

The Chimes Newsletter



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

~ September 2022 ~

A Prayer for Baptism

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ,

anointed by the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world. Amen

Dear Friends,

The summer has flown, and we are moving into an exciting and busy fall at FCOA! Several Baptisms, a new Sunday School year, Homecoming Sunday, the Blessing of the Backpacks and the arrival of the Pumpkins are all taking place in the next six weeks!! Please put these dates on your calendar and join the community in this new season.



On Sunday, September 11 we will hold Sunday School Registration, and celebrate the Baptism of Bridget Poppy Haglund, with a reception to follow. On Sunday, September 18, we will celebrate Home Coming Sunday, the Blessing of the Backpacks and hold our first Sunday School class--another Festive reception will follow!

In September, the Guidi family is also visiting us from the Cape, and will be bringing two year old Owen and new baby Colin for Baptism in Gina's home church, planning to visit us from time to time while worshipping regularly in Falmouth where they live--I am delighted we can welcome these children through Water and the Word, and support their family in their faith journey as they draw on their deep love of and history with this congregation. Gina's mother, Nora is still remembered and missed at FCOA, particularly as new Christian Education initiatives begin, and Gary is in touch with us regularly, though also living on the Cape. Let us look forward to welcoming them home. New families are also finding their way to us: the Duncan family, Kate, Reid, Lily, and Rose have asked to explore baptism and membership with us.

As I meet with families to talk about baptism, I ask them what they understand baptism to be about, and why are they seeking baptism at this time. I then will share what I call "Baptism in a Nutshell"--- one of the most beautiful prayers I know that describes just what happens in baptism--I am including that Prayer in this edition of the Chimes. Take a few minutes and really take in the simple but powerful words which remind us who we are, Whose we are, and what God invites us into through our baptism. Each time a baptism

takes place, we as individuals and as a congregation are given the opportunity to renew our own baptismal Covenant--let us grow together this Fall!

There are so many ways to be involved, to celebrate life together, to grow in love, service, joy---some are familiar ministries close to our hearts such as Family Promise, the Women's Shelter, and the Thrift Shop--some are new invitations to join the wider church as in the Racial Justice Summit through the UCC on September 24. Some ministries are just beginning to take shape--our sensitivity and response to God's Creation through the care of endangered species and educating ourselves on critical environmental issues. I am also thinking about offering a Women's retreat late fall if there is sufficient interest--time away from work, family, and day to day responsibilities can seem like an impossible feat--but so deeply rewarding and renewing when we make that time! I would like to gather a group of 6 to 10 women to go off site for nourishing, renewing time--please let me know if you are interested!

Be with us as a community this fall--

Faithfully, Katie



Labor Day

Monday, September 5

Holiday - Office Closed

From the Deacon's Bench

It has been a pretty quiet summer for the Deacons but we are looking forward to a busy Fall! We are so pleased to say that we are anticipating multiple Baptisms, the first one on September 11th. There are two more in the works but dates have not been set as yet. We are thinking that there will be one in October and one in November. More to come on that.



Also in September, on the 18th we are planning a Homecoming service and hope that all our members will find a way to make it to church to celebrate the beginning of a new year. There will be a special reception held after the service to enjoy a time of fellowship.

The Deacons have voted to continue to offer both traditional wafers and juice and self-contained wafers and juice for Communion. As the virus continues to rear its ugly head we feel that this is the more responsible approach to serving.

On a more somber note we would like to offer our assistance to any of our members who may find themselves having difficulties during this time of increasing prices at the grocery stores, the gas pumps and the oil companies. We are blessed to have the funds to offer this assistance. As always, these requests are held in the strictest of confidence.

In closing, we are hopeful that you will be able to join us as we celebrate the coming year with our new Christian Education program, the Baptisms and Homecoming.

Signing off with great hope for the future of our church,

Pam Dunham, Co-Chair of the Deacons

World Communion Sunday

October 2

On Sunday, October 2nd, we will be taking a special collection for World Communion Sunday.



Would you please plan to give generously? *Thank you!*



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.



The Pumpkins are scheduled to arrive on...

Saturday, October 1st at 9:00 AM

Please mark your calendars NOW and help us unload the truck!

We will scatter them all over the front lawn of the Church.

This creates photo opportunities for people passing by the Church. It also makes it convenient for families to stop by and wander through the pumpkin patch to choose their favorite pumpkin to purchase.

If you have shared in this seasonal tradition, we welcome you back during the month of October. If you are looking for a new tradition come and hunt for the perfect pumpkin at our Pumpkin Patch. Bring the kids and take pictures.

Thank you for your continued support!

Family Promise

I am happy to report that we are once again supplying meals to the guests of Family Promise. I am sure that by now you know that the families are being permanently housed at the Day Center in Natick. We no longer will have the tasks of setting up and breaking down bedrooms or doing the laundry and we are only being asked to provide meals for 4 days of the week.



Our first “host” week began on August 14th and we were to supply meals on Monday through Thursday. Our support church, St. Cecelia’s, provided one meal and we got unexpected help from St. Mary’s in

Holliston with one meal. That left just 2 meals and Lisa Colby and I each took a night. We also needed to have 2 people to be with the families during the dinner and after until 8:00. Our support people both provided the needed volunteers and Lisa and I did the same.

As a rule, we will be asked to provide some groceries for the families but this time there were no requests. Thanks to those who did offer to shop and to those who sent gift cards.

There is always a need for gift cards especially as we see the prices of groceries increasing each week. Last week I received a request from Family Promise for gift cards specifically to Market Basket or Stop and Shop to help the families that are no longer in shelter but continue in the program. These families are struggling to stay on a budget and are finding it difficult. We are asked that the cards be for no more than \$25.00. If you are able to help with this you can either buy cards and send them directly to Family Promise MetroWest, 6 Mulligan St., Natick, MA 01760 or you can get them to me and I will see that they get there. Please note that the cards are from you at the Federated Church of Ashland. Thanks for your help in this matter.

Our next time to host will be on the week starting on November 13th. As that time approaches, I will be sending out pleas for help. We are blessed to have so many people that are willing to lend a hand to these families as they strive to make a better life for themselves.

Also stay tuned for information on the annual fund raiser which will be happening in November.

Thank you and blessings to all, Pam Dunham

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 :)

First Day of Fall

Thursday
September 22



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 will be accepted on the days that we are Open.



Sunday Worship Service

We continue to hold in-person worship services at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings in our Sanctuary.

Our worship service is also available live at 10:00 AM on YouTube FCOA.

You may also view any of our past services on YouTube.

Brown Bag Sunday

The Ashland Food Pantry continues to accept donations.

Would you please consider picking up a few extra non-perishable food items while you are grocery shopping?



Donations may be brought to the Church on Sundays between 10:00 -11:00 AM. If you would like to drop off your donations directly at the Community Center, there is a bin located outside.

Thank you for your continued support!

Our Members' Birthdays

September

- 9/8 Jimmy Russo
- 9/10 Alan Mancini
- 9/11 Bill Tougas
- 9/14 Alice Bixby
- 9/15 Sydney Howard
- 9/15 Raman Krishnan
- 9/18 Emily Wenzell
- 9/18 Sue Wallace
- 9/20 Bill Wallace
- 9/22 Linda Russo
- 9/26 Vickie Mancini
- 9/28 Kim Conner



October

10/1 Robin Kendall

10/4 Cynthia Winterhalter

"A prayer is so much more powerful than a wish"



Federated Church of Ashland

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