



The Spire

*Informing Members and Friends
Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth*

Pastor's Corner

Dear Church Family,

This past year has been a whirlwind of activity continuing the momentum of a forward-looking vision (that has been building step-by-step the past couple of years) with concrete plans for the coming year. We recently had a wonderful kickoff to the 300 Anniversary activities with the highly successful Strawberry Festival with many people involved in the planning and implementation of this celebration under the leadership of Janet Garamy. The “Seize Our Future” small-group meetings of this past year have resulted in a 4-part plan that will be in full swing this Fall. Donna Mitchell has provided the leadership for this initiative and continues to shepherd this multi-pronged process forward. So much more is going on behind the scenes with many critical committees and members providing essential functions. Paul Schaefer maintains his steady leadership and coordination of all that’s going on in his role as head of the Church Council and Moderator. I think the phrase “it’s a bit like herding cats” must have been invented just for his role in keeping us all on task and involved.

Central to all this exciting activity is our dependence upon Almighty God and His gracious blessing as He continues to work in our hearts and impart a glorious vision of His dear Son. “For from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things, to Him be the glory forever! Amen” (Romans 11:36). The goal of all that we do is for the glory of God. I am thankful for His many blessings upon us as a congregation as we seek to discover His will and walk in His ways as we honor Him in our hearts with an attitude of thanksgiving and praise.

In considering the founding of our Nation this 4th of July, I have become more aware of the deep faith and courage of the Founding Fathers. Time and time again they risked their lives in opposition to British forces for the cause of liberty and pursuit of religious freedom. We now live at a time where many in our Country are attempting to rewrite history and impugn the motives of those courageous people who risked so much knowing that the future of the infant Nation depended upon their faithfulness at that pivotal time in history. Sure they were men of flaws, but let us not forget the heroic contributions they have made to create an enduring democracy of freedom.

I believe the following prayer by George Washington, our First President, exemplifies the noble sentiment and heartfelt faith of our Nation’s Founders. He writes the following:

“My first act as President is a prayer. I ask you to bow your heads.

Heavenly Father, we bow our heads and thank You for Your love. Accept our thanks for the peace that yields this day and the shared faith that makes its continuance likely. Make us strong to do Your work, willing to heed and hear Your will, and write on our hearts these words: ‘Use power to help people.’ For we are given power not to advance our own purposes, nor to make a great show in the world, nor a name. There is but one just use of power, and it is to serve people. Help us to remember it, Lord. The Lord our God be with us; so that He may incline our hearts to Him, to walk in His ways...that all peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other. Amen”

We understand that in the providence of God, the destinies of our Congregation in Sutton (established 56 years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence) and our Nation are inseparably linked. We are part of the lineage of those men and women of faith in Christ and their courage to stand for righteousness and truth. We look backward in thankfulness to those who have gone before us, and we look forward with a deep sense of gratitude knowing that we are part of something special which has been preserved and is now worth our support, service and sacrifice. It is humbling to consider that our own destinies are inextricably linked with those of the past. How incredibly awesome and wonderful is that! We have a heritage that extends backward and a purpose that reaches forward. Who can understand the eternal ways of God?

Stay involved! Keep seeking the Lord! Let us keep praying; “Come Holy Spirit, Come!” Amen

In Ministry Together,
Pastor Earl

Moderator's Moment

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father." Colossians 1:2

AWESOME!!! What an amazing two weeks for our church family.

- First was the extremely, extremely successful Strawberry Festival on the Common. What an outpouring of excitement and good will for our Church family and our community. Congratulations and Thank You's are owed to so many who volunteered their time and talents to make the event a success. Special Thanks should also be given to Janet Garamy and the stalwart crew of the 300th Anniversary Committee. Bravo!! Things have been relatively quiet the last few weeks, but I thought I should bring you up to date as to what is happening at First Church behind the scenes and what will be happening over the summer months.
- Second was the unbelievable response from our church and our friends and neighbors as we came together as one to celebrate the birth of our nation last Sunday, June 30th. It was certain that our Church would be in the center of things because the Common was the focal point of all the festivities. Again, under the leadership of Janet Garamy acting as the liaison to the Sutton Fourth Committee, the church became a focal point for the community. BTW, did you see our float? Thank you to Todd and Chris Mitchell for building it, and Gary Verrill for pulling it.

So, now we can pause and catch our breath for the summer months ahead.

However, your church leadership will be working over the summer, as we still have some unfinished business for the continuation of the Annual Meeting.

As of July 2, 2019, the Church has received pledges and cash offers from 90 families totaling approximately \$145,000. That leaves the church with an operating deficit of approximately \$32,000. We no longer have a carryover surplus from which to draw to cover it.

For those who have pledged and/or donated, please accept my heartfelt thanks and gratitude. While we are reaching out to those who have yet to respond, I humbly ask you to consider increasing your pledge and/or donation if possible. It will mean so much to the continued existence of our church family. There will be operational ramifications as the congregation deliberates final actions based on final pledge activity.

There are several meetings planned very shortly:

- July 11th: Combined meeting of the Diaconate and the Finance Committee to determine recommendations for the operating budget for FY 19-20.
- July 17th: Church Council will meet to approve the recommended changes to the Operating Budget
- July 24th: **Continuation of the Annual Meeting** to approve an Operating Budget for FY 2020 and any such other matters that may come before the Congregation.
 - ◊ Elect an Assistant Collector
 - ◊ Approve a change in eligibility requirements for Pack 243
 - ◊ Elect a Pastoral Search Committee
 - ◊ Approve an Operating budget for Fiscal Year April 1, 2019-March 31, 2020.

I am seeking volunteers for the By-laws Review Committee: This committee will have 3 to 5 members. I expect that the review will be accomplished in three to four months so that we could have recommended changes to the congregation by late Fall. The By-laws changes will determine, in some respects, the direction that the Search Committee will take in their process.

So it looks like we will be having a busy summer ahead of us. Please feel free to talk with me to share your thoughts or concerns.

Looking Forward to July!

- July 11, 2019: Joint Meeting of the Diaconate and Finance Committees
- July 15-19, 2019: Vacation Bible School
- July 17, 2019: Church Council Meeting @ 7PM
- July 23, 2019: UNO's Fundraiser – 11:00am-Closing (dine in or takeout)
- July 24, 2019: Continuation of Annual Meeting @ 7PM

AUGUST: Church Office will be closed August 17-24th
Marie takes a well deserved vacation with her family.

Invite a Friend to Church: As always, anytime is a perfect time. We have developed several postcards that may be helpful as you extend your invitation. Please help yourself. They are located in the front of the church, in the Fellowship Hall or in front of the Church Office. When you invite a friend, you are fulfilling one of the Great Commissions given to us by our Lord, Jesus Christ, "Go and make disciples of all nations...". Who says that the first step can't be your friends and neighbors? Wouldn't it be nice to know that your friend and neighbor could say, "I (We) am here because my (our) friend asked me (us)".

Staying informed:

- LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!!! – "First Congregational Church of Sutton, MA". You will find event postings and inspirational and daily devotions. Also, if you want to keep up to date on happenings around town, join "The Sutton Site" as well.
- CHURCH WEBSITE – www.suttonfirstchurch.net

As always, please feel free to reach out to me or any other member of your church's leadership (officers, Council and committee members) at anytime. We are all serving you to the best of our abilities, and we would and are happy to answer your questions and concerns.

Peace and blessings!

Paul

Sunday School News

Save the Date.....Rally Day – September 8th

Rally Day is the day we come back together to celebrate God's love in our lives and our church. This is the day we put aside to rally together as church family to celebrate and worship God together. This is the day when some of us that have not been around since June and others who may be joining us for the first time come together in a new way. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar and tell all of your friends about the wonderful church that you attend!

I am always interested in your input as to how our Sunday School is working for your family whether your child is in pre-school or seventh grade. I continue to look for ways to improve our programs so that we can reach and interest the most children. In order to do this I look to you for input on what may not be working and what you think is working the best. During the next few months, I will be looking ahead to our next Sunday School year and hope that you will share with me both the positive and negative aspects of our Sunday School program. Please stop me on Sunday morning, call me at church, or e-mail me (Edgerton_deb@yahoo.com) with your thoughts. Your thoughts, concerns and ideas will be gratefully appreciated.

Peace and Blessing,
Deb Edgerton

Congratulations Confirmands!!!

I would like to thank our Confirmands for their efforts this year of studying, praying, participating and being present as we journeyed together on the path toward confirmation. I want to congratulate each of you on your decision to follow Christ Jesus and welcome you as new members of the church! I pray that your journey will bring you joy and love throughout your life and you will work at continuing to grow closer to God each and every day.

CONFIRMATION STATEMENTS OF FAITH

After a period of study and discussion these young people were asked to write a Statement of Faith. I provided them with a series of questions to be used as a basis for their statements. Each young person considered those questions and responded thoughtfully and honestly. Each one worked with their mentor to form their answers into a brief statement. Each of the following statements come from the heart of the young person and demonstrates an understanding of what it means to live as a follower of Christ and proclaim the gospel message.

Congratulations to each of these young people and a heartfelt thank you!

Kyle Andrews

- † I believe that God created the universe.
- † I believe the Holy Spirit guides us in God's direction.
- † I believe Jesus died for the forgiveness of our sins.
- † I believe that Jesus loves me and watches over me.
- † I will do my best to help the church however I can.
- † I will try to live the life God intends for me.



Kayla Chesanek

- † I believe in God, the creator of all.
- † I believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins.
- † I believe that the Holy Spirit guides us to listen to the word of God.
- † I believe we must always forgive, for that is what God wants us to do.
- † I want to be a member of this church so I can worship with my church community.

Anthony DiDonna

- † I believe God is our creator.
- † I believe God is our Savior.
- † I believe God guides us through life.
- † I believe Jesus sacrificed His life for us.
- † I believe Jesus is God's messenger.
- † God and Jesus help me forgive myself and others when it is hard to do it myself.
- † God and Jesus help me to be a better person.
- † I will remember God by praying whenever I can.
- † I will honor God by being kind to everyone as much as possible.
- † God loves everyone equally and unconditionally.

Ava DiDonna

- † I believe:
- † God is everywhere, not a specific place, but in everyone's presence.
- † Jesus is God's son, He taught the message to always help people, no matter their past.
- † The Holy Spirit works with us and in us, even though we don't realize it. The Holy Spirit is with us during good and bad.
- † It is good to be inclusive because everything and every aspect of life is important and valuable.
- † Being confirmed will make me feel more connected to God and I will have an even better relationship with Him.

Elvira Garamy

- † I believe that God loves everyone equally, no matter what our background is.
- † I think God is and will be with us everyday.
- † I believe my relationship with God helps me with my relationships with others.
- † I believe that Jesus died for our sins, and rose from the dead to show us that our sins have and can be forgiven.
- † I believe that part of what God wants is to keep an open mind and to always forgive people.

Lindsay Kassatly

- † I believe God is everywhere.
- † I believe God created the universe and all living things.
- † I believe God listens to our prayers.
- † I believe God never gives up on you.
- † I believe God forgives us and our sins.
- † I believe God sent his son Jesus Christ to us so that our sins could be forgiven and we can have eternal life.
- † I believe God loves us no matter what.

Evan Matukaitis

- † I believe that God, our creator, is present with us in all aspects of our lives, and guides us in the right direction.
- † He sacrificed his own son, Jesus, to show us his everlasting love.
- † He forgives us from our sins and instructs us to be forgiving to others.
- † I will use God's teachings to guide me through life for as long as I live.

Coryn Myette

- † I believe
- † God's work can be seen everywhere.
- † Jesus is a representation of God.
- † God put Jesus on the earth to spread God's word and to show his love.
- † God forgives us for our sins and teaches us how to detect right from wrong.

Catherine Wright

- † I believe:
- † God accepts and loves everyone.
- † God is guiding us through all walks of life.
- † Jesus died for our sins.
- † Jesus was Son of God and is an example to people of how God wanted us to lead our lives.
- † The Holy Spirit compels us to do the right things.
- † The Holy Spirit works within us to give back to others.

News from Boy Scout Troop 243 – July 2019

The troop is pleased and happy to announce that we have one Scout who has completed all of his requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout and three who are currently completing all of the requirements for that rank as well.

Congratulations to:**Scout Michael Clauss – Made Eagle.**

Michael's project was to renovate and paint one of the storage sheds for Waters Farm.

Scout Nathan McCracken – all his paperwork has been submitted.

Nathan's Project was to make and hang signs for the cross-country course at Shaw's Farm.

Scout Connor Andrews – Currently completing his Eagle Project. Connor's Project is to refresh the landscaping at the Manchaug Fire Department.

Scout Christopher Andrews – Currently completing his Eagle Project. Christopher's project is to complete much needed repairs to a water fountain at Broad Meadow Brook Conservatory in Worcester.

All of these projects help to serve the community in which we live and is very much appreciated by the beneficiaries.

Additionally, the Troop has 20 Scouts going to Treasure Valley for Summer Camp. This gives the scouts opportunities to complete Merit badges and work on Scout Skills that they otherwise would not have the opportunity to complete. It is a busy week when the Scouts work hard on their knowledge and skills while having fun.

For anyone that has a child that may be interested in Scouting, the new Scouting Year begins in September. Cub Scout Pack 243 as well as Boy Scout Troop 243 is always looking to welcome new members. Parents of elementary school aged children should contact the Pack and MS-HS children should contact the Troop.

Thank You
Fred Andrews, Committee Chair
Troop 243

Prayers and Concerns

- † All first responders
- † All Veterans and active Military people
- † All who stand in harms way
- † Our Church
- † Our Community
- † Our Nation
- † Those who are abused, lonely and heartsick
- † Those struggling with addiction
- † Those who are hungry and homeless
- † Janice
- † Clarke
- † Deb
- † Elizabeth



June 16

Amelia Jane Rigatti, born July 12, 2017 daughter of Nicole Wagner and Marc Rigatti.

Remember our shut-in with a note or a card...

**Carolyn Brigham
Beaumont Nursing Home
85 Beaumont Dr.
Northbridge, Ma. 01534**

**Gert Lacey
18 Forest St.
Douglas, Ma. 01516**



July

- | | |
|------|---------------------|
| 4th | Star Curry |
| 4th | Mason Desjardin |
| 9th | Marissa Locurto |
| 9th | Lydia Mitchell |
| 10th | Linda Bjorn |
| 11th | Robert Smith |
| 11th | Hope Stockhaus |
| 12th | Maria Buckley |
| 12th | Amelia Rigatti |
| 15th | Derek Gervais |
| 15th | Susan LoCastro |
| 17th | Nancy Brigham |
| 19th | David Lyon |
| 20th | Angela Didonna |
| 22nd | Brian Cornwall |
| 22nd | Connor Hurley |
| 22nd | Charles Wypyszinski |
| 23rd | Katie Swenson |
| 24th | Liza Welch |
| 25th | Aidan Linsley |
| 25th | Connor Linsley |
| 27th | Keir Brigham |
| 30th | Emily Messier |

August

- | | |
|------|-----------------------|
| 1st | John Kemp |
| 2nd | Carolyn Brigham |
| 3rd | Leah Nemetz |
| 9th | Coryn Myette |
| 10th | Nicholas Cardin |
| 10th | Nora Leonard |
| 10th | Riley Matukaitis |
| 11th | Thomas Wypyszinski |
| 14th | Evan Vaillancourt |
| 15th | Ryan Dennis |
| 16th | Carolyn Amaral |
| 16th | Kyle Smith |
| 17th | Charlene Phaneuf |
| 19th | Gretchen Gervais |
| 21st | Danielle Ferreira |
| 21st | Sarah Rice |
| 22nd | Gavin Langlois |
| 27th | Katherine Wypyszinski |
| 28th | Judith Briggs |
| 30th | Anna-Rae LeClaire |
| 31st | Rochelle Forsythe |

Upcoming EVENTS

2019 – Labor Day Breakfast – Show your 300th Spirit – Wear your 300th Shirts/hats, patch or button to the Breakfast (shirts can be ordered on the church's website under the "Events" Tab)

2019 - Christmas Concert

September 26, 2020 - 300th Anniversary Golf Tournament with Wine N Dine and silent auction

2020 – A Dramatic Event – date TBD. An Evening Walk Through Our History, Music, fashion, and a few surprises are in store for this event.

2020 – *Trivia Pizza Night- date TBD – test your knowledge of our church and town history

HINT - Trivia questions will come from the 300th Corner. Make sure you save your bulletins!

Mike's Sporting Spirit

Store Hours

Wednesday

9:00-12:00 pm

Sunday

11:30-Noon

Or by appointment call

508-865-6914



We are all angels with only one wing. We can only fly while embracing each other.

The Newsletter Newsletter
July 2000

SAVE THE DATE

Kitchen Fundraiser

Public House, Sturbridge, Ma.
October 14, 2019

Italian Feast

all you can eat buffet.
Please join us.

Marge Duff and Janice Whittier will be selling pre-sales tickets soon.



VBS

July 15-19th

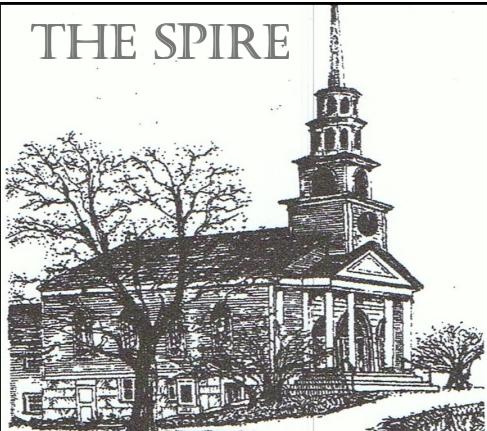
9 am to 12 Noon

\$25.00 per child / \$50.00 max per family

Download registration form at
www.suttonfirstchurch.net

**First Congregational Church
of Sutton, UCC**
307 Boston Road
Sutton, MA 01590
Address Correction Requested

THE SPIRE



Worship and Child Care: 10:00 a.m.
Church Phone: 508-865-6914
Email: fccs@suttonfirstchurch.net
Web: www.suttonfirstchurch.net



[facebook](#)

OFFICE HOURS, ETC.

Monday-Friday
8:30 am - 2:30 pm
508-865-6914

If you need assistance
contact Marie Rochon at
508-280-6916

The Spire

Deadline for the September issue is August 15th. The Spire is distributed by email or first class mail. Copies are available on the table in the hall by the church office.

**NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE,
OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S
JOURNEY,
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.**



To add an event, please email the church office fccs@suttonfirstchurch.net

This Newsletter is available on the website. www.suttonfirstchurch.net

Remember to check us out on Facebook.