

Dear Church,

Grace and peace to each of you, in this quiet-ish, slow-ish (for some) time of summer, this time of outdoor concerts, road trips, beach bathing, and “al-fresco” dining. Even in the extended heat, I hope you have had time to be outside, to sit for a bit, and listen to the birds sing in the early morning calm.

As I sit and listen to the sounds of nature, (which includes Mazie greeting her fellow neighborhood dogs being walked this morning) I am thinking about when we gather again in September, back in the sanctuary, Sunday mornings for worship.

I am working on themes and scriptures to explore with you this fall. And it occurred to me that I would like your input on what you would like to explore over the coming months about your faith, about scripture, about God. Big topics, I know!

Scholars have spent thousands of years studying and wrestling and arguing about what it all means, and where we fit in the Big Love that some call God. So, what do you wonder about? What are you curious about? What questions do you have about faith, scripture and how these relate to your life? Know that as I ask this there are no silly questions, just as there are no perfect answers. So, ask away! Together we can explore and open our hearts and minds to the wonderful mystery of our faith.

Perhaps you are feeling a weakened faith as you look on the world today. Permission granted to wonder, and question! Perhaps you are overwhelmed with grief for a loss that you still have no words to explain. Permission granted to feel all these things, no need to explain. Pray anyway! Just start talking, out loud is best, or on paper. Be assured that God is there, waiting to be included in this struggle. This community of faith is here for you! Reach out!

Though the church is changing, God has not changed. God is still listening, God is still speaking. And we are called to wonder, question, and explore where we fit in this Big Love. So, what are your questions or curiosities?

Think of these things and then please send me a note. Your thoughts of course will stay anonymous even as I respond to them to help us all dive deeper into our life-long faith journey. So, let's explore things together. Let's see what bubbles up from your curiosities and questions.

One last thought, if there is an urgency in this for you, something that is burning for you, then we need not wait till the fall to explore together. You and I can meet and explore in a smaller setting. So, call me, let's talk. In Faith, Rev. Holly



## Graduation Sunday, June 9th

Bottom From Left:

Karen Harris, Alecia Balduf (Graduated with her Master's Degree), Lyla Schneider (GTown HS), Hannah Lamouroux (U of Maine, Holly Harris (U of Tampa), Rich Brock



Above From Left:  
Hannah Lamouroux,  
Lyla Schneider,  
Holly Harris

## A STRAWBERRY SOCIAL THANK YOU

Even though the weather was not on our side this year  
(95 degrees with a chance of a thunderstorm)  
we still enjoyed a fun filled evening and a terrific Band Concert  
in Fellowship Hall and on the Church Lawn.  
Thank you for the support from our wonderful church family.

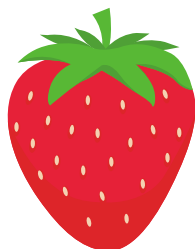
Thank you to all who hulled, served, set up, cleaned up, donated raffle items,  
sold raffle tickets and strawberry social tickets, helped with publicity, and  
counted the proceeds from the Strawberry Social and played in the  
World's Most Dangerous Church Band.

Thank you to our Scout troops, they helped set up, serve, and take down.  
Special thank you to Marini Farms for the delicious strawberries.

Also, there were rising costs for strawberries and all the ingredients (we all see this at  
the grocery store). This year we asked for help in the form of donations toward the  
Strawberry Social. We were overwhelmed with donations from our Church Family and  
thanks to you we were able to have the Social and keep the cost affordable.

### Thank you to our Table Sponsors:

Georgetown Barbershop  
MAZE C&I  
Best Bagel  
Black Swan Country Club  
American Flatbread  
B&B Auto Clinic



### Raffle Winners:

Maine Gift Basket-Angie Fiedler  
Kitty Gift Basket-Jo Anne Kelly  
Giuseppe's Gift Card-Carole Young  
Stonewall Kitchen Gift Basket-Richard Aberman  
S'mores Gift Basket-Sarah Bogdan  
Breakfast & Lunch Gift Certificate-Toni Cassidy  
50/50-Karen Harris  
Visa Gift Card-Mason Pesce

Proceeds: \$1,750.00  
Thank you, Janice & Emily



## Our Neighbors' Table NEW fundraising event!

**SUNDAY, JULY 21**

Trail to Table  
Creating Food Security  
One Step at a Time

Join us for a summer stroll on the Rail  
Trail and a morning of family fun to  
support our neighbors!

Live Music	Raffles
Refreshments	Robotics Demo
Scavenger Hunt	Patriots Alumni

**KIDS ATTEND FREE**  
**Adult Registration \$30**

Register at  
[ourneighborstable.org/trailtotable](http://ourneighborstable.org/trailtotable)



**AUGUST 21**  
**SEPTEMBER 18TH**  
**4PM - 8PM**

Walk by Moonlight is an evening  
program by small businesses,  
for small businesses.

Explore Georgetown, get to know  
local establishments, and enjoy a  
fun community-based night out with  
friends and family on our walking  
tours.

FCC will have a table at this event!  
Come and join the fun!





## Blueberry Picking

It's almost blueberry picking time! We will be heading to Turkey Hill Farm in Haverhill on **Friday, July 19th** to pick the berries for our delicious church fair pies. We are in need of volunteers to help with the picking and sorting. If you are willing to help, please see the sign-up sheet at coffee hour or contact Chris Comiskey at [comgeorge@aol.com](mailto:comgeorge@aol.com) or 978-352-7364.

## Summer Worship Schedule



Our Wednesday Evening Worship Series is on **Wednesdays at 7pm.**

**July 17th, July 31st, August 7th, August 14th,  
August 21st, August 28th, & September 4th**

**As we have done for years, we will gather for a  
simple meal at 6:30, with worship at 7 pm.**

Bring your friends, invite your neighbors. All are welcome at FCC G-Town!  
God is Love, Always.

***Sunday Worship Resumes on September 8th.***

## **PENNY BOWL BENEFITS MERRIMACK VALLEY'S NEEDY CHILDREN**

Your continued support of the Coffee Hour Penny Bowl, sponsored by the Women's Guild, has benefited the Community Giving Tree of West Boxford for the past three months (April – June).

Your gifts of loose change and paper money purchased thirty dozen diapers, plus numerous packages of baby wipes that will be distributed by social agencies throughout our area.

Last year the Giving Tree helped fifteen thousand families with basic children's needs, including clothing in good condition for young children, and older kids, diapers, related baby necessities, baby furniture, and school supplies.

This mission, started in a garage by a member of the Second Congregational Church of Boxford twenty years ago, has expanded and is now housed in two buildings - one in Boxford and one in Lawrence.

They have partnered with many social agencies of the Merrimack Valley to provide urgent care to underserved children. Through the years, our Church Family is proud to help this very worthy and local organization!

Women's Guild Steering Committee: Jean, Joan, Judy & Nancy

*For July our steeple is lit in memory of  
Robert Brazil & Jeannie Panzini  
by Tracy and Roberta Dalton*



Affordable  
Homeownership  
Property for  
Sale: \$182,254

36 Hull Street, Wenham, MA

*To view the home, please attend the:*

**Open House**  
Thursday July 25, 6-8pm

The home is located in Wenham – a small rural town 22 miles north of Boston. With the Hamilton/Wenham Commuter Rail station, shops and restaurants only 4 miles away, this home is idyllic for the right family. The school district is combined with the neighboring town of Hamilton and is in the top 2% in Massachusetts.

### Featuring:

- 1086 sq ft duplex condo
- 2 bedrooms • 1 bathroom • open floor plan living room/kitchen • washer dryer hookup • newly constructed in 2021
- off-street stacked parking for 2 cars



To be eligible to apply, your total household income must be no higher than 60% of area median income. Maximums: 1P: \$68,520, 2P: \$78,360, 3P: \$88,140, 4P: \$97,920, 5P: \$105,780, 6P: \$113,640. You must secure your own mortgage and required down payment. All applications will be reviewed and approved on a first-come, first-served basis with the right to buy the home going to the first approved applicant. This is not a Habitat Home. Habitat for Humanity is solely acting as the monitoring agent for the sale. This application cycle closes on September 2, 2024.

For application and more information go to: [essexcountyhabitat.org/opportunities-wenham/](https://essexcountyhabitat.org/opportunities-wenham/)  
or contact Arianny Rodriquez, Director of Affordable Housing  
at 978-681-8858 or [arianny@essexcountyhabitat.org](mailto:arianny@essexcountyhabitat.org)





**Southern New England Conference**  
United Church of Christ  
*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

## **Narrative Budgets: Telling your Story by the Numbers** **Wednesday, July 24, 2024 at 7:30 PM**

A narrative budget translates the line items of a traditional budget into a story of how your congregation makes a difference in the world. It can be a helpful tool for a stewardship campaign or annual meeting. By telling the story of our congregations' impact, we can inspire generosity in our donors.

This webinar is offered by OPTIC – Office of Philanthropy, Technology, Identity, & Communication, UCC. For additional information and questions, please contact Rev. Andrew Warner, Generosity Outreach Officer for OPTIC – Office of Philanthropy, Technology, Identity, & Communication, United Church of Christ. Rev. Warner may be reached via email at: [warnera@ucc.org](mailto:warnera@ucc.org).

## **3 Best Practices for Stewardship in Congregations** **Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 7:30PM**

We will discuss the three practices most likely to increase giving in a local congregation: teaching about generosity, pastoral leadership, and online giving options. The webinar will examine why these practices matter and discuss how to implement them in a congregation.

This webinar is offered by OPTIC – Office of Philanthropy, Technology, Identity, & Communication, UCC. For additional information and questions, please contact Rev. Andrew Warner, Generosity Outreach Officer for OPTIC – Office of Philanthropy, Technology, Identity, & Communication, United Church of Christ. Rev. Warner may be reached via email at: [warnera@ucc.org](mailto:warnera@ucc.org).

**Register at [www.sneucc.org](http://www.sneucc.org)**

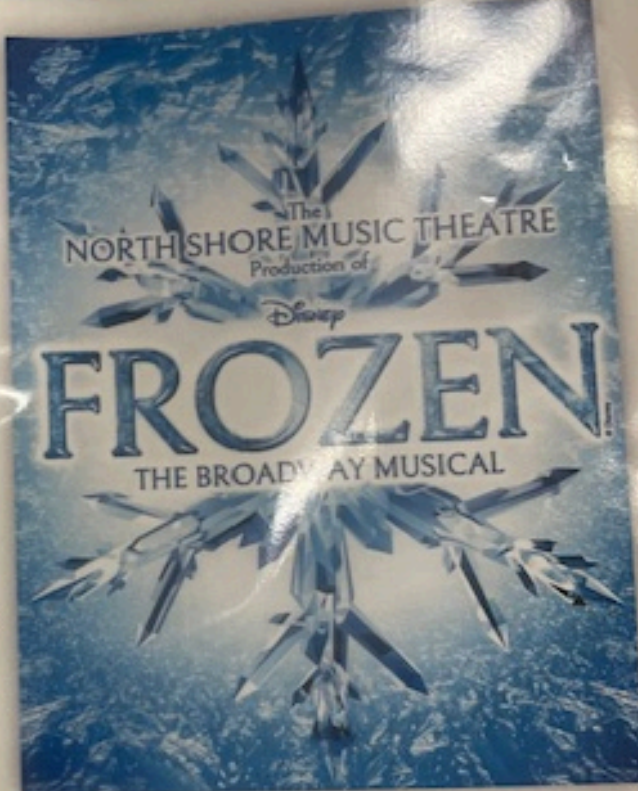


**Are you currently receiving treatment for cancer?**


**Be our guest to a FREE NIGHT on the TOWN!**  
Enjoy dining in a relaxed atmosphere with friends and bask in the magic of live theatre at the North Shore Music Theatre on Friday, July 19 at 6:30PM

The evening includes a buffet dinner at our pre-show reception and the performance of Frozen!

**To Show We Care** will provide two FREE tickets to persons in cancer treatment or who have finished treatment in 2024.




**Information/Reservations:** (978) 236-8161 or [rsvp@2swc.org](mailto:rsvp@2swc.org)  
Reservations must be made no later than Monday, July 15.



**To Show We Care** is dedicated to hosting entertainment events and programs for people affected by cancer, dementia, and other life-threatening illnesses.

[www.ToShowWeCare.org](http://www.ToShowWeCare.org)

 **ToShowWeCare**

## CHURCH FAIR DONATIONS

The First Congregational Church is now accepting donations for the Church Fair.

Items can be dropped off in the 2nd floor corner class room during the church's business hours of 9-12 T & Th, or in the back half of the Church's shed.

### **ACCEPTABLE ITEMS INCLUDE:**

Gently used Women's Clothing  
Jewelry  
Houseware Items  
Books, especially Children Books  
Toys  
Complete puzzles  
Clean Linens  
Tools  
Dish sets  
Glassware  
Furniture items

### **UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:**

Electronics, including TVs, Computers, Printers, CD/VCR Players  
Sporting Good Equipment  
Encyclopedias, Reference Books