



The 2023 July/August Messenger



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

Pastor's Piece

Over the years, I have come to believe that hospitality is very much about helping others feel welcome.... welcome in our churches, our homes, and our hearts. But what does welcome mean? On one level, it means we open our doors to a friend or neighbor and offer a cool drink on a hot summer day, friendly conversation or a listening ear. It could also mean a spotless home, a beautiful table and delicious meal. In our church it means we extend an extravagantly open and affirming welcome each Sunday... welcome to our faith family, to our song and prayer, to all our programs and activities, and, of course, the delicious refreshments after worship.



But on another level, hospitality means the creation of safety. Our churches, as well as our homes, are a safe place, a sanctuary for those we welcome. First Congregational Church, Lee is a warm and friendly church. We try to live out Christ's message of love, hope and joy in every way. At the same time, we live in a world that is at times unsafe. It is not fear that calls for prudent safety measures, but love. Like a shepherd who leads the flock to safe pastures, it is the responsibility of your church leaders to make sure this house of worship is safe for all.

With thanks to volunteers from the Finance/Facilities and Mission/Ministry committees a revised Safe Church policy is in the works. It will reflect a prayerful policy with new procedures of preparedness that seek to balance our extravagant welcome with our safety. I know this may mean a few changes, but hopefully these changes will be welcomed!

On another note... I am planning a **mini-Psalm Retreat** toward the end of summer that will include a study of the psalms and an opportunity to write our own psalm. With psalms so creation-centered, I thought it would be nice to hold this outdoors in the cool of the morning (or early evening). Date/time yet to be decided. Also upcoming for those who like to walk/hike, I am planning a weekly opportunity to **walk together**, beginning mid-July. The first walk will be an easy meditative walk around St. Helena's Meditation Meadow (a flat, mown path around a lovely meadow with benches to rest for contemplation or prayer). Other walks will include easy hikes into the woods to enjoy the silence and beauty of nature. You all choose where. Please let me know what regular day and time is best for you. No commitment is necessary, just a wish to walk when and as you are able. We could meet at the church and carpool or meet at the walking site. Whatever works best.

Summer blessings, *Cara*

"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 BY THE FOUNDERS



Rev. Cara Davis, Bridge Minister; Jim Morrison, Music Director;
Tari Wheeler Roosa, Administrative Assistant; Jason Matthews, Sexton

First Congregational Church of Lee, United Church of Christ, 25 Park Place, PO Box 395, Lee, MA 01238
413.243.1033 | uccleechurch@gmail.com | www.ucc-lee.org

Sanctuary Carpet Update

The church recently made the first payment for the carpet and it should be ready for installation in about two and a half months. Prior to that time, there are a variety of tasks that need to be completed using different skill levels and at different times. Please contact Dave Markham or the church office if you can help in any way.

Save the Date Saturday, July 15th at 5:30pm

Our next **Church Supper Fundraiser** is on Saturday, July 15th, featuring Barbecued Chicken, Macaroni Salad, Cole Slaw and Strawberry Shortcake. Your participation in these events is greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in helping with the dinner, please contact Jane Gleason at 413-269-4094, jgleason954@verizon.net.



Prior to the supper, we will provide a list of food items needed to prepare each meal as well as teams needed for cooking, set up, serving and clean-up. Donations of food items and/or your time will help make these events a success. Stay tuned for more information closer to the events.

UNsung FUNDRAISER DINNER HEROS

Jane Gleason is currently our church treasurer, a deacon, co-chair of fundraiser dinners, co-chair of the holiday bazaar, and active in F&F, M&M and Church Council among other smaller groups. She will often graciously step forward when asked to take on a task.

Wanda Klahn is our coffee hour coordinator, co-chair of fundraiser dinners, former craft fair co-chair, prepares meals for the community dinners and works the holiday and craft fairs. She participates in the book study groups bringing new insights to the group.

These are just a few tasks that these two women take on here at the church. Thank you, Jane and Wanda!!

Treasurer's Report

Jane Gleason

Below is our income and expenditures through June 21, 2023

Financial Recap through June 21, 2023		
	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD
Income		
Pledges & Donations	\$63,683.00	\$67,254.00
Fundraisers	\$2,021.00	\$5,754.00
Rental Income	\$6,905.00	\$9,000.00
Missions & Misc.	\$3,933.00	\$996.00
Memorial Donations	\$1,680.00	\$498.00
Investment Transfer	\$0.00	\$10,002.00
Total Income	\$78,222.00	93,504.00
Expenses		
Payroll & Benefits	\$49,392.00	\$69,636.00
Facilities & Finance	\$16,972.00	\$21,240.00
Mission & Ministry	\$7,092.00	\$10,140.00
Total Expenses	\$73,456.00	\$101,016.00

Mission & Ministry

Church Safety:

The safety of this congregation begins with clear policies and swift action for accountability. Within Mission & Ministry, we've formed a sub-committee that is taking steps to close certain gaps in our sexual harassment policy, and we welcome your input! This sub-committee is very short term. We are pushing to create a clear and concise policy quickly, so that every guest and member feels safe, supported and protected. Any and all comments and suggestions are welcome!

Reach out to Cristina Markham or Dorothy Phillips with your ideas, or to attend the next meeting! We look forward to hearing from you!

Mission in Action

Other ways to keep everyone safe:

We live in a world of phones and computers. Our church staff often communicates via email, text or phone to provide information about the workings of this church. Please be watchful for emails, texts or calls that might be fraudulent and do not trust communications (even if they sound legitimate) that ask for personal information, money or gift cards. If you are ever in doubt, send a NEW email to that person or call them on the phone.

Craft Fair in the Park

A reminder that our annual craft fair will be held on Sat., August 12th from 10 am – 4 pm. We are close to capacity for the number of vendors that we can accommodate! Please come and support them. This is a sizable fund raiser for our church.



We will be having a craft table and bake sale in conjunction with the fair. All items must be **prewrapped and labeled** such as 6 cookies in a wrap and label whether 'nuts' or 'no nuts.' **No open food. Please, no gooey foods such as icing since they attract bees.** Items may be left in the kitchen on Friday, August 11th. Questions? Call Wanda at 413-243-3269 or Judy at 413-243-2891.

We are also looking for help at both the church tables, passing out water to the vendors and possibly spelling a vendor if they need a break during the day. Thank you. For questions about the fair itself, ask Tari Roosa at the office 243-1033 or Dorothy Phillips at 413-645-3054.

Tools for Schools: Once again, Mission in Action asks for your participation in collecting school supplies for Lee Elementary School. Many families can't afford the supplies their children need to start school, and this year is particularly difficult for many families. We can help supply the teachers with these items, so their students will have what they need.

The Dollar Store is a great place to shop! If we each pick up 1 or 2 items, it would be so helpful. The following list contains items we plan to provide. Items may be left in the church office until August 15.

Monetary donations are also accepted.

Ticonderoga Pencils #2

Pencil top erasers

Regular erasers

Blue & Black pens

Colored pencils

Blunt scissors

Index cards

Glue sticks

Crayons 8 – 16 – 24 count

Black Marble Composition books

One subject notebooks

Plastic spoons (in a sealed box)

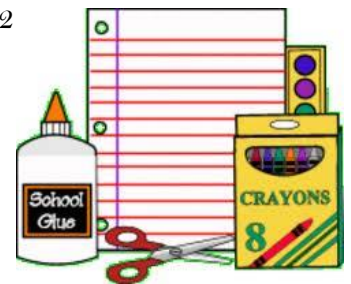
Band-Aids

Baby wipes

Disinfectant wipes

Ziploc bags

Hand sanitizer (St John's natural)



Prayer Shawl Ministry Blankets Available:

Do you know someone who might benefit from a prayer shawl? There are several available for distribution. If not distributed amongst the church, they will be donated to the Berkshire Hematology Oncology Center in Pittsfield.

Blanket Update

Thank you to all who contributed to the Church World Service Blanket collection held on Mother's Day. We collected a total of \$493. That's 49 blankets for those in need around the world!



From the Music Director

"Summertime and the livin' is easy". When George Gershwin wrote that song it is obvious that he did not have my schedule.



So last month I focused my newsletter on a thoroughbred racehorse named Secretariat, who I believe, as do most people, remains to this day the greatest of all time. All 3 of his record-breaking winning times of each of the 3 Triple Crown races have still never been equaled since he set them 50 years ago. That in itself is pretty amazing, and yes, everybody loved Secretariat. As I said, "Everybody loves a winner. But today I want to introduce you to another racehorse. His name was Zippy Chippy who was born on April 20, 1991. His bloodline pedigree was that of a champion including horses like Buckpasser, Bold Ruler and Man o' War. At 3 years old Zippy was not performing very well and also not behaving very well on the track. He ended up with Felix Monserrate at his horse farm in NY in a trade for a 7-year old Ford pickup truck. Felix thought he could straighten Zippy out, but soon Zippy would be banned from some tracks for his "antics" such as refusing to break from the starting gate. The gate would fling open, the bell would ring, the jockey would let out a scream and all the horses would shoot out of the gate, except for Zippy. He would simply turn his head and look at the rider as if to say "want to trade places"? He also had a bad habit of trying to bite people and picking people up by their collars and not letting them down until he was ready. He definitely had a mean streak in him. In 2000 "People" magazine included Zippy Chippy on its list of that year's most interesting personalities. But that is not why he became a famous loser. Eventually Felix got Zippy to settle down as he got older and he continued to race. But there was another problem. He wasn't very fast. But he continued to race until 2004 when he retired after losing his 100th career race without a victory. That is almost certainly another record that will never be broken. But as the years went by and Zippy raced at Finger Lakes and the Fair Circuit here

in Massachusetts, a strange thing happened. As his losses hit an incredible 70 out of 70, he found a fan club. People would go to the track just to see him win his first race. I had the opportunity to see Zippy run his last 2 races both taking place at Northampton Fair. His connections were selling T-Shirts with his image, glasses, mugs and other trinkets. People were spending their \$2 on a ticket with no intention of cashing it should he actually win. People would chant his name and cheer as he paraded by. In his 99th race, he led by 5 lengths into the short stretch at Northampton and then suddenly just slowed down like he was thinking "what am I doing? I got a real good thing with this winless streak. Everybody loves me!" And lose he did finishing second as if to say, "Yea, I could have won if I had wanted to". Yes, he was a character, and the biggest "loser" in the history of horse racing in the United States. He retired to the "Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement Farm" near Saratoga in 2010. Two years later he went on tour in Kentucky to bring attention to the safe retirement of racehorses, and of course Zippy Chippy merchandise was sold everywhere to raise money for the retirement farm. In 2016 he was featured in a book called "The Legend of Zippy Chippy" and also featured in a children's book called "The True Story of Zippy Chippy: The Little Horse that Couldn't". Zippy died at the age of 30 in April of 2022. He will probably hold on forever to the longest losing streak and no one would refer to him as a "winner". But everybody ended up loving him. So yes, it is true that everybody "loves a winner", but sometimes it is also true that "everybody loves a loser". Maybe you already figured this out that these last two newsletters were not really about horses, or especially horse racing. It was about how I look at people. It is about how I have tried to live my life, seeing good in people, all people. Whether a person is the greatest or the worst, the fastest or the slowest, the richest or the poorest, white or black, gay or straight, there is something to love and celebrate about them. And in the closing words of Paul Harvey, "And now you know the rest of the story".

Happy Summer everyone! *Jim Morrison*

Camps and Conferences



This year we will be sending a youth to summer camp. Going to a weeklong camp at Silver Lake in Connecticut is a faith growing and life changing experience. Silver Lake is a beautiful setting, and the camp runs a variety of faith-based themes for children from 4th grade through high school. It is a United Church of Christ camp that mixes fun and personal growth with faith development.



2023 COPS Conference

[Church Office Professionals Conference]

Growing Congregations after the Pandemic

I had the pleasure and honor of attending the Secretaries Conference at the Craigville Retreat Center on the Cape from Sun, June 11 – Tues, June 13. It was a time of renewing friendships and networking with other church secretaries.

We covered three main topics: Growing Congregations after the Pandemic, Social Media, and Networking for Church Office Staff with the first two presented by Rev. Timothy Sylvia. Some of the key points were:

- 1) Who Are We? Make sure you have a clear Mission and Vision Statement
- 2) People need an experience, which might not necessarily be a service on Sunday morning

- 3) Creating Community and Connections. Become more visible in the community by doing activities outside of the church building
- 4) Digital Ministry, how best to reach and engage people via social media
- 5) Agility & Nimbleness, constantly keeping things new and fresh. Be willing to change and shift the way you do things to hold people's attention.
- 6) Increasing member giving - show the church and wider community how our dollars help benefit the wider community, not help running the finances of the church

He also provided us with several helpful resource books.

Each year we collect food pantry items and monetary donations for two organizations. This year we selected Independent House which aids people who have been victims of domestic and sexual abuse <https://independencehouse.org/> and Cystic Fibrosis <https://www.cff.org/> as our two organizations.

Our motto for the conference was:
YOU ARE NOT ALONE; THERE IS HOPE

In addition, we decorated 'Blessing & Gratitude Jars'. These offer us a place to note special moments in our lives. We can then look through our jars throughout the year reminding us of the many blessings that we have had.

The conference wrapped up with a church service and communion. This year it was led by Rev. Philomena Hare from the FCC in Wareham, MA

These conferences have allowed me to form a lasting friendship with other church secretaries sharing issues in our work, personal lives and creating a strong support system for one another. We are available throughout the year to help each other with any questions which might arise.

Thank you for supporting me as I continue my growth and training as your administrative assistant.

Tari Wheeler Roosa



First Congregational Church of Lee Prayer Ministry

Bible verse of the month: "The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the Lord." Jeremiah 23: verse 28.

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.** *If you have names for the prayer list, please contact the church office.* Names remain on the list for 2 months unless otherwise advised.

WE PRAY FOR

(updated 6.15.23)

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)
Pat Belba (friend of Barbara Mahony)
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)
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 Jim Jones.

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
2 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service & Communion 11:30am Coffee Hour	3 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	4 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	5	6 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	7 9:30am M&M meeting 11:00am Pilgrim's Way 5:30pm Kitchen Rental	8 8:00am AA SOS 10:00am Farmer's Market
9 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 12:30pm Concerts in the Park	10 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	11	12 7:00pm Facility & Finance Meeting	13 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	14 9:00am BRIDGE food distribution 5:30pm Kitchen Rental	15 8:00am AA SOS 10:00am Farmer's Market 5:30pm Church Supper Fundraiser
16 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 12:30pm Concerts in the Park	17 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	18 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	19	20 11:00am Prayer Ministry 3:00pm Founders Day Meeting 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	21 11:00am Pilgrim's Way 5:30pm Kitchen Rental	22 8:00am AA SOS 9:30am Food Pantry 10:00am Farmer's Market
23 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 12:30pm Concerts in the Park	24 Messenger articles due into office 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	25	26	27 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	28 9:00am BRIDGE food distribution 5:30pm Kitchen Rental	29 8:00am AA SOS 10:00am Farmer's Market

Eagles Community Band is hosting two outdoor concerts this summer:

Tues, July 18 at 7pm at the Pittsfield Commons gazebo on 1st St in Pittsfield

Tues, August 22 at 7pm at Springside Park on upper North St in Pittsfield

Band members include Ruth Melbourne, Tim Franchere, Judy Olds and Tari Roosa

The Lee Farmer's Market is alive and well.

They are in the church park every Saturday from 10 am – 2 pm.

Stop down and take a look!! Help support local businesses.

Have you ever looked at the **Church's 360 Virtual Tour** that a local resident made for us a few years ago? It takes you all around the interior and exterior of the building. Barbara Mahony did the narration which features a great deal of the church's history. It can be found from this link: [First Congregational Church of Lee \(abigailmathews.com\)](http://www.abigailmathews.com) or go directly to our website: <https://www.ucc-lee.org> look for "ABOUT US" and then "VIRTUAL TOUR".

Sundays in the Park: Free Live Music sponsored by the Lee Cultural Council and the church.

Sundays, July 9 – August 13 from 12:30-2:30pm. Free and open to the public. Sprinkle or Shine.

7/9 @ 12:30 Wild Cat OHalloran Band & @ 1:30 Garrin Benfield

7/16 @ 12:30 Dominic Cucinotti & @ 1:30 Kilishandra Band

7/23 @ 12:30 Michael Junkins Jazz & @ 1:30 Mary Ann Palermo & First Take Band

7/30 @ 12:30 Fanny Pack & @ 1:30 LeFever (Dawn Lepere and Jeff Starns)

8/6 @ 12:30 Kevin Smith, GypZbilly & @ 1:30 Sherry James Buxton Trio

8/13 @ 12:30 Sherry Steiner & @ 1:30 The Matchstick Architects

AUGUST

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

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30 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 12:30pm Concerts in the Park	31 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	1 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	2	3 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	4 9:30am M&M meeting 11:00am Pilgrim's Way 5:30pm Kitchen Rental	5 8:00am AA SOS 10:00am Farmer's Market
6 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service & Communion 11:30am Coffee Hour 12:30pm Concerts in the Park	7 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	8	9	10 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	11 9:00am BRIDGE food distribution 5:30pm Kitchen Rental	12 Craft Fair in the Park 8:00am AA SOS 10:00am Farmer's Market
13 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:00am Body, Soul & Spirit 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 12:30pm Concerts in the Park	14 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	15 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	16 7:00pm Council Meeting	17 11:00am Prayer Ministry 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	18 Kitchen Rental 11:00am Pilgrim's Way 5:30pm Kitchen Rental	19 8:00am AA SOS 10:00am Farmer's Market
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If you have a meeting/event to schedule, or would like to rent space, contact the church office.

Worship Attendance (in person/Facebook viewings):

May 28 – 72/137, June 4 – 53/86, June 11 – 68/108; June 18 – 74/85; June 25 – 50/97

September Messenger deadline: Mon, August 28

Church Office Hours continue through the summer: Monday – Friday 8:30am – 12:30pm

MEDIA IMAGES POLICY

Photos and recordings help tell the story of Lee Congregational Church's vibrant faith community, enhance the quality of the information we provide to our members and give visitors an idea of what to expect when they attend our church. We would like to share media items recorded at our various ministry activities, events and programs in church-produced materials, including, but not limited to, bulletins, posters, brochures, newsletters and other printed materials, and on the church website and Facebook page.

Accordingly, ADULT participation in church activities implies permission for publication of any media recorded, unless a Photo Opt-Out form is on file with the church office. This applies to anyone 18 years and older who attends our church. Likewise, we need parental permission for youth under 18 years of age.

Paperwork is available in the church office or on the children's table in the rear of the church.

A reminder that our worship service is being streamed live on Facebook. If you want to make sure your image does not appear in the video, please talk with a greeter about the best place to sit to avoid the camera.

