



# The Church on the Cape Newsletter



February 2021

## Pastor's Letter

Dear family and friends,  
It's been only 3 weeks since 2021 began, but somehow it feels longer than that. The concept of time seems to be measured not only by the clock or calendar, but also by the weight of the events that happened during that time. Many things happened during the past 3 weeks that provoked in us loaded emotional and mental reactions and that required much energy to unpack and process. We witnessed a universal truth of human nature—the tension between the human desire for peace and order and the human tendency for violence and chaos.

The Bible proves that this has been present since the beginning of humanity, and we know it will continue to be part of human history. It can be overwhelming at times because we don't have power over other people's choices and the outcome from them. Yet we know that we are called to continue to pursue peace and order against the forces of violence and chaos. At times even in our own lives, brokenness happens and things get chaotic in spite of our desire for peace and order and we get overwhelmed. No one under heaven is immune to this human condition.

One of the ways our ancestors of faith handled this was through "prayers." When the forces of darkness overwhelmed the nation, community, and personal life, they sought out

God's power through prayers. By lifting up their desires and accepting their inability to remove the brokenness and chaos, they were able to stay hopeful, and to continue to do their part while trusting that God will restore peace and order in God's time. And God always responded to human trust and faithfulness.

Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness for prayers in preparation for his earthly ministry in which he had to navigate through the tension between peace and violence, order and chaos. During Lent, we are called to reflect on Jesus' life, suffering, and death, as well as to navigate through the challenges in our own life and world. And it is appropriate for us to set apart the 40 days of Lent for prayers. "Prayer in the Sanctuary" is planned to have one person (or a couple) on each day during Lent pray for the church and for other concerns in the sanctuary. I hope those who feel healthy and comfortable would consider signing up to pray in the sanctuary. We are a praying congregation and this will make us even stronger together through our common prayers for the church.

May you experience the power and presence of Jesus Christ in your Lenten journey!

In peace,  
Ho-Soon

## February Lectionary Readings



***Nancy Bush Ellis***  
***January 10, 2021***

***Reverend Maria Coleman***  
***January 11, 2021***

### **February 7:**

*5th Sunday after Epiphany*

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

### **February 14:**

*Transfiguration Sunday*

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalms 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

### **February 21:**

*1st Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

### **February 28:**

*2nd Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38



### **GATHERING IN REMEMBRANCE OF RON CADIEUX**

On Saturday, February 13, at 1:00 PM there will be a Zoom gathering for Church on the Cape members and friends to share their memories and celebrate the life of Ron and to support Judy and the family.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS AND DATES**

### **"I Love Church On The Cape" Video**

To celebrate Valentine's Day as a church family, we will put together an "I love Church on the Cape" video. You may record a selfie video of you, or your family, saying "I love Church on the Cape," and text it to Wendy Emmons at 207-710-3069. If you'd like someone to record your video, we'll be happy to do so. Please contact Wendy for more information.

### **PLEDGE CARD REMINDER**

**If you have not already done so, please return your pledge card as soon as possible. Your continued financial support is appreciated as the Finance Committee works to plan and manage our church finance needs throughout 2021. If you need a pledge card, contact the office at 207-967-5787 to request one. Thank you!**

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

This year the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday on Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. You can join the service via church website or Facebook page.

### **Prayer in the Sanctuary**

During Lent, the sanctuary will be open to one person, or couple, a day for a time of prayer and meditation, between 10-11 a.m. If you'd like to sign up, check out on the Church website. The instructions including COVID-19 protocols will be available for those who sign up.

### **Sunday Worship Service on Zoom**

In addition to the regular service, there will be a Zoom worship service at 9-9:30 a.m. on Sundays, Feb. 21, 28, Mar. 7, 14, 21 & 28. You can connect on Zoom via Church on the Cape website.

### **Lenten Bible Study**

There will be 6 weeks of Bible Study during Lent on Wednesdays, Feb. 24, Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 3 p.m. on Zoom. The study will focus on Jesus' last days on earth mainly from the Book of John. Beryl Samia and Ho-Soon will facilitate the study.

### **'How Great Thou Art' Virtual Choir Project**

We plan to put together, a virtual choir singing Church on the Cape's No. 1 favorite hymn, 'How Great Thou Art.' It will be individually recorded and instruction will be provided. If needed, assistance will be provided. Anyone who loves singing the hymn can participate. Contact Ho-Soon if you are interested.

### **Pastor's Retreat**

Ho-Soon will be on a retreat in preparation of Lent and Easter on Feb. 8-14. If you need pastoral care, contact Sandy Day for an on-call pastor.

### **Guest Preacher**

Rev. Ted Cress will preach on Sunday, Feb. 14. Rev. Cress has served in local churches in the New England Conference, and currently serves as the President of the United Methodist Foundation of New England.

### **2020 STATEMENT OF GIVING**

A 2020 Statement of Giving is available by email or US Postal Service. Please contact the financial secretary at [Finance@churchonthecape.org](mailto:Finance@churchonthecape.org) with your preference. Thank you.

## Thank You!

To celebrate the season of Epiphany, the altar was decorated by Susie Goodwin and Nancy Chamberlin. Thank you!



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## Special Dates

- African-American History Month
- Transfiguration Sunday, *February 14, 2021*
- Valentine's Day, *February 14, 2021*
- Presidents Day, *February 15, 2021*
- Ash Wednesday, *February 17, 2021*



We probably think of romance when Valentine's Day comes. That's fine, but there's more to the story than that.

St. Valentine was a Christian priest and martyr who lived about A.D. 270. The Roman emperor at the time was Claudius II. Claudius had been a successful general. He would not allow his soldiers to marry, because he wanted to make sure they could go to battle quickly. He thought family ties would make the men reluctant to leave home. Because Valentine promoted marriage and family life, he was jailed and later convicted of going against the orders of the emperor. He was martyred on February 14, the day we remember him and our loved ones.

While he was in jail, the jailer's daughter befriended him. He wrote her a letter of appreciation and signed it "Your Valentine." The tradition of exchanging valentines grew out of that heartfelt gesture.

Source: Newsletternewsletter

# Lenten Page

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF LENT

Lent is the fourth season of the Christian year. Its length is the 40 days preceding Easter Day, not counting Sundays. This means Lent always begins on a Wednesday, known as Ash Wednesday (February 17, 2021).

Lent commemorates Jesus' fast and temptation in the wilderness of Judea Province, which, according to the Gospel, lasted 40 days. Just as Jesus confronted his temptations during these 40 days, Lent helps Christians focus on our most basic need as sinners: forgiveness.

The only way our Lord's forgiving power can become effective in our lives is by our taking the initiative to confront our sins, confess them and repent of them. In short, Lent is a season of penitence.

Some Christians fast during Lent. This denial of bodily comforts can help encourage self-reflection about the need for Jesus' forgiveness.

## REPENT – A WORTHY WORD FOR LENT

What pops into your mind when you hear the word “repent”? Is it a dark and somber word for you, perhaps reminding you of John the Baptist's shouting for people to repent and be baptized?

What does the word “repent” mean anyway? Literally, it means to stop the way one is going, turn around, and then walk in the opposite direction. It refers to turning away from sin and shallow living and to begin walking through life following God's direction.

Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (February 17), is an opportunity to check our

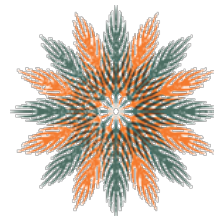
spiritual condition, to repent (if needed) and to walk more faithfully with our Lord. If we take Lent seriously, we can begin to discover a new vision for life – a more joyous way to live. Lent can enable us to discover the immeasurable benefits of living the Christian life passionately.

## LENTEN LIVING

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17, this year. Christians have observed this season of the church year since the fourth century. It's traditionally a time of reflection, penitence and spiritual renewal before Easter.

During Lent, some Christians give up something that hinders their relationship with God. Others do something extra for their spiritual growth or make a special sacrifice. The key is to make Lent a memorable season of sincere spiritual growth — a time that can set the tone for the rest of the year.

## ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER



Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.

Source: Newsletternewsletter

## **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 virtual, Hymn Sing, and Sunday Worship Service on our website, [www.churchonthecape.org](http://www.churchonthecape.org).

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