



His Mansion

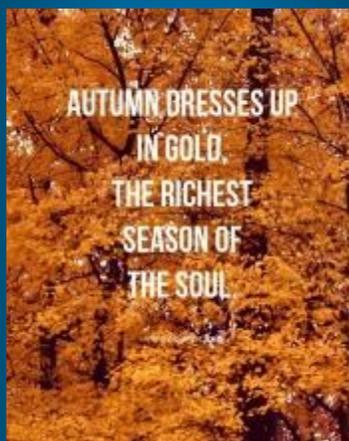
A newsletter from
First United Methodist Church
of Southbridge

"In my Father's House, there are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you..."

FALL 2021



We are currently
worshipping
online and in-person.



@Pastor_Sabina

Pastor's Corner

Dear friends in Christ,

Emily Bronte, in her poem "Fall, Leaves, Fall", writes:

*"Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree."*

Here in Massachusetts, autumn is now coming. Leaves are starting to fall,—golden yellow, red, and another million colors. Each one tells a story, a tale of what was, and of what will yet be.

They are tales of current death but also of beautiful past and future promise.

In their own unique colorful way, each announces that death now reigns, but life—spring!—will come eventually. T But still, we will have to go through winter...

Fall is my favorite season. Everything pumpkin, apples, cinnamon, colors, Halloween, Thanksgiving... But for me, this autumn sees my thoughts turning to... stewardship of course! Money! But while most churches are about to start their stewardship campaigns, from letters to sermon series, I am going to abstain from such campaigns this year again. Why? Not because I do not want to talk about money. Jesus talked about money all the time! (We can look to passages like the widow's offering (Mark 12:41-44), the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-

27), or the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) for challenging examples). But because I know that stewardship is more about individual generosity. Generosity as a spiritual practice, not as a thing we have to do to pay the church bills.

Yes, you and I have bills to pay at home and very limited income. It's easy to think you don't have a lot to give. But the idea of waiting to give until you have more is a dangerous one. Someone said that if you don't give while you have little, you won't give when you have much.

How can we make generosity an integral part of our spiritual life?

Give consistently. Making giving a habit like daily prayer or devotionals integrates it into your everyday life. Don't wait to see how much you have left at the end of the month.

Commit upfront to a set amount, no "what-ifs"!

Give sacrificially. Sometimes we need to start by making sacrifices in order to simplify our lives, to free us up to practice generosity the way God wants us to do to transform our lives. It is a reminder that all we have is all God's. It is an invitation to trust Him more as THE provider.

(continued on page 2)



*Happy Summer Birthdays
Sue, Maya and Pastor Sabina!*



Pastor's Corner

(conclusion)

Like with every spiritual discipline (prayer, Bible reading, etc.), when we start to see giving as something we are invited into by God, rather than something we have to do, it becomes transformative and life-giving.

Do you practice generosity as part of your spiritual discipline? How can you start or continue in the weeks and months ahead?

Last, yes, we use money we receive in the plate on Sunday to pay the bills. One thing to think about though: The building allows us to offer all these community ministries we are so proud to have... Food for thought...

Stay Holy, Stay Safe, Stay Blessed.

With peace, gratitude and grace,

Pastor Sabina

PS: Just in case you are thinking “well, God doesn’t pay my bills”, just remember what we always say: We have nothing. Everything we have is from and belongs to God.



**BISHOP'S
DAY ON THE
DISTRICT**

**October 21, 2021
6pm
Charlton UMC**

Join Pastor Sabina to attend Bishop Devadhar’s annual “day on the district”. Your opportunity to talk to the Bishop!! These visits are an opportunity for clergy and laity to engage in dialog with the bishop.



*Ellie and Emerson
Haringa Nelson
August 29 Baptism*

*"Baptism is the
initial step of a
faithful heart."
Max Lucado*



THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

"VOLUNTEERS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE
THE TIME; THEY JUST HAVE THE HEART."
- ELIZABETH ANDREW



Volunteer day at the beach!



Blessing of the Animals



St Francis Celebration

Sunday October 17 at 11:00 AM

Bring your pets to the church to be blessed.

We will pray for and bless your pets
and animals at home too.

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, December 4, 2021

Craft fair

Historical exhibit

Silent auction

Praise and organ concerts

Food

And more!!

Come celebrate our church!



Stewardship is in Genesis: *"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."* The drive to "serve the garden in which we have been placed" sees Christian influence in political and practical affairs.

There are many ways we can help protect the earth, individually, church-wide... Recycling is one of them. But pollinator gardens are high on the list as pollinators such as bees and butterflies are being decimated. Pollination is not just fascinating natural history. It is an essential ecological survival function. Without pollinators, the human race and all of earth's terrestrial ecosystems would not survive. Of the 1,400 crop plants grown around the world, i.e., those that produce all of our food and plant-based industrial products, almost 80% require pollination by animals. Visits from bees and other pollinators also result in larger, more flavorful fruits and higher crop yields. In the United States alone, pollination of agricultural crops is valued at 10 billion dollars annually.

Stewardship of God's creation (creation care) is a clear biblical command and an integral part of what it means to follow Jesus as Lord. God wants us to be his collaborators in the work of creation, redemption and sanctification. Increasingly this has referred to environmental protection as well. An example of



Southbridge Evening News



Community Diaper Drive
October 1-17th
 Drop-off locations
 Big Y
 Big Bunny
 Tri-Community YMCA
 Southbridge Fire Department

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

VERSE OF THE MONTH



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021

Paul, Apostle of Christ

Rome, 67 AD. After the great fire that burnt a great part of the city, Emperor Nero points Paul, Jesus' apostle, as guilty of the fire, arresting him and taking him to Mamertine Prison. Luke get access to the jail and he meets Paul, who accepts Luke's request to tell his biography to be known before he is executed by Nero, writing it in a new book about Gospel and Jesus' teachings. Meanwhile Luke writes detailing the beginnings of "The Way" and the birth of what will come to be known as the church, a bound on chains Paul fights the inner demons of his remembers as survivor of much-floggings, shipwreck, starvation, stoning, hunger and thirst, cold and exposure-yet, waiting for his appointment with death and haunted by the shadows of his violent past, wondering if he has been forgotten and if he has the strength to finish well.

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

O God of Creation,
you have blessed us
with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months,
may the earlier setting of the sun
remind us to take time to rest.

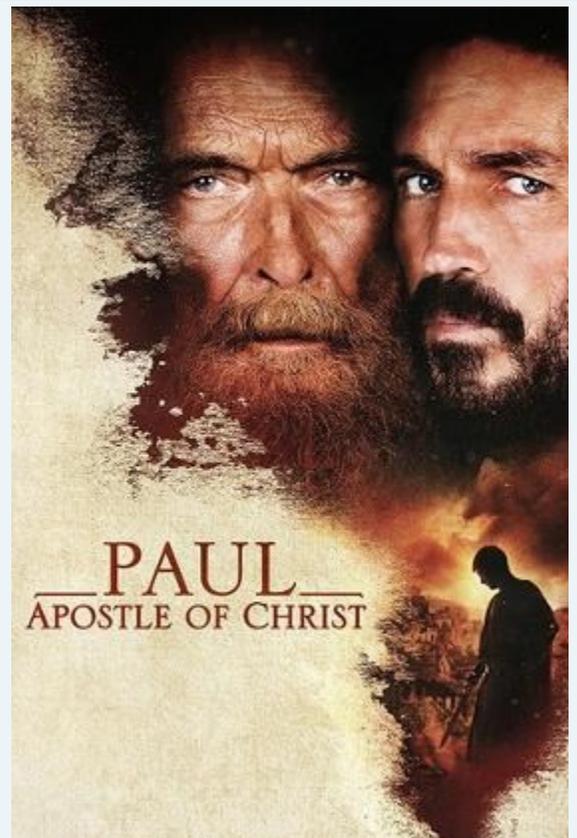
May the brilliant colors of the leaves
remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air
remind us that it is you
who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of
the abundance we have been given and
bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of
your great promise that death is temporary
and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.
Amen





First United Methodist Church

"Come as you are, we mean it!"

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Sundays	10am:	Worship service at the church and live worship on Facebook
Mondays:	6pm:	"Bible 101" small group
Wednesdays:	3:30 pm:	EspresSoul
Fridays:	1 pm—6pm:	Carol's Closet
	5pm:	Rosilda's Kitchen (Free meal)
Saturday:	10am—2 pm:	Carol's Closet