



# The Oasis

News from First Community United Methodist Church  
Medford Massachusetts

September 2019

Dear First Community family,

Back-to-school season is a perfect time to reflect on parenthood. By witnessing the moment of sending kids to school and leaving parents, filled with mixed feelings of excitement, nervousness, attachment, longing, and nostalgia, we realize how we cherish our children and remember how our parents loved us. “On Children” by Kahlil Gibran (1883–1931) is a beautiful piece that well documents this complicated nature of parenting:

## On Children

by Kahlil Gibran (1883–1931)

Your children are not your children.  
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.  
They come through you but not from you,  
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,  
For they have their own thoughts.  
You may house their bodies but not their souls,  
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,  
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.  
You may strive to be like them,  
but seek not to make them like you.  
For life goes not backward nor carries with yesterday.

You are the bows from which your children  
as living arrows are sent forth.  
The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite,  
and He bends you with His might  
that His arrows may go swift and far.  
Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness;  
For even as He loves the arrow that flies,  
so He loves also the bow that is stable.

From *The Prophet* (New York: Knopf, 1923). This poem is in the public domain.

*Continued on Page 2*

Apparently, the nature of love described in the poem is not limited to parenting; it applies to other forms of love. When we love our friends, we don't make them like us. Instead, we affirm who they are and welcome them as they are. When we love our neighbors, we don't judge their words, thoughts, appearances, beliefs, or actions even we can't agree with them. Instead, we accept them as they are because that is how we love others. When we try to love our enemy—this is a hard one—we don't try to fix them. It won't work anyway. We remember we are not the archer. We just put the arrow on us so the Archer can make it happen. We just embrace others and love others, so God can transform them if that is what God is planning to do.

True love is being a bow, not the archer. True love is letting the Archer aim the goal and use us as a sacred tool for that mission. True love comes from accepting the fact that I can always be the arrow who needs another bow's help. True love is possible only when we allow God to be the center of the relationship because we are children of God—the ultimate parent of all.

*Pastor Suji*

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## SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER



**September 8 - Welcome Reception for Pastor Suji Han,**  
*following our worship service.*

**September 15 - Breakfast and Sunday School Opening at  
9:30 a.m.**



*Good Bye  
&  
Thank you!*

**September 22 - Farewell Reception for Sheila McCleery,** who will soon be a year-round resident of New Hampshire. *Following our worship service.*

**September 29 - Fifth Sunday. Guest Preacher:** David Twiddy.



## New Bible Study!

Wednesdays at 7, Starting September 11, for six weeks.

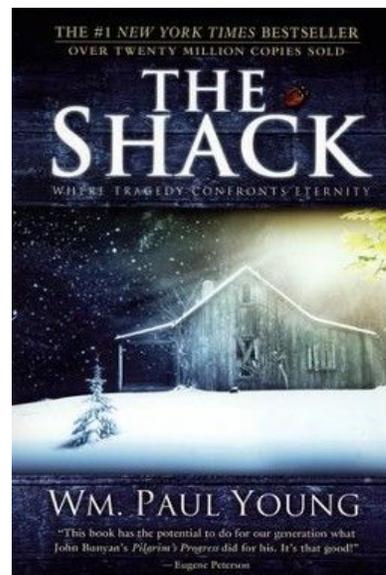
*Have you wondered about the in-depth meanings of Jesus' parables?*

*Have you questioned how you can apply Jesus' teachings to your everyday life?*

*Have you struggled with any of these themes: forgiveness, grace, or justice?*

If yes, come and join Pastor Suji's new Bible study group! We will explore and learn God's love from one another and two inspiring books, the *Gospel of Luke* and *The Shack* (by William Paul Young).

Interested? Contact Pastor Suji at [pastorsuji@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsuji@gmail.com)!



## SEPTEMBER MINI-MISSION

Our September mini-mission will be to collect money for Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) in Woburn. JFON is a ministry program of the United Methodist church, which provides services with "compassion, dignity, and love."

Services provided include hospitality with a meal, activities for children who accompany their parents, and information for area social services.

We will take a second collection each week in September and leave a basket at the rear of the worship space.

Annual Dinner  
**JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS**  
providing legal services, advocacy & education for immigrants



**November 2 5:30-8:00pm**

**\$35 individual \$225 table of 8**

**Reservation Deadline: October 12**

For reservations, contact Rev. Ruth Oduor at [revruth14@verizon.net](mailto:revruth14@verizon.net)

**INTERNATIONAL DINNER & SILENT AUCTION**

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## WORSHIP LEADERS, GREETERS, & USHERS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
September 1	Stephanie Finley	Donna Maguire	Dot Seamster
September 8	Sheila McCleery	Donna Maguire	Stephanie Finley
September 15	Jessica Killilea	Sunday School Class	Neville Pottinger
September 22	Ben Killilea	To Be Announced	Stephanie Finley
September 29	Dot Seamster	Neville Pottinger	Neville Pottinger

Dot Seamster (781-391-5154) is in charge of finding worship leaders, ushers and greeters.  
If you would like to volunteer for a week, please contact her.



**You're invited to  
Dinner at the Parsonage**

Pastor Suji invites you & your family/friends  
to have dinner with her family.

Because the parsonage cannot host the whole  
congregation at once, there will be multiple dates  
throughout September and October. You may find a  
sign-up sheet at her office,  
where you can pick a date that works for your schedule.



In honor of the  
**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**  
please join us for a showing of

**“Disturbing the Peace”**

**DISTURBING THE PEACE**

**Saturday, September 21st  
4pm**

*Supper & Sharing to Follow*

**COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH,**

470 FULTON STREET, MEDFORD  
[www.communitybaptistmedford.org](http://www.communitybaptistmedford.org)

### Apple Picking

Join us for an afternoon of family fun! Pick-your-own apples: \$10 for 1/2 peck (5 lbs)



\$18 for 1 peck (10-12 lbs)

Check out the bakery for cider donuts.  
Barnyard animals, hay rides, and seasonal activities.

**WHEN:** Sunday, October 6, 1:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Brooksby Farm - 54 Felton Street, Peabody

### MBH District

### Bishop's Day on the District

**WHEN:** Sunday, November 10,  
from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

**WHERE:** TBD

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# SEPTEMBER 2019 First Community United Methodist Church, Medford, MA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jennifer Calhau & Rose DeGaudio	Lorraine & Patrick DeFlorio	Barbara DeFlorio & William DeFlorio	George & Karen DiDomenico	Pam Demattia & Courtney DiDomenico	Gabriel & Valerie Donadio	David Dismas & Peg Faulkner
10:30 AM Worship		9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Open Office at the Parsonage		9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Open Office at the Parsonage  7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Aaron & Laura Ellies	Josette Elysee & Thess Elysee	T.J Elysee & Jo Elysee	Heiko Enderling & Judith Aberdeen	Jazmine Enderling & Connery Enderling	Betty & Ed Falanga	Kellie & Scott Fillebrown
10:30 AM Worship followed by Welcome Reception for Pastor Suji		9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Open Office at the Parsonage	7:00 PM Bible Study	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Open Office at the Parsonage  7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Amy Fillebrown & Barbara Heckbert	Sara Finley & Stephanie Finley	Kia Finley & Maleah Finley	Liz & Richard Grzla	Catrina Hayden & Jorge Patino	Claire Inzerillo & Maya Inzerillo	Bianca & Erik Hegre
9:30 AM Breakfast and Sunday School Opening 10:30 AM Worship NOON Church Council Mtg		9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Open Office at the Parsonage	7:00 PM Bible Study	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Open Office at the Parsonage  7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal		10:00 AM Church Conference 4:00 PM Disturbing the Peace film at Community Baptist Church
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Oriana Hegre & Serena Hegre	Ben & Jessie Killilea	Finn Killilea & Rowan Killilea	Tom & Peggy Kirkpatrick	Tonya Hicks & Elsie Jacobson	Eleanor & Paul Kulakowski	Terran & Susan Rati Lane
10:30 AM Worship followed by Farewell Reception for Sheila McCleery		9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Open Office at the Parsonage	7:00 PM Bible Study	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Open Office at the Parsonage  7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal		10:30 AM 1 <sup>st</sup> Community Sings at Courtyard Nursing Center
29	30					
Autumn Lane & Daniel Laskey	Donna & Fred Laskey					
10:30 AM Worship						

Please pray throughout the month for the people on this calendar.