



Steeple Notes

The First Congregational Church of Rowley, U.C.C.
175 Main Street • P.O. Box 364 • Rowley, MA 01969
(978) 948-3993 • www.firstchurchrowley.org



September 2021

Worship Watch

Wed., Sept. 1

Psalm 144:9-15
Song of Solomon 8:5-7
Mark 7:9-23

Thurs., Sept. 2

Psalm 125
Proverbs 1:1-19
Romans 2:1-11

Fri., Sept. 3

Psalm 125
Proverbs 4:10-27
Romans 2:12-16

Sat., Sept. 4

Psalm 125
Proverbs 8:1-31
Matthew 15:21-31

Sun., Sept. 5

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

Mon., Sept. 6

Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 8:32—9:6
Hebrews 11:29—12:2

Tues., Sept. 7

Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 11:1-31
Hebrews 12:3-13

Wed., Sept. 8

Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 14:1-9
Matthew 17:14-21

Thurs., Sept. 9

Psalm 19
Proverbs 15:1-17
Hebrews 11:17-22

Fri., Sept. 10

Psalm 19
Proverbs 19:24-29
James 2:17-26

Sat., Sept. 11

Psalm 19
Proverbs 21:1-17
Matthew 21:23-32

Sun., Sept. 12

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19 or Wisdom 7:26—8:1
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

Mon. Sept. 13

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 22:1-21
Romans 3:9-20

Tues., Sept. 14

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 25:1-28
Colossians 3:1-11

Wed., Sept. 15

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 29:1-27
John 7:25-36

Thurs., Sept. 16

Psalm 1
Proverbs 30:1-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Fri., Sept. 17

Psalm 1
Proverbs 30:18-33
Romans 11:25-32

Sat., Sept. 18

Psalm 1
Ecclesiastes 1:1-18
Matthew 23:29-39

Sun., Sept. 19
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pentecost
Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

Mon., Sept. 20

Psalm 128
Proverbs 27:1-27
James 4:8-17

Tues., Sept. 21

Psalm 128
Ecclesiastes 4:9-16
James 5:1-6

Wed., Sept. 22

Psalm 128
Ecclesiastes 5:1-20
John 8:21-38

Thurs., Sept. 23

Psalm 124
Esther 1:1-21
Acts 4:13-31

Fri., Sept. 24

Psalm 124
Esther 2:1-23
Acts 12:20-25

Sat., Sept. 25

Psalm 124
Esther 3:1-15
Matthew 5:13-20

Sun., Sept. 26
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pentecost
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

Mon., Sept. 27

Psalm 140
Esther 4:1-17
1 Peter 1:3-9

Tues., Sept. 28

Psalm 140
Esther 5:1-14
1 John 2:18-25

Wed., Sept. 29

Psalm 140
Esther 8:1-17
Matthew 18:6-9

Thurs., Sept. 30

Psalm 26
Job 2:11—3:26
Galatians 3:23-29



Back to School!

Best wishes on this upcoming school year- a new year with unending opportunities!

*From the
Pastor*



What is God Calling Us to Be?

Most of us prefer some kind of routine in our lives. When an action is done over and over again it becomes familiar, comforting, and something to look forward to.

I think of the mini- rituals we have as a family. The places we like to go for vacation. The familiar meals we cook. Fond memories we exchange over and over again to remind us that we are close in heart in our life journeys together.

We do this so often that we begin to see the universe as a place that likes to repeat itself. We like to see the familiar all about us.

When we think of the Divine - my preferred word for God – we want to think of the universe staying in a steady place. We consider God as that which never moves.

Truth is - God is always moving. Moreover, God is not just moving every tiny particle and wave in the entire universe. God is also moving us.

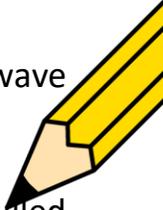
This activity is not so much us being pushed by the Divine Force of Love, but rather being pulled along. “Called” is the way scripture describes it.

When folks who seek to live a life of faith get together, God’s call becomes louder and more pronounced. This is the history of the church. God uses the faithful to advance God’s ever-changing purposes of love, peace, and justice.

On Sunday, September 26 we have an All Church meeting after worship. Everyone hopefully can be there. Our time together will likely be less than an hour in the gathering. We will talk about a number of things. I suggest that behind all of our conversation is this one question: What is God calling us to be? We can frame this question in individual terms. However, when we gather as a group the question becomes. “What is God calling us to be as a church?”

Please ponder this in the coming days. It will help us all discover together the miracle and mystery of what our Creator offers us through the life and love of Jesus.

Yours in the Spirit – Rev. Tom



Garden Reflections

Our church garden has been an evolving adventure as the summer rushes by. Reverend Tom's raised bed construction and choice vegetables has yielded beautiful and bountiful crops. Immersing your senses in the earth and its gifts leads your thoughts to sharing with those who will enjoy what nature brings.

We have created an ongoing giving relationship with Rowley's seniors at the Plantation by sharing fresh vegetables weekly. In addition, some of our congregation, both those in person and those unable to attend, have benefited from the garden. Our hope is to continue this tradition that mirrors our vision of compassion and outreach.

Thank you,
Penny, on behalf of all who help
August 23, 2021



Missions Committee

WOOHOO! Homecoming Barbeque! Come and enjoy a meal with your church family after service on September 12th. We have a fun guitar group with great vocals to serenade us. We have games planned, rain or shine. Let's have some fun! Please tell your friends - we would love for this to be an event that the whole community can enjoy! If you would like to bring a food item to share, please contact Holly Ardito hollyardito@gmail.com.



This fall Missions is also going to bring you a podcast series to consider issues of climate and race. We hope you will engage with us and listen in and then join a discussion over cookies and coffee after church.



We will still collect undies and socks for the schools. If you have been able to pick up some please drop them off at church.

Also, if you have men's pants or shoes please bring those by so the emergency department in Salem has them handy for their clients. They also appreciate any notebooks, pens, etc to keep people busy as emergency rooms are long ordeals these days.

COA: Pam has been volunteering with an individual - chatting, organizing, doing nails and hair, and just having fun with a person who is pretty much home-bound. The COA could use people to help as visitors or even at the office for phone calls.

We are mindful, I am sure, of the events in Afghanistan and the many veterans groups that are helping refugee families. We will be researching whether any families come to this area and if there is a way we can help out.

Stay well.

Missions Committee



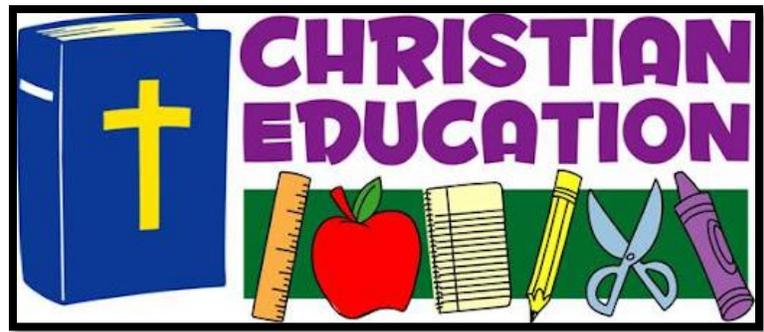
Christian Education

Hope Everyone has been enjoying the last few weeks of summer vacation.

We are so looking forward to seeing you soon in person. Sunday School will resume on Sunday October 3rd.

We have some exciting changes to this year's Sunday School and children's programming. Reverend Tom will be leading some of our lessons to provide an innovative multigenerational experience for our youth.

We will start off our Sunday School year with a special performance for all ages you won't want to miss it! Please contact Amy Hanson at aleehanson@hotmail.com or the church office if you would like to register for Sunday School or Youth Group.



Fellowship Thrift Shop Is Open for Business

The Fellowship Thrift Shop has re-opened! Under the leadership of Paul Chang, we have been open for business 3 days/week and are stocking fun new items such as furniture, in addition to the familiar clothes, jewelry and housewares featured previously. It is refreshing to see customers so excited to be shopping with us again! Thanks to the volunteers who have been staffing the store – Christa Ardito, Holly Ardito, Angie Estevez, Eric Fila, Donna Irving, Nicola Pyburn, Pam Sanford, Marge Thurston and Sharon Emery, and to all who have supported us by donating and/or shopping. Store hours are:



Thursdays 3 – 6pm
Saturdays 7 – 11am
Sundays 7 – 10am

We welcome additional volunteers to staff the store or help sort donations. We also need help picking up large merchandise – if you are able to transport or have a truck or van to loan, please let us know. Please contact Paul via phone or text at 857-206-0792 to get involved.

Please see pictures on the following page from our opening day!



Fellowship Thrift Opening Day Pictures



Fellowship Thrift Opening Day Pictures



According to our website analytics, this dining room set was our most popular item. It received the most 'visits' or 'hits' on the website.



Announcement from Angie

September 1, 2021

Dear Members of the First Congregational Church of Rowley,

It was with great sadness that I'm informing you of my recent resignation from the position of "Church Secretary". My final day of work in this capacity will be September 26th, the day of our All Church Meeting.

When I started working here in March of 2020, I was in the process of finalizing my 3rd unit of CPE (CPE is Clinical Pastoral Education - what some refer to as the "Residency" equivalency for chaplains). In preparation for my 4th and final unit of CPE this year, I began interviewing for a chaplaincy internship earlier in the summer and found out that one of the placements I was considering had a vacancy and was encouraged to apply. After prayerful consideration, I interviewed for the position and was subsequently hired as a Hospice Chaplain.

I know that some will be sad and even disappointed about my departure, but please know that this was not an easy decision for me to make. I am not leaving on bad terms and value the relationships I've made here. Over the past year and a half, I have grown to love you and have really enjoyed getting to know you – even though we've had so many restrictions placed on our interactions because of COVID. I am proud to say that we made it through a very critical time in history – TOGETHER and I'm proud of the accomplishments we made as a church body, as a TEAM!

Over the next few weeks, I have availed myself to work the church's leadership on making this transition as smooth as possible. I will also be available to help orient the new person to his/her role, even if this happens after September 26th.

Even though I will no longer be the church's secretary, I will continue to be a part of the Church body. I look forward to a continued relationship with the FCCOR and am exploring ways in which I can still contribute towards the life of the church as a church member and volunteer. Over the next few months, I will also continue to work with the PRC as we prayerfully consider whether or not we will officially enter into the "Member in Discernment" process which will help prepare me for ordination which is something I am exploring.

Thank you for the opportunity that you have given me to serve you this past year and a half, it has really enriched me, and I hope that you find I served you well.

Shalom,

Angie F. Estévez

***Availability / Schedule Breakdown through Sept 26th -**

From August 26th through September 12th – I will work my 'regular' schedule, Mon-Thurs, 9:30am-1:30pm, Labor Day – Off, September 6
Post Op Appt – half day off, September 9th (will make up the hours up on Friday)

From September 13th through September 26th

I will continue to fulfill the obligations of the Church Secretary position, but on a flexible sch evenings & weekends and will provide the Pastor a breakdown of the hours worked.

My contact info:

Email: angiefestevez@gmail.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/angie-estevez/>

Instagram: @SkateTheStates_ (You will find pictures and the chronicle of my "Skate the States" journey



September

Birthdays

Sylvia	Wood	9/1
Claudia	Umanita	9/3
Sally	Mc Rae	9/4
Jessica	Savage	9/4
Dyann	Angeloni	9/5
Joanne	(Harrington)Reis	9/8
Hank	Chase	9/9
Sharon	Emery	9/10
Eilene	Chadbourne	9/12
Glen	Pyburn	9/15
Tom	Reed	9/15
Abigail	Dixon	9/20
Shawn	Pinette	9/21
Ellie	Manning	9/23
Debbie	Confalone	9/25

Anniversaries

Adam & Amy	Hanson	9/7
Dennis & Rhonda	Ward	9/9
Glenn & Nicola	Pyburn	9/27

Back To School



Flower Committee

- Sept 5 Communion Table Nancy, Jerry and Jeremy Schmidt
In Gratitude for God's blessings and
memories of our parents.
- Sept 12 Communion Table Francis Kilgour in memory of his
White Flowers wife Charlotte
- Chancel Wall Nicola and Glen Pyburn in honor of
loved ones.
- Sept 19 Communion Table Ken and Pam Sanford in honor of
granddaughters Charlie and Alena.
- Chancel Wall Judy Robillard in loving memory of
her sister, Beverly Boynton (orders
herself).
- Sept 26 Communion Table Given by the Merry Family
in loving memory of Gordon,
Marjorie, David, Barbara, Bert,
Leona and Robert.

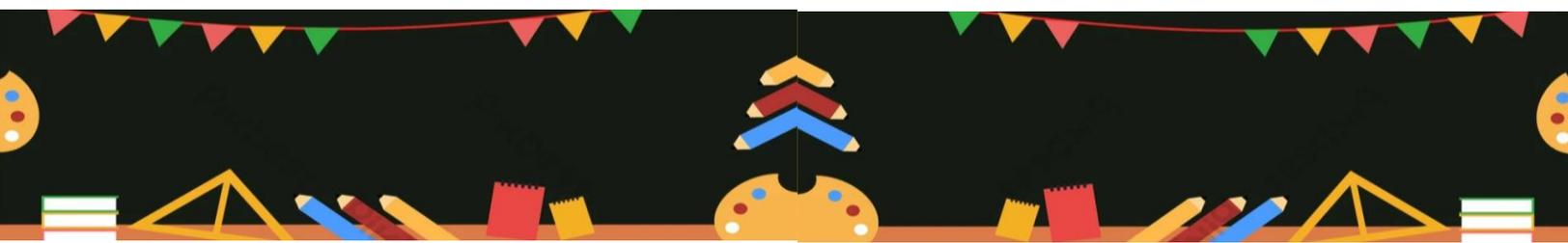
Special notes: September 2021
Labor Day is celebrated the 1st Sunday, Communion will be held on 2nd Sunday
Flowers from Nicola Pyburn on Sunday closest to Sept 15
Single Yellow Rose - July Robillard closest to Sept 20th

Diaconate Schedule

September 5	Penny and Les	
September 11?	TBD	
September 12	Nicola and Ken	Communion*
September 19	Jen and Penny	
September 26	Nancy and Jerry	
October 3	Penny and Ken	Communion
October 10	Jen and Les	
October 17	Nancy and Jerry	
October 24	Jen and Ken	
October 31	Penny and Nancy	
November 7	Nicola and Les	Communion
November 14	Jen and Ken	
November 21	Nancy and Jerry	
November 28	Penny and Nicola	
December 5	Les and Jerry	Communion
December 12	Nicola and Ken	
December 19	Jen and Les	
December 24	All – Christmas Eve	
December 26	Nancy and Nicola	

Lay Reader List

Sept. 5	Karl Schmuck
12 -	Sharon Emery
19 -	Sue Hazen
26 -	Doug Phillips
Oct. 3	Nancy Schmidt
10	Marge Thurston
17	Les Warren
24	Patti Cummings
31	Nicola Pyburn
Nov 7	Jen Loring -Semi Annual Meeting
14	Doug Phillips
21 -	Patti Cummings
28 -	Les Warren – Advent Begins
Dec. 5	Dave Irving -Heritage Sunday
12 -	Sue Hazen
19 -	Christmas Pageant - Youth/C.E. ??
24 -	Nancy Schmidt - Christmas Eve
26 -	Penny Hurley



MISSIONS AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
PRESENT

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ROWLEY

HOMECOMING BARBEQUE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 @ 11AM



PLEASE JOIN US FOR FOOD & OUTDOOR GAMES

PLUS!!! LIVE MUSIC WITH THE "LAST DUO"

179 MAIN STREET, ROWLEY, MA

978-948-3993, FIRST.CHURCH@VERIZON.NET





ANNUAL EZEKIEL ROGERS GOLF TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF ROWLEY
SEPTEMBER 18TH

FAR CORNER GOLF COURSE, BOXFORD, MA
8:15AM - REGISTRATION, 9AM SHOTGUN START
AFTER TOURNAMENT EVENT W LUNCH BEGINS AT 2PM.

- \$150 PER PERSON INCLUDES GOLF AND LUNCHEON
- \$35 LUNCHEON
- \$150 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP
- \$75 FAMILY SPONSORSHIP
- \$500 LUNCH SPONSORSHIP

SPONSORSHIP INCLUDES A TEE SIGN AND RECOGNITION
AT THE "AFTER THE TOURNAMENT" EVENT.

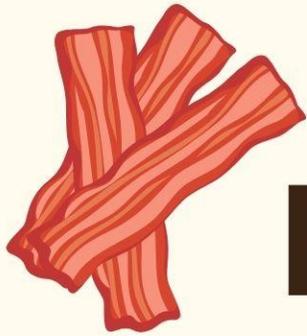
For more info:

www.firstchurchrowley.org/golf

Debbie Confalone: dconfalone@comcast.net, 781-290-6502

Lisa Nestor: Lisa.Nestor@verizon.net, 508-397-4798

Sara Stafford: StaffordSara7@gmail.com, 617-212-9296



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ROWLEY
175 MAIN STREET , ROWLEY

Saturday, October 9

We serve from 8am- 9:30am

Menu: Pancakes, Heart Healthy Sausage Patties,
Bacon, Coffee, Tea, Milk and OJ

\$8 per person, children under 6 eat free.

To RSVP or for more info, contact the church
at: first.church@verizon.net, 978-948-3993



20th Anniversary Community Candlelight Service of Remembrance

Saturday, September 11th @ 7pm

First Congregational Church of Rowley

175 Main Street, Rowley, MA

- Rev. Tom Bentley, First Congregational Church of Rowley
- Father Michael O'Hara, St. Mary's Church
- Joseph Perry, Rowley Selectman
- Scott Dumas, Rowley Chief of Police
- James Broderick, Rowley Fire Chief
- Retired Lt. Michael Wilbur of Ladder Company 27, Bronx, NY
- Marge Thurston, Organist

Fellowship and refreshments after service.

Face masks are strongly suggested.

