



First Congregational Church of Westfield

The Newsletter July/August 2023

On June 12 individuals representing Southwick Congregational Church and our Church got together for dinner at the home of Terry and Jim Putnam in Southwick. While the meal was delicious and the company enjoyable, its purpose was not purely social.

It has been several years since our two churches decided to share a minister and we wanted to candidly assess how that was working, particularly during the nearly eighteen months since we jointly called Rev. Paul Nesbit as our settled pastor. The Southwick folks attending were Terry Putnam, Moderator, Melanie Nitsch, Patricia Banasik and Bob Franzen; our Church was represented by Carol Whalen, Barbara and Doug James and myself. Rev. Paul was of course there since it was important to gain his perspective.

I am happy to report that the overall feeling from both Churches and Rev. Paul was most positive. We have enjoyed good communication and there have been no issues as to how Paul divides his time and energy between the two congregations, a task that certainly could present challenges. Paul, in turn, feels both welcomed and supported by both congregations in his work and singled out both Cindy LaPlante and Joseph Stiefel, office administrators at the two Churches for their great help.

We expressed great satisfaction at our occasional services together but at the same time feel that we have each maintained our own identity with slightly differing programs and needs, an important initial goal and one that Paul has amply supported.

From the standpoint of First Church, I am pleased to report that the Southwick folks do not, at this time, wish to revisit the matter of when our respective services will be held. (You will recall that we initially had our service moved from 10 to 9 AM which was difficult for some of our members; one year ago Southwick agreed to hold theirs at 11 so that we could move to 9:30 AM which has been well received and which we can continue.)

Two different churches, with long histories and separate identities, can find it difficult to share a pastor and have everything work smoothly. While we will continue to have dialogue to ensure satisfaction with our arrangement, we are all most pleased with where things are.

If any of our members have any comments or suggestions on this important matter, please feel free to share them with me, Rev. Paul or any of those from First Church who attended.

Steve Pierce
Moderator



World Service Committee - God's Love in Action

If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. No one is exempt from the call to feed the hungry. God calls us to meet the needs of even those we might call enemies. Romans 12:20

Thank you from The Salvation Army, Massachusetts Division – More than ever before, we are thinking about the brighter future you are making possible for children and adults. Your generosity is breaking generational poverty by supporting after-school programs. When working parent struggle to feed their children, the food and care you provide until they can bounce back is critical. With summer finally here, children can see a brighter future too, as thousands of them attend our summer camps. There, they will meet new friends and learn skills they will keep their entire lives. Thank you for all you do for our neighbors currently experiencing tough times. Because of you, they can look toward a better future. God bless!

Appalachian Trail Magic – July 21st We will participate again this year in Trail Magic - Day of Appalachian Trail Kindness in Sheffield. Julie Kraus, Alice Flyte, Cindy Gaylord, Martha Roman, and Tom Samwell will represent First Congregational Church of Westfield, at Trail Magic this year. **You** can participate by making high energy brownies or bars for our group to take for the hikers. The hikers will appreciate them. If you would like to help in other ways, the Sheffield church would welcome your financial support of this ministry! To learn more, go to <http://www.christtrinitychurch.org/appalachian-trail.html>.

Opportunities for Giving of your Time and Resources – The Needs are Great!!

Food for the Hungry Sunday July 16, 2023 - the 3rd Sunday of each month Items requested by Westfield Food Pantry: Canned Veggies: Corn, Green Beans, Peas, Carrots, Canned Fruit, Soup, Rice, Tuna Fish, Macaroni & cheese, Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta, Cereal, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Juice, Coffee, Tea, Sugar.

Westfield Soup Kitchen: Desserts are needed for our **July 25th** meals. The meals are now being served at the Soup Kitchen, 101 Meadow St, Westfield. With this change, we are able to provide an assortment of desserts: brownies, cupcakes, sheet cakes, cookies, squares, and pies. Each donation must serve **24** people. If you are willing to bake a dessert, please contact Nancy Condon, Goodie Guru 413-297-0778 or email her at nancy@paddleforwater.net. Bring your desserts to the church on Tuesday, July 25th by 2:00 PM or take them to the Soup Kitchen between 4:00 - 4:30. If you would like, you can stay and help serve.

We need **YOU!!** Assistance is needed for serving our meal at the Soup Kitchen. Please call Cindy LaPlante or Mayme Lajoie , 568-2833 to learn how you can help and when to arrive.. Thank you!!

If you like to knit or crochet during the summer, know that **Franklin Avenue Elementary School** will need mittens for the winter season. They have plenty of hats, gloves, and scarves. They could also use children's snow pants. If you are cleaning closets and find a pair or two, know that Franklin Avenue School would love to receive them. Please see Darlene Biggs.



Sunday July 3rd-

Student Minister Flo Pitoniak

Sunday July 9th Communion Sunday

Sunday July 30th—Joint Service with Southwick at First Church Westfield 9:30AM

Sunday August 7th Communion Sunday

Please watch for weekly emails from First Church for an updated calendar of events.

If you have not been receiving them or would like to please let the office know your email.

Fccoutlook@outlook.com

Soup Kitchen

July 25/ Aug 22nd

3-5:30PM

Please sign up to help if you can.

Or email [Cindy LaPlante@fccwestfield@outlook.com](mailto:CindyLaPlante@fccwestfield@outlook.com)

Summer Office Hours

Cindy

Monday & Tuesday 9AM-1PM
Or By Appointment 568-2833
fccwestfield@outlook.com

Rev. Paul

Monday and Tuesday
Or by Appointment 568-2833
revpaulnesbit@gmail.com

The Church Office will be closed Monday and Tuesday July 3rd and 4th for Independence Day.

Rev. Paul will be on vacation
June 29th—July 6th
August 14th -August 29th
Please call the church office or your Deacon if you need anything.

Committee Meetings

Church Committee

August 8th 7PM

Please note Church Committee will not meet in July.

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE! Our Facebook page is

First Congregational Church of Westfield.
Please check it out, "like" us, and follow us!!!



First Congregational Church of Westfield

Email :fccwestfield@outlook.com or churchonthegreenoffice@gmail.com

Church News



7/01-Cindy Gaylord
7/01- Emily Salzer
7/06-Kathy Irwin
7/8-Joe Balzano
7/10-Gladys Hedge
7/11-Michelle Downs
7/17-Carolyn Hunt
7/18-Donna Wolanin
7/20-Ariana Rodriguez
7/27-Christine Gaugh
7/29- Norah James
7/31- Lori LaPlante



8/02- Debbie Yesu
8/07- Fred Nason
8/10-Jacob Combs
8/12-Bruce Dunlop
8/12 Grace Connors
8/18-Merritt Andrews
8/18-Cindy LaPlante
8/22-Donald Manley
8/28-Silas Yesu
8/29-Sam Polley
8/31-Ralph Cortis
8/31-Michael Winer

Flowers for Sunday Worship

If you would like to bring flowers for a Sunday Service this summer please call the church office 568-2833 and let us know. There is a sign up sheet outside the church office for dates.

After worship the flowers are delivered with a worship guide to members in need or celebrating a special occasion.



Rev. Paul and Elizabeth Eastman at the Food Pantry Food Truck. The Truck is on Academy street Mondays and Thursdays 12Noon

Call or email the Church Office about Hospitalizations and Prayer List Updates fccwestfield@outlook.com 568-2833

If you know of someone in the congregation who has been hospitalized, has upcoming surgery or is in need of our prayers, please call the church office so that Rev. Paul knows.

Any updates to the prayer list are appreciated.





Blessed Buys Thrift Shoppe Celebrates 1 Year Anniversary!



Thursdays and Saturdays
10AM-2PM
20 Broad Street

THRIFT STORE



We would love your donations of Jewelry, nice like-new clothing, shoes, and pocketbooks. We are taking summer items now. Please call the office to schedule a drop off. 568-2833.



*First Congregational Church of Westfield
18 Broad Street
Westfield, MA 01085
Office (413) 568-2833*



Newsletter