

# The Church on the Cape Newsletter



#### Pastor's Letter

Dear family and friends of Church on the Cape,

Maintaining balance seems to be one of the toughest tasks in life. As Christians called to love our neighbor as ourselves, balancing between self-loving and self-giving is a difficult As parents balancing between one. unconditional love and boundary setting is always challenging. As good citizens it is also challenging to maintain the balance between observing the laws/regulations and advocating for the systemic changes against injustice. For post-modern tech-savvies balancing between using the technology for information and communication, and not letting it be an overpowering influence on life is a hard one. In the midst of a polarizing political climate, remaining grounded without being pulled toward the negativity is not an easy one. And for us Christians, the balance between living faithfully as the citizens of the earthly kingdom and of the heavenly kingdom certainly requires mindful attention.

When I feel a little off-balanced in life, I often think of Jesus. I consider him as an example of a balancing act even in the most challenging moments of life. And I often ask him "How did you do it?" While I was seeking an answer, I was drawn to follow him in my meditation. I noticed that his footsteps were lighter than mine, his breathing was deeper than mine, and he appeared to have calmer water in his soul than mine. By following him I recognized that he was constantly centering and grounding himself in the presence of God and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, his own community. I learned that he wasn't alone and he didn't go to the troubled places of the world alone. He was supported by his own community. That was the source of his strength and the way he maintained his balance. He said, "learn from me (Matthew 11:29)."

April 2021

It has been a year since COVID-19 kept us from worshiping together at church. Throughout the year, while dealing with the challenges with it, we recognized how blessed we are to have such a strong community of support that surrounds us in our times of need. I'm sure we all felt a little bit off-balanced while we were worshiping at home and missing the spirit and energy of Sunday morning worship and other gatherings at church. The void of our physical gathering certainly made us lose balance.

However, every step of the way as we faced new challenges, we were able to overcome them because everyone supported and joined in the effort as much as they could. We were able to draw strength from the deep foundation of Christian love and commitment based on the love and grace of God. And we helped one another keep our balance. That's the true strength of our congregation. People may ask how we can maintain our balance while moving through these challenging times. And we may answer them because we don't go there alone. We have a whole congregation that goes with us. That's why we are truly hopeful about our future in the post-pandemic season. Even if it may take some time to be fully back to where we were, our resilience and perseverance have proven that we are strong enough to deal with challenges coming on our way. If we were able to maintain our strength while we were apart, imagine how much stronger we will be when we get back together.

I look forward to the day we all can be together and truly find balance in the strength of the congregation through your presence. In peace,

Ho-Soon

## APRIL LECTIONARY READINGS



### April 4:

### Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 John 20:1-18

### April 11:

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1 – 2:2 John 20:19-31

### April 18:

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48

### April 25:

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18



Nancy Libby March 5, 2021

### **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

April 1

**Maundy Thursday Service at 6 PM** 

April 2

Good Friday Service at 3 PM

April 4

>Easter Sunrise Service at 6:10 AM at the Cape Porpoise Pier >Easter Sunday Service Hymn Sing at 9:45 AM >Worship Service at 10 AM >Easter Concert at 4 PM

Christ has triumphed!



Tomb, thou shalt not hold him longer; Death is strong, but life is stronger. Stronger than the dark, the light; Stronger than the wrong, the right. Faith and hope triumphant say, Christ will rise on Easter Day.

-Phillips Brooks

#### UPDATE FROM THE REOPENING TEAM

The reopening team is happy to announce that the church will be reopening for a limited number of people starting April 11<sup>th</sup>. Mask wearing, social distancing, and no singing will be part of the protocol. To reserve a spot, please call the church office. The first week, it will be on a first come first serve basis. After that, an equitable system will be put in place. You may be able to attend every two or three weeks, based on the number of interested people.

You will be asked a series of standard Covid questions when you reserve your space, and the same questions will be asked of you when you arrive Sunday morning. Mask wearing from the time you leave your car until you are back in your car will be required. All too often, Covid is actually transmitted in church parking lots, not in churches! Please do not hesitate to contact anyone from the reopening team if you have questions. From the Reopening Team:

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

#### Easter Egg Hunt

There will be a socially distanced Easter egg hunt for the young children at the church on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00, rain date Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30.

**Questions? Contact Carol Nason** 

### Sunday School Celebrates Earth Day

The Sunday School children and their families will be celebrating Earth Day (officially on April 22<sup>nd</sup>) with a field trip to the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust. Families will be gathering with Tom Bradbury, the director of the Trust, on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. Tom will talk with the children about the importance of preserving land and will show them the newest

Preserve, and talk about the plans for it. Questions? Contact Carol Nason

### Dear Church Family,



I already miss you!!

If you haven't yet heard.....I am moving to Florida on April1st. I'm very excited to be moving to Marco Island on the west coast. After 3 years of vacationing there, I have fallen in love with the area. I have resided in Maine my entire life, but after much prayer, God has new plans for me. It is always a bittersweet situation when you leave the town, family, friends and church you have always known. God only knows if this will be a permanent move, but I'm looking forward to new beginnings and adventures.

Recently someone asked me if this move has anything to do with the church.

Actually, it has everything to do with Church on the Cape. I have always asked myself, "What would I do without my church family?" I know many of you have heard me say those words. Each one of you has touched my life. You have my faith, joy, inspired creativity. compassion, confidence and love. You have shared in the most joyous events, such as my wedding and the birth, baptism and raising of my twins. You have also carried me through the saddest hours during the passings of my mom, dad and marriage, all in the same year. Without your support over the years and what you have inspired in me, I'm not sure I would have the courage to make move. So THANK YOU SO this MUCH! You are my family, and I know that I am always welcome home. God bless you all.

## With so much love and gratitude, Wendy



Wendy, you will be missed! Your musical talents and related evangelism through music and hymn were among the many gifts you brought to us.

You have given us so much caring, kindness, and love that you will always be among our most treasured memories, and we cannot wait until you occasionally come

back, and join us with that beautiful smile, hymn and nugget for hymn sing again.

### Farewell to Wendy

Despite the wind and rain, a large number of people came to the church on Sunday, March 28th to say their good byes to Wendy Emmons.

Through tears, laughs, and 'air hugs,' people wished her well. As Winnie the Pooh says, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." This is certainly the feeling the church family has for Wendy. We love you Wendy. We miss you already. We know that our loss is the gain of all those you meet on Marco Island.

Thank you for the love, devotion, and support you have given to this church for close to 30 years! May God be with you.

Article by Carol Nason



Wendy with flowers and gift in front of Church on the Cape.

## (Three pages of related photos follow thanks to Carol Nason and Church Family.)



































































Gift for Wendy



Thanks Carol for helping to make this a momentous event.



Heather Chisholm wishes to thank everyone for the greeting cards full of love and caring she received. She lost Ms. Anderson her cherished, black coated retriever. who was  $12^{\frac{1}{2}}$  years old, recently, and

received about 30 sympathy cards. More recently, Heather turned 80 on March  $7^{th}$  and received 45 birthday cards.

The outpouring of love has helped her to "keep my spirits up" over Ms. Anderson's passing, and she was further comforted with the kindness shown for her birthday. Heather moved about two months ago to a recently built apartment at her son's residence, and loves being in her new home with her family. She misses her church family very much, and wishes everyone good health and happiness.



### HARMON FAMILY SELECTED FOR CAPE PORPOISE HOME

Many of you may have seen the articles featuring the Partner Family selected for the first Mills Road Habitat home in Cape Porpoise. As you know the foundations for two homes were poured and capped in January. Building will start up again later this summer, and the Harmon family will move into their new home.

Derek and Alicia Harmon, and their sons Gaberiel, 7, and Grayson, 3, currently live in Sanford. Derek is a chef at the Hurricane Restaurant, Alicia home schools her oldest son who has severe health issues. Derek is an Army veteran, having served three tours in the Middle East with the 82nd Airborne Division. He was honorably discharged in 2005, and shortly thereafter started working in Kennebunkport, and has been at the Hurricane for the past 14 years.

The family has begun accumulating sweat equity hours, Derek working at the site when the foundations were poured, Alicia volunteering at the Habitat Restore.



The following is from a quote from Derek on behalf of his family: "Being selected by Habitat for Humanity has brought our family hope, and is the miracle we have needed to set our life on a safe and positive course. We are overwhelmed with relief, happiness and gratitude. We could never begin to express what this opportunity means to us."

Article by Beth Doty

### EASTER IS ETERNAL



If Easter means anything to modern man, it means that eternal truth is eternal. You may nail it to the tree, wrap it up in grave clothes and seal it in a tomb. But truth crushed to earth shall rise again.

Truth does not perish. It cannot be destroyed. It may be distorted. It has been silenced temporarily. It has been compelled to carry its cross to Calvary's brow ... but with an inevitable certainty, after every Black Friday dawns truth's Easter morn.

-Donald H. Tippet

### WHAT EASTER DOES

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is life-changing and life-giving for his followers. But, as Henry Knox Sherrill notes, Easter's "joyful news ... does not change the contemporary world." On earth, we still must deal with sin, pain, death and brokenness. And "still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice," Sherrill adds. What Easter does, though, is provide Christians with "the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline and make the sacrifice."

By defeating the grave, Jesus empowers us to bear our worldly troubles with joy, peace and hope. His resurrection assures us that trials, tears and suffering are only temporary, while eternal victory and life with Jesus are permanent.

### EASTER LIFTS THE FOG

A friend stood one day where he could view the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. At first it was completely shrouded in early morning fog. But as the sun rose, the fog lifted between the upright piers of the bridge, leaving the land anchors still unseen.

Is it not so with life? We see only what is between the great piers called birth and death. But Easter lifts the fog from both. Easter is the time when we see more completely the anchorages that sustain life.

George Mecklenberg

### THE ANSWER IS EASTER

After the April 2013 suicide of his 27-year-old son, Matthew, pastor and author Rick Warren was often asked how he was able to keep going. His frequent reply? "The answer is Easter."

In the Easter sermons Warren preached the following year, he emphasized that Jesus' resurrection is the answer to discouragement, defeat and devastating trials.

"The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus happened over three days," Warren explained. "Friday was the day of suffering and pain and agony. Saturday was the day of doubt and confusion and misery. But Easter, that Sunday, was the day of hope and joy and victory.

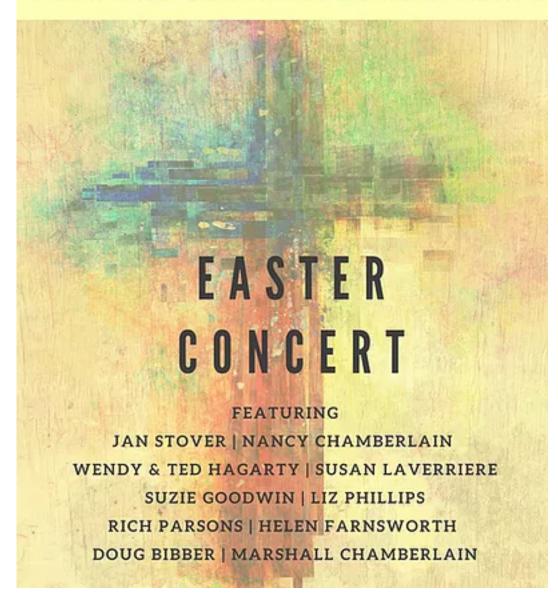
"You will face these three days over and over and over in your lifetime. And when you do, you'll find yourself asking, as I did, three fundamental questions. Number one, what do I do in my days of pain? Two, how do I get through my days of doubt and confusion? Three, how do I get to the days of joy and victory? The answer is Easter."

### CHURCH ON THE CAPE UMC

APRIL 4, 2021 | 4 PM

ONLINE CONCERT IN CELEBRATION OF THE RISEN CHRIST

VISIT CHURCHONTHECAPE.ORG | DONATIONS WELCOME



### REMEMBERING 'DAPPER' (aka "Sir Dapper, Squire of Wells")

March 10, 2009 - March 23, 2021 Adopted by John and Ann Nelson October 7, 2014

Dear Friends,

Some of you may remember "Dapper," our retired racing Greyhound. He was a beloved pet and neighborly friend and was patient as he waited quietly for his coat and leash. He was calm as he met children and adults as well as always being the first to the door. He was interested in everything and everyone and waited attentively while someone approached. Dapper loved to learn and seemed to enjoy practicing his "commands," which were sometimes spoken in a whisper or given in a certain movement.

"Dapper" was an active member of Therapy Dogs International (2015-2020). The motto of TDI is "Paws Awhile for Love" and the logo features a person in a wheelchair with 1 dog sitting quietly and another offering his/her paw. "Dapper" fulfilled that motto many times because he loved to visit. He had a special red bandana with the TDI logo which was his visiting 'uniform;' he was always excited to wear it and then jump into the car to go to see his "residents." His friends were always happy to see him!



Then there came a time when he could no longer jump into the car. Our veterinarian examined him and told us that he had cancer. We considered what was best for him, and then we were with him until the end of his life as we had promised him.

We miss him very much and are so blessed in knowing that God gave him to us for a special season in his life and in ours.

We thank our loving God and all of you who have expressed sympathy and support to us. We are blessed and comforted by your love as so many of you have had the same experience.

With our love in Christ, John and Ann

### **2021 Budget Approved**

By Diane Hutchins, Finance Chair

The Church on the Cape Budget of \$258,980 was recently approved by the Church Council on March 15, 2021. This represents a decrease of \$17,264 from last year's budget.

2020 Budget	\$276,244
2021 Budget	<u>\$258,980</u>
Difference	\$17,264

Of this difference, New England United Methodist Conference (NEUMC) mission shares and ministry support were reduced by \$5,055 from \$42,211 to \$37,156 for 2021. This reduction is a result in the recalculation our shares based on the average expenses over the past three years. This three-year statistical average is then multiplied by a coefficient factor that represents our share of the NEUMC budget.

I want to thank everyone involved for their efforts to provide suggestions, make compromises and assist in thoughtful strategic planning for the coming year. I am relieved the budget was approved, but there is still an estimated shortfall of \$36,056. This is based on an assumption that we will receive \$228,924 in income. Now that we have an approved budget, we can have some fun with fund raising!

2021 Estimated Income	\$228,924
2021 Budget	<u>\$258,980</u>
Estimated Shortfall	(\$36,056)

Thank you to those of you who continue to send in your donations. Our estimated income is based on pledges and estimates for giving as-able, loose plate collections, cargo shop and church fair revenue. Even using logic to estimate income, there are still feelings among us that range from fear and uncertainty to hope and faith.

There has certainly been a wide range of opinions and conflicting points of view. The budget process has helped me better understand how important perceptions and assumptions impact effective communication. We all process information differently. This internal process sometimes involves assumptions that are not always correct.

When most of us see a problem, we want to fix it. It's human nature. We often jump to conclusions on how to fix the problem without defining the problem, analyzing it, or determining if it is really a problem in the first place. It is possible that the perceived problem is based on inaccurate information or incorrect assumptions.

I may be getting off tract with regards to church financial matters, but I feel compelled to share my epiphany. After all, financial or otherwise, how do we make good decisions if we don't have all the facts? How can we resolve conflict if we don't listen and try to understand other points of view?

My prayer for all of us, as we work to communicate more effectively

- 1. Before making assumptions, ask questions
- 2. Always seek the truth
- 3. Keep an open mind
- 4. Respect each other
- 5. Be kind
- 6. Talk less, listen more
- 7. Empathize
- 8. Help each other
- 9. If you still disagree, pray
- 10. If prayers don't work, go back to step 1.

This morning I saw a bright light shining from the East. It was the sun. And I thought to myself...

Here comes the sun do, do, do Here comes the sun And I say it's all right Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter Little darling, it seems like years since it's been here Here comes the sun do. do. do Here comes the sun And I say it's all right Little darling, the smiles returning to the faces Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here Here comes the sun do, do, do Here comes the sun And I say it's all right Little darling, I feel that ice is slowly melting Little darling, it seems like years since it's been clear Here comes the sun do. do. do Here comes the sun And I say it's all right Here comes the sun do. do. do Here comes the sun And I say it's all right

Songwriter credit: George Harrison

# 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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