



The Church on the Cape Newsletter



Pastor's Letter

February 2022

Dear family and friends of Church on the Cape,

There have been some cold days in January and COVID-19 is still impacting us in many ways—health, safety, rhythm and routine of daily life, etc. A time like this can certainly leave us spiritually weary and dry. Even though we are still in the middle of winter, our longing for spring, a time of warm air and gentle breeze, of flowers and green leaves seems to grow stronger. This reminds us of David's psalm "My soul is dry and thirsts for You, True God, as a deer thirsts for water (Psalm 42)" And we may slightly change it saying, "My soul is dry and thirst for You, True God, as the New Englanders long for spring."

I remember a restless winter night at a retreat center a few years ago. Since it was my last day, I was up early and sat in front of a big window looking at the ocean. It was dark out. The only light was from the moon on the surface of the ocean. As I looked closer, there was also a star a little above the moon. And I was sitting there for a long time waiting for sunrise. I was expecting to see the rising sun slowly coming out of the ocean waking up the earth and soaking it with the warmth and yellowish-orange light. I was expecting to see the surface of the ocean steaming with salty mist. I waited and waited and waited. That morning I couldn't see the sunrise. There were thick clouds all around the sky and I just saw bits and pieces of orange clouds here and there. I was so disappointed that I wished to stay one more night.

While sitting in disappointment, suddenly I realized that the moon and the star had been with me throughout the whole time I was waiting

for sunrise. Even though they disappeared in the morning sky, I was thankful for them to stay with me during the anxious time of waiting in the darkness. And the moon and the star reminded me of the message of promise from God. "I will be with you always..." No matter we see a sunrise or not, God is with us. When we are healthy and well, God is with us. When we are disappointed and frustrated, God is with us. When the power of evil seems to destroy the goodness in the world, God's power of love is still present in the world. When spring seems to be far away, the order of God's creation is on its way to being fulfilled. Even when we are lost in the darkness, God is still with us bringing us the dawn and a new day.

We learn over and over again that things don't always turn out the way we expect. And over and over again we learn that no matter how things turn out, God never fails to be present in our lives. Just as Risen Christ appeared among the grieving disciples and promised, God is with us. This seems to be an appropriate message for us, the New Englanders who long for spring to come, the people who long for the pandemic to be over, and Christians who yearn for peace. And the message we are called to hold in our hearts and minds is no matter what we are waiting for, we are not alone in waiting. God is with us.

May your days be filled with the warm presence of God's Spirit.

In peace,
Ho-Soon



February Lectionary Readings

February 6:

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)

Psalms 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

February 13:

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalms 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

February 20:

7th Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Luke 6:27-38

February 27:

Transfiguration Sunday

(Last Sunday before Lent)

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 99

2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2

Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

David Sandtorv

Richard "Fuzzy" Farnsworth

January 3, 2022

SENIOR MOMENTS

Looking for a fun way to usher in the New Year? Love to sing? Want to meet new friends? Please consider joining the Senior Moments Chorus for their upcoming Spring Session. No audition necessary, a love of music and a willingness to share the gift of song are the only requirements. Please reach out to Wendy Hagarty (whagarty27@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like more information.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The offering envelopes are now available for those that requested them. You will find them on the table in the entryway. If you would like offering envelopes but did not request them, please call the office and we would be happy to supply you with a box.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study will continue to meet at 9:00 AM via Zoom. Zoom information will be emailed to those who have signed up. Please call the office to sign up if needed.

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

Virtual coffee hour has re-zoomed. Join us for Zoom Coffee Hour after the worship service. You will find the link to Zoom Coffee Hour on the homepage of our website.

Dear Church Family,

Maurice and I would like to thank Ho-Soon and our Church Family for all the love that we have felt during 2021. It was a very difficult year for us as for most of the year I was not in the best of health. I am better now, off the oxygen and have resumed driving short distances. I think the radiology exams, blood work and multiple doctor visits may be winding down to what might be considered “normal”.

Last week I consulted with a pulmonologist at Mass. General. Ruthie Clark drove me to Boston and sat with me during the visit for an extra set of “eyes and ears”. Her presence was very calming to me. When she initially called and offered to drive me to Boston I told her she was an Angel of God. Also last week I had an esophageal manometry at Frisbie in NH and today another procedure at SMHC (1-7-22). We appreciate all the cards and phone calls. Maurice has been a trooper through all of this and is doing well.

We both look forward to church. Although we haven't felt we can attend in person (yet) we are there in spirit every Sunday. We so enjoy the music and watched the Christmas concerts. We want each and every choir member to know how much your singing (and your sacrifices) mean to us.



There are no words. It's like you hug our heart with your voices. Jan, Nancy, Ted and Wendy THANK YOU. And the videographers Without you we would have been very lonely this past year. Thank you Mike and Sue and whomever else that I might not know but definitely appreciate your knowledge and sacrifice.



Love & Hugs
Patty & Maurice

Dear Newsletter Readers



It was so nice to learn that Patty is doing better, and to receive her thank you note for the newsletter (adjacent column). We used to be able to keep up with our church family at church or coffee hour, but Covid stepped in and led many of us to virtual-church-service. And unfortunately, it has become more difficult to keep track of how everyone is doing, helping those in need, and simply enjoying one another's company. Pastor Ho-Soon's Pastor Letter and articles with photos, along with Carol Nason's coverage of church activities with reports and many photos have been a blessing.

Nonetheless, Patty's update tugs at one's heart. First for taking the initiative, second for keeping us informed, and third for letting us know how important it is to keep in touch.

We are fortunate to have a modern system for streaming our live worship service which helps. I find myself at virtual worship looking at in-person attendees, when the camera permits, (wish we had an attendee facing camera) to know that those in attendance are well, and to rejoice in having such good friends.

In these times, when hugs are not possible or even handshakes, or nods; we miss seeing and feeling close to one another (remember the passing of peace when the aisles were full and our pastor needed to remind us to get back into our pews). Nonetheless, sharing experiences by a phone call, greeting card, email, or your **church newsletter** will help us to stay

connected with one another and strengthen us spiritually.

Your newsletter, as one of these resources with the ability to reach many with one note, would be pleased to have your submission/s for its monthly distribution through our church website. (Please know that the website is open to everyone worldwide.)

It can be as simple as a family joy like a birth, a visit with someone you care for, a thank you for an act of kindness you experienced, a progress report on health issues you wish to share, scripture that has special meaning to you, praising Church on the Cape's outreach activities, children school awards, a sermon that was especially meaningful to you, a thank you to someone who inspired and/or helped you, a thank you for those supporting our wonderful church, and the like.

Sharing your thoughts and experiences will help keep us together with one another. Please email newsletter submissions to me at sailchess@gmail.com and to Sue at office@churchonthecape.org. It is our practice to send the newsletter draft to timely responders for any second-thought editing to their article that they wish to make.

Thanking you in advance, your Editor

MINISTRY OF CARING SHARING

It is important to remember the outstanding sharing resource provided by our church for those needing help with an illness or personal needs – Ministry of Caring. Its Mission Statement follows:

“As ministers of The Church on the Cape, our mission is to be aware of the needs of the parish and the wider community and to serve those who are homebound, hospitalized, and in nursing homes; in a manner that shares the love of

Christ through acceptance and support and meets the individual in the moment.

“To ensure that this mission remains spirit-filled and timely, we meet [when possible during Covid] to pray together, experience enriching talks and discern the needs of our church family and community. In December, we address Christmas cards for our Annual Christmas Shower. This activity is shared by the entire faith family.

“As part of discerning the needs of our faith family and community, we send cards, make phone calls, offer transportation, deliver balloons for cheer, provide meals, deliver Sunshine Baskets, visit the homebound and those in nursing homes and hospitals plus much more.”

Please contact Shirley Bradbury or Marge Smith for more information.



“If I’ve learned anything about friendship, it’s to hang in, stay connected,” says journalist Jon Katz. “Don’t walk away, don’t be distracted, don’t be too busy or tired, don’t take them for granted. Friends are part of the glue that holds life and faith together.”

This applies to church life too. Even when all is fine, we sometimes let church take a back seat. But our bonds with the family of God are “part of the glue that holds life and faith together.” For the sake of the benefits we gain and give, may we “hang in [and] stay connected” with our church family.

May we not “walk away [or] be distracted, ... be too busy or tired.” May we not take one another for granted but thank God for this “glue” — even when things get a bit sticky!

Source: Newsletternewsletter

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Submitted by Diane Hutchins, Finance Chair

It is difficult to find the right words to express the shock and sadness after the unexpected passing of David Sandtorv. David served as our Treasurer for many years. He also volunteered his time and service to help with our church fairs, was a monthly volunteer washing dishes at the Bon Appetite food program in Biddeford, as well as a highly recognized volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. David was thoughtful, caring and had a very positive attitude when it came to church finances and the future of our church. We will miss him.

After the rain, we often see a rainbow. We witnessed this rainbow (figuratively speaking) when we had two shining stars volunteer to help during this difficult transition; Priscilla Campbell-Wyman and Elaine Triplett. Priscilla has offered to be the Treasurer and Elaine has volunteered to be the Assistant Treasurer, both agreeing to serve on an interim basis through the end of the year. Priscilla is an experienced Treasurer, having performed similar duties for several HOA's. Elaine, was the COTC Treasurer for 16 years and she actually trained David Sandtorv.

I would also like to thank Bill Hidell and Jean Moulton with their help obtaining the church laptop and files, and Susan Baracco for her assistance setting up access in QuickBooks for our new appointees.

2021 started with an estimated shortfall of \$35,556. Many line items in our budget were decreased as a result of this shortfall. We also increased fund-raising efforts throughout the year.

2021 INCOME COMPARED TO BUDGET

	2021 Estimate	2021 Actual
Pledges	\$135,000.00	\$125,544.33
Patterned Giving	\$40,000.00	\$101,618.25
Plate Collections	\$25,000.00	\$25,763.60
Easter & Christmas Offering	\$4,000.00	\$3,015.34
Cargo Shop	\$4,000.00	\$7,780.44
Church Fairs	\$4,500.00	\$11,219.72
Miscellaneous Income (not designated)	\$9,924.00	\$11,757.58
Total (does not include designated donations)	\$223,500.00	\$291,169.26
Previous Shortfall	\$35,556	
2021 Approved Budget	\$258,480	\$258,480*
Difference		\$32,689

Through your generosity, we knocked the ball out of the park! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

*The 2021 budget of \$258,480 is an estimated not to exceed amount. Due to recent events, the December 2021 Treasurer Report is not yet available. It is expected to be completed by the end of the month.

2022 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of January 17, 2022

Total Stewardship Letters Mailed	182	
2022 Pledges Received	50	Totaling \$94,498
As-Able Responses	24	
Total Responses	74	
Response Rate (response/total mailed)	41%	

For those who have responded, thank you! Pledges are a very important part of our estimated income for the year.

2022 BUDGET

On January 17th, the church council passed the Church on the Cape 2022 Budget in the amount of \$275,902.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Leadership contributions are due to Sue Cayford by February 11, 2022. This year, Sue has agreed to compile the annual report and prepare it for printing and dissemination before the end of February. In previous years, the annual report was coordinated by David Sandtorv. Thank you, Sue!

IN MEMORY OF DAVID SANDTORV



One of David's paintings. As the boat sails into the light, we believe that David entered into the light of God's kingdom.

Pastor Ho-Soon

WELCOME BACK TO VIRTUAL SERVICE ONLY AT CHURCH ON THE CAPE

While we were not physically together for the restart of virtual service only on January 9th, our very best friend and savior, **Jesus was there for us wherever we may be**. And the music was wonderful. Several of the lines in a hymn sung so beautifully by Susie Goodwin at the service comes to mind: “He came to me. I could not come to where He was. He came to me.”

My belief is that Jesus wants our hearts where ever we may be. I am thankful and joyous that Jesus can come to me in my home, and homes of my church family, along with choir members and musicians, and Pastor Ho-Soon who guides us in righteous and holy ways. It is not the same as with all of us being physically together, but **it is spiritual togetherness**.

And several viewers have found a way to extend the feeling of togetherness by posting notes on the church’s Facebook page as part of the service. **Cynthia Crider Doolittle** wrote: “You musicians fill the sanctuary with wonderful sound and love. Thank you for voice and keyboards.” **Beryl Samia** “Good morning friends.” **Alice Bruton** “Good morning church family.” **Sandra Davis Day** “Good morning friends.”

Thank you, Mike Kelly, Susan Baracco, and Ted Hagarty for making virtual worship possible.

John Wesley reminds us: “Wisdom is the faculty of discerning the best ends, and the fittest means of attaining them. The end of every rational creature is God: the enjoying him in time and in eternity. The best, indeed the only, means of attaining this end is the ‘faith that worketh by love.’” **Attending Church on the Cape virtual worship is important to me because it does provide a means of strengthening my faith and love for one another.**

Your Editor

THAT YOU MAY MORE FULLY LIVE

During the pandemic, I’ve worshiped online with several congregations. The web address for one read “.net/live.” As I navigate to this site, I tend to read the adjective form “live,” as in “livestream.” One Sunday, however, the verb form, as in “Worship and live,” popped into my mind. I had slept in and almost skipped that morning’s service. But as I worshiped with others, albeit remotely, my spirit indeed felt increasingly alive. That whole day I felt I was living more fully because I’d been inspired by God’s Word in sermon and song and shared in praising God with others. Worship reminds us there is something — Someone — greater than ourselves. Worship opens us to new ways of living.

Moses, after he had passed along God’s gift of the Ten Commandments, including the rule to keep the Sabbath day holy through rest and worship, told the people, “Walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live” (Deuteronomy 5:33, NIV).

We too worship God regularly — so that we may more fully live.

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.

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