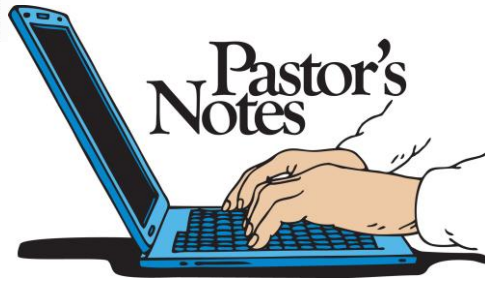


The 2023 Messenger



Look how much you have done in these few short months of summer!

Your **Mission and Ministry Committee** has updated the Safe Church Policy with a new Non-Harassment Policy. Several of you enjoyed a dinner out in the homes of our church friends. The prayer ministries have met monthly. We've had two book studies and three fundraising dinners! A most successful Heifer Project campaign followed by an equally successful drive for school supplies. A Craft Fair, and Holiday craft-making getting underway. And as if that isn't enough, we added something new: Wednesday Walks around the Berkshires. Whew!

The **Facility and Finance Committee** has been equally busy planning and preparing for the new carpet. Coming soon! Promise! F and F is also working on a safe exit plan from the sanctuary in the event of an emergency and has created a building use and signage policy that will act as a guideline for consistency and fairness. Your moderator and F and F Chair met with the Lee Town Manager, and there is now a written agreement of the partnership between town and church on the use and maintenance of the park and parking lot.

Church Council has developed a succession plan for church leaders, talked through a process for recruiting and nominating church leaders, and a Stewardship Campaign is getting underway.

Since Rev. Dr. Jay left, your **Search Committee** has been quietly working all these months interviewing prospective candidates. What an amazing group of faithful people with their ear to the heart of this congregation, and eyes on numerous ministerial profiles! At the time of this writing, they are so very close to introducing to you an exceptional candidate for settled Minister. Watch for the news. YAY!

So many to thank for all this good and faithful work and too many to try to name. But you know who they are: all of you! Thank you all. Thank you! Thank you!

Blessings Cara

CARPET PROJECT UNSUNG HEROS Installation Oct 16 – 27

The sanctuary carpet is scheduled for installation during the final two weeks of October. This was a dream of past member Joan Zukowski and her children, who started us off with a generous donation to jumpstart the project. Thank you to Ellen Krupka, John Arnold, Garth Story, Nate & Leda Buller, Dave Markham, Tim Martin, Josh Topham, Charles VanAusdall, Mike Powell, Jane Gleason, Cristina & Wyatt Markham, Tim Hill, Jim Morrison, Judy Olds and Cara Davis who have worked so hard to plan and prepare the sanctuary for the new carpet.

"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



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
413.243.1033 | ucclee@verizon.net | www.ucc-lee.org |
<https://www.facebook.com/people/Lee-Congregational-Church-UCC/100064862763537/>

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Sending this update to let you know that we are continuing to make good, steady forward progress on having a new Settled Pastor for our beloved church community. The process is well underway and we have had covenant-focused conversations with our favorite candidate.

According to our bylaws, the Settled Pastoral Search Committee must unanimously recommend a new pastor to be voted on at a congregational meeting during a Candidating Weekend.

Please mark your calendars! -- If all continues to go as planned we expect that our candidate will be here for Candidating Weekend on **Saturday November 4th & Sunday 5th**

- On Saturday from 2:00-4:00pm we will have a Meet and Greet with treats for all. This unstructured time will give you a chance to ask the candidate questions if desired.
- Overnight is daylight savings time! Make sure to set those clocks back one hour.
- On Sunday November 5th the candidate will lead our worship service!
Soon after the church service is our congregational meeting to vote together on whether, as a congregation, we are welcoming this individual as our new Settled Pastor.
- If the vote is yes, the plan is for the Settled Pastor to begin leading worship in December 2023, as we head into Advent Season together!

We are honored that the congregation voted us to serve You on this committee, and we are confident that our chosen candidate was brought to us through divine intervention. Thank you all for your patience and respect for our mutual search process over the past 12 months.

We will keep you apprised as soon as we can share more!

Garth (co-chair), Olivia (co-chair), Carol, Elaine, Margaret, & Melissa
Settled Pastor Search Committee (SPSC)
UCC Lee, MA

Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 1st, 2:00pm



Our pets are a blessing to us—let's ask God's blessing on them!

Blessings by animal lover
Rev. Cara Davis
In the park, downtown Lee

Lee Congregational Church, UCC

Dogs must be on leashes; all other animals must be caged or crated. Photos OK too!

Pet photos also welcome.

All pets are welcome.

Dogs must be on leashes.

All other pets must be crated.

From the Treasurer

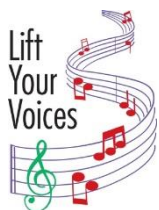
Below is our income and expenditures through September 15, 2023

Financial Recap through September 15, 2023		
	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD
Income		
Pledges & Donations	\$86,154.00	\$100,881.00
Fundraisers	\$5,494.00	\$8,631.00
Rental Income	\$11,005.00	\$13,500.00
Missions & Misc.	\$2,193.00	\$1,494.00
Memorial Donations	\$2,780.00	\$747.00
Investment Transfer	\$0.00	15,003.00
Total Income	\$107,626.00	\$140,256.00
Expenses		
Payroll & Benefits	\$67,949.00	\$104,454.00
Facility & Finance	\$26,471.00	\$31,860.00
Mission & Ministry	\$11,943.00	\$15,210.00
Total Expenses	\$106,363.00	\$151,524.00

CHURCH SUPPER FUNDRAISER UNSUNG HEROS

Our September Church Supper raised a net total of \$1,273.00 bringing the total for all three dinners to \$3,159.00. These dinners were a total church effort and we want to thank everyone who participated in any way – supplying ingredients, setting up tables, waitressing, clearing, lifting heavy pans in and out of the ovens and cleaning up after the dinner.

We especially want to thank Jane Gleason, Wanda Klahn, Ellen Krupka and Margy Ohman for prepping, cooking and serving all three meals and to Bill Klahn and Garth Story for washing dishes.



From the Music Director

Well this will be an exciting month for our church. By the time the next newsletter is due, we will have beautiful new carpet that will smell

great, look great, and my guess is that it will help with the acoustics being new. I heard everyone is going to have to wipe their feet before entering?? OK, so I really didn't hear that. But I did hear that everyone may have to remove their shoes?? OK, so I didn't hear that either. What I did hear was a lot of people doing everything they could to make this project run smoothly with the best outcome possible. There has been lots of discussion, opinions, debate and finally consensus. Many, many hours have been spent by everyone, and now for me, it is time to support all of the final decisions that were made even if I might not have agreed with some. At the end of the day, the carpet is going to add beauty to this sanctuary, and we can now truthfully say that our facility is handicapped accessible. Thanks to all for your dedication to this and ALL projects and fundraisers.

So I had the first band rehearsal for Christmas about two weeks ago. Singers should start on October 10th if I am ready. Every year at this time I question whether or not I have another year left in me? But I have committed so please mark your calendars for Friday December 15th and Saturday December 16th. As always without you in the audience there would not be a concert at all.

Today, Cara talked about colors so we did a couple of songs that we have never done from the late '60s. One was by a band called "Chicago", and the other by a young British singer named Petula Clark. It was fun doing those 2 numbers. If I had time to teach it, I would have loved to do a song from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* which stated ALL of the colors in the coat. We could have at least used books with the words, but when I did this play at St. Joe's, those kids had to memorize

them, IN ORDER. So in case you are not aware of this song, The song, "Joseph's Coat", lists all the coat's colors: **red, yellow, green, brown, scarlet, black, ochre, peach, ruby, olive, violet, fawn, lilac, gold, chocolate, mauve, cream, crimson, silver, rose, azure, lemon, russet, grey, purple, white, pink, orange and blue.** That would have been somewhat of a challenge for the choir WITH the music, but it was definitely a huge challenge for the kids. And trust me there were MANY variations of that during rehearsals. Those kids were coming up with words that were not even colors. But I promise you that I cracked up laughing every rehearsal just listening to them. Someday I hope to do the play in church with the choir. It just takes a lot of work and a lot of time. But I do love the play, so maybe?

In closing, I want to thank Dorothy Phillips for all the wonderful things that she did for this church, including serving on multiple committees, singing in the choir, singing in the Christmas Angels Chorus, and for being my back-up when I was on vacation. The good news is that she is still willing to be my back-up, even from Saratoga. So you will all see her the Sunday after Thanksgiving and the Sunday after Christmas. God Bless you, Dorothy, and wherever you end up they will be lucky to have you. We will all miss you.

Happy Halloween, everyone!

Jim Morrison

OUT OF THE OFFICE NOTICE:

Please make note that Rev. Cara Davis is away Mon, Oct 9 – Mon, Oct 16.

Rev. Janet McKinstry will lead the service on Sun, Oct 15.

Tari is out of the office Wed, Oct 11 – Wed, Oct 18. The office will be open for limited hours on Thurs, Oct 12 and Tues, Oct 17. Please call ahead.



A heartfelt thank you to my wonderful church family for such a lovely send-off after worship on Sunday. Thank you for the gifts and for your good wishes. But thank you most of all for your Christian love, generosity and fellowship these past 10 years. Your warm welcome and the church's spirit-filled ministries brought me into a new understanding and appreciation of God's loving and compassionate presence and taught me the transformative power of grace. Thank you for these priceless gifts. I will miss you all very much. May God bless and keep you all, Dorothy Phillips

Thanksgiving Food Collection We will have a special collection of non-perishable food items for the food pantry the beginning of November. In the meantime, here are some items that are in great demand, many of which cannot be purchased with food stamps. <http://ucc-lee.org/lee-food-pantry/>

ITEMS THAT ARE IN GREATEST DEMAND

- Toilet paper
 - Paper towels
 - Cake soap
 - Dish washing liquid
 - Toothpaste, Deodorant
 - Laundry detergent
 - Pet food
 - Cooking oil
 - Flower
 - Sugar
- Also: Baby diapers and wipes are always in demand



Contemplative Walk at Parson's Marsh 9/20



Light Path



Sharing a prayer

Chapel Open House for Church on the Hill, Lenox

On Thursday, October 12, 4-7 PM, Church on the Hill will host an Open House to celebrate their newly spruced up Chapel at 55 Main St, Lenox and to honor the time and talent donated by so many, first and foremost the Chapel Steering Committee.



Please come and spread the word to any and all who might have use for the rooms we have available for use or rent.



First Congregational Church of Lee Prayer Ministry

Bible verse of the month: "Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.." Psalm 37 verse 8. 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 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

(updated 09.21.23)

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)
Jen Benoit (friend of Jill & Dave Topham)
Gill Biron (husband of Peg Biron)
Pat Bracco (friend of Laura O'Shaughnessy)
Carol Bugley (daughter of Robert Bugley)
Robert Bugley (friend of church)
Elisabeth Carman (cousin of Sandra Cozzaglio)
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)
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)

Amanda Schenker (member of church)
Suzanne Sheaffer (cousin of Dave and Margaret Markham)
Susan Sikorski (friend of Tari Roosa)
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)
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.

OCTOBER

The First Congregational Church of Lee, 413-243-1033, on the web: www.ucc-lee.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service & Communion 11:30am Coffee Hour 2:00pm Blessing of the Animals 6:00pm Hand Bell Rehearsal	2 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	3 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	4 10:00am Contemplative Walk at Kennedy Park, 275 Main St, Lenox	5 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	6 9:30am M&M meeting	7 8:00am AA SOS 10:00am Farmer's Market
8 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 6:00pm Hand Bell Rehearsal	9 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	10	11 Church Office Closed	12 Church Office Open 12:00pm Craft Group 5:30pm Search Committee-Parlor 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	13 Church Office Closed	14 8:00am AA SOS
15 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service with Janet McKinstry 11:30am Coffee Hour 6:00pm Hand Bell Rehearsal	16 Church Office Closed carpet install 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	17 Church Office Open carpet install 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	18 Church Office Closed carpet install 10:00am Walk 7:00pm Council Meeting	19 Church Office Open carpet install 11:00am Prayer Ministry 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	20 carpet install	21 carpet install 8:00am AA SOS
22 carpet install 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 11:30am Diaconate Meeting 6:00pm Hand Bell Rehearsal	23 carpet install Messenger articles due into office 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	24 carpet install 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	25 carpet install 10:00am Walk	26 carpet install 12:00pm Craft Group 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	27 carpet install	28 8:00am AA SOS 9:30am Food Pantry
29 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 6:00pm Hand Bell Rehearsal	30 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	31 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	1 10:00am Walk	2 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	3 9:30am M&M meeting	4 8:00am AA SOS 4:00pm Candidate Meet & Greet

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

Worship Attendance in Person and (Facebook):

Sept 3 – 69 (139); 10 – 56 (73); 17 – 62 (76); 24 – 59 (66)

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

Donate online: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YR7C/home>

Office Hour: Monday - Friday 8:30am-12:30pm

12th Annual Quilt + Art Show & Sale by Belchertown UCC, 18 Park St, Belchertown

Friday and Saturday, October 20 & 21 10am - 6pm; Sunday, October 22 10am – 5 pm

A thousand miles of thread, miniature prints, quilts of Jane Crutchfield, and art of Beverly Johnson; \$5 admission (kids under 12 enter for free)

Sewing tag sale continues thru Saturday, October 28. Fabrics, needlework books, kits, yarn, trims, sewing patterns and whatever else we've rounded up.....

www.buccquiltshowandsale.weebly.com

LENOX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

BOOK SALE

Sat & Sun Oct. 7&8
9am - 5pm

LENOX TOWN HALL

