

The JUNE 2023 Messenger



Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Lee, Massachusetts An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Pastor's Piece

What a wonderful month of May we have had. So much light. So much green. The air is delicious, clean, clear, and fragrant. And now summer is coming in. You can feel it. June. A transitional month. And when in transition I find it helpful to take stock of where we are, personally in our own lives, and collectively as a congregation.

To help me take stock of each day, I like to make time in the evening as I prepare for bed to reflect on these questions from adapted John O'Donahue's

Bless the Space Between Us:

Where did my eyes linger today?
Where was I blind?
Where was I hurt without anyone noticing?
What did I learn today? What did I read?
What new thoughts visited me?
What differences did I notice in those closest to me?
Whom did I neglect? Where did I neglect myself?
What did I begin today that might endure?
How were my conversations?
What did I do today for the poor and the excluded?
Did I remember the dead today?
When could I have exposed myself to the risk of something different?

Where did I allow myself to receive love?
With whom today did I feel most myself?
What reached me today? How did it imprint?
Who saw me today? Who did I see?
What visitations had I from the past and from the future?

What did I avoid today? What did I embrace? From the evidence – why was I given this day?

I particularly like the last question...a good one to linger over. *From the evidence*...hmmm. We can even expand this to think about it in terms of our church. Where do our eyes linger...where are we blind, etc.?

It might be good to have a conversation on this.

Blessings,

Cara

Call to Special Meeting

A special meeting of members of the First Congregational Church of Lee will take place immediately following the worship service

Sunday May 28, 2023

Discussion and Vote on:

The Carpeting of the Sanctuary
And Designated Pew Removal

Please plan to attend.

Melissa Myers, Church Clerk

May 3, 2023



In search of Sugar Tongs: might you have a set of sugar tongs that you no longer need? Cara would like to use these when passing out the communion bread.

Please let Cara or Tari know. Thank you.

"It is the aim of this church to present a religion as considerate of persons as the teachings of Jesus; as devoted to justice as the Old Testament prophets; as responsive to Truth as science; as beautiful as art; as intimate as the home and as indispensable as the air we breathe."

Statement attributed to the Founders



Mission & Ministry

Heifer International Project Update:

Heifer's mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth. For more than 70 years, Heifer has provided livestock and environmentally sound agricultural training to improve the lives of those who struggle daily for reliable sources of food and income. They currently work in nearly 30 countries, including the United States, to help families and communities become more self-reliant.

This year during Lent, we generously collected \$1570.07 with additional donations still coming in. We bought clean water for a village, one water buffalo, two pigs, one goat, one sheep, two supplies of garden seeds, two beehives, two flocks of chickens, and five food baskets.

Heifer received a grant this year which will double our gift giving. Thank you to all who participated! Great Work!

Shawl Ministry: We have a good supply of available shawls. We would like to see them around someone's shoulder. Do you know of someone who might be ill or recovering from an illness who might benefit from a shawl? We would like to see them around someone's shoulders.

Literary Network: M & M presented its first Berkshire Moments of Sharing on June 21st. LitNet did a presentation about who they are and what they do. They left materials for those who would like more information. Some who were present wanted to ask questions, but maybe their materials can answer some of your questions. Spare copies are in the community room for your taking.

Connecting Conversations: The reviews are in. Once again a smashing success. Thanks to our hosts -Anne and Gary Fix, Christina Markham, Jason Matthews and Sarah Hoecker who opened their homes and cooked the main course. Thanks to guests who attended the dinners – Olivia Kuhn, Tari Roosa, Charlie Van Ausdall, Shirley Bleston, Susan Stone, Lexi Lloyd, Leda and Nate Buller, Laura O'Shaughnessy, Elaine Scott, Ellen Krupka, Carol Blakeslee, Dottie D'Elia, Dorothy Phillips.

Berkshire Interfaith Organizing: This has been a busy five months for BIO. After a very successful series of listening sessions in January-March by April we were able to analyze all our members' responses and make decisions in May on our next priorities and the campaigns that flowed naturally from these priorities. To that end, BIO will be working on transportation in the Berkshires. (Some of you may recall that this will be the second time that BIO will be addressing transportation in the Berkshires. The last time, we worked to bring Wheels for Wellness into service for medical needs. But the transportation need is still with us in the Berkshires for just about everything else! So we are back at it with questions about routes and bus arrivals and departures and even why in some towns the bus stops are not well identified or how about nonexistent? Transportation was our #1 priority, followed by #2 housing and issues such as the need for affordable housing and landlord-tenant relationships.

After the success of the passage of Driving Working Families Forward we continue to help the immigrant community to obtain legal licenses in the state. There are many things to be done. For example, drivers are needed to drive candidates who are ready to take their driving tests to the RMV. Think of what you had to do to get your Massachusetts driver's license and you know We are doing interviews for a new English. Director/Lead Organizer, as our transitional director, Lauren Cannon, completed her service with us in April. We are generating ideas as we continue to raise funds. For the first time in its history BIO has a \$15,000 matching challenge grant that we will be presenting soon. We are on the move!

As BIO's current delegate I want to thank the Lee Church for its longstanding support of this important organization. I could repeat what I just wrote in the prior sentence for Barb Mahony also. She has been with us on all these "adventures" I have described above.

Laura O'Shaughnessy



Summer Coffee Hour Help: IT IS SIMPLE!

A beverage and one food item is all that is needed. Refreshments can be served on the lawn in front of the church. Speak with Wanda Klahn or Tari Roosa.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 28

Celebrating the Birth of Christianity

Wear Red!

Red balloons everywhere!

June Book Study

The rise of Christian Nationalism, most dramatically on display during the January 6, 2022 insurrection in Washington, has long and deep roots throughout American history. Many Christian nationalists are convinced that the Founding Fathers intended the United States to be a Christian nation (they did not) and that the government should institute "Christian" values such as the Ten Commandments, abolition of a woman's right to choose, intolerance for people who identify as LGBTQI, and limits on immigration and voting rights. In many ways, these followers use "Christian" as a code word for "White". As Christians, we need to understand what is happening so that we can affirm what we know to be true about Christ's teachings and resist the rise of this destructive ideology. Please join in our discussion of the book, The Flag & the Cross: White Christian Nationalism and the Threat to American *Democracy* by Samuel Perry. Two study groups available:

Wednesdays at 10am in the church Parlor Thursdays at 7pm via Zoom
Sessions will begin the week of June 4th.
The books can be purchased individually, through the church, local bookstore, or it might be available via the local library system. Hardcopy or Kindle versions are also available on

New Book Study

As always, all are invited to attend the Mission & Ministry Committee's meetings on the first Friday of each month. Please join us on Friday, June $2^{\rm nd}$ at 9:30AM in the Community Room.

Berkshire Gateway Jazz Weekend



JAZZ AROUND TOWN

Evening Concert tickets are available on line:

https://berkshiregatewayjazz.org/
\$30 in advance; \$35 at the door.

Available soon in the church office

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

Roberta Donnay and the Prohibition Mob Band, 7:30pm; Lee Congregational Church

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

<u>Jazz Brunch, 11:00am – 2:00pm</u>

Dave Bartley Quartet at the Starving Artist Cafe & Creperie; 40 Main St., Lee. No cover.

Free Jazz in the Park, 11:30am - 4pm

Al Fresco Jazz provided by local musicians:

- Mary Ann Palermo and First Take at 11:30am
- The Lucky Five at 1:00pm
- Riverblend Jazz at 2:30pm

Alexis Cole with the Amherst Jazz Orchestra,

7:30pm; Lee Congregational Church

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

<u>Jazz Brunch, 11:00am – 2:00pm</u>

Michael Junkins Quartet at the Starving Artist Cafe & Creperie, 40 Main St., Lee. No cover.

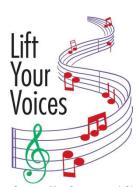
Presented by Berkshire Gateway Preservation, Inc. and the Lee Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with Berkshires Jazz, inc.



Condolences to the family of:

James T Jones who passed away on May 21. He is the brother of Elaine Scott

From the Music Director



With Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday both in the books, I have another whole year to wait for my two favorite Sundays. We do plan to have a good time with the music this summer. I want to say Kudos to

the Bells for providing a great service on Mother's Day this year. And as always I want to thank my choir for all the work they do Sunday after Sunday. Also once again this choir does not take the summer off, so they will be here providing wonderful music throughout the summer months, again.

There is an old expression, "Everyone loves a winner". I think that is true. You can see it time and time again in sports, in Game shows like Ken Jennings on "Jeopardy", and of course superstar celebrities. But I think this is especially true when people get to see something that they will most likely never see again in their lifetime. Such was the case 50 years ago this week on June 9th, 1973. It was on that day, as the sun began to set over Belmont Park in New York, that a horse, or rather a super horse, would step on the track and make history. Now I understand that not all of you are big horse racing fans and that is OK. This newsletter is not really about horse racing. It is about how people will rally behind a winner. How they will come together and love and appreciate something that they have never seen before. I will warn you all in advance that I will be taking a page from Paul Harvey and at the end of my July newsletter, it will conclude with Paul Harvey's famous catch-phrase, "And now you know the rest of the story." So I hope you hang in there with me. Back to the story.

This horse's name was Secretariat.

There are 3 races that make up what is called the "Triple Crown" of racing every year. They are the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes, and the Belmont Stakes. In 1948 a horse named Citation won all 3 races, but there had not been another Triple Crown winner since. It had been 25 years. The cofavorite to win the Derby was a horse named "Sham", a strapping black colt that had just defeated Secretariat in the Wood Memorial 2 weeks prior. But after Sham had taken the lead going into the home stretch that 1st Saturday in May at Churchill Downs, the beautiful Chestnut colt named Secretariat came storming from behind passing Sham and winning

easily while running the fastest Kentucky Derby ever. But people still loved "Sham" and some wrote off Secretariat's victory as a fluke. Two weeks later at Pimlico racetrack, the two would meet again. Now some people were starting to think that maybe Sham could be beat again. And when the gates opened, Sham once again placed himself near the lead while Secretariat lagged far behind. But Secretariat's jockey, Ron Turcotte, surprisingly decided to just let him run, and he went by every horse in the next 180 yards. Sham tried to make a run at Secretariat but to no avail as "Big Red" as he was nicknamed, would pull away from Sham to an easy victory and once again, the fastest Preakness ever run. People were stunned. It would be 3 weeks before the Belmont stakes when Secretariat would have the chance to do something that had not been done in 25 years - actually win the Triple Crown of racing. After the Preakness victory, Secretariat was on the cover of TIME, Sports Illustrated and Newsweek. When the day came, Secretariat was now the huge favorite, but Sham was still determined to win. Sham's jockey decided that he would not go as fast in the 1st half mile and save enough to not let Secretariat catch him. Of the millions of people that would watch that race, maybe a dozen would believe what they would see. Out of the gate Sham went to the lead. But to everyone's surprise, Secretariat this time went right with Sham, and they raced as a team through the first \% of a mile, nose to nose, head-to-head, and with their peripheral vision, stared each other in the eye. It would be at that point when Sham would simply give up. He could not keep up with these unheard-of fractions in a mile and a half race. I think everyone including me, felt that Secretariat would run out of gas and pretty much stop in the stretch, and the other horses would catch him. But that would not happen. The track announcer calling the race actually could not find Secretariat in his binoculars for about 3 seconds because he was so far ahead of every other horse. Secretariat would win that race by a total of 31 lengths and establish a new track record that I believe will never be broken, at least in my lifetime. Soon after, Secretariat would be retired to stud and 15 years later he became very sick and died. His autopsy revealed that his heart weighed over 22 pounds instead of the normal 11 pounds or so like most racehorses. Everybody ended up loving Secretariat. He was a winner. He was named "Horse of the Year" twice. Most people believe that he was the best racehorse to ever step on the track. And now everyone loved him. As I said earlier, "Everyone loves a winner". It is easy to love a winner. But is it possible to love a loser just as much? (to be continued) Happy Father's Day!!! Jim Morrison

Notes of Thanks

Appalachia Service Project

Hannah and I volunteered at ASP's year-round center in Jonesville, Virginia in Lee County. We arrived on Sunday, April 16 and served as Helping Hands through the week, departing for home on Saturday, April 22.

Our week of volunteering included three days of

center support: painting, inventory of kitchen and dining area, sorting items in the supply building, inventory of lumber and cleanup, and other odd jobs to help with the transition to summer staff and volunteers' arrival in May.



Our work for the other two days included installation of J channel to prepare a trailer for y

to prepare a trailer for vinyl siding. This channel was installed around all windows and doors and corner pieces around the corners of the trailer. Hannah and I worked alone on this project but enjoyed working with another all-adult crew from Pennsylvania that was working inside to install new flooring. We also bonded with the family and the family's youngest daughter, Harper. She is pictured with Hannah in several photos. We ate lunch together and

Hannah spent time pushing her on the swing on several occasions. We really enjoyed our time with the crew from Pennsylvania and spent a great deal

of time with them

talking, playing



cards and a penny game, and going out for ice cream. We ate our meals with them and did chores with them.

Elaine and Hannah [Miller]

"A Special Thank you to the congregation of the Lee First Congregational Church.

Hello, my name is Joan Bertelli. I am a friend of Sandy Cozzaglio. My name is on your prayer list due to a diagnosis in August 2021 of breast cancer. I am now in recovery having finished all of my treatments in January 2023.

I belong to Berkshire Community Church, a Congregational Church located in Richmond MA. We are very small in numbers but firmly believe in the power of prayer. I cannot express how much all of your prayers have meant to me in this journey. I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart.

God Bless All of You, Joan"

Community Meals

Thank you to all who helped with this year's community meals!

Cristina Markham, ServSafe Representative

Oak N Spruce/Holiday Inn Laurel Lake Assisted Living

St Mary's Youth Group

Community Internship Program

Kiwanis Club of Lee Lions Club of Lee

Tri-town Rotary
The Junketts Band
Shirley Bleston
Tim Hill
Judy Morehouse
Judy Olds

Big Y
Tom Kinne
Sarah DelSignor
Ellen Krupka
Margy Ohman
Tari Roosa

Ann Sterlin Fran & Susan Stone

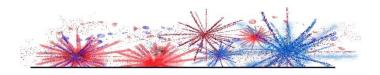
Dave & Margaret Markham



Rain or shine! *Vendor spaces still available:* 413.243.1033 https://ucc-lee.org/craft-fair/

Also looking for volunteers the day of the fair to help with misc. odd jobs.

Please speak to Tari in the church office.





UNSUNG MUSIC HEROES

Many thanks to Jim Morrison and his choirs and Judy Olds and her handbell choir.

The congregation was treated to a special service on May 14th - Under the Sea - as they walked into a transformed sanctuary of water creatures suspended about their heads and the handbell choir performing the water themed music for this service. Judy volunteers her time to rehearse the handbells on a weekly basis with community members who also volunteer their time. They have performed at Berkshire Museum, West Stockbridge and North Adams in addition to giving concerts here at the church throughout the year.

Jim has two choirs that he works with: those who come week after week to lift their voices in song for the Sunday morning service and those who participate in the 'Sound of the Seasons' holiday concert. All the singers and musicians volunteer their time to better serve this church's mission.

A special thanks to Maria Colli, Jim's 'right hand' who helps him with all the 'behind the scenes' duties throughout the year.



Congratulations to:

Raeanne Hickson (former youth and ASP member) who graduates from Lee High School on June 3rd and plans on becoming an EMT.

Rebecca (Martin) McCune (granddaughter of the late Joan and Henry Zukowski) will graduate from the Uniformed Services Health University System Medical School on May 20th. She will receive her MD degree and be promoted to captain on this day. Following graduation, she will be assigned to Brooks Medical Center in San Antonio TX to do her residency in Emergency Medicine.

Gardening Request:

Looking for 4 to 5 volunteers to share in the weeding and maintaining of the 2 flower beds in the



Church Courtyard and also the flower bed in the front of the church for the period of June thru October.

This can be done on your own time.

Two (2) volunteers can share the maintenance of the flower bed next to the Memorial Hall and two (2) volunteers can share the maintenance of the flower bed along the metal/marble fencing facing the parking lot. One (1) volunteer can weed and maintain the flower bed in front of the church. To sign up, please contact Tari in the Church Office. Ellen Krupka will coordinate the garden maintenance plan with the volunteers. Thank you, Ellen



od's people First Congregational Church of Lee Prayer Ministry



Bible verse of the month: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of sound mind." I Timothy 1: verse 7.

The Prayer Ministry meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:30am in the Parlor to pray for each person whose name appears below. Everyone is invited to participate in this Prayer Ministry. Please take this prayer sheet home with you and remember those listed in your personal devotions.

If you have names for the prayer list, complete the request form and place in offering plate or submit to the church office. Names remain on the prayer list for two months unless otherwise advised.

WE PRAY FOR

Our Friends and Neighbors

Colleen Adams (mother-in-law of Brian Matarazzo)

Rev. Dawn Adams (friend of Cherryl Beeman)

Gloria and John Arnold (members of church)

Pat Bracco (friend of Laura O'Shaughnessy)

Carol Bugley (daughter of Robert Bugley)

Jill Cozzaglio (daughter of Sandra Cozzaglio)

Margie Farnham (sister of Judy Morehouse and Marilyn

Fennelly)

Isabel Fassell (member of church)

Janice Fassell (daughter of Isabel Fassell)

Mary Franchere (relative of Ruth Melbourne)

Ray Gangloff (friend of church)

Julie Gian (friend of Jim Morrison)

Christine Hamilton (friend of Barbara Mahony)

James Harwood (brother-in-law of Denise Harwood)

Johnny Harwood (family member of Denise Harwood)

Mike Jordan (friend of Tari Roosa)

Michael Koperek (friend of Jill and Dave Topham)

Andrea Lalor Kosowsky (friend of Sandra Cozzaglio)

Raven Livingston (friend of Amanda Schenker)

Lexi Lloyd (member of church)

Loralei (friend of Judy Morehouse)

Yannette and Thomas Lucas (friends of church)

Chris Ludwig (mother of Jessica Drenga)

Betty Massidda (friend of Ruth Melbourne)

Judy McNutt (member of church)

Joyce and Paul Monachina (members of church)

Terri Moore (friend of church)

Katherine Muchergee (daughter of Joyce and Paul

Monachina)

Rochelle O'Gorman (friend of Monda Driscoll,

Melissa and Karl Myers)

David Ohman (son of Conrad and Margaret Ohman)

Judy Quakenbush (cousin of Ellen Krupka)

Suzanne Sheaffer (cousin of Dave and Margaret Markham)

Jean Spalinger (member of church)

David Stone (member of church)

Brody Tackus (grandson of Isabel Fassell)

Jessica Terbush (daughter of Jay Terbush)

Lainey Thomas (great niece of Ellen Krupka)

Brian Tillotson (brother of Larry Tillotson and friend of church)

(updated 5.18.23)

Donna Toomey (friend of Peg Biron)

Eileen Torraca (friend of Laura O'Shaughnessy)

Susan Tucker (member of church)

Trevor Tucker (grandson of Nancy Tucker)

Robert Wespiser (friend of church)

Jane Maroni Williams (relative of Sheila Maroni)

Debby Wright (friend of Wanda Klahn)

Sympathy

Extended to the family of Becky Bliven Extended to the family of Marie Brazee Extended to the family of DeeDee Fraser Extended to the family of James T. Jones Extended to the family of Claire Way

Our Friends and Members at Care Facilities: Barbara MacNayr and Hank Wingate (Landing at Laurel Lake), Nancy Tucker (Harbor House, Hingham, MA.)

Our Church: My prayer and yearning for this church is (please fill in the blank) Cara Davis and family, our staff, our congregation, ministries, Council, children around the world supported by our church.

Our Local Community: For those who are in need of employment, food, shelter, financial assistance, friendship.

Our Country: For our citizens and our elected officials to have the courage to carry out the message of the gospel of Jesus to trust in God's love to overcome all fears and hatreds; to bring justice to refugees, undocumented immigrants, unaccompanied minors, veterans, the unemployed, and all persons in need.

All Those Who Serve & Protect: Military, police, fire fighters, EMS, and their families.

Our World: For the victims and their families of Covid-19 pandemic, victims of persecution based on sexual orientation and identity, people displaced by ethnic violence, all who are suffering the results of catastrophic climate change, and all those whose lives are affected by war.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 11:30am Special Church Meeting - Carpeting	7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	30	31 3:00pm Lee Chamber Founders Meeting	1 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	2 9:00am BRIDGE food distribution 9:30am M&M meeting 11:00am Pilgrim's Way 5:30pm Kitchen Rental	3 8:00am AA SOS 10:00am Farmer's Market
4 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service & Communion 11:30am Coffee Hour		6 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	7 10:00am Book Study	7:00pm Book Study 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	9 7:30pm Roberta Donnay & Prohibition Mob Band	8:00am AA SOS 10:00am Farmer's Market 11:30am Free Jazz in the Park 7:30pm Alexis Cole & Amherst Jazz Orch
11 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour		13 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	14 10:00am Book Study	11:00am Prayer Ministry 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:00pm Book Study 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	16 9:00am BRIDGE food distribution 11:00am Pilgrim's Way 5:30pm Kitchen Rental	17 8:00am AA SOS 10:00am Farmer's Market
18 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour	7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	20 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry LIMITED	21 10:00am Book Study 7:00pm Council Meeting OFFICE HOURS	7:00pm Book Study 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	23 5:30pm Kitchen Rental	8:00am AA SOS 9:30am Food Pantry 10:00am Farmer's Market
25 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour	26 Messenger articles due into office 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	27	28 10:00am Book Study	29 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:00pm Book Study 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	30 9:00am BRIDGE food distribution 5:30pm Kitchen Rental	1 8:00am AA SOS 10:00am Farmer's Market

If you have a meeting/event to schedule, or would like to rent space, contact the church office.

The Summer Messenger will consist of both July and August events. Articles are due into the church office on Mon, June 26th. Please plan accordingly.

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am-12:30pm;

Worship Attendance including (Facebook viewings):

April 30 - 49 (106); May 7 - 63 (136); May 14 - 84 (108); May 21 - **55** (92)

Earth Angels Golf Tournament: Wed, July 12. See Tari for more info

Daily Lectionary Readings: https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/

Berkshire Gateway Preservation, Inc. has been selected again by the Store Leadership Team at Big Y. As you know, this means that your organization will receive \$1 from every \$2.50 reusable Community Bag sold during the month of June 2023 at: Big Y, 10 Pleasant Street, Lee MA

