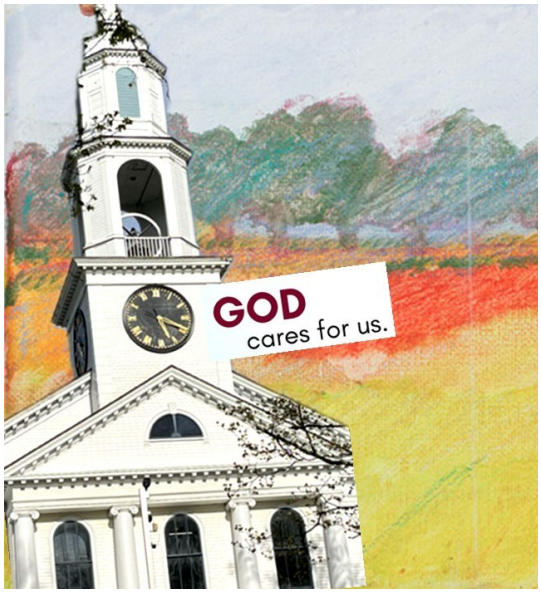


Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of North Brookfield - **October 2026**

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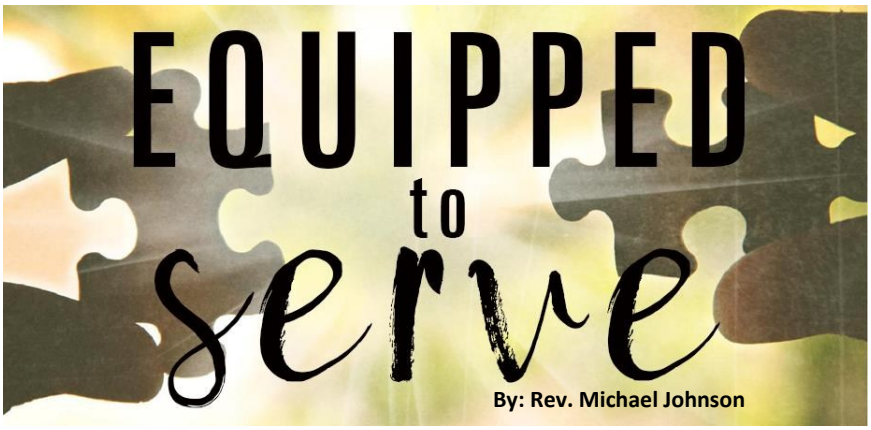
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October ~ Verse of the Month

So Christ himself gave
the apostles,
the prophets,
the evangelists,
the pastors & teachers,
to equip his people
for works of service,
so that the body of
Christ may be built up.

- Ephesians 4: 11-12



By: Rev. Michael Johnson

Ephesians 4:11-12 is our October verse of the month. It's about the role of different spiritual gifts and leadership positions within the church to equip and build up the body of believers for the work of service, ultimately helping the church grow in unity and maturity.

[11] And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,[12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

In Ephesians chapter 4, we find the apostle Paul writing to the church in Ephesus, emphasizing the importance of unity and maturity in the body of Christ. As the scene unfolds, we see a diverse group of believers gathered together in a spacious room within a humble house church in Ephesus. The room is adorned with simple decorations, and the soft glow of oil lamps illuminates the faces of those present.

Among the group are individuals who have been called to specific roles within the church – apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Each person carries a sense of purpose and dedication to serving the body of Christ. The apostles share stories of their journeys spreading the gospel, the prophets speak words of encouragement and edification, the evangelists zealously proclaim the good news, the pastors offer comfort and guidance, and the teachers impart wisdom and understanding.

As they sit together, sharing meals and engaging in discussions about the teachings of Jesus, there is a palpable sense of unity and love among the believers. They understand that each member has a unique role to play in building up the body of Christ and are committed to supporting one another in their spiritual growth. The ultimate goal? To edify—or build up—the body of Christ. This means fostering unity, encouraging growth in faith, and

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helping one another mature in Christlikeness. When we embrace our spiritual gifts with a willing heart, we contribute to a stronger and more unified church.

As we reflect on Ephesians 4:11-12 today, let it inspire us not just to admire those who serve but also to step into our own calling with courage and willingness.

You are part of something much greater than yourself—a divine mission orchestrated by Christ Himself. So be willing. Say "yes" to His call today and watch how He uses you to make an eternal impact. ♥





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

small groups
transformation together

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

GriefShare
This grief support group meets on Mondays at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room. Bridget Reynolds

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

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

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

Pastor Joe's Bible Study
Meets Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Joe Shea

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

OPEN HANDS Ministry
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 4:30 -5:30 pm in the parlor. Pray and sing for our church. Julia Hickey

Prayer Group
Meets Fridays 10:30 -12:00 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 Saturdays from 9:30-11:00 am in the Multi-Purpose Room.
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 with Ignite on Sundays from 3:30-5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.
Sharon Combs & Nic Guertin

Ignite
Youth group for high school students meets with Spark on Sundays from 3:30-5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.
Kaitlyn Foucher

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



Ice cream and worship in the same place, does it get any better?? Our youth groups Spark + IGNITE will be hosting a Sundae Praise fundraiser on Sunday, October 25 at 3:30pm here at the church.

Tickets will be sold in advance for $6 each, and will get you an ice cream sundae with toppings of your choosing, before joining together for worship led by McGrail Band. All proceeds will directly benefit the teens trip for winter camp this year.

Tickets will go on sale **Sunday, October 11th.**



Surviving the Holidays

provides encouragement, support, and valuable tools to navigate the season.

Join us for this 2-hour seminar

Monday, November 2nd
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
FCCNB Conference Room
Contact info: Bridget Reynolds 772-633-0326 | 99Bridget@gmail.com

griefshare.org/holidays



For those 65+

Susan Gainley	October 4
Linda Ottman	October 7
Ron Martin	October 7
Orville Stecker	October 13
Judy Pecha	October 18

Let us know your birth date!

HAPPY Anniversary

Joe & Annie Shea	**October 6**
Mike & Holly Kularski	**October 7**
Bill & Lisa Keay	**October 10**
Brian & Linda Hamill	**October 20**
Jim & Danielle Joyce	**October 25**
Susan & Scott Santor	**October 27**

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

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10-12 Food Pantry 4:30 Prayer Meeting - Parlor	2 10:30–12:00 Prayer Group	3 FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL Noon - 2:30 pm
4 9:30 Adult Bible Study—CONF 10:45 Worship & Bible Explorers 3:30 pm Ignite & Spark	5 9:45 Women's Bible Study 6:00 GriefShare	6 6:15 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Diaconate	7 6:30 Bible Study with Pastor Joe Fellowship Hall	8 10-12 Food Pantry 6:30 Cabinet Meeting	9 10:30–12:00 Prayer Group 12:00 Hope Armenia—CONF	10 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Bible Journaling 2-4 pm Women's Bible Study
11 9:30 Bible Study 10:45 Worship & Bible Explorers 3:30 pm Ignite & Spark	12 	13 6:15 Men's Bible Study	14 6:30 Bible Study with Pastor Joe Fellowship Hall	15 10-12 Food Pantry 4:30 Prayer Meeting - Parlor	16 10:30–12:00 Prayer Group	17 9:30 am Bible Journaling 2-4 pm Women's Bible Study
18 9:30 Bible Study 10:45 Worship & Bible Explorers 3:30 pm Ignite & Spark	19 9:45 Women's Bible Study 6:00 GriefShare	20 6:15 Men's Bible Study	21 6:30 Bible Study with Pastor Joe Fellowship Hall	22 10-12 Food Pantry 4:30 Prayer Meeting - Parlor	23 10:30–12:00 Prayer Group	24 9:30 am Bible Journaling 2-4 pm Women's Bible Study
25 9:30 Bible Study 10:45 Worship & Bible Explorers 3:30 SUNDAE PRAISE! $6	26 9:45 Women's Bible Study 6:00 GriefShare 6:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry	27 6:15 Men's Bible Study	28 6:30 Bible Study with Pastor Joe Fellowship Hall	29 10-12 Food Pantry 4:30 Prayer Meeting - Parlor	30 10:30–12:00 Prayer Group	31 9:30 am Bible Journaling 2-4 pm Women's Bible Study

Daylight Savings Ends Sunday, November 1st