

# Spirit & Sparks

SEPTEMBER 2011



The Congregational Church of Weston, UCC, 130 Newton Street, Weston, MA 02493  
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## PASTOR & TEACHER REFLECTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Almost all of us who go back to the Kennedy years can remember exactly where we were when we heard that the President was shot and killed, just as most of us remember when and how we heard about the hideous terrorist act of planes crashing into the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and the field in Pennsylvania just a decade ago. Regarding the latter, I was listening to the car radio en route to Cathy Liddell Dertouzos' home to discuss with her the memorial service for her extraordinarily accomplished, wonderful husband Michael, at first assuming that some errant piper cub had inadvertently crashed into one of the towers. Alas, not so! How our perceptions of the world, and the world itself, have changed in this past decade.

On the day I write this it would be easy to conjure up apocalyptic visions, from the political to the economic to the environmental. An earthquake has just struck Washington, DC, rattling up the seaboard, and Hurricane Irene is smashing through Turks and Caicos, steaming wildly toward the U.S. coast. My brother has just called me from Dallas and told me that after ten months of drought and an entire summer of over 100 degree heat, he has pumped out the backyard swimming pool around the perimeter of the foundation of their house to keep it from cracking. We used to think these were not "man" made disasters, but in an era of climate change, we need to think twice. No, we need to think as many times as we can think.

As I write this the story is also breaking of our own highly respected Massachusetts UCC Conference Minister Jim Antal's unexpected incarceration for participating in a demonstration outside the White House to protest possible permits to extract oil from

vast tracks of sandy tar pits in Canada, along with the construction of a vast pipe line into the United States. Expecting only a bail hearing after his arrest as a demonstrator, Rev. Jim Antal spent three days and two nights in a Washington DC jail. I have excerpted part of an article from the Mass. UCC web site that tells part of the tale:

*"We expected to be arrested and given the opportunity to bail ourselves out that day," Antal said of himself and the other 64 protestors arrested on Saturday, Aug. 20. "But what ended up happening was that we were arrested at noon on Saturday and released on Monday at 4:45 PM." According to an article on the [tarsandsaction.org](http://tarsandsaction.org) website, U.S. Park Police told organizers of the protest that the longer-than-usual jail time was expressly intended as a deterrent to future participants of the sit-in, which is planned to continue for two weeks. Protestors were not deterred, however, as approximately 50 people were arrested each of the next two days. They were all released the same day as their arrest.*

*Antal, who was arrested twice in the 70s and 80s during nuclear protests, said the conditions were a lot rougher than he had expected. For most of the duration of his arrest, he was kept in a 7-foot x 5-foot cell with another protestor as cellmate. They had stainless steel toilet and sink and stainless steel bunk beds, with no mattress or bedding of any kind. Lights were kept on 24 hours a days, and the temperature hovered in the upper 80s.*

*Asked if it his public witness was worth the hardship, Antal said "Yes, unambiguously."*

*(Continued)*

## PASTOR & TEACHER REFLECTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER (CONT'D)

*"This is not just an environmental issue or a climate issue but a game changer," he said. Antal quoted climatologist Jim Hansen, who has said that if the carbon deposits in the Tar Sands of Canada are mined and converted into oil, the process is so dirty that it will increase the carbon parts per million in the atmosphere from 394 to 600 over the next 20 years. President Barak Obama is under pressure to approve a Keystone XL pipeline from the Tar Sands to Texas oil refineries, a key part of mining the Tar Sands.*

*"Twenty years from now, every person alive will look back at this moment. If Obama says yes, his name will be cursed among the people of the world. If Obama says no, he will be one of the heroes of human history," Antal said. "That's what it comes down to. Was three days in the slammer worth it? Oh yeah."*

*(You can read more about it yourself by going to [www.macucc.org](http://www.macucc.org).)*

Among those arrested with Dr. Antal was Bill McKibben, head of the national environmental organization 350.Org, who will be at our church to preach on Sunday, May 6, and then give the annual Harnish lecture that afternoon. While some may rightly question the strategy of protest (or even the timing of the strategy with Obama golfing on the Vineyard...), the moral courage to act prophetically is laudable. Rare is the Conference Minister who is both a state-wide Administrator-in-Chief as well as a social justice prophet-activist.

What a time it is! What will the year to come bring to us, and what will we bring to it? The Council's Stewards, your stewards, are seeking to find a way for all of us to find the most faithful way forward together "for such a time as this," in the famous words of the prophetess Esther. To quote the great American prophet of the last century, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we cannot know what the future holds, but we do know Who holds the future. As to our wonderful faith community here at CCW, I do trust that God holds our future, but I also know that our future is also quite contingent on our holding and shaping it together with God and each other.

See you in church? I will work and pray for yet another faithful church year together, and need you as faith partners.

Blessings and peace as you return to the demanding pace of the new school and program year that now opens before us!

Faithfully yours,

Joe Mayher  
Pastor and Teacher

## WESTON TO HOLD SPECIAL COMMEMORATION ON 9-11

A special 9-11 commemoration will be held on the Weston Town Green at 12:15pm on Sunday, September 11, to mark the tenth anniversary. Participants from many faith traditions will be present, along with an honor guard, trumpeter and bag piper. Tom Wintle, First Parish pastor, has taken the lead to organize this short yet important anniversary event.

## WORSHIP THEMES FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

**September 4 10:00 AM - Last Summer Union Service joined with First Parish**

Theme: Stopped in Your Tracks

Text: Exodus 3: 1-15

**September 11 10:30AM – Homecoming and Communion Sunday**

Theme: Great Endings Make for New Beginnings

Text: Genesis 50: 15-21 (Joseph reconciling with his brothers)

**September 18 10:30 AM**

Theme: Not Our Privilege but God’s Prerogative

Text: Matthew 20: 1-16 (Parable of Laborers in the Vineyard)

*Special Sundaes Sunday treats following!*

**September 25 10:30 AM - An Envisioning Sunday**

Theme: Hidden Wellsprings

Text: Exodus 17: 1-7 (Water from the Rock)

*Short Congregational Meeting (watch for a Call to Meeting)*

### SEPTEMBER REMINDERS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Altar Flowers*</u>	<u>Ushers#</u>	<u>Fellowship Hour#</u>
9/11		Heuer	Baron & Fulton
9/18		Posa	Sundaes Making
9/25	Baron (P)	Earle-Barnard	

\* Altar Flower arrangements cost \$52 when the church office orders through Leiby’s or you may provide your own.  
 # Instructions for Ushering or hosting Fellowship Hour are in the Events Binder.  
 (P) Perennial Donor

### FROM OUR MODERATOR, ROBIN KAMPMANN GUNDERSON

Welcome! September calls us back, to home and hearth, to school and work, to a new rhythm of work and play and discovery. After the renewal of summer's sun and cherished time with family and friends, I am looking forward to our time together as a community of faith and to the new program year at CCW; I hope you are as well!

The Council's Stewards will continue to work toward a process for envisioning our future together to share with the congregation in worship and through a special congregational meeting for your affirmation. Your comments, questions, concerns and kudos are all welcomed.

Please do reach out and know that we commit to openly share each step in the journey as affirmed by the congregation.

And our Ministries of Spiritual Life, Faith Formation, Outreach, Hospitality, and Stewardship are gearing up as well to help us live out our goal to extend an extravagant welcome to others to join us in worship, hospitality and service. A warm welcome, nourishment and, yes, big work greet us at CCW so that together we can be God's hands in the world.

With appreciation, Robin

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER

**Middle School and Senior High:** plans for our Middle School and Senior High youth groups are still developing as we go to print. Kristen Reeder is the Advisor for Middle High, along with Joe Mayher, who will also be assisting Jean Valle and Janet Mitchell with the Senior High. Both sets of adult advisors are meeting in early September to plan opening events. These will be communicated to all known

participants and their parents as soon as possible in early September.

The **Confirmation Class** will be meeting on September 18 at 4:30 p.m. to discuss the chapters in their study book which deal with suffering, sin and grace. The location for the meeting will be communicated by email.

## FAITH COMMUNITY NEWS

### *Birthdays*

September 1 Luke Mitchell  
September 7 Katie Bull  
September 14 Griffin Tanny



September 15 Trisha Mitchell  
September 21 Travis Tanny  
September 27 Hannah Brown

### *Passings*

In late July, **William Copithorne** passed into eternal rest. Our deep sympathy is extended to Bill's family.

## OUTREACH

Rebekah Lord Gardiner

Writing this while enjoying the sea breezes, I find it hard to believe that you will be reading this after school has started. Where did the Summer go? Wherever you went and whatever you did, I hope there was an opportunity to relax and to recharge.

A very important update to mention is our final amount for our Pentecost collection for EFA. Thank you to all for the very generous contribution of \$1,330. EFA is most grateful. Please find more updated information at [www.efainternational.org](http://www.efainternational.org) to follow their progress in battling AIDS/HIV.

Outreach member Craig Tanny assisted with finding our servers for Bristol Lodge back in July. And true to the Boy Scout Oath, a commitment

to helping others, we had Troop 157 of Weston, serve Saturday, July 23rd. Leading three scouts was scoutmaster David

Kwiatkowski. He was assisted by three boy scouts Edward Kwiatkowski, Nick Berkes and Connor Goggins. We are most grateful to them for helping us keep our commitment to Bristol Lodge.

As Outreach looks forward to the upcoming Fall, we are set for servers for September but are looking for people to help in November. We will also be planning a service project in the upcoming months, with details to follow.

Welcome back. Outreach is here to help channel our giving energy.



# Faith Discovery for Children



Starting September 11, we are together again --- YAY!

... together to learn and experience God's love for us!

... together to find ways to share that love with others!

Bring a friend any time. The more the merrier in Faith Discovery!

Children begin at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary with their families. After Time with Children they go out to the Faith Discovery wing for a One-Room Sunday with Catherine. Our first Sunday together we will learn about the Season of Creation, four Sundays in September focusing on aspects of God's creation and how we can be better care-takers. This year the four Sundays center on Forest, Land, Wilderness and Rivers. The bible readings invite us to join with all members of Earth's community to "Celebrate Earth as a sacred planet filled with God's vibrant presence." (from the Season of Creation charter.) This Season has its own color, Aqua, so you'll see that overlaying the Season of Pentecost green on the Faith Discovery Table.

Also during our One-Room Sunday on September 11, children will help to create the hallway Faith Discovery Bulletin Board by decorating medallions with images from the Season of Creation. Creating medallions comes into play again as they decorate a Welcome Banner for the door to the Faith Discovery hallway. Together we'll have Feast as we do every Sunday, to remember Whose children we are, to remember that Jesus especially called children to come to him.

[SEPTEMBER 11, immediately following worship a brief meeting in the library for teachers and those interested in finding out more about teaching.](#) Bring your calendars and sign up for Sundays. If everyone taught 4-5 times during the year, we'd be covered! Come on the 11<sup>th</sup> to get your pick of Sundays!! Or call/email Catherine.

Three Reminders for Parents:

1. Pick up the Parent Information packet from the Faith Discovery display in the Gathering Space. It gives you information about what the children will be learning this year, special Sundays to make note of on the family calendar, Safe Church information.
2. We don't have you fill out a new registration card every year, but we do ask that you check the information that we DO have and make any changes. For Safe Church reasons, we need you to check off your preferences with regard to any photographs that might be taken with children in them. And we need to know about allergies. And we LIKE to know about your child's special interests.
3. Sign up to teach! The Sign-up Sheet is on the Faith Discovery Display in the Gathering Space.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 IS OUR FIRST SUNDAY WITH REGULAR CLASSES.**

## NEW TEACHER & SCHEDULE FOR COUNTRYSIDE PLAYSCHOOL

Countryside Playschool opens for its 25<sup>th</sup> session this fall with the return of Melissa Adler as Director and with a new Lead Teacher, Staci Gurliaccio. Staci is no stranger to Countryside having substituted during Melissa's maternity leave last fall. Please welcome Staci to the CCW staff.

This year the school will be in session three days a week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday with a fully enrolled class of 9 students. Parents will attend an Orientation on Wednesday evening, September 7 and the families will help prepare the school for the year at a workday on Saturday morning, September 10.



## SUNDAE SUNDAY



September 18, 2011

**Bring a friend - this is a fun way to share CCW with others!**  
We'll gather after worship on the patio to build our own sundaes!

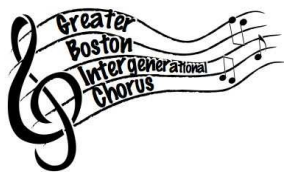
If you would like to provide a special topping, contact

**Robin Gunderson**

**robin@thegundersons.com or 617-283-7952**

## JOANNE HAMMIL'S COMMUNITY CHORUS IN WATERTOWN BEGINS

9/20. *The director Joanne is well known to the CCW community and has led sing-a-longs for us.*



**The Greater Boston Intergenerational Chorus** is now accepting new members (adults & teens) for fall

semester or for the year. Fall semester starts Sept 20th. This non-auditioned chorus meets Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8:00, at First Parish Church of

Watertown and is directed by Joanne Hammil.

Sixty singers currently come from 20 towns. Music is an eclectic mix of multi-cultural, jazz, classical, folk, pop, etc – beautiful, fun, exciting! If you like to sing, we'd love to have you join us.

See [www.bostonchorus.net](http://www.bostonchorus.net) for more info or contact Membership Chair Susan at [soozp@yahoo.com](mailto:soozp@yahoo.com) or 617-923-8687.

## THE MYSTERY OF THE FOLDING CHAIRS

Among the missing are 8 of the grey folding chairs that are stored in the Gathering Room closet. If you can shed any light on their whereabouts, we would be most grateful.

Please contact the Church Office ([skuhrccw@comcast.net](mailto:skuhrccw@comcast.net) or 781-899-5417) with any information. Thank you!

## WATCH FOR THE OFFICIAL CALL TO MEETING

The Council's Stewards of The Congregational Church of Weston, UCC, call for a short meeting of the congregation to be held within the worship service on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The following motions are placed before the church for discernment:

1. An affirmation that the Church Council's goal for the church program year 2010-2011 be extended and adopted by the congregation for 2011-2012. The goal proposed is "To extend a extravagant welcome to others to join us in worship, hospitality and service."
2. A vote that the congregation enter a church-wide Envisioning Process from September 2011 until February 2012, with resultant proposed actions to be voted by the Annual Meeting.

## "MUMS THE WORD" OR IS IT? YES!, SEE WHY.

Our 2011 voted budget is balanced on a substantial fund-raising goal of \$7,000! There will be two opportunities before the close of this calendar year to raise these funds.

The first is a Fall Chrysanthemum Sale- see the enclosed flier for details!! Orders must be placed by Wednesday, September 14, with flower pick up on Sunday, September 18 from 12:00 noon to 2:00pm! We are VERY grateful to Jane Purser

for leading this enterprise! Forget "Mums the word," but instead SPREAD THE WORD!!

The second fund raiser will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual after-church Holiday Gift Bazaar on Sunday, December 11. It would be wonderful if you thought ahead about some items you might wish to contribute, as well as consider purchasing gifts here that will give back to the church.

## SAVE THE DATE! AUTUMN CCW PROGRESSIVE DINNER *(for 21 years of age +)*

Saturday, October 1

- 6:00pm Gather at CCW for Hors d'oeuvres
- 7:00pm Gather in CCW homes for the Dinner
- 9:00pm Return to CCW for Dessert

course in your home? Ideas welcomed for this or other ways we can be together in community. Please contact Robin at 617-283-7952 or [robin@thegundersons.com](mailto:robin@thegundersons.com).

Would you be interested in helping to coordinate this fellowship event? Or hosting the dinner

## FILIPOV LECTURE ON 9/14 IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Al Filipov Peace and Justice Forum presents The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr., Senior Minister Emeritus of Riverside Church, NYC, and founder of the Healing of the Nations Foundation, as keynote speaker on Wednesday, September 14, at 7:00pm at the Trinitarian Congregational Church, Concord, MA. With his very deep spiritual roots in NYC, Dr. Forbes has

an insightful perspective on the events of September 11, 2001, and their continued impact on the city, nation, and world.

Dr. Forbes will receive the first annual Al Filipov Peace and Justice Award honoring his work for peace and justice.

The Cambridge Society for Early Music presents  
**OLD CITY MUSIC, of Philadelphia, in**  
**"French Baroque Theater Music, Tailored to the Salon"**  
**Friday, September 9, at 8 PM**  
**The Congregational Church of Weston**  
**30 Newton Street, Weston**

A spirited ensemble of six Baroque instruments will play delectable French music from before the Revolution, adapted to the salon. Highlights are a wildly popular ballet by Rebel (1715), and the gorgeous *Passacaille* from Lully's last opera, *Armide* (1686). Tickets \$30 / seniors \$25 / students with ID free. For more information and links to online recordings, visit [www.csem.org](http://www.csem.org)



Old City Music is directed from the harpsichord by Leon Schelhase, known for his "unusually sensitive playing," and includes two Baroque violins, two Baroque wind players who double on oboe and recorder, and a viola da gamba. Boston's own Laura Jeppesen, of the Museum Trio, will play a dramatic solo for gamba, Marais's *Tableau of the Bladder Stone Operation* (1725)

# The Congregational Church of Weston United Church of Christ

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## 2011 Autumn Gatherings

**All are welcome!**

- Sunday, September 11**, 10:30 am - Homecoming Sunday  
Communion & One-Room Faith Discovery  
12:15pm – Weston 9-11 Commemoration on Town Green
- Sunday, September 18** – Our Annual Sundae making Sunday  
*(following 10:30am worship)*
- Sunday, September 25** – Congregational Meeting  
*(at the close of worship)*
- Saturday, October 1**, 6:00pm - Progressive Supper in Host Homes!  
*(adult fellowship – invite newcomers!)*
- Sunday, October 2**, 1:00pm – Annual CROP Walk for Hunger  
*(meet at Weston Town Hall)*
- Saturday, October 29**, 5:00pm - Harvest Potluck Supper  
& Sing-a-long with Joanne Hammil
- Sunday, October 30**, 10:30am – All Saints Candle-lighting Service
- Sunday, November 13**, 10:30am – Stewardship Sunday  
*(Campaign Budget Hearing after church)*
- Sunday, November 20**, 10:30am – Thanksgiving Sunday  
*(Dedication of our pledges for 2012)*