



**First Church Squantum
Congregational**

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**Halloween Candy
Giving Alert!**

This year, Halloween falls on Sunday, and the church is going to hand out candy again. We usually give out candy to around 200 kids—wow!—and open the church for families to use the restrooms. If people could donate some candy, that would be a real blessing to our community. We always have two baskets of candy—one with peanuts, and one without—so we could really use donations of each kind. You can drop off candy donations at the church any time.

The Light

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

September 2022

Transformative Forgiveness

by Rev. Doug Gray

I was so angry and so hurt, I had to leave the house. I got back from vacation with my family to find that my boss at the church in Baltimore had stabbed me in the back. The people at work I had thought were my friends had not defended me. I would have to resign. I carried the wounds and fury from that episode for years and years after. It made it hard to trust people in any church again, and harder to think clearly when I faced challenging moments in my ministry. Looking back, I missed many opportunities because I wouldn’t let go of my hurt and anger and—later—guilt for my lack of maturity and the pain I inflicted as payback as I left.

Jesus says forgive our enemies, do good and pray for them...but I don’t think that’s easy. On Rally Sunday, some of us took a rock in one hand, and tried to live out our daily lives—without setting the rock down or letting go of it. The thought behind this living parable, is that when we do not forgive, we carry our trauma and anger, hurt, guilt, hatred, and despair with us. In a way, when we do not forgive, our refusal to let go of the trauma and its bitter fruits, handicap us as much or more than the hurt we were given. What freedom could we experience if we were to forgive? What freedom could we experience if we said we were sorry for causing someone pain and meant it? Desmond and Mpho Tutu write, “Forgiveness opens the door to peace between people and opens the space for peace within each person. The victim cannot have peace without forgiving. The perpetrator will not have genuine peace while unforgiven. There cannot be peace between victim and perpetrator while the injury lies between them.”

I have had to let go of my wounds and anger for the ending of my job in Baltimore. The wounds and my anger weren’t helping me and they often got in the way. I have asked God guide me, so I will understand how I contributed to that situation, and what God wanted to teach me how not to be if I was in a position of authority. I am now a better, more compassionate, more transparent leader because of that experience.

Are you still carrying the “rock” of an old injury? Would you like to find peace? Maybe it’s time for each of us to let go of our “rocks”—forgiving or apologizing—so we can embrace the real freedom of forgiveness. Jesus can help us find the way.

Memorial Sunday

Oct. 30 • 10a

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” — Hebrews 12:1

Every year, on the Sunday closest to November 1, our fellowship remembers those who have passed in the past year—those within our fellowship, as well as those for whom our pastors have conducted funerals. This year, that Sunday falls on Halloween, also called All Hallows’ or All Saints’ Eve. On that Sunday, as part of worship, we will invite loved ones to light candles in memory or honor of those who have died in the previous year. During that worship service, Pastor Doug will invite people to come forward to light candles, while the rest of us sing. Many of us have found that time very meaningful, and we hope you do too.



Allison Williams	Oct. 1
Douglas Gray	Oct. 9
Dick Stohlberg	Oct. 9
David Rychalsky	Oct. 17
Scott Williamson	Oct. 26
Rick Stohlberg	Oct 27

Worship During September

Our new worship, sermon and Bible Study series kicks off: “Seeking Peace, Finding God.” Can’t wait to see what God is going to do with us!

10/2	World-wide Communion Seeking Peace, Finding God: Praying for Our Enemies	Matthew 5:38–48
10/9	Seeking Peace, Finding God: Fourfold Path to Forgiveness I Telling and Naming	Jeremiah 5:1–8 1 John 1:5–10
10/16	Seeking Peace, Finding God: Fourfold Path to Forgiveness II Forgiving and Restoring	Matthew 5:21–24 Matthew 18
10/23	TBD	TBD
10/30	Remembrance Sunday Reformation Sunday Seeking Peace, Finding God: Giving Up Fear to Trust	1 John 4:7–21

The Art of Forgiveness & Reconciliation

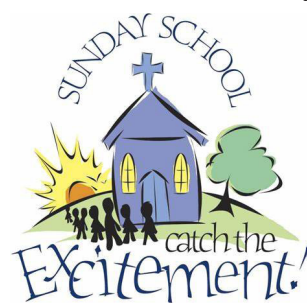
Monday Night Bible Study • 6:30p

Ever feel like Sunday’s sermon was just the beginning for you? Do you wish you could go deeper and understand better? Then Monday Night Bible Study is definitely for you! Each week, our Bible Study takes God’s Word and helps us discover how it can change our lives and our relationships. You don’t need any experience with the Bible, just a desire to know Jesus better and understand what God wants for your life. This fall, we are going to be working through what the Bible says about how to receive and offer forgiveness, but also how God can use those practices for transformation. Do we have to forgive everyone and everything? What if we ask for forgiveness and someone doesn’t give it? What if we offer it to someone and they refuse? Come with your questions and find you have company for the road!

Sunday School’s Got Courage!

“And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14) Queen Esther’s cousin— more of a father really—encourages with these words Esther when the world seems to be coming unglued. They are great words for us too!

All this fall, our Sunday School is spending time with the gripping story of Esther and her bravery



from the Bible, using the curriculum, “Courageous Queen.” Each week, this wonderful curriculum by Deep Blue has a different way to help the kids engage with the story of Queen Esther—cooking, science, games, crafts and more. Each week it’s something new! Hope to see you there!



Rotation Stations
Courageous Queen

Thankyou to Our Deacons

Leo Bergin
Judi Buckley
Liz Nuzzo
Valerie Richardson
Tina Rychalsky

We are grateful for you!

Fiber Arts

The monthly Fiber Arts Group meets on Tuesday's starting again on September 14th. 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.



The Book Club

The Book Club group meets the first Tuesday of every month! For more information please contact Karen Kinnealey at kkinnealey@msn.com.



Coffee Hour Needs You...



With summer winding down, we would like to

rev up our hospitality again. Would you be willing to help with a Sunday? It's super simple and doesn't have to be very expensive, but the payoff in conversation and relationships is priceless! The sign-up sheet is right outside the sanctuary.

Church Clean Up Day, October 23

You can wear your work clothes to church on Sunday, October 23, because it's Church Clean Up Day! After worship, we will grab a quick snack, and then those with time can start on cleaning projects around the church building and yard. One of the downsides to running as lean as we have through COVID, is that our cleaning person really only has time to vacuum floors and clean bathrooms. That means we need volunteer help to do all the other cleaning we need from time to time. If you have particular projects in mind—something you really want to see clean—great! Other ideas for the day could include:

- ✝ Trimming bushes and trees
- ✝ Taking air conditioners out of windows
- ✝ Kitchenette in the Parlor
- ✝ Kitchen in the basement
- ✝ Windows in the Parlor
- ✝ Dusting in the Sanctuary
- ✝ Walls in the front stairway and Narthex
- ✝ Getting the parsonage gardens ready for winter
- ✝ Putting up shutters on the front of the parsonage
- ✝ Sweeping and washing the floor in Fellowship Hall
- ✝ Sweeping and dusting in back stairway
- ✝ Cleaning refrigerators
- ✝ Organizing the storage room in the basement
- ✝ Dusting and organizing the
- ✝ Last coat of paint just outside the Sacristy (the room the Deacons use for communion supplies)
- ✝ Organizing the historical room
- ✝ Throwing out super old choir music

If you would be willing a hand with any of these projects—on October 23 or any other day—it would be a huge help to our fellowship.

Worldwide Communion Sunday Oct. 2

Wouldn't it be great if Christians could all unite around the Table, remembering Jesus and celebrating the Lord's Supper? That was the vision starting in the early 1930s in a Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. It was adopted by the Presbyterian Church USA in 1936, inviting other churches and denominations to join in the unifying, beautiful practice of World Wide Communion Sunday on the first Sunday in October. Donald Kerr, who had the initial idea, said "The concept spread very slowly at the start. People did not give it a whole lot of thought. It was during the Second World War that the spirit caught hold, because we were trying to hold the world together. World Wide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ."* Today, more than a billion Christians around the world will celebrate Holy Communion on that day. How amazing is that? *(<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/churchcalendar/world-communion-sunday/>)

Thankyou to Our Trustees

Bonnie Marcel
Bill McFadden
Kris Richardson-Smith
Recilla Westerbeke
Henry Wheelwright

We appreciate all you do!

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!

Hospitality Evaluation Team

Getting back to normal sounds good, doesn't it? Our Deacons are asking questions about how welcoming our church is and how can we improve our welcome. The Team has a workbook it will use, and we are going to work our through all the key questions. If you would like to be part of this team, please talk with Judi Buckley or Liz Nuzzo.

Sunday School Moves Downstairs

Our younger kids are getting older, so we moved our Sunday School to the main floor. Lots of hard work and organizing our nursery into a fully functional "big kid" space. Thanks to Liz Nuzzo and Tina Rychalsky for heading up that effort.

Trustees Report — This Month

The Board of Trustees has a lot on its plate these days—major projects the Trustees have been trying to get a handle on for a while. They are:

- ✦ Lifting and resetting the sinking corner of the parsonage.
- ✦ Repairing structural problems in parsonage—an unsupported header on the stairs, a cracked joist in the basement, and replacing the squishy kitchen subfloor.
- ✦ Solving the water proofing problems above the basement kitchen at the church.
- ✦ Installing a sump pump in the former Boy Scout Room (now a storage room).
- ✦ Replacing the wood fronts to the pillars on the parsonage porch.
- ✦ Replacing the back deck and stairs on the parsonage.
- ✦ Installing grab bars and changing tables in the church bathrooms. This is a code requirement for safety and future tenants.

Already this summer, the Trustees have completed a number of issues for us:

- ✓ Repairing the crumbling chimney top of the parsonage.
- ✓ Solving the water-proofing problems above the entry, Narthex and Sanctuary. (We think! So be praying!)
- ✓ Removing the buzz from our sound system. The Trustees found a quick fix, putting off a more thorough examination of the sound system needs of the church until other things are taken care of.

The Trustees are very excited about the work on the chimney (August) and the roof (completed at the end of September)!

Would you pray for the Trustees? They are trying to find contractors for all of these tasks, and are having trouble getting anyone—so many of the contractors say they are too busy or fail to return calls. One problem we hear over and over again, that these are small jobs that don't take very long to do—so the good contractors are all looking for the bigger jobs. Please pray that we will find folks to do all these things and do them well! If you have ideas about contractors in these areas, please pass them on to Recilla Westerbeke, the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Tech Future Team

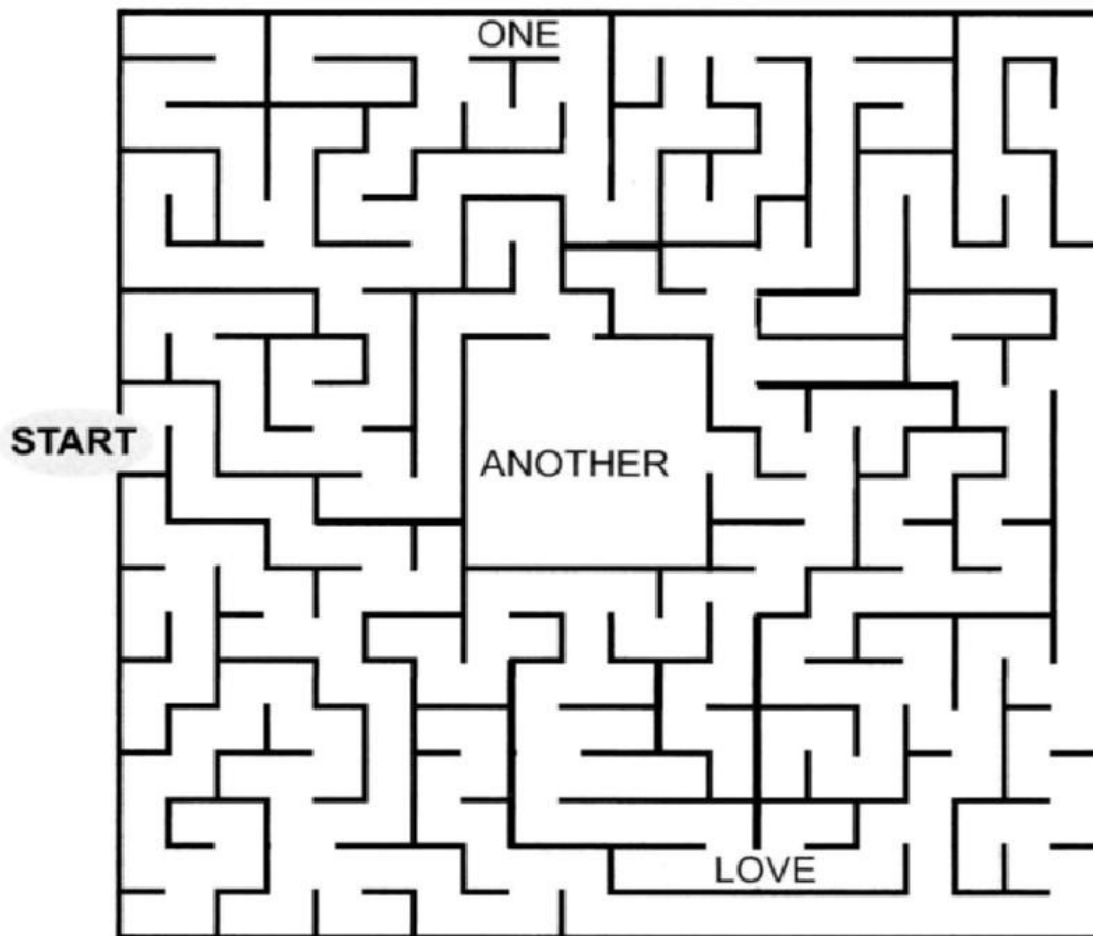
Technology has made leaps and bounds in the last several years, opening opportunities to make worship, meetings, and outreach more accessible and better quality. Would you be willing to help our fellowship think about the way our congregation uses technology, and how we could make what we do even better? Our fellowship has lots of layers of technology—worship projection, audio and music, livestreaming, Zoom, web presence, administrative use—and we need to decide how best to take advantage of the improvements. This Team will help our fellowship establish overall goals and gather information for a future Congregational Meeting. What kinds of technology could make a difference for our fellowship? What improvements do we want to tackle first? Interested? Please get in touch with Pastor Doug.

Maze

Love One Another Word Maze

Find your way from the start of the maze and connect the words from the answer phrase in their correct order.

Love one another. John 15:17b HCSB



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“Where We Love Kindness”

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Published by

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Where We Love Kindness

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Accompanist: Dr. Miles Fellenberg

Moderator: John Smith

Treasurer: Recilla Westerbeke

Chair, Deacons: Leo Bergin

Chair, Trustees: Recilla Westerbeke

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