



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
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From The Pastor's Desk-

By the time you are reading this, my family and I will have been Wellfleet residents for a month already. It is hard to believe how quickly these first few weeks have gone by! From the bottom of our hearts, we want to thank each and every one of the church members for such a warm welcome. From the efforts of those who made the parsonage ready for our arrival, all of the casseroles and gift baskets, and everyone who made us feel at home in our new home: thank you, thank you, thank you! We are all settling in nicely, and Nathaniel has even begun working with local oysterman to start learning the trade.

It has been a busy few weeks at the church as well. Since beginning towards the end of last month, I have been keeping regular office hours, scheduling meeting with church officers, and getting to know the ins and outs of First Congregational. Nellie and Brad have also begun compiling a list of church members who are home bound, those we haven't seen in a while, or those simply in need of a visit. If you have any suggestions for folks we might have overlooked, please reach out to me, or the church office.

I'll close by telling you about two initiatives to look out for in the coming months. First, Jen and I would love to have every member of the congregation over to lunch or dinner at the parsonage at some point. In a few weeks, we will post a calendar of available dates and times in Fellowship Hall, so be sure to keep your eyes peeled. Second, after Easter we are going to begin a program of "Listening Sessions". These will be times to gather as small groups within the congregation and reflect on the joys and challenges folks have experienced at First Congregational, as well as the hopes they have for the future. Look for more information about seeing dates and times in the upcoming issues of "Tidings".


As the days lengthen and Winter gives way to Spring, I am so excited to see what new things will begin to bloom here at First Congregational! -Pastor Jon

NOTE- If you have been on Facebook lately, you may have noticed that the name of the church's page has changed. Where we were formerly "Wellfleet Church", we have updated the name to "First Congregational Church of Wellfleet, UCC". This change both more accurately reflects the name of our congregation but will also help those unfamiliar with the church locate us (as well as clear up confusion about photos that were incorrectly tagged). Be sure to note the change the next time you "Check In" or want to find out the latest news!

From the Moderator....

In our congregation, sometimes groups form temporarily to serve a specific purposes, after which they cease to be. These temporary “ad hoc” groups give us all the chance to do something creative, interesting, and concrete without the long-term commitment of a board or committee. Ad hoc teams attract others with similar interests; they help us get to know each other and achieve results together. Whether you sign up to help with church Spring cleaning, garden mulching, planning and installing new church signs, restarting the church’s community lunches, or accomplishing something else, ad hoc teams help bring us closer together as a healthy community of worship and service. So when you see a sign-up list in Fellowship Hall or hear about a new team forming, please think about how these efforts help us get to know and appreciate each other better ... and get things done.

Peter Cook
Moderator



The times, they are a-changin’ – a quick note from the Trustees

We not only have a new Pastor, but also a new chairperson for the Trustees! At the February 15th Trustees meeting, Denny O’Connell stepped down as chairperson and called for an election of new Board leadership. Rick Nolin decided not to stand re-election at the Annual Meeting. He has left the Board as recording clerk and a member of Building and Grounds. Dan Wexman was voted in as the new chairperson, and Nancy Boyles was voted in as the new recording clerk, succeeding Rick Nolin. Although Denny stepped down, he did not step away. He will continue to work on Financial Management, the new AT&T contract, Endowment Fund oversight and Stewardship efforts. The Board wants to express their appreciation for the fine work Rick has done while a Trustee and thank him for his offer to “help when called upon.” Besides chairperson and recording clerk, membership in the Board of Trustees still consists of Charlotte Hands, Dot Oberding, Suzanne Thomas, Denny O’Connell, Brad Williams (Financial Secretary), and Rob Leatherbee (Treasurer). Pete Cook, our Moderator, also attends meetings as ex officio non-voting member.

Our Board continues to oversee the practical functioning of the church, as stipulated in the Bylaws, and we welcome your participation. Those who “attend worship service and/or share in the life and work of this Church, contribute to its support financially (in “time”, and “talent”, as well as “treasure”) and promote the spiritual welfare of the membership and community” are those we need to join our efforts. The Trustees have oversight for: Financial Management, Buildings and Grounds, Personnel, Endowment Fund, Stewardship, Acceptance of Gifts and Church Financial Reviews. If you see yourself as someone who is willing to help us carry out our responsibilities in any of these areas, please let Nellie in the Church Office (wellfleetcurch@gmail.com) or me (danwexman@gmail.com) know. We will not keep you waiting!

Many thanks,
Dan

We express our deepest sympathy to Nancy Cook on the death of her brother, Henry Atwood who died on January 3, 2023. A memorial service to be held here, is planned for June 27, 2023.

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

PRAYER LIST

Please contact the church office to if you would like to add a name to our prayer list, which is printed in the weekly bulletin or request the names of those on it.

“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.

And for those who are chronically ill and confined to their homes, nursing homes and hospitals.



*We rejoice with the family of
Margaret Jeanne Hill
Upon her baptism as we welcome her
Into our church family.*

“There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God’s call to us. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.” ~ Ephesians 4:4-6

We extend our congratulations to the Hill and the Cook Families. Margaret Jeanne is the daughter of Jennifer & Lawrence Hill, sister to Virginia and Caroline Hill, and a granddaughter to Karen, Peter and Christine Cook, and to Louise and Lawrence Hill, Sr. and a great granddaughter to Nancy Cook.

Board of Missions & Outreach

Board of Missions and Outreach – members Charlotte Hands, Holly Lajoie, Nancy Porteus, Sue Sloan, Margaret Tilton (chair)

Next meeting Wednesday, March 8 at 4:30 in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to come and share ideas to help us fulfill our mission as a church.

Now that we are settling in to the post-Covid era ‘new normal’, the Board is looking at whether there is interest and volunteer support for resuming our very popular **community luncheon** series. These were a monthly event, informal, and open to the whole community as well as church members. Soups and bread were served, along with homemade desserts. We have budgeted funds for this outreach ministry of the church and the opportunity to decide 1) if we want to resume and, 2) how best to offer a community meal that fits with our resources and meets a need. Please sign up on Fellowship Hall bulletin board or email the church if you would be willing to help in any way.

Living Water **Acupuncture** is meeting twice monthly in winter, resuming weekly clinics in April, Tuesday afternoons from 3:00 to 6:00. The clinic has continued to attract referrals from healthcare and recovery providers and many weeks we are close to our capacity of 32 patients treated. Clinic assistant volunteers are always welcome – there is a sign-up sheet on Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

One Great Hour of Sharing offering received **Fourth Sunday of Lent (3/19/23)**. In addition to Our Church’s Wider Mission (Basic Support), the United Church of Christ has 4 Special Mission Offerings. They exist to allow congregations and individuals to meet people at points of critical need in their lives. **One Great Hour of Sharing** supports partners in countries with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response. Donation envelopes will be provided – our church has a long tradition of generous support of this offering.

Upcoming Events –

Scallop Dinner fundraiser and social event sponsored by Boards of Deacons and Missions and Outreach. June or July – date to be determined.

Summer bake sale Monday, July 3, 2023 at 10:00 AM outside church. All baked goods will be offered (not just pies). Sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall and by email to church members.

Sweet and savory pie sale Saturday, November 18th, 2023 at 10:00 AM outside church, weather permitting, or in Fellowship Hall.

Craft/Christmas Fair. Fellowship Hall. Tentative date **11/18/23**.

Garden? What Garden – it’s still winter!



Well, not for long....

The Garden Volunteers (aka "Team") are crawling out of their winter warmth, rakes and shovels in hand. We will begin Spring cleanup shortly, and then we'll need supplies: hoses, mulch/wood chips, fertilizer, watering system expansion equipment, and (eventually) flats of annuals. Our goal this year is to raise \$800, but we can always use more! Any amount we don't spend this year can be carried forward into 2024.

We are grateful for your past donations, and we look forward to your support again this year. You may give by cash, check or credit card (Paypal). When you do, please make sure that your gift is clearly designated for the "Garden Fund." Brad will note it on your Pledge Card (if applicable) or send you a written acknowledgement. It's tax-deductible.

As those plants around the church grounds start popping up and blooming, take a moment to look around. You'll see that your contributions have always been put to good use!

Thank you, again.

Dan Wexman, Dot Oberding, Charlotte Hands, Ron Boyles, Nancy Vitek, Cyndy Van Hook and Judie Palleschi



THE CLEANEST AIR AROUND!


To any of you who may be feeling hesitant about returning to in-person services, please remember that we have newly installed filtration upgrades for both air conditioning and heating systems that are designed to inactivate 99.4% of virus molecules! In addition, masks and sanitizers are easily available, and there is plenty of room to observe social distancing.

Tell your friends!



Thank you....

To those who made cookies, set-up and staffed the tables for the December 10, 2022 Cookie Stroll/Craft Fair. \$1,881 was raised.





Congratulations to Nancy Vitek, who won the Spring quilt donated by Sheila Garran.

And to Nancy Cook who won the Dr. Seuss quilt donated by Nellie DiPinto



Congratulations to Jeff & Louise Kemprecos on the birth of their first grandchild, Eli Matan Engel who was born on February 5, 2023 to Zoe Kemprecos & Ezra Engle.

MARCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

- 3/6 Brad W.
- 3/7 Heidi D.
- 3/9 Victor R.
- 3/12 Rachael G.
- 3/24 Mignon B.
- 3/27 Karen C.
- 3/30 Joan K.



MARCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

- 3/1 Holly & David L.
- 3/10 Barbara & Geza K.

APRIL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

- 4/02 Dan W.
- 4/7 Isabel S.
- 4/18 Karen B.
- 4/21 Jane C.
- 4/22 Pearl J. & Susan.
- 4/26 Barbara K.
- 4/27 James C.

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



Concerned about the devastating Earthquake in Turkey/Syria?

I am and I went to our denomination United Church of Christ's website, *UCC.org* and found "Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal." UCC has been involved in international ministry for many years through its Global Ministries Program, which partners with aid agencies in Turkey and Syria. I followed these instructions in donating: All donations will be deposited into the International Emergency fund designated for "Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response." Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. *Mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ, being sure to note "Turkey and Syria" on your check in the memo section. Mail check to United Church of Christ, PO Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.*

-Susan Eenigenburg



A devotion based upon the Gospel of John 15:1-8: Abiding in Jesus the True Vine

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes^[a] to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed^[b] by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become^[c] my disciples."

When we call ourselves "Christian"—Jesus gives us instructions in this passage. It's for anyone who serves Christ, and in particular, all church leaders, whether lay or clergy (including all who serve on church boards/committees). We are to abide in Jesus in all that we do. The word *abide* means to wait patiently for, to remain in place, to continue to be sure or

firm, to endure. For all those serving in our church in Wellfleet, we are asked to see ourselves as branches in the vine of Jesus, and to keep *abiding*, making our home in Jesus. Make sure that whatever we do is grounded in Jesus' Love for All. We cannot be a separate branch; we must abide in the vine as branches—that's the only way we will bear fruit. I believe that's why there's so much emphasis in Early Church writings on loving, peaceful relationships in churches to model the Love of Christ. May it be so in Wellfleet.

Let us pray: Dear Lord, help us remember that when we do work for the church, we're not doing it on our own power. May we remember our "branch-ness" and abide in you in all we do, so that we may bear your fruit. Abiding in your vine, dear Jesus, we pray, Amen.

--Branch Susan Eenigenburg

Alcoholics Anonymous
Saturdays at 7:00p.m.

Choir Rehearsal
Saturdays at 4:00p.m.

Mission & Outreach
March 8th at 4:30p.m. - Fellowship Hall & Zoom

Diaconate Meeting
March 12th at 11:15a.m. in church office

Trustees Meeting
March 15th at 7:00pm – Fellowship Hall

Living Water Acupuncture Clinic
March 21st – 3-6p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Weekly Tuesday clinic resumes on April 4, 2023 – 3-6p.m.

First Congregational Church of Wellfleet – May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AA = Alcoholics Anonymous MS = Mustard Seed WHS = Wellfleet Historical Society Handicap Accessible	1 8-10am – MS	2 8:00-11pm – MS 10-12 WHS Mtg. 3-5pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	3 9:00-2pm – MS	4	5	6 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
7 Fifth Sunday of Easter 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship, Communion	8 8-10am – MS	9 8:00-11pm – MS 3-5pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	10 9:00-2pm – MS 4:30pm – Mission & Outreach Mtg.	11	12	13 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
14 Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship 11:15am – Diaconate mtg.	15 8-10am – MS	16 8:00-11pm – MS 3-5pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	17 9:00-2pm – MS 7:00pm- Trustees Mtg.	18 Ascension Day	19	20 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
21 Seventh Sunday of Easter 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship	22 8-10am – MS	23 8:00-11pm – MS	24 9:00-2pm – MS	25 Deadline for Newsletter Submission	26	27 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
28 Pentecost Sunday 9am- Choir Reh. 10:00am Worship 11:15am Council Mtg.	29* 8-10am – MS	30 8:00-11pm – MS 10:30am Care Team – Fellowship Hall	31 9:00-2pm – MS	1	2	3 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA

First Congregational Church of Wellfleet – April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AA=Alcoholics Anonymous MS = Mustard Seed FH = Fellowship Hall WHS = Wellfleet Historical Society Handicap Accessible						1 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir reh. 7:00pm AA
2 Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship & Communion 11:15am -Special Church Mtg	3 8-10am – MS	4 8:00-11pm – MS 3-6pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	5 9:00-2pm – MS 4:30pm – Mission & Outreach mtg.	6 Maundy Thursday 5:30p.m. Service	7 Good Friday 12:00p.m. Service	8 Holy Saturday Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA
9 Easter 5:45am Sunrise Svc. At Nwcmh Hlw beach 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship.	10 8-10am – MS	11 8:00-11pm – MS 10-12pm – WHS mtg. 3-6pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	12 9:00-2pm – MS	13	14	15 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
16 Second Sunday of Easter 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship 11:15am Diaconate mtg	17 8-10am – MS	18 8:00-11pm – MS 3-6pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	19 9:00-2pm – MS 7:00pm – Trustees Mtg.	20 Deadline for submitting articles for newsletter	21	22 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
23 Third Sunday of Easter 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship <hr/> 30 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9am- Choir reh. 10:00am Worship 11:15am – Council mtg.	24 8-10am – MS	25 8:00-11pm – MS 10:30am – Care Team Ministry 3-6pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	26 9:00-2pm – MS	27	28	29 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA