



# The 2023 Messenger

# September

## Pastor's Post

September is a time of transition, the dying back of summer. Sweet grass drying in the afternoon sun, wild grapes crushed by the side of the road as I walk. The air begins to cool and then to crisp near nightfall.

Next to April when the earth hums with promise and the air is filled with the tenderness of new life, September is my favorite month. Opposite April, September's earth is wizened, ripe, reluctant to give up its sweetness. Vees of geese squawk overhead. Why, even the trees scream their colors as they let go a last hurrah! How I wish I could read the earth the way our ancestors did! Signs of time, of seasons, the rhythms of life, of work, of play, of love.

Calendars and week-at-a-glance appointment books just don't do it for me. And I expect they don't do it for you, either. Nevertheless, out they come because soon 'it' starts. School and after-school activities. Work deadlines. One last do-it-yourself project crammed in before winter. Schedules fill up. Catalogs fill your mailbox, and holiday decorations begin to creep down from the attic.

I encourage you to take the next few weeks to savor this precious transition time. Sit in a golden meadow and watch the migrating birds descend to a cleared field of corn. See them scavenge busily, then, as if someone sounded an alarm, lift off. At once and all together.

Go out on a starlit night and listen to the sound of darkness, or some morning when you take your youngster to school, linger for a minute to see your child in a moment when they are really children.

See if September doesn't turn some of your values and beliefs inside out, if somewhere in the color and the sweetness and the really real of life, you don't hear the still small voice of God, loving on you. Take your time with September. It's for you, from God.

*Blessings, Cara*

### Pastoral Search Committee

We are in conversation with a candidate that we are very interested in having become our settled pastor. The process is unfolding smoothly but is a bit time consuming. Thank you for your continued prayer support as we move forward. Olivia Tousignant Kuhn and Garth Story, Co-Chairs  
Carol Blakeslee, Margaret Markham, Melissa Myers, Elaine Scott

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*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



Reverend Cara Davis, Bridge Pastor; Jim Morrison, Music Director  
Jason Matthews, Sexton, Tari Wheeler Roosa, Administrative Assistant  
First Congregational Church of Lee, United Church of Christ, 25 Park Place, PO Box 395, Lee, MA 01238  
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## CARPET PROJECT UPDATE

We wanted to give everyone an update on the carpet project:

As you will notice in church, several pews have been removed. The only changes to what was agreed to in May are the removal of two additional pews on the right side of the sanctuary and maintaining the pews on the far-left side of the sanctuary. The two pews on the right side along with the two pews on the left side of the sanctuary give us a total of four handicapped accessible spaces and makes us compliant with ADA guidelines. It was also decided, by all concerned parties, that bell-foam storage would not be in a special cabinet in the sanctuary, therefore eliminating the need for removing additional pews.

There are several areas where the carpets are pieced together with duct tape. Please avoid walking in those areas if possible. The new carpet installation is scheduled for mid-October.

Thank you to all of those who helped us get to this point.

Dave Markham, Chair of Facility & Finance



Another very successful school supply drive has been completed.

Cristina, Wyatt, Josie and Travis Markham delivered the supplies to Lee Elementary School last week.

Wyatt even donated 10% of his summer earnings for the school supplies.

Thank you to all who participated. You're the Best!

## Diaconate News

Most of you have heard the term deacon, but what does a deacon do? Does our church have deacons? Who are they? In this article I would like to give you an understanding of the term deacon. Deacon means servant, or to serve. Biblical qualifications for the appointment of the deacon are specified in Acts 6:3 as "men/women of honest report, full of The Holy Spirit and wisdom." The office of deacon is not an honorary one. Rather, deacons are set apart to serve. In fact, when we see deacons first introduced in the scripture above, service was precisely their function. They are to care for the physical or temporal concerns of the church. The By-laws of our church, the First Congregational Church of Lee, Massachusetts say the following:

Deacons are elected by the congregation. Deacons serve the mission and ministry of the congregation. In cooperation with the pastor, they will assist with the sacramental and spiritual activities of the church. In addition, they will offer care and attention to persons at times of special need. Collectively, the deacons may be called the Diaconate.

Some of the functions of our deacons are serving communion on the first Sunday of each month and for special occasions and attending memorial services and passing out programs and supporting the family. At baptisms a deacon stands with the family and gives them the baptismal certificate. When we have someone join the church, a deacon extends the hand of friendship. We are available at all other church events and off-site events when needed. We are not only here to support and serve the congregation, but to serve the needs and requests of the pastor.

It is a privilege for me to introduce you to the deacons that currently serve our church with dedication and have hearts of service and love for you, our congregation.

Susan Stone, Danna Snow, Ellen Krupka, Jane Gleason, Tim Martin and Mike Powell. Although each has specific duties, their main duty is to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Scott, Diaconate Chair

## Mission & Ministry News

**Heifer Project Update:** Our collection this year was doubled by a grant from an organization to Heifer making our contribution \$3,140.14. Later donations of \$625 brought the grand total to \$3,765.14 What a great job!

**Prayer Ministries:** Last fall, we added the name of a newborn to the prayer list. Lainey is the grand niece of Ellen Krupka. She was born with a lower spinal problem. She received several treatments very early in her life along with lots of prayers. Today she is meeting all her milestones of growth and thriving with no evidence of deficiencies. We received an appreciative note from her mother. Mom also has a prayer shawl. Ellen keeps us updated with progress photos. We never know the impact our prayers and kindnesses mean to others.

**Coffee Hour:** We are looking for people to serve as 'host' on a given Sunday. This entails bringing a simple food item to share with others. Coffee is provided, but it needs to be set up along with the paper goods. We are willing to train as needed. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board just as you enter the office wing. Please consider signing up for one or two weeks. Remember, many hands make light work. You may contact Wanda Klahn or the church office if you have any questions.

**Updated website:** Our website has been refurbished with a sorely-needed update! Take a look: [www.ucc-lee.org](http://www.ucc-lee.org). Many thanks to Erin Murphy who did a great job at a reasonable price. We are drafting tech wizards Wyatt Markham and Dorian Ramirez to help with ongoing maintenance.

**Green Church:** We are working towards becoming a greener church. We will have more information in the coming months. In the meantime, please consider recycling your Sunday morning bulletins. You can leave them on the back table or shelf by the speaker as you head out to the community room.

## Message from Dorothy Phillips, outgoing M&M Chair:

Many of you know that I moved to upstate New York from the Berkshires this spring. That I must leave this wonderful church behind is a very sad consequence of my move. It has been my great privilege to chair the Mission & Ministry committee for the past year and a half. I am confident that the spirit and commitment of this dedicated group will sustain M&M in my absence. But I'd like to reiterate an appeal to those who are not part of M&M to take a closer look at the committee and think about becoming part of it. Members of this important committee share a deep commitment to each other, to the love of God, and to work that shares God's message of love, compassion, and justice. Talk to someone on the committee, come to just one meeting to find out what M&M is all about, and see if you discover what I found: an opportunity to live out your Christian faith in community, whether within the church, in the local community, or globally. It was an enriching and deeply meaningful experience for me, and I will greatly miss the rewarding work and loving fellowship of this wonderful group.

**Food Pantry** items continue to be in great demand. If you are out shopping and can pick up an item or two, it would be greatly appreciated.

laundry detergent, dish soap, paper towels, feminine products, adult pull-ups, shampoo, cooking oil, and flour

Financial donations are also welcome. Note 'food pantry' on checks.

**Meditative Nature Walks:** Several people are starting to gather for nature walks around the area on Wednesday mornings. Our next walk will be at Parson's Marsh at 170 Undermountain Rd in Lenox on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. We will meet there at 10am. The walk is short and very accessible for all. There are benches to sit on. Bring your binoculars, sit and watch the birds. Walks will continue each Wednesday after that until further notice.

## From our Treasurer Jane Gleason

Below is our income and expenditures through August 30, 2023

<b>Financial Recap through August 30, 2023</b>		
	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>Budgeted YTD</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Pledges & Donations	\$82,877.00	\$89,672.00
Fundraisers	\$ 4,558.00	\$ 7,672.00
Rental Income	\$10,480.00	\$12,000.00
Missions & Misc.	\$ 2,377.00	\$ 1,328.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 2,680.00	\$ 664.00
Investment Transfer	\$ 0.00	\$13,336.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$102,972.00</b>	<b>\$124,672.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Payroll & Benefits	\$64,602.00	\$92,848.00
Facilities & Finance	\$23,029.00	\$28,320.00
Mission & Ministry	\$11,386.00	\$13,520.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$99,017.00</b>	<b>\$134,688.00</b>

### From the Moderator

The Facility and Finance Committee has expanded and clarified the church building and property usage policy. An email was sent out August 18<sup>th</sup> with the policy attached. Hard copies are available in the church office. If you haven't already done so, please read through this new policy and send your thoughts to Cristina Markham or the church office by September 15.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.

### Church Dinner Fundraiser

Our first two suppers raised over \$2,000. Thank you to everyone who donated food items, cooked, helped set up, serve, and clean up. We have one more dinner scheduled – Ham with Baked Beans, Potato Salad & Apple Crisp – on Founders Day Weekend on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Your participation in these events is greatly appreciated. If you are interested in helping with the remaining dinner, please contact Jane Gleason at 413-269-4094, [jgleason954@verizon.net](mailto:jgleason954@verizon.net).



HAM and APPLE CRISP

Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm is our next Church Supper Fundraiser

Doors open at 5:00 pm

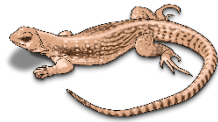
Adults: \$15, Youth (ages 5-11) \$7, Under 5: Free



# A BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 1, 2023

2:00 P.M. in the Park



All pets are welcome.

Dogs must be on leashes.

All other pets must be caged or crated.

You can also bring a picture of your pet.

**Sponsored by the First Congregational Church of Lee, MA**



## From the Music Director

Summer does fly by for me. But even though it goes by so fast, it was a very busy summer here at the church. The decisions were made on finding storage space for the Handbells and all

of the associated equipment such as stands, lights, music and lots of foam pads. And of course, after much discussion, a consensus was reached on the necessary steps to take to make the church truly handicapped accessible, while keeping modifications to a minimum. Now the church is ready for the brand-new carpet to be installed in the near future. And if that wasn't enough, the committee assigned to finding a new pastor has been busy working in the background and making good progress.

I want to thank everyone for all the well wishes on the occasion of my 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. My grandmother always told me how fast life goes by, and she was right. When some people looked at some wedding photos of us, they said that I looked like a little kid. They were right despite the fact I was just shy of 21 years old. Main reason is I had

hair then and I still was wearing boy's size 18 clothes. Most kids grow out of that size in grammar school. I would stay very small until I turned 40. Didn't get taller, but I certainly got wider. But again, thank you all for your comments.

Finally, I have to commend my choir for once again singing all summer when almost every other choir takes it off. I am very lucky to get to work with these people. Also, thank you to Maria and Judy for all of the stuff that they do in the background. They save me a few hours of work every week. And if they are ever both out on the same Sunday, Tari usually chips in. Special thanks to Dorothy Phillips for deciding to continue coming on Sundays throughout September. I know it is a long ride from her new home, but it is appreciated. I also want to thank Dorothy for filling in for me for a couple of Sundays later this year. It is so nice knowing I have a very qualified person to fill in for me when needed.

So, I hope that you all had a great summer, and now we can look forward to the fall and the new carpet!

Happy Labor Day everyone!

*Jim Morrison*

[www.ucc-lee.org](http://www.ucc-lee.org)

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**Craft Fair in the Park:** Thank you to all who helped and attended the craft fair. We raised over \$2,000 and had 42 vendors in attendance along with the Farmer's Market Vendors.

Thank you to the following who helped in some way with the fair: Carol Blakeslee, Dorothy D'Elia, Jane Gleason, Wanda Klahn, Josie Markham, Margy Ohman, Laura O'Shaughnessy, Cara Davis, Nate & Gabriella Buller, Garth & Karen Story, Boy Scout Troop #1003, and the Eagles Community Band Trombone Ensemble.

Dorothy Phillips & Tari Roosa, co-chairs



Holiday Craft Group meets every other Thursday from 12 – 3 pm in the community room. All that is needed is the desire to help. You do not need to be crafty.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Charlotte (Charleigh) Marie Gaherty daughter of Jordan (Miller) & Corey Gaherty was born on Mon, July 24 at 3am. She was 7lbs. 4oz. and 20 inches long. Grandparents are: Jerry and Elaine Miller; Great-Grandparents are: Ray and Judy Morehouse



Hannah Miller & Paul Boutiette were joined in marriage on Sun, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hannah is the daughter of Jerry and Elaine Miller and granddaughter of Ray and Judy Morehouse. Yes, it was a very busy couple of days for this family!



Condolences to the family of Patricia Hill who passed away on Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. We will certainly miss her infectious smile and energy. Her obituary can be found at: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/search>



## First Congregational Church of Lee Prayer Ministry

*Bible verse of the month:*

“If any of you lack Wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.” James 1: verses 5-6.

*The Prayer Ministry meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:00 am 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 submit to the church office. Names remain on the prayer list for two months unless otherwise advised.

(updated 8.31.23)

### WE PRAY FOR

#### Our Friends and Neighbors

Colleen Adams (mother-in-law of Brian Matarazzo)  
Rev. Dawn Adams (friend of Cheryl Beeman)  
Gloria and John Arnold (members of church)  
Pat Belba (friend of Barbara Mahony)  
Jen Benoit (friend of Jill & Dave Topham)  
Pat Bracco (friend of Laura O'Shaughnessy)  
Carol Bugley (daughter of Robert Bugley)  
Robert Bugley (friend of church)  
Donna Carnavale (friend of Sandra Cozzaglio and Barbara Mahony)  
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)  
Carol Kerwin (sister of Margaret Markham)  
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)  
Peter Ludwig (husband of Rev. Ludwig)  
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)  
Donna Toomey (friend of Peg Biron)  
Eileen Torraca (friend of Laura O'Shaughnessy)  
Madelyn Tremblay (member of church)  
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 Patricia Hill  
Extended to the family of Jim Jones.  
Extended to the family of Sarah Lucy  
Extended to the family of Norman Vreeland

#### 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.

# SEPTEMBER

The First Congregational Church of Lee, 413-243-1033, on the web: [www.ucc-lee.org](http://www.ucc-lee.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour	<b>28</b> Messenger articles due into office 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00am Book Study-Learning to Pray	<b>31</b> 12:00pm Craft Group 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	<b>1</b> 9:30am M&M meeting 11:00am Pilgrim's Way 5:30pm Kitchen Rental	<b>2</b> Art Show in the Park 8:00am AA SOS 10:00am Farmer's Market
<b>3</b> Art Show in the Park 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service & Communion 11:30am Coffee Hour	<b>4</b> 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	<b>5</b> 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>6</b> 10:00am Book Study-Learning to Pray	<b>7</b> 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	<b>8</b> 2:00pm Rehearsal Dinner 5:30pm Kitchen Rental	<b>9</b> 8:00am AA SOS 10:00am Farmer's Market
<b>10</b> 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour	<b>11</b> 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	<b>12</b> 3pm Bible Study at Story's	<b>13</b> 10am Walk Parson's Marsh, 170 Undermountain Rd, Lenox	<b>14</b> 12:00pm Craft Group 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	<b>15</b> Lee Founders Weekend 11:00am Pilgrim's Way 5:30pm Kitchen Rental	<b>16</b> Lee Founders Weekend 8:00am AA SOS 10:00am Farmer's Market 5:30pm Church Supper Fundraiser
<b>17</b> Lee Founders Weekend 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 11:30am Diaconate Meeting	<b>18</b> 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	<b>19</b> 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 3pm Bible Study at Story's	<b>20</b> 10am Walk TBA 7:00pm Facility & Finance Meeting	<b>21</b> 11:00am Prayer Ministry 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	<b>22</b> 5:30pm Kitchen Rental	<b>23</b> 8:00am AA SOS 9:30am Food Pantry 10:00am Farmer's Market
<b>24</b> 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 6:00pm Hand Bell Rehearsal	<b>25</b> Messenger articles due into office 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	<b>26</b> 3pm Bible Study at Story's	<b>27</b> 10am Walk TBA	<b>28</b> 12:00pm Craft Group 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	<b>29</b> 5:30pm Kitchen Rental	<b>30</b> 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.

## Worship Attendance including in-person attendance and Facebook

July 2 – 62/107; 9 – 65/82; 16 – 46/108; 23 – 63/78, 30 – 46/130

Aug 6 – 58/77; 13 – 61/93; 20 – 58/100, 27 – 61/80

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

## Wildcat Main Street Mile

Saturday, September 16 at 10:00 AM

The race will occur prior to Founder's Day Parade.

All proceeds to benefit the Lee Middle High School Cross Country Team.

<https://racewire.com/register.php?id=13745>