THE VISITOR

TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

At the Heart of the Community - With the Community in Our Hearts

September 2021

Volume 44 No. 8

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Friday
9:00am - 1:00pm

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:
After Labor Day, Mon-Wed
9-1, or by appointment.

Visit our web page at www.tccucc.org and visit us on Facebook

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

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- Community Dinners
- Our Birthdays
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- Our Prayers
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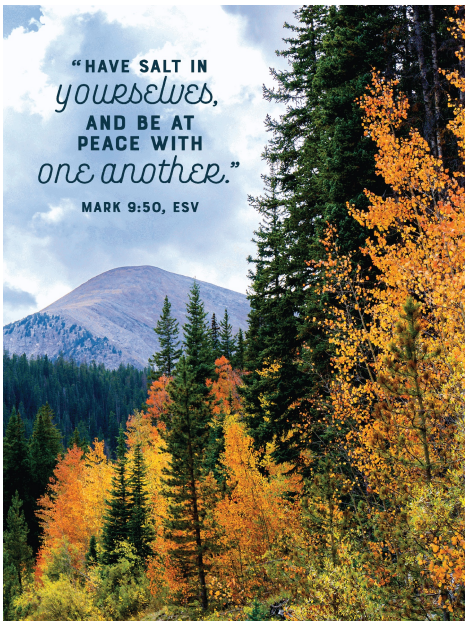


New Worship Time Starting September 12

The TCC Council has determined that, after the Labor Day weekend, we will start worship at 10 am instead of 10:15 am; and have Sunday school stay at 9 to 9:45 am.

September Calendar:
TCC Council - 9/13, 6:30 pm
??? Supper - 9/25 ???
Senior Choir - Wednesdays at 7:30 pm starting 9/15

Rain date for the Band Concert - August 26

Thank you to everyone who said they could still work on their tables! If you are now available on that date, please join us on the Common! Set up time will be at 6 pm, and the Concert starts at 7:30 pm. Many hands make light work, so the more the merrier! As before we are asking for donations of baked goods for the Bake Table and cut up fruit to add to the Fruit Salad Table. So please consider joining us on the Common on August 26; help to make the band concert a success while having a good time visiting with your church family! Hope to see you there!

Pray for good weather too!

Thanks,

Wanda Wilson

Pastor's Newsletter

Dear Friends,

As we begin a new program year without (at least as I write this) social distancing or stay at home orders, I think it is time to begin the work of preparing to search for a new pastor. Before anyone volunteers to serve on a search committee I am going to hold at least three informational meetings. These meetings will be to help the congregation understand where it has been, how it functions, and where it hopes to go in the future.

I believe that it is important that anyone interested in serving on the search committee attend all of these meetings.

Our first meeting will be held after church on Sunday, September 26th. I hope this meeting will last about an hour and we will be discussing the history of the church. What were some of the milestones and important events that impacted the life of the church? Also, who were some of the important pastors and what made their ministries important to the congregation at that time, and maybe since? Some of you will be able to provide important firsthand information, some of us will be learning new things about the church. It will all serve as the foundation of the move forward into the future.

I am, also going to start a new book group meeting on Tuesday nights in September. We will be reading *The Shack*, by William P. Young. The book is available at libraries and used copies on line can be purchased for about $1 a copy. We will be holding this group via Zoom so no one has to go out at night. This book offers an interesting take on the trinity and how we understand the three parts. The first gathering will be on Tuesday, September 7th from 7-8 pm. I hope you will join us as we challenge our faith and understanding a little bit.

Elsewhere you will read about the start of Sunday School. In the middle of August we are still trying to work out all the details, and hoping that the delta variant does not throw a wrench into any plans we make.

We move ahead in faith presuming that choirs will be back, Sunday School will be running and the dinners will return to full form. If anything changes we will let you know right away.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. See you in church!

Greg

Back to School!

Yes, that's right; it's that time of year again when we return to school and to our TCC Christian Education program.

As superintendent of TCC's Christian Education program, I am happy to announce that I have found an exciting new curriculum, and once it has been reviewed by Pastor Greg, I will be ordering the necessary supplies and welcoming our kids back to our program on September 12!

As many of you know, one of my main objectives has been to include people of all ages in our education program, and this is true again this year. I am opening up our Christian Education program to any individuals within our church community who would like to join us.

We will be experiencing the new curriculum as a one-room class in Fellowship Hall starting at 9 am on September 12.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Registration forms will be available during our band concert on August 26, as well as in the back of the sanctuary. Please see me anytime during coffee hour, or reach out to Karen Hopkins in the church office if you are interested in participating in the Christian Education program for either yourself or your children.

Amanda Caprigno
Sunday School
Superintendent

Music Ministry

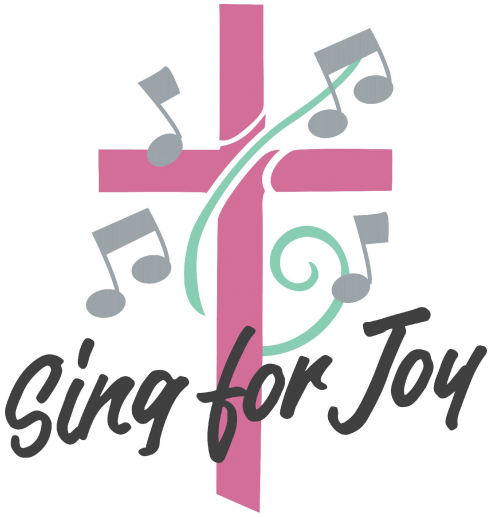
Agapé Handbell Choir

The Agape Handbell choir will begin practicing in early October for the fall season. Please contact Wanda Wilson or the church office if you would enjoy joining the bell choir this year. The bell choir is for all musicians eighth grade to 101 years old! We play in church from Thanksgiving through Christmas, take January and February off, then resume at the end of February for the spring. We rehearse on Wednesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, in the sanctuary.

Please consider joining the bell choir this year to make a "joyful noise"for our church while enjoying the friendships of the wonderful people in the group!

– AND/OR –

The senior choir will begin practicing on September 15 this year. We meet for an hour and a half on Wednesday nights (in the music room downstairs) and for a little while before worship on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary. It's a whole lot of fun and very rewarding, spiritually. ***Give it a try!***



The people who run the community suppers and church suppers are beginning to plan the dinners for the fall! There will be a few changes made to make sure everyone stays safe, but we will still need everyone's help with donations and helpers. More information will be forthcoming as plans come together nearer the end of August. Please keep an eye on the Spirit for September's plans.

Wanda Wilson

2-Christopher Guba; 3-Phil Andexler; 4-Antonella Basso and Sarah Pacheco; 8-Melissa Genoter; 9-Emily Bruns; 10-Cynthia Curley; 12-Christopher Bennett; 14 Jonathan Vincent; 15-Eric Gruber; 16-Skip Bataitis; 20-Amanda Caprigno and Gini King; 23-Vera Bennett and Carla Carney; 24-Myahliya Carney; 25-Pamela Kelsea and Meghan Woodward; 28-Sharlene Rourke and Julie Zielenkievicz; 29-Rebecca Hersey and Michele Merenda.

The Birthday Fund

This is a fun way to contribute above and beyond your regular giving to the church to something above and beyond our normal operating budget. We appreciate those who have participated so far. Simply make a donation on (or around) your birthday in the amount of your age (Memo: Birthday Fund)! Participate and watch our gifts grow!

HOLIDAY FAIR

Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021

Our annual fair will be coming soon and we always like to make this a welcoming and attractive community event. This can ONLY happen if we all work together as a church community, first. As many of you know, our Holiday Fair Chairperson, June Cloutier, is dealing with some serious things in her family right now and has not been free to come and talk to you individually; please reach out to her if you can help in any of these areas.

- ✯ **Coordinator needed for Apple Pie making** - This person oversees the supplies and organizes the apple pie making event; it's a productive and wonderful time for people of all ages!
- ✯ **Bistro** - This is a very important part of our fair and requires a leader who is knowledgeable about food handling and good with organizing. June Cloutier is prepared to work with anyone who steps up to do this task.
- ✯ **Santa's Helper** - *Santa really missed visiting with us last year and is very excited about seeing everyone again in November!* We really need a helper for Santa; this person will take digital photos and email them to recipients. It is totally okay if more than one person wants to do this for shorter periods - Santa is usually here between 10am and 2pm.
- ✯ **Children's Crafts/Play area** - This is a free (or by donation) area for parents to drop off their kids while they head to the tables to shop. We need someone who is willing to oversee the supplying of craft activities and the volunteers who help throughout the day.

- ✯ **Raffle Baskets**- Chris Clish has offered to take charge of this table, with help from Lorraine Misner. This is a very popular table every year and we hope you will support it by contributing a fun gift basket. A list of theme suggestions will be included in the digital version of this newsletter.
- ✯ **Book Table** - As you sort through your personal library, please save books you no longer want for our table in the vestry. It's a great place to find a new title for yourself, too.
- ✯ **Regifting Table** - Save gently used things or items which no longer fit your life-style for our Regifting Table. If you are cleaning and need these treasures out of your house right away, please notify us and we'll try to find storage before November.
- ✯ **Greens Tables** - This area is stunning and aromatic. Bring your design ideas to Greens Night on Thursday, Nov.18 in the vestry! (Wanda Wilson-chair)
- ✯ **TCC Craft Table** - Our table was much more varied and lucrative in 2019 with all our beautiful offerings. We hope you will consider making contributions to this table again this year.

Holiday Fair posters are in the church office; grab what you need to post in local venues.

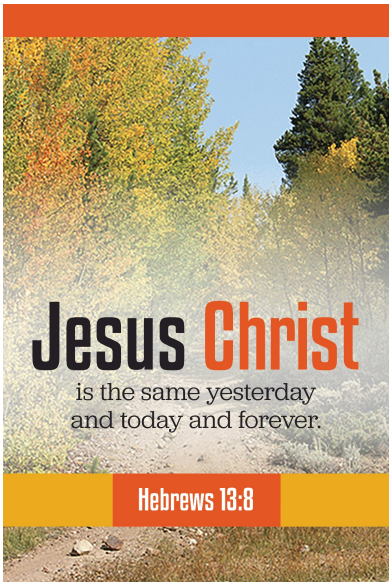
If you have any questions or suggestions, e-mail junecloutier@verizon.net or Cathy Hill chill01469@gmail.com.

Thank you to all,

The 2021 Holiday Fair Committee

THE GREENS TABLE FOR THE FAIR IS SEEKING MEDIUM AND SMALL BASKETS OF ALL SHAPES!
We have many huge baskets, but really need smaller ones to offer a dazzling variety of festive arrangements.
We could use any larger, oblong baskets that can be used as cemetery baskets as they are always in high demand!
We would also be happy to recycle any items used to decorate the baskets!
If you have any of these items to share, please bring them to the church or contact Wanda Wilson at wswilson7652@yahoo.com. Thank you for your help!!

Remember to check the members-only portion of the TCC website for updated reports.



I know that this newsletter goes to a number of people who are retired and no longer need to be concerned about their work environments, but for many of us, the end of summer (and throughout the year) means schlepping or skipping off to work each day. This daily devotional from the UCC surprised me, and made me want to rush to work to bless my space and coworkers!

Cathy Hill

UCC Daily Devotional, 6/16/2021

A Workspace Blessing

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord. - Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

When was the last time you blessed your workspace?

At the end of the workday, the average employee is thinking about doing many things. But blessing their space is probably not one of them.

For people who work in hard jobs and under unpleasant conditions, the workplace does not feel like a place of blessing but something to endure. But what if you blessed your space anyway?

For people who enjoy their work and look forward to it, the workplace can be a place of productivity and service. But let's not take that for granted. Why not bless your space anyway?

It had never occurred to me to bless a workspace until a parishioner asked me to bless her office. She invited her staff but made sure they knew it was optional. After all, we live in a multi-faith world, which includes people of no faith. Nonetheless a group gathered, and I prayed with them about their work and asked God for a blessing upon the office.

Not every workplace or employer could pull off something like that. But there is nothing to prevent any one of us from blessing the space where we work with a simple prayer like this one:

A Workplace Blessing

Loving God, I speak your grace, love and mercy into this place. Bless my job with meaning and purpose, productivity and usefulness, so that even my smallest task brings you honor. Thank you for the gifts you have given to me to do this work. I do not take them lightly, but commit to using them responsibly and well. Bless the others who work with me. Make me grateful for their gifts and patient with their shortcomings. Like them, I have my share of both. Lastly, I acknowledge your mysterious power over all that I will speak, think, do or decide here, when I open my heart to the power of your blessing. Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lillian Daniel is Senior Pastor at First Congregational Church in Dubuque, Iowa. She is the author of Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To and When "Spiritual but not Religious" is Not Enough.

OUR BLESSINGS:

Carol Swenor sends a thank you for the continued prayers for her granddaughter-in law. She is truly grateful. Julie and Nick Zielenkievicz are proud to announce the birth of their fourth grandchild, and first granddaughter, Rebecca Elizabeth, on July 26. Sarah Goyette is celebrating her son, Trenton, starting his freshman year at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York.

OUR CONCERNS:

We pray for all those who are impacted by the earthquakes in Haiti. Cindy Miller requests prayers of patience, strength and comfort for her cousin, Del Shannon, while he heals from a medical condition. Cindy also asks for prayers for her sister-in-law who recently received a serious diagnosis. Carol & Grant Swenor need prayers for Sarah, their grandson's wife; may the doctors successfully treat her, so that she will be well again very soon. Please pray for all the flood victims in Europe; for the rescue workers and the families of those who have died. Sharlene (Gugarty) Rourke, our former church secretary, is requesting prayers for her recovery from surgery; she continues to hold TCC in her heart even though she has been away for a long time, and continues to have friends in

the congregation. We pray for June Cloutier's son, Joseph, who has received a serious diagnosis. Linda Ireland believes in the power of prayer and would greatly appreciate support for herself and her medical team as she deals with surgery and follow up care for a serious medical issue. Continued prayers for Lee McTighe and her son, Christopher, as he continues to suffer from serious health problems. We keep all the students returning to in-person classes this fall, that they may have a safe year of learning.

OUR CANCER FIGHTERS:

We offer prayers of healing and hope for all those in our immediate and extended families who are in the midst of battling cancer, and for all those who care for and support them. Lorraine M, cutaneous T cell lymphoma; Cathy Hill's sister, Morag Graham, and Barbara Goodwin's step son, Tyler who both have Non-Hodgkins lymphoma; Kathy Duckett's friend, Caroline, jaw cancer; John Ciccolini (Carol's husband), liver cancer; Cindy Miller's mother-in-law, Lynne Donnelly, breast cancer; Bill Jordan (Carole's brother), chronic lymphocytic leukemia; Bob (friend of the D'Angelillo family); Ken (friend of Lee McTighe); Moe Tremblay's oldest brother, Ray, prostate cancer.

LECTIONARY, SEPTEMBER 2021

September 5, 2021 - *15th Sunday after Pentecost*
First reading and Psalm: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125
Alternate First reading and Psalm: Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146
Second reading: James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17
Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

September 12, 2021 - *16th Sunday after Pentecost*
First reading and Psalm: Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19
Alternate First reading and Psalm: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9 or Wisdom of Solomon 7:26 - 8:1
Second reading: James 3:1-12
Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

September 19, 2021 - *17th Sunday after Pentecost*
First reading and Psalm: Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1
Alternate First reading and Psalm: Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22 or Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54
Second reading: James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a
Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

September 26, 2021 - *18th Sunday after Pentecost*
First reading and Psalm: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124
Alternate First reading and Psalm: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14
Second reading: James 5:13-20
Gospel: Mark 9:38-50

COMMUNITY NEWS

Townsend Ecumenical Outreach

Phone: 978-597-2209

Email: TEO2@comcast.net

Our mission is to provide emergency and temporary assistance to Townsend residents that are in need of a helping hand. Please donate food and items like paper towels and toilet paper.

In these changing times, we may not always be up to date regarding how TEO is managing their resources; if you would like to contribute, please contact them by phone or email.

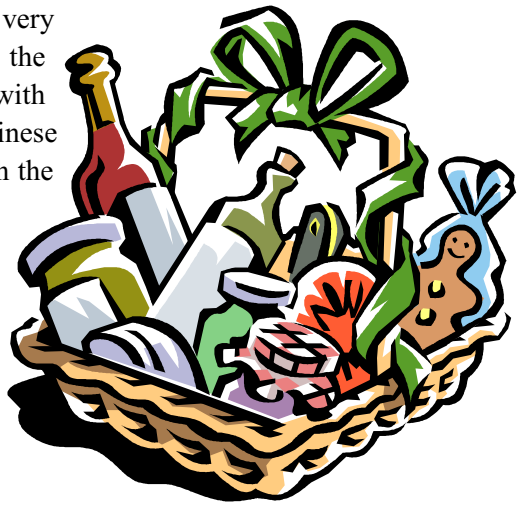
Number of households being served: There are currently 190 households being served due to COVID-19.

William James College INTERFACE Referral Service

INTERFACE is a mental health referral service that is available for all residents in Townsend, Pepperell, and Ashby. Just call 888-244-6843 during normal business hours (M-F, 9-5) and you will be able to speak with a licensed mental health professional, or an advanced level graduate student, who will discuss the situation with you, and then call you back with a referral which meets your therapeutic needs, insurance, schedule availability and immediate openings. This service is funded by the North Middlesex Regional School District. Check out the web site for the WJC INTERFACE Referral Service at interface.williamjames.edu.

Submitted by Pam Snaith

RAFFLE BASKETS FOR THE TCC-UCC HOLIDAY CRAFT & GREENS FAIR



Once again, the fair will be having the popular raffle baskets. This has been a very successful part of the fair, thanks to all the wonderful baskets donated by the congregation. I am asking you to participate by picking a theme and filling a basket with items related to that theme. These baskets will be raffled off in a traditional "Chinese Auction" way. Tickets will be purchased and placed in a container that goes with the basket you want to win and a winner will be picked at random.

If you would like to participate, look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall after church and add your name or you may email me at christineclish@yahoo.com.

To help you get started, here is a list of suggested themes.

SUGGESTED THEMES FOR THE RAFFLE BASKETS

Feel free to come up with your own creative theme!!!

BABY
BIRTHDAY
BEACH
BEANIE BABIES
BREAD
BASKET OF BASKETS
BIRDS
BLUEBERRY DELIGHT

CAMPING
CRAFTING
CHILDREN'S
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS
CHOCOLATE
CANDLE
CAR WASHING
CHRISTMAS
COOKING
COFFEE
CHINESE FOOD
COOKIE
COOKIE JAR
COMFORT AFGHAN

DAY OF BEAUTY

EUROPEAN VACATION (Plane Ticket Not Included)
EMBROIDERY

EVERYTHING BUT ICE CREAM

FOOD
FINGERNAILS
FEED THE BIRDS
FABRIC
FLOWERS
FAMILY FUN NIGHT

GINGERBREAD
GIFT WRAPPING
GAMES
GARDENING

HANDYMAN
HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD

ITALIAN

JEWELRY

KNITTING
KITCHEN
KIDS
KIDS COOKING

LAVENDER SCENTS
LOTTERY
LOBSTER
LEGOS

MOVIE
MASSAGE
MUSIC
M & Ms
MARY KAY

NUTCRACKER

OVER THE HILL

PICNIC
PARTY
PAMPERING
POKER

PET
POPCORN
PIE
PHOTO
PHONE
PUZZLES

QUILTING

ROMANTIC EVENING

SPORTS
SCRAPBOOKING
STATIONERY
SEWING
STAMPING
SOCKS
SNOWMAN
STUFFED ANIMALS
SILK FLOWERS

TEA
TRAVEL
THANKSGIVING
TOOLS
TASTE OF ITALY

UGLY
VERA – BABY

WREATHS

Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ

New! Announcing

The Center for Transformational Leadership

"Forget about what's happened, don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands."
Isaiah 43:19, The Message

The SNEUCC is pleased to announce a *brand-new* initiative: **The Center for Transformational Leadership.** This resource center is being created in direct response to our clergy and our lay leaders who have been asking the Conference for programs, tools and support to help navigate these challenging times and to discern a new road for the future.

The Center is here to help you do the transformative ministry you are called to do in the local church, local community and the world.

We are here to help:

Illuminate – assess the vitality of your congregation.
Innovate – define your vision for your future.
Inquire – clearly identify the challenges you face to realize that vision.
Implement – provide the resources you need to create the roadmap and pave the path forward.
Inspire - support you and your organization along this journey of transformation.

We will offer our programs in a variety of formats and platforms including:

- Interactive Group Workshops
- Asynchronous Courses
- Downloadable Materials
- Customized Workshops
- Coaching - Individual and Group
- Affinity Groups

PROGRAMS IN DEVELOPMENT

- Church Vitality Assessment
- Discerning a New Vision for the Future
- Conflict Transformation
- Clergy of Color Affinity Group
- LGBTQIA Clergy Affinity Group
- Technology & Worship
- Lay & Association Leadership Training
- Small Church Collaborative
- Retired Clergy Affinity Group

Contact us for more!

Transform@SNEUCC.org
SNEUCC.org/Transform
Director, Bridget Johnson johnsonb@sneucc.org

Townsend Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
3 Brookline St., PO Box 487
Townsend MA 01469-0487

Sunday School at 9 am & Worship at 10 am
(starting Sept. 12)

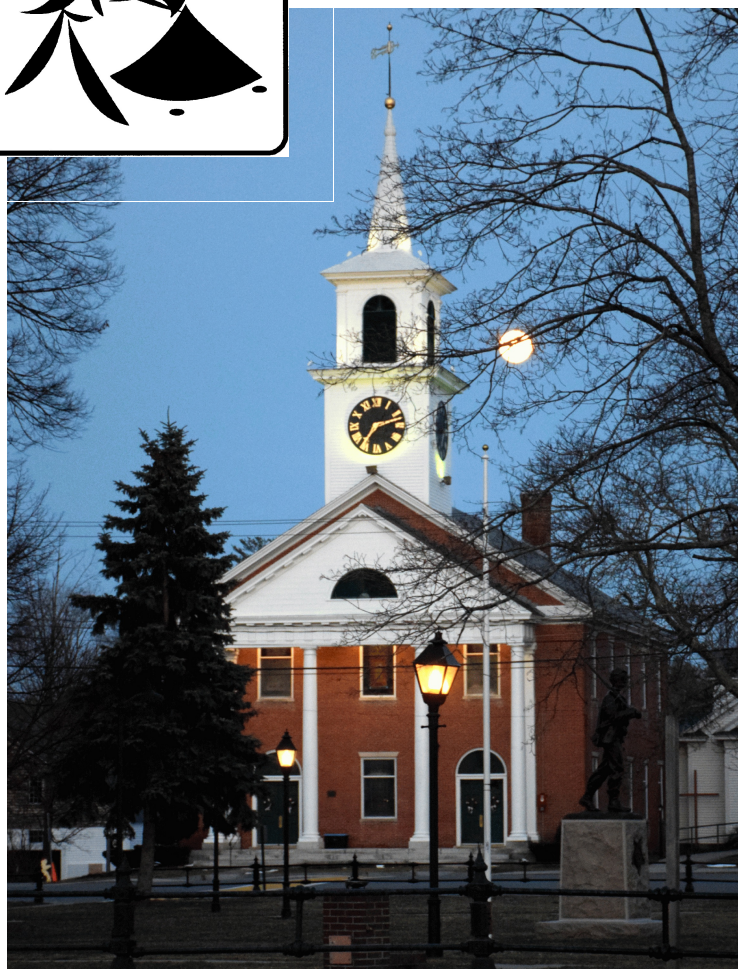
SHARING OUR SPACE WITH THE COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS

Weddings, Child Dedications, Holiday Parties, Baby and Wedding Showers, Family Reunions, Organization Meetings

We are blessed with a beautiful sanctuary and great space within our building for use that we are able to share with others. If you or someone you know is looking for a location for an event, contact our church secretary at 978-597-8925. This use of our building helps support the maintenance of our facility.

OUR COMMON PURPOSE STATEMENT

Being in an intimate relationship with God in the present, we are an ever-learning, action-oriented, justice-seeking, community-caring church. Our purpose is to use our gifts to make God's love real and alive for everyone.

We are committed to ministering through the use of our gifts, learning to live the Christian way of life, and being together in Christ by seeking to fulfill these three commandments of Christ:

- *To love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30)*
- *To love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31)*
- *To love one another as Christ has loved us (John 13:34)*