



# Steeple Notes

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ROWLEY, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
175 MAIN STREET, PO BOX 364  
WWW.FIRSTCHURCHROWLEY.ORG - 978-948-3993

## Sunday November 5th is Hope Sunday!

Today is Hope Sunday! Sunday November 5th is also Hope Sunday! Our leadership and Branding Team have been working on creating a meaningful, interactive experience for you which includes cake and a picture exhibit depicting hope in action.



## Semi - Annual Meeting

The semi-annual meeting will occur after the worship service on November 5th. The purpose of the meeting is to hear a recommendation from the Finance/Trustee Committee on the proposed budget for 2024; to hear an update from the Search Committee and any other business that needs to come before the congregation.



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## **The Pastoral Search Committee**

The Search Committee consist of the following individuals:

- Stone Butler, Recorder
- Patti Cummings
- Kay Dalzell
- Doug Phillips
- Glenn Pyburn
- Pam Sanford, Point Person to the UCC
- Jerry Schmidt, Chair



The committee has met several times since being elected by the congregation on 9/24. We have organized a process of rating minister's profiles and have had one "mock interview" to practice our interview questions. We have received one minister's profile and are in the process of interviewing this candidate.

We have developed a survey to gain your input on the type of characteristics you wish to see in your next minister. That survey will be in both a printed form and also online. We hope each of you will complete a survey as it is your opportunity for input.

Thank you for your support as we do this important work.  
Jerry Schmidt, Chair

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## **Prayer Ministry**

### **Thursday's at 2pm**

Welcoming anyone who wants to pray for others, themselves, or simply be among those who pray. All are welcome to participate and/or submit a prayer request.



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## Social Media & Pictures by Karen Schmuck

They say a picture is worth a thousand words! Please help us promote the Church Fair with photos for Facebook!

While you are working on items for the Fair, take a photo and post it Facebook! If you are making your famous salsa or pickles, crafting a sweater or hat, putting together a basket, offering a special item at Attic Treasures,



preparing a menu for the luncheon, or something else altogether...all of these photos can help promote the Fair and encourage people to attend!

When you post the photo to Facebook, make sure to tag @First Congregational Church of Rowley so that the photo will appear on the church's Page as well. By posting to your own Facebook account, we'll extend our reach to the people in your personal network as well as followers of the Church Facebook page.

We also encourage you to use hashtags aka the number or pound sign "#".

A hashtag is a keyword or a phrase used to describe a topic or a theme, which is immediately preceded by the pound sign (#). Hashtags can help you find topics that are of interest.

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## **Social Media & Pictures by Karen Schmuck Cont....**

For example, "dogs" could be a hashtag, and so could "border collie puppy training." One is a broad topic, and the other is a phrase that's specific. To create a hashtag, type the pound sign (#) before the word or phrase and don't use spaces or punctuation (even if you use multiple words in a phrase).

If you are not on Facebook, you can email photos to [firstchurchrowley@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchrowley@gmail.com), [nakamaka@verizon.net](mailto:nakamaka@verizon.net) or text to 978-412-6107.

Here is some suggested text you can use for your post (please feel free to write your own as well!):

Text with examples:

1. See you at the Fair! The Olde Tyme Country Fair is coming up on November 18 at the @FirstCongregationalChurchofRowley! You can see a number of quilted table runners and so much more at the craft table! Hope to see you there! #FirstChurchRowley #OldTymeCountryFair #RowleyMA

2. The Olde Tyme Country Fair is a few weeks away on November 18 at the @FirstCongregationalChurchofRowley. Be sure to check out all the homemade baked goods at the Bake Table, including our famous apple pies! A wonderful sweet way to start the holidays! #OldTymeCountryFair #FirstChurchRowley #RowleyFair #RowleyMA

Hashtag Examples:

Hashtags to use:

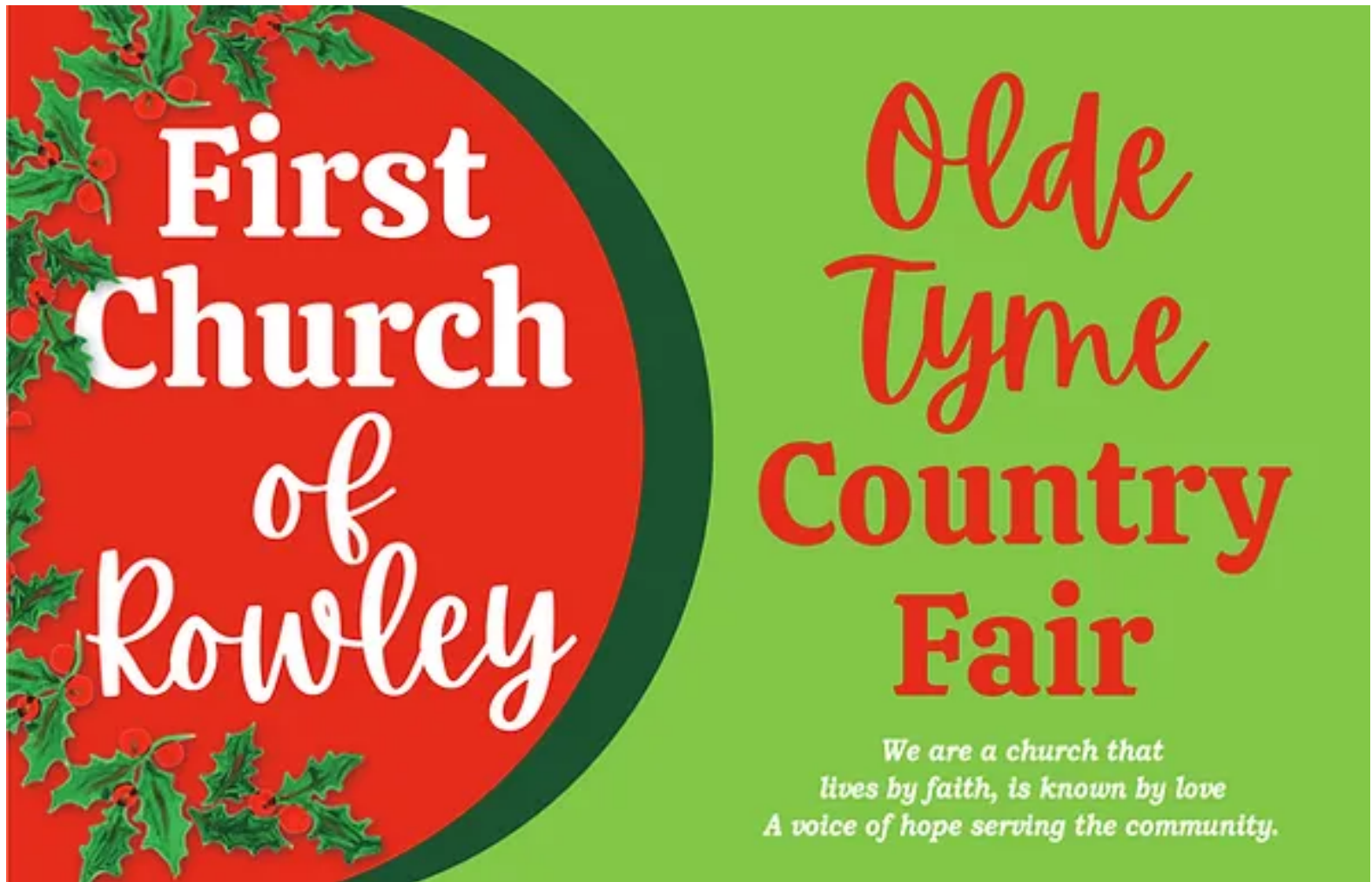
#OldTymeCountryFair  
#FirstChurchRowley  
#RowleyFair  
#RowleyMA  
#RowleyChristmasFair  
#FirstChurchRowley



## Social Media & Pictures by Karen Schmuck Cont....



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## Pictures from the Ministers Woodlot Dedication October 1, 2023



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## Pictures from the Ministers Woodlot Dedication Cont...



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## Pictures from the Ministers Woodlot Dedication Cont...



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## **The PRC - Pastoral Relations Committee**

The PRC, the Pastoral Relations Committee, may not be a familiar committee to some! We are responsible for keeping communication open on behalf of both the pastor and the congregation.

Additionally, we are also responsible for the supervision and work of the Church Administrative Assistant - Angie! In this time of transition, we

are focused on helping Angie manage the increased responsibility and tasks in the absence of a settled pastor.

We look forward to being present for our Search Committee as they progress in their work!

Thank you for your understanding and your help.

Penny Hurley, Chair

Les Warren

Ken Sanford

Paul Chang

Jen Loring



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## **Poinsettias**

Red, White and Pink Poinsetas are available for order. \$11. Order due date 12/9

Contact Debbie Confalone or Ellie Manning to order.



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## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee welcomed Nicole Sirignano (pronounced SIRI-ANO) as our new bookkeeper on October 19th. She will overlap her duties with Angie for four weeks, as she learns our processes. Nicole has a degree in Accounting from Suffolk University, she is a certified QuickBooks expert, and lives in Newbury with her husband and three young children. Please welcome her when you see her.



## GTKU

The women involved in GTKU - Getting to Know You - were also involved in coordinating the North East Association Women's Fellowship brunch on Wednesday, Nov 1st. Pics to follow!



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## Music Notes

The Groveland Congregational Church will be hosting a Service of Gratitude and Thanksgiving on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 7pm. There will be a combined choir providing music for the service. If you are interested in singing in the choir, please see any member of the Inspirational Singers. This ecumenical service is a great way to start your Thanksgiving celebration! The church is located at 4 King St, Groveland, MA 01834.



We're delighted to report that Jeremy Silver will be accompanying our November Communion service on Sunday, November 5. Jeremy played for us several times before the pandemic, and we're excited that he is returning to play for us in November and several Sundays in 2024.

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## BlueBird Performance Venue

The Bluebird Performance Venue will hold a free holiday concert on Saturday, December 16th at 4:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

This concert is solely for the congregation in gratitude for their support.



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## Holiday Fair Co-Chairs



**Kay Dalzell** - [kdalzell@comcast.net](mailto:kdalzell@comcast.net)

**Donna Irving** - [dvdirving@aol.com](mailto:dvdirving@aol.com)

## Fair Coordinators

**Baked Goods** - Liz Butler - [thebutlershome@verizon.net](mailto:thebutlershome@verizon.net)

**Books** - Donna Irving - [dvdirving@aol.com](mailto:dvdirving@aol.com)

**Cabot Cheese** - Dave Irving - [dvdirving@aol.com](mailto:dvdirving@aol.com)

**Coffee/Donuts & Muffins** - Charlie Hazen - [susan.g.hazen@gmail.com](mailto:susan.g.hazen@gmail.com)

**Handcrafted Items** - Kay Dalzell - [kdalzell@comcast.net](mailto:kdalzell@comcast.net)

**Holiday Greenery/Plants** - Nicola Pyburn - [nicola.pyburn@gmail.com](mailto:nicola.pyburn@gmail.com)

**Jewelry** - Penny Hurley - [penelopehurley@gmail.com](mailto:penelopehurley@gmail.com)

**Kids Room** - Amy Hanson(CE) [aleehanson@hotmail.com](mailto:aleehanson@hotmail.com)

**Savory Homestyle Luncheon** - Neil Butler - [thebutlershome@verizon.net](mailto:thebutlershome@verizon.net)

**Raffle Items** - Patti Cummings - [patti.cummings@livanova.com](mailto:patti.cummings@livanova.com)

**Silent Auction** - Debbie Confalone - [dconfalone@comcast.net](mailto:dconfalone@comcast.net)

**Thrift Shop** - Paul Chang - [pchang@antarespharma.com](mailto:pchang@antarespharma.com)

**Zeke's Country Store** - Ken Sanford - [kcsanford1@gmail.com](mailto:kcsanford1@gmail.com)

**Etc.** - Judy Robillard - [jhrbutterfly@yahoo.com](mailto:jhrbutterfly@yahoo.com)

**Hourly Raffles** - Nancy and Jerry Schmidt - [jschmidt22@comcast.net](mailto:jschmidt22@comcast.net)

**Frozen Apple Pies** - Susan Hazen - [susan.g.hazen@gmail.com](mailto:susan.g.hazen@gmail.com)

**Publicity** - Karen Schmuck - [nakamaka@verizon.net](mailto:nakamaka@verizon.net)

**Technology** - Eric Fila - [ericfila@gmail.com](mailto:ericfila@gmail.com)

**Santa Claus** - Bill Manning - [elliebilly136@gmail.com](mailto:elliebilly136@gmail.com)

**Angie Estévez** - Administrative Assistant - [firstchurchrowley@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchrowley@gmail.com)



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## Missions

Missions is working on a special event after the new year, to be co-hosted with our church partners from Georgetown and Byfield. More details forthcoming...



- **The Community Café** is back!! We are hosting delicious Burwell Beans coffee and home-baked treats on the last Wednesday of each month, from 8:30 - 10am. We got off to a good start in September with more than 20 guests. Remember - most of our guests came because someone invited them, so please invite a friend to join us. Or two or three!
- **Missions Walks** continue each month. Please join us, and feel free to bring your furry family members.

There's a Taoist parable called Sāi Wēng Lost His Horse about a poor Chinese farmer that goes like this: A long time ago, a poor Chinese farmer lost a horse, and all the neighbors came around and said, "well that's too bad." The farmer said, "maybe." Shortly after, the horse returned bringing another horse with him, and all the neighbors came around and said, "well that's good fortune," to which the farmer replied, "maybe." The next day, the farmer's son was trying to tame the new horse and fell, breaking his leg, and all the neighbors came around and said, "well that's too bad," and the farmer replied, "maybe."

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## Missions, Cont....

The next day, the farmer's son was trying to tame the new horse and fell, breaking his leg, and all the neighbors came around and said, "well that's too bad," and the farmer replied, "maybe." Shortly after, the emperor declared war on a neighboring nation and ordered all able-bodied men to come fight—many died or were badly maimed, but the farmer's son was unable to fight and spared due to his injury. And all the neighbors came around and said, "well that's good fortune," to which the farmer replied, "maybe." And so the story goes. In China, when something bad happens people will say, "Sai Weng Shi Ma" (Remember "The Old Man Who Lost His Horse") to remind themselves and others that, sometimes, "bad" things happen which carry a silver lining—and that it's often in the way you look at things which determines their power over your spirit.



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*Gobble, Gobble*



# "Community-Giving"

Thanksgiving Day ~ November 23, 2023

Please join us for an amazing  
*Community Thanksgiving Dinner*

Brought to you by

The First Congregational Church of Rowley - Rowley Council on Aging  
Rowley Boy Scouts - Rowley Girl Scouts  
Triton Middle School Student Council

At First Congregational Church of Rowley, 175 Main Street

*We are having two seatings*

*12pm & 4pm*

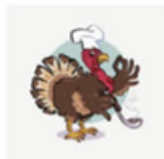
*To Go Dinners & Deliveries too!*

***Please RSVP to reserve your seat***

RSVP by email: [butlerel76@gmail.com](mailto:butlerel76@gmail.com)

RSVP by phone: 978-948-7627

RSVP by QR Code:



Church Office at 978-948-3993

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# First Congregational Church, Rowley

## Survey Questions

The purpose of this survey is to gather information from each of you regarding the skills and attributes you would like to see in our next minister. Please respond to the questions below and return to the church office at your earliest convenience. You do not need to include your name as all responses are confidential.

You can fill out online directly: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FJKW85P> ; Link will be emailed too. Survey closes on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

- 
1. Please choose the top three strengths you would like to see in our new minister. (only select 3)

- Theologian
- Administrator
- Precher
- Counselor
- Teacher
- Director
- Visionary



2. What are the top three qualities our new Minister must have ( only select 3)

- Inspiring preacher and teacher
- Leader and visionary
- Enthusiastic about engaging young people and families.
- Strong administrative skills
- Able to attract new members
- Inspires generous stewardship of members time, money, and resources.
- Deals well with conflict
- Other (please write in the space below)

3. What do you hope the new minister will accomplish in his/her first 12 months? ( only select 3)

- Growth in numbers
- Renewed vision for the church
- Spiritual growth
- Streamline board and committee structure



Which of these components are most important to you in a sermon? (only choose 3)

- Strong biblical knowledge
- Application to everyday life
- Intellectually challenging
- Humor
- Spiritual nourishment
- Challenging the status quo
- Other (please be specific)

We are planning to hire a part-time minister. Given the reality that a part-time minister can only focus on half of a full-time minister's responsibilities, which of the following responsibilities could be **omitted** from their schedule:

- a. Participation in board and committee meetings
- b. Interaction with children and young people such as, giving children sermons, Sunday School visits, activities with young adults.
- c. Community outreach such as involvement in the Council on Aging, the Fire and Police Department, town meetings, etc.
- d. Involvement in ecumenical services and meetings with other churches in the immediate area.
- e. Attending and participating in the programs of the church such as The Old Tyme Country Fair, The Golf Tournament, Community Dinners, Pancake Breakfast.
- f. Visitation to parishioners who are sick, in the hospital, in hospice care and/or needing pastoral care in any manner.
- g. Bible Study Groups

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue  | Wed   | Thu  | Fri  | Sat  |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| <div>29</div> <div>Worship 10 am</div>   | <div>30</div> <div>9:30am - COA Fitness</div>                            | <div>31</div>                                | <div>1</div> <div>10am - GTKU - Getting to</div>                                    | <div>2</div> <div>9:30am - COA Fitness!<br/>2pm - Prayer Ministry<br/>3pm - Fellowship Thrift<br/>7pm - Alanon @ First</div>                               | <div>3</div> <div>6pm - Scout Meeting</div>                              | <div>4</div> <div>9am - Church Fair - Apple<br/>9am - Fellowship Thrift<br/>6:30pm - The Bluebird<br/>8pm - AA @ First</div> |
| <div>5</div> <div>Semi Annual Meeting<br/>Worship 10 am<br/>9:45am - Organist,</div> | <div>6</div> <div>9:30am - COA Fitness</div>                             | <div>7</div>                                 | <div>8</div> <div>10am - GTKU - Getting to<br/>1pm - Angie/Brent</div>              | <div>9</div> <div>11am - COA - Veteran's<br/>2pm - Prayer Ministry<br/>3pm - Fellowship Thrift<br/>7pm - Alanon @ First</div>                              | <div>10</div> <div>4pm - Pancake Breakfast<br/>6pm - Scout Meeting</div> | <div>11</div> <div>8am - Pancake Breakfast<br/>9am - Boy Scouts Paper<br/>9am - Fellowship Thrift<br/>8pm - AA @ First</div> |
| <div>12</div> <div>Worship 10 am<br/>3pm - Private Event (5-</div>                   | <div>13</div> <div>9:30am - COA Fitness</div>                            | <div>14</div> <div>6pm - Boys Scouts -</div> | <div>15</div> <div>10am - GTKU - Getting to<br/>6:30pm - Diaconate</div>            | <div>16</div> <div>9am - Council On Aging -<br/>9:30am - COA Fitness!<br/>2pm - Prayer Ministry<br/>3pm - Fellowship Thrift<br/>7pm - Alanon @ First</div> | <div>17</div> <div>6pm - Scout Meeting</div>                             | <div>18</div> <div>9am - Fellowship Thrift<br/>8pm - AA @ First</div>  |
| <div>19</div> <div>Worship 10 am<br/>10am - Inspirational</div>                      | <div>20</div> <div>Steeple Notes Deadline<br/>9:30am - COA Fitness</div> | <div>21</div>                                | <div>22</div> <div>10am - GTKU - Getting to</div>                                   | <div>23</div> <div>12pm &amp; 4pm -<br/>2pm - Prayer Ministry<br/>3pm - Fellowship Thrift<br/>7pm - Alanon @ First</div>                                   | <div>24</div> <div>6pm - Scout Meeting</div>                             | <div>25</div> <div>9am - Fellowship Thrift<br/>8pm - AA @ First</div>  |
| <div>26</div> <div>Worship 10 am<br/>10am - Inspirational</div>                      | <div>27</div> <div>9:30am - COA Fitness</div>                            | <div>28</div>                                | <div>29</div> <div>8:30am - Monthly<br/>10am - GTKU - Getting to<br/>6:30pm -</div> | <div>30</div> <div>9:30am - COA Fitness!<br/>2pm - Prayer Ministry<br/>3pm - Fellowship Thrift<br/>5:30pm - Girl Scouts<br/>7pm - Alanon @ First</div>     | <div>1</div>   | <div>2</div>   |



## **After Church Fellowship Board/Committee Assignments**

### **Pastry or treat 1st and 3rd Sunday Updated Schedule**

- January - Compassionate Care Network
- February - Thrift Shop
- March - Diaconate
- April - Missions
- May - Music Committee and Inspirational Singers
- June - Finance/Trustees
- July - Thrift Shop
- August - None
- September - Missions
- October - Finance/Trustees
- November - Diaconate
- December - Music Committee and Inspirational Singers.



\*The schedule will be posted at coffee hour and reminders will be sent via email.

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## **Community Pancake Breakfast**

2nd Saturday in each month from  
September 2023 through April 2024  
\$10.00 - Under 12 free!  
Looking Forward to Seeing you!



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