



First Church Squantum Congregational

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Vacation Bible School Is Close...and it's Monumental!

Aug. 1–5, 5:30–8 pm

During Monumental, our terrific kids will explore God's great love and celebrate an epic faith that powers them through life! What a great adventure!

Dates: Aug. 1–5 (M–F)

Times: 5:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Ages: 3–5 (before K)

Ages: 6–11 (grades 1–5)

Older kids and teens will have chances to help as volunteers!

We also need adults and teens who will volunteer to be helpful guide to a handful of kids. To register a child, please head to our church website or <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSffbWC8BE1yk9ol6Mu8d-Nb6tbD632Fi3ss-N87ECropCLuB5A/viewform>

The Light

“We know that all things work together for good, for those who are called according to Christ’s purpose.” — Romans 8:28

August 2022

God’s Monumental Love

by Rev. Doug Gray

Wherever we go, we can find monuments—Washington’s in Boston Commons, John Adams’ and World War II in Quincy, and Forefathers’ Monument in Plymouth. Here in Squantum, we have Myles Standish Monument at Squantum Point, overlooking Boston. It seems like humans like to build monuments and memorials. Perhaps we want to remember important events or people. Perhaps we want reminders of who we look up to, remembering the qualities that we want to be true of us today. A few of these become “sacred” to our society—Freedom One Plaza in NYC or the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in DC.

In the Bible, we don’t see that many monuments. Jacob, after his life-altering dream, sets up a stone to remind him of what he experienced. Absalom, David’s son who usurped his father’s throne and died a traitor’s death, is said to have put up a monument, since he didn’t have any children to carry on his name. But the idea of what could be sacred, was really more of *who*—that was always God, because faith revolved around a relationship with the Almighty, rather than revolving around a thing. What mattered was not the monument, so much as the monumental love of God.

I’m super excited about Vacation Bible School this year—Monumental! It takes this **huge** idea and **monumental** reality of the **love** of Jesus Christ, of God’s grace shown in a cross and a people, and helps the kids find that God’s enormous love can travel with them. Like Jacob, our hope is that each of the kids will make and have reminders of their experiences of grace—not as sources of worship, but as touchstones for memory. The early Christians didn’t mark the place of the brutal cross or the empty tomb with monuments. Instead, they took the love of Jesus and the hope of the resurrection wherever they went. Wherever they went, they had “love feasts”—Communion or the Lord’s Supper—remembering the love Jesus had for them, and the love they were meant to have for each other, and for those who needed love most. God’s monumental love and grace can change our lives wherever we go!

Lay Leadership Retreat Is Coming! Sep 9, 5:30–8:30p

If you’re a Deacon, Trustee or Officer, please make time to be there if at all possible. We spend time together as a leadership team, training, dreaming, worshiping, and planning. We will have an immensely fruitful time. If you think of yourself as a leader (even if you’re not elected), you are welcome!

Thanks for the Prayers!

Cynthia and Doug are grateful for your prayers, care and understanding during their COVID at the end of June into early July. They are feeling much better, thank You, God!

Fiber Arts

The Fiber Arts Group meets on Tuesday's most months, but not in August. In addition to working on things for family and friends, this group also donates some of its work to helping needy children have warm heads and hands.



Worship at Marina Bay and the Atria

Did you know Pastor Doug leads worship every few weeks at Marina Bay and The Atria? Worship begins at 2:00 p.m. and is over by 3:00 p.m. Usually we sing some great old gospel songs, pray and do a short Bible Study. You are welcome to join us!

The Book Club

No Book Club in August. For more information please contact Karen Kinnealey at kkinnealey@msn.com.



August Birthdays

Ellen Ogilvie,
August 24



Counter-clockwise from upper left: Kids piled on our float for the July 4th parade, with adults walking along side. The "Monumental" effort, headed by Allison Williams (shown by front sign), talked about our upcoming VBS, and netted our fellowship 3rd place! Shauna and Mark Potter (at left) brought their daughter, Julia James, to be baptized, along with godparents, Jase and Melissa.

Congratulations to Our Officers and New Boards!

At the Congregational meeting in June, the congregation elected our officers and boards for 2022–23. Here they are listed below:

Officers:

Moderator, John Smith
Clerk, Allison Williams
Assistant Clerk, Sally Redondo Padilla
Treasurer, Recilla Westerbeke
Assistant Treasurer, Lori Melnick-Bolden
Financial Secretary, Judi Buckley

Board of Trustees:

Recilla Westerbeke (Chair)
Bonnie Marcel
Bill McFadden
Kris Richardson Smith
Henry Wheelwright

Board of Deacons:

Leo Bergin (Chair)
Judi Buckley
Lizz Nuzzo
Tina Rychasky

**We have one space recently created.



**“The Lord
is my
shepherd.
I shall not be
in want.”** Psalm 23

Worship During August

During August, we are taking a break from our worship and Bible Study series. Instead, our scripture passages all come from the Revised Common Lectionary, a calendar of scriptures shared with many Christian denominations—Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Lutheran, and so on. Our new series (it’s still hush hush!) will begin on Rally Sunday, September 11.

8/7	Communion Sunday “Ready, Willing and Made Able”	Isaiah 1:1–20, Psalm 50 Luke 12:32–40
8/14	“Standing in the Fire Without Burning Up”	Isaiah 5:1–7, Psalm 82, Luke 12:49–59
8/21	“Qualified for Grace”	Jeremiah 1:4–10, Psalm 71:1–8, Luke 13:10–17
8/28	“Are We Catching Water or Digging a Well?”	Jeremiah 2:4–13, Psalm 81, Luke 14:1–14
9/4	Labor Day Sunday Communion Sunday “Shaping Us for Greatness”	Jeremiah 18:1–11, Psalm 139, Luke 14:25–35



HEART OF RECONCILIATION RETREAT

Have you ever experienced a wound of the heart? Have you experienced relational conflicts in your family or workplace? Have you seen division in your community or country?

You are invited to the Heart of Reconciliation Retreat hosted by the Pilgrim Center for Reconciliation. Through engaging talks, testimonies, and times of individual and group reflection we will gently go into our own hearts and the heart of Jesus to discover new pathways to hope, healing, and reconciliation. This retreat is for pastors, lay leaders, and others.

The Pilgrim Center for Reconciliation is called to bring hope and healing by renewing individuals, restoring relationships, and revitalizing communities through the ministry of reconciliation.

HEART OF RECONCILIATION RETREAT
Saturday, August 13th, 8:30am - 4:00pm
First Congregational Church Hanson

Pastor Doug Explains:

I don’t often recommend things happening at other churches, but this really is special, and I am planning to go. The Pilgrim Center for Reconciliation was one of the key organizations brought into Rwanda in the wake of the 1994 genocide, to help the people involved find peace and restored relationships. Yeah it’s a whole day, but in a time when our country is so divided, wouldn’t it be great to learn how we can come together again?

Won’t you join me in learning to seek peace together with the help of God’s grace? There’s no charge for the day, though donations to cover food is welcome.

To learn more about the Pilgrim Center for Reconciliation, you can head to www.pilgrim-center.org. I’d love to carpool, too!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____



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Published by

The First Church of Squantum, Congregational

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Where We Love Kindness

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Chaplain: Rev. Clara Sparks 617-773-3724

Student Minister: Sally Redondo Padilla

Accompanist: Dr. Miles Fellenberg

Moderator: John Smith

Treasurer: Recilla Westerbeke

Chair, Deacons: Leo Bergin

Chair, Trustees: Recilla Westerbeke

Church Office: 617-328-6649

Church Office Hours: Mo–We, Fr, Su 9a – 12p