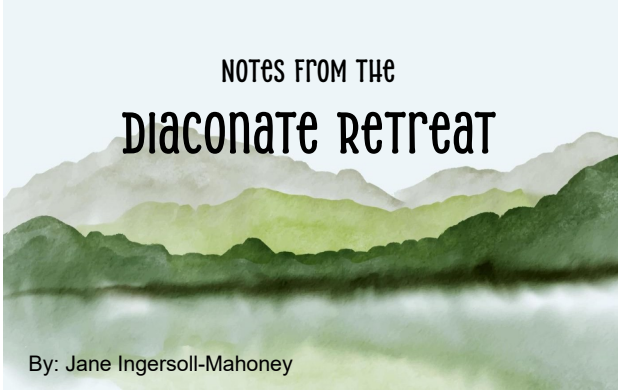
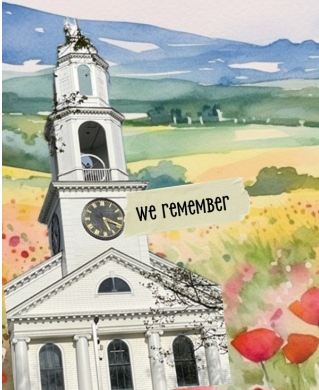




In this issue:
• Diaconate Retreat
• Verse of the Month
• Chicken BBQ
• Bible Explorers
• Small Groups
• Birthdays
• Anniversaries
• May Calendar

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Acts 2:42



“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise – in God I trust and am not afraid.”
- Psalm 56:3-4

Each year in April the Diaconate holds a retreat at Sacandaga Bible Conference in NY. We are often asked what we do at these retreats. That is a wonderful question that we love to answer.

We find it refreshing to be able to share the vision for our personal growth in Christ as well as the vision we have for growth in our church body that is always the focus of our retreats.

One of the things we learned this year was about the “gray zone” that exists in our church today (and worldwide). If you were in church on Sunday, April 26, you heard Pastor Joe talk about the “gray zone” – that place in our culture

and time when a transition is taking place. It is that place where things are not like they used to be and are not quite like what they are going to be.

This uncertain place - this gray zone - creates confusion, feelings of being unsettled and unsure. It is a time that can create anxiety and uncertainty, and sometimes even fear for many. We are learning how we can navigate this “gray zone” and how we can help others navigate it as well.

The Diaconate is dedicated to learning and assisting Pastor Joe with any and all spiritual leadership as it regards our congregation. As an indication of the devoted character of our Deacons, during

May Dates



MEN’S BREAKFAST - Saturday, May 9th at 8:30 am
DIACONATE MEETING - Monday, May 11th at 6:30 pm
CABINET MEETING - Thursday, May 14th at 6:30 pm
RICK OTTMAN Students’ Recital - Sat., May 16th at 11- 4 pm
MEMORIAL DAY CHICKEN BBQ –with Music by Steve Bell Trio Monday, May 25th, 12-2:30 pm—Tickets \$15/adult

Continued from pg. 1

our retreat they worked straight through their breaks and stopped only for meals. Our retreats are always working retreats, but this one was particularly so. As Chair of the Diaconate, I can proudly state that our spiritual leaders are Christ-centered and wholly dedicated to their calling. All praise be to God.

As we move forward, the Diaconate, guided by Pastor Joe, will continue to delve deep into scripture and pursue what the Holy Spirit lays before us as to how we can best serve our church.

We ask for your prayers.

And may you, by trusting in God, through your prayers and petitions, find the peace that will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen.



Tickets are on sale NOW!

A barbecue is more than just a meal; it's an occasion to gather together as a community for a time of joy, laughter, and delicious food.

Join us as we celebrate Memorial Day 2026 with a Chicken BBQ under a big tent on the church green.

Tickets are available from Karen Bessette after the Sunday worship service. They will also be sold at various other places in North Brookfield.

\$15 Adult tickets include:

1/2 BBQ Chicken	Baked Potato
Green Beans	Salad
Dessert	Drink

Kids under 10 eat FREE with an adult ticket purchase.

Kids meals include:

Hot Dog in Roll	Bag of Chips
Fruit Cup	Drink & Cookie

Older kids and adults may choose to purchase a hot dog meal for \$5.00.

SPARK, IGNITE & the VOM



Alycia



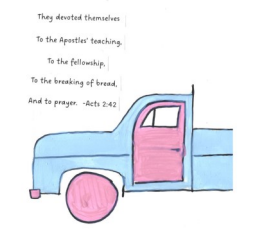
Shay



Kaitlyn



Alycia



Sophie



Kaylee

Q: What do you get when you mix a youth group with art supplies and the **Verse of the Month?**

A: Beautiful table signs for our after church luncheons!

Last Sunday, some of the teens and leaders tried their hands at Bible Journaling and these are the results.

You can see them all in Fellowship Hall starting Sunday, May 3rd.
Acts 2:42



Sharon

BIBLE EXPLORERS



The Bible Is My Guide

The Bible is a treasure chest,
With words of wisdom, love, and rest.
It teaches right, corrects the wrong,
And helps my faith grow big and strong.
When I am lost, it lights my way,
It tells me what to do and say.
It's God's own Word, pure and true,
A holy gift for me and you.



Adult Sunday School Class
Meets on Sundays during the school year from 9:30 - 10:15 am in the Conference Room. Dan Dever

Monday Morning Women's Bible Study
Meets weekly in the Conference Room 9:45 - 11:30 am. Pauline Dwelly

A Study on Grace for Women
Meets in the Conference Room on Mondays at 1:30 pm. Jennifer Pardee & Julia Hickey

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Meets the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month at 6:30 pm in the office building. Karen Bessette

It's All About Jesus
This Bible Study group meets on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm at Jade Ford's home.

Men's Bible Study
Meets on Tuesday from 6:15 to 7:15 pm in the Conference Room. David Holmes

Balanced in Him • Christian Yoga - Meets Wednesday nights in the Parlor. Holly Kularski

OPEN HANDS Ministry
Meets on the 4th Wednesdays in the Conference Room. Jane Ingersoll-Mahoney

Women's Ministry
Meets the 2nd Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 to plan events for women of the church. Annie Shea

Prayer Meeting
Meets 1st, 3rd & 4th Thursdays from 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the parlor. Pray and sing for our church. Julia Hickey

Prayer Group
Meets Fridays 9:30 -11:00 am in the Conference Room. Nancy Olson

Men's Saturday Breakfast
Meets on the second Saturday of each month at 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Dale Wadsworth

Bible Journaling Group
Meets in the Multi-Purpose Bible Journaling meets in the Multi-Purpose Room from 9:30 - 11:00 am on Saturdays. Deb Arnold

Women's Bible Study
Meets Saturdays from 2:00 - 4:00 pm in the Conference Room. Annie Shea

Spark
Youth group for students in grades 6 through 8 meets Sundays from 3:30 - 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Leaders: Sharon Combs & Nic Guertin

Ignite
Youth group for high school students meets Sundays from 3:30 - 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Leaders: Paul & Kaitlyn Foucher

The Caring Ministry
Individuals and Small groups who meet the immediate needs of our church family. Nancy Olson



For those 65+
Linda Ostiguy May 9
Bruce Arnold May 19
Nancy Olson May 23
Gretchen Mollins May 23
Berkeley Burnham May 26
Let us know your birth date!



Leon & Beverly Mimeault May 1
David & Janet Nelson May 2
Mark & Joan Hume May 6



May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			 Haston Public Library's Mayfest 2026		1 10:15 –12:00 Prayer Group	2 MAY FEST 9:30 Bible Journaling
3 10:45 Worship 3:30-5:30 Spark & Ignite	4 9:45 Women's Bible Study 1:30 Grace Bible Study	5 6:15 Men's Bible Study	6	7 10-12 Food Pantry 6:30 Prayer Meeting	8 10:15 –12:00 Prayer Group	9 8:30 Men's Breakfast 9:30 Bible Journaling
10  MOTHER'S DAY 10:45 Worship 3:30-5:30 Spark & Ignite	11 9:45 Women's Bible Study 1:30 Grace Bible Study 6:30 Prayer Shawl Group 6:30 Diaconate	12 6:15 Men's Bible Study	13 	14 10-12 Food Pantry 6:30 Cabinet	15 10:15 –12:00 Prayer Group	16 9:30 Bible Journaling 11am-4pm Rick Ottman's Students Recital
17 10:45 Worship 3:30-5:30 Spark & Ignite	18 9:45 Women's Bible Study 1:30 Grace Bible Study	19 6:15 Men's Bible Study	20	21 10-12 Food Pantry 6:30 Prayer Meeting	22 10:15 –12:00 Prayer Group	23 9:30 Bible Journaling
24 10:45 Worship 3:30-5:30 Spark & Ignite	25 Memorial Day Chicken BBQ 12-2 pm 1pm Concert	26 6:15 Men's Bible Study	27	28 10-12 Food Pantry 6:30 Prayer Meeting	29 10:15 –12:00 Prayer Group	30 9:30 Bible Journaling
31 10:45 Worship 3:30-5:30 Spark & Ignite						

Please notify Deb at the church office for any calendar changes.
Articles, photos, and news items may be sent to deb@firstchurchnb.org
OFFICE HOURS: Tues, Wed, Thur, 9:00 am—1:00 pm

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Pastor Joe Shea 508-873-2838