

THE BELL

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Gathered 1632

Vision Statement

Growing in faith by...worshipping God, loving all, joyfully serving others

Covenant – We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the word and the will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for the truth, justice and peace. As did those who came before, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

Number 333 October 2021

TO YOU, FROM PASTOR BARTLETT

As a church we have a good number of boards, committees, and working groups. I have been working to coordinate our efforts to reach out to those who are homebound, those who are reluctant to come to church due to COVID, those who are new attendees, and those who are prospective attendees and members. The church has always been an outreaching organization in difficult times. Indeed, the start of the church meant people were risking their very lives to attend meetings. Years of church martyrdom are part of church history. Even to this day there are places in the world where the risk is equally severe.

We cannot forget the Pilgrim heritage of our church where, the pandemic of their place and time, took out nearly half the original group in that first winter in Plymouth. That was what it cost for them to freely worship God.

At First Congregational Church, Marshfield we are left with many challenges to grow the church in these difficult times. We are rising to meet these challenges while respecting the rights of individuals to do what they feel is necessary to avoid COVID.

One of our challenges is Facebook Live where we broadcast our Sunday service. The internet connection has not been good and we are looking for work-arounds to make the service better. We have been using Zoom for those who prefer to avoid in person meetings. We are also looking to a combination of in person and Zoom meetings. I have been using this combination to join Plymouth area pastors prayer meetings by Zoom throughout the pandemic. The telephone remains a good contact method, as does e-mail and text messaging.

Our real hope and prayer is that the community will eventually reach a "herd immunity" that will remove the impact of COVID from our society. In the meantime, we will continue to be encouraged by the work of God's Holy Spirit, accomplishing works for the glory of God through His people, the church. May we experience renewal and revival of our faith in the times that lie ahead.

Pastor Bartlett

FCCM CONTACT INFORMATION

1981 Ocean St. P.O. Box 826, Marshfield, MA. 02050 - Phone: (781) 834-7664

Email: pastorfccm@gmail.com; secretaryfccm@gmail.com; bookkeeperfccm@gmail.com; tfccwebmaster@gmail.com

On the web: FCCMarshfield.org - On facebook: facebook.com/FirstCongregationalMarshfield

Church Office Hours (Note Updated Schedule; by appointment only): Monday 9:00am-3:00pm; Tuesday 9:30am-12:30pm; Wednesday 9:00am-3:00pm; Thursday 9:00am-1pm (office is closed on Fridays)

Pastoral Office Hours: Tue—Thurs. 9:30am-12:30pm (Mondays are Pastor's day off).

Church Cancellations: Please watch FOX25 and www.myfoxboston.com. Also you can listen on WATD radio.

October 2021

FROM YOUR DEACONS

We are several weeks into Reverend Bartlett's interim ministry and the Deacons are grateful to see people coming back to church to support our new minister. Our last service had 39 people in attendance. We have not seen that many in worship since Easter Sunday! And we expect to see those numbers continue to rise.

Reverend Bartlett has really hit the ground running. Normally this church sees 3 maybe 4 baptisms in a year. Reverend Bartlett has already coordinated a TRIPLE BAPTISM for Amanda Fey's daughter Charlotte and her twin cousins. He has arranged for the return of Andy Chandler and the Choir and has even agreed to lead the new Confirmation Class with the help of Georgia Chrisman! (More on this later.)

We have ceased the prepackaged Communion and have returned to traditional Communion elements. Sunday October 3rd we will celebrate Worldwide Communion Sunday and will return to the traditional collection of the offering in favor of the retiring offering. On this Sunday we will return to entering and exiting through the Narthex.

While we are enjoying our newfound freedoms, we continue to have our eye on the virus and the Delta variant and stand ready to make any changes necessary to keep our congregation safe. With the high vaccination rate of our congregation and our commonsense protocols, we see no need to add extra restrictions at this time. Anyone who is unvaccinated or who is more comfortable with a mask is encouraged to wear one.

We wish to thank our faithful Facebook live audience for their patience as we work through our broadcast issues. Please bear with us and feel free to comment if you are noticing issues. Or, leave us comment, just to let us know that you are there. (Reverend Bartlett notices and reads your comments.) Thank you to our 3 Mary's, Mary Barry, Mary Ellingson and Mary Handy. We notice you there every Sunday!

Remember that Jesus said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!" Matthew 16:18

From your Deacons, Michael Rydberg, Judy Johnson, Rick Taylor, Lisa Brown, Frank Wilkins and Alyssa Titus.

FROM YOUR TRUSTEES

The Trustees have continued to be busy this month. Greg worked with Lew Conant and Brad Nelson to install the new Parish Hall door and side window and it looks great.

Our next project is to help clear some dead trees and limbs hanging over the Parish Hall. We are accepting donations to this cause, our estimate is between \$800- \$1000 to fell these trees. We have collected half of the monies and look forward to our usual strong support for specific projects fundraisers to continue to beautify our buildings and property.

We are asking for help with the fall cleanup which will be announced shortly, usually held in late October. Please look around and help us plan to clean up both the buildings and grounds.

Kind regards,
Your Trustees – Doreen Taylor, Greg Prendergast and Donna McCue

FROM YOUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

We continue to have strong support from the core folks who have been contributing regularly. We are still behind by around \$8000 on pledges and unpledged contributions, year to date.

We do ask those who have been away or watching online to please try to catch up your pledges and contributions as we move into the fall heating season and return of our employees who were on furlough for the first nine months of the year.

We are feeling blessed to have a very strong performance from the Thrift and Gift which has blessed us with much more than they originally pledged and this has helped us get through the summer when our utilities have been lower.

A NOTE FROM YOUR CARING MINISTRY TEAM

The role of the Caring Ministry Team is to assist the minister in meeting the needs of the congregation. The Team consists of 8 members: Lisa Brown, Pam Drouin, Mary Ellingson, Jennifer Fields, Judy Johnson, Donna McCue, Michael Rydberg and Gisele Coville. Each parishioner has been assigned to a Caring Ministry Team member. If you don't know who your Caring Minister is, please contact Michael Rydberg (508-246-3037), Gisele Coville or Jennifer Fields. Our primary mission is to pray for the needs of our assigned parishioners. Please also let us know if a spiritual or practical need should arise.

LADIES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY (LBS)

The Ladies Benevolent Society will have our first meeting on Sept. 14, 2021 at 10am. This first meeting to start off the fall season will be our business meeting to plan for the next few months. New members are always welcome!



FLOWER DEDICATION SIGN-UP SHEET

The sign-up sheet for the 2021 season, has been placed in the vestibule of the sanctuary. Please see dates available to celebrate, honor or remember a loved one. Remembering with the gift of flowers, brings great joy to the Lord and those we love. You may contact Liz Vaillancourt, 781-837-8114 or Sarah, in the church office, 781-834-7664.

UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Printed copies of the Upper Room Devotionals will be available in the Sanctuary starting on Sunday September 5th. You can still access the daily devotional online at www.upperroom.org/devotionals

FROM THE THRIFT AND GIFT

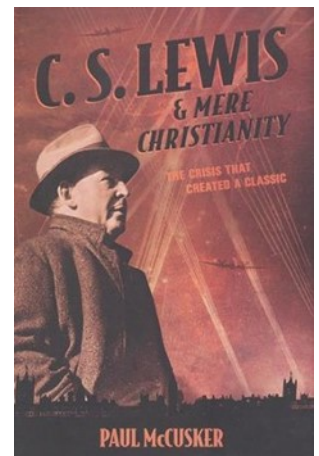
Hi all from Thrift and Gift! We've been incredibly blessed over the past few months, exceeding what was budgeted for the year! Huge thank you to all of you volunteering your time with sorting, hanging, arranging, rearranging, cleaning, etc.! A monumental task for sure! Looking for ways you might help? Time is always welcome, but there are other ways you can help as well: small blank price labels are always needed, donate your cleaned goods of all kinds, or drop by when we're open just to say hi and browse, you may just find something you need. And, just a bit of personal info, all the volunteers love chocolate and ice cream!

HEAVENLY BOOKWORMS: OCTOBER 2021

***C.S. Lewis & Mere Christianity: The Crisis That Created a Classic* By: Paul McCusker**

C.S. Lewis' book, Mere Christianity, is one of the best books of Christian apologetics ever written. Arguably, other than the Bible, no book has had as much influence for the gospel over the past 60 years. This is a story of how Mere Christianity was created during the rigors of WWII in England. It is fascinating and it speaks to the question: How can broadcaster Lewis present the gospel to a nation that has Christian foundations, but has become secularized and ignorant of biblical truth? This book looks into the heart and mind of this celebrated, humble author and his obedience to God in difficult times. Learn about life in the middle of war against Nazi Germany including the horrors of the blitz on London and Lewis' BBC radio broadcasts during WWII. What an amazing story!

Join this group Friday 10/22/21 (time TBA) @ the Chrisman's, 13 Mountain Ash Drive in Kingston. Call Georgia @ 781-361-1290 for directions. Coffee, Tea and Dessert will be served. Books are \$5 and can be picked up the hutch in the Church Hall's front "parlor." You can put your payment in the envelope provided and grab a book!



FALL CLEAN UP TASK FORCE

The Church Council has created a task force for the impending cleanup of our church facilities and properties as the leaves start falling. Over the next few weeks, the council would like to hear from any individuals in the congregation who might be interested in serving on this task force which will be planning and organizing the Fall Clean Up. We anticipate that Work Groups will be formed and scheduled for these various seasonal activities. If you are interested in joining the Fall Clean Up Task Force or any of the work groups, please contact Steve Hight, Greg Prendergast, or any member of the church council.

CALLING ALL BUSINESSES and INDIVIDUALS

The Trustees are offering sponsoring space in The Bell newsletter. This initiative will help bring in additional revenue as well as defray the costs associated with The Bell. In this Bell, we are offering free ads to individuals and businesses affiliated with our church while we test the layout. This could be either a sponsorship or even a personal message. If interested, please contact the church office or speak to/email a Trustee.



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781 837 5875
Tom@EastComputing.com

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Thanksgiving/Joy: Christ's faithfulness to FCC Marshfield for 388 years, the gift of engaging in both in-person and online Worship, churches around the world, birth of Doreen's grandson, development of COVID-19 vaccines.

Healing: Those impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, including the medical teams and officials working to keep us safe. Edna Robie, Kim Callendar, Carol Spooner, John Coombs, John Ritucci, Sr, Jack Pattison, Krista Gottschlich and Kaylee, George and Barbara Irvin, Stephanie, Daniel and for young Noah, Rex Hayden, Pat Taylor, Barbara Coville, Jay Prendergast, Jill Titus, Howard Hill, Ethyln Balkam, Derek Pugh, Joan Chubbs, Anne Sylvester, Ed Zadrozny, Sue Ritucci, Glen Ellingson, Bethany Andreeson, Faith Jean, Louise Nelson, Scott Rogers, Richard Smullen, James Dooley, and Kathy Doherty.

Comfort: families of Brian Olsen, Danny Sheehan, Nancy Ellis, Gary Kronsberg, and Dave Morrill (Barbara Murray's Nephew).

Homebound Church Family: Roz Novinsky, Marie King, Kathy Bryan, Alberta Bezanson, and Mary Ellingson.

Guidance & Protection: Men and Women in the military and our first responders, families struggling with addictions, stigma of mental illness, John Coombs, people of Haiti, South Africa, and Myanmar, those affected by Hurricane Ida, leaders of our nation, our unhoused youth in Marshfield, a time of transition here at FCC Marshfield, for people of Afghanistan, Patricia Bean's son (US Marine), our troops and their families.

PRAYER PALS ON MONDAY EVENINGS



Prayer PALS pray for you and others around the world on Monday evenings 6:30-7:30pm in the church library. After a brief devotion/discussion; the group reviews prayer needs and then presents those needs to our Lord. Join them regularly or occasionally when able; numbers strengthen prayers! If you can't pray with the Prayer Pals, but need a prayer for yourself or another, place your request in the offering box, or in an email to secretaryfccm@gmail.com or call Georgia (781-361-1290). "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Jeremiah 29:12

UPDATED! IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICE

-Sundays at 9:30am

We continue to be fully aware of our obligation to ensure the health and safety of all who attend our services and are closely watching the state guidelines and the Delta variant. Given the high vaccination rate of our congregation we feel no need to burden the congregation with extra restrictions. For the time being we are allowed to gather at full capacity without Masks or distancing. If you feel safer with a mask on, please feel free to wear one. Everyone's decision to wear or not wear a mask will be respected. We will observe a reserved "Passing of the Peace" with limited physical contact. Hand sanitizer continues to be available in the pews. Traditional Communion and elements resumed on September 5th. Starting on September 19th Andy Chandler and the Choir will return. The Congregation is invited to stand sing accompanied by the Choir with Andy Chandler on the piano. Printed bulletins will be available, and the online bulletin will continue to be offered in advance for those who wish to access on their mobile device. Please feel free to use the hymnals and pew bibles. All of our services will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook Live and available for viewing later. All are welcome to gather for "Fellowship Hour" in the Parish Hall after worship. Childcare will not be provided at this time. All unvaccinated children in Sunday School are encouraged to wear a mask. Washing stations and restrooms will continue to be made available on the upper and lower level of the Parish Hall. We look forward to joining you in Worship!"

NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

- Articles due by Friday, October 15

Please submit any articles/submissions for the November issue of *The Bell* newsletter to the church office by October 15. You may also submit your article via email to secretaryfccm@gmail.com. Thank you!

BOOKWORM COUCH-POTATOES

If you'd rather (or have to) stay on your couch at discussion time, Heavenly Bookworms invite you to be a Couch Potato Worm. While Couch Potatoes miss the interesting discussions, they still can enjoy all the inspiring books as the active bookworms. FYI, most of our earlier selections can be borrowed from our church library!



October 2021



THE GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND

Contact Us: GNFMarshfield@gmail.com <https://GNFMarshfield.wix.com/gnf-website> or
P.O. Box 826 Marshfield, MA 02050

Donate On-line: <https://GNFMarshfield.wix.com/gnf-websiteGoodNeighborFund.net>

Purchase GL Scrip Gift Cards: GNFMarshfield@gmail.com or First Congregational Church, 781-864-7664

Good Neighbor Fund Gift Card Order Form

Help our communities PURCHASE YOUR GIFT CARDS TODAY!

Buy gift cards to use at the Grocery stores that you normally shop for all your daily needs!

Contact us at GNFMarshfield@gmail.com.

VENDOR	DENOMINATIONS	%	# ORDER	AMT DUE
Shaw's Supermarkets	\$25.00/\$100.00	4%		
Roche Bros. Markets	\$25.00/\$100.00	3%		
Stop & Shop	\$25.00/\$50.00/\$100.00	4%		
Whole Foods Markets	\$25.00/\$100.00	3%		

TOTAL CARDS PURCHASED: _____ TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: _____

Please make checks payable to: **The Good Neighbor Fund**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact number: _____ Email: _____

MISSION PROJECTS FOR OCTOBER

Seeing, understanding, showing compassion, and helping all people is part of our responsibility to God. Please continue to share in our mission to give support to everyone here and around the world.

Helping our on-going Marshfield Missions

Food Pantry - Please send a donation to the Food Pantry or to a group that is helping to feed the tremendous number of food-insecure families in the United States at this time.

Sowing Seeds - Please donate new socks, good winter clothing and sleepwear.

Good Neighbor Fund - Continue to buy your Grocery and Gift Cards through the Good Neighbor Fund. Our neighbors need help year-round.

Helping the Homeless - Please support this on-going project with the Youth Fellowship and donate travel sized toiletries or new clean socks.

Helping our Family and Friends around the World

Please continue to pray for our families and friends around the world.

Opportunities

The Missions Committee has received a donation to be used for Mission trips through a vetted organization. This is open to anyone in the church who might be interested. Please talk to members of the committee for more information. The NACCC has a list of some opportunities on their website.

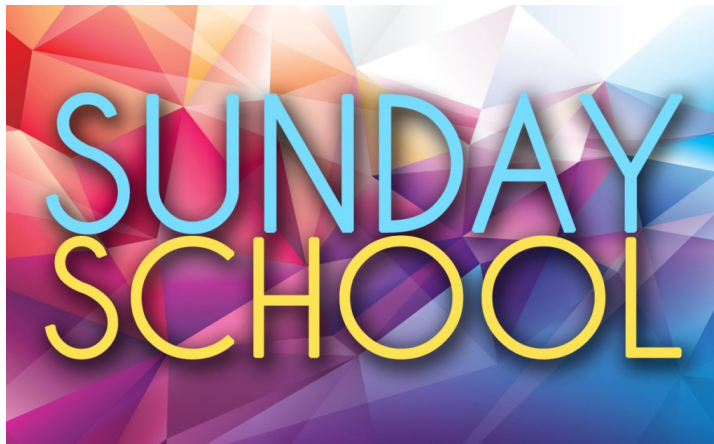
MISSION TASK FORCE CHRISTMAS PROJECT

A limited number of Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes will be available after the beginning of October. We will have information available on how to fill each box and a list of suggested items to be put in the boxes. They will be due back by November 14th.

Due to the limited budget of the Church Mission Committee, we are encouraging a \$9 donation with each box to help pay for the shipping and the expenses of the program.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE FORMING

The Church Council has created a Pastoral Search Committee in accordance with our bylaws. Over the next two weeks the council would like to hear from any individuals in the congregation who might be interested in serving on the committee which will be preparing requirements, communicating with the NACCC, and talking with potential candidates for the position of our next senior minister. Since we have initiated an interim ministry with Rev. Bartlett, the pastoral search process does not yet have a specific timeline. This committee will start meeting in October to evaluate past search materials and plan the activities and schedule for the search. Rev. Bartlett will be assisting and advising us along the way. At the next Church Council meeting, the council will appoint more members to the committee - the following people were appointed at the most recent council meeting: Susan Taylor, Steve Flynn, Carol Gesner and Georgia Chrisman. Typically, a search committee has 7 to 10 members. If you are interested in joining the Pastoral Search Committee, please contact Steve Hight or any member of the church council.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our 2021-2022 IN-PERSON Sunday School year kicked off on September 19th in the Parish Hall:

- * **Parents, please continue** to escort your child(ren) into the Parish Hall via the downstairs doorway and stay for a brief health screening before crossing to the Sanctuary.
- * Please also continue to come back inside after class so that your child(ren) may be returned directly to you following class.
- * Masks will be provided at the time of arrival for children without one, so don't be concerned if you forget one any day.
- * We will be practicing safe-distancing and every child will be provided with dedicated supplies. In addition, we will continue the practice of sanitizing Sunday School space and supplies prior to and following each class.
- * The Nursery will remain closed until the end of the pandemic, including variants.

*** As we continue to study Old and New Testament soldiers who show us how they suited up in the Armor of God, this year's Sunday School Theme is *Warriors of Faith. We are looking forward to continuing our Journey together!*

[Click here to register your child\(ren\) for Sunday School!](#)

Confirmation Class



CONFIRMATION TIME IS HERE

This year's class will begin October 19 at 4:30pm and continue every month on the 3rd Tuesday through May.

Program requirements will include:

- 8 monthly, ninety-minute classes (October–May) reviewing “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel, followed by a Bible discussion. *Strobel’s book and a new Bible will be gifted to the confirmands*
- A winter workshop
- A spring retreat
- Sunday worship participation as acolytes, ushers, worship assistants (elective), and Sunday school assistants
- Service project to be selected by the class
- 1 or 2 fun activities and/or field trips

Confirmation advisors will be Rev. Dick Bartlett and Georgia Chrisman, with cameo roles by Mike Rydberg, Frank Wilkins, Carrie Sylvester, Judy Johnson and others too.

Confirmation continues our baptism that called us to be witnesses for Jesus Christ. The message of faith will be shared in a more profound way with the focus on Jesus Christ, who asked the Father to give the Holy Spirit to the Church for strengthening the community in loving service.

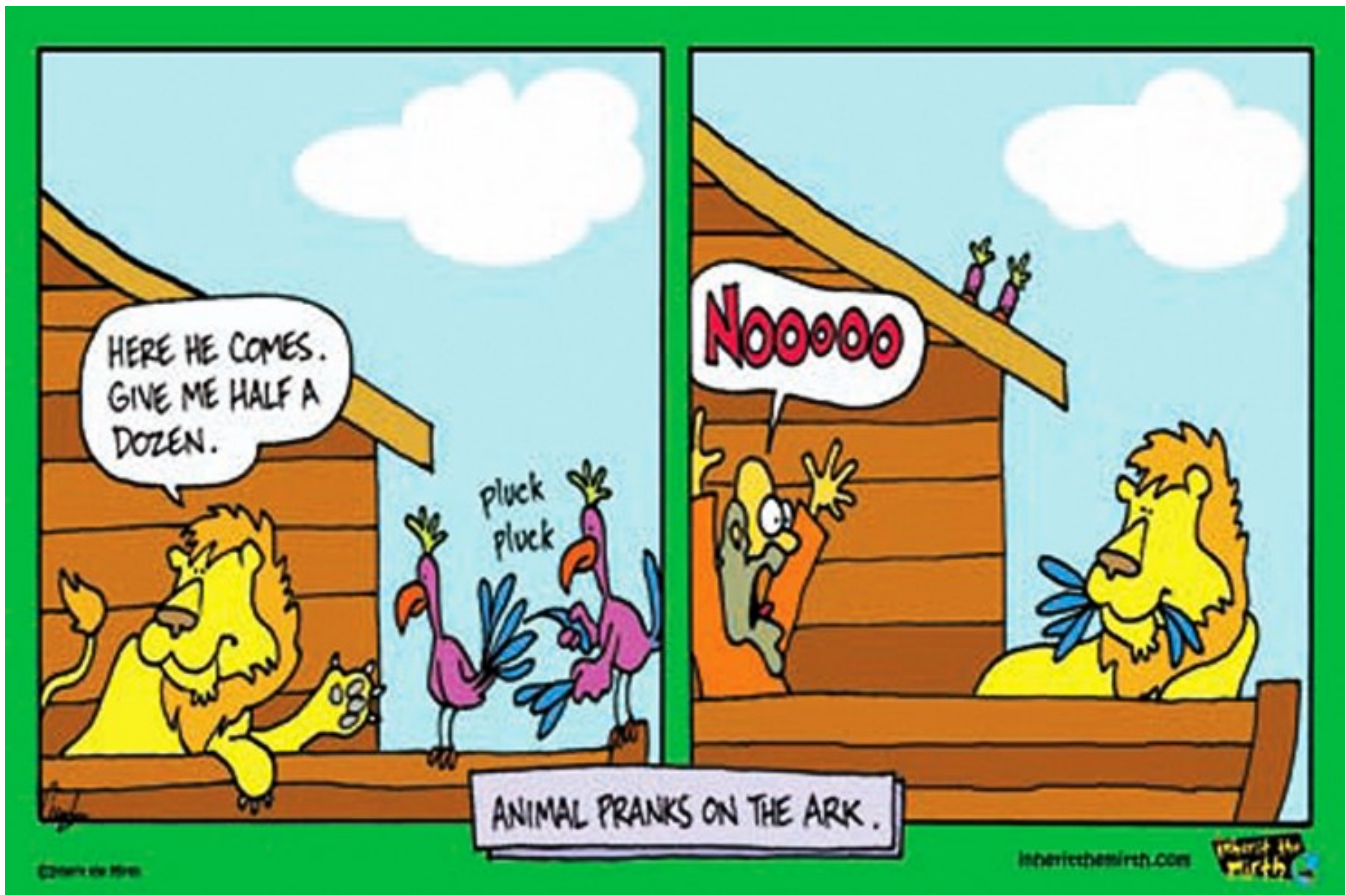
Confirmands will gain wisdom to help them see the world more from God's viewpoint, avoiding the illusion that the “winds” of current times is their only guide. Above all, confirmation will convey an awareness of God's love for them, and will grow their relationship with Him.

We are committed to make this a meaningful and inspiring experience for the confirmands. It is a fact that youth, connected to a church, fare better than those who are not. In today's world, faith can be one's lifeline. About 3,000 years ago the very wise King Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs, in which he wrote in chapter 22, vs. 6, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." That holds true today.

If you have, or know, a young person in grades 9-12, who might be interested in our program, please contact Georgia (782-361-1290/2onmountainash@gmail.com) or Mike Rydberg (508-246-3037/rydbergmichael@hotmail.com). He stands at the door and knocks. (Rev. 3:12 reference)

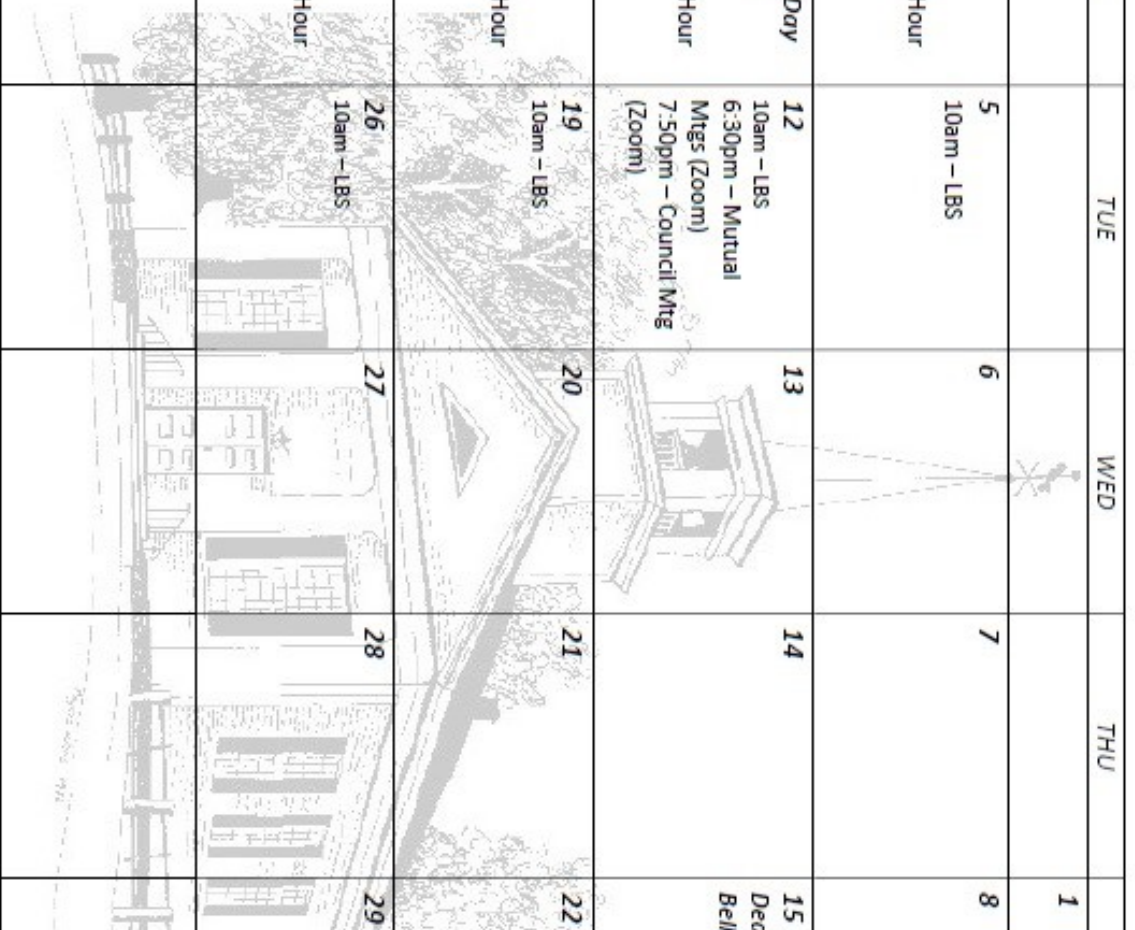

Kids' Korner

Here you will find either a fun cartoon or a Puzzle for you to try to complete (whether you are a kid in age or a kid at heart)!



OCTOBER 2021

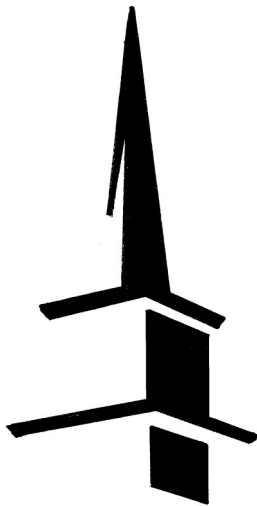
First Congregational Church of Atarshfield, Inc.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Communion Sunday 9:30am Worship and Sunday School 4pm Youth Fellowship	4 6:30pm Prayer Hour	5 10am – LBS	6	7	8	9 9a-5p Craft Stash Rummage Sale
10 9:30am Worship and Sunday School 4pm Youth Fellowship	11 Columbus Day <i>office Closed</i> 6:30pm Prayer Hour	12 10am – LBS 6:30pm – Mutual Mtgs (Zoom) 7:50pm – Council Mtg (Zoom)	13 	14	15 <i>Deadline to submit Bell articles</i>	16
17 9:30am Worship and Sunday School 4pm Youth Fellowship	18 6:30pm Prayer Hour	19 10am – LBS	20	21	22	23
24 9:30am Worship and Sunday School 4pm Youth Fellowship	25 6:30pm Prayer Hour	26 10am – LBS	27	28	29	30
31 9:30am Worship and Sunday School 4pm Youth Fellowship						

The First Congregational Church

1981 Ocean Street
P.O. Box 826
Marshfield, MA 02050-0826

Address Service Requested
TIME DATED MATERIAL



THE BELL

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Interim Minister—Rev. Richard Bartlett
1981 Ocean Street P.O. Box 826 Marshfield, MA. 02050 Office: 781-834-7664
Church Office Hours: Monday 9:00am-3:00pm; Tuesday 9:00am–12:00pm; Wednesday 9:00am-3:00pm;
Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm
Pastoral Office Hours: Tuesdays from 9:30am to 12:30pm and other days by appointment.

Worship Service & Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

All Are Welcome — Nursery Care Provided

www.FCCMarshfield.org
Secretaryfccm@gmail.com
Pastorfccm@gmail.com