



# The Church on the Cape Newsletter



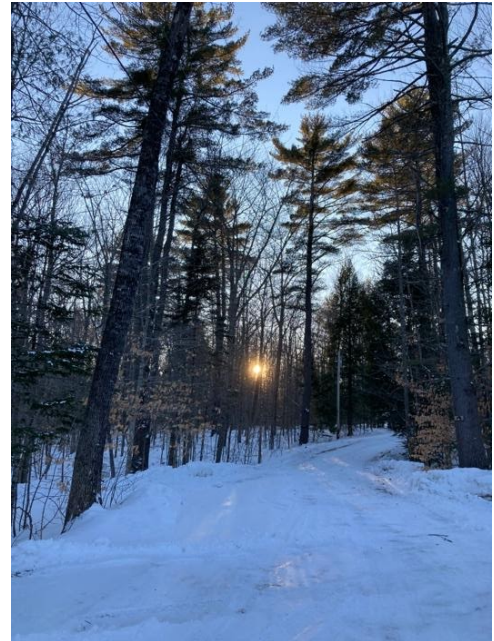
## Pastor's Letter

March 2021

Dear family and friends of Church on the Cape;  
As you know I went to Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop for a time of retreat. From the time I asked if they would let me stay at the camp until I left the camp, I received the warmest kindness and I am deeply grateful.

During this retreat I felt the presence of God while I was walking. And often God invited me to stop. While I was mindlessly walking, I heard my loud footsteps on the frozen snow. Then I heard the invitation to stop. That's when I realize that I was surrounded by absolute silence and the sacred presence of God. Even the cold air felt warm because God was so fully present. And I realized that the noise wasn't only from my footsteps but also from my forever spinning mind. It made me realize that I need to stop in order to recognize God's presence and move with God. It was as if turning off one switch for one side and turning on another switch to get sharper images on the other side.

God's invitation to stop continued throughout my stay at the camp. During one of the walks, I was thinking of the sermons in Lent and the ways to keep our congregation closer. Then all of a sudden. I saw the long yellow lights spread on the snow. As I was looking for the source of the lights, I saw the setting sun behind the trees. The sun was hidden until that moment. It might have been the angle of the trail or the trees blocking the sun. But when the sun appeared at the moment, I took that as an invitation of God. I stopped and recognized God in that beautiful and perfect setting sun. And I knew it was God's way of saying "I love you." I stopped and was blessed.



I was aware how quickly everything will disappear just like the setting sun. As soon as I leave the camp, I knew I will be snatched by the busy daily life and quickly begin walking and breathing faster. I will be driven by the external forces and lose my internal rhythm of serenity and groundedness, clarity and sense of who I am in the presence of God. And I also knew that God will invite me to stop again. Then I will stop and turn on the switch to sense the absolute silence in the winter trail and the setting sun behind the trees, and recognize God's presence.

Lent certainly invites us to stop and create a space in us that we can encounter God's presence, be filled with Christ's peace and have clarity of our life's purpose. Throughout 40 days, I hope we can create a peace-full space in us and recognize the love of God for us and others.

In peace,  
Ho-Soon



## 2020 Church on the Cape's Generosity

Over \$42k in Mission Programs to support our neighbors in local, regional, and global communities.

Feeding Programs	\$10,175
Homeless & Sheltering	\$7,755
Local Education Programs	\$2,600
Local Family Assistance	\$1,945
World Mission	\$8,757
New England Mission	\$8,940
Other Missions	\$2,750

'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:40)



The altar was decorated for  
Lenten season by  
Wendy Emmons.  
Thank you!

### Easter Concert

Our musicians are working hard to bring us the joy of Easter with Easter Concert on Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. You can watch the concert in your VIP seat at home. More information will follow, so stay tuned.

### Holy Week & Easter Packet

We will be putting together a Holy Week & Easter Packet with palms, communion sets and the prayer guide to be picked up or delivered to your home. Please sign up online for pickup or contact Shirley Bradbury or Marge Smith for delivery. The packet will be ready on March 25<sup>th</sup>.



## MARCH LECTIONARY READINGS



Gayle Gardei  
February 20, 2021

### Special Events

#### MARCH SCRIPTURES, TITLES, AND GOSPEL IN MOVIES

**March 7:** Mark 5:21-34  
**Where's Your Paradise Fall? ("Up")**

**March 14:** Mark 9:14-29  
**Power beyond Ours ("I Can Only Imagine")**

**March 21:** Isaiah 11:1-9 & John 10:10-11  
**The Lord's Garden ("The Biggest Little Farm")**

**March 28:** Mark 11:1-11  
**A Call to Love ("The Mission")**

#### **March 7:**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent*  
Exodus 20:1-7  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22

#### **March 14:**

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*  
Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

#### **March 21:**

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 51:1-12  
Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33

#### **March 28:**

*Passion/Palm Sunday*  
Liturgy of the Passion:  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Mark 14:1-15:47  
Liturgy of the Palms:  
Mark 11:1-11  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

#### LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

##### "From Jerusalem to the Empty Tomb"

There will be 6 weeks of Bible Study during Lent on **Wednesdays: February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 at 3 PM** 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. Please call the office at 207-967-5787 to register.

#### LENTEN PRAYER IN THE SANCTUARY

During Lent, the sanctuary will be open for one person, or couple, a day for a time of prayer and meditation between 10-11 AM. Sign up on the church website, or call the office at 207-967-5787 for available dates. The instructions including COVID-19 protocols are available for those who sign up.



## LENTEN SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 17. It's a season that calls us to journey with Jesus to the cross while contemplating his teachings, passion, and ultimately his death. There are special programs planned to help make your Lenten spiritual journey meaningful.

### Bible Study Via Zoom

This six-week study will offer an hour of reading the Bible and discussing the important lessons from the last few days of Jesus' life. Beryl and Ho-Soon will co-facilitate the class on Wednesdays at 3 PM. Contact the church office to register.

### Sunday Worship Services

**Worship on Zoom (9-9:30 AM)** – This is in addition to our regular worship at 9:45 AM. Being together on Sunday morning has been a missing part of our life as a community. On Sundays during Lent we will have the opportunity to see each other and worship together. You can access Zoom via the church website.

### Sermon Series - Gospel in Movies

During Lent, movies will be used as an illustration for each Sunday's sermon. Here's the list of the movies (some free, some pay-per-view). You can watch these movies on Youtube.com and Amazon Prime Video. A DVD of each movie is also available for you to borrow from the church. Contact the church office at 207-967-5787.

**2/21: "Little Boy"** – World War II drama about a boy who wishes to have this war ended so his dad can come home.

**2/28: "Just Mercy"** – Based on the true story of the lawyer, Bryan Stevenson, making the battle for justice.

**3/7: "Up"** – Disney animation film about a man's journey through grief after the loss of his wife.

**3/14: "I Can Only Imagine"** – Based on the true story of Bart Millard, singer of the Christian band MercyMe. It depicts the transformation of his abusive father.

**3/21: "The Biggest Little Farm"** – Documentarian John Chester and his wife Molly work to develop a sustainable farm on 200 acres outside of Los Angeles.

**3/28: "The Mission"** – The story of 18<sup>th</sup> Century Spanish Jesuits trying to protect a remote South American tribe in danger of falling under the rule.

## News from the Reopening Team

The Reopening Team has been meeting regularly for months, carefully assessing the Covid situation. Many people are anxious for the church to open.

The team met on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and once again looked at the Covid numbers. The numbers are currently trending downward, and the number of people getting vaccinated is increasing. The team has worked hard to create a set of guidelines to best maintain the health and well-being of the church family, when the church reopens.

**The group voted to open the church for worship on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. IF the numbers continue to trend downward.**

When the church first reopens, a limited number of people will be able to sign up to come to church. Guidelines and protocols will be forthcoming; the team is tweaking the final wording of these. The reopening team will continue to assess the situation and make modifications and adjustments as is appropriate. Please do not hesitate to contact anyone from the reopening team if you have questions.

From the Reopening Team:

Fran Liataud, Susan Baracco, Julie Chase, Wendy Emmons, Diane Hutchins, Mike Kelly, Bob Metcalf, Jean Moulton, Carol Nason and Ho-Soon



## Carrying Out God's Plan

Slipping quietly through the late spring sunshine that filled the threshold of the tall double doors, I made my way to a seat in the very back pew on the right, hoping to go unnoticed. From my vantage point I saw a small group of older ladies with white hair clustered together in what was undoubtedly their regular pew just two from the front left. The few other faithful who were scattered across the small sanctuary punctuated the emptiness of the place. We had moved our young family to Kennebunkport just before Christmas. I was church shopping in early 2000 and I had stumbled into foreign territory. Having been raised Catholic, little in this church was familiar which left me feeling woefully out of place. No padded kneelers? What was that about? A female pastor named Jo? I had no idea when to stand, to sit, or to sing. Looking back now I know that God led me to this place because, just like everything in our lives, it is all in His plan.

Since that late spring day when God put on my heart that Church on the Cape was now my spiritual home, I've witnessed much as a member of this church family. I've seen pastors come and go, the addition of the Bartlett Hall, the ever-changing seasons of our congregation through relocations, graduations, marriages, births, deaths, and a few spats, too. God hasn't spared us our challenges over the years, but I have always known that He was in control.

The other thing I've witnessed is God's killer faithfulness to this little church. Talk about undying! It begs the question; what does He see here? What does He see in our hearts that He continues to bind us to his faithfulness?

The calendar has turned into 2021, bringing with it an all too familiar challenge for our little church. Amid all the other stuff we are contending with, a budget shortfall has been added to the list. I call it all too familiar because in my many years sitting through council meetings, January is when we have the annual "how short funded are we this year?" discussion. But this year, God has upped the ante with a larger than usual deficit and a dose of COVID on the side, and that is making several folks a bit nervous. Conversations on this topic have gone round and round and gotten a little heated of late. God bless the wonderful people who care so much!

The first word that pops into my head on this topic is balance, but I don't mean budget. I believe we need to balance our careful stewardship of the resources with which we are already blessed with a healthy dose of prayer. "But prayer doesn't pay the bills!" Well, I respectfully disagree. If prayer didn't pay the bills, our sweet little church would have turned into luxury condos years ago. I'm confident Sherwood understood this better than anyone. He took the matter of closing the church out of mortals' hands and put it in God's hands. Not sure he ever read "The Circle Maker" by Mark Batterson, (excerpt below) but I know he would heartily agree with the concept of drawing a prayer circle around our church and asking God to provide. God knows our hearts. He knows we have a lot of work yet to do in His world and a lot of His children yet to help. It is His plan, after all. I hope you will join me in circling our church in prayer and focusing on how we carry out His plan in 2021 and let Him take care of the rest.

"There is nothing God loves more than keeping promises, answering prayers, performing miracles, and fulfilling dreams. That is *who* He is. That is *what* He does. And the bigger the circle we draw, the better, because God gets more glory."

Article by Susan Baracco



## “We Can Work It Out”

An update from the Finance Committee  
by Diane Hutchins, Chair  
with inspiration from John Lennon and Paul McCartney

When I sit in my office in the morning, I love listening to 60's Hippie Band music on Pandora Internet Radio. I often think I was born in the wrong generation because I feel like a hippie at heart. The time spent at my desk often reminds me of a TV show where the main character can hear people's thoughts through popular songs. Have you ever heard a song and felt it was played just at that moment as a message from the Holy Spirit?

One of my favorite songs I keep hearing a lot lately is The Beatles hit, “We Can Work It Out”. Sometimes I can't get the lyrics out of my head, “...life is too short for fussing and fighting, my friend”. The relevance is timeless, and inspiring.

There will always be differences of opinion in the world and in our church. We are blessed with many highly educated and experienced professionals in our family. Some have very strong personalities and are not afraid to speak their mind. Others just want to get through a meeting before bedtime and try to keep the peace by avoiding conflict. How does any of this relate to church finances?

Unfortunately, we do not have an approved budget because of some strong differences in opinion. In our last meeting, we continued to make additional progress reducing the budget, but we still have an estimated **\$36,000** shortfall. Last year, our budget was about \$276K. This year, the current proposed budget is \$259K. This required a great deal of determination, patience and compromise. **I am extremely proud of the progress the Finance Committee has made.**

### Finance Committee Goals:

1. Plan to have regular monthly meetings throughout the year to closely monitor actual expenses to budget.
2. Review, analyze and identify areas of financial concern in a timely manner.
3. Communicate concerns and recommendations to the Church Council.
4. Once the budget is approved, continue to review and identify specific areas to focus on improving, either by cutting costs or improving efficiency.

### Stewardship Update

Total Pledges Received: 69

Revised Pledge Total: \$135,000

Revised As-able (AA): 27

Current Stewardship Response Rate: 53% (96 responses/182 total mailed)

Would you like to make a new pledge or increase your existing pledge to help us cover our shortfall? Additional pledge cards are now available outside the church by the mailbox on the covered porch. We appreciate your continued financial support. With time and God's abundance, “We Can Work It Out”.



## TERRARIUM ZOOM CLASS

On Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, Jean Moulton led our 2<sup>nd</sup> Zoom class. This was a 'build your own terrarium and was designed for the elementary age child. It was available to the children in the church and the children in the community.

Eight sweet faces looked eagerly into their computer screens as Jean walked them through the process of putting a terrarium together. This included making a hole for the plant, and then pushing the dirt in tight around it, "giving the plant a feeling of love and of being hugged". The children covered the dirt with moss "just like a warm blanket" and decorated their terrariums with sea glass, shells, and hearts.

They learned what it means to be a good steward and each child had plans to deliver their Valentine terrarium to someone special. Thank you, Jean for this wonderful, fun-filled class. The Education Committee hopes to offer these Zoom classes every other month.

Article by Carol Nason



Thanks Jean!



Thank You Education Committee members, parents, lovely children, and especially Jean Moulton for this wonderful program using one's creative skills to help bring cheer and happiness to others.





## Sunday School on Zoom

The Education Committee has two new members in it – Heidi Phillips and Kelly Spencer, parents of our ‘fearless four’ as Roy Bruton refers to our sweet children. The parents felt their children would like a Zoom Sunday School experience.

We have set it up for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month at 6:00 pm for 20 – 30 minutes. We had our first Sunday School on February 14<sup>th</sup>, Valentine’s Day. Two of the children who made terrariums with Jean Moulton on the 13<sup>th</sup> joined the group. We talked about love, wearing red, and told the story of The Prodigal Son, focusing on the father’s love for his son.

We also discussed the story of the priest Valentine, and how Valentine’s Day may have come to be. The session ended in a simple prayer. We are looking for people who would like to join as a ‘guest’ visitor; you could share your talents as a musician, your job, anything you think might be of interest to the 5 – 10-year-old. Please contact Carol Nason at 502 – 7299 if you would like to participate (it is a one-time commitment!) in Sunday night Sunday School.

If you have elementary age friends or family who live locally, or anywhere in the country, we welcome and invite them to join zoom Sunday School. Go to the church website and click on the Sunday School ‘button’.

Article by Carol Nason

## Habitat for Humanity York County

On behalf of Habitat for Humanity York County staff, board, volunteers and homeowners, I would like to thank you for your generous gifts over the past year. Your total giving for 2020 was \$2000.00.

We wanted to let you know that your gifts helped make a difference to so many people.

Thank you again for your generosity! We are grateful for your partnership in Habitat’s mission to create safe, decent housing for our neighbors in York County.

With kindest regards,  
Amy Nucci  
Executive Director

## Why Every Day Should be Palm Sunday

[Jesus] was all about giving. He gave of himself. He who was rich became poor that we might be rich. He gave until there was no more to give.

He was all about goodness. The essential goodness of Jesus, unparalleled by anyone before him or after him, testifies to the life to which we are called. When he saw the crowds as sheep not having a shepherd, he was moved with compassion - he became almost physically sick so great was his love.

Let's give Jesus the palm branch treatment, but let's not make this a one-Sunday wonder. His grace, his giving and his goodness compel us to change our behavior, not just pat him on the back, or complain behind his back.

Source: Newsletternewsletter



**THE COMMITTEE ON HISTORY AND RECORDS**  
**Church on the Cape Meeting of the Church Council**  
**February 15, 2021**

Our Purpose: " To Remember the Past, Celebrate the Present,  
and Inspire the Future"

1. One of the activities of the Local Church Historian's School, which was given on-line last Fall, was to gather membership record books, list them, and store them in a safe place. I accomplished that with the help of Pastor Ho-Soon and Sue Cayford.

This note is to tell you that I have found another book to add to the original eight. It is a small paper-back composition book (6 1/2" x 8 1/4"), entitled "Methodist Church, Cape Porpoise, ME. PARISH CONSTITUENCY LIST." The dates: 1951, 1952 are inside the book. The Reverend Mr. Eugene Shrigley was the pastor from 1951-1956.

The lists are organized by neighborhood: "Crow Hill to the Pier," "Next Below Parsonage," "On the Pasture Hill," "Langsford Road from Langsford House," (with map of homes); "Across the Square to Mills Road," "At Skipper Joe's Point," "Marshall Point," "In and Around Little Sanford," "Left Side of Mills Road," "Ward Road from Langsford Road," (with map of homes); "Wildes District Road," (with map of homes); "Down the Lane;" "Old Town House Road," followed by an 8 page alphabetized listing. On the last page of the book are listed the "Deaths in 1952." All of the names and locations are written in ink and there are numerous penciled notes on each page. It appears to have been used regularly for visitation. I repaired the book and it will be added to the list and stored with the others in the fire-proof filing cabinet in the History and Records Room.

2. Pastor Ho-Soon forwarded a note to me, as Church Historian, regarding research being done by the granddaughter of the Reverend Mr. Norman W. Lindsay who was a supply pastor for the church from 1917-1920. If any of you have any histories that might mention him, please contact me. Thank you very much!

Sincerely yours,

Ann Nelson,  
Church Historian for the Committee:  
Beryl Samia, Chairperson; David Sandtorv, Treasurer,  
Stedman Seavey, Secretary;  
Members-at-Large: Lillian Bartlett, Marge Smith, and  
Kyle Emmons





This report will be a brief update on current activities and plans happening at Habitat for Humanity York County.

The Cape Porpoise site has foundations for two homes, both capped until building resumes later this year. Meantime work is underway on the Saco site where we are building a home for a special needs family, in partnership with Hancock Lumber.

We are excited to be a partner in the Lowes Women Build Week, beginning March 8. This year, due to the pandemic, the events will be virtual. Please join us to participate in advocacy activities, and to celebrate women we admire! This should be a fun week!

Covid-19 has slowed activity and fund raising, however, we now have a staff construction manager which will increase building days, and have a team of 8 AmeriCorps Volunteers who will be with us for 4 weeks in April, primarily working on the Saco build.

As the Saco build nears completion in late spring, activities will begin which we hope will involve COTC. A fund raising "Walk To Raise The Roof," with pancake breakfast, (June), including COTC work days for volunteers, and other fun activities are envisioned.

Partner families have been selected for the Saco home and the Cape Porpoise home. Both families are featured on our website, and the Harmon family ( Mills Rd home) will be the focus of this report next month.

For more information about the Women's Build please visit our website: [www.habitatyorkcounty.org](http://www.habitatyorkcounty.org). or call Beth Doty



## RIPPLES OF KINDNESS

"I drop kindness pebbles in still water every day, and I watch the effect they have on other people's lives. My favorite kindness pebbles are compliments. Drop a compliment and watch the ripple effect that it has in your life."

Remarkably, these cheery words come from a father who has faced many dark, difficult days. In *6 Minutes Wrestling With Life*, John Passaro tells of his daughter's heart-wrenching battle with meningitis. The struggles didn't make him bitter; rather, he frequently offers uplifting words on social media.

What if we followed Passaro's example and complimented people regularly? Philippians 4:8 (NIV) instructs us to think about things that are noble, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy. By extension, turning those positive thoughts into words causes "kindness pebbles" to spread God's light in ripples throughout someone's day — and, doubtless, through ours.

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](http://www.churchonthecape.org).

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