

November 2017 Newsletter

First Congregational Church
An Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
300 Central Street, Saugus, MA 01906
781-233-3028

Rev. Martha Leahy, Pastor
Carolyn Davis, Church Secretary
<https://www.Facebook.com/uccsaugus>

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." *Jesus, Gospel of Matthew 25:35-36*

REV. MARTHA'S MESSAGE

What is the mark of a Christian?

According to Jesus, all of the above. We are not merely to

feel compassion for one in need (although that is the first step), we are to take a second step and *do something* to alleviate their need. Alas, the world is full of needs, and we can get overwhelmed by the tug we feel in many directions. We can't possibly help everyone, so how do we choose?

God seems to place people in front of us just when we need them. Sometimes what they bring to us is for our own benefit, sometimes for theirs. We really don't have to search far for the work God wants us to do. It's usually right in front of us every day. A chance encounter; eye contact; instinctive reaching out; a connection is made; we part ways feeling that our meeting has changed us somehow.

That's how God works. God is in the every-dayness of our lives. God isn't pie-in-the-sky: God is real.

So trust in the simple ministries that Jesus laid out for us to do. Nothing fancy, nothing complicated, just good, solid, compassionate, Christian work. May God's Holy Spirit walk with us on this journey toward discovery and fulfillment.



FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacon for November is Barbara Davis.

Pumpkin season is over; we can all recover from a busy month. Special thanks to **Carolyn Davis and Marilyn Panico** for all their time and efforts. It was wonderful to see **Danny Panico's son Allen**, take over the Sunday morning shift.

Now is time to look forward to the holiday season. It is upon us. We will have **Thanksgiving Sunday on Nov. 19th**. We traditionally bring non-perishable items for the Saugus Food Pantry. After all, it is the season of giving.



We collect donations for the **Deacons Fund** the first Sunday of each month and purchase grocery gift cards for those in need. Some goes to people in our own congregation or in the community. At the end of the year whatever we have left over we donate to those who may need help over the holidays. If you know of a local person or family who may need help, please let Rev. Martha or one of the Deacons know. We will do what we can to help someone's holiday a little brighter.

After church on Nov. 26th we will be decorating the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season. We're asking for help in this endeavor. The children especially enjoy decorating the tree.

As always please continue to **sign up for coffee hour, scripture reading and ushers and greeters.** Thank you to all those who minister with us.

Barbara Davis (chairperson)
Terri Leander, Sue Dunn, Rick Florentino,
Mike Mascovitz

CHURCH MUSICIAN SEARCH



We are busily reading through resumés and setting up interview dates. What began as a slow process with not many respondents has ramped up in the past few weeks. One candidate saw our sandwich board out front – we are trying to be as creative as possible with our advertising! Thanks to Alicia Dragon, we made a contact in the Saugus Schools music department. If you have a contact or a venue where we can advertise, please let one of us know. Not only are we looking for a permanent church musician, we are also looking for interims that can play for us until we hire someone. We want to take our time and find just the right person. We are counting on all of you to hold the church in prayer as we wait for the person God has chosen for us.

Musician Search Committee
Susan Dunn, Terri Leander, John Gilmore, Scott Davis, Paul Ackerman, Rev. Martha Leahy

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



We are doing a terrific job. Our year-to-date total for our Outreach for this year is \$4,405. We made \$810 at the **Craft Fair**. That money we split between the Pumpkin Patch and the General Fund.

November is a big month for our Outreach program. **We will again be collecting new hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves.** This year we would also like to include **P.Js and sweats.**

Our main goal is to collect **Gift Cards** for the older children of Saugus, 12-16 years old. All of these items will be donated to the Saugus Fire Department. They will distribute them to the

people in our town who are in need. Any questions see Jessie, Terri or Lilly.



STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE DRIVE 2017-2018 Journey to Generosity: The Way of Jesus

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out laborers into God’s harvest.” (Matthew 9:37-38)

In today’s world, it takes a huge effort on the part of every member and friend of our church to be laborers for God’s message, to spread the Good News that something vital and life-giving is happening inside our walls. And to let them know that what is happening on the inside is making a real difference in what is happening on the outside, in our town.

On Sunday, Nov. 3, we will kick off our 2017-2018 Stewardship Pledge Drive. Pledge cards will be given out to those in church; the rest will be mailed. Congregational churches fund their own ministries through the generous pledges and donations of our members and, if some are as fortunate as we are, with additional revenue from our renters. Working together, we hope to raise enough money each fiscal year to keep our doors open and the Holy Spirit flowing inside and outside those doors.

All pledges received will be blessed during the worship service on **Sunday, Nov. 26.** We ask that all pledge cards be returned no later than Dec. 31, 2017. This aids the Trustees and our committees in setting their budgets for 2018.

Thank you for your labors thus far on behalf of the church. May God bless all of us in this Season of the Harvest.

Your Stewardship Team:
Paul Lima, Wayne Welch, Rev. Martha Leahy



PUMPKIN PATCH THANKS

Dear Church Members and Friends,

Thank you for all your help during the sale of our pumpkins. We had another banner year and without your help and support this would have not been possible. We realize some of you were not able to help so we hope you will be with us next year. The selling of our pumpkins is a wonderful thing spiritually, financially, and most of all sharing with everyone what our church is all about. Again, many thanks to everyone. **See you September 29, 2018** for our next pumpkin truck delivery!

God bless, *Marilyn & Carolyn*

CHARLOTTE DAVIS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Charlotte Davis Christmas Party will be held on a Thursday evening this year so those who attend the Healing Service on Wednesday evenings can attend both activities.

Our Potluck Christmas party will be held on **THURSDAY, December 7th at 6:30 PM**. All the ladies of the church and any family or friends they would like to invite are welcome. Sign up to bring your favorite appetizer, main dish, side dish, salad or dessert.

After dinner we have a good old fashioned **Yankee Swap**. It is a lot of fun to see what the popular gift is that gets passed around. If you would like to participate in the swap, bring a \$10 wrapped gift.



With so many people having food allergies and diabetes these days, please refrain from bringing a food gift for the Yankee Swap. Hope you can join us! The sign-up sheet will be on the Communication Table in Community Hall. Any questions, see Cheryl Panico or Marilyn Panico.

CHRISTMAS MEMORY PAGE

Your loved ones can be remembered on the Christmas Memory Page for a \$10 donation to the church. The donor and "in memory of" names will be printed on an insert in the programs on Dec. 17 and Dec. 24. Envelopes for your donation will be on the table in the Narthex and the Communication Table in Community Hall.

Checks should be made out to "First Congregational Church." All donations must be turned in by **Dec.**

10. Any questions, call Marilyn Panico @781-233-1454.



THE SAUGUS COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY is open to all Saugus residents every Friday 9:30-11:30AM at Cliftondale Congregational Church, 50 Essex St., Saugus. Our church collects non-perishables for them every first Sunday (Communion Sunday). Please help us fill at least 2 baskets of food every month. Most needed items are: canned soups, canned tuna, canned chicken, spam-type of meats, peanut butter, jelly, American cheese(sliced), 32-oz apple or orange juice, spaghetti sauce, pasta, shelf stable milk (boxed or canned, not refrigerated), mac & cheese, cereal. There is a drop-off location at the office of Century 21, 442 Lincoln Ave, too. If you can make a monetary donation, mail it c/o Cliftondale Congregational. Hungry people are counting on us!

Volunteer opportunities needed as follows:

- **2nd Tuesday** of every month 8:30-10:30AM
Volunteers unload delivery from Food Bank and stock storage area
- **Every Wednesday** 10:30-11:30 AM. Volunteers unload deliveries from local grocery stores.
- **Every Friday** 8-11 AM. Volunteers stock tables of the food to be dispersed, serve our clients, help clients with their bags of groceries and clean up after closing at 10:30.
- **Every Wednesday and/or Friday** times vary. Volunteers with pick up or SUV's pick-up food at grocery stores and bring back to food pantry. All potential volunteers contact Dennis Gould at 617-257-4847 or email jd Gould1969@aol.com.

NATIVE AMERICAN SUNDAY PRAYER

“The Journey”

(“The Red Path”)

Written by Minoweh Ikidowin

“Cloud in the Wind”

a.k.a. Donna Edmonds Mitchell

1998©



As you travel across the magnificence of this
earthly Universe

Behold the splendor of all that is

Look to the Heavens, My Child...

For it is there you will find

the unlimited possibilities

for all of your dreams

Step boldly upon Mother Earth’s blanket beneath
your feet

For it is there all of your aspirations will take root

Sit beneath the shady splendor of a very old and
seasoned Tree

For it is there you will learn Life’s lessons

To endure its many storms

Lay upon the sands of any beach

With your eyes closed

And Heart and Ears open

Listen to the lessons from Sister Sea

To Give more than you take

Climb the height of any Mountain or Hilltop

And dare to gaze over its edge

For it is there, My Child

You will realize how far in Life

You have already come

Last but not least

Seek the comfort of Solitude

For it is there, My Child

When you will know

Our Creator and You are One

AHO

SAUGUS FAITH COMMUNITY



**The First Baptist Church of Saugus will
be holding a Christmas Musical on Sat.,
12/16 at 5:00 p.m. in our church**

sanctuary, under the direction of FBC’s Music
Minister Melvin Murphy. FBS is selling admission

tickets to benefit their music program. Betty Neth
is coordinating the reception following, with
donations of food from FBC and our church, so if
you can help her out, please do so. **Half price
tickets will be given to 6 volunteers who help at
the reception (seniors will be given priority)!**

THE HEALING CIRCLE

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7-8PM

“The Root of Healing is in the Power of the Circle”

www.facebook.com/healingcirclesaugus



*Come and join our Sacred Circle
and experience the peace that
follows.*

We start our November by
continuing with the Deepak

Chopra and Oprah Winfrey’s **“7 Days to Relieve
Stress and Anxiety”**. This series includes guided
meditations given by Deepak along with
commentary from Oprah. It includes activities to
use along with the meditations, in discovering what
it is that is really preventing you from the peace we
so much want.

We have welcome many new people to Circle with
this series and it has been a great success. It is not
too late to join us as each day is a learning
experience in how to deal with stress.

**So please come the 1st Wednesday and 3rd
Wednesday of the month 7-8PM** and experience
the deep peace that is found at the Healing Circle.

**Below is the schedule for the next (4) Healing
Circles:**

November 1, 2017: Day 5: Long – Term Healing:
Retraining the Brain

November 15, 2017: Day 6: The Path to Harmony
and Balance

December 6, 2017: Day 7: Becoming Whole:
Healing the Divided Self, with Special Bonus
Content from Deepak on How to Handle Stressful
People.

December 20, 2017: We will celebrate the Winter
Solstice.

*Curious about the Circle? Email Cindy Turco at
cynturco@aol.com or speak to Rev. Martha.*



Conscience and Credit Cards, Rockstars and Revolution:

LIVING WITH THE REFORMATION TODAY

REV. DR. MARY LUTI, UCC, SPEAKER

Saturday Nov. 18th, 2017

9:00 am – Noon

**Centre Congregational Church in Lynnfield
5 Summer St., Lynnfield, MA 01940**

The Protestant Reformation of the 16th century is 'history'-one of those things that happened so long ago that it doesn't seem relevant today. So much has changed since Martin Luther composed 99 debating points and posted them on a church door.

But the Reformation isn't in the distant past. We live with it every day. Thanks to John Calvin's thoughts about lending, for example, we have credit cards. And thanks to the image savvy Martin Luther, the world got its first social media rockstar.

More importantly, the Reformation still shapes the way we read the Bible, how we handle questions of faith, doubt, and diversity; why we do church in a 'democratic' way; how we view the Christian's work in the world; the vital role of conscience and protest; and the value we place on marriage and family.

In this morning event, we'll discuss some of these vital genes in our DNA-their upsides, downsides, and their continuing challenge.

To register for the event and reserve free tickets, please visit "Events" at MACUCC.org or call Ruben Bonilla-Santiago at the MACUCC office at 781-369-1396.

November 2017

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Office Open 12-5PM Healing Circle 7PM	2 Office Open 10-3 No Bible Study	3	4 Yoga 9-10
5 Worship & Communion 10AM Sunday School Mae's Farewell	6 Trustees 5:45PM N.A. 7PM	7 Chair Yoga 9:30AM Yoga 6:30PM	8 Saugus Faith noon Office Open 2-5PM Divorce Support 7-10 Praying for Adult Children 7-8:30PM	9 Office Open 10-3 Bible Study 1PM Rainbow 6-9PM	10	11 Yoga 9-10
12 Worship & Baptism 10AM Sunday School Pledge Drive begins Church Council	13 N.A. 7PM	14 Chair Yoga 9:30AM Yoga 6:30PM	15 Office Open 12-5PM Healing Circle 7PM	16 Office Open 10-3 Bible Study 1PM Masons Night	17	18 Yoga 9-10 UCC Worship for 500 th Anniversary of Reformation @ Lynnfield 9-12
19 Thanksgiving Sunday Worship 10AM Sunday School	20 N.A. 7PM	21 Chair Yoga 9:30AM Yoga 6:30PM	22 Office Hours TBD Divorce Support 7-10	23 Thanksgiving Day Office closed	24	25 Yoga 9-10
26 Worship 10am Sunday School Pledge Drive Ends	27 N.A. 7PM	28 Chair Yoga 9:30AM Yoga 6:30PM	29 Office Open 12-5 Praying for Adult Children 7-8:30PM	30 Office Open 10-3 Bible Study 1PM		