



THE TOWER TIMES
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
28 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440
October 2020



Email: fccgardner@gmail.com

www.fccgardner.org

Telephone: 978-632-2142

Psalm 91:11

*For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.
On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.*

Hello October!

The last few weeks my ride to Gardner has become increasingly more fall like. The leaves are just spectacular! And the pumpkins are on the way!

I have enjoyed the CE activities. And, how wonderful was it to gather for worship on our lawn? Zoom worship is continuing. Please, drop in we would love to see you.

I would love it if you have time to send me a quick video, or just audio recording or even a few words about, **where you are finding hope during this time?**

On October 8th at 6:30 pm I will be leading prayer at the Voice of Truth Rally and Vigil. Please, join me in support of the victims and their families.

I would like to share with you a poem by Maya Angelo. May we continue.

Blessings,

♥ Rev. Karen



CONTINUE
by Maya Angelou

Continue

Into a world which needed you
My wish for you
Is that you continue

Continue

To be who and how you are
To astonish a mean world
With your acts of kindness

Continue

To allow humor to lighten the burden
of your tender heart

Continue

In a society dark with cruelty
To let the people hear the grandeur
Of God in the peals of your laughter

Continue

To let your eloquence
Elevate the people to heights
They had only imagined

Continue

To remind the people that
Each is as good as the other

And that no one is beneath
Nor above you

Continue

To remember your own young years
And look with favor upon the lost
And the least and the lonely

Continue

To put the mantel of your protection
Around the bodies of
The young and defenseless

Continue

To take the hand of the despised
And diseased and walk proudly with them
In the high street
Some might see you and
Be encouraged to do likewise

Continue

To plant a public kiss of concern
On the cheek of the sick
And the aged and infirm
And count that as a
Natural action to be expected

Continue

To let gratitude be the pillow
Upon which you kneel to
Say your nightly prayer
And let faith be the bridge
You build to overcome evil
And welcome good

Continue

To ignore no vision
Which comes to enlarge your range
And increase your spirit

Continue

To dare to love deeply
And risk everything
For the good thing

Continue

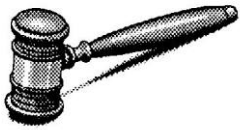
To float
Happily in the sea of infinite substance
Which set aside riches for you
Before you had a name

Continue

And by doing so
You and your work
Will be able to continue
Eternally



Notes from the Council:



As with everything in this “virtual-based world” we’re all living in seems to be going, our Church Council continues to meet the third Thursday of every month via Zoom.

At our last meeting on September 17, the following items were discussed:

1. The new church App – There has been an email circulated with the download instructions for phones and for keeping it as a pinned page on your computer. Many thanks to Jane Clabaugh for design/maintenance of the app!
2. The PPRC brought forth several questions for us to think on – not only as a council, but as a church as a whole.
 1. *Is there one group responsible for decision-making, i.e. Church Council, or does the group who should make the decision depend on what the decision is, i.e. Diaconate and worship?*
 2. *What is the pastor's role? Is she the leader, facilitator, counselor, director, or something else?*
 3. *What is our role vis a vis the pastor? Using a Biblical reference, if she is our shepherd, are we a flock of sheep or a clowder of cats?*
 4. *What do we need to do as a church to improve our communication?*
 5. *What do we need to do individually to improve our communication?*

3. The Missions Committee have decided on the recipients of the Rev. Charles Mansfield Memorial Scholarships that will be awarded for the 2nd semester. Congratulations to Brandon Mills and Matthew Rader.

4. The Trustees are working on getting the church’s internet speeds and access updated for the building to continue to facilitate or virtual worship and other meeting spaces.

5. Other Items of note:

- a. The church’s financial situation remains stable per projections as announced at the annual meeting.
- b. Fellowship will be meeting to create plans for an outdoor and socially distant holiday fair.

Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings on the third Thursday of every month at 7pm.

Blessings,

Christy Scott

Pumpkin Patch



Get your Pumpkins at the FCC Gardner Pumpkin Patch.

**Open Daily 10/6 – 10/31
From 11am- 7pm**

MISSION COUNCIL NEWS

Thanks to your support of the Mission Council Budget, we were able to send out three checks recently.

1) Usually we support Hope Summer Camp. This year the camp was not held in Winchendon, but held at their office location on a much smaller scale. They were able to get a grant to pay for most of this. After speaking with Christian Orobello, he said that if we wanted to earmark our donation that they really

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needed a new Oil Tank. Without heat, they could not run their programs. Therefore, we voted to give \$1,000.00 for their Oil Tank.

2) The second check was for \$250.00 for Hope House for general use.

3) The third check was to Our Father's House in Fitchburg for \$375.00 who has 6 shelters for those needing housing.



Scholarships Awarded

Congratulations to our Scholarship Winners of the Rev. Mansfield Memorial Scholarship.

Brandon Mills, a Freshman at Becker College.

Matthew Rader a Junior at Fitchburg State

University. They will each be awarded \$500.00 for second semester after they send in their grades from 1st semester.

Trick or Treat for UNICEF.

Please pick up your Collection Box inside the trailer at the Pumpkin Patch. Please sign a sheet that you are taking a box.

What is UNICEF? or the United Nations Children's Fund is a United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide. It works in 190 countries to protect the rights of every child and to reach the most disadvantaged children and adolescents and to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

.06 cents - provides water for 1 thirsty kid

.25 cents- provides 10 kids safe water for a day

.50 cents - will give a child a notebook and pencil to use in the classroom

\$1.00 - pays for 24 protein biscuits for a starving child

\$1.00 - gives shots to a child against measles

\$2.00 - provides nutrition for 3 hungry kids.

UNICEF - digs wells to deliver clean water, provides shots for more than 1/2 the world's children, builds schools, trains teachers and delivers school supplies, and provides nutrition.

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This project is for Adults and Children so don't forget to pick up your UNICEF BOX.



You can pick shoeboxes up inside the trailer at the Pumpkin Patch. Please sign a sheet that you are taking a box. Due in Nov. Since 1993, more than 168 million boys and girls in 160 countries have experienced God's love through the power of a single shoebox .

You can select if you want a girl or boy and the age group - 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. If you go online under Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse it will show you how to pack a shoebox with gift ideas and what not to pack as well. You can fill the box with toys, hygiene items and school supplies. A brochure is put into each box introducing the child (and their family) to Jesus. You can even send in money and a shoebox will be packed for you. You can track your box and even put in a picture of your family and the child receiving it might even write back to you.

United Way - DAY OF CARING

Day of Caring on Sept. 18th was a huge success. Two young ladies from Monty Tech Nursing Program worked with Pat and weeded and beautified around the circular drive, the front of the church, and along each railing leading to the sidewalk. Tom Erickson painted and washed windows on the back side of the Church near the cemetery. He also dug up all the weeds in the sidewalk coming up to the Main Door. What a difference 4 hours from each person made!!!!

HIKING



Take a Hike for Humanity

Oct. 3rd - 18th. Pick any day and hike time. You can climb Mt. Wachusett in Princeton or any mountain. You can hike as a family and get a sponsor sheet from Pat Darby, or you can sponsor

Pat as she hikes. All checks should be made out to: Habitat for

Humanity NCM (which stands for North Central Mass.) Get some exercise, enjoy the fresh air and get involved in your community by supporting local families in need of safe, affordable homes. At Mt. Wachusett, there are different trail options so all hikers of different skill levels can experience and enjoy the beautiful view. Maybe you have a company that will match your donation. All contributions are tax deductible. If you want to sponsor Pat, please send a donation of any size to her at 83 Cross Street, Gardner, MA 01440. Thank you, in advance.

Submitted by Pat Darby - Chairman of the Missions Council

ZOOM WORSHIP



Meeting ID - 899 3289 2745
Passcode - 823921



Pumpkin Patch News

We've received word that the Pumpkins will be delivered on Monday, October 5th at 4:30pm. We'll need everyone's help to get that truck unloaded.

Special attention will be paid this year to mitigate virus transmission so the arrangement of the pumpkins in the field will look a little different and we will have additional signs and procedures to follow when interacting with customers.

As with last year, there will be two selling shifts each and every day from **11am-3pm** and **3pm-7pm** thru Halloween. Please make every effort to help make this event a success by signing up for as many shifts as you can. This possibly could be our one and only fundraiser this year! Feel free to share the link below with anyone who might be interested in participating.

We're using SignUp.com. Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

- 1) Click this link to see our SignUp on SignUp.com: <https://signup.com/go/EwYyAZQ>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spots you like.
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com. Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

Regards,
Dave Smith
(508) 596-0108



Christian Education News

Autumn Greetings,

Many thanks to all that made Rally Day such a success it was wonderful to see all returning youth and their families. It was truly a blessing to just be gathered together and to share our thoughts joys, and difficulties surrounding the last 6 months. Not to mention the wonderful donuts. They were good but I know many are looking forward to the time when we can all be together and enjoy April's delicious pancakes once again.

Schedules may look and feel different and we are planning opportunities to be together safely for Faith formation. the C.E. committee is seeking ways to involve, inspire, and educate with the help of God.

On September 27, at 9am we had a hike around Dunn Pond. Thank you to Calvin Brooks for surprising us on our hike.

Looking forward to a wonderful year with your youth and children.

May we all be inspired to grow in our faith and nurture the seeds that God plant's....

Blessings,
Sue



Dunn Pond Hike

Thank you to Sue Rader and the Christian education committee for putting together the nature scavenger hike. We were able to read, collect, discuss and pray in nature together.



Date: TBD

Please look for further announcements and information coming about our upcoming holiday fair that will be held on the church lawn.

Church Yard Sale This Weekend!

Saturday, October 10, 2020
8am – 2pm

Drop off your items starting at 7am on Oct. 10.

In the event of rain, please check your email and the church Facebook page starting at 7am to see if we've postponed until the following weekend. We will have tables with signs for your items to be placed on to ease set up/clean-up for the yard sale.



Info from the Deacons

Why not? Amy LeBlanc made a suggestion to the Deacons of having a Church App that would connect us in various ways. The monthly cost of an App would have been a big hit....

But Michele Smith knew a work around from her teaching preparation. She shared with the Deacons, and Jane Clabaugh took it on. At no cost for us to use.

It behaves like an APP on your smartphone. Or the APP can be used as a bookmarked webpage on your computer browser.

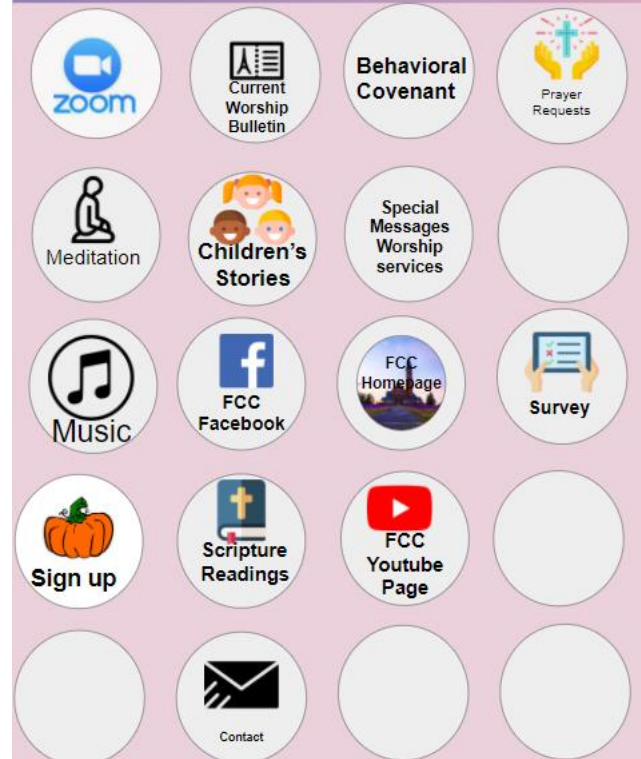
All those many links you have to keep straight for FCC access on the Internet, well they ARE ALL THERE! Along with some extra material for your spiritual journey.

Please contact Jane Clabaugh at jclabaugh@gmail.com with any questions.

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God loves us. Jesus teaches us how to live and show compassion to the world.

FCC Technology APP



Page maintained by Jane Clabaugh
Icons by Freepik at www.flaticon.com

Instructions for signing up for the FCC Technology App.

First you must open up your web browser on your device. Type in the following URL (Address):
<https://tinyurl.com/y6azsj9m>

Device Instructions below:

Apple

1. Make sure you typed the link into Safari.
2. On the bottom of the screen, select the box with the arrow pointing up.
3. Scroll down and select "Add to Homescreen"
4. Hit "Add" and you are ready!

Android Phone

1. Make sure you typed the link into your Web browser.
2. On the top right of the screen, select the three dots.

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3. Select "Add to Homescreen"
4. Hit "Add" and you are ready.

On Computer

1. Make sure you typed the link into your Web Browser.
2. Using your browser tools, bookmark/favorite/shortcut to save the browser location.
3. You can access now as a bookmark/favorite.
4. You may be able to place a shortcut/favorite/bookmark on your desktop. Each type of computer operating system handles this differently.



Church Survey for FCC Gardner 10/2/20

We will be presenting a series of surveys identifying where God is calling us as a church. As a Congregational Church, this might be more than a few responsibilities and callings. Your answers will show us where God is guiding us. Prayerfully, select your answer and feel free to comment for ideas that may need clarifying. At the end of the survey, you will have the option to sign or submit anonymously.

Link:

<https://forms.gle/qwJFy6U1JCATXc8MA>

The Survey is also available on the FCC APP.

PLEASE COMPLETE BY Saturday, October 10th.

Thank you, The Deacons

Please notify the church office at
fccgardner@gmail.com or 978-632-2142 with
dates/locations of upcoming meetings!
Thank you.

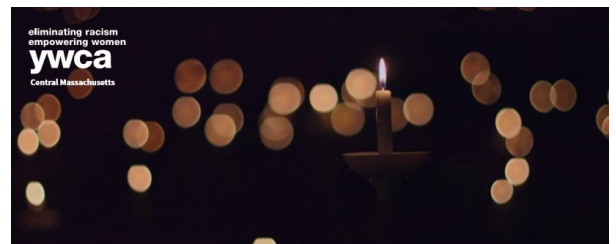
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Mini Parish List

Melissa Edson	A to Car
Judie O'Donnell	Cas to Dil
Michelle Smith	Dra to Hed
Jane Clabaugh	Hen to Lop
Bill Clabaugh	Mag to Par
Diane Erickson	Pat to Smi
Cynthia Henshaw	Smi to Z

As we look to worship in the fall, please consider offering to participate in worship. We continue to look for Opening Greeters(Welcome, and lighting the candle), and Readers to do the responsive readings and scripture.



GARDNER VIGIL & PROCLAMATION READING

OCTOBER 8 , 2020 | 6:30 PM | GARDNER CITY HALL

Join YWCA Central Massachusetts and the Gardner Domestic Violence Taskforce on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. outside City Hall as we honor those who've lost their lives to domestic violence in our community during a special candlelight vigil and Proclamation reading. This year, we will pay tribute to Migdalia Perez, a Gardner community member who we lost to domestic violence earlier this summer.

A big thank you to Voices of Truth for donating the candles for the event.

To learn more about this and other Domestic Violence Awareness Month events, please visit <http://ywcacm.org/dvam>.

YWCA Central Massachusetts | 1 Salem Square, Worcester, MA 01608 | 508-767-2505 | ywcacm.org

October

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Events as of 10/1/2020	watch for weekly announcements as events could be added.			1 7 pm Deacons Meeting	2	3
4 9 am Live Worship 10 am Zoom Worship	5 PUMPKINS ARE HERE 4:30 pm help unload	6 11 am Coffee with Karen at FCC 6 pm CE meeting	7 No Bible Study 7 pm Trustees meeting	8	9	10 Yard sale item drop off 7 am Church Yard Sale 8 am –2 pm
11 10 am Zoom Worship	12	13 11 am Coffee with Karen at FCC	14 7 P.M. Bible Study - on Zoom	15 7 pm Council meeting	16	17
18 10 am Zoom Worship	19	20 11 am Coffee with Karen at FCC	21 7 P.M. Bible Study -on Zoom	22	23	24
25 10 am Zoom Worship	26	27 11 am Coffee with Karen at FCC	28 7 P.M. Bible Study - on Zoom	29	30	31 Last Day to Buy Pumpkins