

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.

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From The Pastor's Desk
Patience and Presence


This past month in worship, the lectionary has presented us with a succession of parables. We have heard the parable of the sower, scattering seed on various types of ground. We have heard the parable of wheat and weeds, of mustard seed and yeast, and several others. They have all asked us to examine the world around us, and to see ourselves and our role in God's creation in new ways.

There is one other common point between these parables, and it is that of patience. Seeds - whether they are scattered, or planted alongside thorns, or of a genus that has the smallest seed- all require time to send their roots down, and grow towards the sun. Similarly, when yeast is added to flour, it requires time to rise and leaven. Each of these parables uses natural metaphors to describe the patient, focused growth of God's kingdom.

In so many ways, Summer is not a time of patience. People make the most of warm days and relaxed schedules to do as much as possible. Trips to the beach, opportunities to visit with friends and family, even navigating the influx of visitors to the area, all contribute to a sense of feeling rushed. Where did July go? How is it already August?

These parables remind us that even when we are at our busiest, that God is at work in our lives causing us to grow and develop. How is God at work in your life in this season? How do you see -yourself, this congregation, this community- growing and changing? How are you allowing God's word to cause you to become what you were always created to be?

-Pastor Jon



Starting this month, we are going to begin holding “Listening Sessions” here at First Congregational. We will form small groups that will prayerfully consider where we experience joy or challenge within the church, and where we feel the Holy Spirit moving in the life of our community. As each member of the group has a chance to speak, the other participants are encouraged to listen; to hear, through the experiences of others, where God is leading our congregation.

We have 3 sessions scheduled this month: Wednesday the 9th and 23rd, at 4pm; and Sunday the 20th following worship. More sessions will be added to the September calendar. While meeting in person is best, we will make some zoom sessions available for those who find it difficult to attend in person. We will also schedule sessions at various times of the day and week, to make it easy to find a session that will fit your schedule. This process works best when all are involved, so I strongly encourage everyone to participate in this opportunity to listen and learn. -Pastor Jon



TO MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF WELLFLEET, MASSACHUSETTS:

A meeting of the Church will be held on Sunday, August 6, 2023, at 11:30 a.m.

This meeting will consider the following business:

Article I Call the meeting to order by the Moderator

Article II Reading of the warrant for the meeting

Article III Opening Prayer

Article IV Approval by the Congregation to use the Church Endowment Fund if necessary to fund resolution of the church’s heating and cooling system issues, as may be deemed necessary by the Church Council upon recommendation of the Board of Trustees.

Article VII Benediction and Adjournment

Pete Cook, Moderator

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Wellfleet, Massachusetts

July 21, 2023



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
Christy Milliken
Bob Oberding
Carol Spencer
Fred Vitek

Nancy Hoffman
Barbara Nowell
David Powers
Jack Troxel

Barbara Knapp
Gina O'Connor
Todd Roy
Dennis Ubriaco

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.**



We express our deepest sympathy to Michael, Nathaniel & Caetlyn Tesson on the death of their mother, Jane Tesson who passed away on June 28th. Jane served as the Church Treasurer many years ago.

We express our deepest sympathy to Erik and Carol Spencer on the death of Erik's mother, Louise

“In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!”



Congratulations to our recent Scholarship recipients...

Juniper O’Campbell and Isabel “Belle” Robicheau

Juniper will be attending Wheaton College in Norton, majoring in Music & Visual Arts.

Belle will be attending San Diego State University in California this coming August.



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



This August we will begin what will hopefully become an annual family event: Pirate Week! Drawing on the history of Wellfleet -both the wreck of the Whydah Gally, as well as the “Witch of Wellfleet”- we hope to create a fun roster of activities that will be welcoming and engaging for young families. This year we will host two events, with a plan to grow our offerings each year. This year we will host a screening of “Muppet Treasure Island” outdoors on Tuesday, August 22nd at 7pm. On Friday August 25th, we will have a “Pirate Party”, with a dramatic retelling of the story of “Black” Sam Bellamy and Goody Hallet. Bring a blanket or chair and join us for some family fun!

AUGUST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

8/5 Gary Cooper
8/9 Nancy Vitek
8/10 Margaret Menengas
8/13 Suzanne Thomas
8/15 Burnham Peterson
8/21 Geza Kantor
8/22 Ron Spinks
8/28 George Vitek
8/29 Todd Barry



AUGUST WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS !

8/6 Dot & Bob Oberding
8/26 Bonnie & Richard Robicheau
8/26 Carol & Erik Spencer
8/28 Lynne & Jere Milliken



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!

Open Monday, 3-6; Wednesday 4-6, and Thursday 10-12

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.

Our volunteers thank you for your help.

WELLFLEET 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!

One of the ways that money raised by the CROP Hunger Walk is used is to respond to the needs of communities after devastating floods. Last year our money was used in Kentucky and in Pakistan. If you remember, extraordinary monsoon rains flooded an area of Pakistan the size of the state of Virginia. This was in their biggest food growing area. Church World Service responded to the crisis caused by the floods through partner agencies in Pakistan. In Kentucky the response by CWS helped people put their lives back together after losing so much. One thing about the response is that CWS doesn't come in and help and then leave. They stay the course to provide needed goods and services, provide psychological support and help rebuilding efforts that aim to prevent future disasters in these communities.

You can be sure that CWS is responding right now to the devastating floods from last weeks storms. Please consider supporting our Lower Cape Crop Hunger Walk. You can do so by leaving a check with the church made out to CWS/Crop Walk, or donate to our team on our website crophungerwalk.org/lowercape. Thank you so much.

Also, our Restaurant Raffle fundraising for the Lower Cape Crop Hunger Walk is going very well but we need your help. We ask if anyone has a few hours to help us sell tickets at the Farmers Market (Wednesday mornings) and the Makers Market (Thursdays). You can learn more by asking Margaret Tilton, Susan Eenigenburg, Ron or Nancy Boyles, or myself. In a few minutes we can teach you all about it.

George Vitek



THANK YOU.....



All of us who use our Church's facilities wish to express sincere thanks to Frank and Suzanne Thomas for donating new, higher profile toilets that now reside in the Fellowship Hall lavatories (on the back stairs to the Sanctuary). Another expression of sincere thanks goes to Jeff Schindell, our newest Choir member, for donating his time and abilities to install them. Thank you all for your kindness and generosity.

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Thank you to those who baked and helped with the July 3rd bake sale to raise funds for the Scholarship Fund. A total of \$1,112.00 was raised.



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The Trustees want to thank two of our parishioners who applied their expert carpentry skills to church projects. Ron Boyles removed the old and installed the new living room door (to the deck) in the Parsonage, and he modified the Pastor's study as well as the Church Office doors so that anyone can see in before entering. Richard Robicheau removed the old, rotted picture window in the Pastor's Study and installed a new one in its place. Their generous gifts of "time" and "talent" improved our property and saved us a bundle! Thank you both for your kindness and willingness to help.

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The Trustees want to continue recognizing individuals for contributing time and talent for the betterment of our Church. This time we want to thank Rob Leatherbee for pressure washing the Parsonage – one of the last details scheduled for making our New Pastor and his family feel welcomed. Rob also discovered that the use of photoluminescent fire exit signs would satisfy the fire code requirements with which we must comply. This discovery saved about \$2,000 from the anticipated cost of "hard wired" signs. And last, we want to thank Richard Robicheau for expertly installing those signs in the eight locations where they were needed. Thank you both, again, for helping out where you can, when you can.

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Our deepest thanks to everyone who attended the Scallop Supper fundraiser on 7/16! Whether you helped with setup, during the dinner, cleaning up afterward, or simply bought tickets and enjoyed the meal, you helped to make this event a great success! We served more than 200 adults and about 25 children. Our friends and neighbors were able to enjoy delicious food, good company, and wonderful music, all thanks to each one of you. This was a wonderful showcase of what our congregation is capable of, and the hospitality we can offer to our community. May this be the first of many wonderful events to come!

First Congregational Church of Wellfleet – August 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 8:00-11pm – MS 10:00am - WHS 3-5pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	2 8am-12pm- Farmer's Market 9:00-2pm – MS	3	4	5 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
6 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship, Communion 11:00am Special Mtg.	7 8-10am – MS	8 8:00-11pm – MS 3-5pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	9 8am-12pm- Farmer's Market 9:00-2pm – MS 4:00pm – Listening Session	10 7:30pm -Friends of the Wellfleet Library guest speaker – Nina Totenberg	11	12 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
13 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am – Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship 11:00am – Diaconate mtg.	14 8-10am – MS	15 8:00-11pm – MS 3-5pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	16 8am-12pm- Farmer's Market 9:00-2pm – MS 7:00pm Trustees	17	18	19 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
20 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am – Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship 11:30am Listening Session	21 8-10am – MS 5:00pm – 300 th Mtg	22 8:00-11pm – MS 7:00pm – Movie Night – <i>Muppet Treasure Island</i>	23 8am-12pm- Farmer's Market 9:00-2pm – MS 4:00pm – Listening Session	24 Deadline for Newsletter Submission	25 7:00pm Pirate Event (back lot)	26 Custodian cleans in morning 1:30pm-5pm Wellfleet Porchfest 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
27 8:30am Early Svc. 9am- Choir Reh. 10:00am Worship 11:00am Council Parkington Sisters - time t.b.d.	28 8-10am – MS	29 8:00-11pm – MS 10:30am – Care Team 3-5pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	30 8am-12pm- Farmer's Market 9:00-2pm – MS	31		