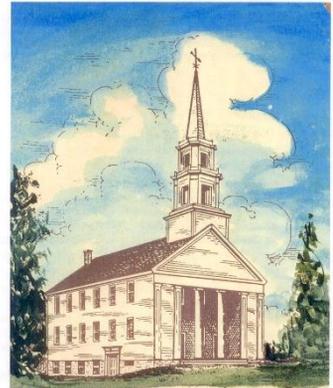


Congregational Church of Phillipston, U.C.C.
60 The Common
Phillipston, MA 01331

**The Congregational Church
of
Phillipston, Massachusetts**

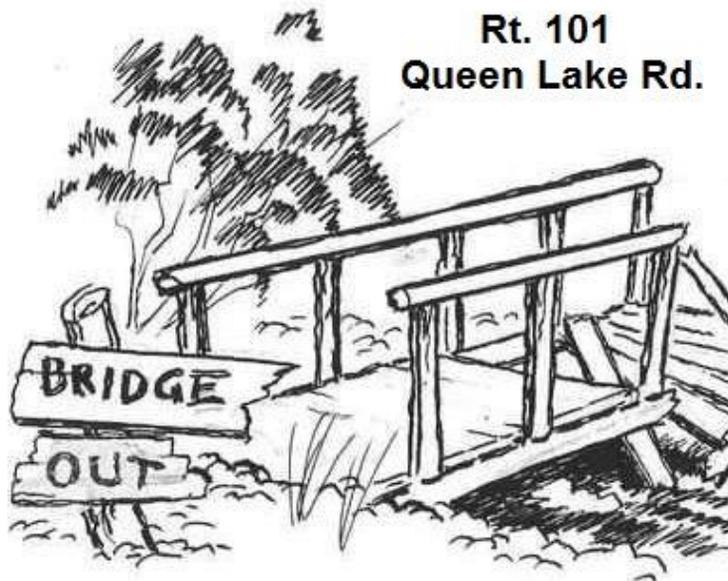


United Church of Christ
Embodied November 1785

Phillipston
Community
Newsletter

September 2021

**Rt. 101
Queen Lake Rd.**



The Phillipston Congregational Church, U.C.C.
Our Community Church

Dear Friends,

Worship 10:00 a.m. beginning Sept. 12

A couple of years ago I preached a sermon about the background to the verse from Psalm 122 which is quoted on the scroll at the front of the sanctuary. This is a psalm sung by pilgrims ascending the holy hill to Jerusalem for worship. The psalmist recalls the joy at the invitation to go to Jerusalem. Travels were rare to distant parts and dangerous, so the pilgrims often traveled in groups. The entire psalm flows with joy over Jerusalem. "I was glad when he said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" Jerusalem is a place of praise, and the tribes of the Lord have always gone up on pilgrimage for the annual festivals to give thanks to the name of the Lord. This practice was authorized and required by covenant law, as you will read in Exodus 23: 14-17.

We worship in joy and praise for the Lord who provides for us. We are grateful to the many townspeople who have helped pay for the restoration of the scroll which was originally paid for by William Baldwin in 1886 by the fresco artist W. A. Snow of Athol in the celebration of the town's centennial. I read in The Spirit of Phillipston, that when Mr. Baldwin wrote the check to pay for the work, he said, "When you may be tempted to stay away from the services here, think of the words over your pulpit."

I hope we will be back in our sanctuary soon, feel free to come and see the revitalized scroll, the marvelous work of fresco artist, Sonja Vaccari of Royalston. We have been listening to beautiful birdsong every Sunday that we have been worshipping outside. There are blessings both outside and inside for worship.

Your sister in Christ, Stephanie C. Flynn

The Phillipston Youth Supports (PYS)

First Meeting:

September 9, 2021 at 6:30pm

in Rm #2 at the Phillipston Memorial School.

The purpose of this nonprofit organization is to raise and distribute money for programs, scholarships, and educational opportunities that will directly support the youth of Phillipston. If this is something you are interested in, please join us and bring a friend. The more the merrier!!

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

GCC MAIN CAMPUS AND ORANGE TRANSFER STATION

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY SEPTEMBER 17TH

Register online at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org

Contact the Board of Health for info. 978.249-1735 or health@phillipston-ma.gov

Phillips Free Public Library

Library Hours

Tuesday 9-2pm

Wednesday 5-7pm

Saturday 9-1 pm

Board of Trustees Meeting:

Tues. September 7, 2021 at 6pm

Seashell Collection on Display

Many thanks to Opal Clark for sharing her beautiful sea shell collection with our Patrons. Stop by to enjoy it and you'll feel like you're at the ocean! Let us know if you have a collection you would like to 'share'.

New Materials

New books include: My Darkest Prayer by S.A. Cosby, It's Better this Way by Debbie Macomber, We are the Brennans by Tracy Lange, The Guilt Trip by Sandie Jones, Blind Tiger by Sandra Brown, We Were Never Here by Andrea Bartz, Razorblade Tears by S.A. Cosby, The Girl Who Wrote in Silk by Kelli Estes and Class Act by Stuart Woods

New DVDs include: Queen Bees, Nomadland, Defending Jacob, and A Quiet Place –part 2

Historical Society of Phillipston Program

Events of Local Travelers on Their 1835 Westward Journey

Presented by Sandra Larson

on September 21 at 7:00 P.M. at the church

Ellen Bigelow was accompanied by her sister and area residents on an adventuresome trip from Petersham to Illinois in 1835. The trip included travel by stagecoaches, boat, and a train that only went 3 m.p.h. A beautifully-written letter back to her aunt at the culmination of the journey told about the experiences they had along the way -- the things they did, the fellow passengers, the people they met, the inns where they lodged, the scenery, an Indian village.

It is a blessing that the letter has been saved. This treasure was passed on to Sandra Larson, whom many know from her 15 years as secretary at the Memorial School. We invite you to join us in hearing her read it.

THE NEWSLETTER IS ON www.phillipston.com

October 2021 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS September 23rd

For more info go to : www.phillipston.com/priceinfo.pdf

LADIES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Our July meeting was held at the home of Nancy MacEwen from 11am to 3pm. Our ladies could bring their own lunch or participate in a lunch swap with some ladies bringing dishes to share, whichever they felt comfortable doing. It was enjoyed by all with some sitting inside and some outside by the pool. It has certainly been a quiet year for the Ladies, but these get togethers cement our friendships. We held a drive-by luncheon organized by Marilyn Holway, which was successful. Our quilt raffle is going strong, everyone has fallen in love with the quilt this year. If you would like tickets or see the quilt, contact any member of the LBS or give Carole Gariepy a call at 978-939-5465. The quilt drawing will be held at the fall Pumpkin Weigh In gathering at Red Apple Farm. We have been meeting on Tuesdays during Covid, but hopefully the Senior Lunch will be beginning again and those are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. **THEREFORE**, Our next Meeting of the Ladies Benevolent Society will be held on **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021** from **“11 AM TO 2 PM.”** in the downstairs of the Church. Any lady may attend, you do not need to be a member of the church. I am hoping all of you will come and we can enjoy the time together.

The North Quabbin Garden Club starts their fall program on Thursday, September 16 at 7 pm at the Millers River Environmental Center. This year the club is focused on how local gardeners can deal with climate change. There are no fees and all are welcome. Masks should be worn inside the Environmental Center in accordance with the CDC and Athol Bird and Nature Club. On September 16, Denise Bennett of Maple Hill Nursery in Swanzeey NH, a knowledgeable horticulturist, will tell us about how climate change is affecting gardens in New England. How should we change our practices for both flowers and vegetables? What could we do differently to be more successful as temperatures change, seasons become extended and we deal with extremes in rainfall and weather patterns. Denise will give us her observations and advice on how we could all do better.

Pauline Alldred co-president NQGC

Come Enjoy the Music

“Concert Dance Party”

September 25, 2021

2:00 – 6:00 pm

On Phillipston Common

Bring: Your Dancing Feet, A chair or blanket & Your family

Sponsored by:

Phillipston and Orange Lions Club

Town of Phillipston

2021 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Every year the Alphonse, Sr. Public Service Award is given to a deserving Phillipston resident who has demonstrated outstanding community service.

Nominations are to be received at the Selectman's office in the Town Hall by Thursday, November 18, 2021 before 3 P.M.; Attention Opal Clark; or nominations can be mailed by US Postal Service to the Committee Chairman by the same date.

Opal E. Clark
PO Box 527
Athol MA 01331

To nominate your candidate, please fill out the following:

I hereby nominate _____ to be considered for the 2021 Alphonse W. Chartier, Sr. Public Service Award.

Please attach a brief written statement as to why you think your candidate should receive the award and **return it by November 18, 2021.**



Vendors Wanted

Farmer's Market Wednesdays

3:00 – 6:00 pm

At Phillipston Historical Building
80 State Rd., Phillipston, MA
Veggies, Fruit, Crafts, Eggs, Flowers, etc.
Marilyn Holway, Manager 978-503-2269

Dear Parishioners and Friends of the Church.

Subject: Historical Preservation of the Church

To qualify to apply for grants from the State Historical Commission and other agencies we need to have an architect perform a Historical Building Assessment of the church. The assessment will establish the order of priority of any repairs that need to be made. We plan to apply for the first grant in the Spring 2022 cycle.

We have received a quotation from Scully Architects out of Keene NH for the assessment, there is limited availability of historical architects at this time. The cost of the assessment is approximately \$14,500. We do have an initial donation of \$5,000 from an anonymous benefactor and we are reaching out to our church community and asking for your support to help us raise the rest of the funds. Please mark your donations Church Preservation.

Some of the projects that we need to complete in the coming years are;

1. Repair/replacement of the steeple trim
2. Repair/Replacement of the roof
3. Refurbishing all the windows
4. Replacement of the boilers
5. Replacement of the wood paneling in the basement

A church council meeting will be scheduled so that we can address any questions that anyone may have.

The Executive committee; Brian Nason, Nancy MacEwen, Timothy R. Haley

sponsored by Lions & Friends of Lions in Phillipston

Drive Thru 2021 - BREAKFAST

All Breakfasts Include the following:

Homefries, sausage patty, choice of toast (*white, wheat, rye or texas toast*) or english muffin and juice choice (*Orange, cranberry, apple & tomato*).

Cost: \$8.00 per breakfast ~ ~ All breakfasts are served as Drive-Thru (take out) only.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 MENU

- FEATURED** Reubin Omlet (*3 eggs with corned beef*)
- NEW** Egg Whites any style (*3 egg whites scrambled, fried, poached, omlet, etc.*)
- Chip Beef on toast
- Pan size Pancake
- French Toast (*your choice of bread*)
- Make your own Omlet (*your choice of ham, cheese, onions, tomatoes & bell peppers*)
- NEW** Hungryman Platter (*includes: pancake, french toast, 3 eggs your way, home fries & sausage patty*)



**Breakfast served out of Phillipston Church on the Common
3rd Saturdays of Month ~ 8:00 am to 11:00 am**

NARRAGANSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

462 Baldwinville Road, Baldwinville, MA 01436 978-939-5661

Christopher D. Casavant, Ed.D.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

August 23, 2021

Hello Narragansett Parents and Guardians, I hope this letter finds you and your families well after a well deserved summer break. We are excited to embark on what we hope will be a typical and traditional school year. The District has been busy restoring classrooms to their original configurations to accommodate the over 1400 students that will be attending the NRSD this upcoming school year.

In order to prepare for the return of our staff and students to our buildings, a comprehensive assessment of our HVAC systems has been completed. As a result, a great deal of work has gone into updating and improving the HVAC system at the Middle and High School complex. We have installed 48 portable air conditioning units in classrooms throughout the complex. Additionally every classroom and office space in the complex was equipped with a portable air purification system. Templeton Elementary School, being a new state-of-the-art facility, did not require any additional upgrades to their existing systems.

In other good news, the District, with the support donations from the graduating classes of 2017, 2018 and 2019 and the Athol Savings Bank, is in the process of replacing our current billboard sign with a new state-of-the-art electronic sign to be installed early this fall.

I would like to commend the hard work and dedication of staff, students and families in helping our students continue to learn during some of the most difficult circumstances that many of us have ever faced. Our attention to the social and emotional needs of our students helped them to continue to make academic progress as evidenced by our Benchmark and Star Assessments. Eligible students continued their learning through our expanded Summer Learning Program which enabled over 150 Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 students to either recover high school credit or continue their learning.

But our hard work is far from over, it's really only just begun. As you are aware every District in the Commonwealth has received funds from the Federal Government as part of the American Rescue Plan (ESSER III) to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic. NRSD has received \$1.2M to be spent over the next two fiscal years with the guidance of a community stakeholder group composed of community members, educators and students. This group helped to create a plan focused on the safety, academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all staff and students. To meet these needs, the majority of ESSER III funds will support a number of research-based interventions and programs. A copy of this plan can be viewed on our NRSD [website](#).

As you may be aware, in response to Bill S.2493 - An Act Prohibiting the Use of Native American Mascots by Public Schools in the Commonwealth, the NRSD School Committee on May 5, 2021 voted to remove the native American imagery as our District's mascot. While the Bill is still being considered by the State Legislature, the District is being proactive by removing the warrior logo in a timely and respectful manner and will engage both our student body and the community at large as to what our new logo will be moving forward.

As of the writing of this letter, Education Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley will ask the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to grant him authority to mandate masks for all public K-12 students, educators, and staff through October 1 to ensure schools fully reopen safely and to provide

time for more students and educators to get vaccinated. After October 1, the commissioner's policy would allow middle and high schools to lift the mask mandate for vaccinated students and staff only if the school meets a certain vaccination rate – at least 80 percent of students and staff in a school building are vaccinated. Unvaccinated students and staff would still be required to wear masks. As we are all aware, we are on an ever-changing landscape in this matter and we will provide updates as we receive them.

In closing, I wish you the best as you enjoy the final days of summer and am excited about seeing our students on August 30th as we look forward to returning to what we now refer to as the “old normal”.

Sincerely,
Dr. Christopher Casavant

Superintendent of Schools

The Phillipston Cultural Council presents
“Hip Hop Dance Chair Exercise for Seniors!”

There is some evidence that physical activity can slow down the decline of cognitive disabilities and may improve the quality of life.

September 21st 11am Phillipston Church

Please join us! MUSIC Dance.edu is offering a (1) hour senior exercise class in your community. “Hip Hop Dance Chair Exercise for Seniors!” Travel through time and space on the Soul Train and chair dance to clean hip hop music. ***“All Aboard the Hip Hop Soul Train Express”***.

Media Contact: Rondae Drafts, Ph.D.abd MUSIC Dance.edu (617) 429 2507

Musicdance.edu@gmail.com OR rondaedrafts@yahoo.com

This program is brought to you by a generous grant provided by the Phillipston cultural council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

September Menu for Meals-to-Go

Sept. 7th Meatballs with tomato basil sauce, Cavatappi pasta, California veg. blend, Bread, Lorna Doones

Sept. 21 Chicken fajita, Red & Green Peppers, Corn, Flour tortilla, Snack loaf

Contact Paula Haley - 978-652-9757

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

GCC MAIN CAMPUS AND ORANGE TRANSFER STATION

**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY SEPTEMBER
17TH**

Register online at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org

Your appointment time and directions will be mailed after registration is processed.

For residents and businesses of the following towns: Athol, Barre,* Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Rowe, Royalston, Shelburne, Sunderland,* Warwick, Wendell, and Whately.

This collection event is free for residents. **Barre and Sunderland residents must pay to participate in 2021. Space is limited.*

Due to COVID-19, safety protocols and waste restrictions will be in place. Participants will be required to wear a mask, remain in their vehicle, and place all waste in the trunk, rear cargo area, or truck bed. Materials that will not be collected this year include all types of batteries, thermometers, and thermostats. These items can be brought to most town transfer stations year-round.

For more information: **www.franklincountywastedistrict.org** or contact the Franklin County Solid Waste District at info@franklincountywastedistrict.org,

Contact the Board of Health for info. 978.249-1735 or health@phillipston-ma.gov