

The Chimes Newsletter



***Federated Church of Ashland
118 Main Street
Ashland, MA 01721***

~ October 2022 ~

"The Creed of the Pilgrim God"

**We believe in a pilgrim God,
who crosses frontiers, boundaries and barriers,
who leaves his greatness behind and meets us on the way
and comes to us holding out his hand.**

**'I am the Lord, your God, I care for you, I am coming with
you.'**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, who walked on our earth,
who was born homeless, who found no place to lay his head,**

**wandering, journeying, even when a child pursued.
He revealed justice, brought people peace,
and played out his life even unto death itself.
We believe in the Spirit, who shapes and polishes us,
with blasts of wind and sand, who gives us courage to
witness to the boundless grace of God.**

*"From the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer"
~Margarita Ouwerkerk, Argentina*



The Pumpkins will arrive on

Saturday, October 1st at 9:00 AM

**If you are available, please stop by the
church and help us unload the truck!
"Many Hands, Make Light Work"**

Thank you for your continued support!

Dear Friends,

As I write the tent is going up, lights are being strung, we await the delivery of the Pumpkins, and Fall has officially arrived at FCOA! In recent weeks we have celebrated a baptism, begun a new Sunday School Year, and Blessed the Backpacks! October will be equally rich in happy events and busy as we continue to welcome the wider community in.



We have talked a bit about Home this Fall, and what it means to each of us -- we have explored what being Home in God -- and being Home to others can mean -- in real and tangible ways. We are excited about finding new ways to do God's work in the world, and new ways of welcoming people to join us. If we have been welcomed home here, who might you bring who may also need a place of community and welcome? A place of fun, nurture, witness, and hope?

On Sunday, September 30 we are celebrating Bring-A-Friend to Church Sunday -- really! Share the great treasure this congregation is with others who are looking for community, connection, belonging, and the hope of God's people in this place! Our children may also be bringing friends as they come in costume that day. Join the fun -- and Share It!

Joy to you, Katie

From the Deacon's Bench



So far, we have had a wonderful September! On the 11th we Baptized Bridget Poppy Haglund with the help of the many children that were there and held a lovely reception for the family and church members.

On the 18th we celebrated Homecoming and saw several members return to start off our new year with a bang! Once again, a reception was held and it was a great time of fellowship for all who attended.

On the 25th it was the Blessing of the Backpacks for children returning to the classroom and even the little ones heading to day care.

A very busy and fun filled time for all.

October will also be a busy time as the church prepares to receive the PUMPKINS! They arrive on Saturday, the 1st. Please check your emails for instructions to sign up to sell the pumpkins. New this year, we will be selling baked goods and crafts related to the fall season on the weekends in October.

Another Baptism is scheduled for October 23rd. Many of you may remember Gina Guidi. It is her two boys that will be receiving the sacrament. Come and join us to celebrate this wonderful time.

At our last meeting, we voted to send 10 Market Basket gift cards to Family Promise. It has been brought to our attention that some of the families that have recently left the shelter program and are living on pretty strict budgets are finding it difficult to stay within their means because of the rising prices of food. If any of you are so inclined, please feel free to send gift cards to Family Promise at 6 Mulligan St., Natick, MA 01760. The cards can be from Market Basket or Stop and Shop and for no more than \$25.00. Please note your name and the Federated Church of Ashland. Thank you.

In other business there was a discussion about the candles at Christmas. It was brought to our attention that the candelabra candles may be unsafe in our historical setting. It was voted on and approved to buy LED tapers for use on Christmas. We have seen them and were pleased with the result. The candles flicker and are on a 6-hour timer.

Once again, we ask that if you or anyone you know of in our church family is struggling to buy food or pay oil or gas bills, please do not hesitate to let the Deacons know. Our once-a-month collection is specifically designed for this purpose.

I sign off as always with great hope for the future of our church.

Blessings, Pam Dunham, Co-Chair, Deacons



The Church Fair

It is with great regret and sadness that we announce that there will be no fair this year. After much discussion it was decided that given the amount of work involved, we just do not have enough people to do the job.

The good news is that we are working on plans to offer smaller fund raisers throughout the year. One of these ideas will be implemented this month as we endeavor to sell baked goods and fall related crafts on weekends of the pumpkin sales. Another will be the Christmas Boutique on

December 3rd. Look for more information during November. Other things are in the planning stages and we will be sharing plans as we solidify them.

Our hope is that we will be able to raise, over the course of the year, what we might have raised on the one day of the fair. If you have any ideas for fun things to do as fund raisers, please let us know. We are open to any and all suggestions.

Thanks for all that you do.

Blessings, Pam Dunham

**~ Baptisms ~
Sunday, October 23**

"Please give thanks and pray for Owen and Colin McCleary who will be baptized at FCOA on Sunday, October 23. Please Plan to join us for this milestone event for the whole community that Sunday".



Ukraine Fundraisers
**Show your support for the
People of Ukraine!**

**Purchase heart shaped pins in
the Ukrainian
national flag colors, Flag pins,
Sunflower pins or
Silk sunflowers.**

**Small pins (Hearts or Flags) - \$5 each
Large pins (Hearts or Sunflowers) - \$10 each
Silk Sunflowers - \$10 each**

**If you would like to purchase any of these items, please leave a message
in the Church Office @ 508-881-1355 or call Rev. Katie Keene @ 617-721-
2002. You may also purchase them at the Thrift Shop on Wednesdays or
Saturdays.**

**100% of All proceeds to benefit the People of Ukraine through the work
of the World Central Kitchens in the Ukraine and neighboring countries.**

**Holiday
~ Office Closed ~
Columbus Day
Monday, October 10th**

Church Office

The Church Office remains closed.

Linda continues to work from home. If you need
to reach her, please feel free to leave a message at
the church office 508-881-1355 or send an email
to fcoaoffice@verizon.net



Stay safe and be well,

Linda :)

Halloween
Monday, October 31st



Church Pledges



Thank you to everyone who continues to faithfully send in their pledges.

If you are able to keep up with your pledge, we would appreciate you mailing it to the church.

For those of you who are unable to contribute at this time - we do understand.

Thank you for your continued support!

Prayer Requests

Prayer needs, concerns and thanksgivings: the prayer life of our community is as vibrant as ever. If you would like to add anything to our weekly prayer list, please leave a message for Linda in the church office 508-881-1355 or send an email to Linda at fcoaoffice@verizon.net



Our Thrift Shop is OPEN ...

Wednesdays 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
AND
Saturdays 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Masks are Required to Enter the Thrift Shop

Donations are accepted the days we are Open.



"Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of life."

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