



The Church on the Cape Newsletter



May 2021

Pastor's Letter

Dear family and friends of Church on the Cape, Last Saturday the families with young children had a field trip to Conservation Trust in celebration of Earth Day. It was a beautiful spring day, perfect for the event. While we were walking, at some point, I felt a little hand touching mine. It was Isla who reached out to hold my hand. Although it felt natural to hold her hand back at the moment, the moment brought me the realization that it's been more than a year since I touched anyone's hand other than my sons. For over a year, like others who maintained the same precautions, I didn't hold or shake anyone's hand as I normally do to greet, comfort, or pray. And holding Isla's hand was a moment of sweetness, which was a gift and blessing.

It's amazing how the pandemic changed the natural rhythm of our life. We were restricted from doing things we normally did and have taken for granted. It certainly brought us a sense of grief and distress and made us feel at times imprisoned and powerless. As a result, we have seen many incidents that revealed the worst sides of humanity that made us disappointed. On the other hand, it's even more amazing to me how people were able to adapt themselves to the changes. People continued to develop new ways to replace their prohibited routines. We have seen many incidents that revealed the best sides of humanity. People have been patient, courteous, thoughtful, resilient, flexible, and creative.

As the life of this pandemic seems to be coming to an end with vaccination, one thing clear to me is that God created us with many gifts and talents, one of which is the ability to solve

problems. God never leaves us in a mess and chaos, but leads us to clean up the mess and bring back the order. We all have been instrumental in this process. When we acknowledge this gift from God, we can be confident to say that no crisis, challenge, or change is too great for us to overcome. In God, we have a greater power to manage, handle and conquer them. And what we learned from how we handled this pandemic will guide us through other challenging situations we may face in the future.

In May we enter into the season of Pentecost, which reminds us of God's words through the prophet Joel, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions (Joel 2:28)." And I like to believe Isla reaching out to my hand as a vision and prophecy that the day is coming to us that we can see each other face to face and hold hands freely. Just as the followers of Jesus received the Holy Spirit while "they were all together in one place (Acts 2:1)," I am hopeful that there soon will be the day we can be all together at church.

May the Spirit of the Living God be with and in you!

In peace,
Ho-Soon

Guest Preacher

Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes will preach on Sunday, May 16th as Ho-Soon will be away for her son's graduation.

MAY LECTIONARY READINGS



Debby Pearse
April 6, 2021

Special Events

May 2:

5th Sunday of Easter
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

May 9:

6th Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

May 16:

7th Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

May 23:

Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 30:

Trinity Sunday
Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

IN-PERSON WORSHIP IS BACK!

The church is now open for a limited number of people each Sunday. Mask wearing, social distancing, and no singing will be part of the protocol. To reserve a spot, **please call the office at 207-967-5787 between Tuesday and no later than noon on Thursday for the upcoming Sunday.** You will be asked a series of Covid-related questions at the time of your reservation and again when you arrive at the church. If you have any questions, contact anyone on the Reopening Team.

SUNDAY MORNING HYMN SING REQUESTS

Over the next few months, we will be collecting people's favorite hymns. Please email the church at office@churchonthecape.org with the title of your favorite hymn. Those leading the hymn sing will try to include your hymn.

CHARGE CONFERENCE NOTICE

The church is in the process of moving the parsonage from the current location to a condominium in Coventry Woods in Kennebunk. There will be a Charge Conference to discuss the sale of the parsonage on May 3 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. The members of the congregation can attend the Charge Conference, and the members of the Council can vote. If you have any questions regarding the sale, please contact Bob Metcalf, the chairman of the Trustees. If you'd like to attend the meeting, contact the office to obtain a Zoom link to the meeting. Please hold this process and the Charge Conference in your prayers.

FUN RAISING!

As many of you know the church budget is anticipating a shortfall this year mostly due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With the goal of balancing the budget a committee was formed to come up with ideas to raise funds. We don't want it to be a strenuous undertaking, so we are calling it "Fun Raising" as opposed to "Fund Raising" and we want to encourage all church members and friends to participate.

The format will be a loose interpretation of a silent auction. Items will be posted online and depending on the CDC rules we may have an outside fair. We settled on four categories of items/ideas to auction. This is step one. Those things we came up with include:

- *Visual Arts (paintings, sculpture, craft items);
- *Performing Arts (music lessons, entertainment like a local band playing for a private party);
- *Professional Service (landscaping, house cleaning); and
- *Recreation (boat tours, house tours, tickets to sporting events).

These are just a few ideas. Perhaps you have other ideas or things you could contribute such as a weekend getaway at a rental property you own or gift certificates to a restaurant or spa. We are hoping that this activity will provide not only money to help the budget but will be an opportunity to work together for the common goal of maintaining the community spirit of the Church on the Cape.

Please forward your ideas to Sandy Day (gourmetmom44@gmail.com). If you have questions, feel free to contact any member of the committee.

Committee Chair: Sandy Day, Members: Fuzzy Farnsworth, Bill Hidell, Liz Phillips, Diane Hutchins, and Pastor Ho-Soon.

A note to you from Alice.....

During my working career my immediate supervisor was the CFO of the company and I will always remember an expression he used. He would say "there are no problems, only opportunities". You and I as members of the congregation at Church on the Cape have an opportunity at this time. As you know, the 2021 Budget has a shortfall of \$35,556 in spite of the diligent work of your Finance Committee. You could call this a problem or you can see it as an opportunity.

Most of us have received a government stimulus check recently. What if you tithed 20% or 10% or 5% of that check, or gave any other amount you feel appropriate for you, to the budget of Church on the Cape?

If your stimulus check has enabled you to pay down debt incurred due to the pandemic then your check has found its purpose. If your check has been saved or partially used perhaps you could consider being part of this opportunity to enable your church to continue with all the ministries that are a part of our budget.

The Finance Committee is planning a few fund raisers in the near future to help with the budget shortfall. Stay tuned for information on what is being worked on. I have faith that we will be financially stable come the end of this year, with your help.

God's blessings to all my Church on the Cape family,

Alice Bruton

A MOST FULFILLING IN-PERSON CHURCH ATTENDANCE

By Charlie Benore

I had become comfortable with our virtual church service so finely done by our Communication Committee. It has genuinely served as an extension of my spiritual care during Covid for which I am most grateful. It has also extended the spiritual reach of our church, and hopefully has been of service to others everywhere as well.

For streaming at home, I have a desk altar with photos of Jesus and a special saucer and cup for communion service, and if my internet is working - all is well, or so it seemed until attending the April 18th in-person worship at church.

I signed up with Sue in the church office after reading the protocols for attending worship that led me to believe (I have had both vaccine injections for Covid) that it was safe to attend. Ivan, our custodian was there to greet me at the parking-lot-rear entrance, and I was led by Susan Baracco to the welcoming table at the front entrance to fulfill the protocol requirements.

Stepping into the sanctuary, the hymn sing practice was in session, and I had a chance to visit Mike Kelly who was running the virtual presentation of the service and took a couple of photos. I then took my assigned seat, and members entering the sanctuary came with big smiles, and soft hellos when greeting those already in pews. Everyone wore a mask and social distancing was practiced.

And it was at this point when watching members come into the sanctuary that I recalled a very special feeling that happened to me several times back in pre-Covid Sundays. When meditating then before the service began, I felt a very strong feeling of sorrow for my sins, while also sensing the comfort of being among my church family. I

am grateful for these blessed church sanctuary experiences.

The hymn sing began, and I immediately missed Wendy, but soon discovered that our new Wendy was more gracious, warm and loving than I could assess virtually. Susie was great as always.

Pastor Ho-Soon in her calm, sincere, and loving way was continually impressive, and a pleasure to see and hear in-person. I felt her spiritual sermon message more strongly than at home church. There is something about a person to person encounter that cannot be duplicated virtually. There are no distractions like at home church; one's attention is dedicated to the in-person worship service; and there is a feeling of a special warmth when among many friends who are also there to worship Jesus and be in fellowship with one another. I realized that I go to church primarily to worship Jesus, but also to do so in the company of other loved ones.

Being among others of faith, reinforces my own faith, provides personal fellowship so that we can better help one another in our faith journeys, and respects Jesus' commandment that we love one another which is best shown by a shared in-person relationship with one another. We need each other.

I do hope that our church family, who believe it is safe for you and others, will take every opportunity to come back together for in-person worship even though occupancy will be limited in the weeks immediately ahead, and always when the church is able to be fully opened again. In that way we can best serve Jesus, and importantly, each other as well.

Where applicable in the interim and beyond, we continue - thanks to Mike Kelly and Susan Baracco - to have the wonderful benefit of the home church option and sharing our spiritual message and fellowship example everywhere.

Special Thanks to Susan Baracco and Mike Kelly

Mike and Susan have been working on a major overhaul of our virtual recording system at church for months to bring it into the twenty-first century, which has not been easy. The video and audio are much improved, and the presentation can now accommodate, as examples, inserts of home recorded visits with members done by Pastor Ho-Soon; and pre-Covid choir performances. The current system has many features that will be useful to the church in the future. Importantly, there were no charges incurred for design and installation of the system thanks to Mike, who had previously designed and installed a similar system for the Town Library.

And there were problems with the internet connection that led to broadcasting troubles including a shut-down of one or two of the presentations. Our internet supplier came to make repairs seven different times for our internet service before the service was sufficiently reliable.

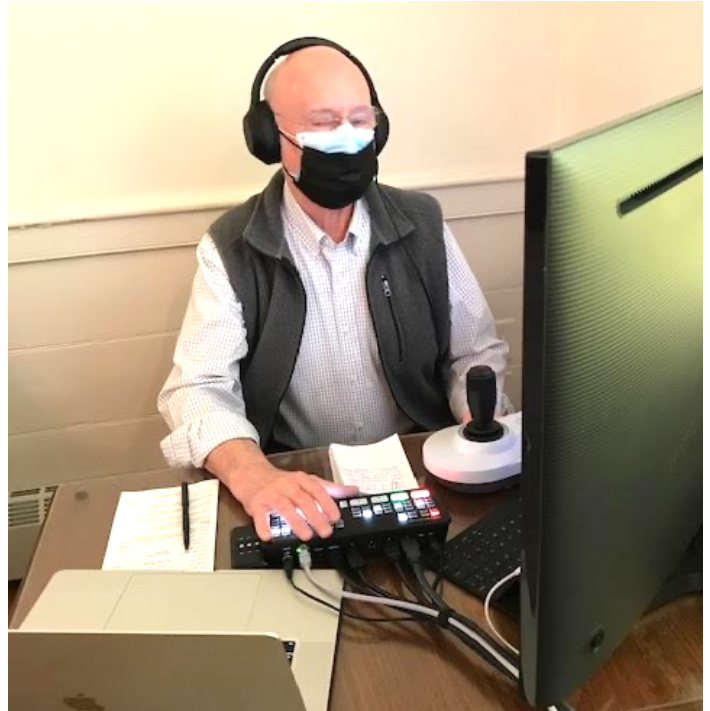
There was also a learning curve for using the new equipment. Moreover, the system needs to be set-up each Sunday and along with recording the service, it takes about 3 to 3 1/2 hours of operator time. Since March 2020, without missing a single Sunday indoors or outdoors, this is a lot of hours.

These two wonderful persons have dedicated many, many hours of service to our church, and for this and other missions they do for us, we are blessed and are most grateful to them.

It is also important to note that Worship Service never missed a beat at Church on the Cape. Virtual service started on the very next Sunday following the last in-service worship service.

Finally, Mike would like to note that anyone with an interest in learning and operating the church's video and audio equipment, and broadcasting our spiritual message to others, is welcomed to contact him at 207-967-6082. This is an important opportunity to serve our Lord.

Photos of Mike ready for recording the April 18th Worship Service



Members of the Communication Committee are:
Susan Baracco, Mike Kelly, Jim LaVerriere,
Pastor Ho-Soon, and Charlie Benore

EGG HUNT WAS A BIG SUCCESS

It was wonderful to be able to bring back the annual COTC egg hunt this year. It took place on Saturday, April 3rd, with the sun shining. It looked a little different this year, as the children and their parents and grandparents arrived with masks on, but it was as much fun as ever!

The children scampered all over the lawn collecting eggs, single-colored eggs, hidden in plain sight, for the very young, and two-colored eggs, hidden in a little bit harder places, for the older children. Everyone went home with plenty of eggs filled with treats.

Many thanks to the Easter Bunny, AKA Diane Hutchins, who brought such joy to the children. She was the sweetest bunny ever seen. Even the littlest egg collector was drawn to the bunny and shed a few tears when the bunny drove away, ears poking through the sun roof.



Many thanks also to Bill Scarborough, who once again, fully funded the egg hunt. You may not know this about Bill, but he has quietly been financing the COTC egg hunt for years and years. And a special thank you to Heidi Phillips (a new member of the Education Committee) who felt it really was possible to do a socially distanced egg hunt during the pandemic. She was right.

We look forward to next year and hope the Easter Bunny will be a permanent part of the egg hunt festivities.

Article by Carol Nason



MAY 2021 SPECIAL DAYS

Some of the special days celebrated in May are:

- National Day of Prayer — May 6, 2021
- Mother's Day — May 9, 2021
- Ascension of the Lord — May 13, 2021
- Day of Pentecost — May 23, 2021
- Trinity Sunday — May 30, 2021
- Memorial Day — May 31, 2021

A Mother's Day Hymn

Sing praise to our Creator God!
Earth prospers from the way
God "mothers" each new child into
This world day after day.

God fabricates in motherhood
A channel from above
That longs to share with every child
God's Comfort, Grace and Love!

Sing praise to our Creator God,
Who "mothers" us from birth!
Providing what we truly need
Throughout our lives on earth.

—Peggy Ferrell

A Fresh Look at Pentecost

Fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, on a day called Pentecost, the Christian church was born. Because Pentecost was a holiday celebrating the harvest (a bit like our Thanksgiving), the apostles and a large crowd had gathered to celebrate in Jerusalem.

Many people had assembled near Peter and the other followers of Christ when "[F]rom heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind ... " (Acts 2:2 ff, NRSV). Then tongues of fire descended on everyone in the crowd.

After the wind and fire descended, all sorts of languages, known and unknown, came out of

the crowd. Each person spoke "about God's deeds of power" (verse 11). No wonder Luke wrote, "All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'" (verse 12).

The whole affair was mind-boggling and life-changing. The Holy Spirit had come upon many people; they knew God was powerfully at work in their midst.

On Pentecost many years ago, some 3,000 people came to believe in Christ. That's why today Christians remember this powerful event as the birthday of the church. Pentecost occurs on May 23 this year.

A Prayer for Memorial Day



We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Source this page: Newsletternewsletter

FIELD TRIP TO THE CONSERVATION TRUST

The Sunday School children and their families visited the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust on Saturday, April 24th, in recognition of Earth Day. Many thanks to Tom Bradbury for leading the group on a tour of the Trust and showing us the newest acquisition, Meadow Woods Preserve. The children walked the labyrinth, went on bridges, and hiked on the trails. Tom talked with the children about his interest and passion in preserving land. He said when he was a little boy he could play in open fields and endless woods and as he got older, he noticed some of those areas were disappearing to houses and commercial buildings. He felt it was important for people of all ages to have nature to enjoy. He also talked about all the creatures that live in, and need these habitats. The children guessed some of the many animals that live on the Trust: bears, porcupines, coyotes, bees, butterflies, spiders, and more. It was a glorious day and everyone left feeling very grateful to Tom for all he has done to preserve the land, and grateful to live in an area that has this beautiful place to go. If you have not been to the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust, it is a must-see place. Tom Bradbury is a wealth of knowledge, and likely, will welcome an opportunity to talk with you.

Article and photos by Carol Nason



Tales from the Clocktower

Time for a change

The clock in our church bell tower is over 100 years old which means it requires a fair amount of care and tending. I was given the privilege of learning these tasks two years ago when Terry Moulton had to step away. He patiently showed me how to adjust the time, check the mechanics, and take a moment to enjoy the amazing view of the harbor. At first, I figured this would be just one more chore to add to my list. Over time, it has become a delightful, sometimes challenging hobby that I take joy in doing.

Some folks have been wondering how the clock gets adjusted for the seasonal time changes. Spring forward and Fall back are very hands-on tasks with a 100-year old clock. In the spring, I advance the clock by turning a dial that moves the clock one minute at a time. In the fall, I literally grab the pendulum to stop it from swinging, thereby stopping the clock. I then come back one hour later and start it again. Without getting into details, it requires a bit of finesse to get it just right.

I am currently the only clock keeper for our church and would welcome help tending to this amazing time piece. Please contact me if you'd like to know more.

Adrien Baracco



HISTORY HAPPENINGS

Your Committee on History and Records is very pleased to tell you that we have a new member! That person is **Don Harper** who is our representative from the church's Board of Trustees! Don comes to us after our chairperson, **Beryl Samia** and I as the Historian, discussed the importance of having a representative. She conferred with the Trustees Chairperson, **Bob Metcalf**, and together they agreed to invite him. He was willing to serve and I met with him on April 13 and found him to be very interested in the History Committee and its ministry. The first thing we did was walk around the exterior of the church building. The question we shared was "What message does the building give to the community?" We then went to the History and Records Room and I showed him the various exhibits and storage places. He will be an excellent addition to the group. Thank you, Don!

Our next important announcement is that the church's **Heritage Sunday** will be celebrated on **May 23** which is also **Pentecost Sunday!** The theme this year commemorates Church on the Cape's long history of marvelous music! The title is: **The Ministry of Memory Through Music**. Along with the special music there will be reflections given by those who participated in the musical groups. This special service will feature a variety of music as we all **praise the Lord!** Contributions of past experiences are welcome. Please contact Beryl Samia.

A personal happening this month is the **50th Anniversary** of my first **Ordination**. Prior to that I had 2 years of weekend Supervised Field Education in East Weymouth and Lawrence, Massachusetts. These were primarily in the areas of Christian Education and children's choirs. I was encouraged to enter the ministry through the former New Hampshire Annual Conference by Dr. Charles Kern who was the Pastor-in-Charge at the Lawrence Church. In that era, those who were beginning the process would complete 1/2 of their seminary study and seek approval for probationary Conference membership and ordination as a **Deacon**. Two years followed through seminary, testing, interviews, and being voted upon for full

membership and ordination as an **Elder**. I was ordained a Deacon in May, 1971 by Bishop James Matthews and an Elder in May, 1973 by Bishop Edward Carroll, Sr. I began full-time ministry as Associate in the Lawrence, MA, UMC in 1971. I served 12 churches in 7 appointments (1 parish was served twice). My retirement was in June of 2005 with 35 years of service. I was called by God and encouraged by colleagues and many others. I am blessed and humbled to share my journey with each of you.

Peace to all, in Christ, Ann P. Nelson,
Historian for the Committee

CREATION-WIDE PRAISE CHORUS

"All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing!" These words — just one paraphrase of a text by St. Francis of Assisi — seem a fitting description of springtime, when leaves and flowers pop out afresh, birdsong is heard again and hibernating animals emerge from dens and burrows, many with new babies in tow.

Psalm 148 may have served as inspiration for Francis, calling not only "young men and women alike, old and young together" (v. 12, NRSV), but also animals and birds, wind and water, mountains and trees, to praise the Lord. James L. Mays writes: "We human beings ... should recognize that we are in the list with all the creation and creatures as creature and creation ourselves. We are in our obligation to praise no different from and no more than all the rest."

When you head outside on a bright spring day, notice what praise looks like in nonhuman form and how it sounds from nonhuman voices. How can we best join "all creatures of our God and King" in worship?

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Source: Newsletternewsletter

Church on the Cape A United Methodist Church

We of The Church on the Cape represent various religious and cultural backgrounds and life styles. We are young, old, and middle aged, single, married, widowed, divorced, parents, grandparents, and members of extended families. Above all, we are people who take risk, make mistakes, confess, repent and try again.

At the center of our community is Jesus the Christ whose life, death, and resurrection are the reasons we are together. The life and hope in this community have more to do with Christ's faithfulness to us than ours to Christ.

Whether you are searching for a faith community, or just passing through; we want you to feel at home. Whoever you are, whatever your history, your scars, your gifts; you are among persons like yourself.

Join us from wherever you call home. If you like what you see here, we post our virtual, Hymn Sing, and Sunday Worship Service on our website, www.churchonthecape.org.

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