



EST. 1639

# First Church of Rowley

*...A voice of hope serving the community*

## October STEEPLE NOTES



# Pastor's Corner

## Spotting Opportunity in Transitional Times

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Dear church friends,

Have you ever moved to a new place? The process has a way of uncovering things. Lamps, stools, small appliances – items you forgot you owned now demand a decision: move it or lose it? Suddenly you have to decide what you really value and act on those choices.

Transitions in church life can be similar to moving. Long-postponed decisions show up like forgotten piles in the attic. What are we going to do now with this project, that room or this other thing? As we sort, long-unspoken values finally get spoken. We start explaining what we believe is worth our time, money and energy – and what's no longer important.

As First Church prepares for a season of transition, I encourage you to receive it as an opportunity. Welcome the fact that you are going to:

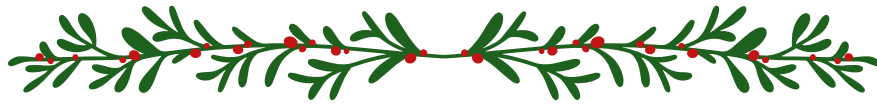
- Feel uncertain. That's normal. Let concerns be spoken like confessions: expressing them can be cathartic. It can make room for peace of mind.
- Hear values articulated. Encourage this! Be curious. When someone floats an idea, ask them: what would it say about our congregation's values if we were to do XYZ? In other words, invite folks to name the values at stake. Don't just assume everyone knows the values behind an idea; they don't. Asking for articulation gets values to the surface. It prepares the church for finding common ground. Because if we can find agreement on values, then we can all feel safe in being a little more flexible in how to express those values.
- Have disagreements. If you aren't disagreeing sometimes, it's because people are afraid to voice their perspectives. They are bottling up how they feel. If that happens, they'll probably begin to disengage from church life or drop out altogether. The way to avoid this is to make sure everyone feels safe to disagree – i.e., disagree without being punished for it. Don't be afraid of respectful disagreements that speak the truth in love.
- Grow in the process. Spiritual growth doesn't wait until the next minister is here to feed it to you. The meal is served now! It happens as you discern together – through prayerful listening – which next steps God is laying out for you. Practice listening for themes and ask if you're hearing a voice that sounds like God's, whose voice you know from scripture. As you listen, gain conviction and act together, you will travel the higher path that's been prepared for you.

Let's welcome what's ahead. In tension and in resolution, there really is opportunity.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Jeff

# OLD TYME COUNTRY FAIR



The leaves are falling with the days shorter and cooler. Our thoughts turn to fall activities.

We have two dates for you to place on your calendar.

On Saturday, October 24 at 9:00 a.m. we will be making apple pies. Sue Hazen has graciously agreed to organize our project. We need help on that Saturday to peel, core and slice apples which will be placed in pie crusts and then frozen and sold at the fair. PLEASE JOIN US.

Another date to keep in mind is our Olde Tyme Country Fair which is a big fundraiser for our church. The date for the fair is Saturday, November 21, which is the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

We will need help Thursday evening, November 19 at 6:00 p.m. to set up tables and decorate and also Friday the day before the fair. The church will be open on Friday from 9:00 to 6:00 to organize individual tables.

On Saturday, November 21 the fair will be held from 9:00 to 2:00. This day is always special as we open our church to the community with so many friends stopping by to shop and say hello.

There will be more information coming along each week. In the meantime if you have any questions, please call or email us.

Kay Dalzell  
*kdalzell@comcast.net* 978.948.2674

Donna Irving  
*dvdirving@aol.com* 978.948.7020

“Many Hands Make Light Work”.

Thank You.



Pumpkins and leaves are illustrated around the top and sides of the central text area. At the top center, two pumpkins are shown. To the left, a large oak leaf is positioned. To the right, an oak leaf with an acorn is shown. On the left side, a smaller leaf is also present.

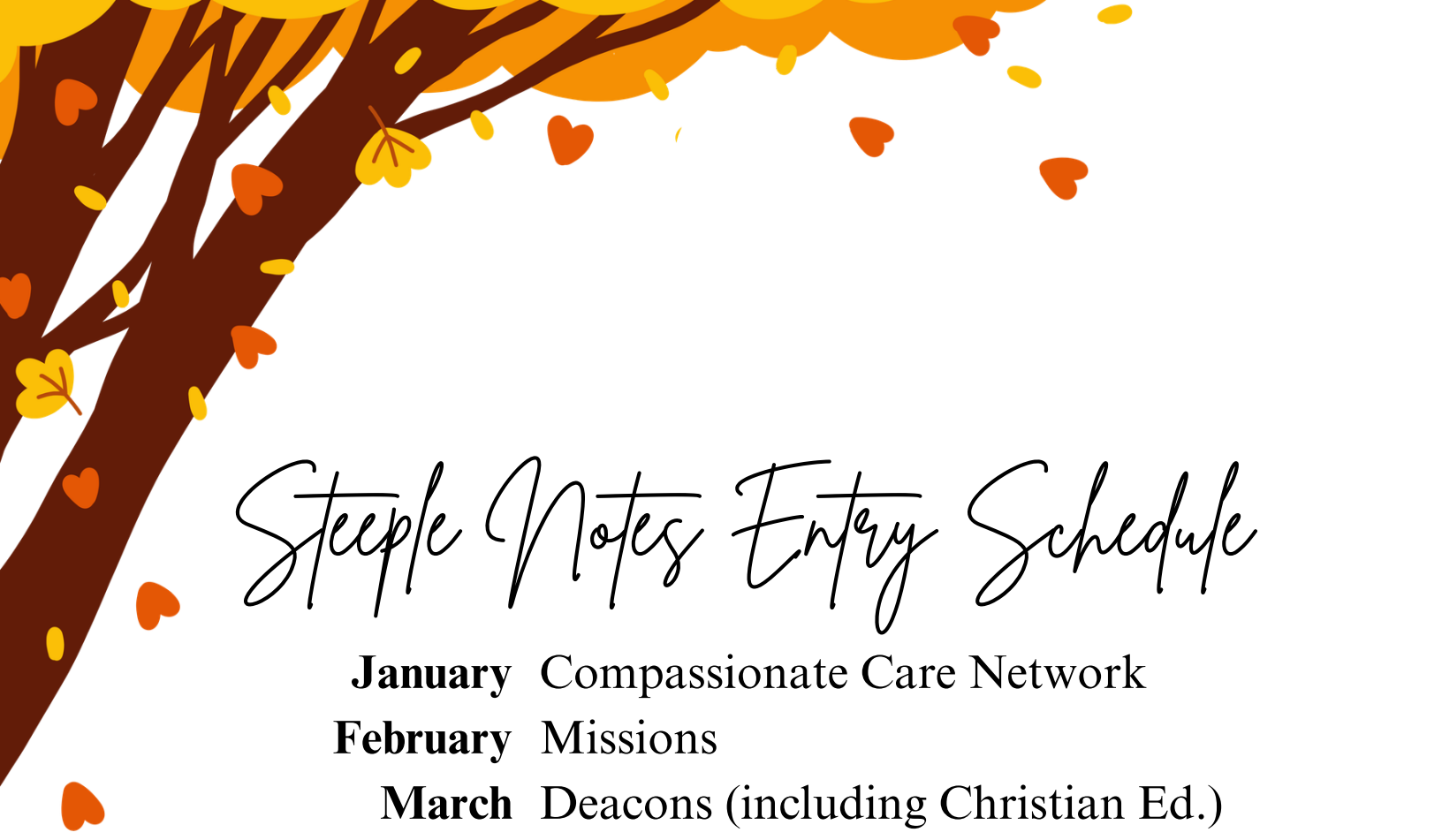
# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

10/8 SANDY MULKERN  
10/11 KAREN SCHMUCH  
10/22 CRAIG STEVENS  
10/28 JUNE NICKERSON  
10/29 NANCY SCHMIDT

Pumpkins and leaves are illustrated around the bottom and sides of the central text area. At the bottom left, a pumpkin is shown with two leaves. At the bottom right, two pumpkins are stacked. On the right side, a single leaf is positioned.

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

10/7 MIKE & JOANNE BLOUIN



# Steeple Notes Entry Schedule

**January** Compassionate Care Network

**February** Missions

**March** Deacons (including Christian Ed.)

**April** Finance/Trustees

**May** Music Committee

**June/July** The Thrift Shop & Pastoral Relations  
Committee

**August/September** Getting to Know Us, Golf Tournament  
and Flower Committee

**October** Old Tyme Country Fair

**November** Community Dinner Team

**December** Pancake Breakfast Team

***Welcoming additional entries!***

*please submit all entries by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding  
month to [firstchurchrowley@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchrowley@gmail.com)*





# EVENTS

*at a glance*

**GETTING TO KNOW US**  
WEDNESDAYS 10A - 12P

**GUITAR LESSONS**  
WEDNESDAYS 5-6PM

**BIBLE STUDY**  
SUNDAYS 11 AM - 12PM

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
SATURDAY OCT 10<sup>TH</sup> 8A-9:30A

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
FRIDAY OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>  
8AM REGISTRATION, 9AM TEE TIME  
LUNCH TO FOLLOW

**SEMI ANNUAL MEETING**  
SUN NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> AFTER WORSHIP

**OLDE TYME COUNTRY FAIR**  
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> 9AM-2PM



# BIBLE STUDY

## Old Testament Stories



**SUNDAYS**  
**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
**CORINTHIAN ROOM**

175 MAIN STREET ROWLEY MA 01969  
FIRSTCHURCHROWLEY@GMAIL.COM  
(978) 948 3993

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF ROWLEY



**GETTING TO KNOW US**



**WEDNESDAYS 9:30A-11:30P**

CORINTHIAN ROOM

175 MAIN STREET ROWLEY MA 01969  
CORINTHIAN ROOM

THE STRUMMING  
BROTHERS

# GUITAR LESSONS

WEDNESDAYS 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
LOCATED IN THE EVERETT ROOM



**BEGINING SEPTEMBER 2026**  
**FREE LESSONS**  
**ADULT ONLY**

**ALL LEVELS OF GUITAR**  
**EXPERIENCE, SPECIALIZING**  
**IN BEGINNER/ENTRY**

**LED BY AN EXPERIENCED**  
**GUITAR PLAYER**

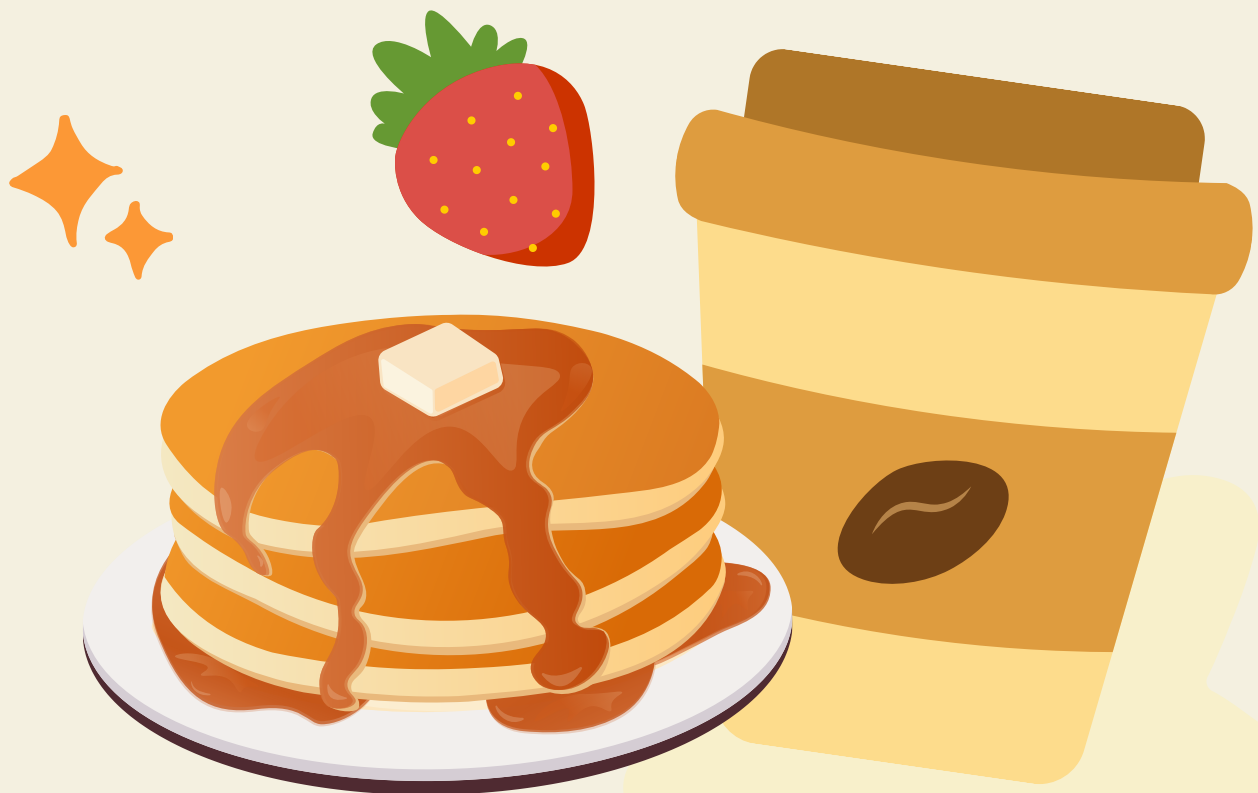


FOR MORE INFORMATION

 175 MAIN ST ROWLEY MA 01969  (978) 648 3993  [firstchurchrowley@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchrowley@gmail.com)

# PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**GOOD MORNINGS START HERE.**



**SATURDAY OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> 8AM – 9:30AM**

**Location:**

175 Main Street Rowley MA 01969

**PRICE \$10 PER PERSON**

CHILDREN UNDER 12 ARE FREE

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ROWELY**

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ROWLEY'S  
17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EZEKIEL ROGERS**

# **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**FRIDAY OCT 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**8:30 AM REGISTRATION**

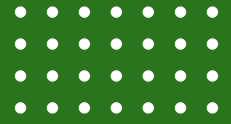
**9:30 AM TEE TIME**

**\$175 PER PLAYER  
\$35 PER PERSON - LUNCH ONLY**

Golf includes on-course contests  
and prizes with lunch to follow  
During lunch, there will be a silent  
auction and raffle opportunities!

## **AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIPS:**

- FAMILY HOLE \$75
- CORPORATE HOLE \$150
- PUTTING GREEN \$200
- LUNCH \$500
- GOLF BALLS \$750



**FAR CORNER  
GOLF COURSE**

**5 Barker Street  
Boxford MA 01921**

**FOR INFORMATION:  
Deborah Confalone  
(781) 290 6502**

**[dconfalone@comcast.net](mailto:dconfalone@comcast.net)**

SUNDAY OCT  
18 TH  
3:00 PM

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*doors open 2:30PM*

# FALL VARIETY SERIES



## Ella & Company

"The Greatest of the Great  
American Songbook"



For More Ticket Information  
[MMMh.ORG/EVENTS/ELLAANDCOMPANY/](http://MMMh.ORG/EVENTS/ELLAANDCOMPANY/)



***First Congregational Church, U.C.C.  
Rowley, Massachusetts***

October 1, 2026

To Members and Friends,  
First Congregational Church, Rowley

The 2026 Semi-Annual Meeting of the church membership will be held on Sunday, November 1, 2026. The meeting will open with a worship service starting at 9:30 a.m., with a short break after worship for coffee. The business meeting will start no earlier than 11:00 am that same morning.

Items on the agenda for the business meeting are:

1. To hear and act on recommendations from the Finance Board on the church budget for 2027.
1. To hear an update from the Moderator on Pulpit Supply/ Ministerial Search..
1. To hear any other business which may properly come before the church membership.

Respectfully submitted,

*David E. Irving*

David E. Irving, Clerk



**First Church of Rowley**

# Olde Tyme Country Fair

*A Rowley Holiday Tradition!*

**SAT NOV 21ST 2026  
9 AM – 2 PM**

Delicious baked goods  
Beautiful handcrafted items  
Festive holiday greenery  
Unique attic treasures  
Visit from Santa

Zeke's Country Store  
Silent Auction  
Savory homestyle lunch  
Games and puzzles  
Books and more!

175 Main Street Rowley MA 01969

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[www.firstchurchrowley.org](http://www.firstchurchrowley.org)