



The Link



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

September 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,

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer, whether it involved traveling or simply enjoying the comfort of your home. I did something that, for me, was very exciting: I served as a delegate to the United Church of Christ General Synod, our national decision making body, which was held in late June in Milwaukee. One of the resolutions approved by Synod delegates this year was the merger of the Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island Conferences into a new, unified Conference.

"UCC History was made today," Rev. John Dorhauer, UCC General Minister and President, said later. "Signaling to the wider church that we can accomplish more together than apart, that we live in an interdependent world in which we all need each other, and looking to maximize the use of precious mission resources, delegates voted to carve out a new pathway for what we hope will be new life, new vitality, and new relevance." *(from an article written by Tiffany Vail, MACUCC)*

Although Rev. Dorhauer was speaking about the wider church, his words ring true for individual congregations as well. With so many churches facing diminishing resources, both human and financial, it's imperative for all of us to realize the importance of our connections with one another and work together in new ways to make God's kingdom real for all people.

As I reflect on the future of the church I am inspired by these words from the prophet Isaiah:

"Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters...

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:16, 18-19)

As we begin the 2019-2020 program year at UCC Stoughton, what new things might God have in store for us? How can we help bring about the new life, new vitality, and new relevance that God dreams of for our church? I pray that we will be open to the ways the Holy Spirit is guiding us through these challenging times. Although we cannot know with certainty what the future will hold, we can be sure of the fact that God will be in it with us. Thanks be to God!

Love and peace,
Pastor Mary



275th Anniversary Happenings

We will be sharing worship with First Parish Universalist Church on **Sunday, September 29**. Services will begin at First Parish at **10:00 am** and conclude at our church. Our mutual anniversary celebration will continue on **October 19 at 5:30 pm** when First Parish members will join us for a dinner in the church hall. Historian Dave Lambert will be speaking. Details will follow as they become available. Mark your calendars!

DID YOU KNOW?.....To help us all celebrate the 275th celebration of the formation of our church, we will be giving you bits of information about our church history entitled *Did You Know?* Look for it in upcoming Links and Sunday bulletins. If you want to know more about our church history and you own the book written by Amy Fowler, our former church historian, you can sign up for an addendum that is available for that book. Let the [church office](#) know and we will be sure to get you a copy.



Reverend Jedidiah Adams, a first cousin once removed, of President John Adams, was our first Pastor from 1747 to 1799. He was ordained on February 19, 1746 and died on February 25, 1799. He served as our pastor for 52 years!

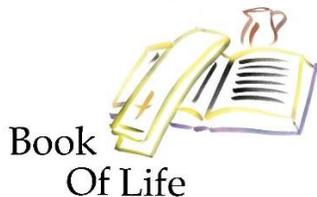


We are very blessed

Thank you to **Jean Fernandez** for the quilt squares she made and delivered to us in July when she and John visited from Florida. We also thank **Ed and Gale Porter** for their regular care of the church grounds - it makes a difference! Thanks also go out to **Anita and Preston Keenan, Caroline, Chris, Colleen, and Drew Cesario, Susan Hill, Dee Hayes, Al Mahoney, Marcia Olson, Charlene Smith, Dave Gilmartin, Tom Gilmartin, Emma Perry, Kevin and Sally Monahan, and Pastor Mary** for participating in our outreach to the Outdoor Church of Cambridge on July 13. We also thank **Flo Ledin, Carole Stepanek, Bonnie Bittner, Susan Hill, and John Baglole** for tending our Community Garden over the summer. We are very blessed!



Many thanks for your generous donation of \$358 to the Needy Persons fund in August. The funds were donated to aid the victims of the July 18 fire at the Stoughton Housing Authority's senior housing complex on Capen Street.



New members:

Riley and Ashlyn O'Connell and Colleen Cesario became members of the church through the Rite of Confirmation on June 9.

Marriages:

Kaileigh Fowler and Remi McDonough were married by Pastor Mary in Plymouth NH on July 20. Andrea Capone and Deepak Pannikot were married by Pastor Mary in Canton on July 26.

Deaths:

Gregory Barron, whose funeral service was led by Pastor Mary at Farley Funeral Home on May 30.
Paul Nickerson, whose funeral service was led by Pastor Mary at Farley Funeral Home on August 1.
James Williamson, whose funeral service was led by Rev. Carol Steinbrecher at Farley Funeral Home on August 13.



Lisa Loughlin

Our former student pastor Lisa Loughlin successfully passed her Ecclesiastical Council at the First Congregational Church of Winchester on July 23 and is now approved for ordination pending a call from a church. Way to go, Lisa!



No, it's not October yet, but it's never too early to start planning! We are getting ready to host our 7th 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 for more of you to participate this time. Trunk or Treat runs from **5–7 pm on October 31** so there is plenty of time for you to head out to your own Halloween festivities or trick or treating later in the evening. Let Marcia know if you will participate this year. We need at least a dozen cars to have a successful event.

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 15
Saturday, November 16

The church fair is almost upon us and are plenty of ways you can help out – here are just a few.

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). **Note:** If you are dropping off items for the fair at the church, please put them neatly in the downstairs open area across from the classrooms or at the bottom of the stairs across from the church office. Please contact **Marcia Olson** if you need to arrange a drop-off or pick-up.

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

Holiday Crafts – are you creative and crafty? **Contact Kay Giroux** if you have holiday creations and other crafts to donate to our Holiday Crafts area.

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

Jewelry – 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**

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, or 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 have when we can. Won't you join us and lend a hand. Please contact Janet Clough, 781-344-3860 |

cloughjl@gmail.com.



Sign up to get **The Link** delivered directly to your email inbox each month by sending your name and email address to Link@uccstoughton.org. Or drop a note with your contact information in the offering plate on Sunday. Let us know if your address or email has changed as well so you never miss an issue. The Link is also posted on our website at www.uccstoughton.org. Printed copies are available in the literature rack in the church lobby.



Please submit any Sunday worship bulletin notices to the church office by **8:30 am on Tuesday**. Articles for the **October LINK** will be due by **September 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.



What's Happening This Month?

Faith & Fellowship Opportunities

- **Sept 5 (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.
- **Sept 8 (Sun):** Join us for worship on Homecoming Sunday. Come and greet old friends and new!
- **Sept 15 (Sun):** Church school classes - **Faith4Life class** for middle school students, led by Mr. Russ Clough, will meet in the Fireplace Room.
- **Sept 23 (Mon): Women's Fellowship** will meet at 3:30 PM for a discussion of the year's upcoming programs. All women of the church are welcome. Look for further details in the Notes and Notices.
- **Sept 29 (Sun):** This Sunday, in celebration of our 275th anniversary, we worship with our sisters and brothers at the **First Parish Universalist Church** in Stoughton center. Services will begin at First Parish at **10 AM** and conclude at our church.
- **Sept 28 (Sat): "The Breakfast Club,"** a group of faithful men and women, meets on the last Saturday of every month at **9 AM** at Deag's Local Diner, 1261 Park St., Stoughton. All are welcome. If you have any questions or need a ride, contact Bob Kuver at 781-341-2751.
- **Sept 28 (Sat): Stoughton Day 2019**, Halloran Park from **11 AM – 3 PM**. Stoughton Day 2019 is a day of fun for the community of Stoughton and their friends and family. There will be lots of food trucks, live bands, inflatables, face painting, vendors, and more! UCC Stoughton will be having a table so come on out and say hi!

Making an Impact Opportunities to Serve

- **Sept 15 (Sun): Banners:** it's another **Mission Sunday** so we will use part of our Sunday worship as a time to put together new banners for our sanctuary at Thanksgiving time. We will need people to cut shapes and letters from fabrics, place them on a background fabric, glue or sew them in place and do whatever else needs to be done to complete two banners. You will be able to feel that you have had a part in making our sanctuary a beautiful and meaningful place to worship.

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- **Sept 16 (Mon): Friendly Service** meets from 10am to 2 pm. Friendly Service projects have been on hold for most of the summer but now we are ready to go back to work on quilts, Seafarers' needs and perhaps school kits. Watch for plans in Notes and Notices. We can always use extra pairs of hands and welcome you for an hour or for the full four hours we work together on the third Monday of each month. Bring your lunch and join us to work to help others. Many hands make light work. Please contact Janet Clough at 781-344-3860 for more information.
- **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:** Have you noticed how our garden is growing? Lots of yummy vegetables 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. Harvest 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, nurtured and harvested our plants during the summer!
- **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

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| 1 COMMUNION 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 | 2 Labor Day 7:00 PM Rel Addiction | 3 6:00 AM BRC- FR 8:30 AM N&N Deadline | 4 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl 11:45 AM Missions/Outreach | 5 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 | 6 6:00 AM BRC- FR | 7 6:00 AM Boston Renewal Church 11:00 AM AA |
| 8 Homecoming Sunday 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 1:00 PM BRC- Sanctuary/2ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen | 9 7:00 PM Rel Addiction | 10 6:00 AM BRC- FR 8:30 AM N&N Deadline | 11 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl | 12 6:00 AM BRC- FR 7:00 PM AA 8:00 PM BRC | 13 6:00 AM BRC- FR | 14 11:00 AM AA |
| 15 10:00 AM Faith4Life 10:00 AM Worship - Mission Sunday 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 1:00 PM BRC- Sanctuary/2ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen | 16 10:00 AM Friendly Service 7:00 PM Rel Addiction | 17 LINK Deadline 6:00 AM BRC- FR 8:30 AM N&N Deadline | 18 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl | 19 6:00 AM BRC- FR 7:00 PM AA 8:00 PM BRC | 20 6:00 AM BRC- FR | 21 11:00 AM AA |
| 22 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 1:00 PM BRC- Sanctuary/2ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen | 23 3:00 PM Women's Fellowship 7:00 PM Rel Addiction | 24 6:00 AM BRC- FR 8:30 AM N&N Deadline | 25 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl | 26 6:00 AM BRC- FR 7:00 PM AA 8:00 PM BRC | 27 6:00 AM BRC- FR | 28 9:00 AM Breakfast Club - (Deag's Local Diner) 11:00 AM AA |
| 29 10:00 AM Joint Worship with First Parish Universalist 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 1:00 PM BRC- Sanctuary/2ClassRm 3:00 PM BRC-FH/Kitchen | 30 7:00 PM Rel Addiction | 1 6:00 AM BRC- FR 8:30 AM N&N Deadline | 2 6:00 AM BRC-FR 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl 11:45 AM Missions/Outreach | 3 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 | 4 6:00 AM BRC- FR | 5 6:00 AM Boston Renewal Church 11:00 AM AA |