

June- August 2019 Newsletter

First Congregational Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

300 Central Street, Saugus, MA 01906

781-233-3028

Rev. Heike Werder (Interim Minister)

Rebecca Harrold, Music Minister

Vanessa Byrne, Church Secretary

<https://www.facebook.com/uccsaugus>

Dear Friends,

Are you ready for a break? Summer is coming, thank God! This is the time of year when many of us switch gears, and gladly so. School is out soon. Music and dance lessons culminate in recitals, sport teams gather for banquets, school bags are exchanged for travel bags to sleep away camp, teenagers look for summer jobs, and soon to be freshmen and women start on their shopping lists for college. Parents might be happy to stop being the family's Uber drivers for a little while, and delighted not having to ask, "Have you done your homework yet?" This is the time when many look forward to taking vacation time to go away and/or spend precious summer weekend at the cabin or the beach. Others might stay home with day trips and summer reading all planned out, or simply enjoy sitting on the porch or the backyard. Whatever you have planned for the upcoming summer months, please enjoy and get the rest you need.

Some who might be reading these words, might have a different reaction. Taking a break or going on vacation? Not me. I can't afford it! My boss would not be happy if I took some time off. My company will suffer. The stress is too big to get all these projects done before I can go on vacation. Does this sound familiar? Forbes Magazine shared an article last year that says that Americans have become vacation-phobic. Research showed that 47% of Americans did not take all of their vacation time and 21% left more than five vacation days on the table. In addition to the worries mentioned above, people are worried that it will derail their career or their commitment to the job/company is questioned or they feel that

because of technology, they would not be able to ever unplug. So, why bother with taking vacation time. In case you are wondering, God supports us whole-heartedly in taking a break from our daily routines. God has given us the Sabbath to rest and rejuvenate our spirits. Jesus is our prime role model in taking breaks from the busyness of his ministry to go away to rest and pray. Even he was not able to go-go-go, but he needed time away to reconnect with God. As summer approaches, take time to rest and relax and have some fun. And even better, take God with you in this prayer for summertime wherever you go:

"Loving God, Creator of all times and places, we thank you for the gift of summertime, the days of light, warmth and leisure.



Thank you for the beauty that surrounds us everywhere we look:
the multi-colored flowers,
the deep blue of the sky,
the tranquil surface of lakes,
the laughter of children at play,
people strolling in park,
families gathered around picnic tables and
the increased time to spend with family and
friends.

As we open our eyes and ears to the landscape of nature and people, open our hearts to receive all as gift. Give us that insight to see you as the Divine Artist. Help us to realize and appreciate that you are laboring to keep all in existence. And warm our souls with the awareness of your presence.

Let all the gifts we enjoy this summer deepen our awareness of you love so that we may share this with others and enjoy a summertime of re-creation.

Amen
Blessings on you and your loved ones! Heike

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Summer Plans



Rev. Heike Werder will be away for the month of July 2019.

The Rev. Lawrence (Skip) Walker will be covering all the Sunday morning worship services during that month.

There will be no committee meetings during the month of July. Deacons and Church Council regather in September, and the Trustee will meet again on August 26, 2019 at 5:45 pm.

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Summer Cookouts and Evening Vespers in August

Would you like to try something different for the summer? In addition to our Sunday morning worship services on the four Sundays in August, you are cordially invited to a weekly cookout and vesper (evening worship) service on Sunday evenings, starting at 5 pm. We will share in a simply summer meal together, and then, from 6 to 6:30 pm, worship together. The service will be simple. No need to dress up. Come as you are – t-shirt, shorts, and flip flops - and bring your neighbors.

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FROM THE DEACONS
From the Deacons
Deacon of the month is
Mike Mascovitz



Welcome home to all the snowbirds, it's good to have you back. I hope you brought some sunny weather with you.

Rev Werder's round table discussions are complete. We hope many of you were able to attend and found the shared information helpful.

We happy to say we have 5 members who have volunteered for the search committee to find a permanent pastor. As much as we all are enjoying Rev Werder, we will have to eventually say goodbye to her. Our search committee is Terri Leander, Cheryl Panico, Sharon Casey, Arlene Decareau and Richard Warbin. With Susan Dunn acting as an alternate. We should all thank these people for taking on this commitment.

Things always seem to wind down in the summer months. We will continue with The Deacons Fund and supporting the Saugus Food Pantry, with your generous support.

We still need at least 2 more people to volunteer for the search committee to find a settled pastor. If anyone is interested please see Rev. Werder, Susan Dunn or Barbara Davis.

For those vacationing over the summer months, we hope you have restful and safe vacations.

Your Deacons,
Barbara Davis, Mike Mascovitz, Susan Dunn, John Gilmore, Terri Leander.

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THE HEALING CIRCLE
1st & 3rd WEDNESDAYS OF EVERY MONTH except
July and August
"The Root of Healing is in the Power of the Circle"
Cynthia C. Turco, Meditational Leader

www.facebook.com/healingcirclesaugus

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship & Communion 10AM	3 N.A 7:00PM	4 Yoga 6:30PM	5 Divorce Support 7-10PM	6	7	8
9 Worship 10AM Church Council @ 11:30AM	10 N.A. 7:00PM	11 Yoga 6:30PM	12	13	14	15
16 Worship 10AM	17 N.A 7:00pm	18 Yoga 6:30PM	19 Divorce Support 7-10PM	20	21	22
23 Worship 10AM	24 N.A. 7:00PM	25 Yoga 6:30PM	26	27	28	29
30						

July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Worship & Communion 10AM	8 N.A. 7:00PM	9 Yoga 6:30PM	10 Divorce Support 7-10PM	11	12	13
14 Worship 10AM Church Council @ 11:30AM	15 N.A. 7:00PM	16 Yoga 6:30PM	17	18	19	20
21 Worship 10AM	22 N.A. 7:00PM	23 Yoga 6:30PM	24 Divorce Support 7-10PM	25	26	27
28 Worship 10AM	29 N.A. 7:00PM	30 Yoga 6:30PM	31			

August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Worship & Communion 10AM Cookout and Evening Vesper	5 N.A. 7:00PM	6 Yoga 6:30PM	7 Divorce Support 7-10PM	8	9	10
11 Worship 10AM Cookout and Evening Vesper	12 N.A. 7:00PM	13 Yoga 6:30PM	14	15	16	17
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