annual budget. Over the last two months, this new approach has proven itself. It better complies with church bylaws and makes our church's financial management clear, orderly, logical, consistent, collaborative, and structured with risk safeguards.

A new volunteer Financial Management Committee works under the Trustees to oversee church finances. In addition to the Treasurer, the committee includes the Moderator, the Chair of the Trustees, the Pastor, the Financial Secretary, and other volunteers. The committee meets monthly to identify and assess potential issues and prepares an easy-to-read monthly financial report for the Trustees. The Trustees in turn report to the Church Council.

Active financial management makes our church a stronger organization, and useful information flow promotes better decision-making. The church's membership and its external mission partners can be confident our church finances are managed carefully and effectively. Thank you to everyone who has pitched in to make the new approach work!

Peter Cook
Moderator



**Community Picnic at the First Congregational
Church of Wellfleet
Save the date**

**June 11th following the 10:00a.m. Worship Service
Volunteer sign-up sheet to follow**

From the Treasurer....

Legacy of Love

For almost 300 years, our church has been kept alive by the faith, hope, joy, and love of it's people. You have inherited this precious gift, this legacy of love.

Join us in considering how your gifts, now, and at the end of your life, can help ensure that this legacy of love continues.

What is planned giving? Everyone has an estate. Planned giving is a way to structure your estate, no matter how large or small, in a way to provide for and support the church which means so much to you. This allows the church to continue to care for our congregation and our community, but most importantly, enables us to bring others into our church, family and experience the joy of Christian community.

Why is planned giving so important? Planned giving is critical to the future of this church. We depend on the generosity of our members through their weekly gifts and through the donations to meet occasional capital needs not addressed by our annual budget.

Planned giving is a way for you to recognize our church and any other institutions that have been important to you during your lifetime and help secure their future financial strength. It is an opportunity for you to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider what you want your legacy to be at First Congregational church of Wellfleet.

How can I leave my Legacy? There are many ways to make a planned gift and some are actually quite simple. They can range from adding the church as another beneficiary of a life insurance policy or IRA, to adding a bequest to your current will through a codicil. It's important to know that planned giving vehicles can be powerful tools in reducing or even eliminating income, estate, and capital gains taxes, and some planned gifts can even pay you an income stream during your lifetime.

Our church has many resources to help you and whoever is helping you with your estate. If you are interested in learning more, let me help connect you. Rob Leatherbee, Treasurer



Board of Missions and Outreach

Living Water **Acupuncture Tuesdays from 3:00 to 6:00**. Schedule for June and July : June 6, June 20, June 28th (a Wednesday), July 11, July 18, July 25. Ear acupuncture for substance use recovery, anxiety, depression, PTSD, chronic pain. Clinic assistant volunteers are needed—there is a sign-up sheet on Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

Upcoming Events –

Church Table at the Wellfleet Farmers Market mid-May to mid-October. We sell local raffle tickets to benefit CROP Hunger Walk, promote church programs and events. Wednesdays 8:00-12:00. Sign-up for volunteers in Fellowship Hall.

Scholarships – Watch for announcement and recognition of this year’s winners in June.

Board of Missions and Outreach meeting – Wednesday June 7, 4:30 PM in Fellowship Hall and by Zoom.

Scallop Dinner fundraiser and social event. Sunday, July 16, 5:00 – 7:00 PM. A fun community-wide event tied in with our 300th Anniversary celebration. There will be live music by local fiddler Denya LeVine and friends, delicious grilled scallop dinner from local shellfishing family Denice Lapierre and Chris Merl, children’s menu items, beverages, and ice cream. All proceeds to church operating expenses. Bring your family and friends!

Summer **bake sale Monday, July 3, 2023** at 10:00 AM outside church. All baked goods will be offered (not just pies). This is a hugely popular event and goodies are sold out very quickly.

Monthly community lunches at the church start again in September. All are invited. Our first lunch is Monday, September 11 at 12:30, then first Monday of the month through May.

PRAYER LIST

Please contact the church office to add a name or update this list.

“If one member suffers, all suffer together...If one member is honored, all rejoice together.”(1 Cor. 12:26) May the presence of Jesus Christ be with those on our PRAYER LIST and with those who care for them. Pray for:

Gary Cooper
Barbara Knapp
Gina O’Connor
Todd Roy
Jack Troxel

John Garran
Christy Milliken
Bob Oberding
Carol Spencer
Dennis Ubriaco

Nancy Hoffman
Barbara Nowell
David Powers
Jane Tesson
Fred Vitek

And for those who are chronically ill and confined to their homes, nursing homes and hospitals. **Please notify the Pastor or the church office when family or friends are hospitalized.**

The Church Garden Needs Your Help!

The beds are weeded, fertilized and mulched. Hardier shrubs have replaced the heaths that didn't survive last winter's cold snap. The lawns are thatched and re-seeded. We have trimmed and pruned. We have bought and planted annuals for summer color. So what's left? We need to keep the gardens healthy and happy, and to do that we need to replenish supplies. Our fund balance is running low and won't last through the summer. We can volunteer our time, and we do, but we need your financial support to match our ambitions to our resources! We want to make the outside of your church look like someone cares about it. We are so grateful for your donations over the past three years. **Please don't stop now!** A good appearance means a lot – "curb appeal" as some call it. Help us by contributing as much as you can: cash, check, or Paypal.

Thank you, from the volunteers who are making it happen:

Dan Wexman
Dot Oberding
Charlotte Hands
Ron Boyles
Nancy Vitek
Cyndy Van Hook
Judie Palleschi
Jen Elsensohn



JUNE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS !

6/4 Richard Robicheau
6/13 Jeremy Young
6/14 Barbara Knapp
6/15 Dusty O'Campbell
6/25 Charlotte Murphy
6/28 Deb Souza
6/29 Bonnie Robicheau
6/30 Jon Porteus



Nauset Neighbors Volunteer Opportunity

Want to make a difference in a neighbor's life? Join us at Nauset Neighbors, an all-volunteer non-profit organization, that helps senior stay in their homes and active in their communities. You can help by providing friendly visits, rides to appointments, tech assistance and simple handyman tasks. Volunteering is easy and flexible. Sign up online to help when it fits your schedule.

The members we help live in your communities of Brewster, Chatham, Eastham, Harwich, Orleans, and Wellfleet. We have a waiting list of seniors who need a hand. You can shorten their wait by volunteering with Nauset Neighbors.

Contact us at: nausetneighbors.org or call at 508-514-7067

TELL A FRIEND ABOUT THE FOOD PANTRY!

Last year the Wellfleet Food Pantry provided food to 185 Wellfleet families, but we know there are more families who could use a little help. Would you help us by telling your friends who live in Wellfleet about the Food Pantry and invite them to come?

The Wellfleet COA delivers food boxes from the pantry twice per month to seniors who no longer drive, please call the COA at 508-349-0313 to sign up or get more information.

We're open Monday 3-6, Wednesday 4-6, and Thursday 10-12.

- The Pantry has been serving Wellfleet families since 1999.
- Our only concern is that *everyone* has enough to eat.
- Financial status is not a consideration.

Our volunteers thank you for your help.



WELFLEET FOOD PANTRY - Food for Neighbors

25 Lieutenant Island Road

South Wellfleet, MA 02663

508-349-3036 - Visit our website: www.wellfleetfoodpantry.org

2023 Lower Cape CROP Hunger Walk Save the Date – October 8, 2023 at 1:00p.m.

For the fourth year our Church is sponsoring the Lower Cape CROP Hunger Walk. Join us for a walk on a beautiful Fall afternoon!

Last year's walk provided funds for the Wellfleet Food Pantry, the Lower Cape Outreach Council and the 246 Kitchen. Funds also helped hurricane and flood victims in Kentucky, Florida and Pakistan. Money also went to developing clean water supplies and sustainable farming in communities around the globe. We also supported refugees from Afghanistan, Syria, and Ukraine.

You can learn more about our efforts and sign up to walk at crophungerwalk.org/lowercape. Those who wish to support our walk can donate on the website or drop off a check at the church made out to CWS/Crop Walk. Thanks to everyone who walked and donated in the past and help make this an even bigger success this year.

George Vitek

First Congregational Church of Wellfleet – June 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|
| AA = Alcoholics Anonymous FMV = Financial Management Volunteers MS = Mustard Seed WHS = Wellfleet Historical Society Handicap Accessible | | | | 1 | 2 11:00am - Jerry Sutton Memorial Service | 3 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA |
| 4 Trinity 8:30am Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship, Communion | 5 8-10am – MS | 6 8:00-11pm – MS 3-5pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic | 7 8am-12pm- Farmer’s Market 9:00-2pm – MS 4:30pm Mission & Outreach 7pm – <i>For the Life of the World</i> video series | 8 10:30am – Private baptism | 9 | 10 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA |
| 11 Second Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am – Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship 11:30am – Diaconate Mtg. | 12 8-10am – MS | 13 8:00-11pm – MS 1:00pm – FMV mtg. 3-5pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic | 14 8am-12pm- Farmer’s Market 9:00-2pm – MS 7pm – <i>For the Life of the World</i> video series | 15 | 16 | 17 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA |
| 18 Third Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am – Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship | 19 8-10am – MS | 20 8:00-11pm – MS 3-5pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic | 21 8am-12pm- Farmer’s Market 9:00-2pm – MS 7pm – <i>For the Life of the World</i> video series 7:30pm Trustees | 22 Deadline for Newsletter Submission | 23 | 24 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA |
| 25 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost NO Early Svc. 9am- Choir Reh. 10:00am Worship 11:15am Council Mtg. | 26 8-10am – MS | 27 8:00-11pm – MS 11:00am Celebration of life for Henry Atwood (time to be determined) | 28 8am-12pm- Farmer’s Market 9:00-2pm – MS 2:30-4:30 - Living Water Acupuncture 7pm – <i>For the Life of the World</i> video series | 29 | 30 | |