

# THE CHURCH BELL

SEPTEMBER 2017

## The First Congregational Church Newsletter

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ  
At 26 Central Street in West Boylston  
online at [www.fccwb.com](http://www.fccwb.com)

*The Lord has yet more light and truth to break forth  
from his holy Word.”*  
~John Robinson, pastor to the Pilgrims



*“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and let anyone who believes in me drink.  
As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’”*  
~ John 7:37-38 NRSV

### SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship and Church School at 10:15 a.m.  
Childcare will be provided for all Sunday services starting September 10.

#### *September 3 ~ The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost* *Worship returns to 10:15*

The Reverend Wallace A. Hurd IV preaching  
*The Sacrament of Christian Baptism*  
*The Sacrament of Holy Communion*

#### *September 10~ The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost* *Homecoming Sunday*

The Reverend Wallace A. Hurd IV preaching  
Church School will resume.  
The Chancel Choir will return to the loft.

***A Festive Homecoming Reception follows worship in Fellowship Hall.***

#### *September 17 ~ The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

The Reverend Wallace A. Hurd IV preaching  
Chancel Ringers

#### *September 24 ~ The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

The Reverend Wallace A. Hurd IV preaching  
Chancel Choir

*Hurd in the Halls.....2*

*Thank You Notes*  
*Prayer and Praise*  
*Church Office Hours.....3*

*Christian Outreach*  
*IHN*  
*Church School News.....4*

*Adult Discussion Group*  
*Community Nursery School*  
*Second Chance Thrift Shop*  
*Church Register.....5*

*Church Auction.....6*

*Fall Fundraisers.....7*

*Crossroads Youth Group*  
*Fall Schedule.....Insert*

*Birthdays*  
*Church Staff /Address.....Back Page*



## *Hurd in the Halls.....*

Welcome back!

On September 10th, we'll gather together in our sanctuary and welcome one another home. We'll share stories of vacations and family trips, camping and long car rides, joys and sorrows. We'll sing and pray and come together as the Church in worship. And following worship, we'll have a time of food and fellowship, provided for all by the Board of Church Life.

I invite you to come home that morning, with your eyes and ears and hearts open. I invite you to come home, to be reminded of the comfort of home and to embrace what new things this home might become. I invite you to come home, to bask in the safety and security of a place that welcomes you and loves you, and to find the courage and inspiration to try new things to live out that welcome and share that love.

I once heard someone compare church to "an old sweater." And, indeed, there are many times when we all need the comfort, reassurance, and familiarity that such a church can bring. In times of trial and trouble and struggle, I have seen the people of this church come together and be that "old sweater" for those in need. I have seen them -- I have seen you! -- give generously and love deeply. When we sing old, familiar tunes, I see faces light up, connecting with their tradition and history, comforted and assured. It is a blessing to be a comfort to those in need.

Yet, church cannot *only* be that old sweater. If we do only what makes us comfortable, and live and serve in ways that only make us feel good about ourselves, we are not really being the church. We can forget or neglect those who are beyond our doors, or even push away those who enter through them. We can limit ourselves, our gifts, and our love because we are more concerned with how we're feeling than what God is calling us to do.

Jesus came to all people in love. Jesus was and is the surest sign of God's love and mercy. And as the church, we are called to be the presence of that love and mercy. And we are called to bring it more fully into the world, with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit. We are invited to participate in God's continuing revelation, not just celebrate the work that has already been done for us through Jesus Christ. To do so, we need to be open to hearing the Spirit's call to us, and challenged to live up to that call, and inspired and invigorated by the truth of our faith. And we need to be willing to be uncomfortable, to take off that old sweater, and try on something new. Maybe it will fit even better than we imagined.

Blessings,  
Chip

*Thank  
You*

*Lyle and I appreciate the beautiful altar flowers. It was great to have a visit with the Reverend George Vogel who delivered them to us.*

*Sincerely,  
Shirley and Lyle Smith*

*I wish to thank "My friends @ First Congregational Church, W.B." for the lovely card and continued prayers of sympathy in the loss of my friend. It was most kind - God Bless each of you.*

*Carol Ann Hamilton*

*Dear Church Friends,*

*I need to express to you my deep appreciation for the outpouring of love, prayers, cards, and gifts of food etc. that I have received during the months of April through June. All of you were especially caring and helpful after my husband's death. I was overwhelmed with grief, uncertainty, and deep sorrow. I would never have made it through those first few weeks without you. This is truly a congregation filled with Love and the Spirit of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

*I thank you with all my heart, and may you all feel blessed to belong to this church, as I do.*

*Carol Rotti*

### *Prayer and Praise*

#### *All those with health concerns:*

Jim Bronwell  
Carol Rotti  
Cayleigh Lynne Gilroy-granddaughter of Carol Ann Hamilton's friend  
Robert Comeau-Nancy White's son  
Lynne Pierce-Arlette and Bill Peterson's friend  
Steven Small  
Sophia Landeo  
Ralph-Lori Rotti's brother  
Ron Newman, Dan Newman's father  
Bernadette White—one of our faithful Second Chance Thrift Shop stewards  
Carolyn Small Plummer-Steven Small's sister  
Daryn Gillies-Beverly Fisher's cousin  
Lyle Smith  
David Holmes-Amie Dehner's step-father  
Bill Nierintz  
Margaret Borge  
Jan Malcolmson  
Paula Leftwich-Heidi Leftwich's mother-in-law  
Helen-Lauren Espe's friend  
Tony-Sharon Seale's brother-in-law



#### *Wider concerns:*

Thanksgiving for all who come through our doors.  
Our service men and women around the world and their families.  
Those who are unemployed among us and around the country.

***The October Bell Deadline is  
Thursday, September 14.***

Send address changes to [administrator@fccwb.com](mailto:administrator@fccwb.com)

#### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**TELEPHONE: 508-835-4462 FAX: 508-835-4463**

**OFFICE EMAIL: [administrator@fccwb.com](mailto:administrator@fccwb.com)**

**WEBSITE: [www.fccwb.com](http://www.fccwb.com)**

Messages may be left on the church phone system for the staff at any time. Acting Senior Pastor **Wallace "Chip" Hurd** (ext. 101). Bookkeeper—**Cindy Testa** (ext. 103) Administrative Assistant—**Lisa Fisher** (ext. 100)

#### **Staff Email addresses are:**

Chip: [whurd@fccwb.com](mailto:whurd@fccwb.com)

George: [gvogel@charter.net](mailto:gvogel@charter.net)

Financial Office: [financial@fccwb.com](mailto:financial@fccwb.com)

Christian Ed Office: [pjmdoon@msn.com](mailto:pjmdoon@msn.com)

Community Nursery School: [cnswb@fccwb.com](mailto:cnswb@fccwb.com)



## CHRISTIAN OUTREACH BOARD NEWS

### Upcoming Events...

#### JOHN STREET SOUP KITCHEN

Our next opportunity to volunteer at the **John Street Soup Kitchen** will be: Saturday, September 2

We need:

- 30 lbs. of mashed potatoes in 5lb increments
- Desserts: 4 dozen squares or cookies
- **Deliver to our church kitchen by 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, September 2**
- People to help serve



Please contact Dave O'Brien at 508-835-8929 or [dnbobrien@gmail.com](mailto:dnbobrien@gmail.com) for more information.

#### HOPE for HOUSING

##### PURCHASE GROCERY CARDS

CVS Stop & Shop Big Y Shaw's Hannaford

##### *Build a Habit...Save a Home*

Together, we can end family homelessness!  
Food Cards are available for purchase each Sunday following worship.

##### Checks are accepted for payment

- You purchase food cards- value from \$10 - \$100
- You receive the full face value of the card you purchase.
- What you don't spend remains on your card for later use.
- The store donates 5% of what you spend to prevent family homelessness.



Interfaith  
Hospitality  
Network  
of Greater Worcester

### Coming up soon...

Sunday, September 24 through Saturday, September 30 is our congregation's next Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) volunteer support week. Signups will start soon for both evening and overnight coverage. Anyone with interest should contact John Owanisian ([jowanisian@charter.net](mailto:jowanisian@charter.net), 508-835-3502).

## Church School News



Welcome Back!!!!

We cannot wait until church comes back together to worship and church school resumes. We are looking forward to another fun filled year of church school. We have lots of fun bible stories and crafts and games to do with all of you. We have great lessons to share to prepare the older grades for confirmation. We hope to see you on Sundays in church and church school. Your teachers, Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Rauktis, Mrs. Espe, Mr. Landeo, Mr. Franger and Mrs. Holt are anxiously waiting for you to return.

We ask all parents to please stop by the registration table in Fellowship hall and fill out a registration form for your children. It is important we have up to date information for your child. We want to make sure we have correct grade information, allergy information and any other information that you think we may find helpful.

If anyone has any ideas for lessons, crafts or projects to share with the children please let one of the pastors or myself or someone on the CE board know, We love to have visitors to our classrooms.

Thanks,

Pam Doonan on behalf of the CE board.



#### TABLES AND CHAIRS

If you wish to borrow tables and chairs for a family event, please make arrangements with Lisa Fisher in the church office.

Please note that the new red seat folding chairs that we use in fellowship hall are not available



### Adult Discussion Group September 2017

Greetings from the Adult Discussion Group! I hope that everyone has enjoyed a wonderful summer.

The Adult Discussion Group will be returning to our Wednesday night meetings beginning at 7.00 PM on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

At our closing dinner last June, the group decided to begin our study with the book by Henri Nouwen entitled, "The Return of the Prodigal Son." Nouwen was a Dutch Catholic Priest who wrote many books concerning our relationship with God. In "The Return of the Prodigal Son," Nouwen explores the teachings of Jesus as written in this well-known parable from the Gospel of Luke. In this book, Nouwen reminds us that at times we act as self-centered young children, while at other times as jealous older children. However, Jesus calls us to be forgiving and full of mercy.

The special anniversary edition of the book and its companion and prequel "Home Tonight", are available at the church office at a cost of \$18.00. Books will also be available at our first session on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Please come and join us for what promises to be a faithful series that reminds us of our call true call as children of God.

Blessings, George



CNS had a great summer and we are ready for the new school year which will begin on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to be implementing a new curriculum in the preschool classroom called The Creative Curriculum. Our infant, toddler and pre-school room are pretty much full with just a few random spots open if you know anyone looking for care. We also have 3 spots open in our pre-k classroom.

Heidi Pisano, Director

Second Chance Thrift Shop  
First Congregational Church  
26 Central Street  
2nd Floor  
West Boylston, MA



The new season begins Wednesday, September 6. We look forward to your support.

We always need volunteers, merchandise & patrons. Call Darlene 978-256-3484 or the church office with questions.

Thanks to all,

Bernie, Beverly, Darlene, Dawn, Donna, Melda, and Sharlene



### **WB FOOD PANTRY**

First Congregational Church  
partners with Oakdale United  
Methodist, Christ Lutheran and Our

Lady of Good Council churches in West Boylston to host a Food Pantry. It is open from 1-4 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Donations of food and money are always welcome.

**Current Pantry Needs include:**

**Toilet paper, paper towels, tissues  
toothbrushes and toothpaste.**

Please check all items for expiration dates as we have to discard any items that have expired.

Donations may be left in the blue bins in the ramp entrance. Thanks so much for your generosity.

This project was funded in part by a grant from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

### ***The Church Register***

#### ***Deaths***

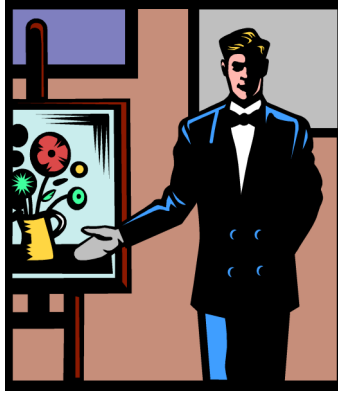
*Howard Rotti*

*July 3*

*Steven Osterberg*

*August 5*





## **Friends and Family Church Auction**

*“A casual night of food, fellowship, and family fun”*

**Coming Soon:  
Saturday, September 30, 2017  
4:30 - 8:00**

Going once, twice, three times...Sold! Yup, it's time to get excited for another great church auction. The fun begins at 4:30 on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Donations have started coming in and plans are coming together. Here's a preview of what you can expect.

**Dinner:** Jen Newman's team is planning to spice things up with a “Chili Cookoff” with salads, side dishes, munchies, and dessert.

**Silent Auction:** We have baskets filled with goodies for upcoming holidays – Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas; themed baskets designed for children, sports enthusiasts, family game night; gift certificates to local merchants; hand-crafted works of art and jewelry; and more.

**Live Auction:** You'll be bidding on Hanover Theater gift certificates; delicious dinners prepared by church members; holiday baked goods, cheesecakes, pies, and pastries; airport shuttles; lunch with Steven & Kelley Small; family adventures and activities; antiques and collectibles; professional photography; and more.

Everyday we're hearing from more and more church members, and every week we are receiving more donations from the local business community. The auction looks to be better than ever and all we need from you is your support – donate, attend, bring a friend, and enjoy this great night of fellowship and fun.

Contact Heather or Paul Krasnov for more information. Email us at [HDKrasnov@gmail.com](mailto:HDKrasnov@gmail.com) or [PHKrasnov@gmail.com](mailto:PHKrasnov@gmail.com), or call 508-829-9248.



## **Fall Fundraisers**

**Save the dates and start planning now!**

**September 23**

**All Church Bazaar and Bake Sale 9:00—1:00  
(start putting your attic and garage treasures aside now!)**

**November 19**

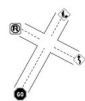
**Thanksgiving Bake Sale**

**\*Including preserves, jams, jellies, salsa, pickles, relish ~ if any-  
one wants to learn how to make these please call  
Donelle Wright 774-364-4444\***

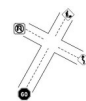
**Canning jars needed!!!**

**If you have any 4, 8, 12 or 16oz jars please contact Donelle  
Wright. No quarts please, and "screw top" only-no bail jars.**

**Any questions please contact Donelle Wright [donellebwright@charter.net](mailto:donellebwright@charter.net)  
or Dan Newman [dan.newman17@gmail.com](mailto:dan.newman17@gmail.com).**



# Crossroads



## Youth Group Schedule - Fall 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
September 9	Saturday	2:00 - 4:00 PM	Kick-off BBQ
September 24	Sunday	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Meeting
October 8	Sunday	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Meeting
October 29	Sunday	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Meeting - Halloween Party
November 12	Sunday	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Meeting
November 26	Sunday	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Meeting
December 17	Sunday	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Christmas Party



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**26 CENTRAL STREET, WEST BOYLSTON, MA 01583-1600**

*The Reverend Wallace A. Hurd IV, Acting Senior Pastor*  
*The Reverend George E. Vogel, Associate Pastor Emeritus*  
*William E. Nierintz, Ch.M., Minister of Music Emeritus*  
*Cindy Testa, Bookkeeper*

*Kristjon Imperio, Minister of Music*  
*Lisa A. Fisher, Administrative Assistant, Editor*  
*Kendrik Imperio, Custodian*  
*Heidi Pisano, Community Nursery School Director*

*The Reverend Steven A. Small, Senior Pastor is on medical leave.*

**PHONE: 508-835-4462**

**FAX: 508-835-4463**

**EMAIL: [administrator@fccwb.com](mailto:administrator@fccwb.com)**

**WEBSITE: [www.fccwb.com](http://www.fccwb.com)**



01 Owen Cahn  
 02 Jackson Espe  
 02 Dennis Parker  
 05 Matthew Holt  
 06 Ace Shliapa  
 08 Muriel Stiles  
 09 Liz Franger  
 09 Grace Leslie  
 09 Melinda Minville  
 09 Sarah Rowell  
 09 Joseph Testagrossa  
 12 Evelyn Keith  
 13 Helen Holt  
 14 Callie Cahn  
 16 Roy Hayward

19 James Chamberlain  
 21 Levi Raymond  
 22 Connie Stewart  
 23 David Coviello  
 23 Lynne Pierce  
 25 John Benson  
 25 Rebecca Bourque  
 27 Jacquelyn Leveille  
 28 Dawn Seiple  
 29 Tyler Franger  
 29 Carol Ann Hamilton  
 29 Cathleen Ketchum  
 30 Robert Denny  
 30 Marissa Gardner