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September 2019

From the Pastor's Desk

Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." Matthew 17:4

Grace and Peace to you!

I hope you have enjoyed the summer! It certainly has been a hot one. I love summer. The fresh fruits and vegetables, gatherings of family and/or friends for cookouts and picnics, and visits to bodies of water on sunny days are a few of the things I love about this time of year. I often resonate with Peter's words written above, especially during the summer. It is good to be here; I wish I could stay longer in many places I visit during the summertime. I wish I could stay at the beach longer. I wish vacations were longer. Cookouts and social gatherings are fun and I wish they would last longer. Perhaps you share similar feelings about summer and all that the season offers.

But like Jesus and the disciples, we, too, must come away from the special times and back to work, school, or the business of everyday living. Hopefully, we return refreshed!

Our church schedule for the Fall is filling up fast. Rally Day (registration for Sunday School) will be on September 8th. We are resurrecting our Christian Education/Spiritual Formation Team to assist Laurie and Kristie with the faith development of our children. We have a number of volunteers to assist in the classrooms. The nursery is being revamped and we will have constant coverage in that area for children under four (4) years of age. Nursery and Christian education classes at the same time as worship will allow parents the much needed space to attend worship and be renewed for another week of caring at home. Holy Communion will not be held on September 1st, but we will celebrate on September 8th as we begin our Fall calendar together.

Uniting as One Family in Christ: We have held three (3) small groups as of this writing. Small groups are being gathered to offer an opportunity to get to know me and each other better as I get to deepen my knowledge of you. Great fellowship as well as honest discussion has been had. Thank you to the hosts/hostesses for their hospitality. If you have not received an invitation yet, don't worry. The gatherings will take place throughout the Fall, concluding by November 15th. If you haven't received an invitation by October 30th, please call the office and let Kristen know. When you are invited, I hope

you will say, “Yes” to attending. We have been working hard to gather hosts/hostesses and they are striving to make the time inviting and meaningful. If you would like to host, please let Linda Hornig or myself know. Please make every effort to attend when you are invited.

We will be returning to basics in our worship this Fall. On, September 8th the worship will be, “Who is God anyways?” and the following week we will discover or rediscover the Holy Spirit. Wednesday Wonderful Worship, held the second and fourth Wednesday at 12:30 – 2:00 PM is going strong. It is spirit filled with much fellowship and joy. Come and join in as you get to see some elderly church members and refreshed in the Spirit. The time is open to all who desire to attend. Please share with others that you might know need to be fed physically and spiritually. If transportation is needed, please call the church office. We will do our best to accommodate.

The United Methodist Annual Church Conference will be held November 18th here at the church. The District Supervisor, David Calhoun, will meet with the Deacons and Board of Directors at 6:00 PM followed by an open meeting at 7:00 PM. UCC Super Saturday is October 5th and UMC District Resource Day is September 28th (see inside for more details).

Our calendar is getting full, but I am always available to meet with you if there is a concern, a question, or are unhappy or worried about something. Please don't

hesitate to call the office and set a time for us to get together.

May you days we filled with joy and your nights be peaceful.

In Christ's Light and Love,

Pastor Pat

From the Deacons' Bench

My 37 year-old daughter Sarah was admitted to the Cardiac Care Unit at Hartford Hospital with a mystery illness producing severe chest pain and damage to her heart muscle (heart attack) - attacks continued for two more days. This time of testing, uncertainty about diagnosis and proper treatment was beyond nerve-wracking.

I found myself anxious and worried - Would my daughter get through this? When would the pain stop? Would her life be changed forever? I found myself praying about all my worries which left me unfulfilled - and more anxious than ever.

A phone call from Pastor Pat changed all that. She shared a healing prayer that restored my daughter and me. I asked God to shine his light on Sarah and through Sarah - to find and heal those damaged areas, and restore her mind and spirit. It ended with blessing her medical team and care-givers. Every time a worry crept in, I said this healing prayer. I told my

daughter what I was doing, and called her nightly to say it with her.

From the first healing prayer onward, Sarah was free of chest pain and spared further heart damage. There were bumps in the road, but she came home several days later - with a diagnosis and treatment plan that would restore her health completely.

This experience has changed my perspective. I now pray knowing that God is present and acting in my life, knowing that my prayers will be answered, experiencing prayer as an expression of faith. Thank you Pastor Pat for the gift of healing prayer.

Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

- Mark 11:24 (NIV)

Deacon Karen Anable

Servers for the Month

Deacons

September	Dave Spencer
October	Frank Watson
November	Beverly Burnell

Ushers

9/1	Bill & Lynne Cunningham
9/8	Jack & Regina Germain
9/15	Dave & Karen Anable
9/22	Elaine DeGray & Ellie Green
9/29	Joyce Ogonowski & Mary Howell

Update on Pastoral Schedule

Pastor Pat will be away on vacation until September 4th. She will also be gone September 18th & 19th and September 22nd through September 24th and September 30th through October 9th. If there is an issue or emergency, please call Linda Hornig. She will provide guidance and contact covering pastor if needed.

Bible Study Schedule

There will be no Bible Study during the month of September, but will resume in early October.

Thank You!

The mysterious church elves have been at work again:

*the narthex window sparkles after cleaning and washing

* front railings have been sanded and stabilized

* countless other details we don't even know about are quietly noted and taken care of every week by generous hearts and hands



September Birthdays

Birthday Greetings to the following adult members of our church who celebrate birthdays in September.

Otto Kern Jr	09/06
Darcey Walulak	09/09
Amy Varney	09/15
Evelyn Schoolcraft	09/15
Patricia Safford	09/16
Carrie Wescott	09/18
Kenneth Baillieul	09/18
Leah Howell	09/19
Phyllis Hultstrom	09/20
Jennifer Howell	09/21
Mark Casey	09/24
Rudy Wilk	09/24
Evelyn Meacham	09/26
Elsie Bradway	09/27
Rollyn Hatch	09/30

Sunday School Birthdays



Dominick Tessier	09/21
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Anniversaries

Keith & Stephanie Lemelin-Bliss	09/03
David & Rita Spencer	09/08
Jodi & David Brodeur	09/08
Ronald & Sandra Richter	09/11
Kevin & Elaine DeGray	09/12
Randall & Kimberley Mercure	09/12
Russell & Marilyn Streeter	09/12
Bruce & Janet Libby	09/18
Chris & Cheryl Fonda	09/20
Myron & Rosemary Stone	09/22

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Sandra J. Howell (FCC member) and co-author Courtney Vail in the publication of their newest book in the Angels Club series. The latest book, number 5 in the series, is entitled, “The Lost Warrior Princess.” Well done, Sandra and Courtney. May this book, as well as those previously received in the hands of many, help enlighten our children and be opening to important conversations between parents and children **regarding current issues our children face.**

Sympathy Extended To



Family and friends of Mildred Davis who died on August 19th, 2019.

Family and friends of Charlotte Thomas, who died on July 26, 2019

Jocelyn Smith & family in the death of her mom, Nenita

Family and friends of Irene Cutting in the death of Peter Bokulic

Karen Anable & family in the death of her brother, Roland

Please hold Carol Darnley in prayer as she is recuperating from a minor stroke and is very weak from the days she spent in the hospital. Currently, she is back at home.



Prayer Corner



Evie Meacham

Peg Stearns

Julia Winetrout

Judy Ingle

Audrey Burger

Barbara Bennett

Maggie Waugh

Sarah

Joyce Libby

Walter Black Jr.

Gail Banning

Ethel

Christopher

Carol Darnley

Gwen

Coming Events

Connecticut / Western MA United Methodist District

Save the date:

Resource Day with “Dr. Harold Recinos”

Saturday, September 28th

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Trinity UMC, Springfield, MA

Vital Conversations:

Racism & the US Church Training

Saturday, October 12th

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

First UMC, Mansfield Center, CT

Vital Conversations:

Racism & the US Church Training

Saturday, November 16th

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Trinity, UMC, Springfield, MA

United Congregational Church

Super Saturday - October 5, 2019

8:00 AM – 3:45PM

Framingham, MA

Registration Deadline:

September 21, 2019

More info at :<https://www.macucc.org/eventdetail/super-saturday-october-2019-12749786>

Survival Center Fundraising Dinner

The **Annual Community Survival Center Fundraising Dinner** has been set for Saturday, October 5th, to begin at 5:00 PM at St Cecilia Parish Hall, located at 42 Main Street in Wilbraham. This year the very successful OKTOBERFEST theme from last year is continued along with the five piece Hofbrau Speiler Band . We again will be featuring our Courtyard Tent with high-top appetizer tables and will be serving German wine and beer as well as domestic offerings, along with the famous hot pretzels which will be again served on a stick!!

The Survival Center serves people from just about every church community in Wilbraham, Hampden, Indian Orchard, Sixteen Acres and Ludlow- and all of these area churches have again been asked to support the dinner which will support their own members

Ticket prices for adults remain at \$20 per person and children 12 and under will be \$10. Ticket administration is again being handled by Rick and he can be reached @ **kofc10195@ gmail.com**

Sales will begin on the weekend of Sept 14th & 15th , will continue on the weekend of Sept 21st & 22nd and will conclude on weekend of Sept 28th & 29th . Two new categories of Community Support have been announced and they are Dinner Sponsor at the \$500 donor level and VIP Sponsor at the \$100 donor level. Each sponsor level will receive two dinner tickets and two drink tickets. Church communities are encouraged to purchase tables of eight or tables of ten- and Rick can assist in locating each Church Community in a location in the Parish Center to suit their need.

Christian Education Ministry

Blessings Everyone,

We hope everyone has had a great summer. We are so excited to have a brand new CE Committee this year, and would like to thank and welcome everyone who will be helping us with the children in Sunday School this year.

“If we want to implant faith beyond our church doors into the homes and hearts of our families, we must involve our entire [church] community in the carrying and sharing of the Good News to our little ones. As hard as we may try, not one of us has the ability to single handedly accomplish this task of monumental importance.

*It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly-timed cries and whines are a joyful noise because it means **they are present.**”*

(ministrytochildren.com)

Laurie & Kristi

Rally Day – September 8th

Children's Sunday School *registration begins at 9:00 a.m.*, on the front lawn (Libby Hall, in case of rain.) New children are welcome! It's a tough world out there: bring your child or grandchild, encourage them to invite their friends to join us and receive a solid

foundation in building a purpose-filled life with good morals and values, as they learn about God's love.

Following worship, we will gather in fellowship on the front lawn (weather permitting) to share *“Orange” you Glad to be Together after a Great Summer* ice cream floats and home-made apple crisp! We have an exciting year of activities planned, and we hope to see everyone soon.

Blessings,
Laurie and Kristi



In my daughter Catherine Kielb's memory, friends and family have become active supporters of cancer research and have participated in the Pelotonia bike ride for the last 6 years. Although my knee prevented me from actually riding this year, I am still committed to raising funds for this important research.

Pelotonia is a grassroots effort with one goal - to end cancer. This year almost 7500 riders from all over the country and the world gathered in Columbus, Ohio raising money to fund ground-breaking cancer research. Thanks to its generous funding partners,

Pelotonia is able to direct **100 percent of every rider-raised dollar** to cancer research at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute. Although they are in Ohio, their research is shared with other cancer centers and helps patients and families everywhere. To learn more about their research and impact, visit their website at pelotonia.org.

If you are interested in supporting my efforts to help families who have heard that diagnosis of cancer, please go to pelotonia.org/teamcatherine where you can make a donation securely with a credit card or opt to donate by check. Instructions are on the website. If you prefer, you can give me your check, and I would be happy to send it in to you. Make it out to Pelotonia, and you can get a tax-deductible receipt.

Donations for this year's ride will be accepted by Pelotonia until October 4th.

Thank you,
Karen Kielb

Property Challenge

The Property Committee has been charged with clean- up of all of the cluttered areas of the Church building. Over years of accumulation we have an acknowledged problem with clutter mostly in the area of the attic, basement, and upper room as well as other rooms and closets. Some of this due to well-

intentioned donations some to random drop off. We understand and respect, that other Committees may have developed stashes for things that they may use infrequently therefore it creates a problem with parting with “things”. So.....Importantly..... we are opening a dialogue with Committees and congregants as to items that they may feel they are ready to part with or items they need to retain and be stored. If your Committee has items of little or no value and are able to dispose of those on your own, please do so. This Fall, we will start to clean up the clutter. So, if you have “stuff” stashed that you are fearful may be cast off, please have this conversation with a Property Committee member by September 15th . There have been a number of suggestions already; one being a Church wide Tag Sale, another being use of the curb for giveaways. We are willing to consider repurposing, but all this has to be understood, and will require volunteerism. Because of the expense, we want to avoid renting a dumpster, but, if a large amount of items with little or no value remain, we will look into bringing one in. Please help us help you.

Your Property Committee- Jim Brant, Mark Casey,
Dale Varney, Dave Anable, Bruce Libby, Jack
Germain

Women's Fellowship

NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, September 14th at 10:00 A.M.

Hi All! It's time to get back on track. We'll be discussing plans for the Fall Retreat. Also, thanks to Carmel Grant, thrift shop and tag sale aficionado, we have a collection of children's furniture to ready for the Christmas Craft Fair. Let's have some fun putting our creative sides to use to benefit the church.

All church women are welcome to join us! The more the merrier!

Thanks,
Karen Anable

Harvest Gifts

Harvest Gifts has been a great success again this year! Our dedicated volunteers, Fran Brown, Carmel Grant, Beverly Burnell and Joyce Libby helped prepare, package and distribute food to more than 800 families. Thanks to the donations of gardeners from our church and community, most weeks we had sufficient food to make deliveries to two food pantries - something we were unable to accomplish last year!

On a personal note, you may recall my rankling about deer and rabbits making off with most of the produce in the church garden. I was challenged to put my faith in God that he would provide. Look what happened! It appears Harvest Gifts grows produce AND faith.

Please consider joining us next year - it's a joyful experience.

Karen Anable
Missions Committee

Summer Sunday School

What a beautiful summer to tell the story of the Creation! With stories, music, games, and outdoor play we explored God's love for us, and his intent for us to care for all of our Earth and everything upon it (including his people), with the same love that he has blessed us with. We could see the Holy Spirit working within the children, through their questions and unguarded conversations, and as the older children shepherded the younger ones, keeping them safe, and guiding and playing with them. As time went on, some of the children felt comfortable enough to chime in with their own prayers as we prayed together. Through sharing these experiences, we could see connections deepening and trust growing, among the children and their teachers, and between the teachers - a blessing for all of us.

Thank you to all who offered their time and their hearts in supporting our children in their faith journeys over the summer:

Dave Anable, Marilyn Connor, Elaine DeGray, Karen Gatchell, Mary Howell, Janet Libby, Janet Modlish, Susan Quill, and Samantha Quill

Submitted by Linda Hornig

SEPTEMBER 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:00 am Worship, No Communion	2 Labor Day (office closed)	3 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	4 <u>No Bible Study</u>	5	6	7 Private Function 10am – 6pm
8 9:00 am Rally Day (Sunday School Registration) 10:00am Worship, Communion	9 Deacons 1:00 pm	10 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speaker	11 <u>No Bible Study</u> 12:30 Lunch & Afternoon Worship	12 5:00- 6:30 Girl Scouts	13	14 8:00am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Women's Fellowship 10:00 am Dress A Girl
15 10:00am Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	16	17 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers 7:00 BOD	18 <u>No Bible Study</u>	19	20	21
22 10:00am Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	23	24 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	25 <u>No Bible Study</u> 12:30 Lunch & Afternoon Worship	26 5:00- 6:30 Girl Scouts	27	28 8:00 Men's Breakfast Resource Day
29 10:00 am Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	30					

Sunday Worship at

FCC

*will begin at 10:00 am
beginning on*

September 1st .