

Glad Tidings

*First Congregational Church of West Brookfield
United Church of Christ
August 2025*

36 North Main Street, PO Box 371
West Brookfield, MA 01585 508-867-7078
Facebook: First Congregational Church of
West Brookfield, UCC
Website: westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org



We have had some wonderful guest speakers in the month of July. We learned a lot about the missions that we as a congregation support throughout the year. We are grateful for the leadership of Rev. Linda Michel who has provided us with communion for July and will again in August.

July we were blessed with: Communion with Rev Linda Michel
Molly Pietrantonio with Abby's House
Erin O'Connor with Migrant Project an affiliate of WAMS
Baptism for Everleigh Boucher by Rev Beverly Prestwood-Taylor

We still have an incredible month of **August** to look forward to.

8/03/25 – Bob Moffatt with Worcester Fellowship House
8/10/25 – Karen Luddington with Worcester Area Mission Society (WAMS)
8/17/25 – St. Luke's Guest House
8/24/25 – Dismas Farm
8/31/25 – Communion with Rev Linda Michel

We are all eagerly awaiting the arrival of our new Designated Term Pastor, Rev. Doug Williamson and his wife Karen. We anticipate them being with us on Sunday, September 7th.

If you know of anyone that our church family should reach out to please contact Karen Murphy at kmurphy718@charter.net.

From our Boards and Committees

Church Council

The next Church Council meeting will be held on Sunday, August 17th.

Missions

In July the Missions Committee made donations to:

Home Front Strong: \$300.00

Abby's House: \$500.00

Holy Joe's Cafe: \$200.00

UCC Proportional Giving: \$500.00

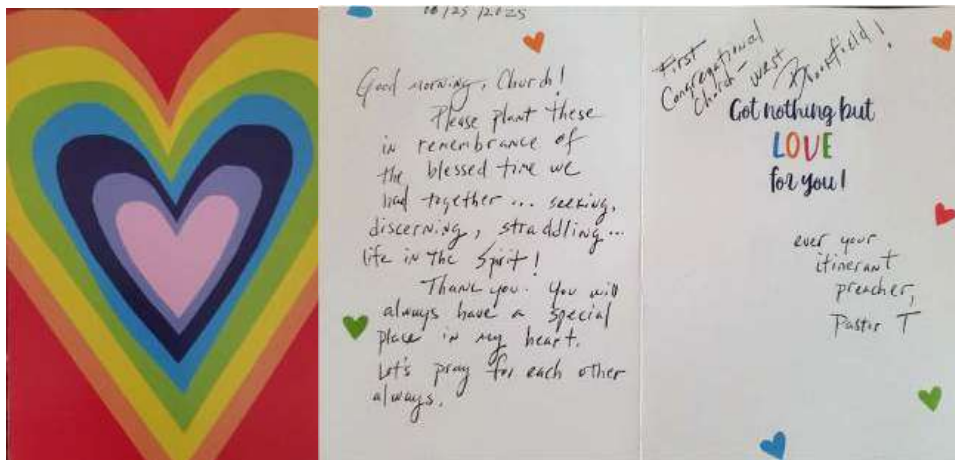
Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light: \$200.00

We also launched the School Supply Drive which will run through August 17th.

Sharing Cupboard

In July, the Sharing Cupboard had 49 clients (total family members was 93). We were fortunate to have 5 new volunteers join the team. We received generous donations, both monetary and food. These donations are especially welcome as the USDA has dramatically reduced the number of items that they supply to the Worcester County Food Bank.

We received the following from Pastor T (Gina Colorio) who was our regular fill-in minister this past winter.



Dee has offered to plant the bulbs in the church garden.



Pastor's Office

The renovation to the Pastor's office will commence very soon. We ask for your patience regarding the organized chaos that the fellowship hall is in during the process.

Dave & Doors

Many thanks to handyman Dave Stelzer, for working on the many annoyances around this old church building. The front door is more solid and secure and doesn't stick anymore. Dave also worked on other miscellaneous doors that were sticking due to the humid weather we have been having.

Basement Cleanout

There has been a fair amount of sorting and cleaning done in the basement of the church over the past few weeks and there are many things headed to the trash or a thrift store soon. If you have an interest, please take a look and take what you would like. If you have questions about the items, please contact Karen Murphy - 508-801-7692.

Updated Church Sign

Soon, the name of our new minister will adorn our beautiful church sign that is located on the lawn. Keep watching!

Our Thanks

We ask that you be respectful of our worship time and write anything that may need to be addressed in the notebook that is located in the Parish Board mailbox. The exception, of course, would be an emergency situation. The Parish Board members can also be reached via email or phone. Their numbers are in the church directory.

Parish: Juan Bacigalupi, Linda Daskowski, Wally Hall, Mike Murphy

The 2024 Water Quality Report is now available online at the following address:

<https://storage.googleapis.com/juniper-media-library/43/2025/06/CCRJune2025byMW-3.pdf>

Printed copies are also available at the Post Office, the Library, Town Hall Water Dept. office, and the Senior Center. If you prefer to have a copy mailed to you, please call the office at (508) 867-1421, ext. 8.

Thank you,
West Brookfield Water Department

Designated Term Pastoral Search Committee

We have learned that Dr. Doug Williamson and his wife, Karen, will be moving from Ohio to Barre, MA in mid-August. He is slated to begin serving our church officially on September 1, 2025. We are very much looking forward to them joining our church family. And as Doug recently wrote us:

"Our schedule here has been daunting, but we are very much looking forward to being part of the community of faith in West Brookfield! Grace and peace."

Onward and upward,
Doug Showalter, Terry Hall, Angela Carville, Linda Barron



Puzzle!

The biblical calendar had many feasts and festivals. They were connected with the changing of the seasons or special events.

Use the code to find the name of the special days the Israelites observed.

CODE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

SEASON

1. End of Summer

I L H S S Z H S Z M Z S

2. Fall

B L N P R K K F I

3. Fall

H F P P L G S

4. Winter

S Z M F P P Z S

5. Winter

K F I R N

6. Spring

K Z H H L E V I

7. Spring

H S Z E F L G

HOLIDAY

New Year

Day of Atonement

Festival of Booths

Festival of Rededication

Festival of Lots

Festival of Unleavened Bread

Feast of Weeks/Pentecost

Answers: 1. Rosh Hashanah, 2. Yom Kippur, 3. Sukkot, 4. Hanukkah, 5. Purim, 6. Passover, 7. Shavuot

Dismas Farm Dinners

We will be hosting the gents from Dismas on

August 12th at 6.00 PM.

Dinner will be a potluck for the gents and other folks who can join us, at the church. As always, we'd appreciate offers of main dishes, salads, sides, and desserts. Please let us know what you can bring.

Thanks as always.

Deanna and Angela

Dismas Volunteers:

Deanna Randall - 413-436-7849
or drandall444@comcast.net

Millie Gushue - 413-436-7125;
or gushoo@comcast.net

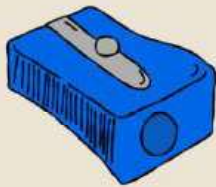
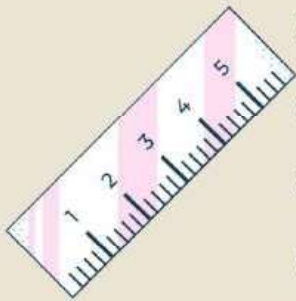
Angela Carville - 508-347-1148 or
angelacarville67@gmail.com

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



July 6 - August 17

- SUBJECT NOTEBOOK
- #2 PENCILS
- PENCIL ERASERS
- PENCIL CASE
- PENCIL SHARPENER
- COLORED PENCILS
- 24 COUNT CRAYONS
- 8 COUNT MAGIC MARKERS
- BLUNT SCISSORS
- RULER
- GLUE STICKS



PLEASE LEAVE YOUR DONATIONS ON THE TABLE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

School supplies to benefit students at West Brookfield & Warren Elementary Schools



Mary Beth Czaja – 8/2
Jen Walters – 8/2
Jessica Dwelly – 8/3
Terry Hall – 8/6
David Whittemore – 8/8
Karen Andersen – 8/11
Nancy Scott – 8/13
Linda Barron – 8/15
Vance Boucher – 8/22
JoAnn Bakulski – 8/27
Linda Griffing – 8/30

David & Joan FitzGerald – 8/21
Wally & Terry Hall – 8/24

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR CHURCH OFFICERS & CHAIRS

Moderator: Dee Blanton – deebanton86@gmail.com
Deacon Chair: Karen Murphy – kmurphy718@charter.net
Parish Board Co-Chairs: Wally Hall – terryle56@yahoo.com & Mike Murphy – kmurphy718@charter.net
Treasurer – Mary Deotte – hombai@yahoo.com
Collector: Deanna Randall – drandall444@comcast.net
Clerk: Terry Hall – terryle56@yahoo.com
Church Phone: 508-867-7078

From Our Church Office

Church Secretary – Bonni Holmes – fccwbworship@gmail.com
Office Hours – Friday 9 am – 11 am

Please note – The *Glad Tidings* deadline for September is Monday, AUGUST 25TH

SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS

Website: westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org
Facebook: First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC
Instagram: Search @firstcongowestbrookfield



Our Mission and Vision Statement: *We are a church where all are welcome to worship together, to share in fellowship and to grow spiritually in our journey with Christ. We value justice, diversity, and freedom of expression. We strive to serve our community and all God's creation and to spread the love of God to all people.*



August

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
					1	2
3 Worship 10 am Bob Moffatt Worcester Fellowship Parish Board Meeting Coffee & Fellowship	4	5	6 Sharing Cupboard 10 – 11:30 am	7 Sharing Cupboard 7 – 8 pm	8	9
10 Worship 10 am Karen Luddington WAMS Coffee & Fellowship	11	12 Dismas Farm Potluck dinner at the church 6pm	13 Sharing Cupboard 10 – 11:30 am	14 Sharing Cupboard 7 – 8 pm	15	16
17 Worship 10 am Tricia Gay St. Luke's Guest House Coffee & Fellowship Church Council	18	19	20 Sharing Cupboard 10 – 11:30 am	21 Sharing Cupboard 7 – 8 pm	22	23
24 Worship 10 am Colleen Dismas Farm Coffee & Fellowship Deacon's Mtg	25 <i>Glad Tidings Deadline</i>	26	27 Sharing Cupboard 10 – 11:30 am	28 Sharing Cupboard 7 – 8 pm	29	30
31 Worship 10 am Linda Michel Communion						



2025

The flea market is on September 13th this year. We have many new fun ideas and we need your help to pull it all together. Please save the date to help us out. We will be asking for donations and seeking the assistance of bakers. As well as, workers for set-up, clean-up and in the food tent. Please watch for the sign-up sheets and lend a hand if you can. Any questions contact Karen Murphy at: kmurphy718@charter.net.

VENDORS: If you or someone you know is interested in reserving a spot, please send an email to fccofwbfleamarket@gmail.com or contact Karen Murphy. *Reserve early to lock in your spot!*

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36 N. Main St
W. Brookfield, MA 01585
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