



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
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PENTECOST SUNDAY ~ JUNE 5, 2022

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. (Acts 2:1,4)



Dear Friends,

This year on June 5, 2022, the church commemorates and celebrates the life-giving Spirit of God that came upon the disciples and other followers on the day of Pentecost, fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Grandpa Blakeslee, a character in Olive Burns' novel, *Cold Sassy Tree*, was not exactly a religious man, at least in the conventional sense, but that didn't stop him from ruminating on religious truths. "Gosh, Grandpa, you mean that you don't think Jesus rose from the dead?" asked the old man's grandson Will Tweedy, as the youngster waited for the thunder to roll and a bolt of lightning to strike out of the blue. "I'm a-saying thet die He or didn't He ain't important, son. What's important is thet when the spirit a-Jesus camde down on them disciples later, they quit settin' around a moanin' and a tremblin' and got to work. They warn't scairt no more, and the words they spoke had fire in'm. Compared to a miracle like thet, Jesus rollin' back a dang rock and flyin' off to Heaven ain't nothing."

While we might rightly question Grandpa Blakeslee's view of the resurrection, he was right on target with his view of Pentecost. The miracle of that day, which concludes the Fifty Days of Easter, was not so much in the extraordinary events that marked the day, the rush of a mighty wind in a closed and locked room, divided tongues of fire leaping upon those gathered within, or even the proclamation of the gospel in the languages of the nations, as in the extraordinary transformation of the very ordinary men and women gathered there.

Everything changed at Pentecost. These men and women came out of hiding. A new confidence conquered their fear, a new sense of purpose overcame their indecisiveness, and, emboldened by the Spirit's power, they gave themselves to the task to which Jesus had called them. That is not to say that all went well from that point on. It didn't. It never does. They stumbled and fell, argued among themselves, made mistakes, and got sidetracked. But they also succeeded, sometimes in ways that reached far beyond their greatest expectations.

Pentecost is not merely an event we remember, but a contemporary experience, not in the sense of a rushing wind, divided tongues of fire, and the ability to speak in languages foreign to our own, but rather in the empowerment to be and to do what Jesus has called us to be and to do as his disciples and his body in the world. It is the Spirit who enables us to reach beyond what we would ordinarily consider reasonable limitations. It is the Spirit who enables us to discover in our diversity of opinions and experiences not reasons for division but a unity that transcends those differences. It is the Spirit who frees us to let go of past mistakes, failures, and disappointments in order to move ahead into the future God has planned for us. It is the Spirit who enables us to discern not merely what we think is best for the church, but what is God's will for the church, and it is the Spirit who graces us with the spiritual gifts that enable us to be the servant body of Christ in the world.

Again and again, both in our corporate life and in our personal lives, Jesus calls us out of our places of safety and security to work and witness for him. I am awed by the evidence of God's Spirit within and among you, and pray that as we continue to give of ourselves, our time, our talent, our energy, and our resources in response to Christ's call; the Spirit will bless us in ways that reach far beyond any we might have imagined.

May God's grace and peace be with you all, as you are blessed to enjoy the life-giving Spirit of God in every moment of your life!

Pastor Sheila



Health Care Moment: Welcoming Persons with Mental Health Issues

Offered during Worship 5/15/22 by Susan Eenigenburg

Mental Health Sunday, May 15, 2022

A year ago on Mental Health Sunday, when we were still worshipping virtually, I spoke about my own journey, growing up in a family in which my mother suffered from mental illness. She spent some time in a mental health facility before coming home to live well with the help of her family and prescribed medications. This was a time, decades ago, when mental illness was not well understood and as a result, stigma was attached to it: shame, hiding—mom’s mental illness was our family secret.

One of the purposes of our denomination’s UCC’s Mental Health Sunday-- is to bring to the attention of UCC congregations the need to remove stigma from mental illness and to welcome persons with mental health issues. The UCC Mental Health Network has wonderful resources to help congregations raise awareness of the needs of mental health persons. The need is greater than ever.

Deborah Ringen, our Southern New England Conference Wellness Nurse has reported that during the pandemic into present day, one-third of high school students experience poor mental health, including frequent feelings of hopelessness and suicidal thoughts. Poor mental health and thoughts of suicide are even higher among LGBTQ youth. A recent newspaper article was headlined: “Colleges and universities across the country must begin to take mental health seriously,” arguing that although they responded appropriately to the COVID crisis, colleges and universities have not responded effectively to the current mental health issues among college-age young people: hopelessness, suicidal thoughts, and a higher rate of death by suicide.

It's not surprising that the pandemic has made the mental health needs, especially of children and youth--and everyone-- more pressing. For most of the population, we have never experienced anything like the COVID-19 pandemic before. It’s impact on human life has been our greatest challenge to our universal life-view, often instilling an anxiety unlike any other. And just this week our country marked one million deaths from COVID in the United States.

I believe, along with the UCC, that our church has a role in being present to those who suffer from mental health issues. We need to welcome all and listen to their stories. Each person is a walking storybook, and it’s so important for us to welcome all persons to our community of faith and listen to their stories. I remember all the times in the Gospels where Jesus met a stranger and listened to them, focusing on what is their need? *Just Listen*. Listening is key to being Christ’s love in the world.

I see that our Board of Missions & Outreach is planning to work with our Board of Christian Education to reach out to younger children and their families. Let’s make our church space, a place where children, youth, families—everyone-- may feel *safe, comfortable, listened to, and loved*. Perhaps the greatest gift we can give anyone is to listen to a person from childhood to adulthood, so that person feels heard, validated, and loved in Christ’s love.

I’d like for us to adopt this saying, first proposed by Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry: *When love is the way, there’s plenty of room for all of God’s children*.

WHEN LOVE IS THE WAY, THERE’S PLENTY OF ROOM FOR ALL OF GOD’S CHILDREN.

<https://www.mhn-ucc.org/mental-health-sunday/>

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:

Kevin Casselman
Sueko Hall
Ruth Pearce
Jack Troxel

Jean Cooper
Barbara Knapp
David Powers
Dennis Ubriaco

Carol DiPinto
Christy Milliken
Todd Roy
Fred Vitek

Ruth Anne Dykeman
Gina O'Connor
Carol Spencer

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.**

Board of Deacons

June 12, 2022 following Worship Svc.

Board of Trustees

June 15, 2022 at 7:00p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Choir rehearsal

Saturday's at 4:00p.m.

Choir Practice

Sundays at 9:00a.m.

Care Team Ministry

June 28, 2022 at 10:30a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Board of Mission & Outreach

June 16, 2022 at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall – also Zoom.

Memorial Service for Sandy Wonders

July 16, 2022 at 1:00p.m.

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



JULY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

7/6 NellieMay DiPinto
7/9 Cathy Staff
7/14 Gerry Nolin
7/18 Rob Leatherbee
7/26 Ron Boyles
7/28 Carol Pierce
7/31 Phyllis Hill

Pie Bakers

"Pie Bakers" needed again to support our Scholarship Fund! Let's celebrate the "Red, White, & Blue" with a "Very Berry Pie Sale: on Sat., July 2nd at 10:00 - Noon! (short & sweet!)

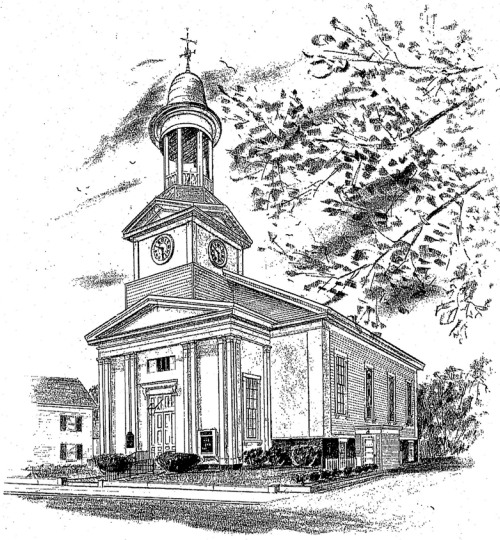
Start looking through your pie, crisp, cobbler, & crumble recipes! More information will follow in June.

If you are unable to bake pies, please consider a donation. Write a check to Wellfleet Congregational Church with a memo: "Scholarship Fund". Also, we could use 2 more volunteers to help with set-up & the "rush" of pie sales! Thank you!

Any questions. . . contact Nancy Porteus @ 508-802-3309



With Grateful Appreciation ~ Missions/Outreach Scholarship Committee



A Sign of Hopeful Times

After many ongoing suggestions and discussions, First Congregational Church has formed a new sign committee devoted to revitalizing one important way we present ourselves! We hope these changes will increase our recognition for those who pass by our church but have not yet ventured inside. The guiding principles are to improve our church signage with readable informative signage that complements the church's elegant architecture and its familiar presence on Main Street.

Our plan includes:

- Removing the existing roadside sign (with track lettering that states "Sunday Service 10 AM") by the parking lot and storing it for potential future uses.
- Reworking the information on the existing sign which is currently located in the front of church, and
- Moving that sign to the roadside space where the informational sign was.
- Adding some small directional signs to the area by the Fellowship Hall entrance ("Sanctuary", "Church Office" and "Fellowship Hall", with directional arrows) – handy references near the parking lot that will guide visitors and also ease package deliveries to the office during the week, as well as interior signs to indicate "Sanctuary", "Bathrooms", and "Fellowship Hall".

Other ideas to make the church entry more welcoming to the community, which are being explored in parallel:

- Placing wreaths on the front doors to make the entrance more inviting, and
- Possibly installing an additional flag mount on the right side of the church entry walkway on which a "welcome" (or other message) flag can fly on Sunday mornings.

We hope to have the signage changes and additions completed by the early part of Wellfleet's "high" season.

The Sign Committee is committed to minimizing costs, but some costs will of course be incurred. Please help us revitalize our church's presence in the community by donating to a special sign contribution fund that has been established. You can donate either by check (note "signs" on your check) or by credit card via PayPal on the church website (again note "signs" with your contribution). Our goal is to raise \$1500.

Thank you for helping support our revitalization effort!

Your Sign Committee

Mission Moment: Earth Justice

Offered during Worship 4/24/22 by Susan Eenigenburg

Whenever I get a chance, I take a walk into God's beautiful creation. I choose sunny, beautiful days to take my walk on a dirt path that runs parallel w/the paved bike path, where I'm alone with nature. In those moments, I find myself saying a prayer, "Thank you, Creator God, for your awesome creation. Thank you, thank you, thank you." In that moment of spontaneous prayer, I am filled with gratitude for God's creation that is a gift to us: earth, sky, sea, and all the creatures that inhabit earth.

Throughout scripture, there is a clear recognition that it is God who has created the heavens, the earth, and the creatures of the earth including humankind. In the book of Genesis, the first book of the bible, even the first verse, we hear the sacred story of creation: "In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters." (Gen.1:1-2) "And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas (Gen 1:9-10). Every time we say the Lord's prayer, (Mt 6:10) we say, "*Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*" We're proclaiming the heart of our faith, that it is God's will that we are making manifest on earth, not our will.

"God saw everything that he had made and indeed it was very good" (Gen.1:31). The goodness of God's creation is clearly in jeopardy, as we face a climate crisis. God delegated to humankind "dominion" over the earth. Together men and women, made in the image of God (Gen.1:26), share the task of being God's stewards on earth. According to my bible's footnotes, the correct understanding of human's "dominion" is humans are entrusted by God, the creator, with stewardship of the earth's resources for the benefit of *creation and humankind*. Unfortunately, some have used and abused the gift of God's earth by exploiting its riches for their own gain. Others, including governments, denominations like our United Church of Christ* have come to realize they need to be far more involved in caring for the earth. We've reached a creation crisis, calling out for earth justice.

May we keep in mind on Earth Day and every day, that our awesome Creator God has created the earth to be our home. May our gratitude for the gift of this beautiful earth instill in us a desire to care for, protect, and share our beautiful earth's resources. **With thanks to the church's garden committee for making our grounds beautiful.**

*Our denomination, the United Church of Christ, is providing us with online resources to use in bringing to the forefront these issues. The main web site is www.ucc.org Look for resources under these programs: **Environmental Justice Ministries; UCC's Creation Justice Church program.** Another program (not UCC) is **Creation Justice Ministries.**

**Summer 2022 events
at the
First Congregational Church of Wellfleet,
200 Main Street, Wellfleet
508-349-6877 www.wellfleetchurch.org**

May 11 through October 12, 8:00a.m. – 12:0p.m. – The Wellfleet Farmers Market. For more information go to <http://www.wellfleetfarmersmarket.com/>

Weekly- Living Water Acupuncture Clinic 3:00p.m.-6:00p.m. Tuesdays. For more information go to <https://www.lwmedicalacupuncture.org/> or call 508-819-2260.

June 25 at 5:00p.m. – Ukraine Benefit Concert with John Thomas

July 2, 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. – Very Berry Pie Sale to benefit the church Scholarship Fund

August 4 at 5:00p.m. - Cape Cod Chamber Music Festival – Miraculous Masterpieces
Mendelssohn / Copland. **Ariel Quartet** – Alexandra Kazovsky, violin; Gershon Gerchikov, violin; Jan Gruning, viola; Amit Even-Tov, cello; **Verona Quartet** – Jonathan Ong, violin; Dorothy Ro, violin; Abigail Rojansky, viola; Jonathan Dormand, cello; Tanya Dusevic Witek, flute; Jon Manasse, clarinet; Cynde Iverson, bassoon; Tony Falanga, double bass & Elizabeth DiFelice, piano.

For more information go to <http://www.capecodchambermusic.org>

August 12 at 5:00p.m. - Cape Cod Chamber Music Festival – The Ying and Brian Zeger. Ying Quartet – Robin Scott, violin; Janet Ying, violin; Philip Ying, viola; David Ying, cello & Brian Zeger, piano.

For more information go to <http://www.capecodchambermusic.org>

August 19 at 5:00p.m. - Cape Cod Chamber Music Festival – Piano Extravaganza
Mozart / Brahms / Ravel / Milhaud / Gounod. Jon Nakamitsu, piano; Lisa Nakamichi, piano; Orli Shaham, piano & Joyce Yang, piano.

For more information go to <http://www.capecodchambermusic.org>

August 9 at 7:30p.m. – Friends of the Wellfleet Library Distinguished Speaker. For more information go to <https://www.wellfleetlibrary.org/friends>