



The Good Word Newsletter

**The First Congregational
Church of Natick**

United Church
of Christ

An Open and Affirming
Congregation

Volume 22 , Issue 1 February, 2020

Greetings Dear Congregation!

I can hardly believe that it has already been one month since joining you as your Bridge Minister. Thank you for your kind words and warm welcome. You certainly do know how to reach out and greet the stranger! I am just finding my way around this building and figuring out where the light switches are and soon it will be time to depart.

It is said that it takes approximately three months for a pastor to get acquainted with her new church setting and yet I'll be finished here in one month. Some things will still have to remain a mystery to me, I guess!

Why, I haven't even put away all of the wonderful delectables that you so generously gifted me with as a welcome basket! Rest assured, however, that if it was eatable, it is well gone! Thank you so very much for your warm & generous reception!

I've been "bragging" on all of you to anyone who will listen. I honestly don't think you can even begin to realize how impressive this congregation and her ministries are! You have accomplished so much together even as you dare to dream of God's vision for the future!

This is a church that lives out the call "to be the church." You not only welcome the stranger, you clothe the homeless, shelter the cold, feed the hungry, give voice to the marginalized, open your doors to the immigrant, and live out your two-way covenant with God.

It has been such an honor, such a privilege to serve even this brief amount of time among you. You have given me great hope for the future of the church in general and for the United Church of Christ in particular.

May God continue to dream big Dreams through you, as you live out the gospel message to love your neighbor as yourself.



With much joy and gratitude,
~ Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

BRIDGE MINISTER
Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

OUTREACH MINISTER
Rev. Dr. John Weagraff

DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL VITALITY
& CONGREGATIONAL CARE
Sarallyn Keller

INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Mario Passi

MINISTER OF MUSIC
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A FRONT PORCH FAREWELL

First Church Natick came out in force on a cold Saturday night in November to celebrate a ministry and say goodbye to our beloved Pastor Victoria Alford Guest. There were representatives from the myriad facets of Vicky's ministry to reminisce together about the enormous impact she made in our lives, as individuals, as a church family and as a wider town community. We were reminded of her powerful light and energy in how she approached her ministry. First Church Natick was not a job. Vicky had a calling and she brought her whole self to every endeavor

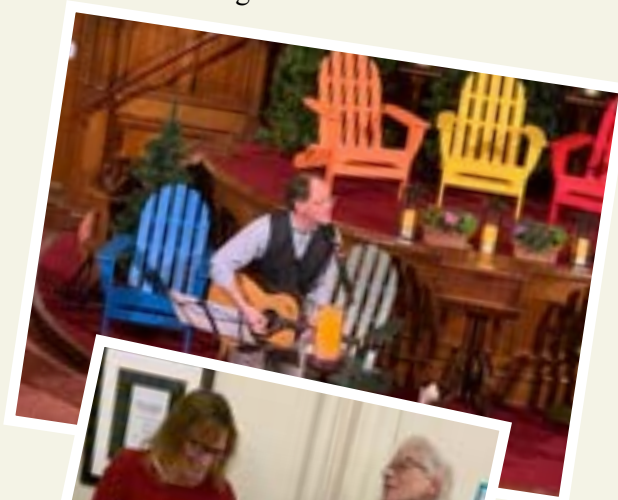
We began the evening with a delicious meal catered by Bob Seiche and his fabulous kitchen crew. The Vestry was transformed into a delightful dining room by a massive decorating squad led by Carolyn Cheever, Amy Foley and Karen Shirley. Kirsten McDonough created a beautiful confection modeled after the Peace Dove Mosaic in the Sanctuary for dessert. Wonderful music wafted through the space, provided by a Strike Up the Band ensemble.

Ten million, five hundred-twelve thousand minutes.

How do you measure 20 years? That's a lot of minutes! And we had a lot to remember from those twenty years!

Dan Weddle opened the "Front Porch Farewell" with a rendition of "Isn't She Lovely" and Lane McDonough, our emcee, introduced "Herbie, the icecube", who, with the assistance of a heat lamp, acted as the timekeeper for the event. We heard from the Search Committee that called Vicky to First Church twenty years ago, and from Steve Evers and John Lilly who remembered our connection to history. Saralyn Keller wondered aloud about the impact that Godly Play had on her life as well as the life of our church, and Judy Dixon told a story of Vicky's journey with us in the Godly Play style. We heard from a multigenerational First Church group, a variety of community partners, the Natick Interfaith Clergy and finally from former student ministers and mentees of Vicky. The evening was full of music, laughter and a few tears. Vicky thanked us for the celebration saying that it felt a little bit like being present at her own funeral! Everyone returned to the vestry to enjoy delicious cakes and desserts as no one wanted the night to end! It's sometimes difficult to celebrate the end of something wonderful and so it was in the celebration of Vicky's retirement. Although we all know that she deserves a fabulous retirement, no one wanted her ministry with us to end. Victoria Alford Guest will be remembered with affection and great respect for many years to come. There are some mighty big shoes to fill at First Church Natick!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the wonderful celebration – it took a village!



A MESSAGE FROM VICKY ~

What a splendid celebration you organized for my farewell! The vestry was filled with yummy food and great music and more people than I thought it was possible to seat. Everything was amazing – from the "mosaic" cake, to the sanctuary decked out with pew candles and rainbow chairs and warmed by the voices of the choir and the organ, and by the affection and good wishes of so many dear friends. I just have to single out Herbie the Ice Cube who looked very stylish in his hat and scarf!

It was an incredible production that combined the creativity and the talents and the time and energy of so many people, and I am so grateful. The weekend was one last sweet memory made in a place I love with those who touched my life deeply. As I said on my final Sunday morning, "You are my Philippi" and there are no better words to express what the last 20 years in Natick have meant to me than the ones that the apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians. "I thank my God for you and my prayers for you are always full of joy."

It was humbling to listen to so many kind words, but the biggest gift of the celebration for me was the confirmation it gave me that First Church Natick was going to be just fine. It is hard not to wonder at times of transition if you have made the right choice, if this is the right time. I didn't need to worry. I saw you in action at my celebration creating a beautiful night, enjoying each other's company, celebrating accomplishments and brushing away tears not because it didn't matter, but precisely because it did. Despite my fretting, God had been working out the details. You are in very good hands as you move into a new year and a new chapter of the bright and bold story of life on the corner of Central and Main.

With deep gratitude for more than words can say.

FCC 2020/2021 --

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship applications for the 2020/2021 academic year are available on the table in the ground-level elevator lobby. All applications must be submitted by May 10th. No applications will be accepted after this date.

FAMILY PROMISE METROWEST WALK TO END HOMELESSNESS

April 5, 2020



Family Promise
Metrowest

Join us for the 11th annual Walk to End Homelessness, a family-friendly and dog-welcoming walkathon through Natick Center to raise funds for families with children who are facing homelessness. The event starts and ends at Natick High School where there will be booths, food, music, and fun for the whole family. Save the date and registration will open in January 2020. We hope to see you there!

FCC BOOKGROUP WILL MEET NEXT ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Join us after church for this informal get-together, some lunch and talking about our book pick. Feel free to come whether or not you get a chance to read the book. We will be ordering our lunch from Lola's. Our discussion will be on *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover. RSVP to sharonkirby3@gmail.com.

Description from Amazon: *Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.*

CHRISTMAS OFFERING 2019

Thanks to you, our 2019 special Christmas Offering raised a total of \$2,409.15 for two important organizations!

This year again our offering will reach out with the good news of a light that no darkness can overcome through **The Family Fund and the Chico Housing Action Team (CHAT).**

The Family Fund - Earlier this year First Church Natick joined with several other faith communities to bring one family seeking asylum from Honduras to Framingham via Arizona. The Family Fund helps to provide the basics to assist with the cost of childcare, legal fees, transportation and other necessities. Funds are critical because the asylum process is slow and asylum seekers are precluded from working for a period of time while their application is under review.

Chico Housing Action Team (CHAT) - Last year a portion of our Christmas Offering was directed towards an organization helping to rebuild homes and businesses destroyed by fire on the west coast near the town of Paradise, CA. Before the fire was contained, the toll it took made it the deadliest and most destructive fire in California history. Our good friends, Georgeanne Bennett and Bob Johnson lost their home when the Camp Fire destroyed Paradise. Georgeanne and Bob identified the **Chico Housing Action Team (CHAT)** as one of the local organizations directly assisting individuals and families made homeless by the fires. Even before the Camp Fire, the rental vacancy rate in Chico was just over 1%. Currently it is even less than 1%. The Camp Fire displaced around 35,000 residents. As a result, Chico's population increased by 20% almost overnight. CHAT is currently running three programs in the area

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR TERRIFIC POINSETTIA "ELVES!"

A wonderful team of people brought a little bit of Christmas cheer to those in our congregation who are shut-in at this time of the year. Following worship on December 22nd, beautiful poinsettias donated by members and friends were delivered, along with holiday greetings to those homebound members and friends who find it hard to worship with us. Thanks to Wendy Robbins, Ric Ripley, Kirsten McDonough, Tim & Diana Porter, Mikal Rosendahl, Sue Mascioli, Bob and Jean Sniffin, Janice Gilkes, Pam Weagraff, Linda Champion, Laura Gobron, Bridget Chiaruttini and Carol Pomfret. And special thanks to Myrna Bartlett, Deb Evers and Laura Gobron for collecting donations and dedications, and to Myrna Bartlett, who also personalized and decorated cards to accompany each plant!

OUT IN FRONT 2020 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



We have so much to celebrate! The response in December to our Stewardship campaign was very positive. The current number of pledges for 2020 now stands at 78 for a total of \$238,748. Of those pledges, 6 were new commitments and 34 were able to increase their pledge for 2020.

Your support makes it possible for First

Church to remain a witness to the extravagant welcome of God in the center of Natick for years to come. So much is going on in our world right now that demands our witness and our vision. We want to be part of creating an inclusive, safe and supportive community for people all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

If you have not yet made a pledge for 2020, it's not too late, any amount makes a difference. Perhaps what you can commit right now is a dollar a week. Your \$52 might be that extra bump that buys a new resource for the children's classrooms or that reaches out to touch lives through Family Promise or the Natick Food Pantry. Every little bit counts.

You can find the stewardship brochure and a pledge card at any entry or you can give us a call (508-653-0971) and we will pop a card in the mail to you. Mail your pledge to the office (First Congregational Church, 2 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760), or drop it in the offering plate any Sunday. Or you can visit our website www.firstchurchnatick.org and make your 2020 contribution on line.

Your support means so much for what we can be and accomplish together. While all gifts are appreciated, a pledge allows us to budget most effectively and set our priorities responsibly. Thank you for the many ways that you support our "Front Porch" witness in the heart of MetroWest!

"DELIVER US" LENTEN DEVOTIONAL



Climate crises caused by global warming. Strident polarization in communities. Gaping income disparities between the richest of us and the rest of us. The rampage of racism and militarism

The existential and everyday threats we face are daunting. With faithful people across the ages, we cry out to God for deliverance ... not only pleading for God to act, but seeking the courage to let God act through us

We can take such a risk ... or we can play it safe. The Lenten season is a time for each of us to explore the ways in which we promote (or prevent) the deliverance we so desperately seek

From the writers of the popular online Daily Devotional, Deliver Us includes a biblical text, reflection, and prayer for each day.

The Lenten devotionals will be available during coffeehour or from the church office. Suggested donation is \$5.00

ASH WEDNESDAY February 26@ 7pm

We will begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday with a Taize service, in the candlelit sanctuary. The 45 minute service will include music, prayer, chant, silence, and communion in the round. There will be an opportunity to explore the power of scripture and prayer through guided activities at prayer stations placed around the room. The service will conclude with an opportunity to receive ashes – that curious symbol that reminds us of the great circle of life. Join us for this moving service.

ANNOUNCING LENT ARTSHOP!! AND AN INVITATION TO COME OUT AND PLAY!

Wednesday, February 5 7-8:30.
Wednesday, February 12 7-8:30

You are invited to join with Saralyn and Pastor Elaine for a fun filled & creative evening!

We will have three different opportunities for you to choose from: As we reflect upon specific spiritual questions that seek to explore your relationship with God.

- 1) create a paper collage using magazine pictures
- 2) paint or color your own picture
- 3) write a prayer or poem

This is not a "work shop" for artists, rather a different approach and way for anyone of us to think about God.

PS. If you have any used magazines lying around your house please bring them to the office to donate for our Art Shop!

LUNCH BUNCH: THE CURE FOR CABIN FEVER! Friday, February 21 and March 20 beginning at 12:30 PM



The weather cooperated in January and the tables were full in the vestry for Lunch Bunch! Our former student minister, Tiffany Spigarolo even stopped in to join in the

conversation adding some of her homemade cookies to the treats on the table.

Winter is long and it can feel like forever that we have been cooped indoors. Here's hoping we picked the right dates to skirt around winter weather systems so that we can warm up in the company of great people and good conversation.

Everybody is welcome at "Lunch Bunch!" Just bring along a brown bag lunch, but leave some space for treats because there are always some tasty goodies to share. Even if you can't linger, stop by and say hello. If you need transportation, contact the church office and we would be glad to arrange to pick you up (508-653-0971 or admin@firstchurchnatick.org).

MAPLE MAGIC

Saturday February 29, 2020



Pancake Breakfast

8-11am at the Memorial School, right next to the Farm

- Gluten free and vegan pancakes available
- Live music
- Agricultural demos
- Raffle prizes

Admission

- Members \$10, kids 10 and under \$5
- Nonmembers \$12, kids 10 and under \$6

Maple Sugaring Past & Present

9 am to 2 pm, maple sugaring tours every half hour

- Native American and Colonial sugaring demos
- Sugar shack visits
- Lunch & snacks for sale

Admission

- \$8 per person
- Current NCOF members receive 3 free tour tickets

FIRST CHURCH NATICK YOUTH TO GO TO CITYREACH



The Senior Youth are hoping to travel to Boston for CityReach in March. We are currently waitlisted, so hold off on bringing donations to the church and watch for more information in February.

Items that are needed (if we go):

- All kinds of carrying cases (backpacks, small suitcases w/ wheels)
- Sleeping bags & blankets
- Travel size toiletries
- New white socks & underwear
- Used rugged, outdoor clothing

City Reach has no use for children's clothes, dress clothes, slippers, bathrobes or pajamas

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION SUNDAY: EDIBLE FOREST GARDENS & BEYOND

Sunday, March 1 @ noon with Andrew Whittaker



Join Andrew Whittaker of Green Abundance by Design for a presentation on ecological landscaping utilizing the patterns and resilient features observed in natural ecosystems. Learn about edible forest gardens, pollinator meadow gardens, rain gardens as well as using native plants and rainwater harvesting. Discover how landscape design can work with nature in your backyard. A light lunch will be served.



<https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Natick-UCC-144700452240741/>

VALENTINE'S PARTY
DINNER & DANCING
FEATURING AMANDA CARR
international jazz festival headliner & dj

TIX
\$35/one
\$60/two
ticket includes dinner, dancing, champagne toast

FEB. 14
6:00-11:30

the natick elks
95 speen st.
508.333.4388
ebeling4@yahoo.com

Heritage CHORALE
POPS 2020
A MUSICAL Kaleidoscope
Sunday, February 23, 2020
John Finney, Music Director and Conductor
heritagechorale.org
for tickets and information

VISIONS OF JUSTICE 2020: How Does CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT SOCIAL JUSTICE?

Saturday, February 8, 2020

(snow date March 7) 9:30am-2:30pm

Unitarian Universalist Area Church (UUAC),
11 Washington Street, Sherborn, MA

Visions of Justice 2020 is the second annual forum of speakers, visual arts, music, and conversation concerning social justice issues. This year's program focuses on the disproportionate impact of environmental changes on marginalized communities, including immigrant populations and people of color.

Speakers will be Sonja Spears, Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer, Boston Health Care for the Homeless; Susan Church, Immigration Lawyer and Change Agent at Demissie & Church; and Craig Altemose, Founding Executive Director of Better Future Project.

Visions of Justice is sponsored by Immigration Justice Team and Racial Justice Team at UUAC and environmental activists. To register, please go to <https://visions-2020.eventbee.com>. Sliding scale goes from \$20 to \$50. Email Cathleen Dinsmore(racialjustice@uuac.org) for questions, to pay by check or to request a fee waiver.

Buffet lunch is included in the registration. Free childcare is available upon advance request.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR 47TH ANNUAL HERITAGE CRAFT FAIR

March 28, 2020:

Keefe Tech High School, Framingham

Saturday, 10 AM - 4 PM



As it has in the past, the 2020 Heritage Fair will offer a wonderful variety of hand-crafted items, featuring such treats as glassware, clothing, toys, jewelry, woodworking, leather goods, quilts, metalwork, paintings, photography, delicious fudge, jams, and specialty oils and vinegars. Each year there's a more impressive variety of exceptional items than ever before. Plus, visitors can bring home something sweet and delicious from the Bake Sale and enjoy lunch at the Food Court, where there are subs by the inch, hot dogs, snacks, muffins, donuts, coffee, tea, and soft drinks throughout the day.

TRAUMA & MENTAL HEALTH: RETURN OF THE REPRESSED

Wednesday, March 4,

@ 7pm with Rev. Dr. John Weagraff

Many mental health challenges arise from a complex web of factors. Appreciating this complexity of those factors creates an opening for both understanding and compassion. The Rev. Dr. John Weagraff and colleagues from Children's Charter will explore the intersection and interaction of trauma, mental health and substance misuse.

SAVE THE DATE

WV WORKCAMP KICK-OFF

Sunday, March 8 @ noon

Come see what the buzz is about! If you have ever wondered if the mission trip to West Virginia is for you, join us in the vestry on Sunday, March 8 @ noon to hear details about the WV Workcamp trip in June. It is truly a life transforming experience!

WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP?



Twice a year for the past 32 years, friends and members of the Needham Congregational Church have been traveling to the village of Santa Maria Tzeja, a

small K'iche' speaking Mayan village in the remote rainforests of the northern Ixcán region of Guatemala. The Guatemala Partnership's February delegation to Santa Maria Tzeja, Guatemala will leave on Wednesday February 12th and return Sunday February 23rd. If you might be interested in joining the February delegation, please contact Jeff Clausen at clausenj@gmail.com for more information.

In addition to the biannual delegation visits, the partnership connects families in our area with families in the village through the partner family letter project. Through this project, partner families exchange hand delivered letters twice a year. While the village is comprised of just 240 families, 140 of those families participate in the partner family letter project. As a result, nearly everyone in the village has a connection to the partnership and is connected on a personal level to a family in our area, with many of these partner family relationships dating back nearly 30 years. Currently there is a waitlist of families in the village seeking a partner family to exchange letters. Contact Jeff at the email above to learn more about getting involved in this aspect of the partnership.

LENTEN CHILDRENS STEWARDSHIP PROJECT



Start gathering your loose change. The First Church Children will be collecting coins for the classrooms of Santa Maria Tzeja. You can bring your coins to worship during Lent to make a real difference in a small Guatemala village!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR SANTA MARIA TZEJA



Jenna and Jeff Clausen will be traveling to the remote village of Santa Maria Tzeja as part of the Guatemala Partnership's 66th delegation in February. In advance of their trip, Jenna will be collecting much needed school supplies for the children's classrooms. This includes:

Pens, Crayons, Scissors, Pencils, Notebooks, Tape, Markers, Dry Erase Markers.

Please consider donating school supplies if you are able! There is a collection box near the rear entry/elevators and Jenna will be available during coffee hour if you would like to learn more about the Guatemala Partnership.

ANOTHER LENTEN GIVING OPPORTUNITY



Pick up your Lenten Giving Calendar and count your blessings! The calendar has suggestions for donations based on the amenities in your home. You will be helping a great cause as you reflect on the blessings of living in a safe, decent, and affordable home. The funds will be delivered to Habitat for Humanity MetroWest / Greater Worcester. This fundraiser provides support to help Habitat for Humanity MW/GW to build strength, stability and self-reliance for local families who need an affordable and safe home. Bring your donations to FCN on Easter Sunday.

OUTREACH UPDATE

Outreach Update: News from the Guatemala Partnership and Santa Maria Tzeja by Jeff Clausen

The Guatemala Partnership is a collaboration in solidarity and friendship with the people of Santa Maria Tzeja, a small Mayan village of approximately 240 families located in the rainforests of the northern Ixcán region of Guatemala. The partnership began in 1987 and over the years it has worked closely with the people of Santa Maria Tzeja on a variety of initiatives that have helped the village to prosper and grow.

Recently, a number of members in our congregation have begun participating in our partner family letter project and have begun exchanging letters with families in the village, which further expand and strengthen our connections with this community. Additionally, many in our congregation have recently donated school supplies to help support the village's elementary and middle school. Jenna and I will be delivering these school supplies this coming February when we are in the village and we look forward to bringing back news from our partner families and updates from the village.

Until then, below is some recent news on the people of Santa Maria Tzeja and their efforts around environmental and social justice.



Cerro Cantil officially declared protected ecological area!

For the past few years, the people of Santa Maria Tzeja have been working to gain protected legal status and state recognition for the Cerro Cantil, a unique area of rainforest in the remote outer edges of the village. On December 10, 2019, the Cerro Cantil was officially declared a protected ecological area. With this declaration, the Cerro Cantil becomes part of more than 200 national protected ecological areas in Guatemala, which includes the Mayan Biosphere in the Peten, where the ancient ruins of Tikal are located.

This is the first protected ecological area in the Ixcán region; and even more notably, it is the first nationally protected ecological area that will be under joint management between Guatemala's National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP) and a local community. Under this arrangement, the people of Santa Maria Tzeja will have shared responsibility with CONAP for the monitoring and management of the Cerro Cantil, with CONAP providing technical expertise and support for financial initiatives. Through this endeavor, the people of Santa Maria Tzeja hope to work with CONAP to explore projects compatible with conservation, such as ecotourism initiatives.

Already, there are ideas in the village to create a tourist route to reach the remote Cerro Cantil that would include navigating in canoes along the Tzeja river and part of the Sorec river. The February delegation to Santa Maria Tzeja is hoping to visit the remote Cerro Cantil and will be celebrating its new protected status with the people of Santa Maria Tzeja, an always forward-thinking community!

Genocide Case

In 1982, Santa Maria Tzeja was one of over 400 indigenous Mayan villages burned to the ground by the Guatemalan military as part of a 'scorched earth' campaign to destroy populations in opposition to the government. During this campaign, thousands of Maya were murdered, in what was declared an act of genocide by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The violence arrived in Santa Maria Tzeja on February 13, 1982, when the military invaded and destroyed the village.

MLK DAY COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

A Huge Success!

It may have been cold outside, but those inside Wilson Middle School who gathered for the 2020 Community MLK Celebration were charged up to be the change that they wanted to see in the world. The Keynote speaker, the Rev. Dr. Gloria Hammond challenged everyone to find their “Montgomery Moment” – the time that they are willing to step outside their comfort zone to stand up for justice.

From the enthusiasm of the Johnson Peacemakers, to the performance of the high school Varsity Dance Team, to the video produced and presented by the Peer Advocates, to the charge of our keynote speaker, the Rev. Dr. Gloria Hammond, cofounder of the Bethel AME Church in Jamaica Plain, the capacity crowd carried the energy into the “after-party” in the gymnasium to link up with a variety of community organizations committed to making a difference year-round.

More than 500 guests attended the event. The auditorium, which seats 435 was overflowing with standing room only!

More than 150 performers - dancers, poets and writers, vocalists and musicians, and speakers - took the stage!

20 community organizations and groups participated in our Welcoming Fair.

Thanks to Panera Bread, Roche Bros and Wegmans for providing food and drink!

Hundreds of students and families donated thousands of non-perishable lunch and snack items for our first town-wide service project!

And many helping hands of all ages assembled more than 1,200 snack bags and 2,600 individual snack items to be distributed to students in need over school vacations.



First Congregational Church of Natick United Church of Christ

2 East Central Street
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

January 26, 2020

Dear Friends,

At our Annual meeting last year, we began to discuss the need for certain key renovations and improvements to the exterior and interior of our church and the need for a potential Capital Campaign to fund these projects. Over the past year church leadership has made great progress in further defining these needs. We have much news to convey and want to bring you up to speed on these exciting developments.

First Church Natick is our spiritual home and a Front Porch of welcome and outreach to our community. We have been blessed with generations of stewards, our spiritual ancestors, who have given generously of their time and treasure to care for our beautiful church building. Our time is now to step up and care for what has been passed to us in trust.

To that end, the Coordinating Council appointed a Project Task Force Team. It contracted with an architectural firm, Spencer, Sullivan & Vogt (SS&V), to do a comprehensive physical survey of the church and assess and report on the exterior condition of the building as well as desired interior improvements. SS&V delivered their report this fall, and the Project Team worked to further define the scope of the projects.

The church has also hired Full Harvest Fundraising LLC to assess our church’s readiness to raise the necessary funds to support the projects. Recently the Coordinating Council took the next step to form an exploratory team that is charged with communication to our congregation about these projects and a potential Capital Campaign. We are planning numerous opportunities for you all to hear detailed information about the proposed projects, ask questions, make suggestions, and give feedback.

Stay tuned for Initial Information Sessions coming up in February, which will be scheduled Sundays after services and during the week.

Full Harvest Fundraising will be on site for a few days in the early spring to conduct a Feasibility Study, which is comprised of interviews with a number of church members to determine a fundraising goal. A special congregational meeting will be held in the later spring for the church to vote on whether to proceed with a capital campaign. As always, it is the decision of the congregation in matters such as this.

Please keep an eye out as we present more information in the weeks ahead. Watch for details in weekly bulletins, The Good Word and on our website. We need more folks to join our team and there are many roles to fill! Please contact any one of us on the team. This is a great time for First Church Natick.

Regards,

The First Church Capital Campaign Exploratory Team

(Bob Seiche, Gail Martin, Saralyn Keller, Doug Hanna, Hank Szretter, Bill Ramage, Steve Evers, Wayne Szretter, Amy Foley, Per Abrahamson, Bill Ladd, Sue Mascioli, Sarabeth Guptill, and Jonathan New)



The Reverend Elaine S. Gaetani
www.firstchurchnatick.org
508-653-0971

Super Saturday

March 14, 2020

"Super Saturday is, I believe, the most important wider church community building resource available at this time."

Come Explore Workshops,
Worship and More...

8:00 am—3:45 pm

Minnechaug Regional High School
Wilbraham, MA

Registration Deadline: February 29, 2020

Register Today - www.sneucc.org/supersatreg



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

BE GREEN 

We encourage attendees to carpool and to bring their own reusable water bottles and/or travel mugs.

No water bottles will be available.

First Congregational Church of Natick
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