



**First Church Squantum
Congregational**

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**Rally Sunday Is
September 11!**

Time for our Fall Kick Off!
Everything starts up September
12. Worship returns to begin-
ning at 10a. Sunday School
starts during worship. Cof-
fee Hour will kick off too! So
invite a friend and come enjoy
the start of a great new season!
We'll see you there!

**Lay Leadership
Retreat Is Coming!
Sep 9, 5:30-9p**

If you're a Deacon, Trustee or
Officer, please make time to be
there. We spend time together
as a leadership team, training,
dreaming, worshipping, and
planning. We will have an im-
mensely fruitful time. Even if
you're not elected, join us!

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

Seeking Peace, Finding God

by Rev. Doug Gray

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." — Jesus, The Bible, John 14:27

When I was a teenager, I got into a "discussion" with my mom. We each had issues with the other, and I got so angry that I said some things I shouldn't have, stormed out of the room, ran upstairs and slammed the door to my bedroom. I was so mad! But after I cooled down, I thought about what she had said, and I thought about what I had said, and I had this gnawing feeling that things were not right between us. I had to try to make things right. I just couldn't stand the idea of our relationship staying broken.

The last few years, I have had that same gnawing feeling of things not being right. Anyone else really bothered by how divisive and partisan our times are? Anyone else appalled because of how much "trolling" happens online—and then horrified when you hear someone say it out loud in real life? Anyone else ever been with a group and having fun, but all the while you're worried that someone is going to bring up politics? I believe there is a way out of our mess, and I believe Jesus can teach it to us. I believe that Jesus can heal the brokenness we have inside, and help us heal the brokenness in our world.

All this fall, we are going to focus in on what Jesus has to say about forgiveness, about loving each other, and most of all about how (with God's help!) we can be peacemakers in our families and neighborhood.



I have learned since my fight with my mom, that that sense of things not being right, that's something God gives us so that we will be motivated to change. Not long after I cooled down, I found my mom and apologized. And we made up, and things were right between us again—we were back on track. I believe Jesus can help us get "back on track" with God, and with each other...and that Jesus has a "toolkit" for how we can help people in our family and neighborhood do the same.

"...Forgiveness is nothing less than the way we heal the world. We heal the world by healing each and every one of our hearts. The process is simple, but it is not easy." — Desmond and Mpho Tutu, The Book of Forgiving



“I am the way, and the truth, and the life...” —Jesus

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.

Sept B-days

David Rivard
Ted Zlatanova
Kris Richardson Smith



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!

9/4	Labor Day Sun. • Communion	Jeremiah 18:1–11, Psalm 139, Luke 14:25–35
9/11	Rally Sunday Seeking Peace, Finding God: The Way Out of Our Mess	2 Chronicles 7:12–18 Luke 23:35–43
9/18	Seeking Peace, Finding God: Because I have to Brush My Teeth too	Numbers 15:25–31 Romans 3:21–26
9/25	Seeking Peace, Finding God: Called to Restore	Genesis 45:1–8 2 Corinthians 5:16–21
10/2	World-wide Communion Seeking Peace, Finding God: Praying for Our Enemies	Matthew 5:38–48

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 Welcome & Registration, September 11

Sunday School begins with Rally Sunday...hurray! Our Sunday School has been growing over the last few years, and the fun combined with learning about God is going to get even better. If you know someone who would enjoy having fun and learning about God, please invite them to join the fun!

Sunday School Moves Downstairs

With our younger kids getting older, it is time to move our Sunday School to the main floor. Lots of hard work and organizing are transforming what was our nursery into a fully functional “big kid” space. Thanks to Liz Nuzzo and Tina Rychalsky for heading up that effort.

Our Monumental Vacation Bible School!

Thanks to all the teens and adults who volunteered hours and energy...and thank you, Tina, for directing us towards blessing kids!



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!

Three Books Pastor Doug Is Reading

The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World. By Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. 2014. This book makes the work of forgiveness very personal and concrete, but also talks about how to help communities find forgiveness too.

Reconciling Places: How to Bridge the Chasms in Our Communities. By Paul A. Hoffman. 2020. The author helps us understand how true healing and reconciliation for communities is rooted in God's love, and how Jesus' sacrifice shows us how grace can open the door.



Christ in Crisis: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus. By Jim Wallis. 2019. As a follower of Jesus, Jim looks at our current politics and says, "Don't go left; don't go right; go deeper." He shows us how focusing on Jesus' core messages and questions can challenge our society's tendency towards lack of grace, and help us find new ways—Jesus' ways!—to interact with each other.

VBS Really "Packs" It In

One of the life-changing aspects of Vacation Bible School each year is that together with the kids, we try to make a difference in our community and the world. This year, the kids and our

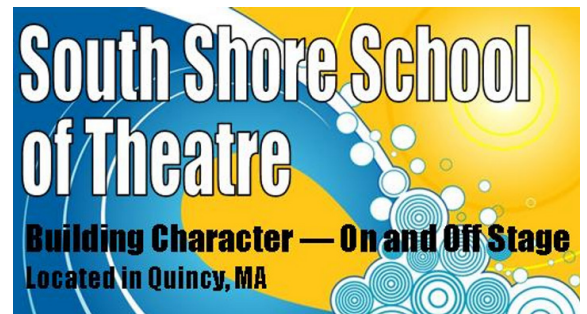


fellowship put together backpacks for kids in community who can't afford a backpack and basic school supplies. Altogether, we had 35 backpacks, fully stocked and ready to go! The backpacks were given as part of a larger drive in Quincy through Interfaith Social Services. In the photo top right, Tina is shown with one of ISS' volunteers.

South Shore School of Theatre Joins Us in Squantum!

Do you know any kids who have lots of drama? The South Shore School of Theater has just moved out of Eastern

Nazarene College, and are now making their home in our church's building! It's very exciting! The organization that offers classes in drama, theatre and dance, including improvisation and tech. If you have a kid or grandkid who might be interested, drop an email to Allison at info@southshoreschooloftheatre.com. You can also check out their website at <https://www.southshoreschooloftheatre.com>. 10% discount if you are part of our church :)

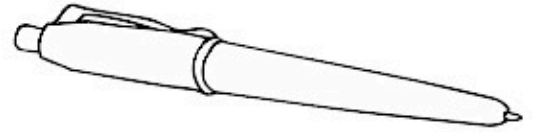
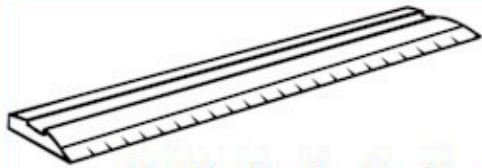


Coffee Hour Needs You...

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.

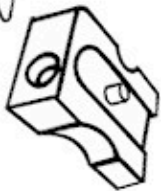
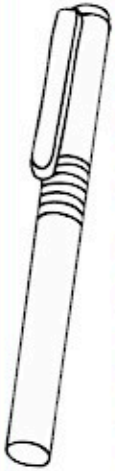
...And So Do Our Building and Grounds!

As we come out of "pandemic mode," our fellowship could really use a hand—30 minutes of weeding, an hour of bush trimming, an hour of cleaning somewhere in the building—we have lots of short projects that can make a real difference. They just need willing hands and hearts. Thank you!



September

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BUS GRADES
 LUNCH MUSIC
 PENCILS RECESS
 SPORTS TEACHERS
 ART
 HOMEWORK
 PAPER
 SCHOOL

