

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
— Stockbridge, Massachusetts —

PO Box 825 Stockbridge MA 01262



October 2023

Ramp Dedication - October 1

Pastor: The Rev. Brent Damrow - bdamrow@stockbridgeucc.org

Minister of Music: Peter Frost - music@stockbridgeucc.org

Administrator/Sexton: Will Garrison – office@stockbridgeucc.org

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(413) 298-3137 | www.stockbridgeucc.org

Office hours: 9:00-2:00, Monday - Friday

October 2023

The First Congregational Church, UCC, Stockbridge

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 10:00am Gathered & online w/ramp dedication SFC rehearsal 1:00pm	2	3 Brent's Sabbath Day <i>Al-Anon 7:00pm</i> <i>AA 8:00pm</i>	4 Morning Prayer 8 am Discovering the Bible 11:45am <i>No online Bible Study</i> Council 7:00pm	5 Bell choir 4:30pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm	6 Service League 10:30am Concert 7:30pm	7 Connections Class 10:00am Northrup Memorial Service 2:00pm <i>Al-Anon 5:00pm</i>
8 Worship 10:00am Gathered & online SFC rehearsal 1:00pm	9	10 Brent's Sabbath Day <i>Al-Anon 7:00pm</i> <i>AA 8:00pm</i>	11 Morning Prayer 8 am Discovering the Bible 11:45am <i>No online Bible Study</i> Church supper 5:30pm Discovering 5:45pm	12 Bell choir 4:30pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm	13 Service League 10:30am	14 <i>Al-Anon 5:00pm</i>
15 Worship 10:00am Gathered & online SFC rehearsal 1:00pm Stewardship Kick-off	16	17 Brent's Sabbath Day <i>Tuesday Club 1:45pm</i> <i>Al-Anon 7:00pm</i> <i>AA 8:00pm</i>	18 Morning Prayer 8 am Discovering the Bible 11:45am Bible Study 1:00pm Meetings of the Boards 5:00pm – 9:00pm	19 Bell choir 4:30pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm	20 Service League 10:30am Newsletter deadline	21 <i>A Childhood in Word and Song Part 2</i> 4:00pm <i>Al-Anon 5:00pm</i>
22 Worship 10:00am Gathered & online SFC rehearsal 1:00pm	23 "Wholehearted Faith" hybrid 9:00am	24 Brent's Sabbath Day <i>Al-Anon 7:00pm</i> <i>AA 8:00pm</i>	25 Morning Prayer 8 am Discovering the Bible 11:45am Bible Study 1:00pm Discovering 5:45pm	26 Bell choir 4:30pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm "Wholehearted Faith" online 4:00pm	27 Service League 10:30am	28 <i>Stockbridge Golf Club in JE Room</i> 8:30am <i>Al-Anon 5:00pm</i>
29 Reformation Sunday Worship 10:00am Gathered & online SFC rehearsal 1:00pm	30	31 Brent's Sabbath Day <i>Al-Anon 7:00pm</i> <i>AA 8:00pm</i>			Livestream worship at stockbridgeucc.org	<i>Yoga is offered each Wednesday morning at 9:00am</i>



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Stockbridge, Massachusetts

October 2023 Newsletter

Dear Church Family,

Liminal seasons strike a deep and resonant chord in my life. For some reason, these moments of transition between seasons almost always bring hope and energy to me. I also find a welcome and natural invitation into times of reflection and consideration. Maybe it is the barrage of change upon my senses, but I revel in thinking about changes in my own life – both what I am observing in my own life as well as what it means or what might be behind those changes. In these liminal times such reflections seem to come more naturally and without the all too familiar feelings of guilt or regret – they simply come in truth and kindness.

Recently I held a small meeting at the Manse with some wonderful and diverse members of our church. Over a simple meal we talked about our shared life here in Stockbridge. We shared what our faith means to us and reflected on the gifts and challenges we are finding in being church. We shared what matters to us in this church and what we are yearning for. We shared grand dreams and selfish desires. We talked about what is changing in our lives, our hearts, and our faith. Maybe it was the food and the early evening sunlight drifting through the windows, but the conversation was rich and full – offered and received in grace no guilt, regret or recrimination along for the ride.

As we enter this particular fall and the changes in this one season, I am also mindful that we, as a church, are also still in a liminal time regarding the pandemic. Current cases remind us that there is no such thing as Covid being “over” and yet we are living our way into more fullness. This has been a long ride through times of both challenge and new opportunities. It would be impossible

for the pandemic not to affect each of us and equally impossible for it not to affect how we are church with all of its gathering, eating, sharing, singing, and touching. I hope, though that like other liminal times, we can talk with each other about how we are feeling about church, what we are doing, and what might be behind it all and do it without guilt or regret. I hope that we can share in hope and kindness knowing that the journey goes on and that part of the journey is always change.

Starting in October, I will be sending invitations to everyone in our church family for a conversation with me. I will be sending them in small batches in no particular order. I hope that those conversations will mirror the ones I recently held at the Manse – talking about what matters to you in church, talk about what you are yearning for or how things are changing for you and to do so bathed in truth, kindness, and grace. I am imagining about 30 minutes or so. Like all conversations, I am happy to have them around a table, on a walk, or even over the phone if needed. If you are eager to talk, just give me a call – consider this your invitation.

I hope the change in the season comes as a blessing and invitation. I know that for some this change is hard – not because of the colorful leaves about to come on the scene but for the cold and lack of leaves that follows. Know that I always enjoy catching up you whether you are full of joy or sorrow, questions or purpose, or a little bit of all of it. Until then, may you know peace and love.

In hope and gratitude,

Pastor Brent

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 2	Michael Lynch
October 3	Madonna Meagher
October 6	Nellie Rustick
October 11	Betsy Wise
October 13	John Tracy
October 19	Tristan Osgood
October 23	Buck Smith
October 27	Sarah Boyd
October 31	Anna Smith Xiaobing Qian

Peter's Notes

It was so nice to have the choir back in the loft on Rally Day. They sang the excellent arrangement of "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit" with gusto and praise. John Demler on the bass solo was indeed in fine fettle.

Please consider joining the choir, as you may have noticed this past Sunday, we have grown thinner in the ranks.

Elisabeth Bellows and Liza Catino have begun singing with the children in Sunday School. Thank you so much to both of you, Liza and Elisabeth, for your talents and your generosity.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year of music making.

~ Peter Frost, Minister of Music



Connections Gathering

Saturday, October 7: 10:00am - Noon

Have you been visiting this church for a while and thinking about calling it home? Then you are invited to come to a gathering we call Connections!

We will have the chance to talk about what membership means and what it is and isn't. We will look at how we and the United Church of Christ fit into *Christianity* including both our bold and progressive history as well as our open and hopeful vision for the future.

The class includes conversations with one another, Pastor Brent, and lay leaders. Our hope is that you will learn more about each other, the church's rich history, and the many programs, small groups, opportunities for service, and other ministries that are available to you *whether or not* you join.

Please RSVP to Will Garrison (298-3137 or office@stockbridgeucc.org) if you plan to attend. Childcare is available for those who might desire it. Questions? Please contact Pastor Brent.

Council's Corner: Highlights from our church Council ~ Ron Hanft

The Council has completed the process of the Incorporation of our church in Massachusetts as a non-for-profit religious organization. The Council appointed a special working group to bring recommendations back to the Congregation for how the proceeds from the potential sale of Procter Hall should be used. The Procter Hall Proceeds Working Group has now been established: Joe Catino, representing Trustees; Diane Piraino, representing the Justice Task Force; with the following persons appointed by Council: Nick Pohl – Convener, Carl Bradford, Louie Forouhar-Graff, and Patty Strauch. They will begin their work this fall and will bring their recommendations to the Congregation no later than May 2024.

Among the activities reported to the Council from all the Boards, we reviewed and approved a) the appeals from Mission and Action coming this fall, b) the October "Soprano Riot" concert and the November Music on Main concerts, c) the celebration of the new JE Room entrance Oct. 1, and d) appointed Beth Cilley to the Board of Mission and Action. Coming soon: a special working group to work with the Trustees to develop a plan for the refurbishment of the JE Room and kitchen. Questions or comments for the Council, please let me know. – Ron Hanft, Moderator, rphanft@yahoo.com, or 413-232-4179.

Cookies!

On Sunday October 1, 2023, our congregation will celebrate World Wide Communion Sunday and during the service, **our new accessible ramp will be dedicated!** Several guests are invited - those that have helped the ramp become a reality, the contractors, town official and members of the Community Preservation Committee.

So, please get out your favorite NUT FREE cookie recipes and help us by baking a batch of cookies or bars, and plate them ready to serve, for the reception to follow the ceremony. You can drop them in the kitchen the day before or bring them Sunday morning October 1. Thank you!



Wednesday Dinners Continue

Eating together nourishes our bodies and our souls. All are welcome to dinner on **Oct 11** at the church. The food (chili!) will be ready at 5:30 p.m. and served until 7:30 or so. People may arrive whenever is best for them and stay

as long as they like. The food will be simple, nut-free, and include a vegetarian and gluten-free option.

No one is obligated to bring anything. Those who wish to contribute, help cook, or bring a dish can. In gratitude, Pastor Brent

A Childhood in Words and Song: Part 2

On Saturday, October 21 at 4:00pm, Ronnie Cunningham will present a program in the church sanctuary. The concert will include “Maybe it’s because I’m a Londoner” and “Oh, can ye sew cushions?” This is Ronnie’s contribution to the Organ Fund of the Capital Campaign. Suggested donation at the door, \$15; any amount welcomed.

Stewart Colley, 1953



From the Service League

This year, we netted \$1400 from the Summer Fair, which included cash, credit and debit card sales! Thanks to Patty Strauch for handling Venmo sales which make it more convenient for shoppers. All of us in Service League send another big thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Summer Fair.

We gladly inherited some leftover items from the recent Church tag sale. They are being priced and then stored in the basement along with other items for the Holly Fair/Grandma's Attic.

Yes, we welcome donations for Grandma's Attic year-round and the Holly Fair will be here before we know it (Sat., Dec. 2, 2023)! Friday mornings, while we are meeting and working, is the ideal time to drop off items, but they can be dropped off anytime the church office is open (please check in with Will first). If transporting items is a problem in any way, we're happy to arrange a pick-up. Remember, without your contributions, there would be no Grandma's Attic! That in turn means no donations from Service League for its mission projects. Let us help you declutter and reorganize.

News from our members:



Jane McCormick reports that her daughter, Dr. Beth McCormick, has been promoted to chair of her department, Microbiology, at UMass Medical Center in Worcester. Congratulations to Beth!

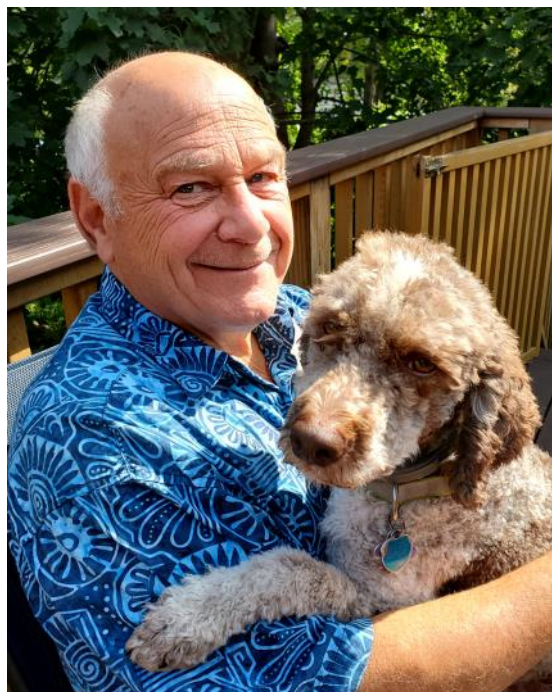
As of Sept. 8, Anne Hutchinson reported that Erving was leading in scoring for his soccer team. Also, Pele, the "soccer dog," won Best in Show at the Hevrah Family Dog Show recently. (The Dog Show was one participant's Bar Mitsvah project to raise funds for dog rescue.) Anne's husband, Gene Kalish, was with Pele at the show, thus, Pele also won first prize as "most resembles owner."

Nancy Wilcox's daughter, Jennifer Triger, has been promoted to Manager of Customer Support, Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts. This promotion recognizes Jen's leadership in the Customer Support queue and case management over several years, as well as, taking on the CORI/SORI processing role in the fall of 2022. Congratulations to Jennifer!



Save the date for the Holly Fair: Sat., Dec. 2, 2023.

Ann Brink, for the Service League



Adventures at Benedict Pond

The Youth Group and adult leaders had a wonderful time at Benedict Pond on Sunday afternoon, September 17. We were blessed with sunny weather, and enough warmth for water play. We hiked around Benedict Pond, took out numerous kayaks and a canoe, some swam and some ate most of the s'mores and other goodies. Ted built a beautiful campfire, but we ran out of time for sitting around it. We did take time to talk about our ideas for Youth Group activities for the coming year. The kids can speak for themselves:



Ruth says *She likes youth events because they are with friends, fun, not overly 'churchy' and are without the rest of her family around, and she thinks this helps her be able to be more 'herself'.*

William: *It was fun canoeing for the first time!! I learned I like it a little better than kayaking because it appears you can go faster.*



Jake: *I loved two things - first the boating which was very fun to do with other kids - especially exploring the beaver dam and the 'swim launch.' Second, who doesn't love swimming while eating dark chocolate? I highly recommend!*



News from Mission & Action

WELCOME TO NEW M&A MEMBER

Beth Cilley! We're delighted to have her join the Board of Mission & Action!

CATHEDRAL OF THE BELOVED

On a soggy autumn Berkshire day on September 24, our church served about 60 meals to the guests on the lawn of St. Joseph's Church in Pittsfield. A lovely outdoor worship service began at 1:00 before the meal. They even asked some of us to help act out the story of the workers in the vineyard. And a well-watered vineyard it was! Martha Floyd and Beth Cilley shopped for food and paper products purchased through the Mission & Action local needs budget. Cindy Brown received donations of fresh produce from The People's Pantry in Great Barrington (thank you, Anne Hutchinson and Jenny Schwartz), Grace



Episcopal Church's Gideon's Garden at Taft Farms in Housatonic (thank you, Joel Jorgensen and Jimmy Pickett), and Indian Line Farm in South Egremont (thank you, Elizabeth Keen and Al Thorp).

The Saturday kitchen crew, Martha & Rick Floyd, Beth & Gary Cilley, Cindy Brown, Marion Pomeroy and Ronnie Cunningham, prepared several huge pots of homemade chili (both meat and vegetarian), tossed salad, and individually bagged cornbread.

Sunday morning began with reheating the chili before worship. At 12:00, the serving crew, Beth & Gary Cilley, Cindy & Jack Brown, Stephanie & Carl Bradford, Holland Brown Eaton & Don Eaton, transported chili, salad, cornbread, clementines, cookies, bottled water, and coffee to



Pittsfield, where we served buffet style on the lawn while "singin' in the rain"!

It wasn't exactly like feeding the 5,000, but it almost felt like it, with overflowing baskets left over. And all the leftovers were gratefully spirited away by the Cathedral of the Beloved staff to be used at the homeless shelter and other Pittsfield organizations that gather hungry people in for an extravagant welcome.

Check out the church website for more photos.

"CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST" DONATIONS FOR VETERANS

We asked you to get into the Christmas spirit in August, and you delivered! Here is what we donated to veterans' organizations, divided equally between the Pittsfield Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic/Soldier On and the Northampton Veterans Affairs Hospital in Leeds, MA: 53 Men's Undershirts, 15 Toothbrushes, 16 Toothpaste, 8 Mouthwash, 4 Dental Floss, 45 Razors, 8 Shave Cream, 9 Shampoo, 1 Conditioner, 20 Bar Soap, 1 Body Wash, 10 Deodorant, 5 Body Lotion.

Thank you to M&A member Alice Collins for delivering the items to these organizations.

MISSION & ACTION EXPENDITURES

- \$300 honorarium for Justice Task Force's 9/24 speaker in church from Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe
- \$250 to Berkshire Coalition for Suicide Prevention (Local Needs).
- \$260 to People's Pantry (Restricted Fund).
- \$100 to UCC for Greece fire/flood relief
- \$100 to UCC for Morocco earthquake relief
- \$100 to UCC for Libya flood relief

Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants will fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

Through this offering we express our deep commitment to reaching out and touching our neighbors with justice and compassion. This allows us to speak prophetically to those in power and to advocate for a society where all people have a voice in decisions that affect their lives. In the spirit of Christ, we will seek to confront evil in the world and to alleviate suffering. We will do this through direct service as well as advocacy.

NIN funds are also utilized by staff to develop social justice resources, such as webinars, bible studies, curriculums, and advocacy tools within the program areas of environmental justice, racial justice, LGBTQ justice, economic justice, women's justice, and immigration justice.

Look for more info during worship on October 8!

Let's Talk About Suicide!

Have you and your family been affected by suicide? 45% of Americans have. Suicide rates increased about 36% between 2000-2021.

Suicide is a public health problem and affects people of all ages. It is a leading cause of death in the United States. Suicide can also be prevented — more investment in suicide prevention, education, and research will prevent the untimely deaths of thousands of Americans each year.

Mission and Action is supporting two organizations that fight to prevent suicide:

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Mission: Save Lives and Bring Hope to Those

Affected by Suicide (www.afsp.org)

The *Out of the Darkness Community Walks* are journeys of remembrance, hope, and support. It unites our communities and provides an opportunity to acknowledge how suicide and mental health conditions have affected our lives and the lives of those we love and care about.

You can help by joining the *Walk Out of Darkness Community Walk* on Saturday October 7 in Pittsfield (see below) and/or support Jill Fleming and her brother in his *Community Walk* in Allentown, PA to raise funds for AFSP by going to the following link: supporting.afsp.org/participant/Jill-Fleming-2023

Pittsfield: Saturday, October 7, at The First Street Common

Check-in/Registration Time: 9:00 am; Event Begins: 10:00 am. Parking is free. The route: is 3 miles, wheelchair and stroller friendly! Dogs are welcome. For more info, contact: Shawn Mille at shawn.mille@yahoo.com

Berkshire Coalition for Suicide Prevention (berkshirecoalition.org)

Mission: to save lives. Together we can build resilience in our community, educate the public, and strengthen the response to community need.

Established in 2009, BCSP is a grassroots 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing suicide prevention resources, loss and healing programs, professional trainings, advocacy efforts and hope to our local Berkshire community.

BCSP is a regional coalition of the Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide Prevention; an organization dedicated to creating awareness and mobilizing community action in response to the public health crisis of suicide in the Commonwealth.

Fundraiser: Purgatory Road, October 13, 14, 20, 21 from 7:00-10:00pm. \$15/person. For ages 12+. Enter at Your Own Risk! 400 Main Street, Dalton, MA.

NEED IMMEDIATE HELP?

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: Call or text 988.

Chat: 988lifeline.org

Veterans Crisis Line 988 then dial 1

Brien Center Crisis Line: 1-800-252-0227

Rally Day 2023

by Ted Randolph, Growth & Fellowship

It was wettish the day before, and sort of gloomy the day of Rally Day, so we held the event right outside the JE Room in the driveway this year (and on adjacent grass for the Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest). Other than the slightest passing sprinkle, which no one even deigned to notice, the weather held and was really just right. Who knows, the lower barometric pressure may even have helped the seed spitters achieve their new records! But look for that story under another byline. Also under a different byline, a report on the return of the Choir.

This year's event, as in the recent past was a combined effort, with the CE Board coordinating the games, while Growth and Fellowship provided the food and set up the tables, etc. On the game side of things, we had a couple of new additions thanks to Elisabeth Bellows: a Treasure Hunt, and Crown & Tiara Making. One crown was made specifically to be



the grand prize for winning the Spitting Contest (thanks, Jake). Other games included a return of Corn Hole, and Face The Cookie! Khalil Haddir was surely the master of getting the Oreo from forehead to

mouth (without using hands). Other participants included Jeremy Ridenour, William Barrett, Jake Damrow, and myself.

Thanks to all who helped make the day a success, especially if you volunteered to schlep tables and chairs, or cleaned up after. Some parts of the story are best told by quotes from others:



Food was delicious... The whole event came together well . I had a strong feeling of community there and everyone was friendly and having fun. I thought the games were excellent for all ages. -Vicky Cooper

It was a joy to see adults from the congregation interacting with the children. Tom and I had the chance to play corn hole with Amos and then another member from the congregation stepped in and they played a game as well. -Kim Ruffing

The treasure hunt was a big success. I think all of the children at the picnic completed the treasure hunt, often with an adult in tow. The two youngest girls ran up to me after they finished and shouted "That was too short! Next year make it last until 7 o'clock!" And one of our youth members commented wryly, "It seems that the adults are having more trouble solving the clues!" We also had a great time making crowns and tiaras from paper plates, leading to kids play-acting characters with each other while making their crowns. -Elisabeth Bellows



Stockbridge Festival Chorus

The Chorus Begins Rehearsals for its Annual Christmas Concert

Stockbridge Festival Chorus, a community choir based out of the First Congregational Church of Stockbridge, begins rehearsals on Sunday, October 1, from 1 to 3 pm in the church's sanctuary located at 4 Main Street in Stockbridge. The Christmas Concert, entitled Ceremony of Carols, will be given at the church on Saturday, December 9, 3:00 pm. The chorus is comprised of about 40 singers, all volunteers, from the greater community, and Tracy Wilson is the conductor. Auditions are not required; the only requirement is the love of singing good choral music.

Music for the Christmas concert will center on English composers, with the featured piece being A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten, accompanied by Teresa Mango on harp, for SATB choir. Other pieces include compositions by John Rutter, Philip Stopford, Peter Warlock and Bob Chilcott, accompanied on piano and organ. Packets of music will be available to choristers at the first rehearsal they attend, and dues are \$40 for the season. Scholarships are available to assist with tuition by inquiring with Tracy Wilson. All rehearsals will take place from 1 to 3 pm each Sunday leading up to the concert, and participants are asked to miss no more than three rehearsals. Dress rehearsal on Friday, December 8 is mandatory.

The sanctuary is handicap accessible. The last date to join the chorus is Sunday, October 15. For more information, contact Tracy Wilson at 413-822-8688.

Surprise! Tag Sale!

It was a surprise to some of us when Pastor Brent presented an idea for a Tag Sale fundraiser at the July Council meeting. He noted that there was no plan in place for the "Fundraiser" line in



Can you spot Ted?

our Operating Budget this year. He and Jon were ready to have a garage sale and share the proceeds with the church, and they invited anyone in the congregation to join in. The Council approved this fund-raising effort and a date of Labor Day morning was chosen. That meant that we had about a month to prepare, while trying not to detract from the Service League's wonderful Summer Fair in August.

The response was amazing. Five families added "family tables," a ton of treasures poured into the classrooms as contributions to the "church table," and dozens of volunteers pitched in with various tasks. Gold stars go to Margaret Hornick, JoAnn Levitt, and Will Garrison for several days of set-up and prep. David Anderegg and Janet Canning were wheel-dealers at the church table, and John Canning wrangled wayward. Then, Tom Ruffing and Jay & Terry Wise used their trucks to distribute extras to the library and Goodwill. All of this activity and the 30 volunteers were expertly organized by the intrepid Patty Strauch. We're still wondering how she did it all.

And the result: \$3,300! A giant step toward our \$6K goal for "Fundraisers" in 2023. Loud cheers and a Prayer of Thanksgiving -- for Pastor Brent, initiating this project, and for Patty and her many-splendored team of volunteers.

~ Ron Hanft

Family News

When Joe and I moved to the Berkshires, we knew we wanted to attend First Church. My Mom, Meta Ukena, was a member while she was at Kimball Farms and we accompanied her many times on Sunday mornings. Both my parents were church musicians so my siblings and I grew up singing in church. My sisters are coming for a visit and I am excited that we will be singing together during the October 8th service. I look forward to introducing you all to Katha and Amy.

Gratefully, Liza Catino

Two Colors of Water

Maurice “Pops” Peterson’s mural, “Two Colors of Water,” debuted at the public art project “Let It Shine!” sponsored by Downtown Pittsfield Inc. “These murals bring joy and pride to the area,” Peterson said. “Art makes people feel. Art is a way for people to communicate and bring people together.”

“The ‘Two Colors of Water’ piece is based on a Gordon Parks photograph from the Jim Crow era in the South,” Peterson said. “I took those two water fountains, one for Blacks and one for whites, and I staged it where the white boy was helping the Black boy reach the water fountain. It shows that people are stronger together and they all should work together. It’s about brotherly love. The children understand, but it’s the grown-ups who put these hateful customs and laws into place.”

For more, including photos, go to the online Berkshire Edge for 9/11/2023, www.theberkshireedge.com

JE Room Art Show: *Bible Verses*

The bookshelves in the JE Room are decorated with colored pages of prominent Bible verses, created by Olga Schwede. Pray, Meditate, and Enjoy!

The book is finished!

Longer-time church members will remember Donald Hammond, who faithfully served as an interim pastor here before Rev. Damrow was hired. While Don was here, his wife Nancy was working assiduously on a book about their shared life working on fire lookout towers in the Northwest. Nancy’s book is now a finished product! The title is *The Last Lookout on Dunn Peak*. It is published by Washington State University Press, and it may be ordered through their website or other online outlets.

Congratulations, Nancy!

Don reports he is still serving as an interim minister. He is currently the interim at the First Presbyterian Church in Twin Falls, Idaho. He writes, “I hope they find someone soon because I am ready to retire for the 5th time.”

~ David Anderegg

