

NEWS FROM THE CENTER

Church and Community News

Sponsored by the First Congregational Church of Shelburne

Second Saturday Suppers

The final church supper of the year was a Thanksgiving feast on October 14. The Boy Scouts will sponsor the November supper, so be sure and attend to support our local troop. Church suppers will resume on January 13, with a meatloaf dinner!

For reservations call 413-625-0127 or 413-625-2343; or reserve ONLINE at www.shelburnechurch.org

Theodore Cromack will read from, and sign, his latest book, The Hangman's Noose, at the Greenfield Public Library, on Saturday October 28, 1:00 p.m.



The First Congregational Church of Shelburne, on the Mohawk Trail, welcomes you.

Fall Events

Shelburne Farmer's Market continues on Friday afternoons through October.

A Fall Harvest Market will take place on Sunday November 19, at Buckland-Shelburne School.

A Fall Book Study will begin on Tuesday, October 10, and continue on Tuesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. Readers can participate for any and all of these meetings and everyone is welcome. The book is Mayflower: a Story of Courage, Community, and War, written by Nathaniel Philbrick. Meetings are held at the Fellowship Hall on Little Mohawk Rd., and the group is led by Rev. Will Sencabaugh.

The music program at The First Congregational Church has recently undergone a change.

After many years as Choir and Music Director,

Barbara Goodchild has resigned due to ongoing family obligations.

We are incredibly fortunate to have another talented musician step in to direct the choir and the music.

Judith Dean Kulp will continue the tradition of beautiful music in our church.

Our church is small but the talent is HUGE! Thank you both, Barbara and Judy.

**TOWN OF SHELBURNE TO CELEBRATE
250 YEARS**

Join us to make our 250th year a spectacular one!

The Town of Shelburne is now in the beginning stages of what we hope will be a celebration to remember; a part of Shelburne’s storied history. We would like to invite you to participate.

An organizational meeting will take place on **Monday, October 16, 2017 at 3:30 pm at the Shelburne Town Hall.**

We have outlined a few events, begun a logo contest and contacted organizations that we hope will participate. However, we still have a lot of work to do (advertising, fundraising, parade committee, food vendors, fireworks, music and more).

Please join us for this important organizational meeting and help us shape this historic year for our community. Feel free to invite anyone else that would like to participate in the planning process.

Please R.S.V.P. to Terry Narkewicz at (413) 625-0300 x.1 or townadmin@townofshelburnema.gov

Bob Manners, Board of Selectmen
Joe Judd
Cathy Buntin
Terry Narkewicz

Opportunities to serve the community

Missions Opportunities – “God’s Hands on Earth”

“The thing to do, it seems to me, is to prepare yourself so you can be a rainbow in somebody else's cloud. Somebody who may not look like you. May not call God the same name you call God - if they call God at all. I may not dance your dances or speak your language.. But be a blessing to someone.” – Maya Angelou

Thank you all for your generous gifts to help the Coutinho family after they were displaced by Hurricane Harvey; almost \$1000.00 was collected! And thanks to all the folks who led, cooked or baked for, and financially supported the six meals (3 Community Meals, 3 Cathedral in the Light meals) this past summer!

At this time our collection of socks and travel sized personal hygiene items continues until the 22nd of October. There is a plastic container outside the church that items may be put in, or items may be brought to church on Sunday mornings. These items will be distributed to local children.

Also, as you receive this newsletter, the CROP Hunger Walk is taking/has taken place. October 15th, starting at the Second Congregational Church in Greenfield. Where do CROP Hunger Walk funds go?

CROP Hunger Walks help to support the overall work of Church World Service, particularly grassroots development efforts around the world. In addition, each local CROP Hunger Walk can choose to return up to 25 percent of the funds it raises to hunger-fighting programs in its own community.

CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools to wells and water systems, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs - something CWS has learned through 70 years of working in partnership around the world. (From crophungerwalk.org)

Our church has a group walking and if you would like to make a pledge (donation) in support you can send a check (CROP walk in memo line) to the church:

First Congregational Church of Shelburne
21 Church Common Road
Shelburne MA 01370

On November 17th we will be helping to prepare and serve the **Thanksgiving community meal at Trinity Church.** Pies will be needed!

As we approach December and the Christmas Season we will be getting information out about our Family Christmas – Be on the look out for the “giving board” with the Christmas tags...each one offers a suggestion of either a piece of clothing, gift idea, financial support, or food items that we offer to HELP a family to be able to enjoy the holiday’s with a little less financial stress.

From the Pastor:

Hard to believe it’s been 500 years. Where has the time gone? Martin Luther was a smart man. On a dangerous walk home one evening, Martin Luther was practically scared to death. He cried out to God to spare his life, and it was then and there that he made a promise to become a monk and dedicate his life to the service of God.

In his life in the church he became increasingly dissatisfied with the Church. He was looking to change some things, perhaps bring about some reform. Again, he was a smart man. He did something that was incredibly savvy. He wrote down his issues with the church and posted them on the cathedral door. This may seem an innocuous gesture- but it was a landmark decision, and caused a seismic shift in the church.

November 1 is All Saint’s Day- a holy day of obligation. This meant- if you didn’t go to church, you were going to Hell. Should it be any surprise that everyone went to church! Posting his 95 Theses on the Wittenberg Castle Church door, the day before, was an invitation to dialogue and debate. In modern terms, we could liken this to “taking a knee during the National Anthem.” It flew in the face of the proud traditionalists, but appealed to those who thought that change was necessary and just. Martin Luther knew it would mean something, but even Dr. Luther had no idea of the sensation it would create. It birthed a movement- an epic period in history we would be forced to study in Social Studies classes across America-the Reformation!

Our church is a product of the Reformation, and the ideas that Martin Luther brought forth. The last 500 years has seen dramatic changes in the world. The printing press helped to create

the Reformation, just as social media is helping to create something new in our world today. I recently heard it said that the Catholic church is becoming more Protestant and the Protestant church more Catholic. This is an interesting turn of phrase, and an even more interesting turn of events.

Let us not forget that we are part of the Reformed tradition. We are a part of the Protestant church. I hope that in the next 500 years we will continue to 'reform' and continue to 'protest.' Just as this 'taking a knee' started with one person, the Reformation started with one person. But then because of a printing press, or social media- it grew well beyond what they imagined when they started. You are one person. One person can make a difference. One person can protest. One person can reform. You can be that one person.

In Christian Love-
Rev. Will Sencabaugh

Shelburne Volunteer Fire Department

We have a very respectable and respected fire department here in rural Shelburne and, if you did not know, the department is entirely staffed by volunteers. The department has some experienced members, nice facilities and equipment, does useful training and works cooperatively with other Town departments.

What the department is seeking is new members! Everyone from 14-64 should consider joining and the group is particularly hoping for those 18-35 years old who'd like to get some training and help their neighbors. Community volunteers are aging in many organizations and the fire department is no exception. Training is an excellent way to challenge yourself, can be extremely interesting and is a great way to get to know Shelburne, and have some fun. If you already have some fire department, first responder, and/or EMT training, that's even better.

If you are interested in learning more contact Fire Chief John Taylor at 834-3111 or leave a message at the fire station at 625-6796. The FD is organizing times to meet with people who are interested, join in for a training exercise, and/or get a tour.

The First Congregational Church of Shelburne, on the Mohawk Trail holds services every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Our pastor is the Rev. Dr. Will Sencabaugh

Our website is shelburnechurch.org, where you will find up-to-date information on Church, Grange, and community events. Find us on Facebook too.

Contact the newsletter: newsfromthecenter@comcast.net

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