

JUNE 2020



Steeple Notes

The First Congregational Church of Rowley, U.C.C.
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Update Regarding Building Use and Church Services

These have been challenging times for our church and for the world. Due to continued concerns over the Coronavirus (COVID-19), all programming, meetings, events, services, building use, etc. will remain suspended through the end of the summer. In the meantime, we continue to explore the most effective and most importantly, the **safest** ways to engage with the congregation and the greater community.

On May 17, 2020 we held our first 'drive in' service on the church's grounds. This has been a fruitful endeavor and we have received a great deal of positive feedback regarding these services. For example, one of our church members recently said "What I love most about **Sunday Drive In Service** is seeing the faces of the congregation through their car windows. It gives me a feeling of hope to know we are all in this together and making the best of a tough situation!" and yet another one exclaimed "It is quite nice to going to church in the comfort of your car! In fact, it's more comfortable than the church pews!".

We will continue to meet via **Drive In Service** every Sunday at 10am, in the church parking lot. On the following page, you will find some highlighted quotes about the **Drive in Service** as well as some pictures.

We have also worked diligently at enhancing our digital communication capabilities in order to stay connected and keep you apprised of church happenings. For example, most church committees have been meeting via digital platforms such as Zoom, which offers both video and voice only components (you can dial in through your phone). In addition to our **Drive In Service**, Reverend Tom continues to produce a weekly message via video. In addition our sermons, announcements and supporting documentation are made accessible to you through email, our website and Facebook page.

We are dedicated to holding light and hope during difficult times. We are committed to care for this community and will offer resources and updates as they are made available.

Sincerely,

Reverend Tom Bentley and The Executive Committee



Drive in Service Testimonials

"It was good getting up Sunday morning knowing I could go to church"



"I went home with a smile"

" Felt like a reunion "

"It doesn't matter where you hear the Schmuck Family sing - in the sanctuary or in a parking lot. Their voices are beautiful and the music is uplifting!"



"What a pleasure it has been to attend drive-in church...it is so relaxed...great to be outside and to see everyone even with social distancing. What a great way to start the week! It has been food for my soul!"

Moving into the Future

Summer is a time for reflection and renewal. Without a doubt the summer of 2020 needs to give us a lot of this. It has been a stressful and uncertain time.

In a spirit of sharing, the leaders in our congregation are working hard to be open about how we are dealing with our challenges

Much of our June Steeple Notes is devoted to keeping you informed about changing circumstances and how we plan to move forward.

Let's keep in mind that once the Israelites decided to follow Moses into the desert, they took on 40 years of wandering in the wilderness before they could arrive to a new and stable place. The divine plan for their journey constantly helped shape them into a more devoted and mindful group of pilgrims.

I expect the next many months will be the same for us.

Peace and best wishes,

Rev. Tom



Missions Committee

Hello everyone. It is interesting times. I truly hope that you all well and being very careful, and being sure to protect those around you by always using a mask. I see those saying it takes away their liberty. I can't see how so, instead, to not wear a mask takes away others liberty by making the spread of the virus continue unabated and subjecting individuals in your proximity to the virus. Take care of others around you and wear a mask!

We are hoping all will join in our zoom talks June 12th and June 26th on "Who We Are". This came about as a result of discussing immigration and Helen talking about her father coming to the USA in the 1940s. We thought it would be great to hear each other's stories of coming to America. Through these Zoom meets we learn more about each other and create a greater bond with each other and consider how different circumstances lead people to uproot themselves to start a new life.



If you would like to tell your story contact me, Danby, or Angie. You can either tape it, or tell it live on the Zoom call.

I know we are all on anxiety overload, but please take the time to remember those less fortunate than yourselves. Give to the Rowley Food Pantry, if you can, and also to the Greater Boston Food Bank.

Please remember the UNHCR, they are struggling to help people in refugee camps throughout the world. Doctors without Borders is also struggling with the pandemic.



All the best,

Danby and the Missions Board

Compassionate Care

Over 40 individuals were contacted during this past month by The Compassionate Care Team. Individuals contacted include members and friends of our congregation. The purpose of this outreach is to check with those who live alone, who are elderly, anyone needing assistance with grocery shopping and/or feeling a bit isolated during this time of being quarantined to our homes. The goal of this outreach is to engage folks so that they feel connected to the church and to experience God's Spirit working among us.

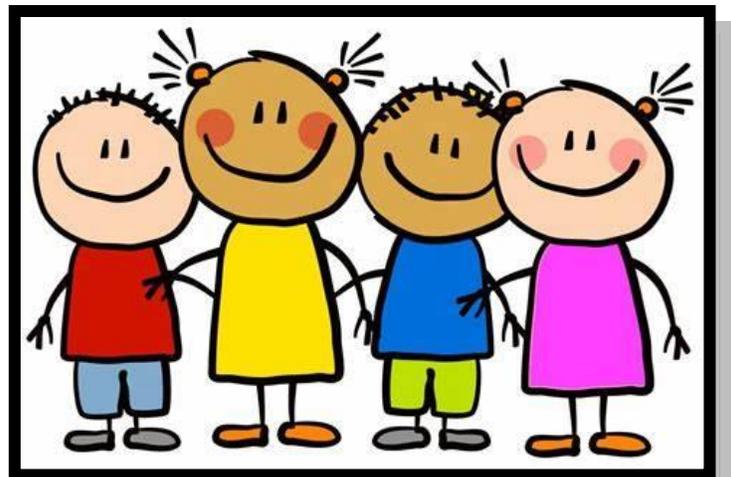


In addition to individual outreach, *Inspirational Messages* authored by Patti Cummings, Penny Hurley and Nancy Schmidt were emailed during the month, averaging two per week. As was noted in a recent inspirational message, we never need to feel alone. God surrounds us with His love and light regardless of the situation.

If you want to be contacted by a member of the Compassionate Care Committee, please contact Angie Estevez at the church office.

Christian Education

CE has been busy with the youth over the last month! Video Sunday school lessons for grades Kindergarten - Fifth Grade (as well as for children of all ages) continue to come out each week. A big thank you to Alexandra Flodman for designing each lesson and for creating the videos for us to enjoy. The older youth (grade six to grade twelve) did a Zoom meeting this month! It was great to see these familiar, young faces again. The group discussed their hopes for the upcoming year for both Sunday school and Youth Group.



We are excited to implement their new ideas, many that can be done soon with proper social distancing practices.

June Birthdays

Aidan Davey	6/1
Youssef Salib	6/1
Erin Savage	6/2
Travis Faircloth	6/7
Al Locke	6/9
Mariah McCormick	6/10
Jim Somers, Jr.	6/10
Rev. Lee Ireland	6/13
Abeba Whitmore	6/14
Abigail Confalone	6/16
Donna Irving	6/18
David Roberts	6/20
Sean Gundrum	6/22
Joe Blazonis	6/26
Mike Blouin	6/28
Kay Dalzell	6/28
Lisa Stevens	6/28



Historical Birthdays

June 1, 1926	Marilyn Monroe
June 4, 1738	King George III
June 8, 1867	Frank Lloyd Wright
June 10, 1922	Judy Garland
June 11, 1913	Vince Lombardi

Historical Dates In June

- June 1, 1943 – Snow falls in Buffalo and Rochester, NY, Cleveland, Ohio and other places.
- June 3, 1964 - The Rolling Stones begin their first US tour. (1964)
- June 5, 1968 – Robert Kennedy is assassinated.
- June 9, 1934 – Disney’s Donald Duck makes his debut



Anniversaries

Nat & Millie Dummer	6/4
Jeff Nickless & Louise DiMella	6/7
Ken & Pam Sanford	6/10
Charles & Jeannette Loring	6/23
Tom & Nancy Reed	6/27
Don & Marge Thurston	6/28

MUSIC



Calling All Musicians!

We are looking for people to provide live music for our Sunday drive-in services!

So far, we've been having one hymn and one moment of live music during the service. We would be delighted to have different people provide the "Music Moment." This moment of live music could be singing, keyboards, other instruments, or something that we haven't thought of at all!

Right now, it isn't safe to have the choir rehearse, as it is not safe to sing in close quarters. We're looking forward to when it is safe to rehearse together!

If you are interested, please contact the church office or any member of the Music Committee.

Youth

First Congregational Church adult and youth volunteers assembled and served 90 Spaghetti Dinners on Saturday May 30, 2020.

A special shout out to Angie, the Butler Family, the Blouin Family, Lisa and Craig Stevens, Old Town Bakery and everyone else who helped make this possible.





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

Notice of Special Church Meeting

May 22, 2020

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

There will be a special meeting of the church membership, called by the Clerk, on Sunday, June 7, 2020 starting no earlier than 9:30 am prior to the 10:00 am "drive in" worship service.

The agenda items for the special church meeting are:

- To hear and act on a report from the Nominating Committee for elections of Officers, Boards and Committees for the following church year. (Article II of the Annual Meeting Agenda). The Annual Reports of the Officers, Boards and Committees will be received at the Semi-Annual Meeting in November.
- To hear and act on a recommendation from the Diaconate on church membership.
- Any Other Business that May Properly Come Before the Church Membership

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Irving

David E. Irving, Clerk

Worship Watch

Sun., June 7

Trinity Sunday

- Genesis 1:1—2:4a
- Psalm 8
- 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
- Matthew 28:16-20

Sun., June 14

Second Sunday after Pentecost

- Genesis 18:1-15 [21:1-7]
- Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
- Romans 5:1-8
- Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

Sun., June 21

Third Sunday after Pentecost

- Genesis 21:8-21
- Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
- Romans 6:1b-11
- Matthew 10:24-39

Sun., June 28

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

- Genesis 22:1-14
- Psalm 13
- Romans 6:12-23
- Matthew 10:40-42

*Deadlines for the July
Issue of
STEEPLENOTES is
Monday - June 15th*

