



The Newsletter
First Congregational Church of Westfield
June 2025



Spirit, spirit of gentleness, Blow through the wilderness

Calling and free

Spirit, spirit of restlessness, Stir me from placidness

Wind, wind on the sea

-Alan Harvey

Happy Birthday! Pentecost has also been called the Birthday of the Church. Happy Summer! We also have the promise of warmer weather and summer activities ahead of us. But let's talk about the Holy Spirit.

While people had been gathering together and sharing the Good News of Christ crucified and risen from the dead, it was truly the Pentecost event that signaled the "birth" as Holy Spirit was truly with the Apostles and disciples of Jesus. Acts 2 tells us:

"When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim."

In order to help us see how the Holy Spirit may be calling us, both churches will engage in a series of Focus Groups. It is important that every member attend at least one focus group in their home church to get an idea or pulse of what is happening in each community. What do we do well? How can we improve? What do we need to do to make sure that we are inclusive and not exclusive?

It is important for our churches to do a "Holy Spirit check" to ensure that we have our ears, eyes, and hearts open to do that to which we are called, to spread the Gospel message to all who will take it in the Westfield and Southwick areas. I hope you'll join me.

Peace and love,

(Rev.) Paul

Rev. Paul B. Nesbit
Pastor





It was early winter in 2021 with the ground frozen and snow patches all around. Don, my future husband, has come for supper at my home. Afterwards, as usual we played "Rummy" as well as watched "The Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy. It was now dark when Don headed home to Feeding Hills and as he went out the Kitchen door there was such a loud pounding sound of fluttering wing feathers. There was a large brown bird departing its perch from my tall flower pot next to the porch. We were very surprised by the size of this bird and later identified it as a Bard Owl. We surmised it was after birds, mice and other critters that visited my feeders. Now, each night, Don would look out the door to see if the owl was there on my flower pot before he ventured out the door to go home. This Bard Owl came almost every night for approximately ten days. Then one night we looked out but he wasn't there but, as we entered the porch, there was the huge brown owl lying on the ground. I called to my grandson, Nathan, to come and help us. He brought a towel and wrapped the owl in it. Nathan then said, Gramma, the owl is just "feathers and bones". We felt very sad as we realized it had starved to death. If only I had known, I would have brought some hamburg or other food to feed it. Anyway, Nathan and I took the owl to the woods next to the house and parted the brush and leaves to hide it under it all.

Soon after, I read articles about owls not having enough rodents in the wild to feed on. This season many had been found and brought to sites where people were caring for the owls. This owl's death left us with an empty feeling as we could have perhaps helped it if we had known the situation

Spring came and one day I noticed something yellow in the woods right where we had laid the owl to rest. It was a lovely clump of daffodils, I had not planted them there. Don and I were puzzled by this and both of us agreed GOD must have put them there. Each year since, we would look for the daffodils to appear and we were never disappointed. It soon became time for us to purchase a cemetery stone and when we did, we decided to have a Bard Owl carving on it as well as daffodils to remind us of a time when GOD touched our lives.



Church School Celebrates the conclusion of our Church School Year with an Intergenerational Service

On Sunday, June 8, members of the Church School, Senior Choir and Congregation will gather for a Pentecost Celebration. On the 50th and final day of the Easter season, God sends the gift of the Holy Spirit in an event that unites all peoples.

Our service will include a dramatic reading based on Acts 2: 1-4. It is of the story of The Holy Spirit Descending on the disciples of Jesus in 3 forms: a mighty rushing wind filling the house where the believers were gathered, what appeared to be tongues of fire resting on each of them, and the Holy Spirit allowing them to speak in other languages.

Please join us for this inspiring day!

Janet St. Jean, Director of Family Ministries



Mother's Day Flowers

Ciera Lent, Amy Platt, Shay Towart, Cailyn Crean

First Congregational Church

invites you to a

"Family Day at

Noble View Outdoor Center"

635 South Quarter Road Russell Ma

Saturday, June 21, 2025

10:00 AM Hike

11:00 AM Story Walk on Accessible Trail

12 Noon Picnic

Coordinator, Alicy Flyte 454-7822



Four Score and More Luncheon goes to the Kentucky Derby!!

It was a lovely May afternoon when First Churches over 80 church members and guests (plus a great group of volunteers) joined together to enjoy a special Westfield version of lunch at the Kentucky Derby. Fellowship Hall had been transformed into Churchill Downs as inflated horses raced across the windows, a large winner's circle balloon display marked the finish line and wonderful carefully researched Derby food, was served to the Derby crowd.

Most attending wore exquisite Derby hats, (some created by our own First Church millinery artists) as we were seated at beautifully decorated tables. The conversation was lively as wait staff began serving courses of Derby delights, (Mac and cheese, Kentucky hot brown sliders, Chicken salad, and Benedictine spread sandwiches with cucumber). Mint Julips and Sweet Tea topped off this traditional fare.

I have always enjoyed volunteering at our annual "Four Score and More" luncheon but this year I was instructed that having reached the age of 80, I was only allowed to be a guest. I quickly learned how nice it was to be part of the Derby crowd, be waited on, and enjoy the day from a guests perspective, (Turning 80 has its rewards).

I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this afternoon special. A "loud shout out" to Cindy LaPlante for her energy and creativity making sure from invitation to menu, the Derby was alive in Fellowship Hall. Her careful planning and hours of cooking presented us with Derby foods that we will all remember.

Following the delicious meal, we all participated in Derby related games led by Rev Paul. Prizes were awarded and we all learned new Derby trivia. I was amazed to hear this fascinating extravagant race only lasts about two minutes!! Desserts of Bourbon Balls, Chocolate Pecan Pie, Peach pie Bites, Chocolate Covered Strawberries and lemon Cakes followed the games. It was a fabulous afternoon and a treat for all who attended.

Thank you to all our church family for making the First Saturday in May a day to honor and thank those members of our congregation who have reached their 80 + years. I look forward to many more "Four Score and More" celebrations to come.

Barb James -Senior Deacon and new member of the over 80 club!!





June Newsletter- World Service Committee

"Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst." John 6:35

Thank You

Our Community Table/Westfield Soup Kitchen: Thank You to each person who has baked a dessert, assisted with meal preparation, delivered meals, and/or assisted in serving the meal. We could not serve the community without your generosity and assistance.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING OF YOUR TIME AND RESOURCES

Westfield Food Pantry: June 15, 2025 – 3rd Sunday of each month: Each month we bring items for the Westfield Food Pantry. Items that are requested include Spaghetti sauce, Pasta, Soup, Crackers, Macaroni & Cheese, Rice, Tuna fish, canned veggies: Corn, Green Beans, Peas, Carrots, Cereal, Canned Fruit, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Cooking oil, Juice, Coffee, Tea, and Sugar.

The **2nd Sunday** of each month your WSC will make an announcement for the items that are in short supply at the Food Pantry. Rebecca Hart will be advising WSC each month of their supply needs. Month of May they were asking for Granola bars and cereal. June could be Pasta and Mac& Cheese which they always need.

Our Community Table/Westfield Soup Kitchen – June 24, 2025 -4th Tuesday of the month: We will need desserts for the meal. Cupcakes, cookies, brownies, sheet cakes are greatly appreciated by those who share a meal at the soup kitchen. Each donation must serve **24** people. If you are willing to bake a dessert, please contact **Nancy Condon**, Goodie Guru at 413-297-0778 or at

nancy@paddleforwater.net. Tuesday 24th bring your dessert to the church by 2:00pm or take it to the Soup Kitchen at 101 Meadow Street between 4:00 & 4:30. It would be great if you could stay and help.

CALL Cindy LaPlante to 568-2833 learn how you can help.

Westfield River Elementary School: Your World Service Committee will continue to be in touch with the school office to see what First Congregational Church can do to help with the teachers' and student needs. Thank you for your support for this mission project should there be any questions you can contact Nancy Condon who is the direct liaison to Westfield River Elementary school or any member of the World Service Committee.

HELO Haiti: World Service Committee is still able to send donations to help the students be able to have an education. Elisabeth Kennedy is our contact at HELO Haiti. Jennifer Waldorf is direct liaison if you have questions about HELO Haiti. Prayers are needed for Peace in Haiti. Check the bulletin board for the latest pictures. Jennifer is working on information for a WSC meeting June 3rd about how we could have a fund raiser to support HELO Haiti. Jennifer is also reporting on a Mini Food Pantry box at our church.

Monthly Highlights: Each month we highlight one or more of the missions we support. This month are Food Pantry and United Church of Christ.

The Westfield Food Pantry provides food to Westfield residents in need. Our church supports the program with donations of non-perishable food and with an annual financial donation. Your World Service Committee thanks you so much for your continued generosity.

The United Church of Christ funds are used for natural disasters and emergencies. They also support mission schools, prepare leaders, provide for and uplift local churches.

EASTER OFFERING: Your World Service Committee says **Thank You** for your generous donations for God's work thru the Mission committee. This year collection was \$5,864.25

The Local and World needs are great, we will pray for God's guidance in using these funds wisely.

Thank you again for so much Caring and Love.

World Service Committee: We will mail out mission funds on June 16th to the following organizations: Community Table, Salvation Army, Samaritan Inn, Trail Magic, Springfield Rescue Mission, Boys and Girls Club. Thank you for your continuing support for First Congregation Church's Mission Projects.

Trail Magic: Thank you for your interest in Trail Magic again this year. We have our date ! July 15, 2025, the five people going this year are Cindy Gaylord, Dorothy Cichonski, Gail Ives, Janice Longstreeth, Michelle Winer. The event is being held at a new area this year due to conflicts with park service so Ray Salois is waiting on more information from Rev. Jill Graham.

World Service Committee, Ray Salois, Nancy Condon, Gail Ives, Jean Zimmerman, Dorothy Cichonski, Jennifer Waldorf, Tom Samwell

Christian Fellowship

Annual Spring Luncheon

Wednesday, June 11th 11:00AM

At Tigers Pride

33 Smith Ave Westfield, MA

Cost: \$12.95

Please call : Judy Lyon

(413) 579-5434

for reservations or more information.



Memorial Flowers

Each Sunday our sanctuary is decorated with fresh floral arrangements on the altar. There are many people and several groups in the Church as well as people from out of town who give flowers as a memorial, special celebration or holiday remembrance. After the Service the flowers are made into smaller bouquets which are given to sick, bereaved and shut-in members. If you would like to give Altar flowers for a particular Sunday. Please call the Church Office (568-2833) for more information. The cost of an arrangement is \$25.00.

Thank you to my Church Family for all your help in preparing & celebrating my Mom, Beverly Gamble's life on May 17th. I know she would have loved it. She loved her Church Family with all of her heart & we'll feel her love & hugs forever.

-Martha Scavotto



June Birthday's

6/01-Nancy Rowe
6/02-Karen Lajoie
6/03-Donald Kinney
6/04-Linds Hauk
6/10-Maddie Balzano
6/11-Emery James
6/12-C.J. Crean
6/13-Cynthia Reynolds
6/16-Karenn Downs
6/20-Joyce Andrews
6/21-Ed LaPlante
6/28-Joyce Piper-McLean
6/28-Debbie Grobe



First Congregational Church of Westfield

18 Broad Street
Westfield, MA 01085
Office (413) 568-2833

www.firstcongregationalchurchwestfield.ma.org



June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Communion Sunday Coffee Hour Team #	2 12:15 Food Truck	3 7:00 World Service	4 	5 10-2 Blessed Buys 12:15 Food Truck	6	7 10-2 Blessed Buys
8 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Coffee Hour Team # 1	9 11:00 Am Memorial Service 12:15-Food Truck	10 7PM Church Council	11 11AM Christian Fellowship	12 10-2 Blessed Buys 12:15 Food Truck	13	14 10-2 Blessed Buys
15 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Coffee Hour Team # 2	16 12:15-Food Truck	17	18	19 10-2 Blessed Buys 12:15 Food Truck	20	21 10-2 Blessed Buys 11AM Story Walk
22 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Coffee Hour Team # 3	23 12:15 Food Truck	24 3-5 Soup Kitchen	25	26 10-2 Blessed Buys 12:15 Food Truck	27 	28 10-2 Blessed Buys
29 Worship in Southwick 	30 12:15 Food Truck					



SPRING CONCERT

June 8, 2025 at 2:00 PM

First Congregational Church
18 Broad Street, Westfield, MA

Young Singers of Greater Westfield
Kerry Cipoletta, Artistic Director

with **The Handbells of First Congregational Church,**
Allan Taylor, organ and piano four-hands,
and **Scott Bailey, piano four-hands**

www.ysgw.org



Event is free and open to the public.
(Donations gratefully accepted.)

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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June