

First Church Sandwich, UCC

# THE SPIRE NEWSLETTER



*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven"*

~Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear First Church,

I have seen many memes (images with funny sayings) on Facebook and the internet about 2020. The general gist of them all is that 2020 stinks! I think my dog would argue that 2020 has been a great year thus far; more walks, more snuggles with moms, more attention. If there is one thing for sure it is that 2020 thus far has been a year of change and adaptation.

We are reminded in Ecclesiastes 3:1 *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven"* and while "this season" that we are in has been challenging at times, it has also provided a time of growth and learning. We, as a community, had to learn on the fly how to "do church" virtually. You all also learned how to connect with one another with new technologically-advanced ways, and we have reached out to the wider community in unexpected, fabulous ways.

"This season" continues this Fall as our building undergoes physical changes with the ceiling being repaired and the sanctuary being painted. We are also experiencing change in our Faith Formation program. As you know, Reagan Wilda has stepped down as CE Director. She did a fabulous job and created a wonderful foundation for great things ahead. Now we are excited to welcome back Rev. Jennie Valentine as our new Minister of Faith Formation and Service (look inside for more information about Rev. Jennie)!

We are moving through "this season" and there is one thing that is for sure: nothing will be the same as it always was. What we must continually do is rely on God to guide us through. It is like we hear in Isaiah 43 when God states: "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isiah 43: 18-19). God is working and is here with us. Changes are upon us; let us embrace the changes and trust that God is doing a new thing!

There is so much good which awaits First Church in this new church year. Let us enter the season recognizing that every season has its reason and that there is time for every matter under heaven.

I am glad we are in this new church year together! May we move and be guided by our God.

Blessings to you all,

Rev. Tina

P.S. Beginning September 13 we will begin following the Narrative Lectionary in worship and Sunday School. The Narrative Lectionary is a four-year cycle of readings from September to May. The texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church. I am excited for us to explore different scriptures which some may not have heard in a long, long, time!



**A NOTE OF THANKS:**

Dear Reagan,

With a very sad heart, Faith Formation Ministries want to thank you for an exceptional tenure as Christian Education Director. We thank you for all the love and kindness you brought to your position. Your warm, approachable personality helped the new families feel immediately at home at First Church. You were always on top of everything, followed through and fully supported all the teachers and cared about all the kids and their families. You improved and continued some of the Faith Formation traditions as well as added new events and meaningful service projects.

Most importantly, when the pandemic became our reality, you led with calmness, ingenuity and compassion and worked to keep Sunday School and Youth Group a constant for the kids and youth.

We wish you all the best in your new endeavor and are thankful that you, Keith, Morgan and Addison will continue to be part of our church family.

With gratitude,  
 Faith Formation Ministry Committee  
 Jessica Dwyer, Patti Gill, Betsy Pottey,  
 Rob Newell, Lara Rest, and Susan Cochrane  
 Photos provided by Susan Cochrane



Thank  
You!

**WELCOME OUR NEW MINISTER OF FAITH FORMATION AND SERVICE,  
 REV. JENNIE VALENTINE:**

Beginning September 10, First Church is excited to welcome Rev. Jennie Valentine as our Minister of Faith Formation and Service. While this is not a called position, we are thrilled to have Rev. Jennie join our ministry team. In this revised role she will lead our Faith Formation Programs as well as youth and inter-generational service activities as we strive put our *Faith in Action!*

Rev. Jennie has always loved working children, mostly because she is a child-at-heart! She earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Framingham State College in 1991 and a Master's of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School in 2011. She went to seminary with the intent to serve children and youth as ordained clergy. Life's twists and turns carried Jennie through several pastorates in New Hampshire and Massachusetts churches. God has returned her full-circle to serve children and youth as ordained clergy at First Church, the church that affirmed and supported her Calling and has always held her heart.

Jennie's personal ministry is summarized as "speaking for justice, peace, and the environment." She is passionate about peace and love, and how we live them out everywhere. Her ministry is that of education and advocacy for all three. She has experience in coordinating church school, youth projects and trips, intergenerational service trips, and faith formation programs for all ages. Her social justice work aims to help bring a just world for all.

Rev. Jennie spends her free time walking/hiking, caring for her 7 chickens, knitting (which she learned in First Church's Shawl Ministry!), and floating in "her" pond. She lives in Forestdale with her husband of 30 years, Paul, and the cutest dog in the world, Pikku. They have two adult children, Chelsey (married to Devin) and Sam, and an 11 month old granddaughter, Daisy.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS:**

Sunday School will be held on Zoom on September 13th and 20th at 9:00 a.m.

September 13<sup>th</sup> Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82802571515?pwd=VlhjZWV3YzJ3aHBKayslSXR0c3lVZz09>

Password: **337908**

September 20<sup>th</sup> Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81141503880?pwd=d0xyK01pQmkyb0RuaVgyeEJweW1ZQT09>

Password: **072822**

**VISITORS CARE TEAM LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS:**

Do you enjoy talking with people? Or do you have a few minutes to spare every few weeks to send cards on behalf of the church? Then being a part of the Visitors team is a perfect fit! The Visitors are a group of caring church members who visit our parishioners who are in nursing homes and send cards to people who are ill or homebound. Then once a month the group gets together to check-in and see how everyone is doing. This meaningful ministry maintains a strong connection for those we visit or write to our church. Also prior to the pandemic the Visitors team with Rev. Tina offered a monthly worship service over at Cape Heritage Nursing Home (this will resume once we are able). If you would like to learn more about the Visitors Team please email Nancy Lawrence at [nancjl@comcast.net](mailto:nancjl@comcast.net).

**SOCIAL HOUR REIMAGINED:**

Connections and Rev Tina have planned a Zoom Social Hour. In our days of social distancing this is a wonderful way to get in touch. Join us and meet Jennie Valentine on Sunday, Sept. 13th @ 11:00 a.m.!

**The zoom link is:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81452226319>

Password: **610754**

We are looking forward to seeing you!

Cheryl Johnson-Moore, Merry Sue Ahlgren and the Connection team.

**CALLING ALL SHOPPERS:**

Are you an Amazon shopper? Now you can raise money for First Church or a charity of your choice while checking things off your to do list! To help, visit, [firstchurchsandwich.org](http://firstchurchsandwich.org) and click on the Amazon Smile button on the homepage. That's it! You will start raising money with every order. Here's a walkthrough of how to get started:

<https://youtu.be/Eex5ldepkqo>

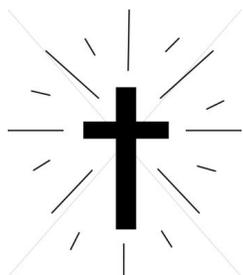
**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

**PLEASE KEEP THESE FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Prayers for Comfort & Healing:** Dick & Heidi Hardaker, Nicky Hardaker-Smith, Max Mittendorf, Donald Walsh, Daryl Forth, Pat Coates, Renault Marier, Janet Garfield, Richard Augustine, Terry McMahon

**Prayers of Sympathy:** The Romanowicz Family on the death of Mark's Aunt Annie, and all others who have lost loved ones.

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



**JUBILEE:**

Jubilee is a ladies' book discussion group that meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm via Zoom. The September meeting has been changed to Sept. 8th. We discuss our selected book, have a time of worship and enjoy refreshments and the support of a wonderful group of ladies. Anyone interested in joining-in contact Nancy Lawrence: nancjl@comcast.net. To be discussed Sept 8th **The Vanishing Half** by Brit Bennett

**ALMOND CAKES:**

Irene Coates' Almond Cakes are available to purchase for \$12 each. They can be ordered by calling Irene at 774-521-3867. Cakes can be picked up by arranging to meet her at her home in South port, or if you purchase 4 cakes or more she will meet you in the parking lot of Stop and Shop near the Forestdale School.

**FAITH ON TAP:**

The next Faith on Tap will be held **September 2nd @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom**

All are welcome to log on!

To join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85041424922>

password: **948316**

**CALLING ALL COOKIE MAKERS:**

Connections is organizing a cookie giveaway for early November. We wish to salute our community by giving cookies to local agencies. We have started a list which includes police, fire, town hall, and nursing homes and are looking for more suggestions. We might even stage a general giveaway at church.

**What we need will be cookies, lots of cookies!!**

We would like our cookie makers to make and freeze in half dozen size packages to be delivered around November 1. We will make up larger mixes to be sent out. The exact details of final delivery are not yet finalized.

If you have questions, want to help with distribution or know other recipients to add to our list please contact Cheryl Johnson-Moore at [cljr57@yahoo.com](mailto:cljr57@yahoo.com) or Merry Sue Ahlgren at [msahlgren@msn.com](mailto:msahlgren@msn.com).

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS:**

The Outreach Committee recently teamed up with Cool Breeze Mechanical, a local HVAC company, to purchase 40 new backpacks to donate to the Sandwich Public Schools for students in need.

Since April, First Church has been working with the Rev Pam Wannie and the staff of Duffy House to provide a hearty breakfast for homeless in Hyannis. On Mondays and Fridays, they deliver twenty hot meals for distribution and help stock a small food pantry to be used for further needs. Generous donations of money, food and beverages from First Church members will help this ministry continue in the future.

Six high school seniors recently received scholarships to further their education from generous church members.



**CHURCH REOPENING UPDATE:**

On Wednesday August 26, Council approved plans allowing Committees and Small Church Groups to gather outdoors. Below are the guidelines for gathering.



**Gathering Guidelines for Group of 15 persons or Fewer no matter location:**

- ◆ Masks covering nose and mouth must be worn at all times for anyone over the age of 5
- ◆ Gathering must occur outside
- ◆ Social distancing of at least 6 feet is required
- ◆ No physical contact (hand shaking, hugging, etc.)
- ◆ All gatherings should be scheduled (no matter location) with the church office ([sanducc@firstchurchsandwich.org](mailto:sanducc@firstchurchsandwich.org))
- ◆ A list of who attended the gathering should be emailed to the church office ([sanducc@firstchurchsandwich.org](mailto:sanducc@firstchurchsandwich.org)) by the following day
- ◆ No sharing of food or beverages
- ◆ If held at First Church, people should bring own chairs or table
- ◆ The Church building will remain closed and facilities will not be accessible



**CAPE COD HEALTHCARE**  
Nicholas G. Xiarhos Blood Donor Center

WHAT'S DONATED HERE, STAYS HERE.

**BLOOD DRIVE**

**Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
&  
**Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**11 am – 5 pm**  
**@ the Sandwich Masonic Lodge**  
**175 Main Street**

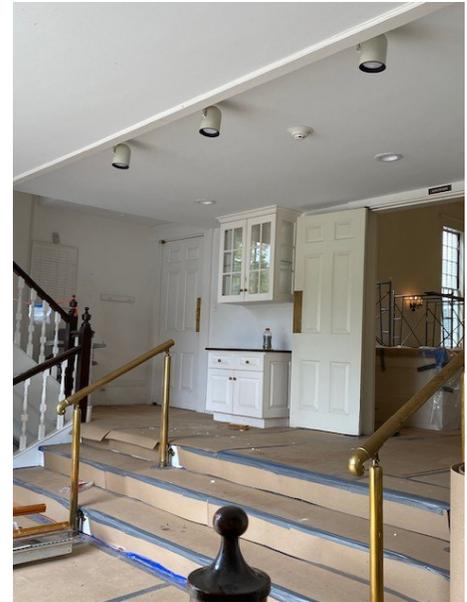
\*\*\*\*Appointments are required. To make an appointment please visit [www.capecodhealth.org/give-blood](http://www.capecodhealth.org/give-blood)

[www.capecodhealth.org/give-blood](http://www.capecodhealth.org/give-blood)  
508-86BLOOD (508-862-5663)

**ALL BLOOD STAYS LOCAL!**

**SANCTUARY CEILING REPAIR UPDATE:**

1. Sanctuary dust projection is complete.
2. Belfry interior waterproofing is 90% complete.
3. Briggs Engineering has completed plaster, screw and washer strength testing. All components exceeded design requirements.
4. Organ protection is complete per Andover Organ.
5. Scaffolding installation begins Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.



**MEMORIAL GARDEN:**

Would you like to honor a loved one in the Memorial Garden?

Applications can be emailed or mailed to you from the church office.

Contact Jennie for further information 508-888-0434.

**FIRST CHURCH ON TV:**



First Church is now on Sandwich Community Television, Channel 14!

Now you can watch each week's Sunday service at 5:00 p.m. No internet is required! Many thanks to the great team over at Sandwich Access Television for making this happen.





# September 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7:00 Faith on Tap via Zoom	3 10:00 Chair Yoga via Zoom	4	5
Rev. Tina is on vacation, August 31- September 7th.			Rev. Tina is on vacation, August 31- September 7th.			
6 10:00 Worship via YouTube	7	8 6:30 Jubilee via Zoom	9	10 9:00 Coffee Hours with Rev. Tina via Zoom 10:00 Chair Yoga via Zoom	11	12
13 9:00 Church School Begins 10:00 Worship	14	15 10:00 Finance	16 Bible Study 6:30 Council via Zoom	17 9:00 Coffee Hours with Rev. Tina** 10:00 Chair Yoga via Zoom	18	19
20 9:00 Church School 10:00 Worship	21 5:00 PPRC 7:00 FFM	22	23 Bible Study 6:00 Deacons	24 9:00 Coffee Hours with Rev. Tina** 10:00 Chair Yoga via Zoom	25	26
27 9:00 Church School 10:00 Worship	28	29	30 Bible Study			

**\*\* Stay tuned for coffee hour location.**

**DONATIONS NEEDED:**

A **BABY CENTER** is asking for **donations!** If you can contribute any of these items, please drop them off at A Baby Center, 81 Willow Ave, Hyannis, Mondays, 10 am to 2 pm or Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10 am to noon. **All donations are to be handled masked and gloved.**



Summer/Fall pj's, Children's Books, Small toys, Receiving blankets & toddler, blankets, Wash cloths, Bibs , burp cloths, Lightweight sweatshirts or jackets, Baby Bath, Baby Shampoo, Baby Lotion, Desitin or diaper rash cream, Pacifiers

Thank you for making our work possible!  
Robin Hayward  
Program Director, A Baby Center

**BROWN BAG MINISTRY:**

Working with the Rev. Pam Wannie and the staff of Duffy House, we continue to provide a hearty breakfast meal to homeless folks in Hyannis. We deliver the bags to the Federated Church at 7:45 AM on Mondays and Fridays. Each breakfast bag has a bottle of water, a bottle of juice, a breakfast bar, fruit cup or applesauce, a hot breakfast sandwich, a spoon, and a napkin. Other groups are providing breakfast Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

On Friday August 14<sup>th</sup> Rev. Pam told us that they have had a huge uptick in people coming for breakfast. There are many new faces, including a group of homeless youth that have "discovered" breakfast. On Monday they "sold out" at 8:20, on Tuesday they "sold out" at 8:40, on Wednesday they served over 25. On the days they "sold out" they were able to supplement, so no one went hungry.

Starting Monday August 17<sup>th</sup> we are increasing our breakfast bags from 15 to 20 and have started stocking a small pantry of water, juice, breakfast bars and applesauce at Federated Church for Rev. Pam and the Duffy folks to draw on if the need is greater than the bags delivered.

Many thanks to the folks in our congregation who have reached out to help. Going forward we need the following: breakfast sandwiches and baked goods for our two weekly meals, and cases of juice, water, and cereal bars so that we have back up food in Hyannis. Monetary donations sent to First Church and tagged for Brown Bag ministry are great too.

**CHAIR YOGA:**

Thursdays at 10 am **Via ZOOM**  
Chair Yoga is a great way to Get fit where you sit@!  
Anyone can participate because each pose is presented in multiple levels of flexibility. The class includes breathing, stretching, strengthening, and relaxation.  
Contact Rebecca Reeves Dundorf for log-in information:  
rebreeves@comcast.net  
Rebecca Reeves, LVCYT

**STEWARDSHIP:**

**Have you considered First Church in your will?** The Stewardship Committee has a brochure available with several options for estate planning and planned giving. We'd love to answer any questions you may have about the process and can be a resource for ways to save on taxes and still offer a lasting gift. Please contact Jenny Spurling at 774-238-9795 for more information.





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

136 Main Street  
Sandwich, MA 02563

Return service requested.

First Church is now on Sandwich  
Access Television, Channel 14!

Now you can watch each week's  
Sunday service at 5:00 p.m.  
No internet required!

★ See page 5 for  
important re-opening  
information. ★

First Church is now on amazon smile!  
Raise money while you shop. Go to  
smile.amazon.com and search for First  
Church Sandwich, UCC. See inside for  
more information.

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

Faith on Tap  
September 2nd @ 7:00 p.m. via [Zoom](#)  
Password: 948316 All are welcome!

