



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
200 Main Street, P.O. Box 1300 - Wellfleet, MA 02667-1300

The Rev. Dr. Sheila Rubdi
Phone (508)349-6877 - FAX (508)349-7732
Email: wellfleetchurch@gmail.com
www.wellfleetchurch.org

INVITATIONAL EVANGELISM ~ COME AND SEE ...

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" (Psalm 122:1)

These days, people are wary of the word "evangelism". If anything, they are most uncomfortable with its usage, perhaps because, many have misunderstood the word, and even the general church-going public fears that it has something to do with "those other people". Or perhaps, it's a "scary" word to them. Isn't that where you go out and stand on street corners and ask everyone if they've been born again – or go around knocking on doors and handing out unsolicited literature?

Well, it's really much simpler than all that. Evangelism is about introducing people to Jesus Christ. Evangelism is about making a way for people to enter into a living, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Evangelism is about making a way for people to live out their lives of faith, as they share the love of Jesus with others. In this respect, *Evangelism is invitation*, which is a good and helpful clarification.

All this is really why the church was created. So therefore, evangelism is born out of church's life. Through this sharing of the Good News, church members consistently seek transformation themselves; for to evangelize means to encourage faith to be alive in the hearts of the members. We want to learn how to share our faith, and even identify the faith we have. This personal dimension of our faith needs nourishment, challenge, and to be drawn out and articulated.

The church lives – both by handing down the faith from generation to generation, and by reaching out to invite people into this viable, new life of the Spirit offered by God. The church lives because we keep on letting God teach us how much we are loved by God, and how much God desires our love in return. The church lives because we keep on trying to faithfully follow Jesus in word and thought and deed. The church lives because we keep on allowing the Holy Spirit to help us reach out and love others for God's sake.

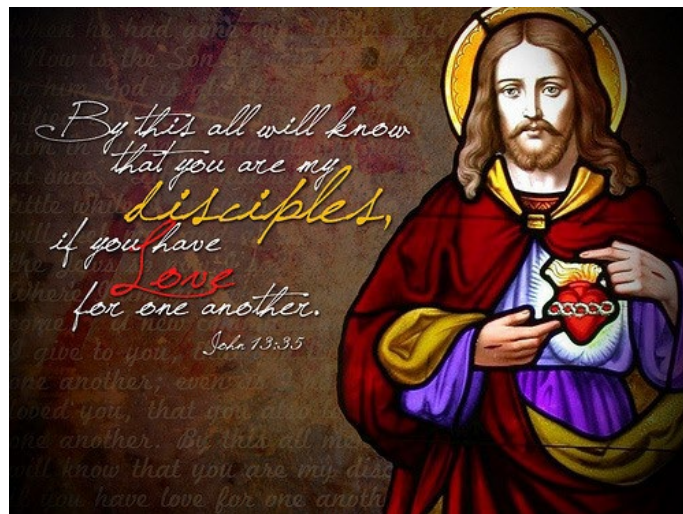
Finally, evangelism is about giving people the courage and the language to tell other people about the difference that Jesus Christ has made in their lives – so that we are able to share our faith with those already in the church, and we can reach out to those on the outside of the church, who may be seeking and searching. We want this invitation connected with living out our faith, personally, in the church, and in the world, affirming all three dimensions of an invitational evangelism: personal, communal, and social. With this new, vigorous

understanding of evangelism, we can more freely invite others to come and see what the Lord is doing in our midst.

Our worship of God on Sunday mornings is vital, authentic, inspiring and energizing. Our music ministry is magnificent. Our church school programs for children, youth (pre-covid) and adults on Sundays and mid-week is of the highest quality. Our mission and outreach into the community, both programmatically and through the investment of so many members of our church family in volunteer work is commendable. Enthusiasm from church programs, mission and outreach activities, adult Christian education and worship all give confidence to members to reach out and tell others, and boldly share with others, and to invite others to come and see. To the faith community, worship is the heartbeat of the church, and it is the center of the church's life. And so, "Invitational Evangelism" is the need and the opportunity of the hour, especially, as we prepare to welcome a new settled pastor into our midst.

And I know that I have only begun to scratch the surface. We have our challenges, but every church has. The point is that The First Congregational Church of Wellfleet is an active, vibrant, and living congregation with much to share with our larger community. We need to be bold about getting the word out. Good news is news that is meant to be shared. Of course, the best way of sharing good news is one on one. Invite someone to church on Sunday mornings and let people know of your enthusiasm for your church home and your pride in being a member here. Let's "toot our horn" a little bit, not for our sakes, but for the sake of our calling, and the Holy One who has called us.

Grace and peace be with you all,
Pastor Sheila

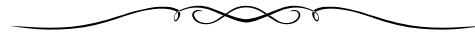


From the Moderator....

Recently, Brad Williams and I looked at some of the old structural framing within the church building. The posts and beams have notches carved into them to join with others. Curiously, many of the notches we saw were empty. I wondered aloud why the notches – so carefully measured and chiseled by hand -- served no purpose. Brad speculated the wood must have had different original uses before the sanctuary floor was raised 150 years ago to create Fellowship Hall. How far back their history goes is anyone's guess.

The empty notches give evidence of years of care, planning, and labors – and thriftiness -- past congregations devoted to building a better church for the future. As the church's current stewards, let's continue their efforts and their fellowship – honoring the old timbers of our church's past, sometimes with new purpose in mind, seeking thoughtful improvements to pass on to new generations just as they did.

Peter Cook
Moderator



Living Water Acupuncture A Health Ministry of The First Congregational Church of Wellfleet

We are welcoming a wide range of people of all ages from the local community, with referrals from Outer Cape Health Services, Helping our Women, and substance use recovery programs, as well as self-referrals from interested community members.

Participants are seeking acupuncture for various conditions, including substance use disorder, anxiety, depression, insomnia, chronic pain, and simply for help with managing the stress of everyday life. We often have as many as 12 participants per clinic and have availability to treat many more.

Weekly clinics held in the gathering area Tuesdays 3:00-6:00 PM April through October

Please contact me with any questions –

Margaret Tilton, MD

508-819-2260

LivingWaterAcupuncture@Outlook.com



Settled Pastoral Search Committee

As we enter May, 2022, your SPSC has received 11 profiles of settled pastor candidates from all over the country, who having read and reread our Local Church Profile, would like us to consider their service to our church. We carefully discerned the materials, invited 4 for Zoom interviews, carefully discerned their responses, invited 3 for a 2nd Zoom interview and are in the discernment process of offering a third “in person” interview with 2. New candidates are applying weekly and we are mindful of their merits. We feel the Holy Spirit working in our midst and we ask for your prayers in the weeks and months ahead.

Rob for George, Gerry, Susan, Suzanne, and Matthew.

Board of Deacons

With the By-Laws revision, approved in 2021, our Wellfleet church has revived the ancient order of deacons (*mentioned in the Bible, Philippians 1:1, defined as "helpers"*). Historically, our church has had deacons for many years, but new “teams” replaced deacons during our most recent settled pastor's time. With our interim pastor Rev. Sheila Rubdi's guidance, we learned how important deacons are in supporting the many duties of the pastor. We are glad to be able to better support Rev. Rubdi, and we now have a structure in place that will support a new settled pastor's many duties, especially worship, communion, and care of church members.

On March 13, 2022, Rev. Rubdi ordained, installed seven church members into the newly revived diaconate: Christine Cook, Susan Eenigenburg, Barbara Knapp, Judith Palleschi, Jill Romah, Margaret Tilton, and Brad Williams. We have met in-person twice: March 13, April 10. We have elected officers: Chair: Brad Williams; Vice-Chair: Christine Cook; Secretary: Margaret Tilton.

Board of Missions & Outreach

We're working with the Board of Christian Education to reach out to children and youth, focusing on younger children and their families. Partnering with the Wellfleet Chamber of Commerce, we're looking into making our facilities available to the community. The Board has awarded two scholarships for graduating high school seniors, to be announced at Scholarship Night 5/31/22, 6:30 PM at Nauset High School, and we will invite winners to a worship service in June to recognize them. We have \$1300 available for scholarships. Can you help us raise an additional \$1000 during the rest of the year to fund the 2022 awards? Nancy Porteus is organizing a ‘Very Berry Pie Sale’ during the July 4th holiday weekend, proceeds for scholarships. We're joining the Wellfleet Farmers' Market! Church table will be at the market every week – volunteers needed – sign-up in Fellowship Hall.

We express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Marcia Ambrose who passed away on April 4, 2022 . Marcia was an active member for many years, until moving closer to her son for health reasons. A memorial service will be held here on September 24, 2022. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Dennis Ambrose, 1227 Oakmonte Boulevard, Webster, NY 14580 and Douglas Ambrose, 7 Rowayton Road, Norwalk, CT 06853

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



We rejoice with the family of
LILLIAN ELIZABETH YOUNG
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 Young Family. Baby Lillian is the daughter of Jeremy and Heather Young, a granddaughter to Patty Young, and Robin & Gary Clifford and a sister to Rose Letitia Young.



We rejoice with the family of
OWEN NEIL IMES
&
LOGAN MICHAEL IMES
Upon their baptism as we welcome them
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 Imes Family. Owen and Logan are the sons of Brittany DiPinto & Jason Imes and grandsons to Nellie & Michael DiPinto and Sally & Tim Imes

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:

<i>Kevin Casselman</i>	<i>Jean Cooper</i>	<i>Carol DiPinto</i>	<i>Ruth Anne Dykeman</i>
<i>Paul Evangelista</i>	<i>Sueko Hall</i>	<i>Barbara Knapp</i>	<i>Christy Milliken</i>
<i>Gina O'Connor</i>	<i>Ruth Pearce</i>	<i>David Powers</i>	<i>Todd Roy</i>
<i>Carol Spencer</i>	<i>Jack Troxel</i>	<i>Dennis Ubriaco</i>	<i>Fred Vitek</i>

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

No meeting in May – next meeting – June 12, 2022 following Worship Svc.

Board of Trustees

May 18, 2022 & June 15, 2022 at 7:00p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Choir rehearsal

Saturday's at 4:00p.m.

Choir Practice

Sunday's at 9:00a.m.

Care Team Ministry

May 31, 2022 & June 28, 2022 at 10:30a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Board of Mission & Outreach

May 19, 2022 & June 16, 2022 at 4:30pm in Fellowship Hall – also Zoom.

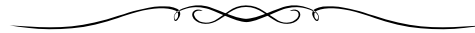
MAY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

5/1 Cyndy Van Hook
5/6 Bailey Smith
5/12 Jean Morrow
5/21 Peter Cook
5/27 Ruth Anne Dykeman
5/31 Jean Cooper
5/31 Ben Porteus



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



Congratulations & Welcome to Our New Members!



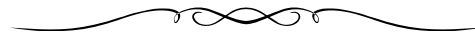
Welcome
Our *New*
Members

Jennifer Cook Hill

*We rejoice and extend our warm Congratulations and welcome to **Jennifer Cook Hill**, as she joins our Christian Fellowship and commit herself to glorify God with her life. May they joyfully proclaim our Lord’s Gospel to all the world through word and deed, and be a channel of God’s blessing to others in this community and beyond!*



Sunday, May 15th, beginning after the church service, about 11:30 am. If you attend the service, wear work clothes so you won’t spoil your “Sunday best.” Join the work at any time, if attending the service isn’t in your plans. We need everyone’s help!



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

TO BENEFIT THE FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF
WELLFLEET
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

 VERY
BERRY
PIE SALE

JULY 2, 2022
10AM | 12PM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF
WELLFLEET
200 MAIN STREET
WELLFLEET, MA 02667

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.**

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP!



Your church Garden Fund will be running on empty in a few weeks unless you help fill it up! Thanks to those who have contributed so far this year. For those who haven't: Why are you waiting?



**Subject: Exciting News! Stop & Shop
BLOOMIN'4GOOD PROGRAM**

*LET'S FIGHT HUNGER TOGETHER –
ONE BOUQUET AT A TIME!*

We are so excited to share that the First Congregational Church of Wellfleet has been selected to be a part of the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program, created to fight the hunger crisis across the communities we serve.

For the month of **May 2022**, each time a \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with a red circle sticker is purchased at the Stop & Shop located at **56 Shank Painter Road, Provincetown MA.**, \$1 will be donated to **the First Congregational Church of Wellfleet**. This is a great way to raise awareness in the local community, fight hunger and raise donations for our organization.

Flowers can brighten a room, spread a smile or make someone's day. Supporters can buy two, three or more bouquets throughout the month. The more bouquets sold, the more donations raised and the more people in need we can feed!

Let's get started! We can begin by spreading the news to our friends and family. Call, send emails, and post on social media.

To learn more about this program, please visit stopandshop.bloomin4good.com.