

First Congregational Church
of Fall River

JULY

2023

Parish Guide



First Congregational Church Parish Guide



Volume 138

No 7

July 2023

From Reverend Andy

At this moment, I am at the National Association Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) along with our delegate, Audrey Poitras, representing our church among the wider fellowship of **Congregationalists in Brookfield Wisconsin, just outside of Milwaukee. I'm writing this month's Parish Guide article in the idle moments between meeting and meals and providential encounters with people all over the nation.**

If you don't know, our church is a part of two different fellowships The Mayflower Association of Congregational Christian Churches (MACCC) and the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC). Yes, it is the MACCC on the local level and the NACCC on the national level. The NACCC is about 290 churches around the country represented at this meeting by 30% of the delegates being present, mostly in the Northeast, Midwest and West Coast, that consider themselves the continuing congregational witness in America. The NACCC is an association, meaning it is not in the business of professing doctrine (telling us how we should believe), praxis (telling us how we should behave), or authority over us; rather as a friendship its function is to encourage the basic tenants of the Congregational Way of being Christian, through encouraging our Faith, deepening our Fellowship, all of this in the spirit Freedom and collaboration.

Arriving early, I had the chance be a part of the hosting Wisconsin association's brewery tour of Milwaukee and got to spend a little time with Frederick Pabst and friends.



Later I had the opportunity to explore a little of Milwaukee especially Summerfest which is the largest music festival in world. One of the highlights of the meeting is the opportunity to spend time with fellow ministers both ones that are close, as well as ministry colleagues new and old.

On Saturday, the formal meetings began with two deep and engaging speakers on the theme of "The Daring Endeavor of Being Church". The first speaker was Rev Justin Berkobien (<https://justinberkobien.com/>) who serves at Oneonta Congregational in California, suggesting the church has been captured by business and entertainment metrics and models and that trap has restricted our ability to step into the full life of the church in covenantal life together gathered in Jesus' name. The second speaker was Rev. Debie Thomas (<https://www.debiethomas.com/>) an Episcopal Priest from San Francisco, her talk Lament and Hope: Two Daring Practices for the 21st Century Church. She gave deep and thoughtful reflection on the church's need to lament and be willingness to grieve as a way of negotiating the changes and the transformation of our world and churches. She suggest too often we are told to 'have faith' which throttles the deep experience of our own loss. Both speakers brought great depth and emotion in their presentations and there was much to consider in their offerings.

The meeting hall has within it many presentation tables of missionaries and associate organizations. I had a great opportunity to spend time with numerous missionaries and auxiliary organizations that our NACCC contributions help support. I got the Happy Life Orphanage in Kenya, Love Worth Sharing in Haiti, Pan America in Mexico, Morgan Scott Project, the Congregational Library in Boston, the Congregational Retreat Society and many others. It is always exciting and encouraging to engage with **the multiple expressions of Christ's love for the world that so many are called to bring into being.**

Business meetings are a real part of attendance. The funding of the NACCC and its constituent bodies, the election of new officers, the work of the wider fellowship all has a great and important work to do in the life of maintaining the diverse connections of nearly 300 churches. I am proud and happy our church continues to support and be a part of this fellowship and to help its do its work. As your pastor, I can tell you the power of fellowship is beyond the simple quid pro quo of what we get out of it, but that it helps us in spirit to knit our own fellowship into the body of Christ.

Today I'll be going to a few workshops. One will be on managing and defining church culture with Rev Dr Gerry Krupp entitled "Your Church Culture Drawn on a Napkin". There are others I'll be attending as well all while looking forward to the tour of the Harley Davidson Museum tonight in the city. I so admire the planners of this conference who really pull off a great balance of fun and fellowship opportunities as well as serious and deep opportunities to sharpen the saw of our ministries and life together.

Tomorrow is the final business meeting and the chance follow up on initially made connections and **ideas that I'll want to continue to explore for our church and then Wednesday home. I am missing you all, and looking forward to being back with one another in our own meetinghouse.**

I am grateful for the chance to attend this meeting. It's fed both spirit and mind, and I believe will prove to encourage our ministry. Remember July 19th is our great fellowship event of Chicken and Bingo: and I am looking forward to seeing you all there even more as I think of it from the Midwest.

Peace and Grace
Rev. Andy



“Diaconate Corner”

Jubilant July

July is upon us, in my opinion the most relaxing month of the year- carefree days by the shore, get-togethers with friends and family, an adventure or two to special places, and some fun and excitement thrown in as well! For the third consecutive year, we anticipate one of our most exciting gatherings of the year. Yes! You guessed it, none other than our annual “Chicken’n Bingo” night, this year held on Wednesday, July 19th. As Andy always reminds us, Fellowship is a huge part of the Congregational way, and we do enjoy our get-togethers! Hope to see you all on this special FUN evening- a night too memorable to miss, a night for all ages.

We’ll begin our Summer worship with Communion on July 2nd, held at 9:00 AM, keeping to our earlier Summer time schedule. So, July embarks with us breaking bread together. Our “Chicken’n Bingo” night is so close to our traditional third week Sunday Gathering that we shall utilize that evening as our Fellowship time for this month- yet another reason to join us on July 19th.

We had a delightful, inspirational celebration of Deacons past and present on June 14th at The Cove on the Waterfront. Such a joy! This year we decided to present three bouquets to some special attendees. Deb Vautrin and Edie Banky were honored as two Deacons that had been so dedicated in filling their terms as Deacons last year, having completed their terms in December of 2022. We also recognized two individuals that are not present Deacons, but have served as a light to all of us here at FCC- Ken and Denise Ward. We are truly grateful for their selflessness on behalf of our Church. My husband Ken and I were totally surprised to also receive a lovely gift and special recognition this year- for a milestone for us that’s just around the corner. It will be our 50th Anniversary on July 7th, and we were humbled indeed to be remembered in such a thoughtful way. We were actually married right here at First Congregational Church! We have been blessed in so many ways!

It’s also an honor to share the results of Rev. Andy’s annual evaluation. The Deacons, with input from Andy, made the decision to offer all members an opportunity to complete a 3 page evaluation form for Andy. I won’t describe in detail all the results, because although the Deacons have heard most of them, we prefer that the next step should be that we share these outcomes with the Church Council. However, I will declare this- all evaluations were EXTREMELY positive, as was expected. I’ll simply share ten of the many, many comments that Andy received from his “family” of members:

He has such thoughtful, wonderful sermons...

He always has a focus on relationship-building....

He’s acutely aware and responsive to those with heavy hearts..

He has the sweetest, simplest way of teaching our children- his visuals are such fun!...

He’s empathetic, and trustworthy, with a great sense of humor...

He exudes love and joy....

He’s a plethora of information..

A positive energy surrounds him..

He’s a great asset to our Church family- steering us into the future...

His sermons are a beautiful combination of Scripture and current day living.

Our Father’s Day Gathering quote that we had on display came from Proverbs 20-7, saying:

“The righteous man walks in his integrity. His children are blessed.”

As you can see by the above comments about our Rev. Andy, WE are blessed to have this man we call Andy walk among us. Bless you, Andy!

Love, Peace, and Grace
Susan Lanyon, Senior Deacon



Missions News!!

Gathered around the table in the Souter Library, Rev Andy and I had the pleasure of meeting two young boys whom we have sponsored to attend YMCA and Boys/Girls Club Camps this summer through Missions and Souter. They are Ethan and Kailoh accompanied by three staff members from the Fall River Deaconess Home. We talked about the countdown to school's end, camp adventures, memories that will last a lifetime, making new friends and trying something new outside of their comfort zone. Rev Andy told them that we are together in this camp experience and in our very new relationship - he reminded them we are here for each other. We sent them away with treat bags and cards reminding them they have a friend and support at First Congregational Church. We hope to see them again and perhaps hear about some memorable experiences cultivated at camp.

The calendar pages are turning so quickly and now that we are celebrating Independence Day your Missions Committee is looking ahead to August when we plan to participate in First Steps Annual Fundraiser called "Get Steppin' 2023." This event has been happening virtually due to Covid for the past 3 years and although Missions has been donating annually, we have jumped at their invitation and the opportunity to join them in person for their 5K walk (3.6 miles) along the waterfront on Saturday August 12 at 9:00. It's so important that we have a presence in the community, bring out our smiling faces and our T-shirts, our conversation and sense of humor, meet new people and tell our story - AND IT'S FUN!!!

"The First Steps Inn is the only emergency shelter of Fall River. It serves roughly 400 homeless people each year. It is more than a place to sleep. Case management services are offered to connect homeless men and women with housing, employment, mainstream resources, primary and behavioral healthcare, and an array of other services. Daily meals are served in the large dining room and the facility contains a laundry room, common areas, bathrooms, showers and bunk rooms for both men and women. The primary source of funding for the First Steps Inn is the 5K Walk." (Taken from Get Steppin' 5 K Walk 2023 promotional packet)."

We know you want to sign up ASAP! Please join the early go 'round of your church friends who are forming our team:

Deb Vautrin

Sue Lanyon

Denise Ward

Bob Guinen

Ken Ward

Bill Farnham

Debra Bentley

Cynthia Farnham

Email Deb at debvautrin@yahoo.com or call the church office at 508 672-5862 to say "Yes. I'm in." Following an informative meeting between Missions and the members of the Acoaxet Chapel in Westport, we decided to forward \$500.00 to the "Light A Candle" mission in the Dominican Republic. At this writing many of us are planning to attend one of the Acoaxet Chapel fundraising events to support their mission trip to the Dominican next February 2024. We seek to get further acquainted with our Acoaxet friends who envision and embody God's work through their mission experience. Please see Deb Vautrin, Missions Chair, if you'd like to learn more.

Enjoy your summertime of recreation and renewal while building in some time to serve with your church and refresh your spirit.

Blessings,
Deb Vautrin
Missions Chair

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 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- July 26, 2023
For more information contact John Milkey
Email: jmilkey05@gmail.com
Call or Text: (508) 571-5132
Volunteers always welcome!!

First Congregational Church of Fall River

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Sunday
August 13th, 2023
11:30 AM

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

LISTEN ON Spotify

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



www.facebook.com/FccFallRiver



<https://fccfallriver.com/>

Chicken & BINGO NIGHT

Wednesday July 19, 2023

**FCC Parish Hall
5:30 PM**



All Church Family Event

All Welcome

**Bingo
Great Food
Fellowship
Fun
Awesome Prizes**



**282 Rock St. Fall River MA
FMI/RSVP: 508-672-5862/
churchoffice@fccfallriver.com**

First Congregational Church of Fall River

Summer Worship Service

Schedule

From Sunday July 02, 2023
To Sunday August 27, 2023

Worship Service 9:00 AM

Also available in
Facebook and fccfallriver.com



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: Jul 11, 2023 Aug 01, 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"*



MOPS

this is motherhood

First Congregational Church of Fall River
Invites you to

M O P S

Next Meeting July 06, 2023 @ 5:30 PM
For more information please contact our
group leaders:

Linda Fernandes: lfernandes@comcast.net
Lisa Blanchette: lisa.blanchette@steward.org

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



Scripture
Readings & Sermon

<https://soundcloud.com/user-281358520>



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

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

www.facebook.com/FccFallRiver



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*

J U L Y 2 0 2 3

UP COMING EVENTS!!

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
Communion Worship Sunday @ 09:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 6:30 PM Step Aerobics @ 7 PM Ivette OOTO Rev Andy OOTO	Independence Day Office Closed NO YOGA CLASS		MOPS Meeting @ 5:30 PM YOGA @ 6:00 PM		
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Baptism-Kamila Rae Acosta Worship Sunday @ 09:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 6:30 PM Step Aerobics @ 7 PM	Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Soup Kitchen @ 2:30PM YOGA @ 6:00 PM		Property Meeting 3:00 PM YOGA @ 6:00 PM		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship Sunday @ 09:00 AM Fellowship Sunday @ 11:15 AM Judy OOTO	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 6:30 PM Step Aerobics @ 7 PM Judy OOTO	Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM Judy OOTO Ivette Vac	All Church Chicken & Bingo 5:30 PM Judy OOTO Ivette Vac	YOGA @ 6:00 PM Judy OOTO Ivette Vac		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Baptism-Levi Michael Alves Worship Sunday @ 09:00 AM Choir Lunch @ 2 PM	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 6:30 PM Step Aerobics @ 7 PM Ivette Vac Rev Andy Vac	Huddle Meeting 10:15 AM YOGA @ 6:00 PM Rev Andy Vac	Laundry Love Volunteers needed 415 Second St. Fall River @ 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Henry Vac Rev Andy Vac	YOGA @ 6:00 PM Henry Vac Rev Andy Vac	Rev Andy Vac	Rev Andy Vac
30	31	01	02	03	04	05
Worship Sunday @ 09:00 AM Rev Andy Vac	Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 6:30 PM Rev Andy Vac					

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!!

3-Jul Melissa & Colin Kearney
6-Jul Amy & Jared Lanyon
7-Jul Susan & Kendall Lanyon
7-Jul Darren & Rebecca Soens
8-Jul Tara & Raymond Correira
21-Jul Kathy & Jeff Sanson
22-Jul Sandra D & Donald Wood
23-Jul Nancy & Robert Costa

I choose you everyday & always

Happy Birthday

July Babies

2-Jul-Kristen Cantara-Olivera	14-Jul-Seth Elie
2-Jul-Christine Mulrooney	14-Jul-Deborah Just
2-Jul-Virginia Sallum	15-Jul-Victoria Blanchette
4-Jul-Deborah Nickerson	16-Jul-Jessica Couture
4-Jul-Sydney Rezendes	17-Jul-Talbot Lown
5-Jul-Ricky Tavares	26-Jul-Doris Thornton
7-Jul-Ava LoVerde	29-Jul-Dylan Kubic
9-Jul-Melania Moniz	29-Jul-Rachel Westgate

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



JULY 2023

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