



First Congregational Church  
of  
Spencer, U.C.C.  
207 Main Street  
PO Box 187  
Spencer, Massachusetts 01562  
[www.spencerchurch.org](http://www.spencerchurch.org)

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Rev. William R. Wildman, Jr.  
Pastor  
[wwildmanjr@verizon.net](mailto:wwildmanjr@verizon.net)  
Direct 508-885-5098

For emergencies after office hours  
please call 508-885-5863

The Tie  
October

Church Office  
8:00 a.m. to noon  
[fccspencer@verizon.net](mailto:fccspencer@verizon.net)  
508-885-2149

### **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Greetings and blessings, in Jesus' name, to you all! I hope that your summer was wonderful and full of blessings. Our summer has been the most blessed ever, and the blessings are continuing to flow into our home and our new family. We had the chance to travel to Rockport, MA, and Big Boyd Lake in Maine. We had a great time on both trips. We also got to visit some country fairs, spent time with family and friends, had cook outs and campfires, swam, gardened and enjoyed the warmth and sunshine. God has been very good to us this summer indeed!

And while it is sad to see summer end, it is also exciting to see fall starting, and all of the fun that comes as the leaves turn from green to shimmering shades of color. Fall is now in full swing and we are well into our program year here at the church. Some examples include church services are back at 10 AM on Sunday morning, our first Bible Study of the program year begins this month, Youth Group is up and running again, and the list goes on from there. There is also a faith based weight management class and group forming, a first for our congregation. We are also looking for lay readers for Sunday mornings, parish visitors to spend some time with our members and friends who cannot get out much, and have opening in several of our ministries and committees. There seems to be something for everyone, but if you are having a hard time finding something to suit your gifts and interests, please let me know, as that can be an opportunity for something new to begin in our ministry in Spencer.

The hardest part of this past summer was the passing of several long time members and friends of our congregation. Their departure from this world to God's House, eternal and triumphant, and especially after a long illness and great suffering, is a blessing for them. However, death is something that is never easy for us who are left behind to continue on here on earth. It is in these times of grief and mourning that we are reminded of our constant need to rely on Jesus Christ, and to hold on to

the hope of eternal life, and God's friendship, that Christ gives us through his grace and love. When **we rely on Jesus, we can do so in complete trust, for the one that rose on the third day will also raise** us up to eternal life. The departed in Christ have not disappeared forever, but rather, are just waiting for us to join them in the place where God will keep us together eternally.

How about a visit from Pastor Bill? If you would like a visit, or to get together for a cup of coffee, soda, etc., or have some other way that I can be of help to you, please let me know. **Also, if you know of someone who is sick, or in distress, or in the hospital, please let me know so I can pay them a visit.** Feel free to call me at 508-885-2149, stop by the office, or e-mail me at [revwilliamwildman@yahoo.com](mailto:revwilliamwildman@yahoo.com) to set up a time to get together. May God bless us all we enter the season of Fall together!

In Christ,

*Pastor Bill*

### **Bible Trivia Contest: October 2011!!!**

Thank you to everyone who sent in answers for September's Bible Trivia question. Congratulations to Brenda Cloutier on being our winner! September's question, which was a hold over from the Summer Bible Trivia edition, was **"How many missionary journeys for the church did Paul make during his lifetime?"** Brenda was the first to correctly answered "4" ("3" was also an acceptable answer, since there is ongoing debate over the "4<sup>th</sup>" missionary journey that Paul may have made) and has won coffee and pastry at Five Loaves Bakery with Pastor Bill. Would you like to win coffee and pastry too? It easy, just answer this month's trivia question:

### **"What is the shortest verse in the Bible?"**

Be the first to get the answer to Pastor Bill by either phone, e-mail or in person, and win free coffee and pastry with him at Five Loaves Bakery.

**Another Way to win for 2011-2012:** Have a question for Bible Trivia? Submit it (with the answer) to Pastor Bill and get a chance to win a prize! If your question is selected for publishing in a future edition of the *Tie* as one of our Bible Trivia questions, you will win coffee and pastry with Pastor Bill at Five Loaves Bakery, as well as a credit for your question when it's published. Limit one prize per month.

So get your thinking caps on and let this month's contest begin... God Bless!

### **2011-2012 Bible Study Programs!!!**

We are pleased to offer the following Bible Study Programs for the 2011-2012 Church Program Year. There will be three separate programs, each covering different topics, during the course of the year. This year, our topics for Bible Studies were suggested by the members of last spring's "The Parables of Jesus Christ" Bible Study. The programs will include **"Enriching Our Faith," "Writing A Christmas Sermon,"** and **"Bible 101: The Basics."**

**"Enriching Our Faith"** will explore the topic of faith, and ways that we can build a deeper

relationship with God. **"Writing A Christmas Sermon,"** our Advent program, will involve learning how to write a sermon with Pastor Bill. The work of our class will be presented during one of our Christmas services this year. **"Bible 101: The Basics"** will offer a chance, during the season of Lent, to better understand and use the Bible.

We will be meeting on the Tuesdays listed below, at 10 AM (if there is enough interest) and 7 PM. Times may be subject to adjustment due to other church functions. Please bring a Bible of your choice to share and use. Please sign up on the sheet outside of the office, and feel free to call or see Pastor Bill with any questions. Hope to see you there. Thank you and God bless!

### **Program One: "Enriching Our Faith"**

10/11/2011: Hebrews 11:1-22  
10/18/2011 Hebrews 11:23-40  
10/25/2011 Matthew 6:25-34  
11/01/2011 Psalm 119: 65-72  
11/08/2011: James 2:14-26

### **Program Two: Advent Bible Study: "Writing A Christmas Sermon"**

11/22/2011: "Picking the Lesson and Topic"  
12/06/2011: "Setting the Stage"  
12/13/2011: "Exploring the Lesson" (Meet at 6 PM)  
12/20/2011: "Application for Today"

### **Program Three: Lenten Bible Study: "Bible 101: The Basics"**

2/28/2012: "Introduction to the Bible"  
3/06/2012: "Sections of the Old Testament"  
3/13/2012: "Sections of the New Testament"  
3/20/2012: "Chapter and Verse"  
3/27/2012: "Fun and Games with the Bible"

### **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Administration Committee Budget meeting is Oct 12th at 7:00PM

Administration Committee meeting is Oct 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM

Fall Work Day is Oct 29<sup>th</sup> 8:00am to 12:00 noon – we will be working on the following projects- cutting and clearing brush away from basketball court – repairing outside landing of emergency door by choir loft – raking and picking up leaves around the church (will need at least one truck to haul the debris away) – if you have a specific area you would like to see cleaned (inside or outside) come join in the fun and fellowship.

We are starting to prepare for the 2012 year and we will be looking for people to fill various committees and positions of church officers. If you are interested please contact Ken Landine 508-867-6979, Pat Stark 508-885-5131 or the church office.

**Budget Meeting – to be held Oct 12, 2011 at 7:00pm** – All committees are requested to review their budgets and bring them to this meeting. Our treasurer will have your budgets to you on Oct 5<sup>th</sup> or you can contact Carole Kowal to receive them by Email. If you are unable to attend please contact Steve Howe, Ken Landine or the church office with you budget request. **We are asking that**

**everyone look at your budgets very carefully and make reductions where possible. We have received our oil pricing for the new season and it is 75 cents a gallon higher than last year. This means our oil bill will be \$6,000.00 higher than last year and we had a deficit budget for the year with the old oil pricing. We need to reduce the budget and have an increase in pledging or this committee will have some serious decisions to make as we prepare the budget for 2012.**

Ken Landine,  
For the entire Administration Committee

### **CHURCH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

This committee met on Sunday September 11. We are looking for a new chairperson. Anyone interested in being chairperson, please notify Lisa Brown or Pastor Bill. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday October 16. We are preparing for the Advent Workshop.  
Lisa Brown, Church School Superintendent

### **CHURCH SCHOOL**

The new Church School year started on September 11<sup>th</sup>. We had 13 children attend the first day of school. On September 18<sup>th</sup> we were blessed with 8 children in the nursery. We were happy to see the children return from last year. An orientation was completed to review the year's schedule and what happens in a Godly Play Session and the Bible Study class. Mark your calendars for the Advent Workshop on November 27.

Lisa Brown, Church School Superintendent

### **DIACONATE NEWS**

Diaconate will meet on Sunday, October 9, 2011 following the worship service.

Deacon of the month for October is Judy Chicoine

Communion will be served on October 2<sup>nd</sup> during our worship service.

As you read these notes, we will have a new member, Kimberly "Kim" Gordon has transferred her membership from the Rutland First Congregational Church to our church family. Please welcome her with open arms. God's Blessing and Joy.

We look forward to greeting, meeting and worshipping with you on Sunday mornings.

Warmly in Christ,  
Robert Ahlquist  
Chairperson

### **MEN'S LEAGUE**

When you read this Tie, we will be into the Fall season. Summer ended early in the morning of September 23<sup>rd</sup>. I hope everyone had a good summer. The bowling season began on September 7<sup>th</sup> with 6 three man teams. We are always looking for more bowlers.

I hope everyone is happy with their calendar and all should have received theirs. Thank you all for your continued support and to all the helpers from the Men's League.

Sincerely,  
Al Orne

## **MILITARY WHIST PARTY & PENNY SALE**

Will be held on  
Friday, October 14, 2011  
Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Refreshments will be served  
Donation \$5.00

Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship. If you have items for the penny table or would like to bake for the refreshments, please call Mary Ingalls at the church 508-885-2149 and items for the penny table please mark Whist party.

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

Our Stewardship campaign began on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> with a heart warming talk from Bev Wentworth.

The Family Album is in the works and the route drivers will be distributing them in November.

There will be a Pot Luck Supper on October 23<sup>rd</sup> for all the route drivers.

We have 3 new witnessing Stewards starting on October 30<sup>th</sup> our first witnessing Steward will be Jean Vandale, November 6<sup>th</sup> Pat Stark and on November 13<sup>th</sup> David Ingalls. Rev. Linda Michael will be our guest minister on Stewardship Sunday. Hope you all can make these services to hear why they became members of our church.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the committee, Co-Chairpersons Bev Wentworth 508-885-2992 & Phil Harding 508-885-5441 or Karen Frykberg 508-885-3317, Linda Gould 508-885-3672 Joyce Landine 508-867-6979 and Marilyn Olsen 508-885-6988.

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

The Executive Board met on Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. The next executive board meeting will be held on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. All the Women of our church are members of the fellowship and are invited to attend the monthly Executive Board meetings.

## **HARVEST FAIR –** **SATURDAY - OCTOBER 22, 2011** **9 A.M. – 2 P.M.**

The day will be here soon! The final plans are to set-up the tables on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. with the help of the men of the church. On Friday, we will be setting up and pricing articles. Items can be brought in all week (between 8 A.M.-12 noon) and all day Friday from 9 A.M. – 7:30 P.M., and , of course, early Saturday morning.

**Items** are still needed for **all tables**. Contact Marie Snow, if you can put together a "Theme Gift Basket", her phone# 508-885-4069. Plants are needed, both real and silk.

Tickets will be printed soon for Raffle Opportunities. At \$1.00 each.

We are looking forward to a great day and a successful Fair. Please plan to help - Everyone is needed.

Thanks,  
The Fair Committee  
Pat Stark, Chairperson

**Sunlighters** meeting will be held on Tuesday October 4 at 1:00 P.M. The September meeting was canceled due to a funeral, so the first installment of a DVD program on the New Testament will be shown at this meeting. All the women of the church are welcome to attend.

### **EVENING WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

The next meeting of the Evening Women's Fellowship will be held on Monday, October 3rd at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Sue Provo 7 Crestwood Ave. –Spencer. All women of the church are invited to attend.

### **YOUTH GROUP**

October Youth Group meeting is Sunday, October 30, 2011. We will be meeting from 2 to 4 P.M. at the church. We will be making shoe boxes for Christmas gift packs for Operation Christmas Child.

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### **FYI**

**Neighbors In Need** helps make another world possible. It needs your support. Enclosed is an envelope for your contribution. Contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made on-line at any time at: [www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin). Please return your envelopes before or on October 9<sup>th</sup>. If you receive your Tie by e-mail envelopes are available in the church office.

**Fundraiser for the Music Committee:** Ross Brown has graciously volunteered to make bread on the last Sunday of each month. He will be making wheat, white and olive oil rosemary breads. The proceeds from the sale of the breads will go to the Music Committee to help with special programs.

### **Grace-Oriented Weight Loss Group Forming**

Beginning Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, a program called "Thin Within" will meet for 12 weeks in the church parlor. This program does not involve dieting, counting calories or grams of fat; nor does it require weighing food or yourself.

"Thin Within" works by eating only when you're hungry, stopping when you're satisfied, and never eating until the point of feeling stuffed. You learn to choose wisely when eating a variety of foods in response to the natural God-given signals of hunger and satisfaction. As a result, you eat less food and naturally melt down to the size that God intended. I can testify that this program works. In 2006 I joined "Thin Within" at my Connecticut church and lost 25 lb.; my husband, Billy, lost 20 lb. Besides losing weight, I have desired to stop focusing on food constantly and feeling guilty after overeating.

"Thin Within" makes use of Scripture passages such as

***Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.***

***See, I am doing a new thing!***

***Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?***

***I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland***

***(Isaiah 43:18-19)***

It is refreshing to remember that God wants us to be healthy, to seek communion with Him, not food. I believe that prayer and the support of a group is very helpful when you must break long-standing bad habits.

The cost of materials is \$45.00; however, if that is prohibitive, please come anyway. Contact Suzanne Flake at 774-745-8074.

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**Hearing Assist Devices are Available...** Feel like you're missing some of what is going on during our service? We have hearing assist devices available to help you enjoy our worship service. These small, comfortable and convenient devices are connected directly to the sound system of the church via FM radio signals. Every sound spoken into any microphone in the church will be transmitted to the device. Why miss out when you can hear every word crystal clear? Please see one of the ushers for assistance. They will be happy to assist you.

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### **Know Somebody in the Hospital? Please let us know...**

***Do you know of someone from the church who is in the hospital or some other health care facility?*** Please let us know at the church office so Pastor Bill can pay them a visit. Due to the Federal Health Insurance Privacy Protection Act (HIPPA), hospitals and health care facilities can no longer tell us if anyone from the church is there, even if they have made their church membership known to them. In other words, we have no other way of knowing if someone is in the hospital other than word of mouth. Please let us know the full name that they were admitted by, what the facility name is, and if possible, what their room number is.

Thank you so much for your help with the visitation ministry of the church!

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### **Lay Reading dates available now through March 2012!**

Looking for a simple and fun way to take part in the Sunday worship service? Sign up to be a

Lay Reader. The Lay Reader leads the congregation in the Call to Worship and reads the scripture lesson for the day. No previous experience is necessary, and it's a great way to share in our Sunday service. A sign up sheet is posted in front of the church office. Please feel free to pick a date or two and sign up. You can also call the office and ask us to put your name down as well. Please see Pastor Bill with any questions. Looking forward to seeing you in the pulpit one of these Sundays soon!

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### **Make a difference in someone's life... be a Parish Visitor!!!**

Have some time and want to make a difference in someone's life? Become a parish visitor! A Parish Visitation Ministry is now underway at the church. All that is required is a few hours a month and a compassionate heart. Please see Pastor Bill for more information.

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## CALENDAR

Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Office hours are 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP EXECUTIVE BOARD** meeting 9:00 A.M.

**EVENING WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** meeting 7 P.M. Sue Provo's home.

Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> **STRATEGIC PLANNING & CHURCH GROWTH** meeting 6 P.M.

**FAITH BASED WEIGHT LOSS** program begins 7 P.M.

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> **DIACONATE** meeting following worship service.

**CHURCH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE** meeting following worship service.

Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> **BUDGET MEETING 7:00 P.M.**

Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> **MILITARY WHIST PARTY** and Penny Sale 7:00 PM

Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE** meeting 7:00 P.M.

Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> **TIE NOTICES** are due in the office for the October Tie.

Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> **HARVEST FAIR 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.** *Please note the date change* from October 15<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> **HARVEST SUPPER** 6:30 P.M. Tickets will be available in the Church office starting Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and will be sold in the Lower Narthex starting Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> before and after worship service. You may also contact Mary Ingalls to reserve tickets at 508-885-3884. *Please note the date change* from October 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> Fall work day 8:00 A.M. to 12 noon

## LOOKING AHEAD

December 3<sup>rd</sup> **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS STROLL** this is a tentative date. More information to follow.

December 7<sup>th</sup> **BLUE CHRISTMAS HEALING SERVICE** 7:00 P.M.

December 13<sup>th</sup> **MEN'S LEAGUE** Beef Stew Dinner 6:30 save the date.

**WOMEN'S EXECUTIVE BOARD** Semi-annual meeting 5:30 P.M.

December 18<sup>th</sup> **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** 4:00 P.M.

## HELD AT THE CHURCH

Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Al-A-Teen meeting every Monday at 6:30 p.m.

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Deacon of the month for October is Judy Chicoine.