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Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of North Brookfield - August 2026



Thank You...
From Kaitlyn Foucher

AS someone who usually has no shortage of words, I'm having a hard time adequately expressing how deep my gratitude extends to all of you for the love and support you've all given the kids and me in this last month.

From meeting our physical needs through gift cards and donations to meeting our spiritual and emotional needs through your fervent prayers and extension of words of comfort, in this most challenging season we have seen the beauty of being part of God's family and for that, we say, "thank you."

— Philippians 1:3-6

DEMONS KNOW JESUS.
THEY RECOGNIZE THE APOSTLE PAUL.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
DO THEY KNOW YOU BELONG TO CHRIST,
OR WILL THEY SAY TO YOU "BUT WHO ARE YOU?"
— ACTS 19:15

By: Kristin deWaad

There are some verses in the Bible that make you stop and think.

There are others that make you laugh because you can't believe they actually happened.

Acts 19:15 somehow manages to do both.

"Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" (ESV)

The seven sons of Sceva had watched Paul cast out demons in the name of Jesus and decided they could do the same thing. They didn't know Jesus personally, but they knew His name.

Surely that was close enough...right? Wrong.

The demon answered.
"Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?"

Then the man with the evil spirit attacked all seven of them. Seven against one should have ended one way. Instead, they ran away beaten, wounded, and without their clothes. That is about as public of a lesson as a person could possibly get. It's funny until the point starts sinking in.

The sons of Sceva knew the right words, but they didn't know the Savior. They treated the name of Jesus like it was a magic formula instead of recognizing that His authority isn't something that can be borrowed. They wanted the power without the relationship.

They wanted the authority without the surrender.

They wanted what belonged to Jesus without belonging to Jesus.

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That temptation hasn't gone away. It's possible to know Bible stories, quote verses, sing worship songs, wear the label "Christian," and still never truly know Christ. Knowing facts about Jesus is not the same as following Him.

One day, every title, every accomplishment, every

opinion, every excuse, and every carefully built reputation will disappear. There will only be one question that matters.

Not, "Did you know about Jesus?"
But, "Did you know Him?"

Because there is an eternity of difference between knowing His name... and belonging to Him. †



Sunday, August 30th

Baptism Sunday is coming up August 30th.

Faith is not one giant dramatic leap.

Faith is a series of committed steps. A first Sunday, joining a group, serving for the first time. Each one matters. And baptism is one of those steps.

For a lot of people in our church, it's one of the most meaningful next steps they'll take this year - the public, outward declaration that they're following Jesus."

When you're ready, just reach out to Pastor Joe or any one of the Deacons.



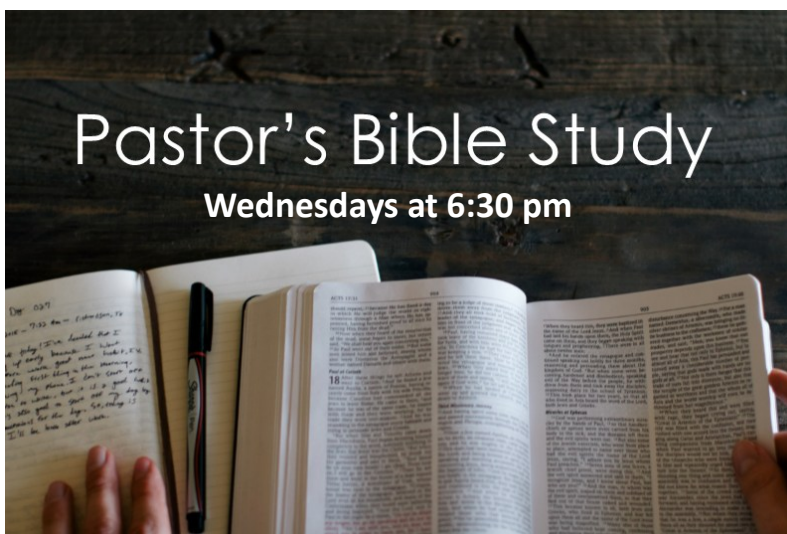
Sunday, August 30th

August 30th is also New Member Sunday.

Joining a church is also a meaningful step in a person's spiritual journey.

Membership often provides opportunities for individuals to grow in their faith and understanding of scripture while building lasting friendships within the church family.

When you're ready, just reach out to Pastor Joe or any one of the Deacons.



We'd love to have you join us for a new Bible study led by Pastor Joe starting Wednesday, August 26th at 6:30 pm!

It'll be a relaxed and welcoming time to come together, open God's Word, ask questions, share encouragement, and grow in faith alongside one another.

Whether you've been part of Bible studies before or you're just thinking about trying one for the first time, you are truly welcome.

Come as you are, bring a friend if you'd like, and enjoy an evening of fellowship, conversation, and learning together.

We hope to see you there!

please take care of your soul
and study your Bible.



Photos by Alycia Martin

A WONDERFUL WEEK OF VBS

by our VBS Director, Cindy Jorritsma



This week, our church transformed into the city of Rome with more than 100 children stepping back in time to discover the incredible truth found through the book of Romans that **“God’s love changes everything.”**

Each morning the children would come in and travel through 1st Century Rome. They met Paul while he was under house arrest. They secretly worshipped with the leaders in the underground church. They enjoyed foods that would have been eaten in Bible times. They built Roman-inspired projects in the marketplace, played games, learned from puppets Hazel & Leo, sang songs and learned what life was like for the early Christians.

Each day we focused on a Bible Point from the book of Romans. Monday, we learned that God’s love was a gift. On Tuesday, we learned that God’s love changes us. On Wednesday, we learned that God’s love is always with us. On Thursday, we learned that God’s love saves us, and on Friday, we learned that God’s love is worth sharing.

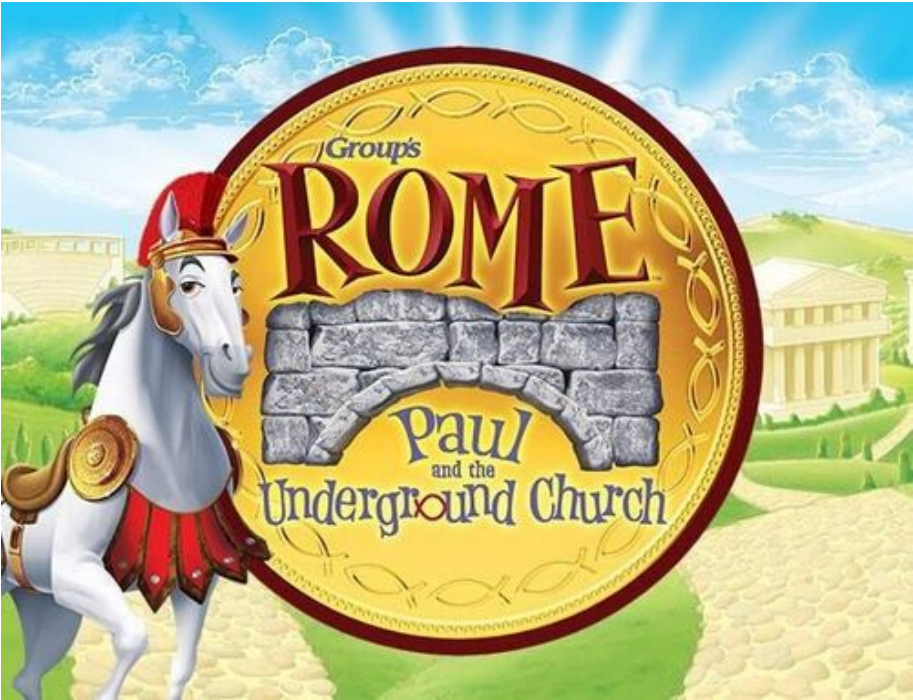
We had a missionary come, Olga Goncharenko, who has experienced the underground church today and was able to share with the kids and confirm what Paul experienced.

Throughout the week our prayer was that every child will not only know the story of Paul, but also the incredible love that God has for them.

And of course, none of this happens without an amazing church family. Thank you to our volunteers, who spent months planning, decorating, building sets, sewing costumes, memorizing scripts, writing scripts for puppetry, preparing snacks, teaching, leading family groups, playing games, running crafts, caring for children, providing security, taking photos, handling registration, cleaning, and serving behind the scenes. Many of the volunteers gave up their vacation time to be here—evenings and countless hours so these children could hear the Gospel in a meaningful and unforgettable way.

Thank you all so very much! ♥





Photos by Alycia Martin



McGrail Band CONCERT



WOODWIND CONCERT

Sunday, August 30th at 3:00 pm



We are pleased to host a double woodwind quintet concert by the "Worcester Winds."

This concert is FREE to the public through a grant from the North Brookfield Cultural Council and will be held in the church sanctuary.

The concert will be about one hour, followed by a reception with snacks and drinks provided.

Worcester Winds is a dectet of musicians—teachers and professional performers—based in Central Mass.

HAPPY Anniversary

Dale Wadsworth & Jennifer Huard	August 4
Dan & Carol Combs	August 15
Larry & Jean Underwood	August 16
Chris & Denise Lalashius	August 20

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

For those 65+

Ruth Alford	Aug. 2	Don Churchey	Aug. 12
Evelyn Hebert	Aug. 3	Nancy Paddock	Aug. 13
Donna Major	Aug. 6	Bonni Holmes	Aug. 15

Let us know your birth date!

GRIEFSHARE - Mondays, at 6:00 pm

4C's CONFERENCE IN FLORIDA - August 3-6, 2026

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Saturday, August 8th at 8:30 am

CABINET MEETING - No Meeting in August

McGRAIL OUTDOOR CONCERT - Saturday, August 22nd
2:00-4:00 pm on the Church Lawn

BAPTISM & NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY -
August 30th at 9:30 am

FREE WOODWIND CONCERT - August 30th at 3:00 pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Regular Schedule Resumes on
Sunday, September 13th at 10:45 am

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, Thurs, 9 am—1 pm

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NORTH BROOKFIELD

144 North Main Street | North Brookfield, MA 01535 | 508-867-8428 | website: Firstchurchnb.org

Pastor Joe Shea 508-873-2838

August 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



His goodness surrounds me

1

2

9:30 Summer
Worship

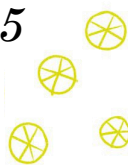
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9:45 Women's Bible
Study
6:00 GriefShare

4

6:15 Men's Bible
Study

5



6

10-12 Food Pantry
6:30 Prayer-Parlor

7

10:15 –12:00
Prayer Group
12:00 Hope
Armenia—CONF

8

8:30 am
Men's Breakfast

9

9:30 Summer
Worship

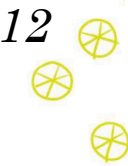
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9:45 Women's Study
6:00 GriefShare
6:30 Prayer Shawl

11

6:15 Men's Bible
Study

12



13

10-12 Food Pantry
6:30 Prayer-Parlor

14

10:15 –12:00
Prayer Group

15

16

9:30 Summer
Worship

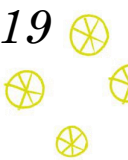
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9:45 Women's Bible
Study
6:00 GriefShare

18

6:15 Men's Bible
Study

19



20

10-12 Food Pantry
6:30 Prayer-Parlor

21

10:15 –12:00
Prayer Group

22

3:00 McGrail
Outdoor Concert
on the lawn

23

9:30 Summer
Worship

24

9:45 Women's Study
6:00 GriefShare
6:30 Prayer Shawl

25

6:15 Men's Bible
Study

26 **NEW!**

6:30 Bible
Study with
Pastor Joe

27

10-12 Food Pantry
6:30 Prayer-Parlor

28

10:15 –12:00
Prayer Group

29



30

**BAPTISM/ NEW
MEMBERS**
9:30 Worship
3:00 Woodwind
Concert

31

9:45 Women's Bible
Study
6:00 GriefShare

WALK IN JOY

Regular Worship Schedule Resumes on Sunday, September 13th at 10:45 am