



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*

## April 2021 Beacon

### IN THE INTERIM

This year, our March and April calendars straddle Holy Week. Palm Sunday is on one side; Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are on the other. Doesn't this dramatize how the church year has been—on one side with chaos and lockdown, and the other with clarity and quarantine? In nature, late winter drought and winds linger, and early spring moisture with warmth not yet. Not to mention, how our lives have been, as we try to balance what has been thrown at us, weigh what is important, discard what is useless, and try to hold on to and live by our values.

A Gallup poll, released at the start of Holy Week, reported that for the first time in almost a century, church-going numbers dropped below 50%! Earlier generations regularly went to churches (also synagogues, temples and mosques). They as Christians baptized and confirmed their offspring; married and re-married; buried, interred and memorialized their dearly departed with the support of their congregations. They volunteered on Sundays, taught in church schools, led youth

groups, served on committees and in the wider community.

I recall pastors, chaplains, teachers and professors, who modelled to me why church might be important; actually, why *religion and faith* were and are foundational to our post-modern lives. One was a chaplain, who was hauled off to prison for protesting the Vietnam War, another a Christian, who introduced me to world religions—Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Taoism—so I could better understand others around me. Another was a professor, who first asked me, *what is truth?* Then later encouraged me to go to divinity school, and yet another, who gave me the tools of cultural anthropology so when I ministered in different settings, I had a sense of their inherent individuality and worth.

So, it is documented that just under 50% of us attend worship, are willing to give of our treasures, talents and time, build up and sustain worshipping communities in which we profess is most important to us, and are willing to stand for something. I guess self-discipline and

commitment have become less popular as we straddle two worlds: "churchy" and "non-churchy," sacred and secular, religious and the non-religious, believing and non-believing, institutional and informal. Then again, we have been going back-and-forth between these realities for a long time as even the Bible testifies to this tension among our spiritual forebears. It only becomes more obvious recently with the erosion of trust in people and institutions.

Still, as Paul Tillich, the noted theologian, affirmed during World War II, whether we go to churches as we knew them, we will always search for religious

meaning. And in the end, we *will* find God as "the ground of our being." Ministering during this pandemic has taught us that: spiritual love, the search for religious meaning, faith embodied in the church, the compassion of a diverse congregation (virtual and real), and serving others beyond our own -- all these -- are who we *are* and *have become* more so. I'll take the just under 50% remnant and along with many of us build on it! This is the hope of Easter.

Christ *is* risen, Christ is risen indeed,

*Pastor Dianne*

## HOLY WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

*We invite you to join us, especially this year!*

### **April 1<sup>st</sup>, 5 pm, Virtual Maundy Thursday & Tenebrae Service, including Holy Communion**

This virtual service remembers Jesus' mandate to love one another with the celebration of Holy Communion. It also recalls the final hours of Jesus' earthly life with the traditional office of the Tenebrae. If you are new to us, please make a reservation with our office by Thursday at 9 am for an invitation and bulletin so an invitation and bulletin can be sent to you.

### **April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12 noon-3 pm, Good Friday Quiet Prayer and Meditation**

The church sanctuary at the corner of Main Street and Rte. 134 in Harwich Center will be open for Quiet Meditation and Prayer on Jesus' Last

Hours and Crucifixion. Please wear masks and observe 6'- distancing; a deacon will be present.

### **April 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am, Outdoor Easter Festival Service** (without Holy Communion)

This first cold and possibly wet outdoor service of the season celebrates Jesus' Resurrection from death to life with a sermon, joyful music and hymns. All are invited to mask, distance at 6 feet (unless belonging to the same pod), and observe pandemic protocol. Bulletins and collection plates will be available upon entrance. Before the service, we will offer coffee and tea for those who wish some refreshment before our special service.

All are welcome!

## EASTER OFFERING

We welcome and are grateful for your Easter Offerings on (or after) April 4<sup>th</sup>! This year, we will collect our Offerings at our first outdoor Easter Festival Service

at 10:30 am; or you can continue to bring or mail it to the church; *memo: Easter offering*. It puts a little hop in our annual budget!



## PRAYER LIST

*We encourage parishioners to call or email our Interim Pastor or office by midweek with any new prayers so they can be printed and lifted up at Sunday worship.*

**Solace & Peace:** Family of Louise Green, who died on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, in Exeter, RI, Ann Ingalls and family on the death of her brother, families and friends of those 500,000 who have succumbed to Covid-19 in the U.S., and recent natural disasters.

**Healing & Comfort:** Valentina and Baby Emma, Shirley Moyle, Kay P, Carol & James MacK, Char's sons, Dee-Dee's relatives Patsy and her grandson Taylor, Joe B's daughter-in-law Ina and nephew Tom, Martha, Ardene, Jack, Edie's granddaughter Heidi, Mark C, Miles, Bobbi, Randy, Paul and Sheryl.

**Joys & Celebrations:** Start-up of Kimberly Perry as Administrative Assistant, three kinds of new Covid-19 vaccines being distributed.

**Godspeed:** Search Team as they seek a settled Pastor

**Community & World:** Our nation upon the first 100 Days of its 46<sup>th</sup> President Joseph Biden Jr. and VP Kamala Harris, everyone adjusting to a world caused by Covid-19, especially the hungry, homeless, ill, unemployed, in school, those suffering from addictions, anxiety and depression, all medical staff, first responders and caregivers, victims and families of gun violence recently in GA and CO, immigrants and children who have been separated from their parents, for a sustainable earth, and for peace and justice in the US and around the world.

## IN LOVING MEMORY

Louise Greene

(August 25, 1923 – February 13, 2021)

*May she rest in peace and rise in glory.*

### SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30 am

April 4	Easter Sunday
April 11	Second Sunday of Easter – Guest preacher, Rev. Paul Adkins (Rev. Dianne Arakawa on vacation)
April 18	Third Sunday of Easter
April 25	Fourth Sunday of Easter

For April, we will decide whether the service will be outdoors or virtual, week-by-week, depending on Covid variants, vaccinations, weather and other factors. Please check our *Midweek Messages* or check with the office by Friday noon.

### 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 lections 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, April 4 Easter**

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1, Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

#### **Sunday, April 11 Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1—2:2, John 20:19-31

#### **Sunday, April 18 Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48

#### **Sunday, April 25 Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18

### FIRST CHURCH DISCUSSIONS

We welcome newcomers and newer members to join us after worship on the Sundays of April 18<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup>, from

11:45-12:45 pm, to learn more about our church. If the earlier worship was virtual

we will meet virtually; if it was outdoors we will meet outdoors. We plan to discuss who we are today, our denominational and local history, Covenant, church government (polity) and mission – and answer any questions that you may have.

Please plan to join me and a lead deacon at both of our sessions. Talk to me, or call /email Kim, Administrative Assistant, at firstchurchharwich@comcast.net to let us know that you plan to join us.  
~Pastor Dianne



## BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Howard Streifford
4 <sup>th</sup>	Laura Stone
13 <sup>th</sup>	DeeDee Dyer
17 <sup>th</sup>	Wilma Wells
18 <sup>th</sup>	Doris Sarty
27 <sup>th</sup>	Mila Hook
28 <sup>th</sup>	Gay Hanson
28 <sup>th</sup>	Marcia Hempel
28 <sup>th</sup>	Charlotte Starr

## MUSICAL NOTES

### Online Services

Online services have been well-attended each Sunday. The deacons and I have helped a couple of people get going with the video-

platform when they had trouble. I send out the church's invitations, and can meet with you on Zoom to experiment.

### Choir

Choir has been going strong with our members rehearsing from their cars, using wireless mics, every Wednesday at 3:00. We record two or three songs every week. The First Church Choir includes:

Bass - Tom Jahnke, Jeep Mashoke, Dana Clark, Dick Siegel.  
Soprano - Emily Kosoff, Adele Babin, Nancy Segall, Charlotte Starr, Karen Stroever  
Tenor - Bruce Stroever  
Alto - Lynn Carver and Marcia Hempel.

### Bells

Every week, Lynn Carver arranges duets for bells which she plays along with Tom Jahnke. These include at least one piece in

the online church service. They are upbeat arrangements. Both of them get better and better at their recorded bell playing.

### YouTube Recordings

Please check out the videos of our church services online at YouTube/FirstChurchHarwich.

~*Marcia*

## THE DEACONS' DOOR ... is always open

“Life is what happens  
When you're busy making other plans.”

~*John Lennon*

“Ain't that the truth?”

We all get caught up with the “business” of our daily lives and can easily miss the most important things in life, especially when considering the events of the past year.

Please don't forget that our church has a Deacon's Door which is always open to you if and when you wish to use it.

Mr. Lennon knew of what he spoke!  
May God be with our church.

~ *Your Diaconate*

## MISSION & OUTREACH

### Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod is running a raffle for a shed.

The shed donated by Pine Harbor Wood Products for Habitat for Humanity is 8'x10'. It includes a 3'-beadboard door with ramp, an opening window, cedar shingles on the front, and board and batten siding on the side and back walls -- a \$3,900 value.

~*Lorraine Frederickson*

Tickets are available at the Yarmouth ReStore, located at 28 White's Path in South Yarmouth. The shed is at the Falmouth ReStore.

Tickets are \$5 for 1, 5 for \$20 or 15 for \$40. The winning name will be drawn in June and the shed will be delivered. All proceeds go to benefit the mission to build homes, hope, lives and community on Cape Cod.

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE General Education Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee continues the church's long tradition, begun in 1987, of providing financial support to its students for college expenses.

The General Education Scholarship (GES) is available to church students,

members of First Church and/or their extended families.

The Scholarship Committee is encouraging members with grand-children attending college to have them apply.

Applicants can download the PDF application from our website, or call the church office for directions.

The General Educational Scholarship (GES) is for a first-year Applicant.

The Continuing Education Scholarship (CES), for students who previously received a General Education Scholarship (GES), is not being made available this year.

Criteria for awarding is based upon

financial need, academic merit, church or church related experiences, and community service.

Applications must be sent by USPS and postmarked, not hand-delivered, on or before May 31, 2021 to the First Congregational Church UCC of Harwich, 697 Main Street, Harwich, MA 02645; Attention: Scholarship Committee.

~ Ursula Hornig, Sally Rossetti & Richard (Dick) Siegel, Chair

## PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Members of the Search Committee have recently interviewed candidates for our  $\frac{3}{4}$  settled pastor position. We “met” with each minister on Zoom and had a chance to get to learn more about them. Our next step will be to hear them preach, not in person, but by watching a video on our computers.

While we continue to learn about these two

candidates, we also hope to receive more Ministerial Profiles for our consideration.

We pray for God’s help and your support as we search for our next settled pastor.

Your Search Committee: John Bitzer, Bob Buchanan, Mary Ann Janick, Emily Kosoff, Edie Ruggles, Emily Smith, and me.

~Lynn Carver

## HISTORY CORNER

### Sarah Brooks





Sarah Brooks, born in 1827, was the youngest child of Obed Brooks. She was a pious and devout member of First Church. In 1899, she decided to build a house on this property. It cost \$2,000, to be given to the church as a Parsonage. Recently, the Historical Society gave us a photograph of her, which was set in a frame

found in the Parsonage/Broadbrooks attic. The framed photo was hung in the front hall of the Parsonage/Broadbrooks, along with a brief biography written by Dr. Joan Maloney of the Harwich Historical Society. Next time you're in Broadbrooks, say hello to Miss Brooks! ~Tom Jahnke

## TOWN EVENTS

On Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, I represented our church at the Harwich Center Initiative meeting to review what they will do with their \$145,000 grant. There was a group of approximately twenty people, including representatives from the library, historical society, Seal Pub, fire department, the Chamber of Commerce, and other town officials including Town Administrator, Joe Powers.

We met at Town Hall and were walked down Route 39 (Main Street) with explanations regarding the upcoming changes starting at Brooks Park and ending at our church campus. There will be new painted medians and crosswalks, removal of parking spaces, addi-

tion of other parking spaces, outdoor seating on and near the sidewalks for the Pub, Ruggie's Restaurant, and the delicatessen in the new building on the south side. They will add some jersey barriers, plexi-glass walls and outdoor heaters too. They are hoping to 'calm the traffic' with these changes and make it safer as well as pedestrian friendly.

Our church will not really be affected. We will lose just one street parking spot in front of the sanctuary, closest to Route 124 near the church sign. Changes should be done no later than May 31<sup>st</sup>.

~ Tom Jahnke

## RECENT VISIT TO THE 9/11 MEMORIAL

Twenty years ago, on the day it occurred, I as a supervisor at Kean University visited a pre-professional student-teacher. Arriving early before the students, I observed a quietness. Where was everyone? All were in the teacher's lounge that had a television. They were observing the burning of the first Tower of the World Trade Center.

Recently, I returned to NYC to see the 9/11 Memorial for the first time and reflect on its meaning. The original World Trade Center, we all know, was destroyed during terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Today the 9/11 Memorial above-ground pools and below-ground Museum honor the victims, support the families,

and respect this place made sacred through this tragic loss.

One enters at the street-level public plaza. It is comprised of two open, square voids to commemorate the Twin Towers. Surrounding on four sides are waterfalls that continue below ground with reflecting pools. Cut in bronze panels surrounding the pools of water are bronze panels with the victims' names. The ordering of the names is carried out by groups, according to where they were at the time of the attacks. Spacing is staggered to allow each to have a unique space within their special group and building location.



I observed a fresh white single rose with its stem placed within the cut name lettering of one victim. Must have been a loved one who came and visited, I thought. No, I learned, a florist from the neighborhood discovered that six of the victims had birthdays that day. The florist brought white roses and placed them in their names. To this day, all of the victims receive birthday white roses. I was deeply moved, and offered a prayer for the person identified that day with a white rose and for their family.

Even as a visitor, I felt my presence bringing some life to the 9/11 Memorial. I came to offer respect to the space, the departed, and their families, and to leave never forgetting 9/11. A tragedy, which unfolded in NYC, the Pentagon in Washington D.C., and the countryside of Shanksville, PA, and changed our lives. With reverence,

*~Richard (Dick) Siegel*

## Libby Arnold Stevens' CORNER THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop reopened successfully on March 19<sup>th</sup> after being closed for three months due to Covid-19. The volunteers were happy to be working together again; the customers were happy to return.

We increased our schedule, so that the Shop will now be open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Since we have more items than we can handle, we will not accept donations until April 8. We welcome anyone who is interested in volunteering to unpack.

It is an enjoyable way to contribute to the church and the community, as well as a way to connect with members of the church.

If you would like to become a volunteer, please speak with any of these Board members: Adelle Babin, Lynn Bitzer, Joyce Noyes, Sue Perry, or Lynn Carver.

*~ Lynn Carver*

## CABINET NOTES

March 9, 2021

**Attended:** James Mashoke (Moderator), Tom Jahnke (Treasurer), Emily Smith (Clerk), Dianne Arakawa (Pastor), Joyce Noyes (Trustees), DeeDee Dyer, Lynn Carver (Diaconate), Betty Lou Hindle (Christian Ed.), Lorraine Fredrickson (Mission/Outreach,) Nancy Segall (Fellowship)

**Personnel-** There were over thirty applicants for the Administrative Assistant position. They interviewed finalists. The Team looked for was a good communicator, proven manager of an office, and someone who is tech savvy. Cabinet voted unanimously for the hire of the new Administrative Assistant, Kimberly Perry! The start date is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Tom Jahnke will serve

as Acting Admin. Assistant until the start date for Kimberly.

**Joys and Concerns** - Opened with a Pastoral prayer.

February Cabinet minutes were approved as written.

**Finance** - March Treasurer's Report approved as written.

**Diaconate** - Report was approved as written. Deacons agreed that we should sign up for another year with YouTube for music copyrights, the Steven's fund will pay for it. Palm Sunday is planned for 10:15-11:05. Followed at 11:30-12:30 with the Distribution of Palms by Pastor Dianne in the church parking with Deacons assisting.

Maundy Thursday Service will be virtual at 5 pm. Good Friday Meditation is planned for 12-3. Easter Sunday will be outside if the weather permits. The Easter Flowers form is available

**Trustees** – Report was approved as written. They are pleased with the budget. The removal of the old bench has been partially done. Pest control has been done. No final decision has been made on the Bell yet.

**Mission/Outreach-** Report was approved as written. During the meeting they discussed the rewrites for the Bylaws.

**Fellowship** – Report was approved as written. Took Gail Nickerson out for lunch as a thank you. The drive-by farewell went well. They discussed a retirement party for her sometime in May.

**C.E.** – No meeting since church has been closed and there has not been any child-care.

**Pastor** – Stands by her report. Thanked everyone for all their hard work. There will be a Memorial Service for Al Gauze on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The Lenten book study with 8 started. A few people who are not members of the church have participated. Gail completed the long-needed “How to Book” for the new Administrative Assistant and any volunteers. Pastor feels accomplishment in our interim ministry and all that we have gotten through.

**Other Business** Lynn Carver suggested for the Bylaws, adding a D. to Article 10. Section B. 1" which would state that if there are co-moderators that each should get a vote.” No decision.

Pastor closed with a prayer.

**Next meeting- April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 4pm**

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