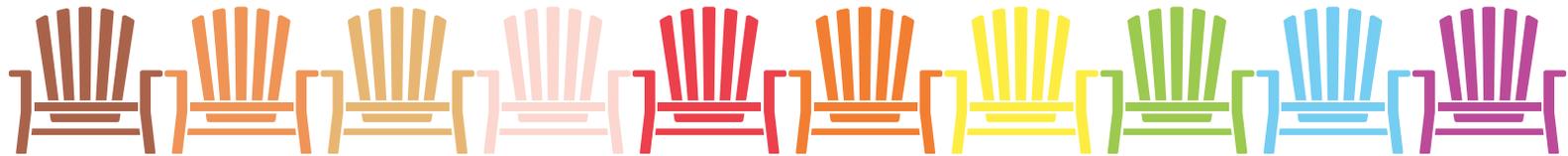


# THE Spire

September 2022



Dear Friends,

## HAPPY NEW CHURCH YEAR!

After prayer and discernment, listening to our community during the June 25th retreat I offer you the following theme for the 2022-2023 church year, the African philosophy of Ubuntu; I am because we are. Paired with 1 Corinthians 12:12, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body so it is with Christ."

*"I am  
because  
we are"  
-UBUNTU*

Ubuntu is a spiritual ideal, a way of life by which Nelson Mandela lived. In 2006, Nelson Mandela gave an explanation of the African spiritual ethic, Ubuntu, in an interview with South African journalist, Tim Modise: A traveler through a country would stop at a village and he didn't have to ask for food or for water. Once he stops, the people give him food, entertain him. That is one aspect of Ubuntu, but it will have various aspects. Ubuntu does not mean that people should not enrich themselves. The question therefore is: Are you going to do so in order to enable the community around you to be able to improve?"

To start off the new church year join us on September 11 for a Blessing of Joyful Noise Preschool and the Backpacks and then on RALLY SUNDAY, September 18. On September 18 we will begin a study of The Fifth Agreement paired with scripture. There are three study groups available for you to join and dive deeper (see inside for more information).

Come because you belong, come and grow personally and as a community. We have a great opportunity at First Church to bridge generations, to learn from one another and to serve the greater community as the body of Christ. Come, come ,whoever you are. Wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving. It doesn't matter. Ours is not a caravan of despair, come, even if you have broken your vows a thousand times. Come, yet again, come, come. ~ Rumi

Looking forward to seeing you,  
worshiping with you  
and being the body of Christ with you!

Blessings,

Rev. Tina

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**Please Keep These  
Friends  
in Your Prayers:**

**Prayers for Comfort  
& Healing:**

Janet Garfield  
Marilyn Hall  
Pearl Simpson  
Daryl Forth

**Prayers of Sympathy:  
for the family of Mildred  
Lauzier**

**Home Bound:  
Marjorie Hadley**

**Can you make a GREAT  
first impression?**

*Do you love First Church and enjoy meeting new people? If so please share your Spiritual Gifts by becoming a welcomer! The Deacons have combined what were the "ushers" and "greeters" into simply the "Welcomers". If you are interested in being a part of this vital ministry. Call the church office at 508-888-0434 to sign up.*

**Muddy Church**

*Muddy Church will be on September 11 at 4:00 at Boyden Farms Conservation Lands, Cotuit Road (just south of Quaker Meetinghouse Road). Join us rain or shine for an intro to 1 Corinthians 12:12, our focus scripture for the coming year. We're all part of the same body, the Body of Christ and Mother Earth's body!*

Dear Friends,

I have heard some discussion about our wonderful children being in church. As an Open and Affirming Congregation which affirms everyone, I wonder how we can be more embracing of our youngest people?

I remember a few months back when I was reading the prayers off the Prayer Tree during worship. I read the usual prayers for people who were sick or struggling and then got to the one which read "that Dinosaurs may be real". With a smile in my heart, I read that one aloud and little Josie Kolb, who was sitting in the Pray Space, when she heard her prayer her arms swung up with exclamation and she whispered, "that's my prayer!"

Our children are always listening and learning. So how might we help them grow in Christian faith? (Even if it makes us a little uncomfortable?)

As Sam Rainer writes: "there are two kinds of restaurants-those that embrace children and those that tolerate children." Having a large family, when Sam and his wife find a restaurant that embraces children they go back. He writes the same is true for churches. "There are two kinds of churches- those who embrace children and those that tolerate children."

First Church is an ONA church, and we are called to embrace children. Sam gives 6 great tips on what it truly means to embrace children.

- 1) Embracing children means understanding that messy is healthy (just like when kids learn to eat!)
- 2) Embracing children means valuing noise over perfection
- 3) Embracing children means protection at all costs (ie safe church practices)
- 4) Embracing children means consistent promotion in multiple venues
- 5) Embracing children means investing in KidMin (Faith Formation)
- 6) Embracing children means understanding church at their level

To read the entire article by Sam Rainer follow this link [www.christianpost.com/voices/be-the-church-that-embraces-children-not-just-tolerates-them.html](http://www.christianpost.com/voices/be-the-church-that-embraces-children-not-just-tolerates-them.html)

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'" ~Matthew 19:14. As we continue to grow into the church God is calling us to be, please feel free to reach out to me with thoughts, comments and suggestions.

Peace,

Rev. Tina  
774-251-9466 (c)



**You're invited!**  
**CHURCH SCHOOL**  
**ORIENTATION &**  
**LISTENING HOUR**  
**SEPTEMBER 11**  
**11:30-12:30**

COME SEE THE UPSTAIRS CLASSROOMS AT FIRST CHURCH TO SEE WHERE WE WILL BE LEARNING, ENJOY LIGHT REFRESHMENTS, ENTER A RAFFLE, AND SHARE WHERE YOU HEAR GOD CALLING THE CHURCH AND YOU! WE NEED YOUR VOICE! CHILDCARE WILL BE OFFERED FOR THE SHORT TIME THAT THE GROWNUPS WILL BE CHATTING.

**Have you registered for Church School?**

Registration makes it possible for us to plan – for students, for supplies, for plans. It also helps us serve your students and keep them safe. Help us out and click this link to register your student(s) for all church school (age 4-grade 5) and/or youth group (grade 6+) programs. (<https://bit.ly/3cxt8Or>)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>2nd Adult</b>
<i>Sept 11</i>	<i>We Are the Body of Christ</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Sept 18</i>	<i>Agreement #1: Be Impeccable with Your Word</i>	<i>Ms. Betsy</i>	<i>Ms. Irene</i>
<i>Sept 25</i>	<i>Agreement #2: Don't Take Anything Personally</i>	<i>Ms. Betsy</i>	<i>TBD</i>

**Sign up to help with church school!**

Anywhere there is a TBD is a Sunday when we may not be able to offer programs for children. There are additional dates available as well, so sign up for when it fits your schedule! If you are thinking "been there, done that" please consider that life for young families moves at the speed of light and teaching doesn't always fit in for those busy, two-working-adult households. And we still need to help form a strong faith foundation for all of our congregation! [Sign up here](#)

**Sept 11 @ 10am Communion Education begins.**

Anyone in grade 2+ who has yet to complete communion education is welcome to participate. This 3-session program will introduce the idea and elements of communion. Please let Rev. Jennie know if your student will be participating.

Amazon Shoppers be sure to use Amazon Smile and raise money for First Church while you shop!

As of December 2021, First Church as received \$174.13! Which is FREE money!

Simply visit [firstchurchsandwich.org/give](http://firstchurchsandwich.org/give) and click the Amazon Button on the main screen. That's it! You will start raising money with every order.

Here's a walkthrough of how to get started: <https://youtu.be/Eex5ldepkqo>



Youth Group for all students in grade 6+ begin on September 18. We will meet every Sunday from 6-7:30 at the church, except on the 4th Sunday. On the 4th Sunday we will meet at Colorful Kidz (497 Route 6A, East Sandwich) at 4:45-6:15.

This month we will meet at the church on September 18 and at Colorful Kidz on September 25.

## Church Circle

Come to the Party!! Join us @ 12:30 on September 15 when Circle celebrates a very special Birthday for one of our members. Bring your lunch and we will supply the cake and ice-cream.

We will meet again on October 20 @ 12:30 for lunch and fellowship. All First Church ladies are invited to Circle activities.

## Hyannis Sound

Many Thanks to all of you who supported our Hyannis Sound Concert by buying early tickets and/or coming to the Show. It was a fun evening and raised over \$700 for First Church.

## Jubilee

Our Ladies Book Club is starting up again this Fall.

Join us on October 4 @ 6:30 in the Gates Room for a discussion of *The Living and the Lost* by Ellen Feldman.

Copies are available at the Sandwich Public Library circulation desk.

## The Church Fair is Coming!

**November 11 Early Bird 12-1, Regular Admission 1-6**

**November 12 Regular Admission 9-3**

As of now we will need volunteers for the:

Church cafe	Cashiers
Door Greeters	Set up/break down
Jewelry	

If individuals don't feel comfortable volunteering in person we will be looking for volunteers to:

- Bake cookies
- Bake Apple Pies following FCC recipe

## Silent Auction for the Church Fair.

We are looking for members to help us collect items for a silent auction such as gift cards to local restaurants, gift cards for events or anything else. Nancy will put business approach packets in a folder on the church office door for members to grab and fill out if they would like to help us gather Silent Auction items.

## First Church Ladies Craft Group

**Wednesdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

The First Church Crafters have begun to work! Join for all or part of the time. No Experience needed, we would love your company.

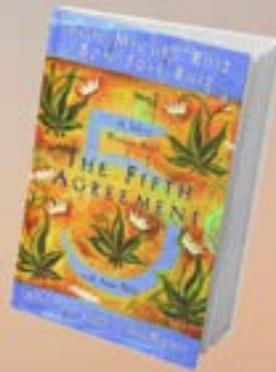
There are some supplies we are in need of:

- packaged bird suet cakes
- Mussel shells (both large and tiny)
- Walnuts in Shells
- 1/8" and 1/4" thin ribbon (red, green, white, gold & silver)
- Used or New Artificial Green Wreaths
- 10" or larger Styrofoam Cones

**The Energy Team is getting started to help minimize our carbon footprint. Watch for an update from co-chairs Nancy Devenger and Brian Tucker.**

# An Evening with don Jose Ruiz

Tuesday, October 25 | 7:00pm



**EARLY BIRD  
PRICE!  
SAVE \$10**  
Purchase your  
tickets before  
Sept 30

You loved the **FOUR AGREEMENTS** now is the time to grow into **The Fifth Agreement** with co-author don Jose Ruiz!

Come awaken your spirit with Don Jose Ruiz, where he will offer his Toltec traditions combined with his brilliant modern expression to show you how to apply "The Fifth Agreement" to everyday life.

Learn how to:

- Become aware of how you confuse "who you are" with "what you know"
- Gain awareness of how your agreements have created your reality
- Let go of the fear of what you are without your beliefs
- Create a happier and more rewarding story for yourself
- Make New Agreements that are more in line with your true Authentic Self



Purchase tickets at  
[firstchurchsandwich.org/event/donJoseRuiz](http://firstchurchsandwich.org/event/donJoseRuiz)

**First Church**  
SANDWICH, UCC  
219 South Main Street, Sandwich, MA 01963  
136 Main Street, Sandwich  
[www.firstchurchsandwich.org/events](http://www.firstchurchsandwich.org/events)

  
Proceeds to benefit  
Habitat for Humanity Cape Cod

## Stay Connected

Looking for more ways to be involved or to keep up with all the great happenings at First Church?

Sign-up for the First Church Weekly Happenings Email!

Every Friday receive directly in your inbox an inspirational message from Rev. Tina as well as a list of all the great happenings at First Church.

Keep informed, motivated, and put your Faith in Action! To sign up visit [www.tinyurl.com/weeklyhappenings](http://www.tinyurl.com/weeklyhappenings)

## Outreach Update

Faith Family Kitchen needs you! Sign up to serve a meal once or more times on the 4th Wednesday of a month. No expertise is needed – just a willing smile and a servant heart. You can sign up on the Outreach bulletin board, or by [clicking here](#)

## Habitat Update:

So far we have raised around \$4,000 toward our \$10,000 goal. We still have studs available for sponsorship, and other programs will be coming up. Stay tuned!



## **Blessing of the Backpacks** **September 11 @ 10am in worship**

Bags, Backpacks, Computer Bags, Toolboxes, Guitar Cases! Bring whatever carrier that you use to learn, grow, or work and we will bless them in worship on September 11 at 10am.

God's with us wherever we go, so blessing the bags reminds us that God's Got Our Backs! And you'll get a special addition for your bag

***Be a caring person, sharing God's love by volunteering with the Sandwich Council on Aging!***

*From the CoA: Volunteers are the backbone of our organization and we could not offer all our programs without their assistance.*

*Medical Ride Drivers - Drivers needed to provide rides to medical appointments.*

*You will use your own car.*

*Hours are flexible. Some gas reimbursement available from Donations*

*Thank You to everyone who participated in our very successful Yard Sale. We netted approximately \$3, 600.00, which will go into the church's budget to help with outreach and all our wonderful ministries. Thanks to those who had a table, contributed baked goods or plants and those who helped by serving as cashiers, baggers & floaters assisting our shoppers; and those who assisted in set-up and clean-up. A terrific effort by all.*



*Summer Challenge! Calling all families that participated in our summer challenge! Please send in your family score so that we can determine the winning family, and draw a second winner from the remaining families.*

## Many Hands Makle Light Work & First Church Needs You!

Many of our committees are in need of additional volunteers to make sure that we're able to live out our intention to be a place "Where There's a Seat for Everyone." Please consider where your gifts best fit in the congregational life on our church.

### Deacons

Want to meet new members, assist in worship and other special services, greet visitors, work along side some totally amazing people? You maybe hearing the Spirit calling you to be a deacon!

### Faith Formation

Seeking 2 new members to support the education of the children, youth and adults of our congregation. We have many activities going on. The team guides the programming and helps the congregation participate as learners and leaders. If you have an interest in this, please contact Betsy Pottey [bpottey@msn.com](mailto:bpottey@msn.com). We would love to hear from you.

### Finance

Seeking 2 new members to help guide the spending of the church's financial resources. Our Chair, Dave, is excited to simplify our financial reporting so that the community can remain informed. What would you be excited to add to the finance team.

### Tech

Seeking 1-2 people to enter the rotation for running the livestream or running the slideshow. Jess will train you during church and stay with you until you feel comfortable running it on your own.

### Facilities

Help Skip keep our ship sailing along! Facilities responds to building needs, helps facilitate maintenance and shows our very old building the love and care it needs to remain our place of worship.



**SANDWICHFEST 2022**  
**Saturday, October 1**  
**9-4:30pm**

*Meet new people, support Habitat for Humanity and be Caring People Sharing God's Love at Sandwichfest! This year at Sandwichfest we will be fundraising for Habitat for Humanity Cape Cod with a prize wheel and "Sponsor a Stud".*

*Come have fun and support a great cause!*

*To volunteer [click here](#)*

# RALLY SUNDAY!

Kicking off the new Church Year  
with *The Fifth Agreement*!

9/18 BE IMPECCABLE WITH YOUR WORD  
Matthew 12:22-37

9/25 DON'T TAKE ANYTHING PERSONALLY  
Matthew 10:1-15

10/2 DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS  
Ecclesiastes 10:13-20 & John 6:1-14

10/9 ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST  
1 Corinthians 9:24-27

10/16 BE SKEPTICAL, BUT LEARN TO LISTEN  
Matthew 7:7-12

First Church Sandwich  
136 Main Street, Sandwich



ALL NEW  
VISITORS  
will receive a  
FREE copy!

For more information visit  
[firstchurchsandwich.org](http://firstchurchsandwich.org)