



Chestnut Street United Methodist Church
161 Chestnut Street
Gardner, Ma. 01440
978-632-1978

August 2026

The Connection

God operates on the plan of multiplication, not addition.

In human logic, progress is often linear. We add one asset, one hour, or one effort at a time, expecting a predictable result. But Heaven's economy moves at an exponential pace meaning that when we freely offer our limited resources to the Creator, He does not merely add to them, He multiplies them.

Think of the small boy who offered five loaves and two fish. In human hands, addition could only feed a few yet in the presence of Divine hands, multiplication fed thousands with baskets left over. Or the story of the mustard seed when the tiny mustard seed grows into the largest of garden plants, becoming a tree where birds can nest. The Kingdom of God starts with a tiny step forward in faith but expands exponentially to provide spiritual food, shelter and comfort for many.

In the familiar parable of the sower, when Jesus speaks of a hundredfold of harvest, the massive harvest is entirely disproportionate to any human effort of sowing. In Hebrew numerology, the number 100 represents completeness, totality, and full stature. A hundredfold return means lacking nothing and experiencing the absolute fullness of God's purpose. God does not multiply resources just for individual consumption. The overflow of a hundredfold harvest is designed to spill over, feeding, blessing, and sustaining entire communities and future generations.

Divine influence works intentionally, quietly and invisibly, creating an impact far greater than its initial size. Consider the parable of the leaven bread. Yeast is mixed in the flour and the yeast works silently but intentionally through its own growth until it permeates and expands the entire dough. God's work in the world often begins in a quiet, unseen way through us when we begin with small intentional and steady steps as a little group of believers with a shared focus and a willingness to dedicate time and resources.

The parable of the talents brings this same intentionality, growth and responsibility for the spiritual harvest forward. A master gives bags of gold (talents) to his servants. The ones who invest and double their money are praised and given more responsibility. The servant who hides his single coin out of hesitancy to risk is rebuked for failing to grow what he was given. The historical value of a biblical talent reveals that the master was not handing out pocket change, he was entrusting his servants with a mind-boggling fortune. One denari was a typical day's wage and 6000 denari = one talent. One talent was worth 20 years of labor and if doubled 40 years of labor. The master did not give the third servant a small test amount; he handed him a literal lifetime fortune. This makes the servant's decision to just dig a hole and bury it even more offensive to the master. When the master praises the multiplying servants, he says, "You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things". The Lord has great expectations of us as we work with Him to spread the Gospel.

The current season of growth and harvest may look small, and your strength may feel limited. However, you are not dependent on human addition. Trust the One who takes the small seeds of your faith, your time, and your obedience, and transforms them into an abundant harvest that impacts generations.



Lazy Dog Days of August

Discussion Group 9:15 am

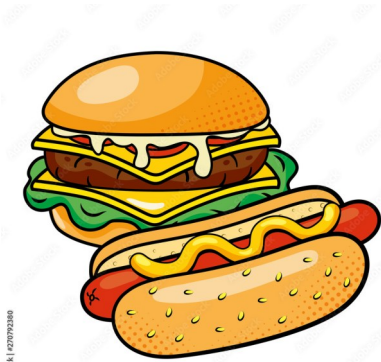
Worship Service 10 am

Sunday School 10 am

All are Welcome!

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FREE
Community
Supper
Wednesday
August 19th
5:30-7 pm
Menu:
Hot Dogs and
Hamburgers!

Lots of good
Bargains!
Thrift Store
Wednesday
9-2 pm
Saturday
9-12 pm

Announcements:

Permission to copy this newsletter and share not needed.

Please do and thank you.

We continue our discussion group at 9:15 am on Sunday Morning exploring the Gospel of Mark. All are welcome to join us! Sunday School is 10 am as a "mini VBS" exploring stories of the Bible that are less commonly read about. In August we will do some science experiments with the lessons.

Worship is at 10 am with different ministry leaders each week.

Reminder: Council Meeting August 2nd following worship

Special Request: Pat Darby (Athol Congregational Church) has for years worked to place exchange high school students from Europe for a year of learning, sharing and making new friends in area high schools. She is looking for host homes. Two ways to help: as a Reception Home which means a short term obligation of 4-6 weeks as they get settled and then move into a more permanent host home. The second way to help is to open your home for the school year. It has been a very successful program of exchange for decades and those who have opened their homes have said it is a very positive experience.

Host Families provide a bed and meals and a loving home. A Host Family can be a single parent, a retired couple, someone with or without children, or a same-sex couple. All have been successful as a Host Family. Students are from: Spain, Brazil, Germany, Denmark and the Czech Republic.

Perfect matches are made between the host family and the student with common interests. Here are two possible students: Carlota - Spain - grade 10 - Requests to come to the Northeast. Interests: Basketball, Skiing, Snowboarding, Tennis, Cooking and Running. Likes to spend time with family and friends. Enjoys helping others. Positive attitude toward learning. /

Vojtech - Czech Republic - Grade 12 Host Family in US was committed but the family has pulled out due to medical reasons. He lives in a small historical town. Interests: Skiing, Snowboarding, Orienteering, Bike Riding, Computers, Fitness, Running, Fishing, Swimming. He states: "My Host Family can expect me to be respectful, helpful, and willing to share my culture." Passionate about Math, Physics, and Space. Is Independent, Quiet, and Adaptable.

Pat Darby - Area Coordinator

Northwest Services PEACE Program, Inc.

email: patarby6@yahoo.com phone: 978-632-8270

visit our website: <http://www.nw-services.com>

National Night Out- Several area National Night Out are scheduled for the first week of August. This is a community event which blends activities for children and different agencies/organizations tables to meet and greet residents. Lots of treats available.

Gardner Night Out will be at the High School on August 6th 5:30 -8 pm .

Barre Night Out will be at Quabbin High School on August 4th 4-7 pm.

Fitchburg Night Out will be at River Front Park on August 4th 5-7pm.

Ashburnham Night Out will be August 11th at the Oakmont High School 5:30-8 pm

Check your police facebook for more information or use keywords "your community name" national night out' for online.

FREE COMMUNITY SUPPER

Hamburgers & Hot dogs

Pasta Salad/Potato Salad

Wednesday August 19, 2026



Come for a free meal and friendship

Chestnut Street United

Methodist Church

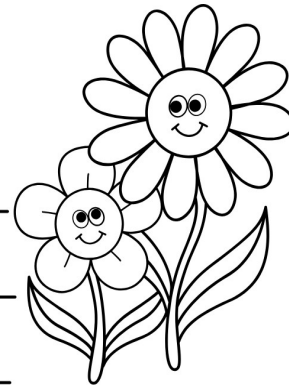
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BIBLE RIDDLES

MATCH THE BIBLE EVENT WITH THE PERSON

1. Who built the ark? _____
2. Who was swallowed by a big fish? _____
3. What did David use to defeat Goliath? _____
4. Who was Jesus' mother? _____
5. What fell down at Jericho? _____
6. Who parted the Red Sea? _____
7. Who was the first man? _____
8. What did Jesus walk on? _____
9. Who was the first woman? _____
10. Who carried Jesus' cross? _____
11. Who betrayed Jesus? _____
12. Who was thrown into the lion's den? _____
13. What did God create on the first day? _____
14. What did Jesus feed 5,000 people with? _____
15. What did Moses get on Mount Sinai? _____



**WALLS, BREAD & FISH, DANIEL, LIGHT, ADAM, EVE, MOSES, NOAH,
JONAH, TEN COMMANDMENTS, A SLING, MARY, WATER, SIMON, JUDAS**



Who knew?

Days of good fun and food!

August 3-National Watermelon Day

August 10-National S'mores Day

August 13- Left Hander's Day

August 24- National Waffle Day (with ice cream and fruit?)

August 26- Women's Equality Day

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

