



# Concern In Action

Union Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
East Walpole, MA

October 2019



## Pastor's Message

### *Turn, Turn, Turn*

October brings changes that we can see, smell, and feel all around us. On my morning walk from the Parsonage to the Church, I increasingly require a coat, or indulge in the brisk chill of the morning air. I see the trees of Bird Park slowly but inexorably turning from green to yellow, orange, red, and brown. The scent of dry leaves, cinnamon, and cider are in the air. As I write this, the maple tree outside the Pastor's Study is increasingly clothed in crimson and purple, its leaves seeming to change color right before my eyes. New England autumns certainly live up to their reputation for visual beauty, and for the subtle yet thoroughgoing changes that mark the transition from summer to winter. We are all truly blessed to live in this little corner of God's creation.

As the trees and the breeze sing along to that old song by The Byrds, "Turn, Turn, Turn," I have a sense that a new season is beginning in the life of Union Congregational Church as well. Last month's Apple Harvest Fair was the culmination of weeks (nay, months!) of effort and preparation. The day of the fair was bright and sunny in the morning, lit up by smiling volunteers from all around, who came to be a part of this event. And it certainly did not disappoint! As a church, we welcomed hundreds of people onto our property: our neighbors, our friends and extended church family. Our ticket-sellers reported that many people came to the Fair for the very first time, and some from as far away as Rhode Island. Most of all, though, there was an energy on that day, a joy at coming together as a community to have fun and to enjoy the fruit of all the work done by members here at the church: from cooking chowder, to preparing the silent auction items, to running the Midway games, and selling Attic Treasures.

The Fair was a success by every measure (even in spite of a little rain). When dawn broke on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, Union Congregational let out a collective sigh of satisfaction and exhaustion. And so, the church began to turn, turn, turn: to send unsold treasures off to Savers and New Life Furniture Bank; to store away the games, signs, and other Fair paraphernalia for next year; and to settle back into the sedate routine of life together. Football season began in earnest. Work demands, delayed by summer vacations, likewise recaptured our attention and energy. The buzzing activity around the church began to fade.

But, as a church, we are entering a new season: a season of renewal, of new programs and ideas, of renewed commitment to worship and faithful community together. This month, we celebrate World Communion Sunday, in which we remember that we are all bound in the Body of Christ, the life in Christ that spans the globe. No matter where we are or what we are doing, God continues to walk with us in every season.

Likewise, we are beginning a new ministry for our youth, one that is inspired by the ideal of Christian unity and driven by the reality that the young people of the wider Walpole community have not had the kind of relational ministry they need and deserve. For that reason, our Multi-Church youth group will pool the resources of our church, along with Epiphany Parish, United Church, and South Walpole Methodist, to create both a critical mass of young people, and opportunities to build up connections, friendships, and community in the context of faith. Here at Union, the younger members of our congregation are also being included in our worship together on Sunday mornings more and more as well.

Without the changing seasons, there is no opportunity to rest, nor to grow, nor to see, smell, and feel the Spirit moving in the world. The changing is really the only constant: as the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus puts it, “Existence rests in changing.” But our faith demands more than simply resting in the changes. The Word of the Lord, the Gospel calling we have in Christ, prompts further action. In the words of the Prophet Isaiah: “See, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth: can you not discern it?”

In the midst of changes, we are being called as a church to remain faithful, to discern a way forward together, and to care for one another. By being faithful to our calling in Christ, we can be a force for good in lives of our members, our neighbors, and the world. Even as things change, that vocation, that spirit of commitment, endures.



## Food Pantry



Each month we are emphasizing a particular item, for our food collection. For **October**, we are requesting **household cleaning items such as detergent, paper towels, napkins, toilet paper, tissues, food wrap, and trash bags.** Thank you!

## Prayer Circle



If you have a prayer request, you are invited to contact Pam Doty at 508-660-1063 or email her at [alan.doty@comcast.net](mailto:alan.doty@comcast.net).

She will pass on the request to the UCC Prayer Circle. All prayer requests are kept confidential. Please pray every morning between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m.

**Bible Quiz**

How many times does Jesus say we should forgive others?

- A. 7
- B. 70
- C. 77
- D. 70 x 7
- E. C or D, depending on the translation

forgive

Answer: E (See Matthew 18:22.)



### **2020 Budget**

Prudential would like to kick-off the 2020 budget request cycle this month. The committees of the church should begin the process of reviewing their initiatives, and providing their requests to Prudential, no later than October 24<sup>th</sup>. Our budget reflects the mission and vision of the church: how will we live out that mission in 2020?



### **2020 Church Committee Nominations**

Carol Sandahl, Lew Howes, and Barbara Carroll are beginning the process of seeking nominations for church officers and committees for 2020. If you are interested in serving on one of the church committees (Christian Education, Outreach, Diaconate, Prudential, Personnel, or the Church Fair), please don't hesitate to contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee, or Pastor Shepherd.



4 Cathy Feeley  
 5 Linda Jiorle-Nagy  
 Nancy Aicardi  
 10 Sylvia Evans

13 Benjamin Challis  
 Charlotte McMillan Gallivan (10)  
 25 Deidre Donaldson  
 29 Jenna Weylman (05)  
 30 Meredith Doty



October 3  
 October 6  
 October 8  
 October 9  
 October 11  
 October 13  
 October 21

Cathy and Kevin Feeley  
 Erika and Rich Keen  
 Deidre Donaldson and Bob Paschke  
 Joanne and Chuck Grant  
 Barbara and Michael Keimig  
 Lynne and Joey Golden  
 Jaclyn and Jim Hazeldine

# October 2019

## October

## November

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	10/1	2	3	4	5
10:15a Worship Service -- Sanc		7:30p Feedback on Fair	7p AA Meeting	7p Deacon's Meeting		12a Super Saturday
11:15a Fellowship Hour -- Harri			7p ACOA Meeting	7p ACOA Meeting		7:30p AA Meeting
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:15a Worship Service -- Sanc			7p AA Meeting	7p ACOA Meeting		7:30p AA Meeting
11:15a Fellowship Hour -- Harri						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:15a Worship Service -- Sanc	Columbus Day		7p AA Meeting	7p ACOA Meeting		7:30p AA Meeting
11:15a Fellowship Hour -- Harri	Columbus Day					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:15a Worship Service -- Sanc			7p AA Meeting	7p Prudential		7:30p AA Meeting
11:15a Fellowship Hour -- Harri			7p ACOA Meeting	7p ACOA Meeting		
27	28	29	30	31	11/1	2
10:15a Worship Service -- Sanc			7p AA Meeting	Halloween		7:30p AA Meeting
11:15a Fellowship Hour -- Harri				Halloween		
				7p ACOA Meeting		