

First Congregational Church
of Fall River

August

2023 Parish Guide



First Congregational Church Parish Guide

August

Volume 139 No 8 August 2023

From Reverend Andy

Dear Friends,

Last year at this time we embarked on an art project called the "Before I Die" Wall. If you haven't been following our progress, likely the pictures will tell the story, there is also an article written about it in previous Parish Guide from last year and a news story from the Herald News (linked on our Facebook page).

It was up for about 10 months, and I'm really satisfied with its results. Nearly daily I would see people walk by and contemplate a hope in their life; reflect for a moment as they saw the hopes and dreams of others, some of them profound, some of them downright grotesque, but all of them recorded for a brief moment on our wall.

I'll likely write more on this in the future but this edition of the Parish Guide I simply wanted to share the journey in pictures over these last months. I can't thank enough everyone who helped build, maintain, watch over, and dissemble the wall: it's been a truly community project. I'm grateful to be a part of a community who was willing and excited to bring such a thing to life. I'm convinced that it brought a soulfulness to our little neighborhood and helped in small but real ways people to encounter themselves, and in doing so encounter God's call within them.

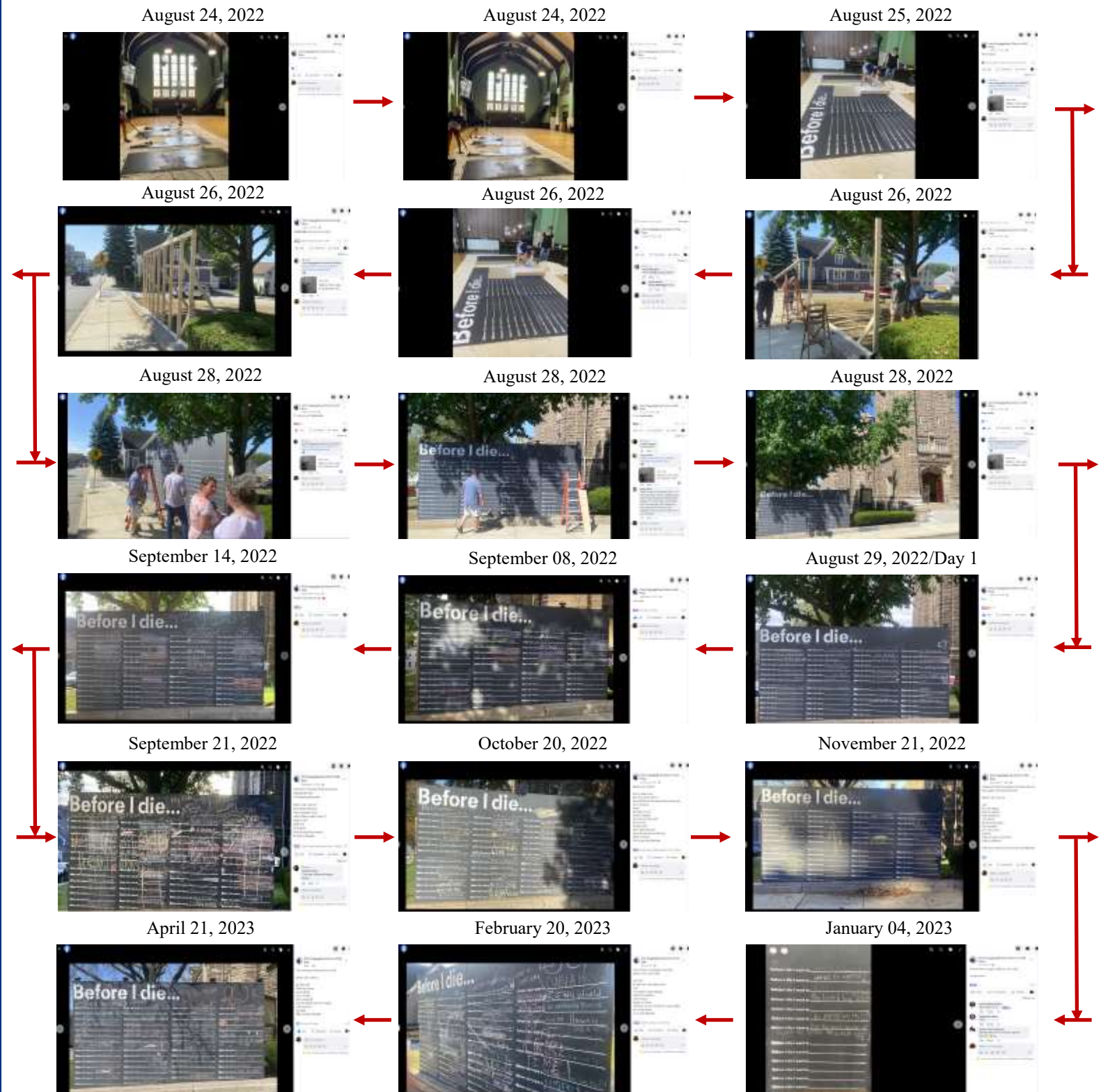
Lastly, as I reflect on these pictures and this journey; I'm struck by how truly this has been a journey through the Sublime and the Beautiful. Philosopher Edmund Burke 300 years ago captured these categories as the boundaries of human experience. On one end horror, awe, vastness, and terror in the sublime, and on the other joy, warmth, elegance, and majesty in the beautiful. He wrote, "Before the Christian religion had, as it were, humanized the idea of the divinity, and brought it somewhat nearer to us, there was very little said of the love of God." The Love of God comes to us through the incarnation of the Christ, through a Human Being, fully human and fully divine, fully sublime, and fully beautiful. It is the encounter with God's love for us that is nestled within the sublime and the beautiful of all our lives, between the crucifixion and the resurrection.

On our wall we had that, both the really whacky and terrible and the extremely beautiful and profound; both in 'bringing the divine nearer' brought us the Love of God. I muse on this because all of that big stuff that Burke mapped out played itself across our little wall full of chalk and paint. As we and our neighbors engaged our own mortality and answered the

question "Before I Die, I want to..." we saw, written in the hands of ourselves and others the very sublime and the beautiful brought to life in our humanity. And in THAT is the love of God in Christ Jesus.

I hope you enjoyed seeing this project, and maybe it disturbed you at times. I trust in that if it did, it was your own encounter with the sublime. I hope you spend some time taking a look at a years' worth of hopes and dreams, because they truly are sublime and beautiful.

Blessings, Rev. Andy



“Diaconate Corner”

A Summer’s Light

As we approach mid-summer, as the summer’s glow of our hearts continues to refresh, let the light of First Congregational Church help us also glow from within. Having been away for two weeks of July, even though memories upon memories of those two weeks will stay with us forever, Ken and I truly missed the light we always find at our church home. It’s a joy to travel, but also a joy to return home.

Ken and I are deeply grateful to both our fellow Deacons and Usher friends that “cover” for us while we are away, it’s heartwarming to know that we at FCC are blessed to have such a loyal, supportive family here, always there when called upon. And of course, Rev. Andy is always ready to deliver a “Home run” week after week- we are blessed indeed!

August is filled with promise, I’m looking forward to sharing those early 9 AM services with you. On August 6th, we will gather to partake of our holiest of meals on Communion Sunday. Then two weeks later, we will celebrate with our scholars on Scholarship Sunday as a Church family- always a special day to remember! Our recipients will be receiving their awards as part of our Church Service on August 20th, and our traditional third Sunday Gathering will take place immediately afterwards. We’ll have seven recipients this year to congratulate- so come! Share in the pride of their families and friends, let them know we care. The entire Scholarship Committee will be there to greet you for this memorable Sunday service.

As Summer passes by, treasure each moment! Arise early on Sunday and start your week with your Church family, we are here waiting for you.

Love, Peace and Grace,
Senior Deacon,
Susan Lanyon

Scholarship Update



Greetings! At our meeting held in June, your Scholarship Committee was delighted to review and share applications from seven applicants- four from FCC family members and three grandchildren of FCC members- all worthy candidates indeed. Our essay assignment this year was based on the topic of these students’ strengths, and it was such a joy to become so deeply acquainted with all of our young scholars.

We will be distributing Scholarship awards to all seven of these talented students on August 20th, the same Sunday as our traditional Third Sunday August Gathering. On that day, we will also announce the winner of the Joan Twaddle Scholarship to one special student- an award given in addition to our First Congregational Church Scholarship. This second Scholarship is based on the quality, heart, and depth of the essays written by our young scholars. The four judges for this Scholarship are from outside the Scholarship Committee, from within the greater Fall River community. These separate judges were chosen in order to ensure impartial results. I am personally thrilled not to have this arduous task of evaluation- so difficult to choose a favorite essay!

Please plan on joining us on August 20th- **SAVE THE DATE!!** We’ll share summaries of the seven essays on that day, and you’ll hopefully have the opportunity to meet all the applicants in person. Goodies will be offered as well a wonderful day!!

Love, Peace, and Grace,
Scholarship Committee Chairperson,
Susan Lanyon



Missions News!!

Wonderful moments were ours to share as we spent time with the middle school graduates of the Resiliency Prep Academy at an Ice Cream Sundae Social at Ruggles Park in June. We reunited with several students who gave many hours of community service at our church during our winter coat drive, Christmas giving projects and Easter Egg Hunt. We have plans to meet with students again in August when they will make fleece blankets for Dana Farber kids receiving cancer care. Many were in process of applying for summer jobs with all the excitement and jitters that are part of that new experience. We love bolstering their confidence and being their cheerleaders as they move into these new stages of responsibility. I thank Rev Andy, Cynthia Farnham and Larry Loverde for their love and encouragement of these vulnerable youth.

As you read in this guide there is still time to join us for the 5K Get Steppin’ Walk at Fall River’s Waterfront. See details below and email Deb at debvautrin@yahoo.com or call office at 508 672-5862 to join up.

Although we are still loving our backyard grilling, watermelon and lemonade, the next few weeks become an important time to prepare for Fall River’s first day of school. The United Way has opened its Teachers’ Closet Supply Drive and has provided a wish list for needed items. We will be setting up the Missions bin in the Bogle Chapel for donations. Please be as generous as you can for the youth of our city and the teachers as well who often purchase classroom materials out-of-pocket. See details on how you may help - this is a short turn around with donations accepted through Aug 13th Sunday worship.

Given we love surprising kids at camp with ice cream, we are bringing our sweet treats this summer to YMCA’s Camp Weetamoe. Partnering with Nonno’s Ice Cream Shoppe once again we have 265 campers who will receive a dish of yumminess during their last week at camp. Date is Friday Aug 18 at 12:30 at YMCA Swansea site 271 Sharps Lot Rd. This will be an all-hands-on-deck effort to help this run smoothly and your Missions friends invite you to share some time and hospitality. Again you know where to find Deb!

Enjoy the remaining weeks of summer while building in some time to serve with your church and refresh your spirit.

Blessings,
Deb Vautrin, Missions Chair

Hello friends!

Your Missions Committee is continuing to organize a walk team from our church to participate in the **“Get Steppin’ 5K Walk”** to benefit First Steps Inn.

It will be held on
Saturday Aug 12th at 9:15AM.

You may refer to the July Parish Guide for info on First Steps and their vitally important work in our community.

Please join us for fun, exercise and great fellowship down at our city’s waterfront.
You may call the church office at 508 672-5862 or email Deb at debvautrin@yahoo.com to sign up.

We will be looking for you because
YOU will make it GREAT!!!



Benefits Greater Fall River Area Schools
Deadline: August 11th



TEACHERS' CLOSET

Supplies Needed:

- Notebooks
- Pencils
- Crayons
- Markers
- Bags
- Folders
- Binders
- Index Cards
- Lined Paper
- Clorox Wipes
- Tissues
- Colored Pencils
- Dry Erase Markers
- Highlighters
- Pens
- Glue/Gluesticks
- Pencil Cases
- Rulers
- Construction Paper
- Post-Its
- Hand Sanitizer
- Paper Towels



United Way of Greater Fall River

uwgfr.org | @UnitedWayGFR

Summer Worship Service

From Sunday July 02, 2023 To Sunday August 27, 2023
Worship Service 9:00 AM

MOPS

this is motherhood

First Congregational Church of Fall River
Invites you to

M O P S

Next meeting
Wed Aug 02, 2023
@ 5:30 PM

FMI please call or text our group leaders:

Linda Fernandes.....(508) 272-6152
Lisa Blanchette.....(508) 493-4616

First Congregational Church of Fall River invites you to our MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) Group. MOPS gathers and supports moms through friendship and encouragement. We believe in the simple but revolutionary idea that remarkable things happen when moms come together.

The acronym stands for "Mothers of Preschoolers" because it began in 1973 when a group of moms with young children banded together to share their lives and parenting journeys.

Over the past 45 years, MOPS has expanded our reach to include ALL moms. Ours here in Fall River could include you. Come check it out!

We couldn't be happier that you've found us on this crazy beautiful journey called motherhood. We hope you've already decided to connect with us.

2023 ANNUAL MACCC

PICNIC

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

WEST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

415 WINTHROP ST (RT 44) TAUNTON, MA

Start time is 11:00 am, and will end when it ends!

Lunch will be served at Noon.

RSVP by Saturday, August 5th. Use sign-up sheet provided.

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs, all condiments, paper products, water and soft drinks will be provided.

Requesting that each church split 50/50 among those attending side dishes and desserts.

A donation of \$5.00 per family will be collected at the picnic.

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR. PLEASE BRING LAWN GAMES TO SHARE.

First Congregational Church of Fall River

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Sunday
August 13th, 2023
11:30 AM
FMI: 508-672-5862
churchoffice@fccfallriver.com

Free to all

Lunchtime Organ Recital

Friday, August 25, 2023 at Noon

First Congregational Church
282 Rock St. Fall River
Guest Musician

Mary Jodice



performed on our 1911 Ernest Skinner organ with 3 manuals and 1555 pipes.

Donations are accepted.
The Program will be followed by a light lunch in front of the church.

For further information call the church at
(508) 672-5862 or email judithconrad@mindspring.com

ADMIT ONE



Go to: <https://soundcloud.com>
Search: for FCC Fall River and enjoy
Rev. Andy's Message!



www.facebook.com/FccFallRiver

ALL CHURCH

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Wednesday August 30, 2023 @ 5:30 PM

All Invited

♣ Food ♣ Lessons ♣ Fellowship ♣ Fun ♣


FMI: 508-672-5862 or churchoffice@fccfallriver.com

Would you like to be a part of bringing hope to our city?
You will see the flyer for Laundry Love on the next page.

Laundry love is a ministry that FCC of Fall River is partnering with First Baptist Church Fall River and Church of the Holy Spirit. It is an initiative happening in cities all over the world.

Its aim: "consists of regular opportunities to come alongside people who are struggling financially by assisting them with their laundry. Laundry love partners with groups and local laundromats in cleaning clothes and linens of low-income or no-income families and person (s). We see the laundromat as a place where strangers become friends, people are known by name, hope is hustled, and the worth of every human being is acknowledged and celebrated."

If you'd like to know more, give a call to the office and we can link you up with John the leader of the initiative here in Fall River, or just stop by at 10AM at Kam's the last Wednesday of the Month and let John know you're here to help!



KAM'S LAUNDROMAT laundry love.

FREE COFFEE! FREE WIFI!

FREE WASH & FREE DRY


Come join us on the last Wednesday of every month to get your clothes cleaned for free!
"Clean clothes = dignity."

Last Wednesday of Every Month
TIME: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
WHERE: 415 Second Street, Fall River, MA
(Rear entrance on Morgan Street)
FREE PARKING IN REAR

Want to donate scan the QR code



Next Laundry Love- August 30, 2023
For more information contact John Milkey
Email: jmilkey05@gmail.com
Call or Text: (508) 571-5132
Volunteers always welcome!!



This has been a very worthwhile endeavor that our church has embraced and we need volunteers to help with the preparation as well as serving.

SOUP KITCHEN

Upcoming Dates: Aug 01, 2023 Sep 05, 2023

Please plan to be at church by 2:00 PM

First Congregational Church

Free Yoga Classes
@ 6:00 PM
282 Rock St.
(Please use Cherry Street door)

Every Tuesday & Thursday
Free and open to the public
(13yrs and up)

All levels welcome!!
Please refer to our Facebook page for all class cancellations or changes.




Please join us every Tue-Wed-Thu for:
11 Minutes at 11:11 am

With Rev Andy-on Facebook Live
<https://www.facebook.com/FccFallRiver>

"Be a part of something larger than yourself"

Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/fccfallriver

Have you ordered your brick to help complete our Memorial Walkway in the James Ward Memorial Garden?

Order forms are available in the Narthex or by calling/emailing the church office at (508) 672-5862 or churchoffice@fccfallriver.com




Available On SOUNDCLLOUD
Scripture Readings & Sermon
<https://soundcloud.com/user-281358520>

LISTEN ON Spotify
<https://open.spotify.com/show/7Cavtolj585E4sjhXdI6xT>

TITHE.LY Innovative church giving

Step 1: Go to <https://get.tithe.ly> or scan the QR-Code
Step 2: Create an account
Step 3: GIVE!!!



SCAN ME



*First Congregational
Church
of Fall River*

AUGUST 2023

UP COMING EVENTS!!

Office hours
Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM -2:00 PM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	01	02	03	04	05
		Soup Kitchen @ 2:30PM	MOPS Meeting @ 5:30 PM			
		YOGA @ 6:00 PM		YOGA @ 6:00 PM		
		Rev Andy Vac	Rev Andy Vac	Rev Andy Vac	Rev Andy Vac	Rev Andy Vac
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Communion Pulpit Supply- Rev. Fisk						Steppingstone 5K @ 09:15 AM
Worship Sunday @ 09:00 AM		Staff Meeting 10:00 AM				MACCC Picnic @ 10:00 AM
	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 6:30 PM			YOGA @ 6:00 PM		
	Step Aerobics @ 7 PM	YOGA @ 6:00 PM				
Rev Andy Vac						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM		UWGFR Board Meeting @ 8:00 AM-ZOOM		
Worship Sunday @ 09:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 6:30 PM	Scholarship Meeting 4:00 PM	Pastoral Rel. Meeting 5:30 PM			
New Members Class @ 11:30 AM	Step Aerobics @ 7 PM			YOGA @ 6:00 PM		
		YOGA @ 6:00 PM				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Baptism		Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM			Lunch Time Organ Recital 12:00 PM	
Scholarship Worship Sunday @ 09:00 AM					Guest Musician Mary Jodice	
	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 6:30 PM		Deacons/Church Council Meeting @ 7:00 PM			
	Step Aerobics @ 7 PM	YOGA @ 6:00 PM		YOGA @ 6:00 PM		
Judy Conrad PTO	Judy Conrad PTO	Judy Conrad PTO	Judy Conrad PTO	Judy Conrad PTO		
27	28	29	30	31	01	02
		Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM	Laundry Love Volunteers needed 415 Second St. Fall River @ 10:00 AM-12:00 PM			
Worship Sunday @ 09:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 6:30 PM		All Church Family Night 5:30 PM			
	Step Aerobics @ 7 PM	YOGA @ 6:00 PM		YOGA @ 6:00 PM		

Congratulations and Best Wishes

We know these lists may be incomplete, so we ask that anyone whose name is not included be sure to call the Church Office with the necessary information.

Happy Anniversary!!

1-Aug
Judith & James Mulrooney
2-Aug
Denise & Kenneth Ward
10-Aug
Jennifer & Manny Rezendes
26-Aug
Cindy & Cliff Moniz

I choose you everyday & always

First Congregational Church
Office: 21 June Street
Fall River, MA 02720



Prepared especially for ...

You!



If you no longer wish to receive the *Parish Guide*, please let the Church Office, know by phone (508) 672-5862 or email at churchoffice@fccfallriver.com

Moving??? Please let us know; don't forget to notify the church office...



All printed copies of this parish guide are printed on paper that is at least 30 % post-consumer content. Please recycle it when you are finished.

First Congregational Church Summer Worship Service 9:00 AM

Sunday July 02, 2023 - Sunday August 27, 2023

Telephone: (508) 672 5862
Fax: (508) 672 2341
Email Address: churchoffice@fccfallriver.com
Website Address: <http://fccfallriver.com/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FccFallRiver/>
SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-281358520>
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
9:00AM - 2:30 PM

The Staff
Rev. Andrew Stinson
Senior Minister
Denise Ward-Moderator
Judith Conrad-Music Minister
Cheryl Foley-Bookkeeper
Ivette Alarcon-Church Admin.
Henry Parker-Sexton

Happy Birthday August Babies

1-Aug Ethen Correira	14-Aug Christine Waring
1-Aug Nancy Costa	15-Aug Allison Smith
2-Aug John Viveiros	16-Aug Craig Palmer
3-Aug Kenneth Ward	17-Aug Richard Cookson
5-Aug Lisa Blanchette	17-Aug Kaylee Moniz
6-Aug Ruth Johnson	19-Aug Henry Bettencourt
7-Aug Samuel Blanchette	22-Aug Sharon Palmer
8-Aug Sarah Farinha	24-Aug Ivette Alarcon
10-Aug Kayla Pacheco	27-Aug Stephen Nicolan
11-Aug Luke Donovan	28-Aug Colin Donovan
13-Aug Sumner III Waring	30-Aug Nathan Bettencourt