



The Link



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

September 2017

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,

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer and found time to relax with family and friends. My husband and I were fortunate to be able to travel to San Diego in August to visit our son and his family, where I also celebrated a big birthday! Now, we're finishing the preparations for our daughter's wedding, which will take place at the end of the month.

In the midst of these happy times I'm also very much aware of the discord and unrest in our country. The events of Charlottesville, VA have left me shocked and grieving for those who were the targets of hate groups last month. They have also left me angry that racism, anti-Semitism, and white supremacy are damaging the moral fabric of our country. They have left me disheartened at the weak response by national leaders to these acts of terrorism.

Bigotry, hatred, and violence are antithetical to the gospel. Jesus spent his time promoting love and peace. He focused on being present with those who were scorned by others. Throughout the gospels we see Jesus associating with people outside his own Jewish community. He speaks to

Samaritans, a group that was despised and feared in his time, and even reveals his divinity to a Samaritan woman! He heals the servant of a Roman Centurion and praises his faith. Clearly, for Jesus, there was no such thing as "us" and "them." I believe the Church universal is called to actively pursue paths of peace and justice for all God's children. Our own church has been working for some time to move out of the sanctuary and become a witness to God's love by being the living, breathing, and vibrant body of Christ in the world. As we begin a new program year, I pray that each of us will be re-energized by the Holy Spirit to continue the work of the gospel to which we are called as baptized Christians. May we do all we can to bring Christ's love and light to places of darkness, remembering that we do not do so alone but with the Spirit of the Living God within and among us.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Mary



On Communion Sunday,

September 3 Pastor Mary will remain in the sanctuary after worship to meet with you privately and pray with you. If you are in need of any kind of physical, emotional, or spiritual healing or simply need to know that God cares... please come.



I hope you had a fun and adventurous summer and are now ready to kick off another great Faith4Life year.

In addition to our regular youth group meetings once a month, we will continue to hold monthly church school classes for all teens in grades 6 and up. Russ Clough will again be leading those sessions, held on Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of the month). Our faith formation series empowers youth to explore their faith and ask questions they actually wonder about like *“Is the Holy Spirit a person or wind or fire or what?”* or *“Why should I pray when God doesn’t answer all my prayers?”*

At our Faith4Life evening meetings and other monthly events, we talk about God and social justice issues, go on outings, have scavenger hunts, play games AND look for opportunities to serve both our church and our community.

Get these dates on your calendar for September and October.

Date	Event
Sunday September 10	Homecoming Sunday, 10 AM Gilmartin Bros. concert, 12 noon
Sunday, September 24	Faith4Life Kickoff, 6-7:30 pm
Sunday, October 1	Faith4Life Class, 10 AM
Sunday, October 8	Racial Justice Training, 2 PM
Saturday, October 21	Harvest Fair Supper and Team Trivia @ 6 PM
Sunday, October 22	MICCA Marching Band Norwood (let’s cheer on our friends!) Time TBD
Saturday, October 31	Trunk or Treat, 5 – 7 PM

If you have any questions, please contact Marcia Olson (339-987-1730 baglole.olson@verizon.net)

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Sunday, September 10 at 10 AM

You’re invited ... and so are your friends!



Homecoming Sunday is almost here and we are so happy to welcome everyone back after the summer holidays. On September 10, the kids will be working with Sally to prepare a LIGHT coffee hour, followed by a cookout and concert on the lawn with the Gilmartin Brothers!

We have a great year of fun and exploring planned starting with our first 13 week series, **Children Worship!** designed to help our children understand the different parts of our worship service so they can be more involved participants.



There will be a **Blessing of the Backpacks** during worship so be sure to bring yours along as we ask for God’s blessing and guidance at the start of another school year.



SUNDAY, September 10

Stick around after worship on **Homecoming Sunday, September 10** for a free classic rock cover concert. The concert starts at noon and features the Gilmartin Brothers, back by popular demand! Grilled hot dogs and burgers, chips and beverages will be for sale. Throw your lawn chair or blanket in your car on the way to church and stay to enjoy some great music!

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Have you noticed how our garden is growing? Lots of tomatoes, kale, and cucumbers are ready for the picking! Bring some home to enjoy, make something to share at coffee hour or for the Caring Committee to bring to one of our housebound members. **Lindsey Medeiros** has been harvesting some to bring to the food pantry on Tuesday morning. It's a community garden ... let's share God's bounty and blessings with our neighbors! Thanks to all who have watered and nurtured our plants during the summer!



No, its not October yet, but its never too early start planning! We are getting ready to host our 5th annual **Trunk or Treat** Halloween event. It's a fun Halloween party for us, a safe family environment for trick or treaters and a wonderful opportunity for community outreach and to greet our neighbors. We had so much fun at last year's Trunk or Treat and we would love more of you to participate this time. Trunk or Treat runs from 5-7 pm so there is plenty of time for you to head out to your own Halloween parties or trick or treating later that evening.

What you can start doing now is to save your gallon milk jugs (the clear ones only, not the white plastic Hood ones). Clean them out and bring them to church. If you're feeling creative, draw a ghost face on your carton. We will fill them with water and put a glow stick inside each one to illuminate the stone wall and walkway.

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In the meantime, get those ideas and your creativity flowing! Just Google "Trunk or Treat" and you will find tons of websites with great ideas – as simple or as elaborate as you want. We support the Teal Pumpkin project that helps make sure all children will come home on Halloween night with something they can enjoy.

Please contact Marcia Olson [baglole.olson@verizon.net | 781-344-9547] or Sally Monahan [sal_kev@yahoo.com] for more information or sign up to help.

Harvest Fair

Friday, November 10, 4 - 8 pm

Saturday, November 11, 10 am - 2 pm

The church fair is almost upon us and there are plenty of ways you can help out.

Attic Treasures – Don't forget to bring your no longer needed treasures to the church! We are accepting items through the end of October (please **NO** computers, TVs, clothing, or large pieces of furniture). Please contact **Marcia Olson** if you need to arrange a drop-off.

Books & DVDs – pass along those great reads, music and movies you have enjoyed. No textbooks or magazines. Contact **John Baglole**.

Baked Goods – Dust off your best recipes for tasty and tempting treats to fill up our bakery. Contact **Charlene Smith**.

Jewelry and Designer Bags – look through your jewelry boxes, and ask your friends and family to do the same, and bring your donations to the church by the end of October. Contact **Marcia Olson**

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Knit Goods – We need to replenish our mitten supply and other handmade items. Children’s sweaters, baby items, towels, pot holders, mittens, hats, scarves and throw pillows are always great sellers. If you are looking for yarn to make items for the hand-knit table, please contact **Maurine Upton** at 781-344-4609.

Silent Auction – Can you donate tickets to a Bruins, Celtics, Patriot’s or Revolution game? How about theatre tickets or a gift certificate to a local eatery or business? Can you offer a weekend away at a vacation home, give a few hours of computer troubleshooting, prepare a gourmet meal for two? Perhaps you have a lovely antique or other decorative item that no longer fits in with your home décor? Contact **Janet Clough**.

It takes many, many hands to pull off a successful fair – it takes all of us working together and giving whatever time we can. We will have a church fair planning meeting after worship on Sunday, September 24. Won’t you join us and lend a hand. Please contact Marcia Olson, 781-344-9547 | baglole.olson@verizon.net.

AND SAVE THE DATE FOR THE HARVEST FAIR SUPPER

The Harvest Fair Supper will take place on **Saturday, October 21 at 6:00 pm**. Join us for a delicious meal and some Team Trivia. Look for more details in Notes and Notices and in the October Link.



“Faithful Gents meets on the *last Saturday of every month*. Please join us on **September 30 at 9:00 am** at **Bickford’s Restaurant, Oak Street, Brockton**. If you have any questions or need a ride, please contact Bob Kuver at 781-341-2751.

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WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Ladies, young and old, it’s time to get to know each other better. Come join our Women’s Fellowship! We hold a variety of interesting programs along with a brief business meeting and a time of devotions. Our **September 25** meeting will be a Pot Luck Supper in our Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share and our officers will provide the beverages and dessert. We will meet at 3:30 pm for a discussion of this year’s programs and our meal will be served at 4:30 pm. If you can’t make the earlier meeting, please do come for dinner and invite a friend. Bring your suggestions of activities or programs you would like to see become one of our meetings. Please contact Janet Clough (781-344-3860 or cloughjr@verizon.net) if you plan to attend so that we can more easily plan for dinner. We hope to see many of you become part of our group this year.



Book of Life

Weddings:

Allyson Metcalf and **Kevin Gilmartin** were married by Pastor Mary at the Popponesset Inn on August 12.

Lindsey Neville and **Sean Ivaldi** were married by Pastor Mary at our church on August 15.

Baptisms:

Sofia Joan Benson Carter was baptized by Pastor Mary on June 11.

Griffin Joseph Noelte was baptized by Pastor Mary on July 9.

Celebration of Life:

A celebration of the life of **Bob Connor** was held at our church on August 19.

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FRIENDLY SERVICE

Many, many thanks to all of you who have donated materials for our Church World Service school kits. You have been very generous and helpful. After the church fair, we will need people to make the fabric bags that will hold each kit.

Now is the time to check your closets for any warm items that could be donated to Seafarer's Friend. We can use winter hats, gloves or mittens, scarves, jackets, sweatshirts, sweaters, warm underwear, pants, as well as personal care items that will fill Ditty Bags. All items will be delivered to Seafarer's Boston headquarters near the end of October. They will then be distributed to men and women coming into the port of Boston aboard ships that are delivering cargo to our area. Your donations may be left in the Giving Corner in our lobby.

Our Friendly Service work sessions are held on the **third Tuesday of each month from 9 am to 2 pm**. We work on all of the stages of quilt making. You can design a quilt top, cut fabric, sew blocks together, assemble the three layers of a quilt, or tie the finished product together. Come for as long as you can, bring a lunch and we will provide dessert. It is another chance to get to know others in our church family and to serve others.



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



Lunch with the Pastor

Please join Pastor Mary in the Fireplace Room at **11:45 AM on Thursday, September 7**. 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.

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Diane Anderson Ordination

Former Student Pastor Diane Anderson will be ordained into Christian ministry in the United Church of Christ on **Sunday, October 1 at 5:00 PM** at Wellesley Village Church, 2 Central Street, Wellesley MA. All are welcome to attend this special event!



Pastor Mary will be on vacation **Thursday, September 28-Sunday, October 1** for her daughter's wedding. Adam Isbitsky will be leading worship and celebrating Communion on October 1. If you have any pastoral needs during this time, please call Kay Giroux at 781-344-3014.



Student Pastor Lisa Loughlin

We are delighted that Student Pastor Lisa Loughlin will be returning for another year of Field Education beginning on **Sunday, September 10**. Lisa spent the summer completing her chaplaincy requirement and is looking forward to returning to parish ministry at our church.

Due to strict privacy laws, hospitals are not allowed to inform the Church Office if you are admitted for treatment. Please call us if you are ill so that we may contact you and pray for you. Rev. Mary makes pastoral calls at homes and hospitals by need and request so please contact her or the Church Office and she would be happy to visit you.



Thanks go out to all those whose quiet ministries continued without interruption over the summer. We are grateful for the work of the **Caring Committee** who continued to visit, call, and send cards to people in need and **the Missions and Outreach Ministry** who served at MainSpring House in June and August and whose members are part of our ongoing service at the Tuesday Café at the First United Methodist Church. We thank **John Baglolo** for his faithful service in preparing our sanctuary for worship each Sunday morning. We are grateful for **Al Mahoney** for his care in keeping our church clean, and for **Ed Porter**, whose hands-on attention to our church building is invaluable. Thank you to **Maurine Upton** for her ongoing commitment to recycling bottles and cans for the benefit of the church, and to **Janet Clough** for organizing the altar flower donations and their pickup from the florist. Thanks also go out to **Charlene Smith** for preparing an appropriately-themed lunch after Baseball Sunday on July 30 and to **Robert Perry** for assisting her. We are very blessed!



Growing in Faith

If you have questions about our church, ministries, programs or activities; if you would like more information about our denomination, the United Church of Christ, or you have questions about God... Jesus... faith... or life that you've always wanted to ask ... please don't hesitate to speak to Pastor Mary — she would be happy to make a time to sit down with you. You can also call her at 781-344-2395 or email her at revmary@uccstoughton.org.

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Five Wishes

Last spring, many of us learned from Rev. Donna Vuilleumier about the Five Wishes document, which is useful for people of all ages in starting and structuring important conversations about care in times of serious illness. Over the summer Pastor Mary helped three people to complete the form. If you are interested in Pastor Mary's help with this important document, which enables people to express in writing their wishes for physical and spiritual care, please let her know and she would be happy to meet with you.



Racial Justice Training – Sunday, October 8

Racism and white supremacy are problems that are embedded not just in our culture, but also in our churches. At the First Congregational Church of Stoughton, we are committed to the teachings of Jesus, who stood with the oppressed and spoke out against injustice and violence. We believe, as his followers, we must address the hatred of white supremacists and racists among us in practical ways.

On **Sunday, October 8 from 2-4 PM**, we will be offering a two-hour racial justice training sponsored by the Racial Justice Ministry of the United Church of Christ, "From Tolerance to Unity," which seeks to create a common language around racism, to unmask racism in our lives, and to encourage long-term engagement in racial justice ministry. This introductory-level training will be led **by Rev. Elizabeth Magill**. Please plan to join us. For this important information to reach as many people as possible we strongly encourage you to invite friends and family members to come along. If we want to help dismantle the evil of racism, this two-hour event is a good place to begin.



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

Mary Alholm
 2049 Dorchester Ave., Rm 222-1
 Boston, MA 02124
 (617) 698-6008

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

Amanda Cushing
 103 Benson Road
 Stoughton MA 02072

Clifford and Amy Fowler
 30 Belcher Street
 Stoughton, MA 02072
 (781) 344-9573

Jean Hamilton
 4 Capen St. Apt. 203
 Stoughton MA 02072

Nancy Ivaldi
 The Arbors at Taunton
 763 County Street, Apt. 224
 Taunton, MA 02780
 (508) 824-4800

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

Rev. Jean Lenk
 63B Stafford St.
 Plymouth, MA 02360

David Niven
 Elm 103, Brookdale
 97 Warren Ave
 Plymouth, MA 02360

Delda White
 The Arbors
 2121 Central Street
 Stoughton, MA 02072

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

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SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Financial Viability Working Group 1:00 PM BRC-Sanctuary 2/ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 PM Rel Addition</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:00 AM BRC-FR 7:00 PM Stewardship Committee</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:00 AM BRC-FR 8:30 AM N&N Deadline 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:00 AM BRC-FR 7:00 PM AA 8:00 PM BRC</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:00 AM BRC-FR 9:30 AM 12 Step Group</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:00 AM Boston Renewal Church 11:00 AM AA</p>
<p>3</p> <p>COMMUNION 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 11:00 AM Healing Prayers 1:00 PM BRC-Sanctuary 2/ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen</p>	<p>4</p> <p>LABOR DAY 7:00 PM Rel Addition</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:00 AM BRC-FR</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:00 AM BRC-FR 8:30 AM N&N Deadline 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl 11:45 AM Missions Outreach 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>7</p> <p>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</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00 AM BRC-FR 9:30 AM 12 Step Group</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 AM Red Hat Society 11:00 AM AA</p>
<p>10</p> <p>HOMEcomings SUNDAY 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 12:00 PM Gilman Bros. Concert/Cookout 1:00 PM BRC-Sanctuary 2/ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 PM Rel Addition</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00 AM BRC-FR</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00 AM BRC-FR 8:30 AM N&N Deadline 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:00 AM BRC-FR 7:00 PM AA 8:00 PM BRC</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 AM BRC-FR 9:30 AM 12 Step Group 5:00 PM Girl Scouts</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11:00 AM AA</p>
<p>17</p> <p>LINK Deadline 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Trustees 1:00 PM BRC-Sanctuary 2/ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00 PM Rel Addition</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:00 AM BRC-FR 9:00 AM Friendly Service</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:00 AM BRC-FR 8:30 AM N&N Deadline 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:00 AM BRC-FR 7:00 PM AA 8:00 PM BRC</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:00 AM BRC-FR 9:30 AM 12 Step Group</p>	<p>23</p> <p>11:00 AM AA</p>
<p>24</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Church Fall Planning 1:00 PM BRC-Sanctuary 2/ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen 6:00 PM FaithLife Meeting</p>	<p>25</p> <p>3:00 PM Women's Fellowship 7:00 PM Rel Addition</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:00 AM BRC-FR</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:00 AM BRC-FR 8:30 AM N&N Deadline 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Pastor Mary vacation 6:00 AM BRC-FR 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM CE Meeting 8:00 PM BRC</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Pastor Mary vacation 6:00 AM BRC-FR 9:30 AM 12 Step Group</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pastor Mary vacation 9:00 AM Faithful Gents-(Bicktons) 11:00 AM AA</p>



First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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Rev. Mary L. Perry, Pastor

Pastor's Study: 781-344-2395

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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