



Steeple Notes

The First Congregational Church of Rowley, U.C.C.
175 Main Street • P.O. Box 364 • Rowley, MA 01969
(978) 948-3993 • www.firstchurchrowley.org



June 2021

Worship Watch

Sun., June 6

**Second Sunday after
Pentecost**

1 Samuel 8:4-11 [12-15]
16-20 [11:14-15]
Psalm 138
2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1
Mark 3:20-35

Sun., June 20

**Fourth Sunday after
Pentecost**

1 Samuel 17:[1a, 4-11, 19-
23] 32-49 and Psalm 9:9-20
OR 1 Samuel 17:57—18:5,
10-16 and Psalm 133
2 Corinthians 6:1-13;
Mark 4:35-41

Sun., June 27

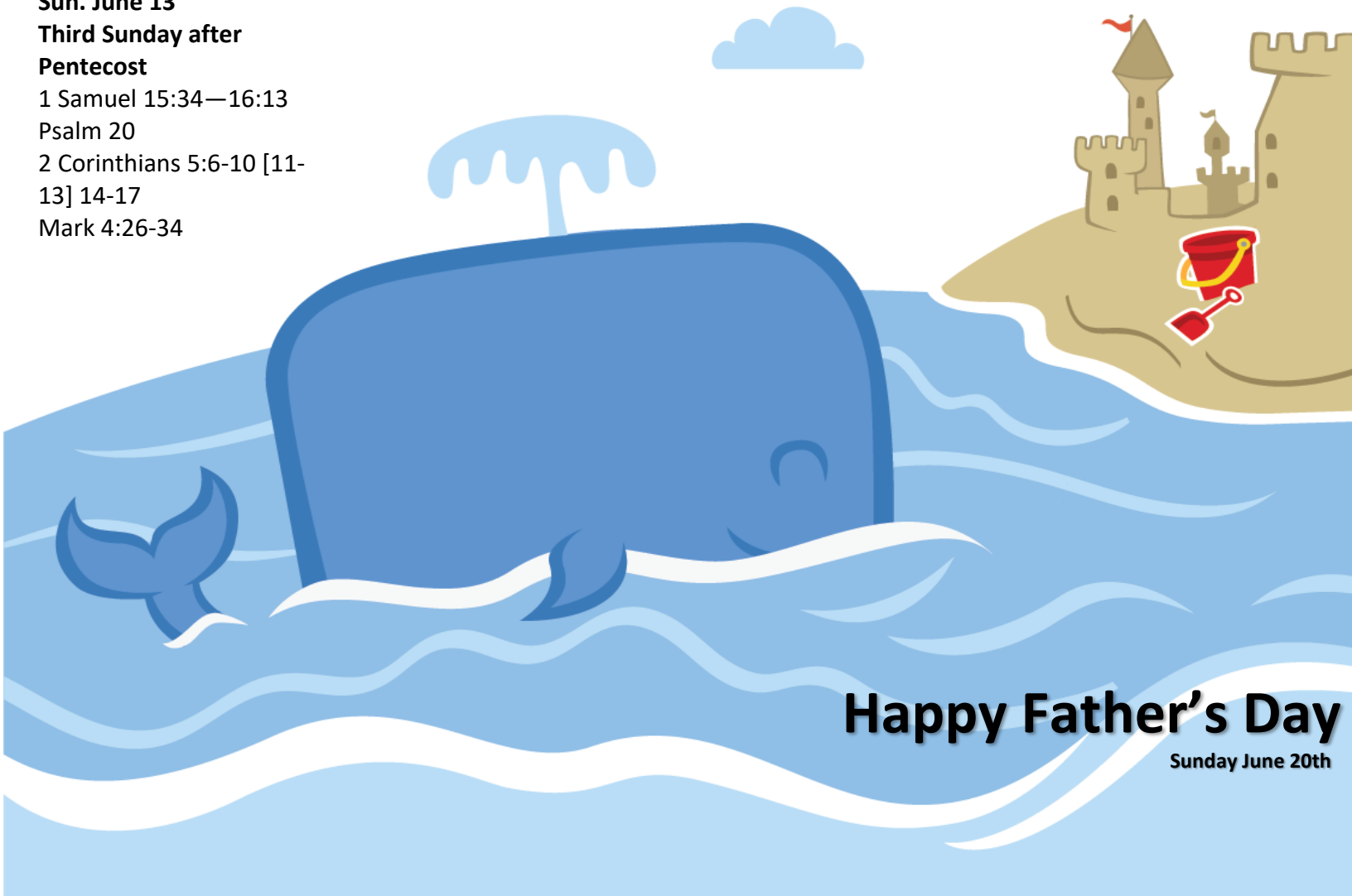
**Fifth Sunday after
Pentecost**

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

Sun. June 13

**Third Sunday after
Pentecost**

1 Samuel 15:34—16:13
Psalm 20
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-
13] 14-17
Mark 4:26-34



Happy Father's Day

Sunday June 20th



God's Perennial Spirit

This spring of 2021 was beautiful. In my yard I kept my plants thriving in the cool weather.

Some of these glorious plants I have known for over 14 years. These are my perennials. I feel like a parent with children. The babies are born. In a few years you bring them to preschool, and suddenly they are graduating from high school!

My most prominent graduates include my aromatic lilac bush and the magenta azalea I transplanted to the front part of the property ten years ago.

Many of these perennials were gifts from friends. It was Kathy who gave me the blue Sage.

I remember her counsel well. She said- *"Tom in the first year they sleep, in the second year they creep, and in the third year they leap into a burst of blossoms on blossoms."*

Seems to me the church works a lot like perennials. In the first year ideas, like little plants, take root. Then for another year the ideas grow quietly underground gaining strength and energy. In the third year the idea turns into actions, and if all goes well we see a bounty of spiritual fruits.

So, what are some of the fragile things we planted in 2020-21?

- In early 2020 members of the search committee shared with me, their new pastor, the hope the congregation can work together to envision new possibilities for the future.
- The missions committee is trying to take on serious social justice issues.
- We have started implementing new technologies to help us worship and serve together more effectively.
- New opportunities for creative music now growing with enthusiasm.
- In our Lenten Series "Journey in the Spirit" over a dozen of us learned how to participate in spiritual practices drawn from the early Christian Church. Seeds of Hope!

Yes, new blessings are growing in our hearts. Soon I think we will see a three-year cycle rich in harvest. (It does take three years for a good idea to start, grow, and then break forth with its blessings.) What do you think are some of the other ideas that we have planted here at Rowley? What is sleeping in our souls? - Moving silently toward the surface? - Expanding out in grace and love? Please let me know what you think, see, and feel?

Blessings to you in the coming summer.

Rev. Tom



Plant Sale Pictures

On May 15th the church hosted it's Annual Plant Sale.

Pictures by Penny Hurley



News!!!!

Special Visit!!! On May 2nd, Stephanie Markuson and her husband visited our church. Stephanie recently discovered that she is a direct descendent of the Puritans who followed Ezekiel Rogers and settled in Rowley . Stephanie and her husband are pastors of a church on a Native reservation in NW Minnesota. (See pics on right)



INSTALLATION SUNDAY - Sunday, June 6th is Installation Sunday. Officers and members of committees and boards will be installed.

DEACON EMERITUS CELEBRATION - On Sunday, June 6th we will bestow on Ken Sanford the Office of Deacon Emeritus.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION!!! Sunday School and Youth Group programming have concluded for the year.

On May 16th we celebrated Children's Sunday and we also visited Maudslay State Park on that day with others from the church.

On our website, you can find many pictures from Children's Sunday and the Senior Send-Off, as well as two slide show presentations that include a collection of images and videos from our CE programming for 2020-2021.

NEW MEMBERS – on June 13th we receive as new members the Marienello Family as new members.



GUEST SPEAKER - Patti Cummings has invited Christine DiGiacomo to speak on June 13th. Details TBA. You don't want to miss it!

Missions Committe

On May 25th it was the anniversary of George Floyd's murder at the hands of a police officers. Tom, Holly, Paul and I went up to Newburyport to support the Unitarian church whose Black Lives Matter flag had been vandalized. It was good to hear the re-commitment of area clergy and parishioners to working in their communities on anti-racist education.

I ask you to reflect on how you respond to people of color, how you respond to news of interactions of police and people of color. Is your first response a negative judgement? If you were in that person's shoes how would you feel, how would you respond? I saw a video of a white middle aged guy being stopped by the police for his light out and swearing and threatening the cop as he was out-raged that he should be stopped. If a black dude did that he would be dead, end of story. Saying Black Lives Matter needs to be said because so often those lives have not and do not

matter in the power structure. Listen, open your heart, be generous in your thoughts, educate yourself to the history that has been hidden for so long.

Justice and injustice is what Jesus was constantly bringing to people's attention. Yet the world refuses to learn, refuses to listen. The horrible treatment of the Palestinians by the Israeli government and people should make all of our hearts ache. An 8 year old Palestinian girls said she no longer believes in peace and just wants other children to feel the pain and fear she feels every day. What are we doing to the psyche of our children?

We must consciously seek justice in lives everywhere.

We are doing a small part in our neighborhood continuing support of Family Promise. It continues to uplift families on the precipice of personal disaster. If you would like to be more involved please let us know.

Missions events for June - please be with us -

June 6 Mission Walk 1pm

June 13 Cookies and Conversation after service

June 20 Mission Minute

June 29 Missions Meeting 8 pm zoom

The Missions Committee wishes all a happy and safe summer. Stay healthy, be respectful of others, walk the walk. Danby



Compassionate Care Network

The outreach of the Compassionate Care Network (CCN) supports those in need in a variety of ways. We continue to contact individuals by email, written notes and phone calls. If you would have a prayer request, or need the blessing of a caring conversation, please let Angie at the church office know along with a phone number or email address where you can be reached.



In addition to individual outreach, CCN sponsors weekly Inspirational Messages which are emailed to our active member lists. These messages of hope and assurance serve to boost your spirit and inspire you to be all that you can be - to yourself, to others and to our church community.

If you are interested in being a member of this team in supporting our congregation, please contact the church office. If you love to knit or crochet, we are looking for volunteers for knitting/crocheting prayer shawls or prayer squares.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13

Compassionate Care Network Members

- Patti Cummings
- Kay Dalzell
- Lori Flodman
- Penny Hurley
- Jerry Schmidt
- Nancy Schmidt
- Rev. Bentley



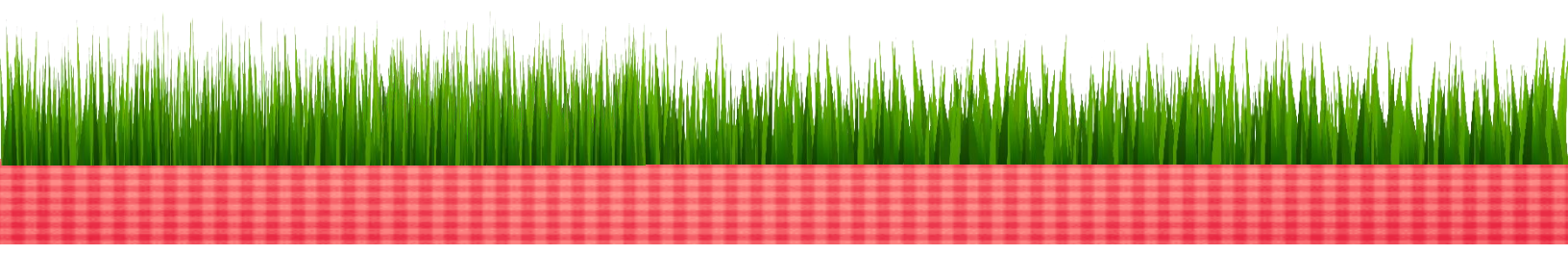
Golf Tournament & Flower Committee

SAVE THE DATE!!

Annual Ezekiel Rogers Golf Fundraiser
Saturday, September 18th
Far Corners Golf, Boxford, MA



Looking for golfers and volunteers on the day of the event.
Please contact Debbie Confalone at
dconfalone@com
cast.net or 781.290.6502



Scavenger Hunt

On May 2nd the Missions Committee hosted a community wide scavenger hunt which included more than 20 historical sites across town and downtown. They then met outside of the church for icecream.

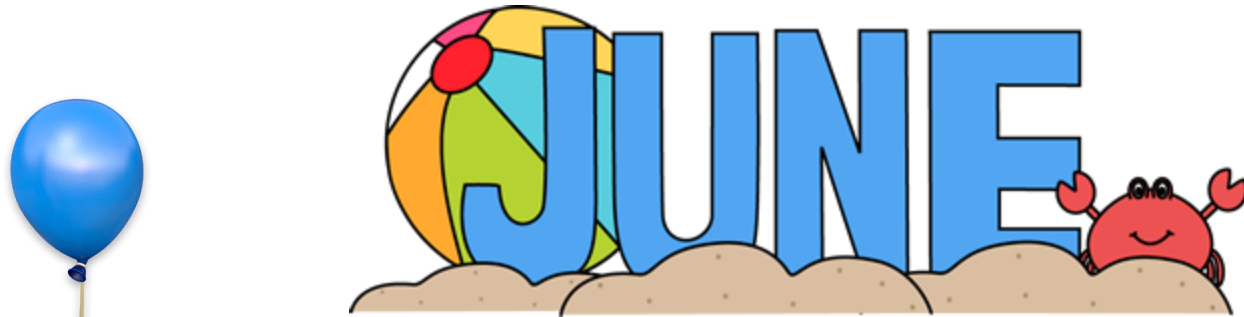
Great job Missions Committee!



For more pictures, please visit the “Gallery” on our website!

Thank you.





Birthdays

Aidan	Davey	6/1
Youssef	Salib	6/1
Erin	Savage	6/2
Burton	Gray	6/4
Travis	Faircloth	6/7
Al	Locke	6/9
Mariah	McCormick	6/10
Jim	Somers, Jr.	6/10
Rev. Lee	Ireland	6/13
Abeba	Whitmore	6/14
Abigail	Confalone	6/16
Donna	Irving	6/18
David	Roberts	6/20
Sean	Gundrum	6/22
Joe	Blazonis	6/26
Mike	Blouin	6/28
Kay	Dalzell	6/28
Lisa	Stevens	6/30



Anniversaries

Nat & Millie	Dummer	6/4
Jeff Nickless	& Louise DiMella	6/7
Ken & Pam	Sanford	6/10
Charles & Jeannette	Loring	6/23
Tom & Nancy	Reed	6/27
Don & Marge	Thurston	6/28

Famous Birthdays in June

June 1, 1801 - Brigham Young, Mormon religious leader
June 1, 1926 - Marilyn Monroe, actress
June 1, 1937 - Morgan Freeman, actor, movie "Driving Miss Daisy"
June 6, 1935 - The Dalai Lama, Tibetan spiritual leader
June 7, 1917 - Dean Martin, singer, actor, producer
June 7, 1922 - Rocky Graziano, boxing champion
June 7, 1940 - Tom Jones, singer
June 12, 1929 - Anne Frank, Holocaust victim
June 14, 1946 - Donald Trump, 45th U.S. President
June 21, 1905 - Jean-Paul Sartre, philosopher, novelist, playwright
June 25, 1903 - George Orwell, novelist
June 28, 1971 - Elon Musk. Entrepreneur, inventor, Tesla Motors, Space-X.

Historical Dates in June

June 3, 1972 - Sally Jan Priesand was ordained a rabbi thus becoming the first woman rabbi in the U.S.
June 4, 1944 - During World War II in Europe, Rome was liberated by the U.S. 5th Army, led by General Mark Clark.
June 5, 1968 - Robert F. Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded while leaving the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles.
June 10, 1652 - In Massachusetts, silversmith John Hull opened the first mint in America, in defiance of English colonial law.
June 14, 1922 - Warren G. Harding became the first U.S. President to broadcast a message over the radio.
June 18, 1983 - Dr. Sally Ride, a 32-year-old physicist and pilot, became the first American woman in space.

