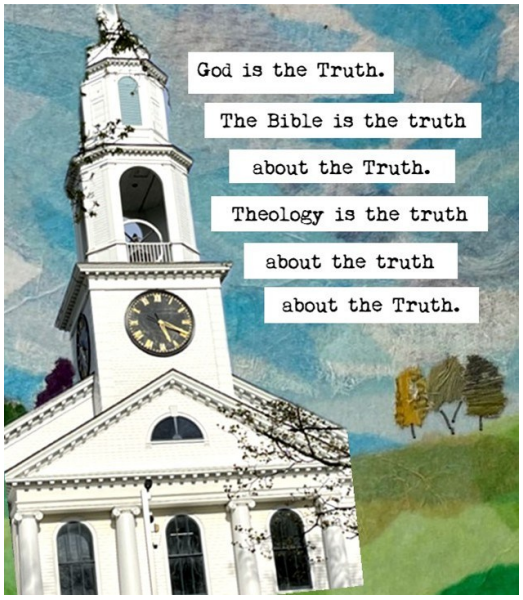


In this issue:

- Fall Schedule
- Children's & Youth Ministries
- Secret Sisters Reveal
- Women's Bible Study - "Daring Joy"
- 24 Hours of Prayer
- Family Fall Festival
- Anniversaries
- Events Calendar

Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of North Brookfield - **September 2026**



– Richard Wurmbrand





A few years ago, Merriam-Webster's Word of the Year was ***authentic***. It means "not false or imitation" and "true to one's own personality, spirit, or character." People search for truth, but discerning fact from fiction can be challenging.

Editor Peter Sokolowski said, "Can we trust whether a student wrote this paper [or] . . . whether a politician made this statement?"

"We don't always trust what we see anymore. We sometimes don't believe our own eyes or our own ears. We are now recognizing that authenticity is a performance itself."

As what is real becomes less clear, authenticity is something most people crave. This kind of "crisis of authenticity" can be averted as we take in and live out the wisdom of Scripture.

Jesus spoke to His disciples just before His arrest, trial, and death (John 13-17). Preparing His disciples for His departure from earth, He also "looked toward heaven and prayed" for them (17:1).

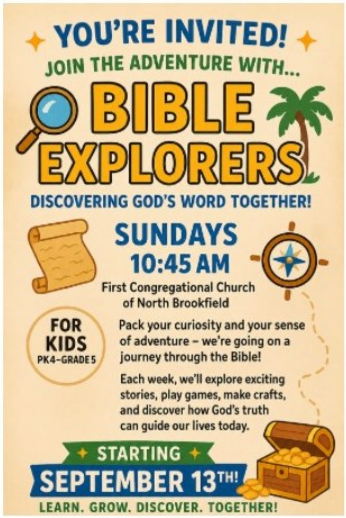
He prayed that the Father might "sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth" (v. 17). This implies that what God has revealed in the Bible doesn't conform to some other standard of what's true. **In fact, the Bible is truth *itself* and the standard by which everything else is judged.**

God calls us to align our lives with Scripture, to conduct ourselves according to its truth. Only by doing so can we become truly authentic, which is very much what the world needs today. †

John 17:1-5, 13-19

CHILD & YOUTH MINISTRIES







COMING UP…..



SUNDAY, SEPT. 20, 6:00 PM - MONDAY, SEPT. 21, 6:00 PM

OUR NEXT 24 HOURS OF PRAYER AND FASTING

Jane Ingersoll-Mahoney

Our quarterly 24 hours of prayer and fasting will be held from 6:00 PM Sunday evening September 20 through Monday evening September 21.

I am trying something new regarding sign-up this time. For those of you who have participated in the past, you will receive a text asking what time within the 24 hour period you would like to pray. You may choose any time, multiple times, and/or choose a half hour, an hour, or however long you would like to pray.

Fasting is an option. The sign-up is for prayer only. Please be sure to indicate whether you are choosing a PM or an AM time. It can be a bit confusing.

For those of you who have not participated before, you will be approached by either Holly Kularski, Mary Beth Kularski, or myself at church or through a text or phone call. We will give you the scoop on how it all works and give you the opportunity to join our church body in this beautiful event. You will find it a blessing, indeed.

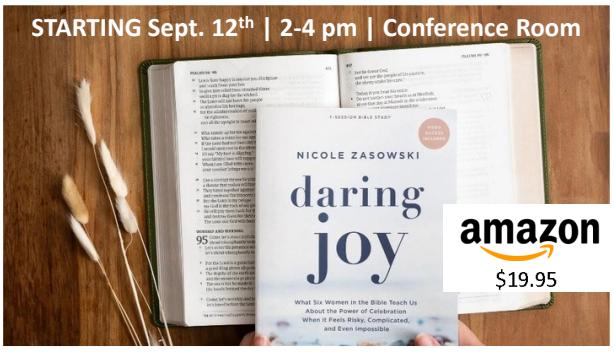


Saturday, Sept. 5th at 2:00 pm

ALL LADIES WELCOME!

(Secret Sister participation is optional)

Women's Ministry
BIBLE STUDY



Dear God, please sanctify me with the truth of Scripture as I serve You.







Baptism Sunday

August 30, 2026

What a day it was for the Kingdom of God last Sunday!

We were so blessed to have eight individuals of all ages, from children to seniors, who gave their testimonies then proceeded outside to be baptized in the faith by Pastor Joe.

It was a beautiful time together for our whole church to share.

Those that were baptized are:

Kylie Foucher
Jasmine Hickey
Sophia Giangrande
Jennifer Pardee
Mason Stevens
Pattie Zegarra
Wayne Brooks, Jr.
Robert B. Downie

♥





















First Congregational Church of North Brookfield

OCTOBER 3, 2026
NOON - 2:30 PM

We will be holding our Annual Family Fall Festival with activities for all members of your family including free hamburgers/cheeseburgers, chips, lemonade, and apple cider (hot and cold).

There will be a silent auction and cake/pie sale. A bouncy house, cotton candy machine, popcorn and games galore for the whole family, including the famous tug of war between the adults and the children.

Other activities include horse rides, corn hole, Zumba with Melanie, and the North Brookfield Fire Department Fire Prevention team. Come have FUN with us! This event is free to all who attend.

Call Church office with any questions at 508-867-8428
Contact Person: Karen Bessette 508-864-0084
karenbessette1948@gmail.com

Membership

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.



Rick & Linda Ottman	September 2
Don & Mona Churchey	September 4
David & Jeannine Fish	September 13
Channing & Jade Ford	September 20
Mark & Sheila McGrail	September 26
Gerry & Alycia Martin	September 30

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

For those 65+

Nancy Brazil	September 10

Let us know your birth date!

GRIEFSHARE - Mondays, at 6:00 pm

BIBLE STUDY with Pastor Joe - Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

SECRET SISTERS REVEAL - Sat., Sept. 5th at 2:00 pm

CABINET MEETING - Thursday, Sept. 10th at 6:30 pm

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Saturday, Sept. 12th at 8:30 am

WOMEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY - Sept. 12th 2-4 pm

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

~~BIBLE EXPLORERS - Sunday, Sept. 13th at 10:45 am~~

YOUTH GROUPS: SPARK & IGNITE - begins on Sunday, September 27th from 3:30-5:30 pm

FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL - Saturday, October 3rd

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

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:15 Men's Bible Study	2 6:30 Bible Study with Pastor Joe Fellowship Hall	3 10-12 Food Pantry 6:30 Prayer-Parlor	4 10:15 –12:00 Prayer Group 12:00 Hope Armenia—CONF	5 9:30 am Bible Journaling 2:00 Secret Sisters Reveal
6 9:30 Summer Worship	7 	8 6:15 Men's Bible Study	9 6:30 Bible Study with Pastor Joe Fellowship Hall	10 10-12 Food Pantry 6:30 Cabinet Meeting	11 10:15 –12:00 Prayer Group	12 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Bible Journaling 2-4 pm Women's Bible Study
13 10:45 am Worship Service & Bible Explorers	14 9:45 Women's Bible Study 6:00 GriefShare	15 6:15 Men's Bible Study	16 6:30 Bible Study with Pastor Joe Fellowship Hall	17 10-12 Food Pantry 6:30 Prayer-Parlor	18 10:15 –12:00 Prayer Group	19 9:30 am Bible Journaling
20 10:45 am Worship Service & Bible Explorers	21 9:45 Women's Bible Study 6:00 GriefShare	22 6:15 Men's Bible Study	23 6:30 Bible Study with Pastor Joe Fellowship Hall	24 10-12 Food Pantry 6:30 Prayer-Parlor	25 10:15 –12:00 Prayer Group	26 9:30 am Bible Journaling
27 10:45 am Worship Service & Bible Explorers 3:30 pm Ignite & Spark - BEGINS	28 9:45 Women's Bible Study 6:00 GriefShare	29 6:15 Men's Bible Study	30 6:30 Bible Study with Pastor Joe Fellowship Hall			

Fall Worship Begins
Sunday, Sept. 13th
10:45 am

