



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

Kathy Olmsted, Secretary first.church@verizon.net
Rev. Lee Ireland, Interim Minister revlee4@gmail.com



NOVEMBER 2019

Worship Watch for November

Worship at 10:00 AM every Sunday

Sunday, November 3rd – Semi-Annual Mtg.

Baptism and Holy Communion

Scriptures: Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2:1-4
Psalm 119: 137-144
2 Thessalonians 1: 1-4, 11-12
Luke 19: 1-10

Sermon: “For All the Saints”

Sunday, November 10th - Special Mtg.

Scripture: Haggai 1: 15b- 2:9
Psalm 145: 1-5, 17-21
2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17

Sunday, November 17th

Scriptures: Isaiah 65: 17-25
2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13
Luke 21: 5-19

Sermon: “From Chaos to New Life”

**Sunday, November 24th – Thanksgiving
Sunday**

Scriptures: Jeremiah 23: 1-6
Luke 1: 68-79
Colossians 1: 11-20
Luke 23: 33-43
Sermon: “Blessing of the Remnant”

**DEADLINE for articles for December
the November issue of STEEPLE NOTES
is Tuesday, November 15th**



Upcoming Events



November 3rd – Semi-Annual Mtg.

**Baptism & Communion
Sunday,**

**November 10th Special
meeting**



**Saturday,
November 9th**



**Monday, November 11th
OFFICE CLOSED Veterans' Day**

Saturday, November 16th

Dress-a-Girl
10am – 2 pm

**Olde Tyme
Country Fair**

Saturday, Nov. 23rd
9 AM – 2 PM



Spaghetti Supper
5 – 7 PM

**November 26th – Ecumenical
Thanksgiving Service**
Groveland Congregational Church
7:00 pm



Musings from Rev. Lee

Greetings to you all,

Happy November! What a beautiful fall season we've been able to enjoy with the changing colors and the stunning deep raspberry leaves of the euonymus tree (dwarf burning bush)! I have so enjoyed my rides through MA and CT and seeing the varieties of oranges, yellows and reds interwoven with the greens and evergreens.

For this season now, please take some time to read through our Steeple Notes and see how FCOR is alive and well and bustling as we prepare for our annual Holiday Fair on Nov 23 and then for the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service and into the Advent Season.

As we go into this busy season, I give thanks for each of you as you offer your time and talents to continue strengthening the shining of the light of Christ here for all who seek to know God more personally as they face the challenges and celebrate the joys of their lives. Many may come into our midst and be thankful as they experience the fellowship of all who are here or receive the gifts of our mission. May we each make a conscious choice to pay attention and see the many moments when God's light, grace and love are present in small ways and see the wonders of this life through a simple gesture of love that is being shared. May we see the wonder of generosity and be moved to offer our own random acts of kindness. It does not have to happen on a grand scale. For then we are living into the invitation of Teresa of Avila's words: *"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."*

May our spirit of gratitude be contagious...so that the love of Christ can grow and welcome those who are longing for others who have had such experiences and eagerly seek to provide the ways for them to experience it as well.

Faithfully yours,
Rev Lee

New Members' Classes

Every year we like to provide opportunities for people who have been attending our church to participate in New Members' Classes in order to learn more about our church and how to become a covenanted member. Please let Rev. Lee (revlee4@gmail.com) know if you are interested in joining and if you can join us for a meeting on **Wed Nov 13 at 7 PM**. Our church's phone number is 978-948-3993. We will set up a second meeting based on the schedules of those attending and welcome you as new members in one of our December Worship Services.



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

October 15, 2019

To Members and Friends,
First Congregational Church, Rowley

The 2019 Semi-Annual Meeting of the church membership will be held on Sunday, November 3, 2019. The meeting will open with a worship service starting at 10:00 a.m., with a recess for lunch. The business meeting will start no earlier than 11:30 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 2020.
2. To hear a report from the Search Committee
3. To hear a report from the Mission Board
4. To hear and act on any other business which may properly come before the church membership.

Notice of Special Church Meeting

October 25, 2019

To the Members of the First Congregational Church, U.C.C.
Rowley, Massachusetts

CANDIDATING SUNDAY

There will be a special meeting of the church membership, called by the clerk, on behalf of the Search Committee, on Sunday, November 10, 2019

immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to hear and act upon a recommendation from the Search Committee for a settled pastor for our church.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Irving

David E. Irving, Clerk



REMINDER sure to return your Heifer Project bank to collect for this mission project. Banks to be returned on November 3rd



Music NOTES...

Things are humming along with the Music Committee! We have had the chance to work with four talented musicians—Nancy Reed, Jeremy Silver, Marge Thurston, and Jane Wang—who have provided music during our fall worship services. The Inspirational Singers have been rehearsing for several weeks, and have offered music both with and without accompaniment. Work has begun on a Music Basket for the upcoming Olde Tyme Country Fair. Things are busy!

In mid-October, the Music Committee held a round-table discussion on the direction of the music program at the church. If you didn't have a chance to participate in the round table, we still want to hear from you! We have a 10-question survey available, with the opportunity to take the survey online (go to this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VMM89SV>) or via paper. You can also talk to anyone on the Music Committee—we would love to hear from you.

As we head toward the end of the year, our thoughts turn to the Christmas season. Music is an integral part of the celebration of Christmas. Why not consider joining the Inspirational Singers just for the Christmas season? Even if you cannot join the choir for the entire year, we would be delighted to have additional voices during this joyous time. If you do not want to sing, there are opportunities for other musicians as well. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays from 7:30-8:30 pm. Singing and playing the beautiful music of the Christmas season is a great way to truly experience the spirit of Christmas!



FELLOWSHIP THRIFT SHOP

November marks our tenth year of operation. On Sunday, November 17th we will share a moment during worship to celebrate this milestone. We hope that you will come and take a moment to thank these folks who have volunteered over the years to help us with this project. **YES, WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

We take donations of new and gently used clothing; household items, linens and such. After checking them over, we display most and send what we can't sell on to other non-profit groups. Lately we've been helping some of Triton Regional sports by passing on what they can use.

We have decided to change our hours and close on Thursday nights at 6 pm instead of 7 pm. Please take note and visit us or drop off your donations during our **shop hours:**

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Thursday 3:00 – 6:00 pm NOTE CHANGE

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm



All Saints' Sunday, November 3, 2018

Sunday, November 3th will be All Saints' Sunday at First Congregational Church of Rowley. During our worship service, we will be including a special tribute to all those who have died since All Saints' Day 2018. A list of names of loved ones will be read during the Prayer Time.

If you have a loved one who has passed away over the past year and would like to have their name included on the list, please e-mail Rev. Lee Ireland at revlee4@gmail.com or call the church office no later than Thursday, Nov. 1st, 2018.

FCCR Missions Committee

As of this writing our Congregation has contributed \$182 to Neighbors in Need and \$60 to Clothes for our school kids! Thank you so much for your care and generosity. As you know the clothes are an on-going project with needs continuing through the year. Helen has brought clothing to Pine Grove along with many jackets that she herself has purchased and donated for children in need at the school (which she has done for many years on her own). More items were brought to the Middle School/High School. The school is most appreciative of our partnering with them to meet the needs of the school.

Family Promise of Northshore met its fund-raising goal in the *Walk to End Homelessness* on October 12th. We are very lucky to have this program on the North Shore that supports homeless families in so many ways. Homelessness makes it nearly impossible to succeed in the workplace, in school, and to get medical help. This program houses families in places of worship and other sites until they are able to get back on their feet. Just as importantly, it connects people to all kinds of programs and services that can benefit them and often keep others from becoming homeless. It is wonderful that our CE group has committed to involvement in this program, too. Whether it be making a meal for the families currently housed in the program or making up games or finding books for kids, all of their input will be welcome.

The abuse of families trying to reach our border to gain asylum has not stopped. Children are still separated from the parents. The psychological and physical toll is catastrophic. People should not be kept in detention because their sin is seeking safe shelter and an ability to live and work without fear. Families are sitting in camps waiting to be heard. People working with them and bringing people meals are saying it is the same families week after week and that there is no movement and things are more desperate by the day. Please keep these families in your hearts and in your prayers. Remember if not but for the grace of God we might all be in their shoes. Send out love and ask those in government that they not be complicit in this humanitarian crisis and change our response to one of understanding, kindness, and love.

...And always remember...

Your support produces returns that multiply over and over.

...Every little bit helps fulfill God's Will.

Thank you all for your support...



**The First Congregational Church
2018 Olde Tyme Country Fair
Saturday, November 23rd**

9 AM to 2 PM

It's almost here!!! --- IT'S almost here!!!

*Mark your calendar and save the date
because fair day is almost here!*

As Fair Day approaches, there's still much to do and we need all the help we can get. There truly is something for everyone so look at the overview of tables and events and choose what interests you –



Attic Treasures – Fellowship Hall (in the Basement)**James and Robin Kay**

Always a popular and profitable area – we are looking for saleable items – experience has taught us that some things simply don't sell – plain old glassware, luggage, old typewriters, non-working appliances (including old computers) and old bikes. Therefore, we cannot accept: Old TVs or computers, white goods appliances or any kind of clothing, we also cannot accept (nor sell) used children's toys (due to the danger of lead paint) or car seats. *However, the Fellowship Thrift Shop can and will gladly accept gently used clothing! Talk to James if you'd like to help setting up or selling on Fair Day or the all important breaking down at the close of the Fair!*

Bake Table - Kitchen**Liz Butler**

Liz and her Bake Table Crew are always looking for bakers to donate delicious confections to sell at their table. Pies of all types are always a big hit - as are cookies and bars that can be sold individually so start looking through your recipe file right now and plan your time to do some baking. We do ask, however, that you label your donation – whether or not it contains nuts or whether it might be sugar free - and they wouldn't mind at all if you give them a suggestion as to how much to charge. Bake Table donations will be accepted Friday night and early Saturday morning.

Book Room - The Parlor**Donna Irving**

Donna and her crew sell books of all types – by the bagful! – Come and check it out! Donations of used books are always welcome but prior to the fair, please!

Cabot Cheese - Everett Room**David Irving**

Once again, David will have more than 50 pounds of Private Stock of Cabot Cheese – come by and sample it and you'll be hooked. Buy some for Thanksgiving and then buy a little more for Christmas entertaining.



>Children's Shopping – At this point we are still looking for someone to take on the Children's Shopping Room – might YOU be interested in taking this on? Call us!!!

A perennial favorite where children and children only can pick out inexpensive gifts for everyone on their Christmas list, especially Mom and Dad – with Gift Wrapping available as well. A perfect stop for the littlest shoppers!

**Coffee and Donuts - Everett Room****Charlie Hazen and Liz Morris**

Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, homemade blueberry muffins and Donuts from Honey Dew in Georgetown – all for your snacking pleasure.

Cookie Decorating Table**Back by Popular Demand****Lori Flodman**

Always a favorite – let your child or grandchild go to town decorating his/her own Christmas cookie—we supply the cookies and the frosting and a wide variety of sprinkles etc. Not very nutritious but delicious and lots of fun!

Dollar Raffle – Parish Hall**Ariana Hazen**

As usual, we are looking for a couple of spectacular items to raffle off at the dollar raffle table. These raffle tickets sell for \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and over the years we've raffled a wide variety of things including beautiful handcrafted items, custom made furniture, an oak rocking chair, a beautiful doll house, and Market Basket and Gas Gift Certificates. The Somers have promised to donate their ever popular Lottery Tree but we're still looking for inspiration for one or two items additional items so if you have an idea or a donation you'd like to make, please contact Susan ASAP even more money if so put your thinking caps on.

Door Prizes – Parish Hall**Nancy and Jerry Schmidt**

Fun, gaily wrapped door prizes will be drawn each half hour for the duration of the fair – make sure you get your door prize ticket and listen for your number on the hour and half hour.

ETC – Parish Hall

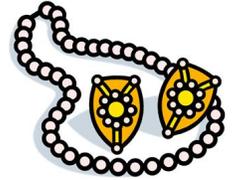
We never know what we might have available on the ETC table, but this eclectic merchandise is always a hit.

Judy Robillard

Handcrafts and Christmas Crafts – Parish Hall

The centerpiece of a church fair is its handcraft table – We're always looking for donations of handcrafts, woodcrafts, knitted goods, handmade Christmas decorations, or quilted items. Please give Kay a call if you have something for this table or drop by as early as possible on Friday (11/16). We know we have talented people out there – so start thinking about what you can do – you know who you are!

Kay Dalzell and Sue McCormick



Jewelry Table – Parish Hall

Resale of classic costume jewelry - always a very popular table – so start to sort through your jewelry box and donate it and then come on down and buy more. Patti says she needs new stock – she needs your help!

Patti Cummings

Luncheon – Corinthian Room

The luncheon is both delicious as well as profitable – and a perfect opportunity for those of you who don't consider yourself 'crafty' but would still like to find a way to contribute to the fair - obviously any item donated to the luncheon *increases the profit margin* – there will be a signup sheet at Coffee Hour soon. And dare we hope for the ever popular and perennially favorite Roger Merry Hot Apple Sundaes?

Neil Butler



Plant Table – Everett Room

Thanks to Bill and Pat Freitag of Country Gardens Greenhouse, Helen and Aubrey will be selling Christmas Wreaths, Kissing Balls and Cemetery Baskets as well as a few Thanksgiving arrangements for your holiday enjoyment.

Helen Dobbins and Audrey Corby

Popcorn and Hot Mulled Apple Cider

Thanks to the Rowley Historical Society, we hope to be able to have their popular old-fashioned popcorn cart again this year – nothing like snacking on hot fresh popped buttered popcorn while you shop.

Chuck Hazen



Publicity

Thanks to Karen we have some wonderful flyers and inserts. We are asking you all to act as our Publicity Committee by helping yourselves to the flyers and distribute them or post them at your place of employment, your dentist office or your beauty parlor. Get the word out – we have a great fair! There are also a limited number of yard signs available – talk to Karen if you'd like to post one in your front yard.

Karen Schmuck

Raffle Table – Parish Hall

The table usually has about a dozen- maybe two - items generally with a Christmas theme. Tickets are 50 cents each, 3 for \$1.00 or an arm's length for \$5.00 – always fun and always a bargain.

Drawing at 2 PM

Susan Hazen



Santa - Parish Hall

arrangements have been made and Santa will be arriving from the North Pole about 11 AM and is scheduled to remain in Rowley until about 1, bring your kids, grandkids and neighbor's kids and bring your list and bring your camera!

Santa Claus Special

Silent Auction – Parish Hall

You know how this table works but this year were trying something new – instead of Lisa and Shawn filling up and donating all the baskets, we're asking the committee or boards, members and friends to consider donating a basket or a single item to be auctioned off at this always spectacular table! You

Lisa and Shawn Nestor

come in and bid on each item. We see people hang around all day, just checking on their bids and upping them as necessary. This table is a prime example of someone who had an idea which has just taken off. If you have something NEW that you'd like to donate to the Silent Auction, give Lisa a call. *Hint: A great opportunity for re-gifting!!!* This is the Nestor's last year with the OTCF Silent Auction as they have sold their house and are going to become snowbirds – let's give Lisa her biggest profit year yet!!!

Zeke's Country Store – Everett Room

Zeke is looking for donations along the lines of jams, jellies, preserves, relishes, pickles and candy – call him and let him know how you can help. Zeke is especially looking for new fun and creative items that might be found in a Country store – maybe Candy Apples or better still Caramel Apples - might be a big hit and how did your garden do this summer? – If you have extra potatoes or squash that you can donate, let Ken know *before he goes shopping. AND by popular demand, Sharon Emery's Firehouse Baked Beans will back this year!*

Ken Sanford and Karl Schmuck

The Youth Group Spaghetti Supper

5 to 7 PM

We all look forward to the wonderful Spaghetti Supper that our Youth Group serves each year after the fair – Plan on coming back for this perennial favorite – Advance tickets will be available during the FAIR!!!



It's not too soon to volunteer!!

Susan and Charlie Hazen (2603), Kay Dalzell (2674)



***So, what's missing? – what do we still need?
– YOU!!!***

*More specifically, we need people to help us set up on Friday
We'll be there on Friday from 9 to 7*

*We always need help up and breaking
down afterwards*

It's a huge task but a huge money maker as well.

A big thank you to everyone who helps - especially the chair people - who have participated for years but we can always use more hands.



Remember that without you the fair simply wouldn't be a success. We need you and we need all your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers because whether you're selling, crafting, eating or buying – it's your fair so don't miss out! In these tight economical times, we need the fresh influx of cash that the fair provides more than ever.

See you on Saturday, November 23rd



BIRTHDAYS

Vincent Barry	11/1
Anika Whitmore	11/1
Lindsey Laudenslager	11/3
Kevin Clark	11/5
Bob Mulkern	11/5
Jonathan Sanford	11/7
Brie Hawkes	11/9
Nicolas & Alexa Bonesara	11/9
Anna(Nestor) Katzberg	11/13
Nancy Reed	11/19
Grace Fyrberg	11/20
Brian Pybrun	11/20
James Kay	11/21
Denise Talley	11/26
Jeremy Schmidt	11/28
Marge Thurston	11/28
Jessica Faircloth	11/29
Ashli Pyburn	11/29

ANNIVERSARIES

Ronald & Pat Lees	11/2
David & Donna Irving	11/25

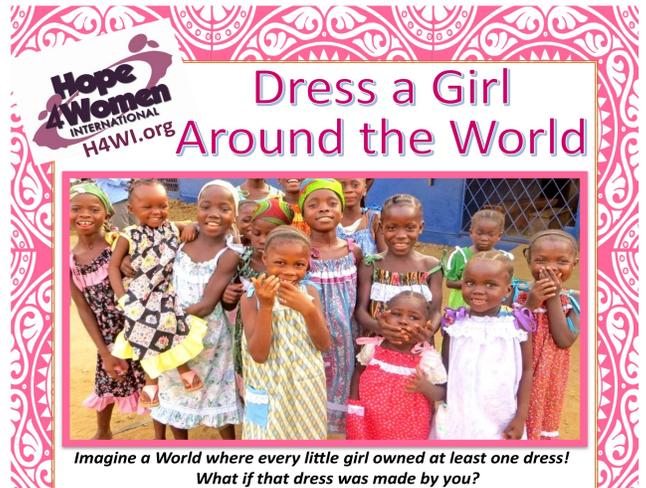


Weekly Hosts: (following worship)

November: Finance / Trustees

December: Diaconate

ECUMENICAL SERVICE
Tuesday, Nov. 26th
7:00 pm
Groveland Congregational Church



This program will meet on Saturday, November 16th here in our Parish Hall.

Please call the church office 978-948-3993 or Denise Gilman at the Rowley Senior Center 978-948-7637 to sign up or for a list of the materials needed.

*Northeast Association Women's Fellowship
 MA Conference of the United Church of Christ*

Fall Meeting

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

9:30 am -1:00 pm

Byfield Parish Church

132 Jackman Street, Georgetown, MA 01833

Registration 9:30 am
 with coffee, tea, juice, and assorted breads

Program Speaker Jane Spellman
"A Journey to Faith Within the UCC"

Worship Leader The Rev. Brent Fugate,
 Byfield Parish

Luncheon & Program \$7.00 per person

Reservations *BY NOV. 1st*
 Byfield Parish Church Office 978-352-2022

An offering will be received for Overseed, a ministry to revitalize historic New England Churches New England churches.

A coin offering will be received in containers on the luncheon tables which will be given to House of Peace in Ipswich

NOVEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SEMI-ANNUAL MTG					1 10 am COA Exercise Bow making 7 pm Boy Scouts	2 9 am-1pm Thrift Shop 7 pm AA
3 10 am Worship w/ Baptism Communion 4 pm YG Meatballs	4 10 am COA Exercise	5 9 am-1pm Thrift Shop 7:30 pm Music rehearsal	6 10 am COA Exercise 10 am GTKU 6 pm KERYGMA	7 3-6 pm Thrift Shop 7:30 Search Comm 7:30 pm ALANON	8 10 am COA Exercise 7 pm Scouts	9 8 am PANCAKE BREAKFAST 9 am-1pm Thrift Shop 7 pm AA
10 10 am Worship SPECIAL MTG.	11 10 am COA Exercise OFFICE CLOSED	12 9 am-1pm Thrift Shop 5 pm Ex. Comm. 7 pm Scout Ldrs 7:30 pm Music rehearsal	13 10 am COA Exercise 10 am GTKU 7pm New Mbr class	14. 9 am NE Area Peer Support Team 3-6 pm Thrift Shop 7:30 pm ALANON	15 10 am COA Exercise 6 pm Scrappers 7 pm Scouts	16 9 am-1pm Thrift Shop 10 am Dress-a-Girl 7 pm AA
17 10 am Worship 10 th Anniversary Svc for Thrift Shop	18 10 am COA Exercise 7 pm Finance/Trustees	19 9am-1pm Thrift Shop 12 pm Thrift mtg. 6:30 pm Music Comm. 7:30 pm Music rehearsal	20 10 am COA Exercise 10 am GTKU 6 pm KERYGMA 7 pm Diaconate	21 7 pm Missions Comm. 7:30 pm ALANON	22 Fair Set-up	23 FAIR 9am – 2pm Supper 5 – 7 pm
24 10 am Worship	25 10 am COA Exercise	26 9am-1pm Thrift Shop 7 pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Svc Groveland	27 10 am COA Exercise 10 am GTKU	28 <i>Thanksgiving</i> 	29 10 am COA Exercise 7 pm Boy Scouts	30 Thrift Shop CLOSED 7 pm AA

Use of church building

A reminder to our church family and friends. If you plan to be in the church building for any reason and are not already part of a planned activity; please be sure that the church office knows of your use BEFORE you arrive! All use of the church MUST be approved by the church office.

Current list of Officers, Boards, Committees and Staff has appeared in previous newsletter.