



# Steeple Notes

The First Congregational Church of Rowley, U.C.C.  
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## November 2020

### Worship Watch

Sun. Nov. 1

Twenty-second Sunday after  
Pentecost  
Joshua 3:7-17  
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12

Sun., Nov. 8

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost  
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Psalm 78:1-7  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

Sun., Nov. 15

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
Judges 4:1-7  
Psalm 123  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30

Sun., Nov. 22

Reign of Christ  
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 100  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46

Sun., Nov. 29

First Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1  
Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

*Deadlines for the  
December Issue of  
**STEEPLENOTES** is  
Sunday – November 15*

# A Time for Holy History

In the Bible is evidence of “Holy History” - this being the description of the work of God in human affairs. We can compare this to how we chronicle our own material history with its dates, times and descriptions of secular events. Scripture suggests the two courses of events run parallel and cross in times of epic change.



Our Christian faith affirms that the providence of God is powerfully alive in our daily experience. This is not the same teaching as some of the other great faiths of the world.

It is not so much that God makes every tiny thing happen, but rather - nothing happens without the ultimate nurture of God's love. It is this love which ensures that good will eventually overcome evil. It is this love that we freely choose or reject in our daily actions.

Through the eons there have been high points of great struggle for liberation, redemption, and justice. It seems to me today we are living in one of those critical moments where strife meets life.

November 3, 2020 is the last day in our national election when we Americans can exercise our free right to vote. Amid the secular noise of anger, accusation, confusion, and political strife, I believe there is also the deeper song of God's love. Can we hear it? Can we abide by it? This is the realm wherein dwell the angels of our better nature. Please listen to their chorus as you deliberate.

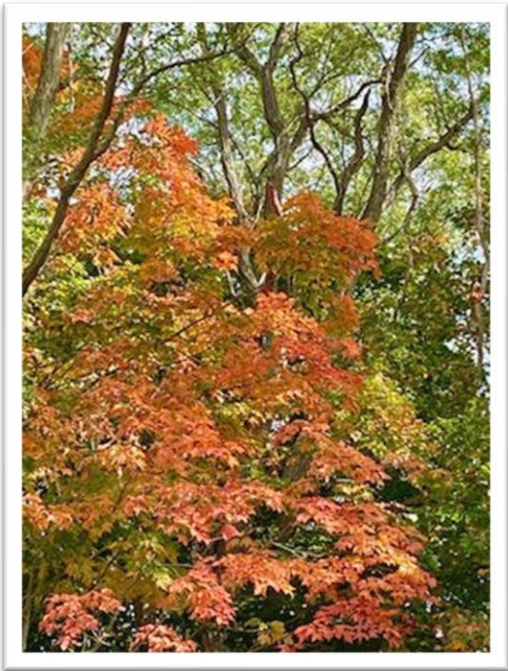
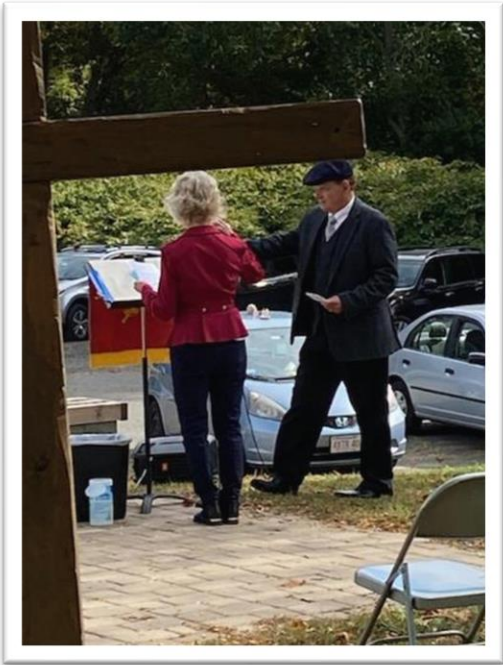
In Deuteronomy 30 verse 15 God places a choice in front of those who seek to follow the Divine: “See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.” [NIV] This is often the choice when we strive to live in Holy History. I pray we all make the good, the right, and the loving decision.

Peace and blessings in your journey,

Rev. Tom



# Outdoor Service Pictures by Penny Hurley



# Missions Committee

We hope all are well and staying healthy. We are seeing more troublesome news on the border with the loss of over 500 families, children separated from their parents and no way to find anyone because of the deportations of the parents and the wait and hold in Mexico. It is a dire situation. We hope you will hold these children in your prayers and do what you can to support the lawyers that are trying to unite these families.



Please check with friends and neighbors to be sure they have enough food, with further unemployment and more cases of COVID we will need to be watching out for each other.

We hope that you have received our letter about racial injustice and given it every consideration. In the next months we will hold a series of conversations. Our first conversation will be on November 15th and will be a re-uniting of sorts. Please join us for Conversation and Fellowship and cookies. Bring your own beverage. If the weather is okay we will be outside. We are excited to see you!

We will be putting together a fund-raiser in the winter - an historical treasure hunt of Rowley! We hope it will be great and everyone will be involved on foot, bike or car!

We had a lovely note from the Triton nurses thanking us for our generous donations of undergarments for the students. We will continue this mission.



If you wish to make a donation to Neighbors In Need we will not be sending anything out to the UCC for another month. Remember to start looking for hats, mitten, and gloves for our Christmas mission to families in need on the North Shore. Take care of yourselves, and take care of each other, and please have love be your guide.

## Compassionate Care

We continue to reach out to members of our congregation by phone call, email messages or hand-written notes in an effort to stay connected during a time when getting together is so difficult. If you would like to receive a call from a member of the Compassionate Care Network, please reach out to Angie in the church office.



In addition to individual outreach, weekly ***Inspirational Messages*** authored by Patti Cummings, Angie Estevez, Penny Hurley, Mike Blouin and Rev. Tom were sent.

If you would like to contribute by writing a message of inspiration, please submit your writing to Angie. All submissions are reviewed prior to being published.



# Youth Group and Christian ED

Sunday school and Youth group are off to a fabulous start.

Sunday School rotates through a craft week, a video presentation and Zoom Sunday School Class. The theme has been around "Creation". Children as far as the Bronx in NY have been reached. (See picture on right made by two of our young Sunday School students - HC and AM)

We continue to explore creative ways to continue our outreach ministry.

Look for information regarding a "Pop the Trunk Food Drive" to support Lazarus House and the Rowley Food Pantry.

Even if the church opens and starts to meet indoors, Sunday School will continue with remote instruction.

Youth Group will continue with Social Distancing while the weather holds and then virtual. Contact Angie and the church website for more information regarding youth programming.

Our youth group had their first "Youth Group Communion Service" on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. It was a very hands on gathering, with most of the youth taking part in the service.

For example, two of our youth read scriptures, one sang a song while playing the guitar, another one prayed, etc... After we took communion the youth spent some time sharing personal reflections. it was very touching.

The youth have decided to continue meeting outdoors, while the weather permits (until it gets too cold). At the very least, we will continue to meet outdoors through the end of November.

We are looking forward to our having an **International Friendsgiving Potluck** at the end of the month and promise to share some pictures with you. This too will be held outdoors.





FIRST CONGRGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF ROWLEY

# OLDE TYME COUNTRY FAIR

VIRTUAL STYLE FOR 2020

[WWW.OLDTYMECOUNTRYFAIR.COM](http://WWW.OLDTYMECOUNTRYFAIR.COM)

**ORDER DEADLINE NOV 14  
RAFFLE DRAWING  
VIA FB LIVE NOV 18**

Raffle tickets for gift baskets are only \$5.  
Buy 4 tickets get one free!!!!

Check out our lunch menu!

OTHER FAVORITE items include: Roger's Honey  
Stewed Apples, Sharon's Baked Beans, Scottish  
Shortbread, Penny's HomeMade Bread, Cabot  
Cheddar Cheese, Winter Log Baskets and Kissing Balls  
from Country Gardens.

Visit our website for more information.

# Birthdays

Anika	Whitmore	11/1
Janine	Balistreri	11/1
Bob	Mulkern	11/5
Jonathan	Sanford	11/7
Nicholas & Alexa	Bonesara	11/9
Anna(Nestor)	Katzberg	11/13
Nancy	Reed	11/19
Grace	Fyrberg	11/20
Brian	Pyburn	11/20
James	Kay	11/21
Jeremy	Schmidt	11/28
Marge	Thurston	11/28
Jessica	Faircloth	11/29
Ashli	Pyburn	11/29



## Anniversaries

Ronald & Pat	Lees	1
David & Donna	Irving	11
Elizabeth (Somers) & Bradley Reep		12



## Historical Birthday

Daniel Boone: Nov 2, 1734  
 Marie Curie : Nov 7, 1867  
 Carl Sagan: Nov 9, 1934  
 Grace Kelley: Nov 12, 1929  
 Alan Shepard: Nov 18, 1923  
 Mark Twain: Nov 30, 1835



Thanksgiving 2020 - November 26

## Historical Days in November

- November 1, 1950 - President Harry S. Truman was the target of an unsuccessful assassination attempt by two members of a Puerto Rican nationalist movement.
- November 3, 1957 - Soviet Russia launched the world's first inhabited space capsule, Sputnik II, which carried a dog named Laika.
- November 3, 1983 - White South Africans voted to allow Indians and "Coloreds" (persons of mixed race) limited power in the government, but continued to exclude blacks.
- November 4, 1842 - Abraham Lincoln married Mary Todd in Springfield, Illinois.
- November 5, 1733 - The first issue of the *New York Weekly Journal* was published .
- November 6, 1860 - Abraham Lincoln was elected as the 16th U.S. President and the first Republican. He received 180 of 303 possible electoral votes and 40 percent of the popular vote.
- November 10. 1775 - The U.S. Marine Corps was established as part of the U.S. Navv.

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**JUNE 2020 – May 2021**

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 Staff: Interim Minister and Admin. Assistant

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