

# THE SPIRE

OCTOBER 2018



## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

October is when we fall into the rhythm of the liturgical season. At the Church of Christ, Congregational, October is also when we turn our attention to stewardship. I'd like to share a story from a colleague that illustrates the concept.

Eddie was the church sexton and he also worked across the street at the local elementary school. Most people referred to him as the janitor. And when they did, he would not only get very upset, he would also turn it into a bit of teaching moment. A slight middle-aged mild-mannered-guy, who always looked as if he were in a hurry, had what seemed to be a personality change when he was referred to as a janitor.

He'd get all puffed up – you know, like a cat trying to show you it's in charge – he'd take a big deep breath, roll his eyes and exclaim clearly for everyone to hear, "I am not a janitor! I'm a custodian. I don't just clean things up I take care of the whole building. The school building isn't mine, but it's in my custody. I'm responsible for it."

Eddie's vocabulary lesson applies to us, too, just as much as it did to the one who happened to offend him.

If Eddie were just a janitor, he'd simply have to make sure the place looks spic and span, the trash is disposed of and the floor gets waxed each August. But, as the Custodian of the school, Eddie has to do all that, and he has to make sure that the heating systems and the plumbing systems and electrical systems and water systems, and, and, and...are all working properly. Because – even though he has all those jingly keys hanging from his belt and he can go anywhere in the building even places the principal isn't allowed – he's not the owner.

But he's got a critically important role as the custodian of that building – he has to care for it as if it were his own and he's accountable for his performance as custodian to the owner of the building.

For us, it's important to remember that we're simply the custodians, the stewards of God's gifts of treasure while we're on this journey together. The only thing we're called to do, really, is exercise faithful management of all that God has placed in custody with us.

So with this little story about Eddy the custodian, I'll leave you with the question in what way are you caring for Christ's church this year?

With you on the journey –

Rev. Jen



Pledge Sunday

OCTOBER 28, 2018

Watch your mail for more information.



## FREE! DINNER & GAME NIGHT

**Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:30pm**

Are you looking for something easy and entertaining to do on a Friday night? Join us at the Church of Christ for a free, delicious dinner, followed by a fun night playing board games and sharing conversation and fellowship. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm. Feel free to bring family, friends, and a favorite board game! We'll have games for all ages! Call 508-376-5034 for more information.

## NEIGHBORS IN NEED “Love of Neighbor” Special Collection – Oct. 21

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One third of the funds raised support the Council for American Indian Ministry and two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC justice and witness ministries to support a wide range of grants and initiatives promoting justice work in the community. Donation envelopes will be available during worship on October 21. Please give generously!

The Church Mission Committee says  
**THANK YOU!**

to everyone who donated Bottles & Cans  
to help us raise money for Heifer, Intl.

We are **NO LONGER** collecting them.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able  
to donate nearly \$150 to the Heifer  
organization, which will be used to  
purchase animals for families in need.

## VISITORS' GROUP NEWS

The next Visitors' Group meeting will be Thursday, October 18, at 10:00am in the Church Parlor. anyone who may like to be visited or knows someone who may like to be visited by a visitor. If anyone is interested in becoming a visitor they are welcome to join us. We hope that you will be able to make our meeting.

The Visitors: *Judie Ackerman, Ellie Costa, Ginny Demery, Pam Johansson, Linda Jones, Judy Kosinski, Shirley Rowley, Pat Spearing, Kathy Stevens, Rev. Jen Munroe Nathans*

**Thank you!**

To all my friends in this congregation, I want to say thank you for the calls, cards, visits, flowers, food, prayers, and rides while I was laid low by surgery, infections, and rehab – my summer that wasn’t. I’m back to church, with the help of drivers, but not to choir, yet. This church, and its family, are truly wonderful.

With gratitude,  
Kathy Stevens



# The Jolly Holly Fair Will Be Here on December 1<sup>st</sup>

## It's Time to Start Planning!



Time flies so quickly it's already October!  
Before you know it, it will be the first Saturday in December  
which is our church's annual JOLLY HOLLY FAIR!

The annual Jolly Holly Fair is our largest fund raiser and it takes all of us to make it a success. In addition to helping the church financially, the Jolly Holly Fair is a popular event for the community, and it's a great way for us to welcome everyone into our wonderful church!

Here are some of the ways you can help out:



**FOOD TABLE:** Provide homemade baked goods for the food table, including cakes, cookies, brownies, bars, pies, breads, etc. Homemade jams, jellies, relishes, and pickles are also popular items.

**CANDY TABLE:** Provide homemade candies or fudge. We also need donations of bags of candy, such as M & M's (regular or peanut), Mike & Ike's, red and green jelly rings, Skittles, jelly beans, individually wrapped hard candies, and Christmas foil wrapped candies including Hersey Kisses, miniature Hersey bars, and Reese's peanut butter cups.

**NEEDLEARTS TABLE:** Donate any handcrafted articles that you have made by knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, counted cross stitch, sewing, etc. Some things that we have sold in the past are mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, doll clothes, dog sweaters, and knit toys.

**SILENT AUCTION:** Donations for the Silent Auction can be anything that catches your fancy. You can donate a themed basket, such as items for a children's birthday party, an at-home spa day, or a cozy afternoon with tea, blanket and books. Get a group together and use your imagination! You can also donate individual items that people would be likely to bid on, such as coffee makers, sports tickets, bottles of wine, etc.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask in the church office or at Coffee Hour after worship and someone will be able to give you more details. Remember, we're all working together to make the Jolly Holly Fair a great day!!



## FINDING YOUR VOICE WRITING GROUP

**Tuesdays at 10:00am – Church Parlor**

We invite you to join the **Finding Your Voice Writing Group**, where the focus is on finding your voice and feeling comfortable writing. This is a very non-judgmental group and includes various styles of writing: essays, prose poetry, poetry, works in progress or getting started on that book you always meant to write. Memories, and our reflections on our lives and the world, can be as meaningful and important as photographs. Children, and especially grandchildren, enjoy and savor reading about the childhood, and really, the whole life of their families. Writing those stories, sharing the special events, thoughts, recipes and observations is the sharing of a precious gift, whether to family or simply to ourselves.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have.

Myrna Rybczyk, Music Director



## SUPPORT THE PATHFINDERS WITH DINNER

An easy way to support the Pathfinders Youth Group is to serve us dinner once in a while. We dine together in community, just as Jesus and his disciples did, every time we gather on a Sunday evening.

We meet at 6:30pm and have a simple game going until everyone shows up. If you can come and have a meal ready for us by 6:40 and then clean up, it will be a true blessing, appreciated by every member of the youth group. [Dinner Ideas](#): breakfast for dinner, mac and cheese, pasta and meatballs, tacos, grilled cheese, hot dog bar, chicken and broccoli, baked potato bar, etc. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Jess Boose – [jessalou@me.com](mailto:jessalou@me.com)



## Hello Families of College Students!

Last year the Church of Christ Pathfinders' created Care Packages for some of the church family's college students. Both the givers and the receivers enjoyed them! This year we plan on doing it again, with packages being mailed mid of November, known to be when students away from home struggle the most.

**What we need from you is your student's name  
and current mailing address.**

Please email them to Jess at [jessalou@me.com](mailto:jessalou@me.com)  
with the subject line: College Care Package Address. Thank you!





**Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8:30 PM**

### **Pathfinders' Youth Group!**

Students in grades 7 through 12 are invited to come for  
a potluck dinner, discussion, and games.

Bring a favorite food to share.

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#### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>, Pathfinders**

#### **Flyer distribution**

We need to get the word out to our Trick-or-Treat neighborhood by distributing flyers to all the homes. Details TBA.

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#### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> TRICK-or-TREAT so ALL Can Eat!**

We will gather at 5:30 pm in the Ticonderoga Neighborhood. After photos of everyone's costumes have been taken, we will divide up into groups and go collecting. Wagons, adults and snacks will be needed. Grades 4 though 12 are invited to join us, and bring your friends! This is a fun evening and we're done by 7:30 pm.



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#### **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Stock the Shelves!**

All the food we collected on Sunday needs to be sorted and checked and put away properly in the Food Pantry on Monday. Many hands make light work – bring your friends and we'll have fun filling the shelves quickly.

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**We strive to support our church and serve the world around us.  
At least once a month we will have an activity  
that focuses on one or both of these missions.**

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## Join the “M & M’s (Monday Morning) Group



**Mondays at 10:00am  
at the Church of Christ**

Join the “M & M’s” Needlecraft Group on Monday mornings to work on needlecraft projects and to relax and spend time visiting with others. You don’t need to bring a project; you can just come for the socializing. Stop by to say a quick hello, or stay for awhile; come one week or every week. Whatever works with your schedule. Everyone is welcome!

