



The Church on the Cape Newsletter



Pastor's Letter

Dear family and friends of Church on the Cape;

People around the world have suffered from COVID-19 since January. Countless people all over the world were directly affected by the disease and all of us were also struck by the destructive power of the virus. The number of deaths, suffering and hardship the media presents to us create such discomfort in our hearts. When things like this happen, we ask questions about God's grace. Where is God in the midst of human suffering?

Throughout history there have been three typical ways that Christians answered the question. First answer is that God causes diseases and disasters to punish human sins. God in the Old Testament is often described this way. The image of God in this belief is a judgmental and outrageous God who is capable of using supernatural power against human beings. Those who believe in this image of God, as a result, become anxious, fearful, and helpless when they face suffering from illnesses or disasters. They also regard the victims as sinners considering themselves as righteous or as God's favorite. This answer raises a question on how to explain God's goodness and mercy in innocent victims.

The second way to respond to the question of 'Where is God?' is that God has nothing to do with human suffering. God is not causing the disaster and God will not fix it either. It presents the indifferent image of God who is remote from human affairs. Those who

May 2020

believe in this kind of image of God tend to withdraw themselves from the outer world because the world has too many problems and there is no hope to be improved and focus on their personal and inward relationship with God. This answer leaves a question if God works beyond the personal dimension.

The third way to answer the question is that God is at work right in the middle of human suffering. The image of God in this belief is the image of Jesus, compassionate and merciful. People who have this image of God tend to believe that God's grace is at work in the lives of the victims and their families. God has given the courage and strength to the people on the front lines, rescue workers and volunteers beyond the human nature of protecting themselves. God's compassion is at work inspiring people around the world to share their gifts and resources generously. God restores and recreates the people, nature and human history influenced by the diseases and disasters. Those who believe in this kind of God want to be the partners of God's work of restoration and recreation.

We have seen the brave and unselfish people on the front lines that dedicate themselves to save others' lives. We are grateful for their examples through which we have glimpsed the love and compassion of Jesus. They have cast Christ's light into the world of darkness during this pandemic. Inspired by their examples, we will also continue to become the instruments of God's goodness, beauty, and restoring power in the world. As the nature blossoms to full spring in May, I pray that the world may be filled with the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit.

In peace,
Ho-Soon

MAY LECTIONARY READINGS

May 3:

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10



May 10:

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

May 17:

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

May 24:

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

May 31:

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21

John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

BIBLE STUDY ON PSALMS

There will be 4 weeks of Bible Study on Psalms on Mondays, May 11, 25, June 8, and 22 at 2 p.m. virtually. Most of the Psalms are the words and actions of humanity held in conversation with God and they touch on the complexity of human life. We will explore the major themes of the Psalms and the nature of God and of our relationship with God.

BOOK STUDY ON MEETING JESUS AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME

There will be 4 weeks of Book Study on Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time--The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith by

Marcus J. Borg on Mondays, May 11, 25, June 8 and 22 at 7 p.m. virtually. We will explore how an understanding of the historical Jesus can actually lead to a more authentic Christian life rooted in a life of spiritual challenge, compassion, and community.

BUD VASES NEEDED!

The Ministry of Caring is in need of bud vases. The beautiful Sunday altar flower bouquets are divided into smaller bouquets by Jean Moulton and delivered to members of the church to enjoy by Jane Smith and Carol Nason. If you have bud vases you would like to donate, you may leave them on the church porch in a bag labeled with Jean Moulton's name, or call the office and we will make arrangements to pick them up. Thank you!

FACE MASKS

Church on the Cape has a limited supply of face masks for those in our congregation who need them. Priority will be given to those with compromised immune systems. To receive a mask, please contact Jane Smith.

Table of Contents	Page
Pastor's Letter	1
Lectionary Readings	2
Bible and Book Studies,	
Bud Vases Needed, and	
Face Masks Available	2
Phillips and Spencer Families,	
During the Coronavirus	3-4
Thoughts on Prayer	4
How to Lose \$300	5
Avoiding Email Scamming	6
Thanking Pastor Ho-Soon	6
Holy Communion at the Lord's Home	6
Schoener Family and the Virus	7
Outreach Committee Update	8
Anne Thompson Remembrance	8
Finance Committee Monthly Report	9
Calendar Changes, History Happenings	9
Knitter's Hats for Cuties	10
Coffee Hour on Zoom	11
We are the Team!	11
Ministry of Caring Flower Delivery	12
Scenes from Holy Week	13-14
The Missing Miracle of Touch	15
End Page	16

Checking in with the Phillips and Spencer families during the Coronavirus

Life is surely different for all of us, but particularly for young families that are balancing online school, working from home, and maintaining some sort of family routine. Here is what life looks like for the Phillips and Spencer families:

Phillips Family:

Chris Phillips returned home from four months away at sea, on March 13th. Heidi Phillips shares about life for them. "Every morning, until about noon, the children work on their math, writing, reading, social studies, and Spanish. In the afternoon, we work on a science or art project and get outside for a walk and play on their swing set. One of their favorite things to do outside of school work, is work on their Lego building projects. Their current project is rebuilding their Lego Police station. Recently, Jacksen finished reading the Kid Spy book series. He has started the book series, The Secret Zoo, and he cannot put the first book down, he said it is, "so good!"



We hope you are well. We are missing our Church family. The morning greetings before the start of service were always a nice highlight and start to the beginning of a new week. The kids always looked forward to attending Sunday School, and loved to share the stories that were told, their projects and their favorite songs that they sang. Wishing you peace.

The Phillips Family

Spencer Family:

Jack Spencer quarantined himself for two weeks in NYC and then joined the family. Kelly Spencer shares, "It has been several weeks since we've seen our friends at The Church on the Cape, and it has been so nice to be able to worship together online. The kids and I have been trying our best to stick to a routine, but when the weather is nice, all lesson plans are out the door as we take advantage of nature and the great outdoors (responsibly of course - away from other people).



We've been doing a lot of hiking in the empty woods or sneaking to the water when there is no one around. Henry learned to ride his bike! On a typical day, we will spend a few hours at home reading, writing, doing math and science projects and mom tries to fit in a few hours of paying work. Then we all cook together and do chores around the house, tell jokes and try to make each other laugh. The time, while wrought with anxieties about the future, has been a quiet blessing to our little family. We pray daily for our church family with great eagerness to see everyone again soon."

All Our Love, The Spencers



THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

Most Christians pray daily, but one day a year is set aside as a **National Day of Prayer**. **May 7th is designated as a day for the people of the United States to offer prayer and meditation. Here are some thoughts on prayer:**

- We must come out from prayer the most rapturous and sweet, only to do harder and ever harder works for God and our neighbors.

—St. Teresa of Avila

- More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of.

Wherefore, let thy voice

Rise like a fountain for me night and day.

—Alfred Lord Tennyson, "Morte D'Arthur"

- Prayer is not an old woman's idle amusement. Properly understood and applied, it is the most potent instrument of action. ... Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. ... It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart.

—Mahatma Gandhi

- A day hemmed in prayer is less likely to unravel.

—Unknown

- Prayer should be short, without giving God Almighty reasons why he should grant this, or that; he knows best what is good for us.

—John Selden

- Prayer is the fair and radiant daughter of all the human virtues, the arch connecting heaven and earth, the sweet companion that is alike the lion and the dove; and prayer will give you the key of heaven.

—Honoré De Balzac

- Our prayers should be for blessings in general, for God knows best what is good for us.

—Socrates

Source: Newsletternewsletter

HOW TO LOSE \$300 - A CAUTIONARY TALE

BY BILL LORD

This is a true story about a member of our church who got hoodwinked! He's too embarrassed to come right out and identify himself, but he wants all of us to be alert for email scams in the name of our pastor.

It all began with an email from "Rev. Ho-Soon Han," requesting \$300 worth of iTunes cards for a friend who was undergoing cancer surgery on that very day. There was some urgency, the email pointed out, as she wanted to have her favorite music available to calm her nerves during the procedure.

My friend didn't hesitate. He replied to "Rev. Ho-Soon Han" that he would indeed acquire the cards. Off to Staples he went to purchase them. Returning home, he followed instructions by scratching off the purchase code covering and forwarding pictures of the cards to the sender.

That's when this urgent need from our 'pastor' began to fall apart. My friend emailed the real Ho-Soon to inform her that he had successfully completed the assignment. She responded, "What cards?" Yes, he had been scammed. Adding insult to injury, he received a Thank You email claiming that the patients in the cancer ward had heard about his generosity and hoped that he would similarly cheer them up with more iTunes cards. The real Ho-Soon and my friend commiserated that those good intentions had gone so awry.

Ho-Soon immediately sent out an all-church email regarding the scam.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE WARNING: SCAM EMAIL!

Dear Members and Friends,

I just learned that someone created an email with my name Rev. Ho-Soon Han at unitedmethodist1103@gmail.com and asked some church members to do a favor. This is not my email. Please do not reply to this email or buy anything this person is asking you, as if I am asking you for someone in need. Someone just spent \$300 on gift cards only to find out this request wasn't from me. This is a serious matter, especially during Holy Week. Based on what I found, I believe this person has access to our church directory. So please only answer to my email hosoon09@gmail.com.

I pray that you stay well and blessed.

In peace,
Ho-Soon

Our Ho-Soon, not the irregular "Rev. Ho-Soon Han," contacted the Kennebunkport Police Department, where an investigation is now underway (Incident # 20-91-OF).

My close friend contacted the Instant Church Directory folks. He discovered that they had put out a warning some months ago about the fraudulent use of a pastor's name in an email to church members. Apple had published a similar notification.

Now that you know the details, I might as well disclose who my friend is – me!

When you get an email that looks suspicious, here are a few things to check for from Google Gmail:

- Check that the email address and the sender name match.
- Check if the email is authenticated.
- Hover over any links before you click on them. If the URL of the link doesn't match the description of the link, it might be leading you to a phishing site.
- Check the message headers to make sure the "from" header isn't showing an incorrect name.
- In Addition, call the sender to verify if the email was from her/him.

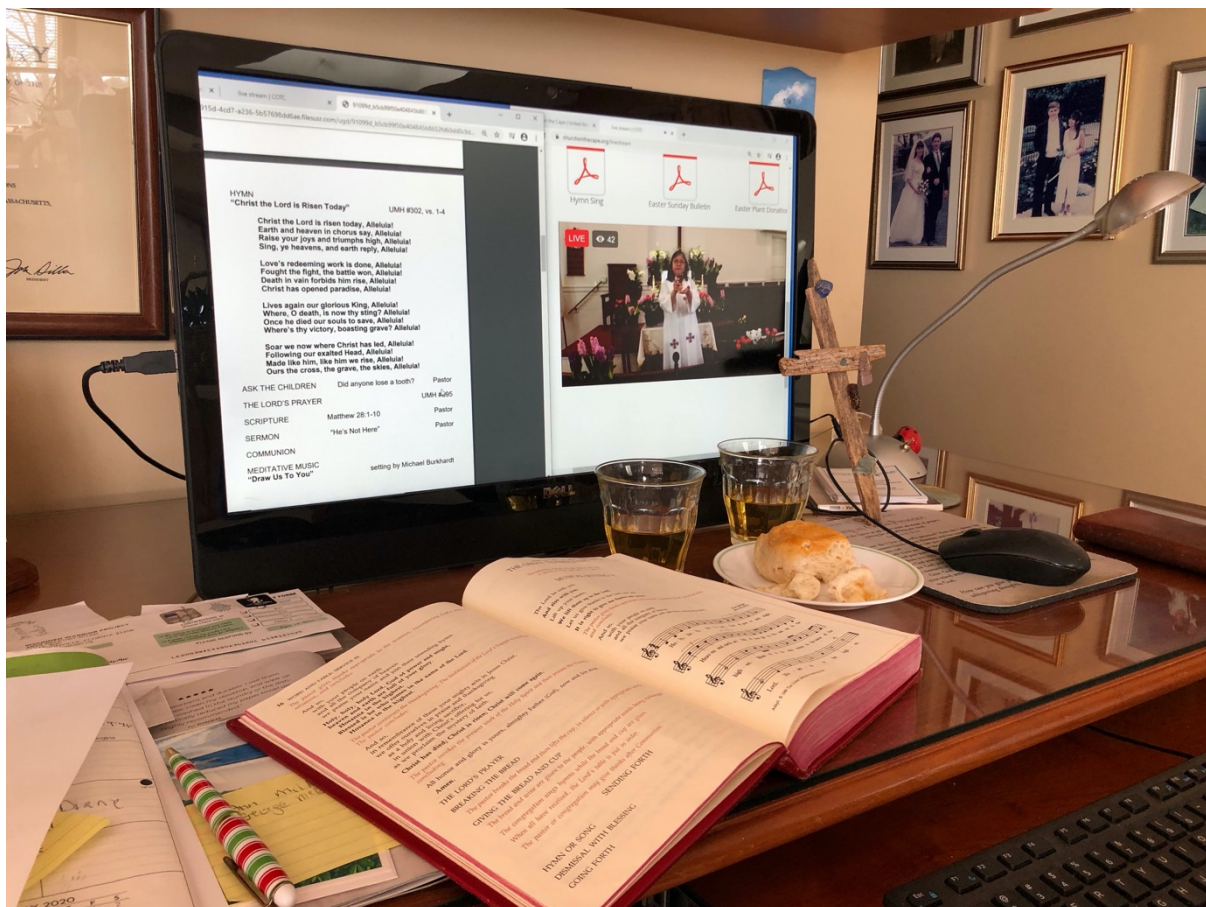
An Act of Perseverance, Courage, and Innovation

After being moved by the sincere longing and prayer for having Communion by Charlie Benore, and then asking herself the simple question "What would Jesus do?" Pastor Ho-Soon decided to have virtual Communion. She believes Jesus would not keep us from taking the remotely blessed bread and cup especially on Easter Sunday in this unprecedented time, even if the institution of the church says it is incompatible.

We are so grateful for Pastor Ho-Soon's perseverance, courage and innovation in paving the way for us to have Holy Communion on Easter Sunday with its special connection to Christ, and the spiritual strength that it provides in this time of crisis. Thank You Pastor Ho-Soon!

Pastor Ho-Soon and your editor

Ready for Easter Sunday Holy Communion at the home of Debbi and Bill Lord



With God's Grace the Schoener Household Overcomes the Virus

"Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."-Matthew 6:34

With God's grace, the Schoener household continues to stay healthy and both Gary and I are still working, and those two things alone are tremendous blessing! What is really nice is that I have been able to work from home and that means I get to be around my kids a lot more! The challenge is finding the balance between my job which is more stressful than ever due to the pandemic and balancing the kids and home schooling. But honestly, that is nothing compared to what so many others are going through.

Each day after I finish working, because there is not a heck of a lot to do, the kids and I hop into the car and drive by the beaches to take in God's majesty. Then we go to the Dunkin's drive-through for Lattes. At the end of each day, we go to either St. Anne's or Kennebunk beach to watch the sunset. Even though life has been greatly altered and there is much to fret over, I believe doing little things like this, creates little additional blessings in our lives. I learned a few years ago with the help of my church family to put my trust in God and to live one day at a time. It is amazing the inner peace one has, when you learn to do this and to look at your blessings rather than your problems. I cannot wait to get back to church to see my church family, I miss you all so much! Much love and blessing from Carol and family.



Masks, Community Outreach Services, Local Family and more

The COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges for us all, it is not an easy time. For many in our community the challenges they face are greater and the needs they have are large. The Church on the Cape through the Outreach Committee has been on the frontlines of meeting these needs. All of our work has been not only funded by the Outreach budget, but by the many members who have stepped up to the plate with additional donations to help us reach even more people in need. Specifically, COTC has been able to purchase protective surgical masks which have been distributed to our local First Responders, Southern Maine Health Care, the Cancer Care Center and our own vulnerable parishioners. A second shipment is now on its way so we will have increased capacity to assist. If you know of an organization in need of protective masks, or if you are in need, please let Jane Smith know. She is assisting with the distribution of the masks.

The COTC has helped in other ways as well. Monies have been sent to the Bon Appetite program to assist with the increased costs they are facing. Not only have the numbers of meal participants increased, they are now providing these meals as take out. This has meant the need to purchase take out containers. The COTC helped meet this need. Community Outreach Services has also seen increased numbers of people in need of food. In response to this, COTC members donated \$650 and another \$2000 from Outreach was sent to help with the purchase of food. Through Community Strong (CS3) and Kennebunk Rotary, we have been directly connected with a local family in need of assistance. We have been able to help with food, clothing, wonderful Easter Baskets and other needed items. This was done through the donations and assistance of our members.

As this troubled time continues, Outreach plans to continue to be there for our community. A huge THANK YOU! Goes to all who have donated for these various needs. Your actions are truly a reflection of your faith in action and the love of Christ.

Robin Bibber

In Remembrance of Anne Thompson, March 31, 2020

From Alice Bruton

Anne Thompson was a devoted member of Church on the Cape for many years. She and her husband, Ed, lived on Bayberry Avenue at Kennebunk Beach on the upper level of their home where they could look out over the houses to see the ocean. Anne was an accomplished artist who created the art work we have used for many years on the cover of our worship bulletin. I remember Anne asking a few people to remain after worship one Sunday to pose on the steps and sidewalk of the church so she could get the right perspective in the drawing. We were one of those couples. Both Anne and Ed went to live at Huntington Common where Ed passed away in 2019. The Caring Committee of Church on the Cape often visited Anne at Huntington bringing her "root beer" parties. Anne enjoyed company and many Church on the Cape people enjoyed visiting her. Husband, Ed, was Treasurer at Church on the Cape for many years during the time Sherwood Treadwell was pastor, and Anne and Ed were faithful in their attendance as long as their health allowed. One of our members visited them every Sunday on his way home from church and brought them the Sunday newspaper. When he was away or unable to do this Roy and I would do it and enjoy a visit with both Anne and Ed. Many of us at the church will miss Anne.

Finance Committee Monthly Report

This report includes the month of March numbers as well as the first quarter totals.

MARCH:

Income to Budget:	\$19,036.35
Expenditures from Budget:	\$28,488.58
Net:	(\$9,452.23)

FIRST QUARTER JANUARY - MARCH:

Income to Budget:	\$65,948.45
Expenditures from Budget:	\$84,044.63
Net:	(\$18,096.18)

We are all experiencing the impact of the pandemic crisis. The majority of our ongoing operating expenses, such as utilities, insurance, taxes, salaries and Mission Shares, are largely out of our control. Salaries and Mission Shares, alone, account for a very significant expense each month. We are making every effort possible to "tighten our belt" and keep those expenses which we can control to a minimum. We have asked the chairs of all committees, and others where possible, to exercise tight fiscal responsibility by keeping expenditures to minimum during this time.

The faithful giving of our church family continues at an astounding level as seen by offerings streaming in through regular mail and PayPal each week. Note that another available option for giving is by direct deposit. That is easily set up through your bank. If you are interested in this option, please call Jim Lennon, Financial Secretary and he can provide you with the routing number and accounts number you will need to give those interested. They would then call their bank to set it up. Thank you again for your faithfulness.

If we can help in any way, please call:

Doug Coleman at 207 229- 6273,
Jim Lennon at 207 205-6572, or
David Sandtorv at 207 985-1564.

God has blessed our little Church on The Cape and its family constantly and abundantly. He will continue to do so. I pray that we will all come through this time with a stronger relationship with God and a deeper determination to serve Him in new ways.

Blessings, Doug Coleman, Chairman - Finance Committee

HISTORY HAPPENINGS CALENDAR CHANGES

1. The meetings of the Annual Conference Historical Societies have been postponed from May 8 until the Fall.
2. The special event featuring the Cape Porpoise lobstermen and their buoys that was planned for Heritage Sunday, May 17, has been postponed. It is planned for Sunday, September 20, in conjunction with Homecoming Sunday.

With warm greetings to all from your History and Records Committee,
Beryl Samia, Chairperson

The Knitting Group of the church decided to make little hats for the grandbabies born in December. Here are pictures of the cuties.

Benjamin Thomas, grandson of Shirley and Tom Bradbury



Olivia, great-granddaughter of Beryl Samia



Isabella, granddaughter of Carol and Brian Nason



Valerie, granddaughter of Ann and Jeff Hand



Submitted by Joan Lennon

Coffee Hour on Zoom

We have a virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom every Sunday after the worship service. It's great to see the faces of the church family. Thanks to Jim LaVerriere for hosting it. Picture below taken by Julie Chase.



WE ARE THE TEAM!

Sunday morning, the team gathers together in the sanctuary to broadcast the worship service while keeping distance at all times.



Ministry of Caring Is Active
Sanctuary was decorated with the plants to
celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The plants were delivered to the members of the church. And the beautiful bouquet of flowers dedicated on the altar on each Sunday is broken into small bouquets also to be delivered to the members of the church. Thanks to Jean Moulton for the flower arrangements, Jane Smith and Carol Nason for delivering them.



Scenes from Holy Week

Holy Week worship services provided a meaningful journey to the cross, and they were made possible by the gifted people and their willing spirits. Big thanks to Janice Stover, Nancy Chamberlin, Wendy Emmons, Norene Freeman. Special thanks to Susan Baracco and Mike Kelly for their effort to live stream the services with high quality.

Maundy Thursday



Good Friday



Good Friday continued



Memorial Day



Memorial Day emerged from the grim shadows of the American Civil War. Before the close of the war, women began decorating the graves of soldiers who had died in that war. The practice quickly spread, and a few years later May 30, 1868, was designated as Decoration Day — a day for placing flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers throughout the United States.

In 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were also honored. Over the years, it has become a day when all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise — are remembered. In 1971, the United States Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed annually on the last Monday in May.

On this Memorial Day, remember those who gave their lives for our country. But also pray for those who continue serving to keep America free, especially those who are in harm's way.

Source: Newsletternewsletter

THE MISSING MIRACLE OF TOUCH

In recent weeks and for some time to come, you and I, along with our neighbors near and far, have been asked to accept a widespread new and strange mandate to refrain from touching those with whom we come in contact. All we have been taught in our families, in our social order, at our places of worship, and even in our neighborhoods must now be stricken from our repertoire of ways we convey caring to others.

As infants the touch of our parents made our confined world safe and secure.

As children we learned the value of hugs and holding hands.

As young people the simple act of high five-ing another communicated special friendship and camaraderie.

As adults we learned the protocols of handshaking, the pat on the back, the encouraging tap on the shoulder, all to convey care and support.

As lovers the first kiss was but the beginning of the joy of touch.

All through life, appropriately touching others was a special way to convey deep and genuine care for another. We even gave thought to how we touched others in order that our intentions would not to be misunderstood.

Suddenly, in these uncertain and frightening times, touching has been almost entirely outlawed because now a simple touch can cause a dreadful disease to spread – or even cause death to the receiver. Some among us must now cover the hands with gloves and mask the face to prevent the spread of virus now so unwelcomed and dangerous.

We know deep down we must keep a physical distance from one another, likely for an extended time. What an enormous loss that reality is for us. Our very souls are profoundly wounded as we confront such a ban. We greet each other these days somewhat awkwardly, wanting to touch even lightly, but we hold back to honor the grim reality of the situation.

Many substitute gestures have suggested themselves in the meantime:

- Placing a hand over one's heart.

- Placing our hands together.

- Exchanging elbow or fist bumps.

- Extending one's arms as one might do at the beginning of a hug but refraining from the follow through.

These and other such gestures, of course, help but are far less powerful than touching, and we carry them out with considerable discomfort and even a bit of awkward embarrassment.

And so it is appropriate in these uncertain days to lift a proper salute to the ways we humans touch each other, physically as well as heart-fully. The gift of touch is so significant in our life's journey. May touch return some day soon to take its place once again among the ways we effectively and appropriately greet those traveling this sacred life-path upon which we are so favored to travel.

Rev. John Neff

The 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 sermons and worship music via our website, www.churchonthecape.org.

The Church on the Cape
3 Langsford Road
P.O. Box 2740
Kennebunkport, ME 04046
Church Phone: 207-967-5787
E-mail address: churchonthecapeumc@gmail.com
Website: www.churchonthecape.org
Rev. Ho-Soon Han, Pastor
Email Address
hosoon09@gmail.com
Phone
860 204 2558