**+ FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**An Open and affirming congregation of the**

**United Church of Christ, Saugus, Massachusetts**

**Service of Worship 10 a.m.**

**14th Sunday after Pentecost, September 10, 2017**

**\*Indicates for those who are able to, please stand.**

**Bold print indicates congregational response.**

**NCH = New Century Hymnal (black cover)**

**HOP = Spiral bound cover**

*Scripture reader is Terri Leander.*

*Greeters & Ushers are Wayne & Barbara Welch.*

*Deacon is Mike Mascovitz.*

PRELUDE   Mae Stroshane

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Martha Leahy

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE HOP 119

*“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”*

***Make me a channel of your peace/Where there is hatred***

***Let me bring your love/Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord/And where there’s doubt, true faith in you.***

CALL TO WORSHIP (“God, we’re here!”):

L: There’s no time to lose; God wants us on the run.  
**P: Are we ready to pack our bags and go?**L: There’s no time like now; God can’t wait much longer.  
**P: Will we heed God’s call to get moving?**L: There’s no need to fear; God will go with us.  
**P: How can we be sure if we leave this safe space?  
All: God promises to be with us - wherever, whenever and however, we are ready to go.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: “Be Now My Vision” NCH 451, v1-2-3**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (“God, we’re sorry”): **God of Compassion, we confess that we linger in places where we feel safe and hurry past places that challenge our opinions and worldview. Forgive us. Teach us that the path to your peace is not always easy, but that it is always the right path to travel. Amen.**

**CHORAL RESPONSE: *Glory to God, Glory to God/In excelsis deo/Gloria, Gloria/Alleluia, Alleluia.***

**\***ASSURANCE OF PARDON (“God forgives us”), in unison:

**With your loving guidance, O God, we get oriented in the right direction. We are grateful for your wisdom and assurance that you will always be here for us, no matter what road we travel upon. Amen.**

\*GLORY TO GOD “Holy, Holy, Holy” NCH #277

***Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty! Early in the morning we praise your majesty./ Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty/ God in three persons/ blessed Trinity!***

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 12:1-14 (SP48, LP104)

(SP=Small print Bible; LP=Large print Bible)

MESSAGE: “Eating on the Run” Rev. Martha Leahy

**PRAYER INTRO: “Sanctuary” HOP 135**

***Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary/pure and holy,***

***tried and true./With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living***

***sanctuary for you.***

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE:** “**Take My Life & Let it Be” HOP 129** ***Take my life and let it be/Consecrated Lord, to thee./ Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love/ At the impulse of thy love.***

OFFERTORY INVITATION (“God, we give back”), in unison:

**God of All Good Gifts, we joyfully come to your altar to offer our gifts to you. No matter if they are great or small, we give them from a desire to help others find you. We pray that this will be so. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY: “As Water to the Thirsty” (insert)**

\*DOXOLOGY: NCH #778

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God all creatures here below;***

***Praise God for all that love has done.***

***Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.***

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OUR GIFTS & PLEDGES (“God bless our gifts”), in unison: **Holy God, we stand before you, as partners in a ministry of humility, generosity and love. Bless our gifts given today, in hopes we will use them to accomplish these wonderful dreams. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN: “Let My People Go” (insert)**

\*COMMISSION AND BLESSING (“God, we will try”), in unison:

**God of the Journey, we will try to be ready when you call, willing to leave behind what is familiar and stretching our hands to receive your encouraging message of the new life possible when we follow you. Amen.**

BENEDICTION (“God, please bless us”):

L: There’s no time to lose; God wants us on the run.  
**P: Are we ready to pack our bags and go?**L: There’s no time like now; God can’t wait much longer.  
**P: Will we heed God’s call to get moving?**L: There’s no need to fear; God will go with us.  
**P: How can we be sure if we leave this safe space?  
All: God promises to be with us - wherever, whenever and however, we are ready to go.**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: “This Little Light” NCH 524**

***This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine (3x)***

***Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

***Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine (3x)***

***Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

POSTLUDE Mae Stroshane

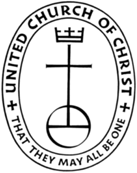


Image from barstoolsports.com

**“Eating on the Run”**

**14th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 3, 2017**

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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Healing Circle: <https://facebook.com/healingcirclesaugus>

Twitter: http:[www.twitter.com/1stchurchsaugus](http://www.twitter.com/1stchurchsaugus)

**BLESSING OF BACKPACKS**

**& OTHER “TOOLS OF THE TRADE”**

**Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017**

The first day of Sunday School, **we invite all the kids at church to bring their backpacks and school supplies** to church for a blessing.

**We also invite all the grown-ups to bring their “tools of the trade”** for a blessing. These tools might include cooking utensils, paint brushes, knitting needles, Bibles, hymnals, daily devotionals, cell phones, laptops, toolboxes, walking/running shoes – anything you use in your everyday life and work.

In this way, we will step into Fall with God’s blessing for hope, health and happiness, in all the work that we do!

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**Saugus Faith Community Collects**

**for Hurricane Harvey Relief Effort**

The Saugus Faith Community is asking for donations to help the citizens of Texas recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey.

Our individual houses of worship will be taking up collections and bringing them to the SFC’s September 20 meeting at First Congregational Church. We will pool our contributions and make one large donation.

**Donations can be made by mailing your check made out to “Saugus Clergy Association” to First Congregational Church UCC, 300 Central St., Saugus, MA 01906, Attn: Rev. Martha Leahy. Please write in on the memo line “Hurricane Relief.” The deadline to receive checks is Sept. 19.**

The SFC will be making the decision on Sept. 20 as to which charity will receive our contribution.  Some charities to be considered are the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Americares and Feeding Texas.  Thank you for opening your hearts and wallets to our fellow citizens in need.

# “The Passover”

# *Exodus 12:1-14*

**12 “The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 2“This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year.3Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. 4If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat.**

**5 “The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. 6Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. 7Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. 8That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. 9Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. 10Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it.**

**11 “This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover.**

**12“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. 13The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.**

**14“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance.”**

**OFFERTORY: “As Water to the Thirsty”**

***As water to the thirsty, as beauty to the eyes***

***As strength that follows weakness,***

***as truth instead of lies***

***As songtime and springtime and summertime to be.***

***So is my lord, my living lord, so is my lord to me***

***like calm in place of clamour,***

***like peace that follows pain***

***like meeting after parting, like sunshine after rain***

***am like moonlight and starlight***

***and sunlight on the sea***

***So is my lord, my living lord, so is my lord to me***

***as sleep that follows fever, as gold instead of grey***

***as freedom after bondage, as sunshine to the day***

***as home to the traveler and all we long to see***

***so is my lord, my living lord, so is my lord to me***

**CLOSING HYMN: “*Let My People Go”***

***When Israel was in Egypt’s land,  
Let My people go!  
Oppressed so hard they could not stand,  
Let My people go!***

***Refrain:  
Go down, Moses,  
Way down in Egypt’s land;  
Tell old Pharaoh  
To let My people go!***

***No more shall they in bondage toil,  
Let My people go!  
Let them come out with Egypt’s spoil,  
Let My people go!***

***Oh, let us all from bondage flee,  
Let My people go!  
And let us all in Christ be free,  
Let My people go!***

***Refrain***

**The First Congregational Church UCC of Saugus presents*:***

***The Pumpkin Patch***



**Saturday, October 21**

**9AM – 3PM**

**Handmade crafts, jewelry, homemade goodies**

**Snack bar**

**It’s never too early to shop for the holidays…**

**Come see what our talented craftspeople have for you!**

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**AND THEN……..**

***The Pumpkin Patch***

***Pie Social***

**Saturday, Oct. 28**

**3-7 P.M.**

**Homemade Pie $3 per slice**

**With Ice Cream $3.50 per slice**

**Come join us for a delicious piece of pie and then search our Pumpkin Patch for just the right pumpkin!!!**

**If you can bake a pie to donate, please sign up on the clipboard provided in Community Hall.**

**Here’s your chance to share your favorite recipes with us!**