



*First Congregational Church
of Fall River*

October 2023

Parish Guide



First Congregational Church Parish Guide

Volume 141 No 10 October 2023



From Reverend John

“Come over to Macedonia and help us...”

We’ve been studying the apostle Paul and his letter to the Philippians during our Sunday morning worship. And that story begins in Acts 16 with a vision and a calling:

⁹ During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’

¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the Good news to them.

(Now, I’m not comparing myself to Paul! Nor am I saying that Andy is the man from Macedonia! But stay with me, because...)

For me, my coming here, and my time with you, has been a Holy Spirit thing from the beginning. And in so many ways, Andy’s call to ask me to “come over” has been a God thing, and a blessing. Most certainly to me.

I am so grateful for the invitation. And I’m so pleased to a part of all the good work that is happening here at the First Congregational Church of Fall River.

Friends, we’ve made it half way through! And I look forward to our finishing well. I’m also sure we will – together – as we listen and respond to the Holy Spirit’s calling in our lives.

God’s Grace and Peace be with you all.

John



To follow Rev. Andy on his Sabbatical journey, follow *The Last Patrol: A Pilgrimage of Brotherhood* on Facebook



To know more about **Warriors on the way** scan the QR code here!



	<p>First Congregational Church of Fall River Invites you to</p>	<p>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.</p>
<h1>M O P S</h1>		
<p>Next meeting Wed Oct 04, 2023 @ 5:30 PM</p>		
<p>FMI please call or text our group leaders:</p>		
<p>Linda Fernandes (508) 272-6152/ lfernandes@comcast.net</p>		
<p>Lisa Blanchette 508) 493-4616/ lisa.blanchette@steward.org</p>		
<p>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.</p> <p>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!</p> <p>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.</p>		

“Be a part of something larger than yourself”

“Diaconate Corner”

October Abounds with Beauty

October Abounds with Beauty

The month of October never ceases to amaze me. No one loves Summer more than I do, and the thought of its disappearance can easily allow one to let the loss of its carefree spirit bring sadness to one’s being. Soon, however, October quickly removes that mood, to be immediately replaced by the wonder of color- everywhere! Thank you God for your constant reminder of your everlasting beauty and wonder.

During the last two weeks of September, one could feel a touch of loss with the absence of Andy. But rest assured that Andy’s spirit is in a place of renewal during his Pilgrimage in Spain. And, once again, we thank God for his generosity in sending us a new friend in Pastor John Carson. He is such a delight, and we could not have had a better person to travel with us, and guide us on our Pilgrim’s path during Andy’s one month sabbatical. He has a sincerity, and a calming influence like no other. It’s easy to see why John and Andy are such good friends. If you have not had the pleasure of meeting John, please join us any Sunday between October 1st and October 15th. He will be here to welcome you with that big smile of his, a smile that can bring you warmth on those chilly October mornings. We appreciate your caring for us John!

On October 1st we will be sharing our Sacrament of Communion with John, and then on October 8th we'll be celebrating our annual Animal Appreciation Sunday together. On October 15th we'll be saying our “Hope to see you real soon!”, as opposed to a Good-bye, to John. And on October 22nd we shall be welcoming back our Rev. Andy with a Welcome Back Breakfast Brunch immediately following our Sunday service. Yum to that, and welcome back Andy! We thank our many volunteers for providing Sunday School lessons for our young pilgrims for the last 2 weeks, and for the near future. Many of these volunteers serve as Deacons as well. Our enrollment grew to eight children on the last Sunday of September. We were delighted to see so many of our young pilgrims walking their faith journey together. Delightful indeed!

In closing, I’d like to share a favorite quote of mine that describes this glorious month of October” beauty that we will soon be blessed with.

“Autumn is a second spring- when every leaf is a flower.”

Enjoy every moment with God’s blessings.

Love, Peace, and Grace,

Senior Deacon, Susan Lanyon

First Congregational Church of Fall River

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Sunday
October 29, 2023
11:30 AM
FMI: 508-672-5862
churchoffice@fccfallriver.com

Missions News!!



Autumn greetings First Congregational Church family! As referenced in recent Parish Guides we are once again participating in United Way's "United We Move" 2023-2024 annual campaign. If you enjoy foliage, crisp air and a leisurely walk this is a 1 mile path on the Tattapanum Trail in the Fall River Bioreserve. This year there is also a 5K trail (3.6 mi) if you really want to build some endurance! The date is Saturday October 21st with step off time to be confirmed (but usually around 9:00 AM). Missions will be making our annual donation via this event so get some fresh air and exercise and be in fellowship together to make our donation so much more meaningful. The "United We Move" campaign supports health, education, and financial stability/basic needs programs throughout Greater Fall River. This is a family-friendly festival with food, beverages and music at the conclusion of the walk. Email Deb at debvautrin@yahoo.com for more details or to sign up. You may also call the church office at 508 672-5862 to join us.

On September 8 th in Fellowship Hall we enjoyed a great concert by Sandy Van Meristal, founder and director of Light A Candle Mission in the Dominican Republic. This mission helps Haitian migrants working in the sugar plantations in LaRomana. We thank all who attended and appreciate your generous donations to the open plate. We are continuing to support the Acoaxet Chapel's mission trip in February 2024 by participating in their clothing drive. Do some fall cleaning, fill a bag or a box, and bring it to FCC by October 13 (see items listed below). All donations go to Savers Thrift Store where it is weighed and exchanged for cash which funds flights and expenses for the mission’s team. The Chapel holds their own separate drive for clothing, medicines and educational supplies to be given directly to the Haitian people. If you are interested in making the trip, Acoaxet is accepting applications through November – please see Deb for more details.

As always we welcome any of your questions, your ideas for worthy projects and we warmly welcome you!!

Blessings,
Deb Vautrin
Missions Chair

**SAVERS CLOTHES DRIVE
COLLECTION!**

Even though it doesn't seem like it, Fall & Winter are right around the corner. Want to get rid of your old clothes, pillows, purses, shoes, blankets, sheets, curtains and pillow cases? your chance. Take a bag and fill it up! Got old books (not encyclopedias)? Box them up! Now's your chance!! Drop at the chapel or to one of the mission team members!

Where: Acoaxet Chapel 36 Howland Road Westport, MA
Karen Chaves 344 Long Highway Little Compton, RI

When: NOW – October 13

Who: Mission La Romana 2024 Team

Contact Kate Tobin
401-624-9483 for pick up or any member of the team!
Thank you for your help.

Lace up your sneakers and join us for our 3rd annual trail walk. This is a 1 mile walk on the Tattapanum Trail in Fall River’s Bioreserve. A fun outing of fellowship with friends!

UNITED WE MOVE

WALK, RUN, RIDE, IN THE FALL RIVER BIORESERVE
SAT | OCT 21 | 8AM

REGISTER TODAY!

www.uwgfr.org/unitrdwmove

Scholarship News

As mentioned in my September article, we were absolutely thrilled to have the ability to provide seven young scholars with Scholarships on August 20th. Scholarship Sunday is one of my favorite Sundays, we're always so proud of our hard-working students, diligently attempting to reach their goals through their college studies.



The Scholarship budget was created as a result of several major fundraisers of years past, but primarily from the donations of families that have dedicated plaques to loved ones on our "Scholarship Memorial Tree" located in the Bogle Chapel. The interest last year of our budget was much reduced, so we do feel the need to raise some extra funds this year. On August 20th, we requested our first donations, and were most grateful to receive \$142.00. On the following two Sundays, we collected another \$240.00, for a total of \$382.00. We thank the following donors with all of our hearts for their donations:

Nancee Brightman, Larry Loverde, Robin, and Ava, Stefanie and Jack Alston, Judy and Jack Alston, Debbie Just, Lee Wordell, Sue and Ken Lanyon, Deb Vautrin, Claire Myers, Cheryl Furze, Miriam Harris (in memory of her 2 children, Pamela Jusseaume and Mark Harris), and 2 anonymous donors.

For all of you, we are indeed appreciative. You'll be hearing more from us between now and June of 2024 as we continue our fundraising endeavor. Please keep the future of our young scholars in your hearts.

With much appreciation,
Scholarship Committee Chairperson,
Susan Lanyon

From the Music Minister:



The First Congregational Church Choir was invited to perform twice this summer! We sang "Go Down, Moses" at a program about Frederick Douglas and the Abolitionist Movement at Heritage State Park in July, and then we were asked to sing God Bless America for a commemoration of POW/MIA Day at the Vietnam Memorial at Bicentennial/ Veterans Park in mid-September. The word is out about the wonderful music at our church!



Judy Conrad,
Music Minister

First Congregational Church
ANNUAL

**All pets
welcome!**



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday October 08th, 2023 @ 10 AM

Petting Zoo & Pony Rides

Everyone is welcome!!

(Please bring your pet on a leash or in a carrier please)

Welcome back

BREAKFAST

& Morning Coffee

Sunday
October 22, 2023
@11:15 AM
All are Welcome!



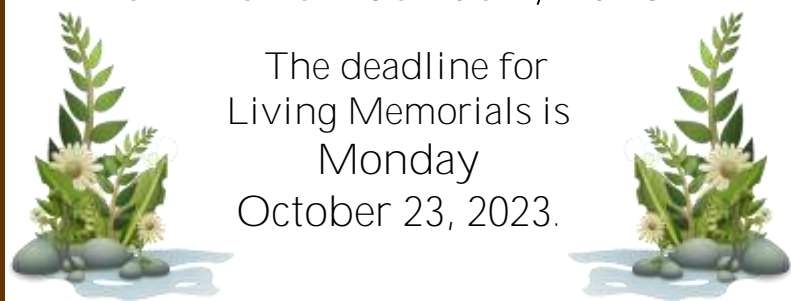
All Saints Service

Living Memorials

If you would like to establish or add to an existing Living Memorial, you may send the *Living Memorial Information form* with check to the Church Office at 21 June St. Fall River MA or place it in the offering plate along your order. Living Memorials either established or added to, since Easter will be read aloud at the

“All Saints Sunday Service”
on November 05th, 2023.

The deadline for Living Memorials is
Monday
October 23, 2023.



Living Memorial Information Form

From: _____

In Memory of: _____

Is this an existing or new memorial?

___ Existing ___ New

Dollar Amount Enclosed: _____

Is there anyone in particular you would like me to send an acknowledgement to?

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."

DATE: Last Wednesday of Every Month
TIME: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
WHERE: 415 Second Street, Fall River, MA (Rear entrance on Morgan Street)
FREE PARKING IN REAR

IMPORTANT:

- Up to two (2) washers allowed per person. Additional washers will cost extra.
- Detergent & dryer sheets provided as needed. You can bring your own, too!
- If you are unable to attend the posted time, you may set up an appointment.
- Using public transit? Take SRTA bus #1, #3, #5 or #10 to 2nd St @ Rodman.
- Free coffee available at Kam's Food Mart with coupon.

Want to donate scan the QR code

Next Laundry Love— Oct 25th, 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
Invites you to an
All Church Retreat
Topic: *The Power of Pilgrimage in Everyday Life*

When: Nov 13-Nov 15, 2023
Where: Glastonbury Abbey (16 Hull St. Hingham MA)
Check in: November 13 by 4:00 PM

Only few slots available

A sign up list is available in the Narthex.



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: Oct 03, 2023 Nov 07, 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.



As Rev. Andy embarks to his sabbatical time (Sep 14-Oct 16) there will be **NO 11:11 Live** message, but we will be uploading

“11:11 Greatest Hits”

Every Tue-Wed-Thurs
During Rev. Andy's time away.

He will be back on October 17!!

“Be a part of something larger than yourself”

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



Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/fccfallriver

Available On SOUNDCLOUD

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

LISTEN ON Spotify

<https://open.spotify.com/show/7Cavtolj585E4sjhXd16xT>



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



SCAN ME



<https://fccfallriver.com/>



First Congregational
Church
of Fall River

OCTOBER 2023

UP COMING EVENTS!!

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM Rev Andy Sabbatical	02 Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30 PM Rev Andy Sabbatical	03 Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Soup Kitchen @ 2:30PM YOGA @ 6:00 PM Rev Andy Sabbatical	04 MOPS Meeting @ 5:30 PM Rev Andy Sabbatical	05 Church of Council Meeting @10:00 AM- Swansea Rev Andy Sabbatical	06 Rev Andy Sabbatical	07 Rev Andy Sabbatical
08 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Animal Appreciation Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM Rev Andy Sabbatical	09 Columbus Day HO OFFICE CLOSED Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30 PM Rev Andy Sabbatical	10 YOGA @ 6:00 PM Denise & Ken OOTO Rev Andy Sabbatical	11 Denise & Ken OOTO Rev Andy Sabbatical	12 YOGA @ 6:00 PM Denise & Ken OOTO Rev Andy Sabbatical	13 Denise & Ken OOTO Rev Andy Sabbatical	14 Denise & Ken OOTO Rev Andy Sabbatical
15 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM Denise & Ken OOTO Rev Andy Sabbatical	16 Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30 PM Denise & Ken OOTO	17 YOGA @ 6:00 PM Denise & Ken OOTO	18 Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM Denise & Ken OOTO	19 UWGFR Board Meeting @ 8:00 AM-OFF CAMPUS YOGA @ 6:00 PM	20	21 United We Move Trail Event Starting @ 8:00 AM
22 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM Welcome breakfast @ 11:15 AM	23 Last day to order All Saints Living Memorials Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30 PM	24 YOGA @ 6:00 PM	25 Laundry Love Volunteers needed 415 Second St. Fall River @ 09:00 AM-12:00 PM Church Council @ 7:00 PM	26 YOGA @ 6:00 PM	27 Antioch School HALLOWEEN PARTY @ 5:30 PM	28
29 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship Sunday @ 10:00 AM-Baptism New Members Class @11:15 Am	30 Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle @ 5:30 PM	31 Halloween YOGA @ 6:00 PM	01	02		

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!!

13-Oct

Pamela & Eric Wildnauer

18-Oct

Elizabeth & Richard Cookson

27-Oct

Linda & Gregory Pierce

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 Worship Service 10:00 AM

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 - 2:00 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

OCTOBER BABIES

21-Oct Christopher Caron

2-Oct Zoe Mickerson

8-Oct Shelby Smith

9-Oct Karter Perreira

15-Oct Shelly Armstrong

15-Oct Deborah Vautrin

15-Oct Benjamin McVerney

17-Oct John Paul Cabeceiras

20-Oct Judson Chapman

20-Oct Jared Lanyon

24-Oct Gregory Pierce

24-Oct Kylee Cabeceiras

28-Oct Jeremy Soens

29-Oct Jameson Ward

31-Oct Christopher Couture