

First Church Sandwich, UCC

## The Spire Newsletter



Dear friends,

We are living in a difficult time. It is hard to know what the best decision is. Like many of you, I long to be together again in worship. I have heard from many over the last several weeks, “*can we worship outside together? Maybe in the garden?*” Our garden is beautiful, but unfortunately we simply don’t have the space. We are still in a time of social distancing and with so many of us who would want to gather there, we simply would not have enough room for us all to meet. So, we must continue worshipping virtually through the summer. The church leadership has also determined, after much discussion and research, that church meetings will also continue to meet virtually for the time being. The reopening team will continue to evaluate the situation and make recommendations as conditions change. (If you did not have a chance to read last month’s Spire letter, I encourage you to do so; it explains why we are continuing to worship virtually through the summer).

god  
is  
my  
strength

However, keep the faith! We will meet again. This is only temporary. And we do have some virtual social hours coming up. I invite you to join us for a Zoom Social hour on July 12<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup> at 11am. The zoom link is <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85007894163> with password 589304. This will be a fun time to catch up and chat.

We are still the Church and our God is still present. As Isaiah 41:10 says “***Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.***”

Thank you all for your support during this time. Our God will see us through and how wonderful it will be when we are reunited. So keep the faith, wear your masks, and keep distancing.

We are, indeed, alone together.

Be well and God bless you,

Rev. Tina



## HANDMADE FACE MASKS:

We have some wonderful church members who are sewing face masks. If you would like one please call the office at 508-888-0434.



## 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 :

Sunday school has wrapped up for the school year and while we will not be holding Zoom Sunday School throughout the summer, beginning July 12th we will be posting weekly Children's Messages and Bible Stories during Sunday Worship on our First Church Sandwich YouTube Channel.



### Summer Activity Bags:

On July 1st between 11am and 1pm we will be setting up a table on the lawn of First Church Sandwich to hand out Summer Activity Bags. The bags will include a Flat Jesus Scavenger Hunt Packet to do with your family throughout the summer, games to play, art supplies and other fun summer goodies for the kids. Also inside the activity bag, we will be including a card with info about each bag. These cards will have dates that we will be meeting virtually throughout the summer on Zoom to play fun games (included in the bag) **\*\*spoiler alert\*\*** everyone loves Bingo right?! Please know that these Zoom meetings are totally optional although we would really love to see everyone. Email Reagan with any



questions at [firstchurchce@comcast.net](mailto:firstchurchce@comcast.net)

### Stuffed Animals to Benefit First Church:

Merrysue Ahlgren has been busy knitting adorable stuffed animals. They are for sale \$15 for the large and \$10 for the smaller sizes. See photo below. The proceeds will benefit First Church Sandwich. If interested, contact Merrysue at [Msahlgren@msn.com](mailto:Msahlgren@msn.com)

### Christian Education Director Update:

I wanted to update you all and let you know that due to unforeseen family circumstances, August 30th will be my last day as Christian Education Director at First Church Sandwich. Thank you all for your support this past year. I know my time in the position was short, but it was a great year and I enjoyed working with you all the wonderful families and volunteers very much. ~Reagan



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY REAGAN:**

Happy Anniversary Reagan!

We are blessed to have had you as CE Director for the past year. Although we are sad to see you leave this position, we are so thankful you and your family will continue to be part of our church family.

First Church Faith Formation Ministry has certainly benefited from your enthusiasm, hard work, collaborative nature and attention to detail.

Thank you for your excellent leadership.

Faith Formation Ministries Committee

**SOCIAL HOUR REIMAGINED:**

Connections and Rev Tina have planned a Zoom Social Hour for July 12 and August 9 at 11am. In our days of social distancing we thought this would be a nice way to get in touch. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, there is a good information sheet you can get from Jennie.

We are looking forward to seeing you on July 12.

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

**Prayers of Sympathy:**

For the Decosta Family on the  
loss of John Decosta  
June 3rd, 2020

The Moberg Family on the loss  
of Beverly Moberg  
June 6, 2020

The Bauckman family on the  
loss of Joanne Bauckman  
June 8th, 2020

May these First Church  
members always remain in  
our hearts.

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS:**

The Outreach Committee continues having monthly virtual meetings. At our June meeting, we acknowledged two very generous donations received to assist those in need due to the coronavirus pandemic. It was the wish of the donors that the entire \$2,900 be given to the Cape Cod Major Crisis Relief Fund and it was so voted. The committee also voted to send \$580 to benefit Cape Cod Coast Guard members. This money was collected in 2019 to help service members during the government shutdown. A check was presented to the local Coast Guard station during the shutdown and this was additional money collected during the following weeks.

Welcomed to our meeting was Jenny Spurling, chair of the Stewardship Committee. Jenny would like to establish a close working relationship with the Outreach Committee so Stewardship can share with the church community our activities within and outside the church community. All members enthusiastically agreed a closer relationship between our committees will be a wonderful benefit to all.

## SANCTUARY RESTORATION PROJECT:

By an overwhelmingly positive vote, the Sanctuary Restoration Project (SRP) has been approved by the congregation. The votes for the SRP were: 144 yes, 3 no and 3 abstain. The votes for the loan were: 144 yes, 5 no, and 3 abstain. We cannot thank you enough for your careful consideration and support of this project.

Based on this approval the council has authorized the formation of an SRP Donations Task Force, with the details of the donation campaign and the membership of the Task Force to be developed.

We are thrilled to announce we've already started to receive donations which continue to be welcomed as we work on the details of the fund-raising. Donations can be sent to First Church Sandwich, care of Rick Lawrence, Treasurer, indicating that the money is for the SRP. We are also in the process of securing a loan as approved by the congregation. The loan will be repaid by future donations and income from Verizon in 2021 and beyond. We thank you for your continued support.

## GRANT WRITING VOLUNTEER NEEDED:



**Are you a...**

*Wordsmith?*

*Lover of metrics and outcomes?*

*Fan of researching?*

*Loyal friend of First Church?*

**Then, we might have a job for you!** If you've ever been part of a grant writing process, then First Church would love your assistance. We are gathering a small but mighty team of talented writers, researchers, and financial whizzes to head up a Grant Writing Task Force for First Church. Did we pique your interest? Simply email Diane Ranney at:

[windsong2093@gmail.com](mailto:windsong2093@gmail.com) with a note that you're interested!

## FIRST CHURCH ON TV:

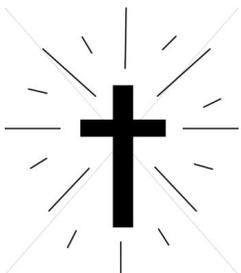
First Church is on Sandwich Community Television, Channel 14! Now you can watch each week's Sunday service at 5:00 p.m. No internet is required! Many thanks to the great team over at Sandwich Access Television for making this happen.

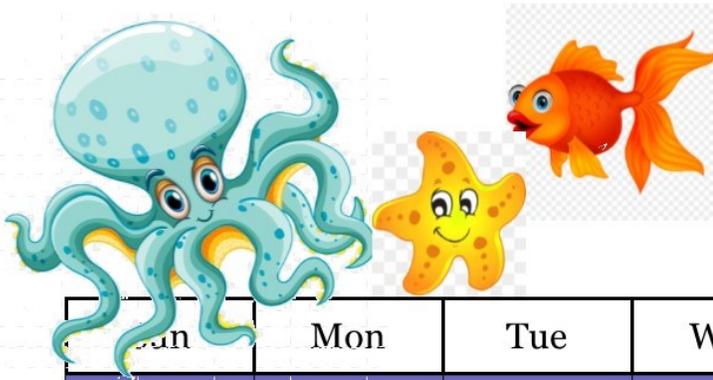


## PLEASE KEEP THESE FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

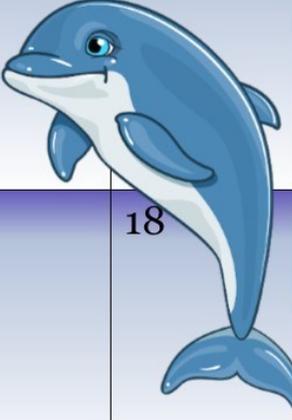
**Prayers for Comfort & Healing:** Norm Hollis, Dick & Heidi Hardaker, Nicky Hardaker-Smith, Max Mittendorf, Donna Dragos, Donald Walsh, Daryl Forth, Bette & Bill Hanson, Pat Coates, Renault Marier, Jim Mead  
**Prayers of Sympathy:** Vicki Mitchell and Karen Ross on the death of their father Charles, and all others who have lost loved ones.

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





# July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
						
5 10:00 Worship via YouTube	6	7 6:30 Jubilee via Zoom	8 Bible Study via email 10:00 Outreach 7:00 Faith on Tap via Zoom	9 9:00 Coffee Hours with Rev. Tina via Zoom 10:00 Chair Yoga via Zoom 11:00 Reopening Team Meeting	10	11 
12 10:00 Worship via YouTube	13 	14 10:00 Finance	15 Bible Study via email 6:30 Council via Zoom	16 9:00 Coffee Hours with Rev. Tina via Zoom 10:00 Chair Yoga via Zoom	17	18
19 10:00 Worship via YouTube	20	21	22 Bible Study via email 6:00 Deacons	23 9:00 Coffee Hours with Rev. Tina via Zoom 10:00 Chair Yoga via Zoom	24	25
26 10:00 Worship via YouTube	27 	28	29 Bible Study via email	30 9:00 Coffee Hours with Rev. Tina via Zoom 10:00 Chair Yoga via Zoom	31	

## SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS:

We wanted to share the essays with all of you and hope you enjoy reading each one. Each essay shows a wonderful sense of maturity and their spiritual life has helped them thru their difficult senior year. Over the next few months in the Spire, we will include all the essays.

Doug and Marilyn Dexter

Foster Rubinstein  
First Church  
Scholarship  
June 15, 2020

### **How Has Covid-19 Affected My Senior Year?**

I do not even know where to start to describe how much this highly infectious disease has affected me and many of my other peers. It has not only affected my Senior year and everyone else's across the globe, it has also affected every living thing. I was not able to have the fun Senior year I had hoped and dreamed about. The year was going so good until this global, deadly pandemic came into view in March. All of us thought it wouldn't affect us and had no idea that that cool two week break would turn into no more high school forever. We did not even know when our last day was. I was not able to play sports, say bye to some friends and teachers and get to experience senior events that are all cancelled. No Senior week, sleep out, Senior assassin, sports, school work, extra curriculars, shows and so much more. These were days that I and billions of others will never get back. However we should never think of just the negative, it has brought positives out of this such as family time, more time to focus on other things you could not do while working, uprising for the acceptance of all and help us all be more resilient.

## CHAIR YOGA:



Thursdays at 10 am **Via ZOOM**

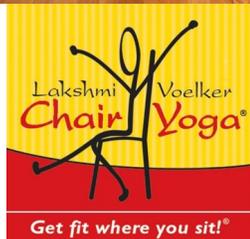
Chair Yoga is a great way to

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:

[reeeves@comcast.net](mailto:reeeves@comcast.net)

Rebecca Reeves, LVCYT



## 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.

JOHN GMEINER IT'S BEEN FUN 1917 - 2007	THE SPURLINGS MEMORIES AND LOVE	HOWIE SIMPSON ALWAYS WITH 1928 US. 2012	MARGE HOLLIS I'M JUST FINE 1930 - 2017
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FIRST CHURCH, SANDWICH, UCC  
PO BOX 810  
SANDWICH MA 02563

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SANDWICH MA

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!



**Faith on Tap:**

The next Faith on Tap will be held  
**July 8th @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom**

All are welcome to log on!

To join:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85041424922>

Password: 676772