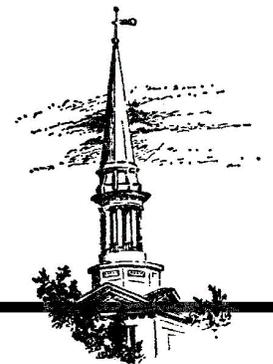


## First Church Sandwich, UCC

## The Spire Newsletter



Dear First Church,

On March 15<sup>th</sup> the Coronavirus forced us to close our church building and discontinue worshipping together in person. Never would I have thought that we would be more than two months removed and still not together in the sanctuary. Over these last two months you all have reached out to one another and connected in new ways and we have continued being the CHURCH even while physically apart.

During this pandemic, myself and the Church Officers have been meeting weekly via Zoom to stay current on the updates from local and state officials, the CDC and the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ (SNEUCC), with regards to recommendations on responsibly responding to the Coronavirus. There is much we do not know about the virus and much we are still learning. Currently, according to the SNEUCC *“In person worship in sanctuaries is one of the types of gatherings most likely to spread the infection:*

- ◆ *In an enclosed room over a length of time the airborne viral particles can reach every corner. 6-foot or 12-foot physical distancing will not prevent this.*
- ◆ *Speaking, praying and singing aloud propels the virus even further than just breathing.*
- ◆ *Using masks limits but does not prevent the transmission of the disease.*
- ◆ *Common surfaces abound.*
- ◆ *We know that people can be carriers of the virus without any symptoms.”*

Your leaders are working hard to develop a plan to promote safety for all. After all, as Christians we are called to care for not just the healthy but also those who are most vulnerable. That is why we have created an Ad-hoc Reopening Team to take on the responsibility of gathering information and putting together a reopening recommendation plan to Council. This team is made up of Diane Ranney (Chair of Deacons), Dave Bergeson (Facilities and Operations Representative), Reagan Wilda (Christian Education Director), Jennie Fagnant (Administrator), Judy Kaechele (Nurse Practitioner), Jessica Dwyer (Cleaning Contractor) and me.

The good news is our SNEUCC Conference has put together some great guidelines, which we are following. And in accordance with the Conference’s recommendation, **our virtual worship and happenings will continue through Labor Day and the church building will also remain closed.** During this time, the Ad-hoc Reopening Team will continue to research and develop a plan and reassess as new information arises. We will likely be sending out a survey this summer to gather your thoughts on the process and safety. Let us recognize that once it is deemed appropriate to reopen the building for meetings and worship things will be different. There will be new protocols in place to promote safety. Please be on the lookout for emails, newsletters, signage and other postings containing this information.

Thank you all for your patience and as we work to keep everyone at First Church safe.

In faith,

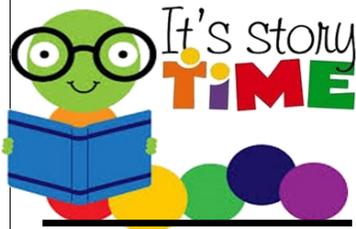
Rev. Tina Walker-Morin, Senior Minister

## First Church

### Storytime Live:

Join Reagan every Thursday on Facebook Live at 4:30 pm for story time. Kids can gather around and enjoy having some of our favorite books read to them.

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



### Nature Nana:

Love the outdoors?  
Want to learn and explore nature?  
Watch our own Mary Beers on YouTube in her Nature Nana videos and explore the wonders in the great outdoors.

[Click here to view.](#)

Or log on to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zawcpQV2t5g>

## Church School and Youth News:

### Sunday School & Learn, Worship & Serve

One Room Sunday School and Learn, Worship & Serve continued to meet through the month of May. As the school year comes to an end, we want to thank all the families and the volunteers for helping us stay connected during this time. We truly are an amazing community!

### Thank you!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who taught Sunday School and Learn, Worship & Serve and Jr. & Children's Choir this year. We are truly blessed to have you all!



Betsy Pottey, Paula McQuaid, Debbie Barrette, Rebecca Rosensweig, Mary Beers, Diane Raney, Vicky Mitchell, Susan Cochrane, Patti Gill, Jennifer Spurling, Marcia Marino, Rob Newell, Martine Canning, Jessica Barrett, Jessica Dwyer, Alicia Raspa, Nancy Lawrence, Joanne Saunders



### Vacation Bible School Update

As the state looks to slowly re-open businesses and churches throughout the community, we are committed to make the best decisions for going forward as we look to future planned events at First Church. As a result, due to the close proximity and numbers of children and volunteers during the camp, we have decided to postpone Vacation Bible School – The Knights of North Castle until 2021.

The committee is continuing to work on planning other events throughout the summer that will meet the requirements set in place for social distancing as safety is a priority. Will we plan activities open to the whole community which allows for social distancing. We will keep families informed of these events as they are available as well as announce the official date for Vacation Bible School 2021 when determined.

### Virtual Celebration Sunday

On **June 7th** we will be streaming a **Virtual Celebration Sunday** service on our First Church YouTube page [www.youtube.com/firstchurchsandwichucc](http://www.youtube.com/firstchurchsandwichucc). Join us as we honor our seniors, recipients of 3rd Grade Bibles, volunteer Sunday school teachers and all of our wonderful youth and families at First Church as the school year comes to an end. The Jr. Choir has also put together something wonderful!



**CHURCH SCHOOL AND YOUTH NEWS CONT.****Summer Activities**

The Faith Formation Committee is working hard planning alternative activities for this summer in lieu of in person Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Please make sure you receive our **Faith Formation News and Weekly Updates** to stay up to date on what we have planned. If you do not receive Faith Formation weekly emails and would like to, please email Reagan at [firstchurchce@comcast.net](mailto:firstchurchce@comcast.net)

**New Facebook Group**

Join our new [First Church Sandwich Faith Formation Facebook Group!](https://www.facebook.com/groups/270490610993398) [www.facebook.com/groups/270490610993398](https://www.facebook.com/groups/270490610993398) Stay up to date on all the activities and what we have planned for the summer. You can also post to the group. It's a great way to stay connected!

**SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE:**

Several years ago, Doug and I decided we would set-up a scholarship fund for seniors from First Church. Any high school senior that was going to continue their education either going to a trade school or college would be considered. So, this year it became more important to us as our seniors have accomplished so much and yet can not share with all the events of graduation. We would like to offer a scholarship of \$500.00 to each senior that will go onto school. As with all scholarships, there is always a requirement. Our requirement to apply for the scholarship is to write an essay on "How the Covid-19 virus affected me as a graduating senior." Please send your essay and give us permission to post it in the Spire to: [capecodgal25@aol.com](mailto:capecodgal25@aol.com). Marilyn & Doug Dexter

**Sandwich Community****Blood Drive****Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>****11 – 5****Sandwich Masons**175 Main Street  
Sandwich

Appointments are required and can be made through our website at :

[www.capecodhealth.org/give-blood](http://www.capecodhealth.org/give-blood)

**INDEPENDENCE  
HOUSE****IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE  
IN NEED PLEASE SHARE  
THIS INFORMATION.**24-HOUR DOMESTIC  
AND SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE HOTLINE.CALL **800-439-6507**TO SPEAK WITH AN  
ADVOCATE ANYTIME.**DURING THE COVID-19 QUARANTINE,  
INDEPENDENCE HOUSE IS:**

- Accepting new clients
- Providing individual and group counseling by phone and secure video conferencing
- Assisting with court applications to obtain emergency Restraining Orders or Harassment Orders
- Offering legal assistance & representation by a staff attorney
- Offers direct confidential chat with a counselor on both [independencehouse.org](http://independencehouse.org) (and) [independencehouseteens.org](http://independencehouseteens.org) websites

## Outreach Update:

First Church's Outreach Committee has been busy the last few months. At our last in-person meeting in February, our members voted to contribute \$250 towards the Happy Hopes Bag Project undertaken by Faith Formation. After meeting with the director of the Sandwich Partnership for Families, our committee is purchasing 40 backpacks for students in the Sandwich Public Schools whose families cannot afford that additional expense. The purchase will be completed in July and the backpacks made available to students for the beginning of the school year. Outreach will continue to explore other ways to help needy Sandwich students such as helping distribute breakfast and lunch bags prepared by the district or helping with Soup-er Stories which is a reading program followed by a light dinner and dessert. Since February, the committee has continued meeting through Zoom and voted to financially support the Sandwich Food Pantry and the Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC). \$500 was sent to the food pantry and \$500 to HAC for their program to assist individuals and families with rent and mortgage payments during the Covid-19 crisis. We also donated \$300 to Amazing Grace, a summer camp for children whose parents are incarcerated. Amazing Grace is an organization that has been consistently supported by First Church. In an effort to help our church members through these difficult weeks and months of the pandemic without in-person services, meetings, or get-togethers, the committee reached out to all First Church members through phone calls to ask if you were doing all right and/or needed anything. We were so gratified for the opportunity to talk to all of you!

**POP-UP THRIFT SHOP UPDATE:** Our committee was very excited to have a clothing, shoes, and handbags thrift shop this June with funds raised to sponsor future mission trips. With the recent decision by the Sandwich Chamber of Commerce to cancel SandwichFest this year due to the pandemic, the Outreach members voted at our May meeting to postpone the Thrift Shop since it was planned to coincide with SandwichFest. We will plan on sponsoring the Thrift Shop in June, 2021. We want to thank all of you who have heeded the call to save your gently-used items for donation to the Thrift Shop. If you have the space in your home, we would greatly appreciate it if you could continue to save those items for our 2021 effort. We'll continue to give you reminders and updates.

The First Church Outreach Committee welcomes all individuals who would like to help us in our continuing efforts to help others. Our members are anxious to be able to help those in need in our wider community with continued donations plus hands-on activities and will patiently await the all-clear for that. Distributing bags of food, painting homeless and recovery shelters are some of the activities we expect to undertake. You don't have to be a member of the committee to help and your volunteer efforts would be greatly appreciated! Feel free to contact any member of the committee for more information.

Outreach Committee Members:

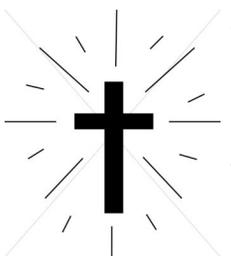
Judy Coppola	Marge Foster	Nancy Jansson Serodio	Suki Meredith
Lynda Colby	Pat Marshall	Marilyn Dexter	

### Please keep these friends in your prayers:

**Prayers for Comfort and Healing:** Donald Walsh, Daryl Forth, Bette & Bill Hanson, Dick & Heidi Hardaker, Max Mittendorf, Donna Dragos, John Decosta, Norm Hollis, Tom Hammel, Leah Colombo, Pat Coates

**Prayers of Sympathy:** The Moffit Family on the death of Frank's brother, Ed, and for all others who have lost loved ones.

**Home Bound:** Aggie Rosander, Mildred Lauzier, Marjorie Hadley, Eleanor Rose





# June 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 6:30 Jubilee via Zoom	3 Bible Study via email 7:00 Faith on Tap via Zoom	4 9:00 Coffee Hours with Rev. Tina via Zoom 4:30 Storytime w/Reagan via Facebook	5	6
7 10:00 Worship via YouTube	8 5:00 PPRC	9 10:00 Finance	10 Bible Study via email	11 9:00 Coffee Hours with Rev. Tina via Zoom 4:30 Storytime w/Reagan via Facebook	12	13
14 10:00 Worship via YouTube	15 7:00 FFM via Zoom	16	17 Bible Study via email 6:30 Council via Zoom	18 9:00 Coffee Hours with Rev. Tina via Zoom 4:30 Storytime w/Reagan via Facebook	19	20
21 10:00 Worship via YouTube	22	23	24 Bible Study via email	25 9:00 Coffee Hours with Rev. Tina via Zoom 4:30 Storytime w/Reagan via Facebook	26	27
28 10:00 Worship via YouTube	29	30	→→→→→ Rev. Tina on vacation June 22– July 5.			





FIRST CHURCH, SANDWICH, UCC  
PO BOX 810  
SANDWICH MA 02563

NON-PROFIT ORG  
PERMIT NO. 3  
US POSTAGE PAID  
SANDWICH MA



Stay connected with  
First Church  
while social distancing  
via FaceBook, YouTube,  
and Zoom. Look for  
event information and  
links inside.



In need of a face mask?  
Contact Jennie in the  
church office  
508-888-0434  
or  
Sanducc@comcast.net



**Sandwich Community Blood Drive**  
Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>  
11 – 5  
Sandwich Masons  
175 Main Street, Sandwich  
Appointments are required and can be  
made  
through our website at :  
[www.capecodhealth.org/give-blood](http://www.capecodhealth.org/give-blood)

**Faith on Tap:**  
The next Faith on Tap will be held  
May 6 @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.  
All are welcome to log on!  
To join: <https://zoom.us/j/92642286917>  
Password: 676772

