



First
Congregational
Church UCC
of Harwich

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*"As a beacon on the top of the mountain, and an ensign on a hill."
~Isaiah 30:17*

Summer 2020 Beacon

IN THE INTERIM

Friends,

I do not have to tell us what a difficult time we have all had during this pandemic. Most of us, thankfully, have come through safely – by the grace of God -- though some are more sobered, serious or sad. None of us in our wildest dreams would have imagined a world made more ill by a virus, which jumped from animal to human, and unrelenting global conditions. Nor a society suddenly exposed on social media with its failure to address basic human needs equitably.

Still, we need be grateful for keeping Christ in our lives, having (just) enough, keeping roofs over our heads, maintaining daily physical and spiritual routines, taking care of loved ones, and trying to keep in touch with those outside our "bubble." And for the innumerable and extraordinary front-liners-- medical, emergency and (extra) ordinary.

With all this, we may shrink from the thought of taking a "real summer" this year, that is, relaxing

from our strains and stresses, allowing ourselves to be refreshed, and relating directly to our natural surroundings, most remarkable at this season of the year on the Cape. But let me remind us, if I may, that we are phasing down from the greatest crisis of this century. It is important that we celebrate what our Creator has gifted us, claim an extended Sabbath, and seize each day (*carpe diem*) as witnesses to and servants of God's realm.

The great Cape poet, Mary Oliver, wrote "Who Made the World?" from which many of us know the last two lines by heart. But pay keen attention to the words about giving thanks and praying, which lead to her final question. While not a church-goer, the poet celebrates God's Eden at the fingertips of nature's stewards. She wrote,

Who made the world?

Who made the swan, and the black bear?

Who made the grasshopper?

This grasshopper, I mean -

*the one who has flung herself out
of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of
my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and
forth instead of up and down -
who is gazing around with her
enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and
thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open,
and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer
is.
I do know how to pay attention,
how to fall down into the grass,
how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed,*

*how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all
day.
Tell me, what else should I have
done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and
too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious
life?
(--Mary Oliver)*

This summer, may we continue to keep healthy, physically and spiritually, as we tend to our wild and precious lives. Be well.
Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dianne

VIRTUAL WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS AT 10:30 am!

We offer Virtual Sunday Worship at 10:30 am. It includes music, the reading of Scripture, a Reflection, Prayers and two hymns. It is a 45-minute service. If able, please sign up – once -- with the Secretary Gail on weekdays before Friday

noon. She will send you an order-of-service. Call or write Pastor Dianne or Deacons, DeeDee Dyer, Lynn Carver or Murray Johnson, if you have technical questions.

PRAYER LIST

Solace & Peace

Emily Smith and family on the Memorial of her grandmother, Esther Landry, of ME in mid-June;
Betty Lou's daughter, Yvette Hindle and family on the death of Yvette's husband Paul Grogan of Hyannis in early June;
Family and friends of those, who have succumbed to Covid-19

Healing & Comfort

Dana C.
Lynn B.

Shirley M.
Martha
Ardene
Danny
Eileen S
Joanne
Jack
Edie's granddaughter Heidi
Mark Curran
Char's sons
the Moyles' Cindy and Betty
Miles

Joys & Celebrations

Birth of Bentley Laposky, great-grandson of Jeep and Shirley Mashoke, in June.

Independence Day

Those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries

Jeff Glass, grandson of the Segalls, who graduated from high school in California.

Community & World

Those standing up peacefully against police brutality and for anti-racism; everyone adjusting to a new world

caused by Covid-19, especially the hungry, the homeless, ill, those who are unemployed, those suffering from addictions, anxiety and depression, all medical staff, first responders and caregivers; family and friends of victims of White supremacist terrorism and gun violence; parents and children who have been separated; for a sustainable earth; and for peace and justice in the US and around the world.

SUNDAY LECTIONARY

It is our tradition to use the Lectionary, with designated Hebrew Bible, Psalm, Epistle and New Testament readings, and the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible for our worship services, with exceptions. Listed below are our Sunday Lectionary readings for this month.

Parishioners find it useful to read these designated Scriptures in advance of our services in order to familiarize themselves with the texts and be more ready to hear our sermons and participate in our worship. They also find it useful to study our Lectionary Guides when they are available.

Sunday, July 5 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday, July 12 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 25:19-34 Psalm 119:105-112 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 19 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 **Sunday**, July 26 Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128 Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

LECTIONARY GUIDES

Lectionary Guides by Pastor Dianne may be accessed at our website at

firstchurchofharwich.org/our-ministry/lectionary.

Plants have been given

In loving memory of Jean M. Jahnke
From Gunther and Tom Jahnke

In memory of Rogers W. Cabot
by Laura D. Stone

In loving memory of Larry Bolinder on Father's Day
by his daughters Elaine Bolinder and Barbara Porter.
"We love you, Dad."

In loving memory of his wife, Linda Moore Leathers
by John Leathers

GIVING PLANTS

If you would like to donate money toward the Plant Fund, in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one, it is easy to do. The instructions are on the website:

www.firstchurchofharwich.org and click on the Deacons section. Your generosity is appreciated.

BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

8th Ian Johnson
13th Tom Meehan
14th Lois Gausz
15th Donna Pizzo
24th Joyce Williams
29th Ryder Mashoke

BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

2ND Helen Sanford
11th Shirley Moyle
13th Emerson Smith
Susan Smith
17th John Leathers
18th Nancy Langley
21st Joyce Noyes
23rd Katherine Smith
25th Louise Greene
31st Adelle Babin



THE DEACONS DOOR

"This seems to explain what Jesus means when he says to God "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Jesus is not saying that God's forgiveness is conditional upon our forgiving others. In the first place, forgiveness that's conditional isn't really forgiveness at all, just fair warning; and in the second place, our unforgiveness is among those things about us that we need to have God forgive us most.

What Jesus apparently is saying is that the pride that keeps us from forgiving is the same pride that keeps us from accepting forgiveness, and will God please help us do something about it." (quote from Fred Beuchner).

May all people learn and practice these words.
~Your Diaconate

MUSICAL NOTES

Soon we will have Zoom services and my musical equipment that I have worked hard to purchase and set up will sound great, with a good keyboard sound and mic sound. It was very frustrating to not have the right technology for a good sound. I am learning a lot.

The Young Singers program will take place on Zoom under my direction, between the week of July 13 and the

week of August 18. There are four singers so far but more are deciding about their summer plans.

There are many music files to listen to on the church website (firstchurchofharwich.org). I just finished a children's concert with music sung by Tom Jahnke, Jeep Mashoke and me. And I have put together an organ concert also. I hope you will listen!

~Marcia Hempel

MISSION/OUTREACH

The following items are in need at the Hands of Hope Food Pantry: Soup, canned corn, crackers, jelly, chili or hash, baked beans, tissues or napkins, laundry soap, brownie or cake mix, mayo or salad dressing, Chef Boy-Ar-Dee anything, spaghetti sauce, hamburger, chicken or tuna Helper. All donations, including cash and food cards are greatly appreciated. Please send your

donations either to the church office at 697 Main Street, Harwich (with Hands of Hope on the memo line) or mail directly to Hands of Hope, 49 Route 28, Box 387, West Harwich MA 02671, Attn: Kathy Driscoll.

Thank you for your generosity.

~Lorraine Frederickson

FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship Committee is volunteering to help out with the Food 4 Kids at the Monomoy High School during the month of August. We will be handing out lunches from 9 to 11. The program is operating 5 days a week during July and August. There are still some days available for volunteers in August. If you would like to help out you can call me at 508-896-9695 or e-mail me at onseg@verizon.net. You can also go on their website: food4kids@capecod.com.

We are still hoping to be able to have the CPR training course the end of September for anyone interested.

The Fellowship Committee has missed not being able to see everyone. We wish everyone a wonderful summer and hope we will soon be able to give a wave of friendship to everyone and enjoy a cup of coffee together.

Blessings,
Nancy Segall, chairperson

SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee began meeting again in May. We have recently sent out the Congregational Survey to members and friends of the church. Please return it by July 10th so that we

can tabulate the results and incorporate them into the First Church Profile which will go out to prospective pastoral candidates. Thank you for your participation. ~Lynn Carver

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop Board will be meeting soon to discuss plans for reopening. When we decide it is safe for staff and customers, we will open using recommended state guidelines for retail stores. ~Lynn Carver

BELL RESTORATION FUND

Anyone who wishes to contribute to our historic Bell Restoration Fund, you are invited to do so. Please send a check to First Congregational Church, 697 Main

Street, Harwich 02645; memo line: Bell Restoration Fund. If you have questions, please contact Treasurer Tom Jahnke.

ANNUAL "MEETING" REPORTS, BUDGET AND BALLOTS

By the end of May, all members and supporters received the *Annual Reports 2019-20* via email (or snail mail). (If not, please call the Secretary during office hours to make special arrangement to receive them.)

As of June 14th, 45 voting ballots were returned to unanimously approve the 2020-21 budget and elect officers. Thank you for reading the materials, asking questions and sending back your ballots on time! While

the voting was not done in person as usual, or under the best circumstances, it accomplished what we hoped. We can now move forward with confidence and clarity.

In July, the Boards will elect new leaders and seek new members. We are, as usual, praying for strong and able leadership to move us forward. If you wish to join any of the Boards or committees, please speak up!

CABINET NOTES

June

Attended: James M. (Co-Moderator) Tom J. (Treasurer) Emily S. (Clerk) Dianne A. (Pastor) DeeDee D. (Diaconate) Betty Lou H. (Christian Ed.) Nancy S. (Fellowship)

Joys and Concerns - Opened with a Pastoral prayer.

The May minutes were approved as written.

The June Treasurer's report was approved as written.

Nominating - Edie Ruggles was voted in to be a Deacon.

Finance - Tom J. reported the change in the ppp loan (increase). All is going well we haven't really lost any money; his only concern is the thrift shop not being open.

Fellowship - Nancy S. reported that the board has discussed cleaning out the cabinets in the kitchen of the cookies/crackers items that are out-dated. Also discussed was possible holding a virtual coffee hour.

Diaconate - DeeDee D. reported that the board met and discussed the reopening of the Church and how they

will work social distancing in during the service. They would like to thank Pastor Dianne for all her hard work during these changing times.

Trustees - Tom J. reported that they have ordered supplies (hand sanitizer, thermometer, etc.) they talked about the bell and reopening the church.

C.E. - Betty Lou H. reported that they got Bibles for the kids and they all love them. The board has not met with the absence of the kids. Once phasing in the church beings and the children will be able to return, the board will meet to discuss what they will be learning once back.

Pastor - Sent report via email. Asked that we read her email and get back to her with any questions. June 24-July 6 pastor will be on vacation. July 5th we can hold a virtual service with a deacon leading it with the absence of the pastor.

Other Business - Personnel member for the committees

Pastor closed with a prayer.

Next meeting- July 14th

GUIDELINES FOR USING VIDEO PLATFORMS

Who would have imagined that we might need Guidelines for Using Video Conference Platforms? But during the Pandemic most of us have uploaded and joined some of these. In order to aid us with this invaluable tool, here are some helpful tips:

With Computers, Tablets and Smart Phones

1. Before using the video platform (Skype, Zoom, GoToMeeting, Microsoft Team, Google Hangout etc.), check their website and read about them. Later, upload the free app sent to you by the host/manager.
2. Ten minutes before the meeting or service (fifteen minutes for the host/manager and leader) turn off any other computers/programs. Press the “join” link to enter.
3. Before you enter the room, check your presentation—video camera at right height (not above or below you), lighting from in front or to either side of you (never behind), and background presentable. If you decide not to be visible, make sure your blank screen is identified with your name; if not, speak to the host/manager. The same for smart and landline phones.
4. Upon entering, study the shared screen to take note of yourself, your name, the icons that indicate whether you are visible or audible. Speak to your host/manager, if these need to be corrected. Please do not ask, “Can you hear me?” Just check the icons.
5. For **worship** everyone -- except the host/manager, pastor, music director and lector -- need to mute themselves/are muted from the prelude until after the postlude. Everyone can say something at the end.

6. For a **meeting**, the manager/host asks that everyone mute themselves, except the leader. When you wish to speak, study your block, raise your hand so it can be seen, and when the leader recognizes you, unmute yourself. Speak clearly (6 inches from your mic), to the point and be brief. After you are finished, mute yourself (or the host/manager will mute you). [Muting prevents audio problems.]
7. The leader should keep the meeting to about an hour; if more, designate a 5-minute break at which time everyone closes your screen (not your programs!). When everyone returns, press open your video icons. Return to #4 (above).

With Smart Phones and Landline Phones

1. See #2-6 (above) but use the phone number on the invite to join.
2. Upon connecting/entering, speak to the host/manager to identify that you are a Caller (01, 02 etc.) S/he will try to add your name to the screen.
3. During the meeting, the leader will have to be sensitive to the phone users who are not visible; perhaps, ask each one if they have something to say.

Please help any, who wish to but cannot seem to get on, even with landline phones. Let me know if I have left out anything as there is one thing for certain-- this technology is always changing!

—Pastor Dianne
DEA 6.15.20

THANK YOU

To my Church family,
Thank you to all who sent prayers, cards, good wishes and phone calls after my recent back surgery. All of you proved that *YOU* are *THE CHURCH* and the spirit

which holds us together as a family. May God continue to bless us and fill us with His love and “peace that passeth all understanding.”
May God bless you all, Lynn Bitzer

Sea Sunday is July 12th

Please feel free to print out this page for your child to use, to read, to color in, to copy, whatever. It will help them to learn about our Lord.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITY PAGE

Sea Sunday

Simon, who Jesus called to be one of his followers, was a fisherman. When Jesus beckoned, Simon dropped his nets, put aside his boat, and followed. Eventually Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter because in Greek, Peter means rock, and he told the newly named Peter, that upon him he would build his church. That's why the famous church in Rome is called St. Peter's. It was named after the fisherman.

Fishermen were very important in Bible times, as they still are today. Cape Cod has many fishermen. Every town on the Cape has a marina full of fishing boats, scallopers, lobster boats as well as pleasure boats, sail boats and ferries. The second Sunday of July is Sea Sunday. It's a day set aside by many churches to pray for and remember seafarers and their families and to give thanks for their lives and for the work that fishermen and mariners do for us.

On that occasion the *Apostleship of the Sea*, the *Mission to Seafarers*, the *Sailors' Society*, and other seaman's organizations pray for seamen, bless their vessels, conduct fundraisers, hold parades and generally celebrate mariners and the way of the sea, which has been an important part of life on Cape Cod since it was settled in the early 1600s.

