

# Glad Tidings

*First Congregational Church of West Brookfield  
United Church of Christ  
September 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](http://westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org)



Sunday, September 7, is a very special day for our church family, for this is the day when our congregation gathers for worship and celebrates the coming of Rev. Dr. Doug and Karen Williamson to our church. Our church has called Doug to be its new 3/4-time Designated Term Pastor. And Doug has responded very positively to and accepted our call. His DTP term is for three years, but there is also the possibility that after that term ends he could become our church's settled pastor "if the fit between the congregation and pastor is a good one for both."

As our DTP over the next 3 years, Doug will lead our Sunday and other special services, provide pastoral care, and support our various ministries. And we will work together with him, as our church strives to accomplish these two important designated term goals:

- ~ Strengthen our Practice of Being a Welcoming Church
- ~ Expand our Presence in the Community.

Doug and his wife, Karen, have recently moved from their home in Ohio to a new home in Barre, Massachusetts. **Please join us on this Sunday, September 7, worship service as we welcome them and celebrate their joining our church family.** After that worship service we will have a special breakfast coffee hour. If someone would like to help by bringing something to add to that coffee hour, please contact Karen Murphy at [kmurphy718@charter.net](mailto:kmurphy718@charter.net) or 508-801-7692.

*First Congregational Church of West Brookfield DTP Search Committee*

# **From our Boards and Committees**

## **Church Council**

The next Church Council meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**

## **Missions**

### **School Supply Drive Update..**

The Missions committee would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to this year's School Supply Drive. We received:

- 120 Boxes of Crayons
- 26 Pencil cases
- 64 Bags of Erasers
- 46 Packages of Glue Sticks
- 70 Rulers
- 100 Ballpoint Pens
- 40 Kid friendly Scissors
- 160 Notepads
- 640 #2 Pencils
- 40 Packets of Colored Pencils
- 28 Packets of Colored Markers
- and a few odds and ends.

Thanks to you all, the supply drive was yet again a great success.

### **August Donations to Organizations supported by Missions:**

The following donations were made:

Worcester Fellowship Church: \$500.00

Worcester Area Mission Society: \$400.00

Africa Exchange Program: \$400.00

Global Ministries: \$400.00

*Your Mission Committee: Stephanie Beland, Neil Blodgett, Debbie Steltzer, Angela Carville*

## **Open And Affirming Committee**

The ONA committee met and has concluded its work on the Covenant. The committee has asked for feedback from both the Deacon's and the Church Council and both have approved it. We are now putting the process on hold until Pastor Doug has settled in. This fall we will discuss the covenant with him and then move to a congregation meeting for a vote on both the covenant and on becoming an open and affirming church.

## **Nominating**

The Nominating Board has filled Martha Giguere's term by Nominating Doug Showalter to the Pastor Parish Relations Board and he has accepted the nomination.

## **Clerk**

Our church clerk has reviewed the church membership rolls to note folks who no longer attend our church. She has shared the list with the Board of Deacons and the Church Council and is moving toward the next step of contacting the parties to inquire as to their desired status (Church bylaws Article IV, section 5).

## **Music Committee**

The Choir will be singing on September 7th for the first time this season! Ginny will rehearse the choir prior to the service, and we will be accompanied by Stephen, as usual. We are looking forward to another year of fun singing together!



We have had some wonderful guest speakers again in the month of August.

Our guests for August were:

Bob Moffatt from Worcester Fellowship House

Karen Luddington from (WAMS) Worcester Area Mission Society

Tricia Gay from St. Luke's Guesthouse

Emma Pierce & Tim Ryan from the Dismas Farm

Rev. Linda Michel is not able to be with us on Sunday August 31st after all, therefore, Rev. Julie Olmsted will be providing us with our August communion.

Our new Designated Term Pastor, Rev. Doug Williamson and his wife Karen will be with us for worship beginning Sunday, September 7th.

We have purchased some wonderful banners that will accent the beautiful altar cloths that we currently have. Be on the lookout for them.

If you know of anyone that our church family should reach out to please contact Karen Murphy at [kmurphy718@charter.net](mailto:kmurphy718@charter.net).

Blessings from your Deacons!

*Nancy Arsenault, JoAnn Bakulski, Pat Jackman, Karen Murphy, Chris Showalter*





### **Pastor's Office**

The renovation to the Pastor's office is almost complete! We ask for your continued patience regarding the organized chaos that the fellowship hall and the entryway are in during the process.

It was decided to paint the walls of the office a light gray, to do away with the old curtains, the rug and couch, to acquire a new smaller desk for our secretary Bonni, a small meeting table, new curtains and to purchase a new computer for Pastor Doug. Because the pastor's desk takes up such a large amount of space a new smaller pastor's desk is also being discussed and the Board will be bringing Doug in on the decision.

### **Dave & Handicap Ramp**

One of Dave's current projects is to fix up our handicap ramp that has been in need of repair for years. He is currently power-washing, repairing the railings and painting it. Keep your eye on his progress!

### **Updated Church Sign**

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

### **For a Future Agenda**

Some of you may have noticed that the pole in front of the church that holds the light that illuminates the church at night is rusted and in need of repair. This is on our agenda for our next meeting and an update will be shared in the October newsletter.

### **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.

### **Our Thanks**

On a positive and reflective note: a lot has happened over the past few months in our church and we'd like to take this moment to say that we are very pleased with Joanie our cleaning person, Bonni our new church secretary and all of the great work Dave Steltzer has done since he has been our "church handyman"! With us all working together, we get the job done! Thanks for your support.

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



## Hospitality Think Tank

We are putting together a small group of people to discuss how we can set up and run receptions for weddings, memorial services & funerals. Our goal is to keep the welcoming and caring reputation of our church but make the work and expense of these events a little more doable for our aging congregation. If you are willing to sit down and discuss your ideas, please contact Karen Murphy at: [kmurphy718@charter.net](mailto:kmurphy718@charter.net) or 508-801-7692. This meeting will not take place until after the Flea Market.

### Dismas Farm Dinners

Dinner will be on the farm on  
**Tuesday, September 9th at 6.00 PM.**

We are looking for main dishes, salad, side dishes, and dessert. Please contact Deanna Randall or Angela Carville if you can help.

Thanks as always.

#### Dismas Volunteers:

Deanna Randall - 413-436-7849  
or [drandall444@comcast.net](mailto:drandall444@comcast.net)

Millie Gushue - 413-436-7125;  
or [gushoo@comcast.net](mailto:gushoo@comcast.net)

Angela Carville - 508-347-1148 or  
[angelacarville67@gmail.com](mailto:angelacarville67@gmail.com)



Please join us on Sunday,  
September 14 for an exciting  
new year of Sunday School!  
We will once again be meeting  
on the second and fourth  
Sundays of each month.  
Experience God's love and  
discover the difference faith  
can make!



Charlie Lamothe – 9/4  
Al Randall – 9/6  
Richard Griffing – 9/8  
Everleigh Paige Boucher – 9/10  
Ellen Haynes – 9/16

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR CHURCH OFFICERS & CHAIRS**

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

**From Our Church Office**

Church Secretary – Bonni Holmes – [fccwbworship@gmail.com](mailto:fccwbworship@gmail.com)  
Office Hours – Friday 9 am – 11 am

**Please note** – The *Glad Tidings* deadline for October is Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>

**SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS**

Website: [westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org](http://westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org)  
Facebook: First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC  
Instagram: Search @firstcongwestbrookfield



**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.*



# September

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
	1	2	3 Sharing Cupboard 10 – 11:30 am	4 <b>Deacon's Mtg</b>  Sharing Cupboard 7 – 8 pm	5	6
7 Worship 10 am  <b>Welcome Doug &amp; Karen Wiliamson</b>  Coffee & Fellowship	8	9  Dismas Farm Potluck dinner at the farm 6pm	10 Sharing Cupboard 10 – 11:30 am	11  Sharing Cupboard 7 – 8 pm	12	13  Flea Market
14 Worship 10 am  Sunday School  Coffee & Fellowship	15	16	17 Sharing Cupboard 10 – 11:30 am	18  Sharing Cupboard 7 – 8 pm	19	20
21 Worship 10 am  Coffee & Fellowship  <b>Church Council</b>	22	23	24 Sharing Cupboard 10 – 11:30 am  Glad Tidings Deadline	25  Sharing Cupboard 7 – 8 pm	26	27
28 Worship 10 am  Sunday School  Coffee & Fellowship	29	30				



# 2025 IS HERE!

The flea market is just around the corner. Sign-up sheets are posted.

We will need the assistance of bakers for the bake table  
as well as some items to be donated.

Please sign up if you are able to donate.

The bake table is going to be inside the church this year.

We will need workers to man the table on the day of  
as well as lots and lots of goodies in \$3.00 portions.

If you have any questions, contact Karen Murphy at: [kmurphy718@charter.net](mailto:kmurphy718@charter.net).

Please sign up and lend a hand if you can!

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