

# First Congregational Church of Westfield

## The Newsletter July/August 2025

### Summer Breezes and the Holy Spirit

Summer is here! As this is written, we are in the middle of our first heat wave with a 93 degree temperature at 1:00 PM. However, we are blessed to know that we will not be in the middle of a heatwave for the entire summer—at least I hope we are not. I remember summer nights sitting on the front porch with the sounds of the Red Sox games on the radio or coming from the television. We'd banter about who was better, the Red Sox or the Yankees. Of course, in the late 60s and 70s, it was mostly the Yankees with a better record, much to our chagrin.

While we licked our wounds, we also licked ice cream be it from the "Ding Dong Cart", Dairy Queen, Friendly's, or our own freezer. We'd also wait for the evening breeze that almost always came from the hills to the west of us. The breeze would cool us off and allow us to sleep. How many of you also grew up without air conditioners? I wonder how we did it.

I can't help thinking, though, that the summer evening breeze could also be a signal from the Holy Spirit for us to stop, relax, and put our minds at ease. It could also be used as a signal for us to stop and thank God for the beautiful summer day where things would be a little less stressful and as the song went, "the livin is easy."

My prayer for all of you this summer is that we can find the joy in a summer evening breeze and keep our relationship with God ongoing, free, and easy. I hope you can get to the beach, lake, or a place that makes you happy this summer. Church services will still happen so we hope to see you throughout the summer months when you're in town. Otherwise, we'll see you in September.

Love and peace,

*(Rev.) Paul*

Rev. Paul B. Nesbit  
Pastor



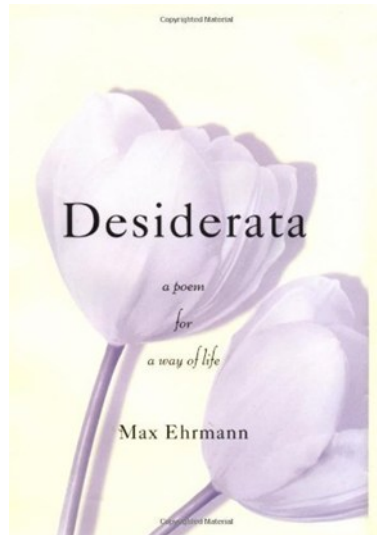
*Picnic with the Pastor  
Sunday, July 27th 2025*

*Following Worship at  
Southwick Congregational Church  
488 College Highway,  
Southwick*

*We will have a joint Service  
At 11AM in Southwick  
Please sign up outside the  
Church office.*



## Deacon's Corner July



### *Desiderata ("It Is Still A Beautiful World")*

*This message was found on the bedside table of a world- renowned American statesman ... discovered in Old Saint Paul's Church in Baltimore, 1692. Appears no author name was apparent.*

*Then Max Ehrmann, an Indiana poet-philosopher who died in 1945 wrote the same message under the title of Desiderata. Copy right 1927*

*I memorized this for my college class in Public Speaking. It is timeless and shapes much of what I live by. It was given to me by a classmate Sally Heggie Copeland many years ago.*

*Go placidly amid the noise and the haste and learn what peace there may be in silence. Speak your truth quietly and clearly, and listen to others, even the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story...if you compare yourself with others you may become vain and bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.*

*Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs...but let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals and everywhere life is full of heroism.*

*Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.*

*Be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here...And whether it is clear to you or not, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.*

*Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive him to be. And whatever your aspirations in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace within your soul. With all its shame, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.*

*Submitted by*

*Anne Gelinas*

## Family Ministries

### Intergenerational Service Celebrates Pentecost

On Sunday, June 8, members of our church school joined the larger congregation to celebrate Pentecost, the Birthday of the Church. Members Ruby DeBarge, Jaxon, Jacoby, and Joey Gonzalez, Cierra Lent, and Shay Towart made joyful noises with percussion instruments to add life to the dramatic reading of Pentecost events. It was an exciting end to our Church School year.

### Two Church School Members Baptized

On Sunday, May 18, Cierra Lent was baptized into Christian faith. On Sunday, June 8, Shay Towart was also baptized into the Christian faith. It was a joyous celebration for both of them and for the entire church family.

Janet St. Jean, Director of Family Ministries















# BLESSED BUYS THIRD ANNIVERSARY SALE

Thursday **July 24**  
& Saturday **July 26**

10 to 2 each day

Celebrate with discounted prices  
on our already low prices



Household items, Kitchen supplies,  
Clothes, Shoes  
Jewelry, Books, CDs, DVDs, Crafts  
Fabric, Toys, Games, Puzzles

A Mission of  
First Congregational Church of Westfield  
Blessed Buys Thrift Shoppe  
20 Broad Street, Westfield Ma

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



## Summer Schedule at First Congregational Church

**July 6th** Worship Service First Congregational Church 9:30AM Rev. Paul

**July 13th** Worship Service First Congregational Church 9:30AM -Rev Randy Hyvonen

**July 20th** Worship Service First Congregational Church 9:30AM Rev. Ute Schmidt

**July 27th** Joint Worship Service at Southwick Congregational 11:00AM

Picnic with the Pastor to Follow—Rev. Paul

**Aug 3rd** Worship Service First Congregational Church 9:30AM—Rev Paul

**Aug 10th** Worship Service First Congregational Church 9:30AM—Rev. Paul

**Aug 17th** Joint Worship Service at Southwick Congregational 11:00AM– Rev Paul

**Aug 24th** Worship Service First Congregational Church 9:30AM—Rev Dr. Chris Davies

**Aug 31st** Worship Service First Congregational Church 9:30AM - TBA

**Rev. Paul** will be away July 10th –July 24 and August 18-Sept 2nd

Please call your Deacon if you need anything

**Office Hours** for the summer are Monday's and Tuesday's 9-2

Please call if you have any questions

568-2833

### Summer Coffee Hour Schedule

#### July 6th –Team #4

Jim Kinney, Dorothy Cichoski ,  
Ann Mundy,  
Rick & Cindy Gaylord

#### July 13th—Team #5

Lori LaPlante, Michelle Winer,  
Mara Winer, Janice Longstreeth

#### July 20th –Team #6

Bob & Jennifer Waldorf,  
Elizabeth and Al Cincotta, Nancy  
Condon, Ray Salois, Darlene  
Biggs

#### Aug 3rd –Team #7

Martha Roman, Alice Flyte,  
Julie Kraus, Nancy Chamberlin,  
Brad and Deb Alm

#### Aug 10th Team #8

Carol Whalen, Joyce Bard,  
Michelle Downs, Karen Lajoie  
Martha Scavotto,

#### Aug 24th Team #1

Bob Brownlee, Steve Pierce,  
Christina Pierce, Anne Gelinias.

#### Aug 31st Team #2

Tina Dunlop, Linda Hauk, Mayme  
Lajoie, Joyce Piper-McLean and  
Doug James.



7/01-Cindy Gaylord  
7/01- Emily Salzer  
7/08-Joe Balzano  
7/10-Gladys Hedge  
7/11-Michelle Downs  
7/15-Jacoby & Jaxon Gonzalez  
7/17-Carolyn Hunt  
7/18-Donna Wolanin  
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  
8/15-Joseph Gonzalez Jr.  
8/18-Merritt Andrews  
8/18-Cindy LaPlante  
8/22-Donald Manley  
8/28-Silas Yesu  
8/29-Kelly Gonzalez  
8/31-Michael Winer

## July Newsletter- World Service Committee

*John 6:35 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.*

### 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: July 20, 2025 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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** in 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 – July 22, 2025 -4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:nancy@paddleforwater.net). Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

**Monthly Highlights:** Each month we highlight one or more of the missions we support. This month is BHN Kamp for Kids. Kamp for Kids is for children and young adults with and without disabilities. This summer program offers an opportunity to experience inclusion, growth and fun in a camp setting that includes a spray park, expressive arts, outdoor educa-



tion, arts & crafts and non-competitive sports. Call Anne Benoit at 413-562-5678 for more information

**EASTER OFFERING:** Your World Service Committee says **Thank You again** for your generous donations for God's work thru the Mission committee. This year collection was \$5864.25

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

**World Service Committee:** We mailed out mission funds on June 16<sup>th</sup> 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 Congregational Church's Mission Projects.

**Trail Magic:** We have our date of July 15, 2025, the five people going this year are Cindy Gaylord, Dorothy Cichonski, Gail Ives, Janice Longstreeth, Michelle Winer. Thank you all for your participation in this great mission project.

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



### **From the Property Committee: Tower Clocks**

You might have noticed that our church's four clocks had been showing four different times for many months – three close to accurate and one on its own time. Property Committee member Allan Taylor has been working with a friend who has experience with clocks like ours. They are diagnosing the malfunction(s) and have reset the north, south and west clocks to the correct time and are monitoring them for time drift. The hands of the east clock were recently fixed at 12 o'clock and the motor was removed for inspection. Our clocks were installed in

1996 and all four motors were replaced in 2001. While the three functioning clocks have been keeping reasonably accurate time since being reset, the motors have exceeded their life expectancy, and we anticipate all four may need to be replaced. Further, the hand drives need maintenance. As testing continues and more information becomes available, Allan will be developing recommendations and cost estimates.

Doug James, Property Committee Chair



A few of the folks who enjoyed our day at Noble View on Saturday, June 21st .  
Thanks to all the hard work of Alice Flyte and Dan Koehne



## First Congregational Church of Westfield

18 Broad Street  
Westfield, MA 01085  
Office (413) 568-2833  
[wwfirstcongregationalchurchwestfieldma.org](http://wwfirstcongregationalchurchwestfieldma.org)

