



EST. 1639

First Church of Rowley

...A voice of hope serving the community

October STEEPLE NOTES



Pastor's Corner

Spotting Opportunity in Transitional Times

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:

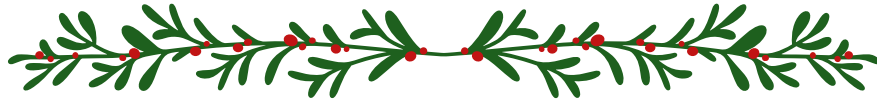
- Feel uncertain. That's normal. Let concerns be spoken like confessions: expressing them can be cathartic. It can make room for peace of mind.
- Hear values articulated. Encourage this! Be curious. When someone floats an idea, ask them: what would it say about our congregation's values if we were to 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
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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 are two pumpkins. To the left is a large yellow leaf, and to the right is a grey leaf with an acorn. On the left side, there is a smaller yellow leaf.

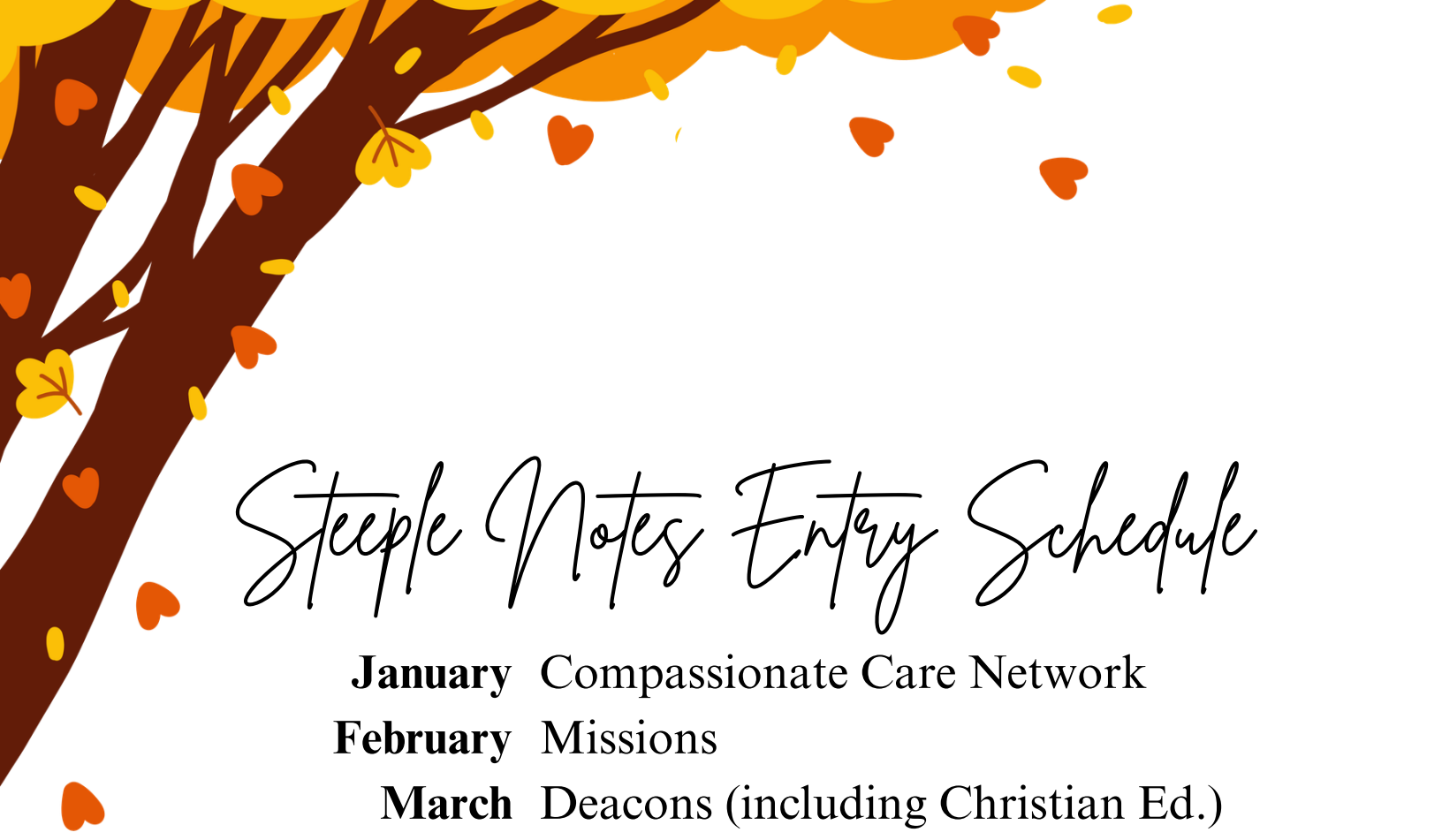
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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. On the right side is a yellow leaf. At the bottom left is a pumpkin with two leaves (one yellow, one brown). At the bottom right are two pumpkins.

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 20th of the preceding
month to 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 10TH 8A-9:30A

GOLF TOURNAMENT
FRIDAY OCTOBER 16TH
8AM REGISTRATION, 9AM TEE TIME
LUNCH TO FOLLOW

OLDE TYME COUNTRY FAIR
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21ST 9AM-2PM



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

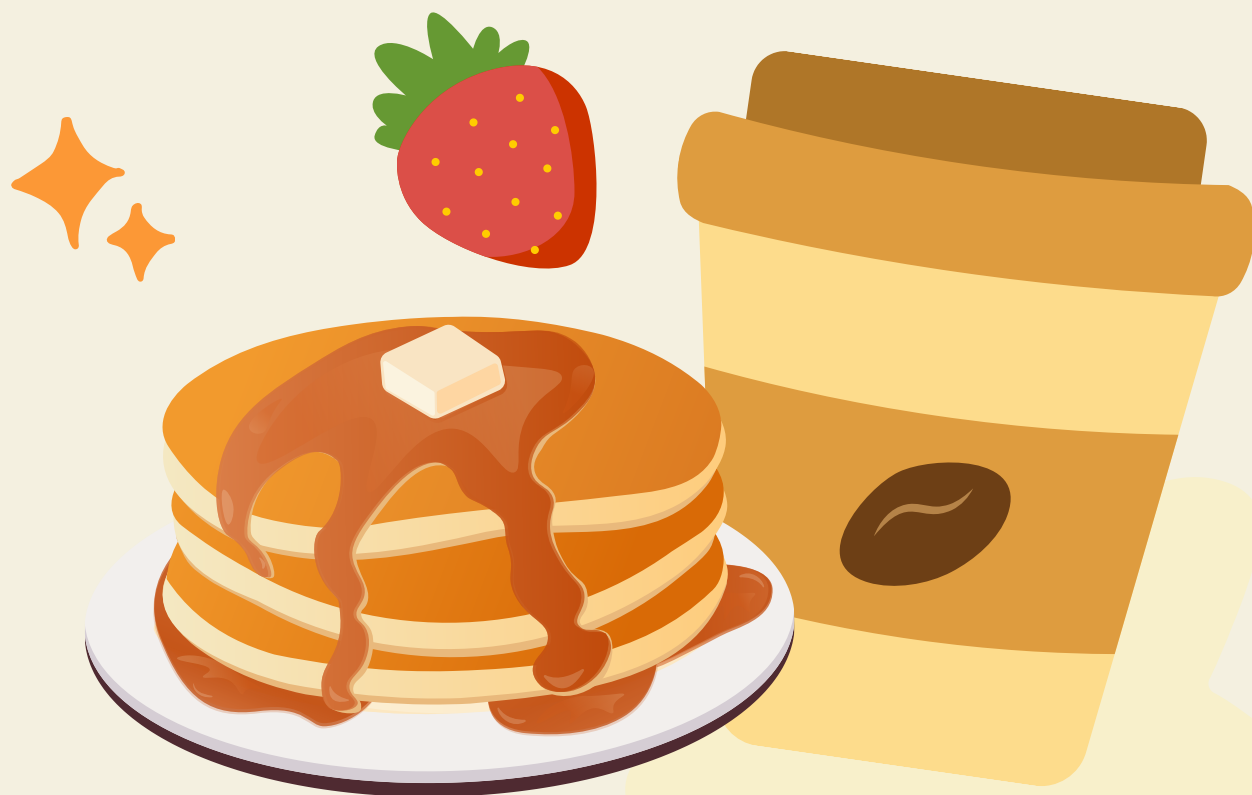


FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

GOOD MORNINGS START HERE.



SATURDAY OCTOBER 10TH 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
17TH ANNUAL EZEKIEL ROGERS**

GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY OCT 16TH

8:30 AM REGISTRATION

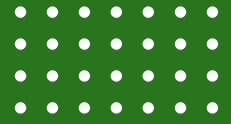
9:30 AM TEE TIME

**\$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



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

firstchurchrowley@gmail.com

978 948 3993

www.firstchurchrowley.org

SUNDAY OCT
18 TH
3:00 PM

...

doors open 2:30PM

FALL VARIETY SERIES



Ella & Company

"The Greatest of the Great
American Songbook"



For More Ticket Information
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