



# First Church of Christ, Congregational United Church of Christ

## November 2017 Newsletter



### Pastor's Message

Last year, Alison Weaver won the "sermon of your choice" at the gifts and services auction. The winner of this gets to choose the sermon topic or scripture passage for a Sunday.

At long last, I preached her sermon in October. It focused on the history and theology behind the "Offertory." Where did it come from? Why is it in the service? Is it still needed in the service?

As we move into the season where we ask people to increase their giving to the church, I found the history behind the offertory taking on a deeper significance. Back in the colonial days, churches were supported through a state tax, imposed on every citizen, whether they were church members or not. This was no different than how churches were supported in England and the rest of Europe at the time. In many countries, this is still the practice.

Then, in 1827, Massachusetts passed the "disestablishment" law. Churches were no longer connected or funded by the state and could not rely on the state to support them. As a result, church Parishes or Societies were formed to support the church. These organizations were not

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### Christian Nurture

The school year is well underway. This is a great time to pause and to check in. How are things going? Have you and your loved ones settled into the rhythms and routines that will work for the year? Are there some adjustments that might help ensure the year is full of learning, joy, growth, and ways of being that work for us and our families? Where are you at? Where is your family at? What is the next step?

My family has realized, we don't need full time childcare. My work here at the church happens largely in the evenings and on the weekends. Sara's job has her busy basically Monday through Friday 9-5. So we are going to explore some options that have Ruth, Jacob, and I intentionally together more during the day. This means you might see my church patterns changing. I will be around more in the evenings and less during the day. I will still have at least one daytime office day a week and I will still be present at church events. It also means you might see Ruth and Jacob tagging along with me a little more. The biggest change will be for the month of November. As we figure out new patterns, I don't want to make promises I can't keep. I won't have set community office hours until I have a better understanding of how my schedule really works. I will still be available to meet with people for coffee, smoothies, and conversation. If you want to chat about life, faith, or anything else just send me an email or give me a call. We will find a time that works for both of us. You can reach me at 617-800-7151 or at [Kathryn.byers@gmail.com](mailto:Kathryn.byers@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you.

*~ Kate Byers*

### Sunday Worship 10:00 am

**Church Office Phone:** 781-275-7951

**Church Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 9:00 am-3:00 pm

**Church Office Email:** [fchurchb2@verizon.net](mailto:fchurchb2@verizon.net)

**Website:** [www.firstchurchbedford.org](http://www.firstchurchbedford.org)

**Senior Pastor:** The Reverend John Castricum  
cell phone: 857-939-0711

**Director of Christian Nurture:** Kate Byers

**Music Director:** Susan Capestro

**Church Administrator:** Suzie Barry

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part of the church yet were in charge of the property, finances and important decisions concerning the church. The Parish Council could even decide to fire or hire a pastor without the consent of church members. For many towns, the Parish Council was mostly made up of church members, but this was not always the case. Parish Councils funded the church by renting or selling pews.

As you can imagine, this caused many church members to push Massachusetts to end this system, which unjustly prevented church members from making important decisions that affected their church's future. Finally, in 1887, churches were given the ability to incorporate by the Commonwealth. This was seen as a great victory for churches. Many churches immediately became incorporated. It was like declaring independence from the tyranny of the Parish Council. Yet there was the problem: how to support the church financially? This is where the voluntary church offering began. Giving campaigns started and the Offertory became a part of the church service.

There were many reports that this system resulted in a greater amount of giving. After years when Parish Councils faced deficits and cut budgets, now these voluntary offerings resulted in surpluses. Why? Incorporation created a deep sense of ownership among church members. There was so much enthusiasm to finally be able to make their own financial, organizational and pastoral decisions, it resulted in dramatically increased giving. The Offertory, then, became a time when they could celebrate this hard-fought ownership of the church. It was a symbol of their faith and commitment to the church.

It still believe that there is a strong connection between what a person gives to the church and their sense of ownership in the church. In this type of church, the act of giving is a spiritual act: a statement that says "this church means a lot to me, and I want to be part of its vision." When people take ownership in the church, when they believe they an integral part of the "body of Christ," this belief becomes a statement of faith, over and against the world they live in.

Going back to Europe, we see that churches that remain dependent of state funding find their numbers dramatically decreasing over time. Sun-

day mornings in many of these churches are a sad handful of the faithful few that remain in an overwhelmingly secular culture.

Is there a relationship between giving and the health, vision and ownership in the church. Absolutely! When you give to the church, you are given the joy of knowing you are part of God's vision of love, peace, healing and justice coming to earth through this community of faith. We are a church with a clear mission: to Welcome All, Grow in Faith and Joyfully Serve. We have fulfilled this mission in ever-increasing and deeper ways over the years, and you are a part of it! With your all your support, with all your time, talent and money you invest in our community, you are making this happen in even more powerful ways.

I hope you keep all of this in mind as you get a letter and pledge card in the mail this month. I pray that you deepen your faith and commitment to increasing your pledge to the church.

~ Pastor John

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## Sermon Talk Back Sessions

Pastor John will be continuing Sermon Talk Back sessions in November. We will be meeting in the Church Parlor on **November 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**, about 15 minutes or so after coffee hour begins. This will be a great opportunity to ask a question, make a comment or dig deeper into what was preached on Sunday morning. All are invited, and no knowledge of the Bible or faith is required. Join us for another opportunity to "Grow in Faith."

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## Bible and Bagels at a New Time

Pastor John continues his "**Bible and Bagels**" bible study on **Thursdays mornings**, but at a new time – an hour later: **from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** at Bruegger's Bagels in Bedford. As always, this is a drop-in bible study: show up anytime you're free to go over a Bible passage with John. No prior knowledge of the Bible is necessary. This is an introductory session aimed at those who don't know much about the Bible, but are curious to learn more. Join us and get your day started right, with breakfast and a good dose of inspiration. And bring a friend, too!

## Coffee and Conversation and Bible Study at Bruegger's

Pastor John will be continuing his "Coffee and Conversation" in November. He will be at Bruegger's Bagels on Great Road on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (an hour earlier from last year). He will be available to talk about anything you want: faith, the Patriots, weather or anything else on your mind.

### Wonderful Wednesday

Please join us **November 8th**, starting with Dinner at **6:00 pm** in Upper Fellowship Hall. Cross-cultural communication specialist Matthew Goode will be helping us reflect on how we communicate across difference, and create a welcoming climate at a moment when this is challenging. Matthew is a Program Manager in the Center for Teaching Excellence at Boston College.

### 2017-2018 Wonderful Wednesday Dates

November 8, 2017

December 6, 2017

January 17, 2018

February 21, 2018

March 21, 2018

April 4, 2018

April 18, 2018

May 16, 2018



**Remember to change your clock.....**

**move your clock BACK one hour**

**on Sunday, November 5, 2017**

## Registration is Open for the All Church Retreat!

Join us at beautiful St. Thecla's Retreat House, just down the road in Billerica! We'll be reflecting together on how to create a welcoming space where we can all share our stories and grow in faith, exploring our differences as a source of enrichment. We'll enjoy indoor and outdoor fun as the weather permits.

The retreat begins on **Friday, February 9th with dinner at 6:00 pm and program at 7:00 pm, and we'll wrap up by 2:00 pm on Sunday.** Join us for the entire weekend or come when you are able. ***Please see the enclosed registration form for more details.***

### With Thanks...



Many thanks to all who participated in our Day of Service, Saturday, September 30th

- Blanket makers made 3 children's blankets to be delivered to Household Goods
- Bakers produced trays of brownies to be delivered to House of Hope
- Hygiene kit assemblers completed kits to be distributed to those in need through Church World Service.
- Gardeners collected walnut shells and tended our beautiful grounds
- The outdoor team collected trash around the town center fields and playground

We reflected together on how the big and small ways we serve, working with others and learning from them, also help us grow in faith. Thanks especially to Kate Reynolds, Nancy McKinney, Allyson Printz and Susan Wingfield for leading our service groups, and to Kelly Woessner, Chris Majoros and Shirley Kring for helping to lead worship.

## Faith at Home

During November, we hear a lot about gratitude and Thanksgiving. These two themes will be very present at church all month. I am sure they will also be present at school and around your dinner tables. In addition to gratitude, I encourage you to spend November thinking about change and about the things you hope will drop away in the next few months. To help with this, on the first Sunday in November I will have paper trees and leaves for everyone. Take your trees home, place them on the fridge (or other similar spot), then take your leaves and on the back of the leaves, write down a few things you hope will change or drop away in the next few months, then encourage your family or housemates to add a few leaves. Once your tree is complete let it sit on the fridge for a few days and as you notice leaves falling around your yard, pull a few leaves off of your tree and throw them away. By December we should all have lovely bear trees hanging on our fridge to match the trees outside. Have no fear the trees won't stay bear very long. Jesus is coming back into the world. Naming and letting go of some of our concerns should help us enter advent ready to wait for the coming of Christ and the re-birth of light into our world.

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## Church School for 2017-2018

**Nursery:** Children zero through five years old are welcome to join Samalie in the nursery at the beginning of worship. They are also welcome to start worship with their family and to join Samalie in the nursery following Children's time or to remain in worship for the entire service. Parents you know your kids best. Please do whatever work best for your family and let us know how we can support you in caring for your children.

**Elementary School:** In November the Elementary School will study the story of the Widows Offering while exploring the themes of gratitude and generosity. This story will allow the children to think about what it means to be generous, how we express our gratitude, and how every gift counts. Children will learn that it is not the size of the gift that matters but the spirit of the giver. Children will also explore ways they can be generous in their own lives.

## Youth Forum

Two months of youth forum have taught us a lot, so we are changing a few things. Youth forum will now meet downstairs in the youth room. We will leave worship following the children's sermon with all of the younger children. The conversation is open to all 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. We realize many want to stay in worship especially weeks with an interesting message. Nurture fully supports this and supports youth finding ways to engage in the life of the church on Sunday morning through ushering, choir, coffee hour, helping in Sunday school, helping the AV team, working in the nursery, and leading worship. Youth forum is one way for our youth to engage with the congregation on Sunday morning. It is not the only way. During November we will talk about generosity, giving, and gratitude.

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## Youth for 2017-2018

**Care Packages:** On **Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 pm** youth will gather to share dinner and to make care packages for our college students. Bring 10 inexpensive mail friendly items that help you destress during final exams and come spend an evening with your friends. (i.e. pencils, small packages of tissues, candy, popcorn, erasers, index cards, post it notes, fidgets, etc.).

**Shopping and Swapping:** On **Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:00 to 6:00 pm** youth will gather to go shopping for a child in need, swap gifts with each other, and enjoy a meal together.

### Youth Group Calendar (Changes are in Bold)

- November 3 – Helping with the Holiday Craft Sale
- November 19<sup>th</sup> – Making care packages for college students
- **December 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Shopping and Swapping holiday service meets holiday fun
- January 19<sup>th</sup> – Movie Night or Lock-in
- February 4<sup>th</sup> – Snow fun (tubing or skating)
- March 10<sup>th</sup> – Helping with the Mission Fest
- March ? – Youth Service Weekend
- April 1 – Egg Hunt
- May 5<sup>th</sup> – Helping with the Rummage Sale
- May 19<sup>th</sup> – Fun event chosen by youth
- June 9<sup>th</sup> – Marching in Boston Pride

## Save the Date for Advent!

- ◇ **Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup>** Youth will be shopping for a child in need.
  - ◇ **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** following Worship, there will be a Advent Workshop.
  - ◇ **Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** at Wonderful Wednesday we will be making Gingerbread Nativities.
  - ◇ **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** is Bell Sunday
  - ◇ **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** following Worship, there will be lunch and a Nativity Sunday rehearsal.
  - ◇ **Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>** is Nativity Sunday
  - ◇ **Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>** in the afternoon we will be caroling at Carleton Willard.
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## News from the Outreach Board

### House of Hope:

At the Day of Service on September 30<sup>th</sup>, one of the groups made 12 batches of delicious brownies! They were frozen and batches will be taken to House of Hope by members of our team of volunteers who help with dinner each month. Dot Fallon, Mark Buccolo, Cathy Gray and Nancy McKinney are regulars - they bring sides and dessert, serve the meal and clean up! With more volunteers, we can go more often. Our regular day is Monday. Please join us!

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, Dot and Nancy delivered all the donations that were placed in the House of Hope bins over the summer. They were gratefully received by the staff there. All of the items are made available to the families who live in one of the House of Hope emergency shelters and housing units.

Here are the items most needed:

“Anything that you use in your home we use in ours – to the 10th degree! Examples of these goods include: paper products, laundry detergent, diapers, cleaning products, milk, eggs, bread, and so much more.” Also accepted are children’s clothing and shoes (up to age 12).

Fresh items can be taken only on the days the team is going to help with dinner. Check with Nancy M about the schedule at 781-275-1073 or [nancyemck@gmail.com](mailto:nancyemck@gmail.com)}

Thank you for your generosity!

### Cradles to Crayons:

First Church is participating in a donation drive for Cradles to Crayons during November. Cradles to Crayons is a non-profit organization that provides homeless and low-income children with the essentials they require to thrive - to feel safe, warm, ready to learn, and valued. **Please bring your donations of new and like-new children’s items to the church before November 8.**

On November 18<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 PM we are participating in the Cradles to Crayons community work day at Nashoba Brook School in Concord. All ages are welcome. It is a fun, family-friendly community volunteer event where we will sort donations. Donation boxes are available in the vestry and a sign up list has been posted on the Vestry Bulletin Board. For more information please contact Mary Criscione, email: [maryc@progress.com](mailto:maryc@progress.com)

## Music Notes



**Children's Choir:** The **Children's Choir** is singing in church on the first Sunday of this month, November 5. Call time is 9:30am that day. Later in the month, our mini-rehearsal is at 11:30am on November 26, to practice our piece for Sunday, December 3.

- Sunday, November 5 Children's Choir in Worship Service - 9:30 call time
- Sunday, November 26 Mini-rehearsal 11:30 am, music room
- Sunday, December 3 Children's Choir in Worship Service - 9:30 call time

**Jubilee Ringers:** Last month's column mentioned something about a rainstick, a percussion instrument that sounds like rain, being used in the handbell anthem for November 5. In the meantime, the ringers have a very special surprise at the end of that anthem. We've invented a new handbell technique, called the rainstick! So please listen and let us know what you think.

What motivated the composing of *O Day of Peace*? The notion of arranging the "Jerusalem" melody from our hymnal had been suggested to me by **Jen Dalrymple** last year, when time was limited to sit down and write a handbell anthem. Not to be forgotten, the idea was re-ignited by **Pastor John's** recent sermon series and the church's awareness of, and prayers for, the resolution of troublesome world issues; the lyrics of this hymn describe a vision of a world of peace. Another leading contributor was the church's interest in bedside singing, for it's not possible to soothe others, until we calm ourselves first. We all appreciate tranquil sounds, a break from stressors in our lives, a way to quiet noise and clutter in our brains. **Becky Konkle's** subsequent interest in harps then provided an irresistible tipping point, and *O Day of Peace* could not help but be composed!

**Adult Choir:** In November, the **Adult Choir** will be backing a solo by **Chris Majoros** from the show, *Godspell*, along with **Evan Majoros** on oboe and **Rich Woessner** on cello. Another *Godspell* selection is programmed for the first Sunday of Advent; you can probably guess which one! The choir will also treat us to a mid-month, small-group anthem with vocal solos, performed with handchime accompaniment. Take note of our special Sunday rehearsal times, if you'd like to sing and can't attend Thursday night rehearsals. As always, all middle schoolers are invited to join us anytime.

- Thursday, November 2 Full Rehearsal 7:30 pm
- Sunday, November 5 Mini-Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Thursday, November 9 No Rehearsal (Wonderful Wednesday Week)
- Sunday, November 12 Full Rehearsal 8:30 am
- Thursday, November 16 Full Rehearsal 7:30 pm
- Sunday, November 19 Mini-Rehearsal 9:00 am
- Thursday, November 23 No Rehearsal (Thanksgiving)
- Sunday, November 26 Full Rehearsal 8:30 am
- Thursday, November 30 Full Rehearsal 7:30 pm

- **Susan Capestro, Director of Music**

### With Sympathy

To the Slayter Family on the passing of Abby Park Slayter  
on October 20, 2017

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To Torvy Hurd and Family on the passing of Al Hurd  
on October 21, 2017 in Vermont  
a Memorial Service will be held on  
Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 2:00 pm at First Church





## Thank You, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

The 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Dinner was a great success thanks to all who pitched in to help! Approximately 160 people were served and everything was hot and delicious, even the nearly 30 take-out meals! Thanks again to everyone who helped make apple pies, peeled, cut, and prepped potatoes and squash, helped decorate, serve, or clean up. The Turkey Dinner could not happen without a lot of hands on deck. Very special thanks go to Pastor John for cooking and carving all SIX BIG birds, and to Peter Gerrish for his tireless help in the kitchen Friday night and all day Saturday and Allyson Printz as decorator and server help coordinator extraordinaire. Also, thanks to the clean up crew of Peter Gerrish, Rick Burke, Rich and Kelly Woessner. Thanks to Allyson Printz along with the strong backs of a half dozen middle and high school youth, as well as other volunteers who helped put away tables and chairs at the end of the event. Many thanks to Judy Watkins for making the cranberry sauce, to Allyson Printz and her pie making crew, especially Connie Matheson and Sue Wingfield's expert pie finishing, to the pumpkin pie bakers, pie cutters Pat Konkle and Laura Sackett, terrific takeout trio of Mary Criscione, Nancy McKinney and Barb Davis, ticket takers Cindy Webb, Sarah and Emily Castricum and publicity and sales helpers Suzie Barry and Susan Wingfield. From buffet line servers, to youth servers, to kitchen crew helpers, thank you all! We also are grateful to Stop & Shop for the price break on the turkeys and to Westward Orchards for the huge discount on apples. Even with rising food prices, we cleared nearly \$2,000 for our local budget. Everything was delicious and enjoyed enormously by a sell-out crowd!

~ Dotty Blake, Turkey Dinner Chairperson

### November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Craft Fair: Yuletide Treasure Grand Finale Weekend

Includes A Simple Supper and a Brunch!

In just a few more days our holiday event begins! Our Craft Fair includes The Yuletide Treasures Grand Finale and Handicrafters Sale. It will be held on **Friday, November 3, 2017 from 6:00 – 9:00 PM** and on **Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM** in our Church Library and Parlor. We will also be open after church on Sundays, November 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> for one hour.

The handicrafters have been busy knitting, sewing, and making many items to sell.

After 23 years of creativity, the Yuletide Team is now retiring and putting their glue guns to rest. We are grateful for your support over the years. We are honored that our decorations are now part of your holiday traditions. For our finale, we have many beautiful items to sell — wreaths, centerpieces, lighted garlands and trees, lighted bottles, Christmas ornaments, and one-of-a-kind creations. We also have many of our supplies left that we will be bundling to sell at fantastic prices.

Margie Burke, Kate Trigg, Carol Jamison, and Peter Gerrish are hosting and preparing a Simple Supper on Friday, November 3, 2017 from 6:00 – 8:30 PM. The menu includes soup, salad, mac and cheese, bread, and dessert.

Allyson Printz is leading a team for a Light Brunch on Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Come and visit this enchanted holiday event, enjoy dining with friends at our supper and/or brunch, and begin making your purchases for giving as gifts or for decorating your home for the holidays. We accept credit cards.

All proceeds benefit our WV Mission project and our Local Budget.

Reminders and updates will be in our church bulletins and Constant Contact notices. If you would like to help staff the events, help with baking, setting up, cleaning up, etc., please contact Allyson Printz (Dinner/Brunch at [allyson@printzfamily.us](mailto:allyson@printzfamily.us) or (978) 667-2052) or Susan Wingfield (Yuletide) at [susanw1@verizon.net](mailto:susanw1@verizon.net) or (781-275-9389).

~Susan Wingfield and Allyson Printz



## Flowers for Sunday Worship

Enjoy the beauty of your and others' donations each week as a beautiful part of our worship together. Flowers may be donated in memory of a loved one or just because the Spirit moves you! We will order flowers for you unless you prefer to do it yourself. The cost varies depending on choices but runs \$30-50. There is a signup sheet in the Vestry on the bulletin board, or you may contact Betsy Cogliano at 781-275-9462 or at [laxmom5@aol.com](mailto:laxmom5@aol.com) or signup online at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20foe49aaab22a6f49-flowers>

## Coffee Hour



Is making coffee a Ministry? Absolutely! Coffee hour after church is as important as anything else we do as a church. Where else do you get to check in with your church friends, deepen your relationships and create a stronger sense of “joyful fellowship?” Please sign up to help on the bulletin board in the Vestry or online at this link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20foe49aaab22a6f49-coffee>

## Women’s Fellowship to Explore Women’s Leadership

Please join the Women’s Fellowship/Soul Sisters (WFSS) at **7 p.m. Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>**, in the vestry to explore Women’s Leadership.

Women have always been leaders! We will watch a TED Talk on leadership and explore the many ways women step up to serve. We’ll then discuss why we sometimes have mixed feelings about it, and why it’s important to support and develop future female leaders.

Our own Sarah Castricum and Nancy McKinney will lead the discussion. All church women are invited. Bring a friend or neighbor!

~ Allyson Printz ([allyson@printzfamily.us](mailto:allyson@printzfamily.us))  
~ Kathy Register ([registerk11@gmail.com](mailto:registerk11@gmail.com))

## November Deacon’s Offering

on November 5, 2017 is for:

### Bedford Food Pantry

Here is a little history about the Pantry: After several years participating in the Greater Boston Walk for Hunger, a local family decided to bring the fight against hunger closer to home. In January 1991 they began seeking volunteers and filing forms, and six months later the Bedford Community Table/Pantry became a reality. The organization has nonprofit 501(c)(3) status and is recognized as a charity by the IRS and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It is staffed solely by volunteers, and funded by donations from individuals, corporations and other organizations.

Each Thursday, volunteers prepare a complimentary community dinner for all at the Bedford Town Center on Mudge Way, and pack and hand out bags of groceries to area residents who need assistance. The pantry and the community dinner do not operate between Christmas and New Year’s, Thanksgiving, other holidays and Bedford Public Schools snow days. They offer community dinners only during the school year.

## Memorial Gifts



### General Memorial Fund:

*In Memory of Mike Gural*

~ Doris Webber

~ Ruth Beauchesne

### Nurture Fund:

*In Memory of Mike Gural*

~ David & Cathy Gray

### CROP Walk:

*In Memory of Mike Gural*

~ Virginia Doherty

~ Martha Hawkins

~ Gilda Couvé

## September 2017 Cabinet Notes

8 cabinet members in attendance. Cabinet minutes for June 2017 and August 2017 were accepted.

**Old Business:** The following motion was approved: That the First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC in Bedford adopt the following logo to represent same within and outside of the church. New flower urns have been purchased for front of the church. Sprinkler system in front of the church was repaired. Town paid for it. Yuletide Treasures Grand Finale and Handcrafter sale will be held on: Friday, November 3, 2017 from 6:00 – 9:00 PM and Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM



**New Business:** New cabinet members at large Barb Byam and Kelly Woessner were approved. Crop Walk will take place on Sunday, October 22, 2017 in Concord and will be dedicated to the memory of Mike Gural to acknowledge Mike's dedication to the event and service to First Church.

**Pastor's Report:** Reported a busy September: Gural memorial service, Homecoming Sunday, new sermon series on what the Bible says about contemporary issues. Discussed upcoming including creating a Church website update, sermon talk-back sessions after church, Bagels and Bible sessions at Bruegger's, mission trip presentation at Wonderful Wednesday, September 20, 2017 and Mission Sunday, October 15, 2017.

**Director of Christian Nurture:** Attendance on Homecoming Sunday was low but many families were away. Confirmation Class has 8 participants: 6 boys and 2 girls. Week 1 went well. Mary Criscione and Dotty Blake will hike in the Blue Hills with Middle Schoolers. Community Service Day is September 30 – something for all ages. Nursery needs volunteers, Kate is developing a Bible-based curriculum for children ages infant – kindergarten.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer is continuing to close the books on FY 2016. Operating deficit was \$52,824.68 (forecast for \$87,958). ~\$58,000 (an overage since the books aren't closed) was taken out of equity funds to cover the deficit. There was discussion about pension payments made in FY2015 and FY2016.

**Outreach Board:** Meeting scheduled for September 19, 2017. \$5,415.56 available funds. Last year's Flower Fund is \$607 over budget. Funds will be re-assigned by the treasurer.

**Nurture Board:** Searching for a new board Chair. SPAN has dissolved, so health kits will be assembled and send to Church World Service.

**Stewardship Board:** Kitchen water pipes no longer mix hot and cold water. Vestry carpeting will be replaced.

**Board of Deacons:** scheduling is difficult due to low # of deacons. Congregants will be asked to usher. Next deacons meeting is October 1, 2017.

**Other Business:** Bedford Day – Saturday, September 23, 2017: Shade, drinking water, and seating will be provided. Pie-baking Tuesday, October 3, 2017 (soup dinner provided). Turkey Dinner Saturday, October 14, 2017 (Dotty Blake, lead)

**Cabinet Meeting Schedule:** Start time 7:05 PM, continue to meet on Tuesday: October 10, 2017, November 14, 2017, December 12, 2017

Meeting adjourned 8:43 PM

~ Kelly Woessner, Temporary Scribe

### Advent Devotionals

Once again, the Deacons are pleased to offer Advent Devotionals to the congregation to help us prepare for Christmas. These devotionals are written by the U.C.C.'s "Stillspeaking Writer's Group" who offer daily devotionals via email. This year's theme is "Watch," encouraging us to pay attention to our spiritual lives in preparation for the coming of the Messiah. **Feel free to pick up a devotional for your family in the Narthex, at the Vestry entrance to the Sanctuary or in the church office.**

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References November 2017 (Years A & B)

### Wed., Nov. 1

Psalm 119:41-48  
Deuteronomy 26:16—27:7  
Matthew 19:16-22

### Thurs., Nov. 2

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
Joshua 1:1-11  
Romans 2:17-29

### Fri., Nov. 3

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
Joshua 2:1-14  
2 Peter 2:1-3

### Sat., Nov. 4

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
Joshua 2:15-24  
Matthew 23:13-28

### Sun., Nov. 5

*Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Joshua 3:7-17  
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12

### Mon., Nov. 6

Psalm 128  
Joshua 4:1-24  
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

### Tues., Nov. 7

Psalm 128  
Joshua 6:1-16, 20  
Acts 13:1-12

### Wed., Nov. 8

Psalm 128  
Joshua 10:12-14  
Matthew 15:1-9

### Thurs., Nov. 9

Psalm 78:1-7  
Joshua 5:10-12  
Revelation 8:6—9:12

### Fri., Nov. 10

Psalm 78:1-7  
Joshua 8:30-35  
Revelation 9:13-21

### Sat., Nov. 11

Psalm 78:1-7  
Joshua 20:1-9  
Matthew 24:1-14

### Sun., Nov. 12

*Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Psalm 78:1-7  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

### Mon., Nov. 13

Psalm 78  
Joshua 24:25-33  
1 Corinthians 14:20-25

### Tues., Nov. 14

Psalm 78  
Nehemiah 8:1-12  
1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

### Wed., Nov. 15

Psalm 78  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Matthew 24:29-35

### Thurs., Nov. 16

Psalm 123  
Judges 2:6-15  
Revelation 16:1-7

### Fri., Nov. 17

Psalm 123  
Judges 2:16-23  
Revelation 16:8-21

### Sat., Nov. 18

Psalm 123  
Judges 5:1-12  
Matthew 12:43-45

### Sun., Nov. 19

*Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Judges 4:1-7  
Psalm 123  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30

### Mon., Nov. 20

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18  
Judges 4:8-24  
Romans 2:1-11

### Tues., Nov. 21

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18  
Exodus 2:1-10  
1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

### Wed., Nov. 22

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18  
Esther 7:1-10  
Matthew 24:45-51

### Thurs., Nov. 23

*Thanksgiving*  
Deuteronomy 8:7-18  
Psalm 65  
2 Corinthians 9:6-15  
Luke 17:11-19

### Fri., Nov. 24

Psalm 100  
Isaiah 40:1-11  
Revelation 22:1-9

### Sat., Nov. 25

Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 34:25-31  
Matthew 12:46-50

### Sun., Nov. 26

*Reign of Christ*  
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 100  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46

### Mon., Nov. 27

Psalm 28  
Numbers 27:15-23  
2 Timothy 2:8-13

### Tues., Nov. 28

Psalm 28  
Zechariah 11:4-17  
Revelation 19:1-9

### Wed., Nov. 29

Psalm 28  
Jeremiah 31:10-14  
John 5:19-40

### Thurs., Nov. 30

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Zechariah 13:1-9  
Revelation 14:6-13



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~ November 2017 ~

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Mon                                                                                   | Tue                                                                                                                                                               | Wed                                                                                | Thu                                                                                                                                                         | Fri                                                                                                                                          | Sat                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>1</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7a Men's Group (V)                                      | <b>2</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>8a Bible & Bagels (Bruegger's)<br>9a Coffee & Conversation Bible Study (Bruegger's)<br>7:30p AA (UFH)<br>7:30p Adult Choir(MR)   | <b>3</b><br>Pastor John Day Off<br>6a AA (UFH)<br>6p AA (LFH)<br>6p Craft Fair: Yuletide Treasures Grand Finale and Handicrafters Sale (ALL) | <b>4</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>10a Craft Fair: Yuletide Treasures Grand Finale and Handicrafters Sale (ALL) |
| <b>5</b><br>COMMUNION<br>6a AA (UFH)<br>8:15a 8:15 Discussion Group (V)<br>8:45a Jubilee Ringers (S)<br>9:30a Children's Choir (S)<br>10a Worship (S)<br>6:30p Prayer Group (P)                                           | <b>6</b><br>December 2017 Newsletter Deadline<br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7p Jubilee Bells (MR) | <b>7</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7:45a Indian Dance Group (UFH)<br>9a Coffee & Conversation (Bruegger's)<br>6:45p AA (12 Step Men) (Room 5)                             | <b>8</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7a Men's Group (V)<br>6p Wonderful Wednesday (UFH/KV)   | <b>9</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>8a Bible & Bagels (Bruegger's)<br>9a Coffee & Conversation Bible Study (Bruegger's)<br>7p Nurture Board (V)<br>7:30p AA (UFH)    | <b>10</b><br>Office Closed<br>Pastor John Day Off<br>6a AA (UFH)<br>6p AA (UFH)                                                              | <b>11 Veterans' Day</b><br>6a AA (UFH)                                                                  |
| <b>12</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>8:15a 8:15 Discussion Group (V)<br>8:30a Adult Choir (MR)<br>10a Worship (S)<br>11:30a Sermon Talk Back (P)<br>6:30p Confirmation (V)<br>6:30p Prayer Group (P)                               | <b>13</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>10a La Leche League (V)<br>7p Jubilee Bells (MR)          | <b>14</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7:30a Women's Fellowship Breakfast (Riverview-Billerica)<br>9a Coffee & Conversation (Bruegger's)<br>6:45p AA (R 5)<br>7p Cabinet (V) | <b>15</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7a Men's Group (Vestry)<br>10a Newsletter Folding (MR) | <b>16</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>8a Bible & Bagels (Bruegger's)<br>9a Coffee & Conversation Bible Study (Bruegger's)<br>7:30p AA (UFH)<br>7:30p Adult Choir (MR) | <b>17</b><br>Pastor John Day Off<br>6a AA (UFH)<br>6p AA (UFH)                                                                               | <b>18</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>1p Cradles to Crayons (Concord)                                             |
| <b>19</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>8:15a 8:15 Discussion Group (V)<br>9a Adult Choir (MR)<br>10a Worship (S)<br>6:30p Prayer Group (P)<br>6:30p Youth Group (V)                                                                  | <b>20</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7p Jubilee Bells (MR)                                     | <b>21</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>9a Coffee & Conversation (Bruegger's)<br>6:45p AA (R 5)                                                                               | <b>22</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7a Men's Group (V)                                     | <b>23 Thanksgiving</b><br>Office Closed<br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7:30p AA (UFH)                                                                                    | <b>24</b><br>Office Closed<br>Pastor John Day Off<br>6a AA (UFH)<br>6p AA (UFH)                                                              | <b>25</b><br>6a AA (UFH)                                                                                |
| <b>26</b><br>1st Sunday of Advent<br>6a AA (UFH)<br>8:15a 8:15 Discussion Group (V)<br>10a Worship (S)<br>11:30a Children's Choir (MR)<br>11:30a Sermon Talk Back (P)<br>6:30p Confirmation (V)<br>6:30p Prayer Group (P) | <b>27</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7p Jubilee Bells (MR)                                     | <b>28</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>9a Coffee & Conversation (Bruegger's)<br>6:45p AA (R 5)<br>7:30p NAMI (R 4)                                                           | <b>29</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7a Men's Group (V)                                     | <b>30</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>8a Bible & Bagels (Bruegger's)<br>9a Coffee & Conversation Bible Study (Bruegger's)<br>7:30p AA (UFH)<br>7:30p Adult Choir (MR) |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                         |



~ November Worship ~  
10:00 am in the Sanctuary



November 5  
All Saints Sunday

*“Bigger Than Yourself”*

Rev. John Castricum, Sr. Pastor

Hebrews 12: 1-12

November 12

*“Living Our Mission”*

Rev. John Castricum, Sr. Pastor

Luke 6: 37-38

November 19

*“Headwinds and Tailwinds”*

Rev. John Castricum, Sr. Pastor

Psalm 103

November 26  
1st Sunday in Advent

*“The Birth of the Messiah: Mark”*

Rev. John Castricum, Sr. Pastor

Mark 1: 1-11

Thank you for your help in publishing our newsletter on time. Our next Newsletter deadline is **November 6, 2017**. Our next mailing is **November 15, 2017**. Please send you email articles to: [fchurchb2@verizon.net](mailto:fchurchb2@verizon.net). Thank you.

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