



The Link



First Congregational Church of Stoughton, United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

June 2019

Our Vision

*We are called together to embrace God's transformation of our lives and our world
by becoming and serving as Christ's disciples.*



Dear Friends in Christ,

A few months ago, Rev. Don Remick, the Massachusetts Interim Conference Minister, asked me to serve as a delegate to General Synod, a national gathering of the United Church of Christ that is held every two years. It seemed as if Don had read my mind, because I've never been to General Synod and had been thinking that I should consider going this year.

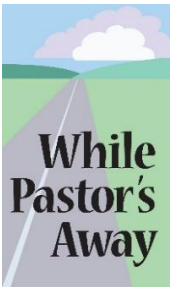
Attending Synod as an official delegate is exciting and also comes with a lot of responsibility. Delegates (there will be 47 of us from Massachusetts) conduct the business of the United Church of Christ and set priorities for our future ministries. Our days will be long, beginning with breakfast meetings at 6:30 AM. We will study various issues, worship together, and participate in local community service projects.

Delegates from all over the country will be voting on resolutions pertaining to the abolishing of private prisons, the state of global forced migration, the prevention of nuclear war, and one that directly pertains to us, the merger of the Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island Conferences. Climate justice, racism, gender language, and several other issues will also be discussed and voted upon.

The theme of General Synod 2019 is based on Matthew 5:16: "In the same way let your light shine before others." Please pray for me, and all the delegates who will meet in Milwaukee from June 21-25, that we will let our individual and collective lights shine brightly for the benefit of Christ's church. I truly love the United Church of Christ and consider it an honor to serve our denomination, and by extension, our local churches, in this way.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Mary



Pastor Mary's next scheduled week off is **June 13-19**. She will also be away **June 20-26**, as she is a delegate to the United Church of Christ General Synod, which is being held in Milwaukee. Ann-Marie Illsley will be leading worship on June 23. If you have any pastoral care needs during this time, please contact Kay Giroux at 781-344-3014.



BASEBALL SUNDAY—JULY 28

Our third annual Baseball Sunday will take place on **July 28 at 10:00 AM**. There will be extra fans in attendance as our neighbors at First United Methodist Church will be joining us. Expect Cracker Jacks, a seventh inning stretch, "the Wave," and a sermon with a baseball theme. Wear your favorite team's jersey and hat. Baseball Sunday is a wonderful day to invite a friend to come to church with you to see that worship can be fun and joyful!



This month we extend our gratitude to **Roisin Kirby, Shannon Baglole, Kevin Monahan, Marcia Olson, and John Baglole** for planting our Community Garden. We also thank our Office Assistant, **Ellen Cooley**, for the extra time she put in to compile our Annual Reports. We are grateful to **Russ Clough, Marcia Olson, and Anita Keenan** for their help with Faith4Life, Confirmation, and the Prayground, respectively. We are very blessed!



Book
Of Life

Baptism

Zoey Marie Noelte, daughter of Kurt and Jenna Noelte, was baptized by Pastor Mary on May 12.

Death

Barbara Burrill Rivers, whose funeral service was led by Pastor Mary at Farley Funeral Home on May 2.



Thank you from the Perry Family

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the love and care you gave us after Robert's injury. His recuperation is going well, thanks in no small part to your concern and thoughtfulness. We appreciate all you have done and are very grateful to be part of the wonderful community at UCC Stoughton.

May God bless you with whatever you need most.

Mary and Robert



Altar Flowers

ALTAR FLOWERS: If you would like to have flowers on the altar in memory of someone or in honor of a person or event, let us know.

For more information email the church office at office@uccstoughton.com or contact Janet Clough at 781-344-3860 | cloughjr@verizon.net



Just a friendly reminder from the Board of Trustees that church salaries and expenses don't take a summer vacation. Even if you are more relaxed about your schedule during the summer, we ask that you faithfully honor your annual stewardship pledge to support our regular church operations during the summer months.

If you are away, you can mail your pledge to the church office, attention to the Offerings Clerk. Or, you can automate your financial commitment so that your contribution will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis. To set up a recurring giving schedule, please visit us online at www.uccstoughton.org, locate the online giving button and set up your recurring schedule.

Thank you for your continued support of our church.



Please submit any Sunday worship bulletin notices to the church office by **8:30 am on Tuesday**. Articles for the **September LINK** will be due by **August 17**. Contact the church office with any changes or additions to the church calendar.



Please Be Considerate Where You Park

Due to the limited number of spaces in our parking lot, we have signs that say, "*Reserved for Those Requiring Proximity Parking*," and ask that you leave these for individuals who can only walk short distances. We ask all people who are physically able to consider parking in one of the spots in front of the park on Pierce Street. This frees up spots in the lot for those who really need to park closer to the entrance. Also, we ask you to remember not to park in any spot that has a "No Parking" sign, or in the Fire Lanes. Thank you for your cooperation.



Happy Birthday to the Church!

Pentecost Sunday is typically considered to be the birthday of the Christian church. We celebrate that birthday right here at First Congregational Church as well. And what is a birthday without any presents? Pentecost Sunday is June 9 so we hope that you will help us keep the party going throughout June by bringing a gift to keep our church running smoothly and help stretch the budget.

Here is what is on our Wish List

CE/Office Supplies	Kitchen Supplies	Custodial Supplies
Staples gift cards	Food storage containers	Paper Towels
Craft store gift cards	7" dessert paper plates	Toilet Paper
Postage Stamps	Beverage napkins	Hand soap refills
	New sponges	Kid-friendly hand sanitizer
	New dish towels	Tri-fold bathroom towels
		Lowes/Home Depot gift cards

We will gratefully accept your gifts at any time!



CHURCH CALENDAR MEETING

Time to fill in the calendar for our 2019-2020 program year. A representative from all small groups, boards, and committees are asked to attend a short meeting on **Sunday, June 23 at 11:00 AM** to get all known meetings and planned events on the church calendar. If a representative of your group cannot attend the meeting, please submit your dates to Marcia Olson by Saturday, June 22 by putting your submission in the Church Council mailbox or emailing baglole.olson@verizon.net.



What's Happening This Month?



Opportunities

- **Jun 2 (Sun):** Church school classes - **Faith4Life class** for middle school students, led by Mr. Russ Clough, will meet in the Fireplace Room just after communion. **Confirmation class** will meet in the downstairs classroom after worship.
- **Jun 6 (Thu):** Please join Pastor Mary in the Fireplace Room at 11:45am for **Lunch with the Pastor**. Bring a brown bag lunch and she will provide beverages and dessert. This is a nice way to share what's going on in our lives. Bring a friend! All are welcome.
- **Jun 9 (Sun):** Join us in worship this Pentecost Sunday as we celebrate the Rite of Confirmation with Colleen Cesario, Ashlyn O'Connell and Riley O'Connell where they "confirm" their baptismal vows their parents took for them when they were much younger and they are welcomed as members of the First Congregational Church of Stoughton.
- **Jun 16 (Sun):** This Sunday we worship with our sisters and brothers at the **First United Methodist Church**, 103 Pleasant Street. Note that worship begins at **9:30 AM**.
- **Jun 18 (Tue): Community Flute and Organ Concert** presented by Steve Tapper and Linda Brookfield will begin at **7:00 PM**. The music is by 20th composers (Charles Callahan, Alan Hovhaness, Jehan Alain, Ernest Bloch, Gabriel Faure, Antonio Carlos Jobim, John Rutter) and the concert is supported in part from a grant from the Stoughton Cultural Council and is free of charge.
- **Jun 29 (Sat): "The Breakfast Club,"** a group of faithful men and women, meets on the last Saturday of every month at 9am at the IHOP at Westgate Mall in Brockton. All are welcome. If you have any questions or need a ride, contact Bob Kuver at 781-341-2751.
- **Project 275:** It's our church's 275th anniversary this year and we are looking for volunteers to help plan our celebration. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Mary, John Baglolo or Charlene Smith.



Opportunities to Serve

- **Jun 17 (Mon): Friendly Service** meets from 10am to 2pm to work on community and worldwide service projects such as quilts for local homeless shelters, school kits for Church World Service, and mending kits for Seafarer's Friend. You can even bring projects to work on at home if you are unable to make our monthly gathering. Many hands make light work. Please contact Janet Clough at 781-344-3860 for more information.

- **Jun 19 (Wed): Mainspring House:** Every other month UCC Stoughton provides dinner for Brockton's homeless shelter. There are lots of ways to help. Volunteer to serve dinner from 3:30-6pm – it's a great way for a family or a few friends to serve together. Make a casserole – it can be made ahead, frozen and dropped off to the church the Sunday before it's our night to serve. Make a monetary donation to defray the cost of salad and dessert. We are so grateful to all who faithfully volunteer to make meals or serve every time we ask – living out Jesus' most basic tenet – 'whatsoever you do for the least of these you do unto me.' Please sign up after coffee hour on Sunday or contact Charlene Smith (CJTS107@comcast.net | 781-254-5910).
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Our group meets every Wednesday at 10am to knit prayer shawls for those who need to feel God's loving care wrapped around them. We also work on knit goods for the church fair. Don't know how to knit? We will be happy to teach you. Please join us.
- **Community Garden:** The garden has been planted! We need folks to tend and care for the garden over the summer months so we can share God's bounty with our neighbors.
- **Coffee Hour Hosts:** We all enjoy visiting with friends over a snack and a cup of coffee after worship. Please consider taking a turn hosting a coffee hour and sign up on the volunteer board to cover a Sunday.



Opportunities to

- **Food Pantry:** Each month on Communion Sunday we collect non-perishable food items to share with our neighbors who are facing challenging circumstances and food insecurity at the Ilse Marks Food Pantry. As we come to the Lord's Table, let us share our blessings with others.
- **Bottles and Cans:** Please donate your clean, redeemable bottles and cans from your holiday events and parties. They can be left in the drop-off box at the bottom of the stairs just before the church office. Monetary donations are always gratefully accepted and the money collected is used for various church ministries and operational needs. Contact Maurine Upton for more information.
- **Needy Persons Fund:** Every Communion Sunday we invite you to make a special donation to this fund through which we are able to offer assistance to individuals in need. Please put your donation in the white offering envelopes found in the pews, which unless marked otherwise, will be placed in the Needy Persons' Fund. Through your generosity, we are able to help many people. *Thank you!* If you are experiencing difficult financial circumstances and could use some help through our Needy Persons' Fund, please speak to Pastor Mary in confidence.



AT HOME, IN NURSING HOMES, AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES
For those who wish to send greetings, the following list is included:

Jennifer Alholm
 156 Dean Street
 South Easton, MA 02375

Wayne Alholm
 149 Homeland Drive
 Whitman, MA 02382
 (781) 523-1640

Doris Bamberg
 Copley at Stoughton Nursing Care Center
 380 Sumner Street
 Stoughton, MA 02072
 (781) 341-2300

Walter Bamberg
 2330 Central St.
 Stoughton, MA 02072

Amanda Cushing
 103 Benson Road
 Stoughton MA 02072

Fred Dimond
 382 Prospect St.
 Stoughton, MA 02072

Amy Fowler
 The Arbors
 2121 Central Street
 Room 219
 Stoughton, MA 02072

Judy Giannangelo
 148A Britton Ave
 Stoughton, MA 02072

Maizie John
 Bridges by Epoch
 140 University Ave.
 Westwood, MA 02090

Betty Lambert
 19 Rose Street Unit #4
 Stoughton, MA
 (781) 436-3416

Rev. Jean Lenk
 229 Old Plymouth Road
 Sagamore Beach, MA. 02562

Dorothy Dawe
 The Arbors
 2121 Central Street
 Apt 112
 Stoughton, MA 02072
 (781) 344-8367

Muriel Rowland
 92 Cedar Hill Dr. Apt. 202
 Windsor, VT 05089

Ruth Scrivens
 18 Daly Dr.
 Stoughton, MA 02072

James Williamson
 Hellenic Nursing and Rehab Center
 601 Sherman Street
 Canton, MA 02021

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Pastor Mary off 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 1:00 PM BRC-Sanctuary/2ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen	27 MEMORIAL DAY 7:00 PM Rel Addiction	28 6:00 AM BRC-FR 8:30 AM N&N Deadline	29 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl	30 6:00 AM BRC-FR 7:00 PM AA 8:00 PM BRC	31 6:00 AM BRC-FR	1 6:00 AM Boston Renewal Church 11:00 AM AA
2 COMMUNION 10:00 AM Faith4Life Class 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 11:00 AM Healing Prayers 1:00 PM BRC-Sanctuary/2ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen	3 7:00 PM Rel Addiction	4 6:00 AM BRC-FR 8:30 AM N&N Deadline 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	5 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl 11:45 AM Missions/Outreach 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:30 AM Caring Committee 11:45 AM Lunch with the Pastor 7:00 PM AA 8:00 PM BRC	7 6:00 AM BRC-FR	8 11:00 AM AA
9 PENTECOST SUNDAY 10:00 AM Confirmation 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Worship & Music 1:00 PM BRC-Sanctuary/2ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen	10 7:00 PM Rel Addiction	11 6:00 AM BRC-FR 8:30 AM N&N Deadline 7:00 PM Church Council	12 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl	13 Pastor Mary off 6:00 AM BRC-FR 7:00 PM AA 8:00 PM BRC	14 Pastor Mary off 6:00 AM BRC-FR	15 Pastor Mary off 11:00 AM AA
16 9:30 AM Worship at First United Methodist 1:00 PM BRC-Sanctuary/2ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen	17 LINK Deadline Pastor Mary off 10:00 AM Friendly Service 7:00 PM Rel Addiction	18 Pastor Mary off 6:00 AM BRC-FR 8:30 AM N&N Deadline 7:00 PM Community Flute and Organ Concert	19 Pastor Mary off 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl 3:00 PM Mainspring House 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	20 Pastor Mary at General Synod 6:00 AM BRC-FR 7:00 PM AA 8:00 PM BRC	21 Pastor Mary at General Synod 6:00 AM BRC-FR	22 Pastor Mary at General Synod 11:00 AM AA
23 Pastor Mary at General Synod 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Church Calendar Meeting 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 1:00 PM BRC-Sanctuary/2ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen	24 Pastor Mary at General Synod 7:00 PM Rel Addiction	25 Pastor Mary at General Synod 6:00 AM BRC-FR 8:30 AM N&N Deadline	26 Pastor Mary at General Synod 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl	27 6:00 AM BRC-FR 7:00 PM AA 8:00 PM BRC	28 6:00 AM BRC-FR	29 9:00 AM Breakfast Club - (Pancake House) 11:00 AM AA
30 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 1:00 PM BRC-Sanctuary/2ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen	1 7:00 PM Rel Addiction	2 6:00 AM BRC-FR 8:30 AM N&N Deadline	3 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl 11:45 AM Missions/Outreach	4 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:30 AM Caring Committee 11:45 AM Lunch with the Pastor 7:00 PM AA 8:00 PM BRC	5 6:00 AM BRC-FR	6 6:00 AM Boston Renewal Church 11:00 AM AA