

Spirit & Sparks

God is still Speaking, We are Responding, Come Journey with Us

JUNE 2017

The Congregational Church of Weston, UCC, 130 Newton Street, Weston, MA 02493
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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Grace to you, and peace from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ! In sharing Paul's familiar greeting each month, using the words with which he began his letters to the churches we know so well from scripture, I am reminded of the enduring nature of our lives in faith. Those things that are forged in love and bound in our mutual faith endure, as our Christ endures.

The Body of Christ of which we are a part in the Church exists in and beyond time; in and beyond space. This rather lofty thought gives me comfort today as I consider our goodbyes on the 18th. We are connected through our love and our faith in ways that transcend even what we have known. In our faith, we also look forward to the fullness of Christ's reign, when everyone is united in love, as God plans for all the world. That will be our mutual prayer, I am sure.

My prayers for you will continue in many more ways as I hold you in my heart, and I am grateful to know that you also will be praying for me and my family. Love is like that. Christian fellowship is like that. I have learned that in part from you, and this lesson and each of you will remain in my heart. Deep blessings to you all, through Christ and in Christ, now and always.

Ever yours in Christ,

Pastor Lisa

THE PASTOR'S CORNER:

SUMMER WORSHIP WITH FIRST PARISH begins on Sunday, June 25th, with our services at First Parish through the end of July. For our union services here at CCW, we will have Rand Peabody with us for August 6, 20, and September 3. Rand will offer a sermon series, theme to be announced for these alternating Sundays. Bill Cordts will be with us on August 27th, and we will invite another guest preacher to join us on August 14th.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

We will meet at the parsonage at 5 Laurel Road in Weston on Sunday, June 4th at 5:30 for pizza and our final gathering as a group. Our time together will include your sharing from your interviews with CCW saints, a refocusing of our conversations about the Gospel of Luke, and discussion of your statements of faith. From the latter, we will craft the statement or statements that will become part of our service on Sunday the 11th. This service will include the Rite of Confirmation for those students intent on reaffirming their baptismal vows, and also will include a way to honor the journey we all have undertaken this year. Please be sure to bring your bibles and your journals on the 4th!

PASTOR LISA'S LAST SUNDAY with us will be June 18th, when a representative from the MA Conference of the UCC also will join us for the liturgy that marks the end of Lisa's authorized ministry in this church. That said, Lisa will be available for pastoral emergencies while she remains in the parsonage before moving to Blair in July.

BIBLE STUDY on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 will continue through and including June 13th, when we will enjoy coffee and pastries together for our conversation and celebration of the *koinonia* we have relished this past year and a half.



HUG UPDATE

This year, Camp Erin has partnered with quilters to make the Comfort Blankets for the two sessions of campers. BUT -- they still need HUGS from us. Our HUGS will go to the children in Parmenter's Heart Play program, the award-winning, free program offered by CareGroup Parmenter Home Care and Hospice, which uses the creative arts to help children and teens cope with the illness or death of a loved one. We've 3 tied up so far, 2 more to go. All hands on deck!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY/CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER: JUNE 11!

By the time you read this, we'll be hard at work preparing for Children's Sunday. Even with somewhat reduced forces, we are mushing on, preparing for our Lost Sheep Puppet Play, the Parable of the Lost Sheep being one we learned in our Stories Jesus Told Workshop Rotation.

Here's how we're getting to Children's Sunday:

Sunday, June 4: 10:30 straight to Class for practice

Sunday, June 11: **Arrival time 9:15 AM, sharp! All cars arriving at the same time, doors opening, kids coming into the front door en masse! Pretty Please!**

June 18 is our last Sunday together in Faith Discovery. It's a One Room Sunday and we will use it to talk about ways to listen for God's call during the summer, and perhaps finish tying up the last HUG together.

As we go our separate ways into the summer, how nice to remember that God is with us always, not because we are always good, but because God loves us.

STEWARDSHIP/OUTREACH FOR CHILDREN - JUNE

- Bring in an offering to help rescue and care for abandoned dogs and cats.
- Help make a HUG!
- If your family will be in town, help your parents give water to the church plants during the summer.

SPECIAL IDEAS FOR FAMILIES ON THE ROAD THIS SUMMER

One of my colleagues in the CE Directors' support group I belong to came up with a nice list of ways to keep God in our sights this summer. Here's her list:

- Describe a person you encountered today who showed kindness to you. Then talk with your family about how a person's kindness reflects Jesus.
- Watch for things in nature on your drive such a grassy meadows or waterfalls. Describe your favorite sighting from God's creation for the day.
- Describe the best item of food you ate today and then talk about how God provides for all of your needs, even when you are far from home.
- What was the most surprising thing you saw on your trip today? Describe ways God can surprise you every day, whether you're on vacation or at home.
- As you drive home, write down the best memories of your trip and how you'll keep them stored in your memory. Give thanks to God for creation, for your trip and for your new memories.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Altar Flowers*</u> | <u>Greeters/Ushers#</u> | <u>Coffee Hour Host#</u> | <u>Choir</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 6/4 | Stephanie Braun | <i>open</i> | <i>open</i> | Full |
| 6/11 | <i>open</i> | Dawn Adelson/ Gerry Brunk | Nicole Seddon | Full |
| 6/18 | <i>open</i> | <i>open</i> | <i>open</i> | Full |

* Altar Flower arrangements cost \$55

**Host needed to provide snacks only.

Hospitality provides the rest even set up.

FAITH COMMUNITY NEWS

Birthdays

June 4 Michael Higgins
 June 5 William Frank
 June 6 Carolyn Paquin
 June 7 Molly Nye



June 12 Craig Tanny
 June 23 Ann Jacoby
 June 30 Jeff Heuer