



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 - 10 AM

WORDS FOR CONTEMPLATION

*"You've gotta' dance like there's nobody watching,
Love like you'll never be hurt,
Sing like there's nobody listening,
And live like it's heaven on earth.
— William W. Purkey*

GATHERING THE COMMUNITY OF THE FAITHFUL



PRELUDE

INTROIT

As Saints of Old Their First Fruits Brought

#570, v3

WELCOME

This is the Day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it!

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 1*)

One: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

Many: **But their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.**

One: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

Many: **In all that they do, they prosper. for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

☒ HYMN

For Beauty of Meadows

#28

For beauty of meadows, for grandeur of trees,
for flowers of woodlands, for creatures of seas,
for all you created and gave us to share,
we praise you, Creator, extolling your care.

As stewards of beauty received at your hand,
as creatures who hear your most urgent command,
we turn from your wasteful destruction of life,
confessing our failures, confessing our strife.

Teach us once again to be gardeners in peace;
all nature around us is ours but on lease;
your name we would hallow in all that we do,
fulfilling our calling, creating with you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

✕ GLORIA PATRI

#734

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

A TIME FOR THE CHILDREN



A TIME FOR CHILDREN singing.....

*Kids of the kingdom, that's who we are
Kids of the kingdom, that's who we are
We love Jesus, we love the Lord
We love Jesus, we love the Lord*

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

THE PEOPLE AT PRAYER



JOYS AND CONCERNS

CARES CHORUS

#493

*I cast all my cares upon you; I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.
And any time that I don't know what to do, I will cast all my cares upon you.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

HEARING AND PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD



GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.

He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

ANTHEM

Jesus, Savior

REFLECTION

The first shall be last

RESPONDING IN LOVE



CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

He Leadeth Me

☒ DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(Tune: OLD 100TH)

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.***

☒ HYMN

I Then Shall Live

#372

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven;
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid,
I know my name is clear before my Father;
I am his child, and I am not afraid.
So greatly pardoned, I'll forgive another;
the law of love I gladly will obey.

I then shall live as one who's learned compassion;
I've been so loved that I'll risk loving, too.
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;
I dare to see another's point of view.
And when relationships demand commitment,
then I'll be there to care and follow through.

Your kingdom come around and through and in me,
your power and glory, let them shine through me;
your hallowed name, oh, may I bear with honor,
and may your living kingdom come in me.
The Bread of Life, oh, may I share with honor,
and may you feed a hungry world through me..

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE





*In Christ we, though many, form one body,
and each member belongs to all the others.*

~Romans 12:5

Friends, our program year is off to a roaring start. I hope you find time to partake in some of our small group gatherings- from Bible studies to 20Somethings, youth group to prayer group, Aim-Hi to Sunday school classes. There's lots going on and it's always better with you!

And if you're reading this before Sunday, don't forget it's Yankee Doodle and we'll have a booth over at the high school. Come join the fun at our pumpkin ring toss where everyone is a winner!

On the first Saturday in October-the 5th- there will be a historic tour of the oldest churches in town. We are on the tour! There will be a tour bus and you need to sign up in advance (details are in the announcements), it's free, it'll be fun, and it's organized by the inimitable Shirley Holdman. Let's make this a success.

I'm very excited that Thanksgiving dinner at church is happening under the enthusiastic leadership of the Keough family. Many hands will be needed so let them know if you can help. Vegetables will be peeled on Wednesday morning, so grab your peeler and favorite knife and come lend a hand.

Good stuff is happening. Let's continue to be a light of hope in our community.

Blessings to all, *Katherine*




OUR MISSION

Our purpose is to seek God's grace for ourselves and the world.
As followers of Jesus:

- we perpetuate the Word of God by worshipping, teaching, and ministering in a loving and caring way;
- we are an open and affirming congregation that welcomes the diversity of individuals and their gifts;
- we provide a place of Christian learning for ourselves and our children;
- we seek the betterment of the church, the community and the world,
.....so that God's love and justice are made real.




First Congregational Church
in Billerica United Church of Christ



JOIN US FOR COFFEE TIME AFTER THE SERVICE

IN PERSON IN THE PARLOR
AND
VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM

CONVERSATION,
LAUGHTER, BUILDING
RELATIONSHIPS



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Memorial Flowers



Sept 1st

The flowers on the altar were given in loving memory of Gladys and Arthur Barnard from Barbara George and family.

Sept 8th

The flowers on the altar were given in loving memory of her parents, Leonard and Barbara Brown, from Susan Brown.

Sept 15th

The flowers on the altar were given in loving memory of Lonnie and Jonathan Watts and Mary and Larry Watts from Donna Ricarte and family.

Sept 22nd

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of Barbara and Harold Johansen from Jane and Paul Johansen.

Sept 29th

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of Fred Jollimore by his children and grandchildren. The flowers on the lectern are given in loving memory of Robert Swansburg by his wife, Barbara Swansburg.



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

PRAYERS

Prayer

God our Father, we are imperfect just as Jesus' first disciples were imperfect. Give us a child's love and trust so that we may shed all selfishness to serve each other and your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

- Prayers for peace as wars and conflicts continue to escalate around the world. Injustices and inequalities manifest as racism, discrimination, gender-based violence, economic disparities, and other issues.
- For those grieving or suffering due to the ~11,900 [gun violence](#) deaths that happened in the US since the start of the year.
- For those suffering this week from wildfires, hurricanes, floods and other weather-related emergencies.

Prayers of Joy and Thanksgiving

- For those putting philanthropy into action.
- For those gathering on [World Communion Sunday](#) to share Word and sacrament and discern the ways of faithful service.

OUTREACH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS 9/15/24

Lots of information about missions will be coming your way. Outreach Committee will be bringing you information about the Neighbors in Need offering to be received October 6, about Habitat for Humanity in this area, tentatively scheduled in November, and the Alternative Christmas Market to be held December 8. The committee is also planning to visit the Billerica Food Pantry to learn more about that operation.
Phyllis Jennings, secretary for Outreach

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS 9/8/24

- Jim O'Connor and John Keough gave a detailed update about the construction bids received, sources of funding and the impact within the building. They answered questions from the congregation. There was a 1 three-part motion:
 - Approve Plan as presented by the Building Committee.
 - Approve the Building Committee to manage the contractor and the funding for the project.
 - Approve the Treasurer to open a line of credit not to exceed \$400,000 for the sole purpose of covering cash flow while we await reimbursement from the town, only to be used if necessary.
- The motion passed unanimously.



First Congregational Church
in Billerica United Church of Christ

WE WANT YOU!

We would love you to take part in Sundays! Whether it be welcoming or reading or hosting coffee time or creating slides or helping with sound & vision or Sunday School and more! Sign up below whether you're attending in person or on Zoom.

Click here to Sign Up To Sundays!

Or go to fccbillerica.org/gather/worship/sunday-sign-up

UPCOMING EVENTS HERE AND IN TOWN

Join us for the **FREE**
BILLERICA
CHURCHES
HISTORY

Tour
Hosted by



5TH OCTOBER 2024



- First Parish Billerica Unitarian Universalist
- First Congregational Church Billerica
- North Billerica Baptist Church
- St Matthew the Evangelist Parish St Andrews Church
- St Anne's Episcopal Church

Tours start at 12pm and 1pm and are approx 3 hours long.

Space is limited and advance sign up is essential!

Sign by September 21!

Call Brenda at 978-987-7591
or
Diana at 978-667-3433



First Congregational Church
in Billerica United Church of Christ



* **STARTING**
OCTOBER 9TH!

BELLY CLASSES DANCE

Come and learn the basics of this ancient and graceful dance. We'll meet on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm.

Your instructor is Brita Learned (stage name Badoora). She danced at Middle Eastern restaurants and did bellygrams for many years.

Wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring a hip scarf if you have one. This is a great way to get some exercise and have fun!

FREE
(\$5 suggested donation)

First Parish UU Church, 7 Concord Rd, Billerica



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in Billerica United Church of Christ

SCAVENGER HUNT & POT LUCK

19 OCTOBER 2024

SATURDAY
2 NOVEMBER 2024
9 AM - 4 PM

WOMEN'S RETREAT

DIVING DEEPER
INTO GOD &
PRAYER



First Congregational Church
in Billerica United Church of Christ

Indigenous People's Day Celebration

October 12, 2024
 11 am – 2 pm
 Chelmsford Town Common
 (Use 1A North Road, Chelmsford, MA)



Time	Program	Performer(s)/Speaker
11:30 AM	Greeting Song	(GLICA)
11:35 AM	Opening Remarks	Chelmsford DEI Committee
11:45 AM	Dance	GLICA
12:00 PM	Keynote	Chief Tom Eagle Rising Libby (GLICA)
12:30 PM	Communal Dance	GLICA
1:00 PM	Makana (War) Dance	Vinny "Tataniki" Iraheta (Taino)
1:15 PM	Communal Dance	GLICA
1:45 PM	Gratitude Prayer	Chali'Inaru Smiles Dones (Taino)
1:55 PM	Traveling Song	GLICA
2:00 PM	End of Event	



Keynote Speaker: Chief Tom Eagle Rising Libby is of Mi'gmaq/Mi'kmaq descent and his people lived in what is today Nova Scotia, Canada and spread through the coastal areas of Maine, New Hampshire and northern Massachusetts. Eagle Rising has been an active member of the Greater Lowell Indian Cultural Association (GLICA) for the past 22 years, on council for 19 years and Chief for 15 years. He shares his culture with those who are interested in learning, both native and non-native alike. An "amateur" historian of the aboriginal peoples of the Eastern Woodlands, he has been invited to present talks at over twenty educational and corporate institutions.

For this celebration, **Chief Eagle Rising** will touch upon history, land/ environmental justice, and current challenges by Natives living within the Greater Lowell/ Chelmsford Region.

For questions on how to get involved or become a donor, please reach out to Carly Reim cconnorreim@gmail.com or Sophy Theam Sophy.Theam@ebtc.com.

Sponsors



Planning Team

Chelmsford DEIC – Bill Campbell, Beth Pricos, Carly Reim, Jen Melanson
 Enterprise Bank: Francis Gonzalez, Philly Marta, Tenesha Scarlett, Sophy Theam
 Greater Lowell Indian Cultural Association: Chief Thomas Eagle Rising Libby



MIDDLESEX
 Community College



First Congregational Church
in Billerica United Church of Christ

P R A Y E R L I S T

Come to me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. - Matthew 11:28

Let us pray for the family and friends of Carol Goss, April Goss-Baker's mother, as they mourn her passing from this life to eternal life in Christ. Hold in prayer Matthew Ahern, Eddie Thompson, Kevin Corkery, Jason Pantano, & Thomas Knox as they serve our country. Let us pray for the protection & safety of all those who serve in the Military & all First Responders. Prayers for those struggling with mental health. We pray for those that have been lifted up:

Amelia Athans
Lee Backman
Alyssa Barras
Veronica Bargeon
Joan Bello
John Berard
Debbie Bionelli
Dennis Blanchette
Les Bockmann
David Breen
Allan Broome
Julie Brown
Victor Campana
Angela Caron
Larry Carroll
Edith Clooney
Matt Cornaro
Josh Croteau
Jeff Danzig
Caitlin Doherty
Rose & Bill Dixon
Patty Dooley
Richard Dube
Noreen Duxbury
Cathy Barrett Errickson
Christy Fajkowski
Claire Fell
Lindsay Ferraro

Claire Flynn
Bill Flynn
Linda Russell Gallivan
Sebastian Gard
John Gianacopolis
Maryann Giardina
Cara Glennon
Mary Gottmann
Eddie & Linda Grab
Paula Halbedl
Jim Hamilton
Patricia Hamilton
Kathleen Marie Healey
Al Heard
Clara
Kerin Kirkland
Bobby Lockett
Karen Lynne
Elizabeth Mahoney
Abby Metcalf
Samantha Metcalf
Vince Michaels
Diane Morrison
Memorie Munson
Neil Nagle
Gloria Norman
Beverly O'Brien

Richard O'Brien
The Pantano Family
Scott Phippen
Helen Potter
Tammy Potter
Haylee Reed
Harper Reis
Florine Rogers
Sheryl Roth Rogers
Allan Sampson
Lauren Sampson
Rylee Sandland
Diana Saunders
Keara Schmidt
Maureen Schroeder
Ryan Scurka
Joan Slaney
Paul Sneeringer
William Spencer
Marcia Spraker-Carvello
Heather Strassel
Michael Ta
Cindy Tallman
Paul Timmins
Cindy Tomlin
The Tracy Family
Judy Volpicelli
Honey Waldman

Please notify the church office or pastor when you are hospitalized or in need of pastoral care. Due to HIPAA laws, we are not notified by hospitals. You can add or remove a name to the prayer list by notifying the church office. Please have permission from the person you are listing.

ONGOING EVENTS & ZOOM INFORMATION

Sunday Worship, gather at 9:45, worship at 10 am. In person and on Zoom. Stay for fellowship time after worship.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82776552946?pwd=NGNnaUZlczRRWHg1ODFnOGg3ZEEvQT09>

Meeting ID: 827 7655 2946 Passcode: 364377 Connect by phone (audio only) call 253-215-8782

Tuesday Evening Prayer, on Zoom, from 6 to 7pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89052674342?pwd=RURJWW1yNllxVkEvUzAzK0xHLy9JQT09>

Meeting ID: 890 5267 4342 Passcode: 510800 Connect by phone (audio only) call 253-215-8782

Bible Study, Wednesdays, on Zoom, from 10 to 11am.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85104261041?pwd=ci95b28xNHF2ZEdEeW5kY3NOTnpYQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 0426 1041 Passcode: 847812 Connect by phone (audio only) call 253-215-8782

20 Somethings! Wednesdays, in the parlor, from 7 to 9pm.

All are welcome for dinner and conversation.

Pilgrim Fellowship Youth group (grades 8 to 12) 2nd and 4th Sundays from 6 to 8pm in the parlor.

Led by Matt Ahern, Angela Hiott, and Rev Katherine in the Parlor. Reach out to one of them for the exact schedule of meetings.

Trustees: 1st Thursdays at 7:00pm in the parlor and on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89368255444?pwd=UzkvbmInb3RvV3dkaXRbBjN6M1V4QT09>

Meeting ID: 893 6825 5444 Passcode: 368023

Council: 3rd Tuesdays at 7:15pm on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 328 925 2858 Passcode: Beacon

Aim Hi Lunch, 3rd Thursdays at noon in the parlor. Join us for friendship, fellowship and fun activities! Contact Taryn to confirm we are meeting and to get more information. The next meeting will be October 17th.

Lay Shepherds: 4th Thursdays at 10:30am in the parlor.

All are welcome to join us! We send cards and make calls to keep in touch with people in the congregation.

Choir and Junior Choir Everyone is welcome! Come Thursday evenings Sept. to June from 7:00 to 8:30pm in the Sanctuary. Youth Choir meets every Sunday after worship, in the Chapel, also Sept to June.

Deacons: 2nd Sundays at 11:30am in room 11.

Contact Liz Antoszewski if you would like to attend a meeting and she'll confirm the meeting time.

Outreach: 3rd Sundays at 11:30am in room 5. Contact Carol Young for more information.

Pizza and Bible 1st and 3rd Fridays in the parlor from 12 to 1:30. Come explore the Bible. No prior knowledge needed.

FCCB CONTACT INFORMATION

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**18 ANDOVER ROAD
BILLERICA, MA 01821
WWW.FCCBILLERICA.ORG**
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

Church Office:

communications@fccbillERICA.org
978-663-8433
Office Hours:
Tues. - Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor, Rev. Dr. Katherine Adams
pastor@fccbillERICA.org
(508) 245-5094

Office Manager, Taryn Gillis
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Music Dir, Timothy Jenkins
jenkinsta2@gmail.com
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Pilgrim Fellowship
Matthew Ahern
Angela Hiott
Rev Katherine

Sexton
Beth Downer

Nursery Teacher
Helen Pynn
978-663-4071

CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator/ Church Council
Ed Reinecker
978-667-5336

Clerk/ Church Council
Sue Hagel
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Treasurer
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Asst Financial Secretary
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Acolytes
Angela Hiott
978-667-3274

Aim Hi
Donna Ricarte
978-663-4043

Congregational Relations
Jenny Carmichael
978-987-1146

Memorial Flowers
Ruthie Elliott
617-281-8056

Lay Shepherds
Sandy Galvin
510-329-2169

Junior Choir
April Goss-Baker
978 670-8993

Outreach Committee
Carol Young
978-663-5658

Youth Ministry
Dawn Salter
978-262-9927

Ushers
Donna Ricarte
978-663-4043

Generosity Ministry
Laura Bosworth
978-604-1189

Membership Planning Ministry
Laura Bosworth
978-604-1189

**TOGETHER,
WE CAN
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE.**

The good news we have of hope, love, grace, mercy, & forgiveness is needed now more than ever.

The church is working diligently to provide both online and in person worship & programming to reach in and around our community.

There are 3 ways to give:

1. Online using the QR code on the right or go to our website FCCBillERICA.org
2. Mail checks to FCCB, 18 Andover Road, Billerica, MA 01821
3. Sundays during the Offertory



Thank You
for your
support



First Congregational Church
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