



First  
Congregational  
Church UCC  
of Harwich

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*"As a beacon on the top of the mountain, and an ensign on a hill."  
~Isaiah 30:17*

## November 2020 Beacon

### IN THE INTERIM

November begins with All Saints' Day, includes Thanksgiving, and ends with the First Sunday of Advent. I think you agree that's quite a liturgical spread! Clearly, this year Thanksgiving will be *like no other*. I leave it up to our members and friends to discern how to best celebrate this great American holiday, keeping in mind safety and the meaning of the occasion set forth by President Abraham Lincoln after fifteen years of lobbying by Sarah Joseph Hale, magazine editor and New Englander.

For example, I was recently drawn into the conversation happening at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston about the outdoor statue of *Appeal to the Great Spirit*. It is the bronze one that for a century has stood directly in front of the entrance to the museum on Huntington Avenue. Created by Cyrus Dallin, who advocated for American Indians, it shows a steed with a Native American rider atop. His legs depict strength in control, his face

gazes toward the heavens, and his arms stretch outwards with palms cupped upwards in a gesture of total entrusting of self and thanksgiving to the Great Spirit.

I first encountered that statue as a college student who made monthly trips to the museum, then as a full-time volunteer there one summer, then again as an adult who purchased my first museum pass, later as a mother, who took her son there to see the medieval Japanese armor (that directly influenced Darth Vader's costume in *Star Wars*) and recently the son's girlfriend. All the while, I somehow thought the equestrian statue would be there forever; that is, until I learned that recent critics and witnesses may not find it genuine enough or too stereotypical to remain.

I will spare you the details, but some do not find a white man's depiction of a Native American earnest and the costume that seems to be a mish-mash of various tribal nations not authentic. The

point is that what we took (and take) for granted may not last as situations change. Life, holidays, art and more are being re-evaluated from different viewpoints especially during this pandemic period, which exposes complicated issues over identity.

So, *how* we celebrate this Thanksgiving *like no other* will be a matter of personal (and family) decisions about health and safety, first and foremost. The question that arises for us is also how to recognize Thanksgiving's true significance. President Lincoln intended Thanksgiving as a time to reflect on the Civil War, the toll it had taken on the nation and the continued potential for justice and equality.

In this 400<sup>th</sup> year of the arrival of the Mayflower to our shores, where Nauset and Wampanoag resided, let us ponder the statue of the *Appeal to the Great Spirit*. See how some of us may wish to hold on to its form out of familiarity, and others not for a variety of good reasons. What do you think?

This November, let us give thanks for God's abundant life in whichever ways seem healthy, right and honest for us all. Wishing you a blessed Thanksgiving *like no other*.

Grace and peace,  
*Pastor Dianne*



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## **NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES & SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES**

Depending on conditions, we intend to continue to meet indoors on Sundays at 10:30 am for worship and Sunday School. One must register by Thursday noon by either calling or leaving a message in the office. This allows us to accommodate about 40 safely, and offer follow-up contact tracing, if necessary. Please stay at home if you are ill or have a temperature. On the church campus always wear masks, maintain 6-foot distancing, and use hand-sanitizers in all buildings. At worship kindly follow the directions of the deacons and those described in our bulletins. We appreciate your cooperation!

November 1 All Saints Sunday with Holy Communion

November 8 "Life, Roots and Fruits at 400 Years," a sermon on the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Arrival of the Mayflower, by Rev. Stephen C. Washburn.

Steve, a reluctant Mayflower descendent, recently stepped down from fulltime ministry after 36 years of service. He served churches in New England and IL. He also led a United Church of Christ Community of Practice for Interims for many years, funded by the Lilly Foundation, and published a curriculum on Adult Bible Study. Prior to ministry, he taught American history in NYC, PA, and MA. He holds degrees from Union Theological Seminary, Wesleyan University CT, and Haverford College, PA. As a railroad buff, he spots trains, builds HO model railroad sets, was a citizen lobbyist for public transportation, and produced, "Salute to the Senator," a DVD for the New Haven RR&Technical Society. He used to summer in Eastham and learned to sail at Camp Namequoit near Pleasant Bay in Orleans. He is married to Pastor Dianne, and they are the parents of a son who lives and works in Boston.

November 15 Reign of Christ

November 22 Thanksgiving Sunday

November 29 First Sunday of Advent

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## PRAYER LIST

*We encourage parishioners to call or email our Interim Pastor or office by midweek with any new prayers so they can be printed and lifted up at Sunday worship.*

**Solace & Peace:** Families of Joanne Harrington, Ann Tompkins, Candy King, Susan LaPlant's mother, and of those, who have succumbed to Covid-19, and recent natural disasters.

**Healing & Comfort:** Adelle's friend Roger who had to evacuate wildfires, Lynn B's nephew Joey, Joe B's daughter-in-law Ina and nephew Tom, DeeDee's cousin Patsy, Jane D's grandson Jack, Marcia's niece Heather, Gail's niece Bobbi, Tom, Martha, Ardene, Jack, Edie's granddaughter Heidi,

Mark Curran, Char's sons, the Moyles' Cindy and Betty, Miles.

**Joys & Celebrations:** Gail's new niece Aria Juniper, Johnsons' son, Ian, and co-captain, who will sail in early Nov.

**Community & World:** Nov. 3rd Elections; everyone adjusting to a new world caused by Covid-19, especially the hungry, the homeless, ill, those who are unemployed, suffering from addictions, anxiety and depression, all medical staff, first responders and caregivers, children who have been separated from parents; for a sustainable earth; and for peace and justice in the US and around the world.

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## IN LOVING MEMORY

**Anne Novotny Tompkins**

November 21, 1922 – July 1, 2020

**Joanne Harrington**

February 14, 1955 – October 15, 2020

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

## SUNDAY LECTIONARY

*It is our tradition to use the Lectionary, with designated Hebrew Bible, Psalm, Epistle and New Testament readings, and the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible for our worship services, with exceptions. Listed below are our Sunday lections for this month.*

*Parishioners find it useful to read these designated Scriptures in advance of our services in order to familiarize themselves with the texts, and be more ready to hear our sermons and participate in our worship. They also find it useful to study our Lectionary Guides when they are available.*

**Sunday**, Nov. 1 - Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost, Joshua 3:7-17, Psalm

107:1- 7, 33-37, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:1-12

**Sunday**, Nov. 8 - Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25, Psalm 78:1-7, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13

**Sunday**, Nov. 15 - Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Judges 4:1-7, Psalm 123, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

**Sunday**, Nov. 22 - Reign of Christ, Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 100, Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46

**Sunday**, Nov. 29 - First Sunday of Advent, Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

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## BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Terry Newberry
7 <sup>th</sup>	Rob Smith
10 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Buchanan Judy Palmer
11 <sup>th</sup>	Jenny Dickson Anne Hayes
13 <sup>th</sup>	Samantha Mashoke
24 <sup>th</sup>	Emily Kosoff
25 <sup>th</sup>	Jane Dalzell
27 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Newberry



## MUSICAL NOTES

Our choir rehearsals continue on Wednesdays at 4 pm in the parking lot, and we enjoy singing and recording together. I play the recordings in church sometimes and post some of them on the church website in the *Worship Music* section. I hope you get a chance to listen. Our parking lot choir uses wireless microphones, an FM transmitter, a mixer, and a computer to accomplish this, and we get a nice sound. Thank God for technology!

Please join the choir if you would like to as it is very rewarding to sing together. Our choir right now includes Charlotte Starr, Adele Babin, Nancy Segall, Emily Kosoff, Tom Jahnke, Jeep Mashoke, and sometimes Karen and Bruce Stroever when they are on the Cape. Edie Ruggles and Gail Johns are working with me doing some recordings apart from choir rehearsals.

We just had a wonderful Duet Concert attended by about 45, outside, and the singers were Marcia Hempel, Edie Ruggles, Gail Johns, Jeep Mashoke, and Tom Jahnke. Al and Lois Gausz were there in attendance, and Joanne Harrington's friend Geno and her sister Colleen and her husband were there. Marcia sang a special song in memory of Joanne at the beginning of the concert. It was a great afternoon.

Some ideas for the future include an emailing of recordings from the Duet Concert, a collection of "Coffeehouse" recordings by church and community members, and some Christmas music. You'll hear Christmas music in our weekly posts as well. As I said, thank God for technology!  
~*Marcia Hempel*

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## THE DEACONS' DOOR

**. . . is always open.**

*"Take short views, hope for the best, and trust in God."  
(Sydney Smith - 1771-1845)*

While succinct, this seems to be very timely advice for today's world. With all that is occurring in 2020, it is difficult to maintain our hope at times. May our trust in God remain steadfast through this unpredictable month, and may we truly be thankful for all we have.

~*Your Diaconate*

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## Deacons-to-Members/Friends List

### DeeDee Dyer

adelia.dyer100@icloud.com

508-432-0643

A through E plus Green, Hanson, B. Hayes.

### Jane Dalzell

jcdalzell@comcast.net

508-432-8540

F and Deacons

**Edie Ruggles**

508-432-2333

I through Mashoke plus Gobel, Handrens

**Lynn Carver**

lynn-carver49@hotmail.com

508-717-1989

Mc through Par plus Gada, A Hayes, Hook

**Lynn Bitzer**

capecasey@hotmail.com

508-237-2216

Pel through Snow plus Gausz, Goulis, Hempel

**Richard Siegel**

risiegel12@comcast.net

508-430-1997

Sp through W plus Hindle, Hornig

**PLANT FUND**

The Deacons recently planted a pair of bubblegum rhododendrons in front of Broad-brooks. Soon they will be planting bulbs in anticipation of a bright, beautiful spring-time at First Church.

Many thanks to folks who have contributed to the Plant Fund in memory, or in honor, of loved ones.

If you would like to donate toward the Plant Fund, it is easy to do. The instructions are on the website at [www.firstchurchofharwich.org/deacons](http://www.firstchurchofharwich.org/deacons).

Your generosity is appreciated.

~ *Deacons*

**FELLOWSHIP**

**Thanksgiving Baskets**

The Fellowship Committee will be preparing Thanksgiving baskets on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Because of the pandemic we will not be able to fill them with homemade baked goods. We are going to make up fruit baskets with a few extra touches.

If you would like to make a donation towards the purchase of fruit, you can give it to me or send it to the church office.

Checks can be made out to the First Congregational Church; memo line: Thanksgiving baskets. In love and peace,

~ *Nancy Segall, Chair*

**MISSION/OUTREACH**

**Hands of Hope**

The offering money we collected in the Hands of Hope Special Drive in September was \$335.00 and October 11th \$82.00.

I spoke to a representative from Hands of Hope, and they are very grateful for our support.

**From Hands of Hope:** Thanks for your support. We are especially in need of funds to purchase turkeys this year. We will not be able to get as many turkeys as usual. Due to Covid, our chief fundraiser for holiday gift cards, the annual Turkey Shoot, sponsored by Dennis Golf and Eastern Bank had to be cancelled this year. Usually over 100 golfers help



us with gift cards. If you'd like to make a donation to help us provide for those in need at Thanksgiving time, you may make a check out to the church; memo line: Hands of Hope.

Thanks again! Blessings to all from everyone volunteering and receiving food at Hands of Hope, PO Box 387, W. Harwich, MA; [churcheshoh@comcast.net](mailto:churcheshoh@comcast.net), 508-432-1312.

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## THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

The Children's Center in Harwich Port re-opened last week to serve their preschoolers. They welcome any of the following donations, which can be dropped off in the box in our Broadbrooks parlor. The list includes: Pre-packaged snacks (pretzels, goldfish, granola bars, teddy grahams); small paper cups, paper plates, paper napkins, 100% juice larger bottles (not juice boxes), Band-Aids, glue sticks, Scotch tape, masking tape, boxes of magic markers. Thank you!

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## FIRST CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee this past year reached out to the congregation asking the members to encourage their extended family who might have grandchildren going to, or presently in, college to apply.

Annabelle Sims applied. She is the great-granddaughter of Charlotte Patch Sims, who served as choir director for First Church and her husband Earle who served on church committees. Marcia Hempel had Annabelle as a piano student who also invited her to play in a few church services

The redirection of the Wood Fund, a restricted fund/scholarship, for Ministry-Christian Education, was last applied for 2014-2015. The committee will be examining this scholarship during the coming year. Pastor Dianne offered to assist the committee in looking into another avenue to fulfill the Wood Family's wish to support young adult interest in a career in Ministry and/or Christian Education.

**ANABELLE SIMS:** First Year General Scholarship. A 1st year student at Boston University, Bachelor of Science, Class of 2024. MRHS Class June 2020.



October 8, 2020

### THANK YOU

*Dear Scholarship Committee of The First Congregational Church,*

*I am so grateful for the Scholarship award (\$1370.) you have awarded me for my studies. As you know I have chosen the area of biology at Boston University, with the hope of becoming a future physician's assistant. The scholarship money is helping me pay for some of my education. It is truly such an honor to receive this scholarship. Thank you so much.*

*Sincerely,  
Annabelle Sims.*

### 2021-2022 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

If you enjoy both local and broad aspects of education please consider joining the 2021-

2022 Christian Education/Scholarship Committee. One of the objectives is to support church youth seek financial aid to help them through collage. The idea of a church Scholarship was recommended by Rev. Terry Newberry, and approved at the Annual Meeting, March 2, 1987. In the past ten years over 34

scholarships have been awarded, based on financial need and scholarship merit. Consider becoming a member of the Scholarship Committee as the church approaches its *275th Anniversary* in 2022.

~ Ursula Hornig, Sally Rossetti & Richard Siegel

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## Stevens Corner Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop re-opened on July 31, 2020. Since then, we have averaged \$1,000 profit each weekend which has allowed us to transfer \$12,500 to the FY 2020-21 church operating budget. We have had happy customers and abundant donations for which we are grateful!

Our next big event is the **Annual Black Friday Sale on November 27 and 28**. All items will be 50% off.

The goals of the Thrift Shop are two-fold: 1) to provide good quality, affordable merchandise to the community, and 2) to help with church finances. Many thanks to the steadfast volunteers who keep this ministry going!

~Board Members, *Adelle Babin, Susan Baker, Jean Buchanan, Lynn Carver, Joyce Noyes, Sue Perry*

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## Search Committee Report

“The UCC Local Church Profile reflects valuable data, assesses ministry, clarifies change, and helps advance the calling of the congregation.” This is a quote from the front page of the booklet that has guided the Search Committee’s work this past year.

The Profile is complete and is being reviewed by the Cabinet. Here are some of the next steps in the process:

1. Send the FCC Profile to our area minister, Rev. Patty Kogut, for her “Validation.”
2. Post a single-page public listing on the UCC website announcing our ministerial opening.

~ *John Bitzer, Bob Buchanan, Mary Ann Janick, Emily Kosoff, Edie Ruggles, Emily Smith, Lynn Carver, Chair*

3. Receive personal profiles to review from interested ministerial candidates.
4. Send the complete FCC Profile to candidates we choose.
5. Continue to communicate with interested candidates to narrow down our choices.
6. Complete additional steps that will lead to a Call for our next settled pastor.

The Search Committee wishes to thank church members for your input and for your support during this process. Also, we wish to thank Pastor Dianne for giving valuable input to the Search Committee.



## Cabinet Meeting Notes

September 8th

Present: James Mashoke, Tom Jahnke, Rev. Dianne Arakawa, Joyce Noyes, DeeDee Dyer, Lynn Carver, Lorraine Frederickson, Nancy Segall, Betty Lou Hindle and Shirley Mashoke with guest Dick Siegel.

The meeting opened with a prayer from Pastor Dianne. The August Cabinet report was approved with additions: Hands of Hope campaign donations to be sent to the treasurer.

The September Treasurer's report was approved as written.

Dick gave update on Personnel's meetings and on evaluation and recontracting with Gail.

All the Deacons have been assigned their members. An outdoor concert will be scheduled for October 17th, weather permitting.

The Trustees need volunteers. Mission/Outreach is working on money disbursement. Fellowship was successful with the Food4Kids program. The CPR course

will be on Wednesday September 30th at 3:30pm. A Church picnic may be possible the last Sunday of September after church with packaged individual lunches available.

Christian Ed had an informal meeting to discuss how to have safe Church School for the children when church re-opens up. They would have separate card tables for each child spaced apart to social distance. It would be held during service to keep children safe.

October 11th is the potential start date for indoor service. More ideas are needed for this. A meeting between the Deacons and Trustees is scheduled to discuss this.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13th at 4pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
~Betty Lou Hindle



*A perfect activity for artists during a pandemic.*

*Susan Overstreet's art class during a plein air session on the front lawn of First Church on October 15th. They painted landscapes of the church as well as scenes along Main Street.*

## SPECIAL THANKSGIVING OFFERING

As is our custom, we invite members and friends to make a special Thanksgiving Offering this month. Please use your pledge envelopes or deposit a check into an envelope, memo line:

Thanksgiving. Drop in the Sunday offering plate or mail to the church. We appreciate your generosity during this unusually difficult time.  
~Tom Jahnke, Treasurer

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## WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

Have you thought about your legacy? When you include First Church in your will or estate plan, you leave a lasting legacy. It reflects your values and ensures the continued mission of First Church in the future.

To establish your legacy, please contact your attorney and Tom Jahnke, the Treasurer of

First Church to discuss this matter. Before the end of 2020, it is possible to establish this lasting gift, earn a full tax deduction on the bequest amount, as well as retain some income from the funds during your lifetime.

~Bob Buchanan, Trustee

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## STEEPLE LIGHTING

To commemorate a special occasion or remember a loved one, you can support the church with a \$5.00 donation to "Light the

Steeple" for one night. You can call Gail to arrange the wording for the bulletin.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITY PAGE

*Please feel free to print out this page for your child to use, to read, to color in, to copy, whatever. It will help them to learn about our Lord.*

## The Arrival of the Pilgrims

On November 9, 1620, after 66 eventful and difficult days at sea, the small merchant ship Mayflower sighted land and dropped anchor off a small spit of land that

would one day become Provincetown, Massachusetts.

In September, 102 passengers, 30-40 crew, live chickens, goats and pigs in cages,

and two dogs had set off on a journey from Plymouth, England, to start a new life in the New World.

Over the course of their more than two months at sea, they would suffer many hazards, privations and blessings.

John Howland, an indentured servant who would become the assistant governor of the colony, fell overboard during a fierce gale and was miraculously saved by the crew. One of the Pilgrims, a young indentured servant William Button, died of scurvy. A member of the crew also died, probably of the same disease. During another bad storm at sea the beam holding the main mast cracked under the onslaught of strong and heavy winds and threatened to break the ship apart. The passengers and crew hauled the Pilgrims' printing press up from the hold and placed it under the beam. With the help of the ship's carpenter, they jacked it up enough to save the ship. And a baby boy was born, Oceanus, to Elizabeth and Stephen Hopkins. The journey was indeed eventful.

After dropping anchor off Provincetown, several of the men explored, but decided to see if a better place for a settlement could be found. On November 11, they found what is now Plymouth. Before they decided to declare that area as their settlement they decided that they needed a code of laws to live by, agreed upon by all, for the sake of order and survival. It has been called the Mayflower Compact. 41 of the men signed it, including Pilgrims, adventurers like Stephen Hopkins, indentured

servants like John Howland, Pilgrims like William Bradford and William Brewster, and people such as Myles Standish and John Alden, who were hired to assist the colony. Our Constitution is based on that document.

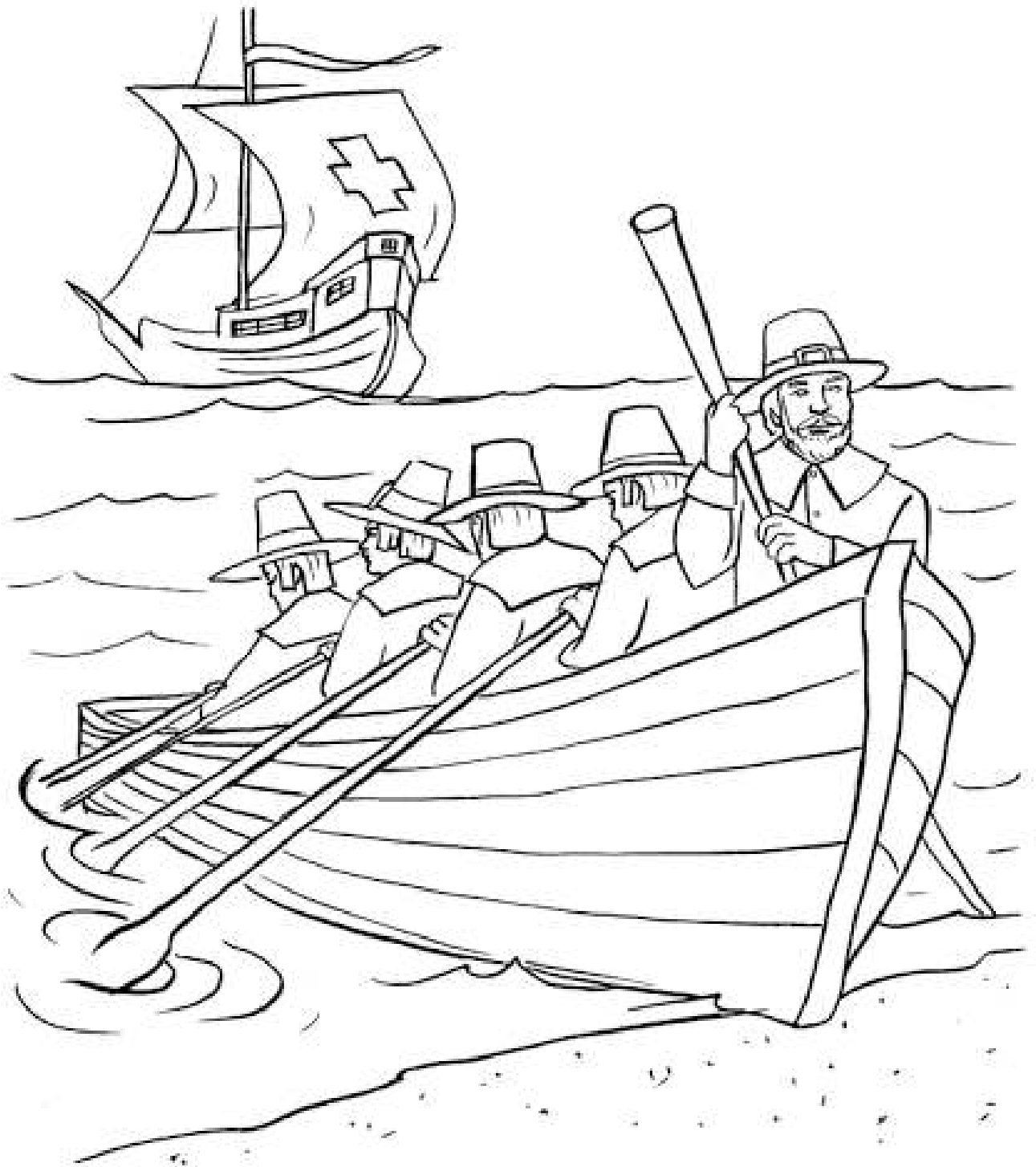
When some passengers and crew rowed out from the ship in a smaller boat and approached the shore, 13-year-old Mary Chilton got so excited to see land again that she jumped out, waded to shore and climbed up on a rock. The legend says it was Plymouth Rock, but no one is sure.

The Pilgrims decided that the women and children should remain in the safety of the ship while the men went on shore and built houses. It was the middle of November and very cold. On November 20<sup>th</sup> Susannah White gave birth to Peregrine White, another little boy. While William Bradford was out scouting and exploring with some others, on December 17<sup>th</sup>, Dorothy Bradford went up on deck and accidentally fell to her death into the icy waters of Cape Cod Bay. Just three days later Mary Allerton gave birth to a baby boy.

These people, with all their privations, hard work and faith, forged a new life here in what must have been a very unfamiliar and hostile land, but with God's help and that of the early Native Americans, they made it work.

This group of newcomers have left over 35,000,000 descendants, including several United States presidents.

~Gail Nickerson, History Team



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