



Steeple Notes

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ROWLEY, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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By Reverend Tom - "That Still Small Voice"

In only three weeks, the sun will "stop" in the sky, take a brief rest, and start going back to where it came from. This event is called the Summer Solstice. Solstice means "sun-still" in linguistic roots.

I have never understood why the Christian tradition did not celebrate the Summer Solstice or even co-opt the date for a special time in the Christian calendar. This did happen with the Winter Solstice, which is when early Christians decided to claim that time in December as the birth date of Jesus.

The Summer Solstice is a powerful day in past religious traditions. It is the day, when the priests of ancient times, acknowledged the rule and flow of life through ritual, and special decrees.

Near to my house in Gloucester is an astrological clock built by the original indigenous first nation peoples of the area. While I was in Yellowstone park, I found a similar clock made of massive boulders showing the points on the compass.

Over the last 30 years more and more of these mysterious sites have been discovered. Archaeologists have used them to measure the time and flow of the astrological bodies. Their accuracy is amazing.

We live by rhythms. Modern science understands this, and attempts to help us keep our equilibrium as we deal with seasonal affect disorder, bio - rhythms, sleep patterns, plus the roller coaster ride of hormones as we age.

I personally feel we need to regularly go out and look at the sky and see the order of our existence. Christianity would be wise to start encouraging the same. The Summer Solstice will be happening at 5:13 AM June 21. I suggest we all get up at that time and do a "still". Go outside, if possible; sit in a quiet place - and feel the sacred rhythms. Jesus did this all the time.

Blessings to you all, Rev. Tom



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Ezekiel Rogers Golf Tournament by Debbie Confalone

The Annual Ezekiel Rogers Golf Tournament is on **September 23rd** at Far Corner Golf in Boxford, MA.

8am - Registration, 9am tee time after tournament event w lunch begins at 2pm

- \$165 Per Person
- \$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, Debbie Confalone: dconfalone@comcast.net, 781-290-6502.

What Would You Like to See?

What would you like to see in Steeple Notes? This is **your newsletter**. Is there a feature that you miss or one that you really enjoy viewing each month?

Birthdays and anniversaries are returning starting this edition. We will need your help keep the lists updated. Feel free to message the office with your requests and/or suggestions.

Prayer Ministry by Nancy Schmidt

Prayer Ministry, Thursday Nights at 7:00 PM, weekly beginning June 29.

Welcoming anyone who wants to pray for others, themselves, or simply be among those who pray.

A weekly prayer list will be generated and reviewed at each prayer meeting. You may send prayer requests to RowleyPrays@Gmail.Com. We will be posting the email address on social media, please help us get the word out by sharing! **Sponsored** by the **Compassionate Care Network**. **Facilitators:** Angie Estévez, Patti Cummings, Nancy Schmidt.



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Missions

The Missions Committee will offer Family Movie Nights this summer- 2x/month on Friday nights.

Doors will open at 7pm, movie starts at 7:30.

We will serve popcorn and cold drinks.

Prospective movies are:

- Mrs. Doubtfire
- Pay it Forward
- Akeelah and the Bee
- Rescued by Ruby

The dates will be: July 14 & 28 and August 11 & 25.

Mission Walks are planned for 5/21, 6/25, 7/23 and 8/20 at 1:00. Locations to be determined.



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T - Shirts Available by Karen Schmuch

We've designed T-Shirts that include our new mission statement on the front and "First Church of Rowley" on the back. T-Shirts are \$10 and are available in S-M-L-XL (if you'd like a different size, please let us know - we will see what we can do!!)

Order by Sunday, June 11

- Sign up at Church
- Contact Church Office
- Contact Karen Schmuch via email at nakamaka@verizon.net



If there is interest in other items (baseball caps, long sleeve T-shirts, or sweatshirts come to mind, or even T-shirts in an alternate color), please let us know. We can explore the possibilities and get prices.

Compassionate Care Network by Penny Hurley



The Compassionate Care Network continues outreach to our congregation and friends in need of prayer and support.

Here's what we're working on:

- Streamlining communication and channels of support.
- Offering a weekly Prayer Ministry for a 3 month period to start. This will have a moderator and a simple yet thoughtful format. Details coming soon!

Preparing over the summer for our part of the strategic plan to visit sister churches in the fall to share ideas.

Your CCN, Penny Hurley, Nancy & Jerry Schmidt, Patti Cummings, Kay Dalzell & Rev. Tom Bentley



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Plant Sale & Music Report by Karen Schmuck

We held our annual Plant Sale on May 20, 2023. There was a threat of rain all day, but most of it held off until the end of the sale. We're happy to report that we brought in \$1580 with the sale and the raffle. Many thanks to the generous folks at Country Gardens for the beautiful plants!

Marge Thurston has been playing the organ on Communion Sunday (and for other services as requested).

We greatly appreciate her musical talents and her commitment to providing organ music for the congregation once a month.

The Inspirational Singers have been providing acapella music on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. The Singers anticipate being able to continue throughout the summer months, although there may be some adjustments due to vacations.



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Updates from Angie

It's so good to be back! Your affirmation and warm welcome have been very heartening. I am looking forward to serving you and the people of the greater Rowley community through my involvement in the church once again.

Some of you have asked me for updates on ministry and schooling - so I thought this would be an opportune time to share with you.

- After five years, I completed my fourth and final unit of CPE in May 2022. Clinical Pastoral Education for professional chaplains is comparable to what a residency is for doctors.
- I am actively pursuing ordination through a self paced program of study. Ordination is required for chaplaincy board certification.
- I continue to serve as chaplain for the Rockingham County Correctional Facility. This is a part time position with a flexible schedule. The Lord is doing great things at the jail! Please continue to pray for the inmates and staff!
- I have contemplated advanced studies in Pastoral Care but I am enjoying a much slower pace of life after having worked rigorously for 7 months. PLUS - I'm too busy skating! Some of you may remember that I challenged myself to skate all 50 states by the time I turn 50 during the pandemic.
- So far I've skated in 24 states, as well as Canada, Honduras and Mexico. While I am not a stellar skater whatsoever, rollerskating is a platform which enables Eric and I to meet people we would not otherwise encounter and explore terrain we would not otherwise traverse.

- Enclosed are pictures from a recent visit to Shipshewana Indiana, an Amish community and a picture of Eric and I at a skating rink in Niles, Michigan. If you are on Instagram, you can follow my journey at @skatethestates_.

I'm currently involved in Pizza and Game nights, the Prayer ministry, curating some upcoming creative activities and anything else I can assist with. I'm always available to meet over coffee (and food!) and I'm looking forward to enjoying a great summer with you!



Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8am-2pm

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Birthdays

Aidan	Davey	6/1
Youssef	Salib	6/1
Erin	Savage	6/2
Burton	Gray	6/4
Travis	Faircloth	6/7
Al	Locke	6/9
Mariah	McCormick	6/10
	Somers,	
Jim	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	6/30



Anniversaries

The Late Nat & Millie Dummer	6/4
Jeff Nickless & Louise DiMella	6/7
Ken & Pam Sanford	6/10
Charles & Jennette Loring	6/23
Tom & Nancy Reed	6/27



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In House Training

The church now has a defibrillator (AED)! It is located between the Sanctuary and Parish Hall. The cost was covered by a parishioner's anonymous donation. Debbie Confalone and Jeremy Schmidt have volunteered to conduct non-certified training on use of the AED, current CPR procedures and the Heimlich Maneuver on **Sunday June 11th 11:00 AM - noon.**



Rowley Public Library

The Rowley Public Library is sponsoring two upcoming activities that might be of interest to you.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023 AT 9:30 AM - 12 PM

A Morning of Insight Meditation: Instruction & Practice. Registration required. Sign up at: <http://www.rowleylibrary.org/calendar/>
Open to beginners and experienced meditators. Instructor Ted Jones will guide you in a silent retreat format where you will calm the mind through attention to the sensations of breath and movement.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023 AT 10:30 AM

The Adventures of Two Grannies on the Road - Virtual

Sign up at <http://www.rowleylibrary.org/calendar/>

They're not ready for the rocking chair yet! Two young-at-heart grandmothers will share their love of exploration and adventure, showing that they can be business owners, wives, grandmothers, and still have fun! Join "Grannies" Beth Sobiloff and Marcia Rothwell as they share stories and reflect on their adventures touring all over the Commonwealth.



SNEUCC 4th Annual Meeting of the Southern New England Conference

Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Eastern

Roll Away the Stone

Registration

The cost for the annual meeting is \$120.00 per person for in-person and online attendance. **Registration for in-person attendees is closed.**

Registration for online attendees closes at 11:59 PM Monday, June 12 so that they may receive worship materials and voting credentials prior to

the meeting. They've included a weblink on their FB page if you're interested in registering. Or you can register through: <https://sneucc-reg.brtaapp.com/2023SNEUCC4thAM> .

