



**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 October 2021

Breaking Ground in Our Hearts

by Rev. Doug Gray

Do you ever wish you could go back in time to a meal and have it over again? When I was a kid, I remember having the chance to go to this amazing restaurant in LA. It was a Japanese restaurant, and sat up in the hills overlooking the LA basin. As I look back on it now, it must have been a verrrrrry nice place to have dinner, and some very generous folks were treating my parents to what must have been a truly spectacular meal, with a view and quiet live music playing in the background. I had a hot dog. It came on a fancy white plate with swooshes of ketchup and mustard. I asked for a bottle of ketchup. Thinking back on it, I would love to have that meal over again, to look over the menu and pick something delightful to taste, that might have satisfied cravings I never knew I had.

At times, my faith has been like that too. I settle for a warm-fuzzy thought for the day, as I rush off to my next appointment. Or I throw up a hasty prayer for a friend in need, then go back to my newsfeed. Or maybe I even go to worship on Sunday, and though I know something wasn’t quite *(continued on p. 3)*

Worship in October

Our fall worship series is based on Tish Warren’s *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life*. The worship experience begins the conversation, and then the Monday Night Bible Study really delves deeper.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title or Event</u>	<u>Reading/Scripture</u>
Oct 3	World-wide Communion Every Moment for God! Eating Leftovers	John 6:47–70
Oct 10	Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Every Moment for God: Losing Keys	Philippians 4:4–13
Oct 17	Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost Every Moment for God: Fighting with Our Partner	Jeremiah 29:4–14 2 Corinthians 5:14–21
Oct 24	Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost Every Moment for God: Checking Email	Luke 10:38–42 Colossians 3:12–17
Oct 31	Remembrance Sunday Every Moment for God: Sitting in Traffic	Genesis 1:31–2:3 Colossians 1:9–14
Nov 7	Communion Sunday Every Moment for God: Calling a Friend	Psalms 8:1–9 Philippians 2:1–4

Memorial Sunday

Oct. 31 • 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

Sunday School Is Back...and MORE!

by Cynthia Gray

Welcome to a new year of Sunday School! It is so indescribably joyful to be together again, and I’m looking forward to a fall full of MORE: more time together, more chances to be part of the community that is First Church, and more opportunities to learn how special God made each of us and the world we live in. In fact, MORE is the title of our fall Sunday school program.

The world’s philosophy of “more” is almost always about stuff – toys, clothes, cars, electronics - and it involves finite things, taken for one’s self, and often at the ultimate expense of someone else. Things are limited, and our desire to have more than we need means there is less for others. This is greed. On the other hand, God’s philosophy of “more” is about abundance. It involves the giving and taking of the limitless, positive attitudes and behaviors of heaven: hope, faith, gratitude, and love. These things never run out, and the more we have, the more everyone has because they spill over into the world in everything we say and do.

Each month through Christmas we are going to focus on one of these 4 ways of having more: September is HOPE; October will be FAITH; November will be GRATITUDE; and December will be LOVE. Each month we will learn what these things really are, how to practice them, and what to do with them to make the world a better place. There will be games, music, crafts, a chance to memorize bible verses, and opportunities to try our hand at some service projects. I will send home letters at the beginning of each unit to explain what we are doing and to offer ideas for things you can do at home to complement the Sunday school lessons.

I am so excited to get back into the routine of a regular Sunday School! As always, if you have questions, suggestions, concerns, or simply want to chat about what Sunday school is all about, feel free to call or text me. My number is 608-436-0063.

(cont’d from p. 1)

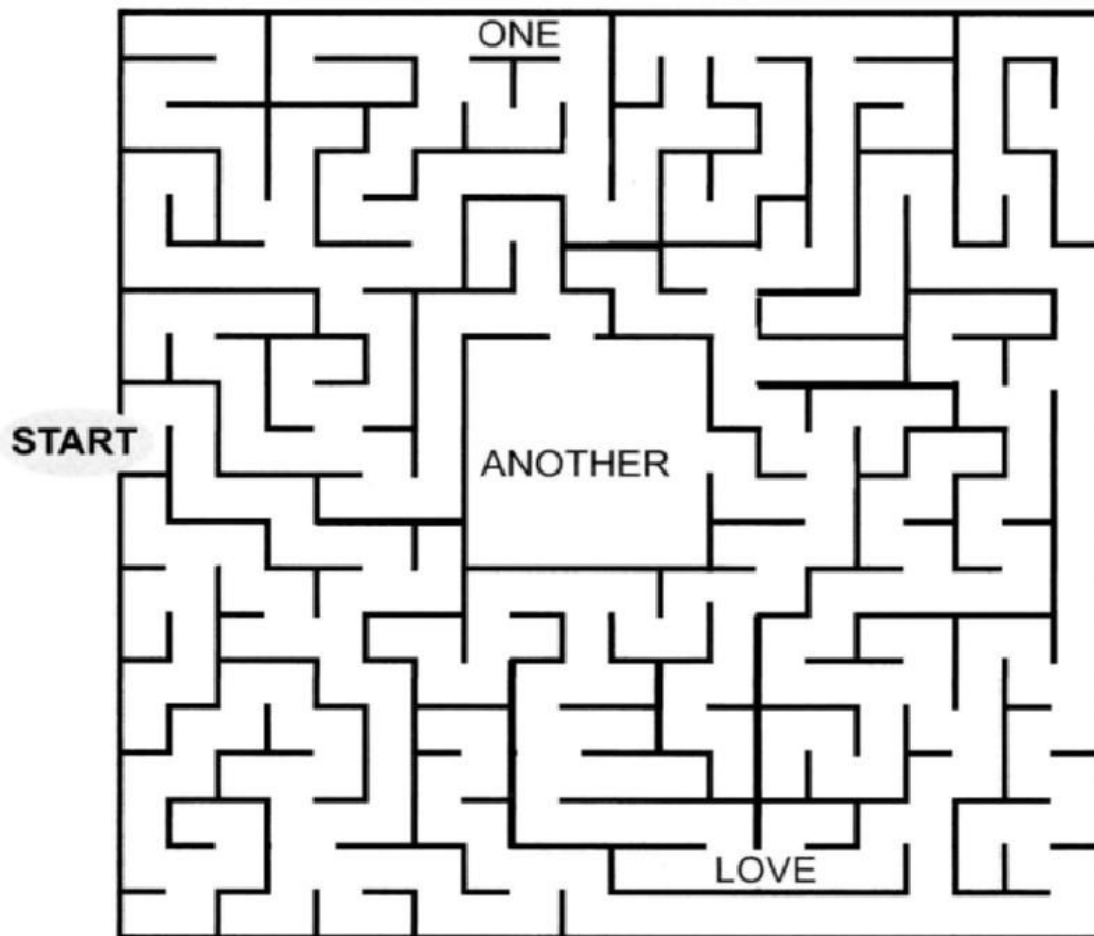
right in my life, I would shake it off and chalk it up to not getting enough sleep, or being stressed because of the kids. And then something would happen, and I would have no choice but to seek God, to help me through this—and when I was through it, I would go back to my old ways. All of these are ways I settled for a hot dog, when I was sitting at a feast. I was happy with crumbs of inspiration and help, when God was willing to give me a relationship that would give me real food, real change, real guidance, real hope.

As we head into this Sunday—and it’s World-wide Communion Sunday—I am thinking about the table Jesus is going to set for us that day. The invitation isn’t just to share in communion, but to share in a relationship. God, the Master Chef, longs to really show us the delights of the real feast of a relationship with Him. In our lives, are we satisfied with the crumbs and hot dogs of God? Perhaps the Master Chef is making swooshes of beauty and grace on our plates to hint at the more we might have.

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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Published by

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