



The Newsletter
First Congregational Church of Westfield
June 2023

Catch the Spirit

Some people are surprised that I like sports as much as I do. Not only do I love the actual game, I am obsessed with the atmosphere; this includes the crowds, music, cheers, food, and noise. If you've ever attended a game in person where they have alcohol sales (usually beer) the crowd tends to get a little louder and a bit more rowdy as the game progresses. Perhaps the alcohol consumed in the tailgate parties (in football) or at a nearby establishment (in the Fenway area) BEFORE the game may have something to do with this. Other people can get involved in a game as well, especially if it is a close one, without the "benefits" of alcohol.

The ever-real effects of alcohol, including the disease of alcoholism, have been a reality for literally thousands of years. We read about wine in many Scripture passages as it was the common drink of the day as drinkable water was scarce. It is no wonder that people thought the Apostles were drunk at the descent of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Peter had to remind them, "It is nine o'clock in the morning; no one is drunk!" With that excuse gone, the exuberance of the Apostles had no other explanation but that they were filled with the Spirit. The ones who hid in the Upper Room following the death and resurrection were finally freed from the bonds that kept them from preaching the Good News of Jesus crucified and Christ risen from the dead. Much like Lazarus in the tomb, they needed to be unbound in order to get to work.

In this Pentecost season as we celebrate being filled with the Holy Spirit, let us pray that the binds that may tie us in the not-so-good ways be broken and allow us to be consumed with the Holy Spirit. It is time for all of us to catch the Spirit and to pass it along to others. Our words and actions all give witness to our call as Christians. May we be filled with the Holy Spirit to the point where it overflows and flows out to all.

Catch the Spirit!

Peace and love,

Rev. Paul

Rev. Paul Nesbit, Pastor

**Deacon's Corner
June 2023**

65 Years in the Congregational Church

Hello! I'm Karen Lajoie and I've been a member of 1st Congregational Church since about 1997, serving on a number of committees and currently enjoying my second round as a Deacon. When asked to write a little about myself for the monthly Deacon's Corner, and this being my second entry, I started to reflect on this: As I turn 65 this month, why not tell a bit about my 65 years in the Congregational Church.

Born in Fitchburg in 1958, my Mom and Dad were members of the Calvinistic Congregational Church of Fitchburg, so that's where my journey starts. Built in 1806, it's a beautiful Church with a 20 ft. Stained Glass Rose window and a lovely sanctuary. It was there that I was Baptized, Confirmed and enjoyed being an acolyte and singing in the junior choir. I can still remember my sister and I practicing "Dona Nobis Pacem" in the round. I'm sure it's in my Grandmothers collection of musical tapings (LOL).

In 1969 my family moved to Canada and immediately made the Granby Quebec, Congregational Church our home. Mom and Dad of course joined the choir, while my sister, brother and I were active with the youth group. Granby being a mainly French speaking community, the majority of the English speaking attended our Church, and it was truly a second home and family to us.

When my family returned to the U.S. and settled in Agawam, the Agawam Congregational Church became our new spiritual home. This beautiful church was where my husband Bob and I were married and attended for a few years, until the birth of our first Grandson C.J.. We thought it important to be a part of his spiritual growth, so decided to transfer to 1st Congregational Church of Westfield. What a wonderful journey it's been watching our grandchildren grow!

I Love this Church! Being a part of this very active and faith filled community has and will continue to bring me joy for many years to come.

Four
Score
And
More
May
6th
2023



Church School Comm. – June Newsletter

The last day of Sunday School was May 14th. Recognition Sunday will be June 11th. We will recognize anyone that is graduating from High School or College and the youth that have received their driving license in the last year. We would like to congratulate our High School graduates Sam Yesu, Cailyn Crean and Bobby Crean. Please let me or the office know if there are any more graduates.

Even though there has only been one student, we have had a great time with Shay. We've learned stories about Jesus teachings and how He wants us to live and have had activities and games to reinforce those teachings. I want to thank all who have helped with the elementary program on Sunday Mornings – Lisa Crean, Cailyn Crean, Bobby Crean, Andrea Polley, Abby Polley, Amy Platt and Nick Platt and Dan Koehne. Leading the older group was Jim Yesu, Dan Koehne, Julie Dimino, Amy Platt, and Greg Hamel. Also thanks to Rev. Paul for inspiring us.

I would like to thank everyone that has helped with the youth program this year. I appreciate all the help with teaching, setting up and helping with events, and planning a retreat. Our program couldn't be done without all of you helping.

Looking forward Janet St. Jean is planning a "Make A Joyful Noise" summer event for youth June 19 – June 22nd.

The committee is continuing its search for a permanent Faith Formation Director

The committee wishes everyone a safe and happy summer!!

June 3, 2022 Noble View Outdoor Center Church hike and cook-out All are Invited !

For those of you who would like to go for a very casual guided hike, Alice Flyte will be leading a short hike starting at 10 am. This hike will be on the Noble View trails and will take about 1 hour along relatively flat trails.

We will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks. Please feel free to bring a side dish.

Where: The Noble View Outdoor Center, 635 South Quarter Rd, Russell, MA 01071.

<https://www.outdoors.org/destinations/massachusetts-and-new-hampshire/noble-view>

Questions: Please contact Daniel Koehne (413-433-7599) or

Cindy at the Church office 568-2833, if you have any questions.



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

Free Workshop

Monday, June 19 - Thursday, June 22

Times: 6:30-8:00 PM

For Students Entering Grades 2-8

Run by Experienced Teachers

**Singing, African Drumming and Creating Art
Concluding with a Performance for Parents**

Thursday June 22nd @ 7:30PM

**For more information and to register
contact:**

janetstjean@comcast.net

413-563-5156



**First Congregational Church
18 Broad St Westfield, MA 01085**



Christian Fellowship

Annual Spring Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, June 14th 11:30AM

At Tigers Pride

(Westfield Technical Academy)

Cost: \$13.00

Please call :

Judy Lyon (413) 326-4669

for reservations or

more information

Happy Birthday
To Everyone
Born in June!

6/01-Nancy Rowe

6/02-Karen Lajoie

6/04-Linda Hauk

6/10-Nancy Grimaldi

6/10-Maddie Balzano

6/11 Emery James

6/12-C.J. Crean

6/13-Cynthia Reynolds

6/15-David Wolanin

6/16-Karena Downs

6/20- Joyce Andrews

6/21-Ed LaPlante

6/28-Joyce Piper-McLean

6/28 Debbie Grobe

We're very excited to share that starting May 25th we will be hosting the mobile Food Pantry.

Each Thursday First Church will be hosting the Westfield Food Pantry Mobile Food Truck from 12-1.

This grab-and-go meal is FREE and open to anyone from the Westfield community in need.

We will be parked on the Academy Street side of the building

Please share and help us get the word out!



Young Singers of Greater Westfield

Spring Concert

June 11, 2023 at @2PM

First Congregational Church

of Westfield

18 Broad Street

Westfield Ma 01085



Kerry Cipoletta, Artistic Director

Event is free and open to the public

June Newsletter - 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

Fundraiser for Heifer International. We combined your generous gifts with our annual donation. With that amount we have asked Heifer International to purchase 1 heifer, 2 goats, 24 hives of bees, 22 flocks of chickens for the families.



Appalachian Trail Magic – July 21st Our church will participate again this year in Trail Magic - Day of Appalachian Trail Kindness in Sheffield. Those of us who participated last year had an awesome day. You can participate by making high energy brownies or bars for our group to take, the hikers would love 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!!

The Welcome Home Refugee Resettlement Program of Catholic Charities Springfield, MA is currently welcoming refugee families from Afghanistan, Haiti, Syria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Ukraine. There are several ways you can help arriving refugee families now. Contact Keegan Pyle at k.pyle@diospringfield.org if you are interested helping in any of these ways.

- Furniture is needed now: loveseats or small sofas, small dining tables, dining chairs, dressers, floor rugs, coffee tables, vacuums, flat screen TVs, adult and children's bikes. If you have items to donate, contact Melissa Feldman at melissawelcomehome@yahoo.com
- Purchase gift cards to Walmart and Target that go straight to arriving families so they can purchase things they need for their home and family right away. Mail the gift cards to: Keegan Pyle, 65 Elliot St., Springfield, MA 01105
- Volunteer to help move arriving refugees into their new homes.
- Volunteer in a Circle of Care. Either form your own group of 6 or more people, or we will place you with a forming Circle with other volunteers. A Circle of Care is a group of compassionate volunteers who teach arriving refugee families how to successfully resettle in their new community. Responsibilities include showing them around their new community, teaching them how to pay bills and identify important mail, how to access public transportation, registering them at nearby food pantries and health centers, practicing English with them, and being a welcoming friend.



Westfield Farmers Market asks for your assistance. The Westfield Farmers Market is a non-profit market dedicated to supporting our regional agricultural economy and providing our community members with access to fresh, affordable, locally grown food. The Market has a SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) which helps our most vulnerable customers purchase locally grown, fresh foods. The Market is committed to further reducing the effect of food insecurity in our community in 2023 by increasing the weekly match offered from \$5 to \$10. If you feel called to help, send a check made payable to Westfield Farmers Market to The Market, 36 Court St, Westfield, MA 01085.

Franklin Avenue School: It's that time of year again. The teachers at Franklin are requesting Lysol Cleaning Wipes, Kleenex tissues, and Paper towels.

Food for the Hungry Sunday June 18, 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 **June 27th** 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, June 27th 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** to help, please call Cindy or Mayme to learn how and when. Thank you in advance.

From your Property Committee:

We welcome Roy Bascom as our new custodian. Roy started on March 28th. He works Mon, Tues, and Wed, 8AM to noon, and Sundays from 7:30-11:30.

The property committee thinks he is doing a great job. Besides keeping our Church and grounds clean he is a quick learner and good organizer. As you can see by the pictures he's also handy with a paint brush as he touched up paint in the fellowship hall.

It's a complex job to learn and everyday there are new issues that need to be addressed. Please let me know if there is something that needs his attention.

Say hello to Roy and welcome him to our Church Family.

Bob Brownlee
Property Committee



Blessed Buys Thrift Shoppe



Thursday and
Saturday
10AM-2PM

20 Broad Street
Westfield MA 01085



Sponsored by:
First Congregational Church
of Of Westfield
(413) 568-2833



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18 Broad Street
Westfield, MA 01085
Office (413) 568-2833
www.churchonthegreen.org

June