



CHURCH ON THE CAPE Newsletter



October 2025



Graphic, Newsletternewsletter

**OCTOBER 12th IS PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY
PLEASE SEE ARTICLE ON PAGES 5 and 6.**

From the Pastor's Desk

Our society has been shaken by the public and horrific shooting of Charlie Kirk. In the age of social media, information and speculation spread rapidly and indiscriminately. I have refrained from commenting on this situation precisely because I recognize my lack of knowledge and information.

With that in mind, there are some things I can and will say with clarity. I have always condemned violence against anyone. There is no place in a civil society for violent acts to further your cause, your political position, or your point of view. No matter how vehemently you may disagree with someone's position or their action, killing them is not an acceptable way to make your point. This was a terrible and inexcusable act.

It is also important to acknowledge that we do not know why the young man who murdered Charlie Kirk did what he did. There are countless theories and speculative explanations floating around the various media platforms—and all of them are speculation. Unless and until the young man tells us why he did what he did, we do not know. All of us need to pause and acknowledge that. You may want to know—we all do when something like this happens—but you don't, at least not for now. In fact, the young man who did this may not even know himself exactly what pushed him to do such a terrible thing. That is often the case with violent actions—the perpetrators may not fully understand their own motivations and actions.

Blaming is almost always wrong and rarely helpful. It is especially harmful when we lack information, and we begin blaming based on speculation and our own biases. We are prone to succumbing to conspiracy theories and thinking the worst of those we view as the "opposition."

Charlie Kirk's murder should provoke us to do very deep soul-searching as a nation. Why is it that there seems to be such intense disagreement and conflict among us? Are we really as divided as some would have us believe, or are we being manipulated and managed into conflict for the benefit of a few individuals who want to control us? How can we have meaningful conversation and interaction even when we disagree—even if we disagree strenuously?

To paraphrase the prophet Jeremiah, it seems as if there is no balm in Gilead to heal our society. We don't need to agree about everything to be healthy and well. We do need to find a way to speak respectfully and listen authentically. We do need to reject violence as a way to get what we want. We need to respect every human life and affirm the equality and value of every person.

Every time someone is killed, it is a loss for all of us. It doesn't matter if we agreed with that person or liked that person. It doesn't matter if the person was well-known or hardly noticed. We should grieve everyone. Today, we pray for Charlie Kirk's family, who have suffered a terrible tragedy and loss. May we also pray that we never have to pray such a prayer again.

Rev. Greg Smith

All Saints Celebration, November 1

On the first Sunday of November, we will share our celebration of All Saints. In some churches, they distinguish between All Saints, which is a celebration of recognized Saints, and All Souls, which is a celebration of all the faithful who have died. The word "saint" translates the Greek word "hagio," which essentially means "holy ones." It often referred to all those who are faithful in Christ. In light of this and since United Methodists do not have a process of recognizing and designating saints, I have always regarded our celebration as one of All the Saints—meaning all who have lived lives of faith.

Following our tradition, we will name loved ones who have died since November 1 of last year. Please contact the Church office with those names if you would like them included in our time of remembrance. During the liturgy, we will give you the opportunity to honor other loved ones who have died in past years.

Church Conference

Our yearly Church Conference will be held on November 16 at 2:00 p.m. We will be joined by members from the churches in Sanford and Arundel. We will learn about ways for churches to consider working together and talk about how we might explore cooperative work in our area. Since we are hosting, we encourage as many people as possible to attend to welcome our neighbors to our church!

Community Thanksgiving Worship Service
November 23, 2025
2:00 p.m.

St. David's Episcopal Church
Sponsored by the churches of Kennebunk and
Kennebunkport

Rev. Greg Smith

Nonie's New Book



I'm super excited to share my good news! My latest children's book, *A Christmas Like No Other!* has been published and is for sale at www.Amazon.com. It took a while to get there, but now that it is, folks can check it out. Just go to www.Amazon.com, click on books on the left column, type in Norene Freeman in the white box, and click on the search icon. Its message is something I take to heart, and I hope readers will, too

Gratefully, Nonie

Thanksgiving Prayer

Gracious God,
thank you for every good gift—
for the food before us,
the people around us,
and the love that surrounds us.
Help us to pause, reflect, and rejoice
in Your constant goodness and grace.
May our hearts overflow with gratitude,
not just today, but every day. Amen

November 11th



VETERANS DAY

Sources: newsletternewsletter, Nonie Freeman



Dr. Robert Stanwood Ewton
September 13, 2025



BIBLE STUDY STILL OPEN FOR NEW MEMBERS

All are welcome to join the Tuesday Bible Study Group. 12:30 p.m. starting September 30th. The first meeting of October is on Tuesday, the seventh. The next book is "How Good Do We Have to Be"? By Harold Kushner

COTC 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT		
	August	January- Aug.
Income	\$21,120	\$195,406
Expense	\$28,969	\$241,691
Deficit	\$7,849	\$46,285

ALTAR FLOWERS

Giving altar flowers is a tradition at Church on the Cape to beautify the sanctuary, often made in memory of a loved one, to celebrate an occasion, or to give thanks for blessings.

The sign-up sheet and envelopes for payment are available on the table in the hall on the way to Bartlett Hall. You can also call the church office. 207-967-5787.

OCT 05 | 17th Sunday after Pentecost;
World Communion Sunday (Green)

- Lam 1:1-6
- Ps 137 (UMH 852)
- 2 Tim 1:1-14
- Luke 17:5-10

OCT 12 | 18th Sunday after Pentecost
(Green)

- Jer 29:1, 4-7
- Ps 66:1-12 (UMH 790)
- 2 Tim 2:8-15
- Luke 17:11-19

OCT 19 | 19th Sunday after Pentecost;
Laity Sunday; Children's
Sabbath(Green)

- Jer 31:27-34
- Ps 119:97-104 (UMH 750)
- 2 Tim 3:14-4:5
- Luke 18:1-8

OCT 26 | 20th Sunday after Pentecost;
Reformation Sunday (Green)

- Joel 2:23-32
- Ps 65 (UMH 789)
- 2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18
- Luke 18:9-14

THE BEST GIFT FOR YOUR PASTOR

October is Pastor Appreciation Month—a time to recognize and encourage those who faithfully shepherd our churches. But if you've ever asked a pastor how to show your gratitude, the answer probably isn't a plaque or applause. More often than not, it's simple: "Pray for me."

Even the Apostle Paul didn't ask for much personally, except for the prayers of fellow believers. In his letter to the Romans, he wrote: "Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and relax in your company." (Romans 15:30–32, NASB).

This October—and every month—encourage your Pastor by offering your prayers, support, and kind words. MINISTRY CAN BE DEMANDING, BUT KNOWING THE CHURCH IS LIFTING THEM UP MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

Source: newsletternewsletter

Pastor Appreciation Day October 12, 2025

THANK YOU, PASTOR GREG, FOR
BEING OUR LOVING PASTOR



Pastoring is not just a 9-to-5 job. Instead, it is almost any time, especially on weekends. We often think of it as preparing and delivering the sermon, but there is much more.

From what I can tell, Pastor Greg's week often begins with being in the office on Monday morning and checking his calendar for personal counseling visits or scheduled meetings. Occasionally, there

are meetings with staff, committees, and drop-in visitors. Other pastoral events include Bible Study, weddings, funerals, baptisms, special church events, Huntington Commons' communion, home and hospital visits, chime practice, and Bon Appétit service. And of course, there is the Sunday Worship Service. His sermons are inspirational and full of spiritual guidance. They are marvelous.

Our loving Pastor Greg does all this and more exceptionally well in a sincere, caring, and spiritual manner. He extends a gracious hand of welcome to all and is unrelenting in his goal to help all of us in need and bring God's Word to us so we may be saved.

We are so blessed to have him and his wife, Diana, as our Pastor.

Here are several ways to show Pastor Greg that you are grateful for his service to you:

- Be a regular attendee at church on Sundays. If online, let him know with a thank you that you are regularly there.
- Send him an encouraging card or email.
- Invite him over for tea or coffee.
- Bring some Dunkin coffee and donuts to the church office (Jen, too) for a morning visit. (Please check his calendar with Jen in the church office.)

- If you can, offer to help others with transportation services, Bon Appétit, and coffee hour at church.
- When appropriate, offer constructive ideas for helping our wonderful church.
- And YES, pray for him.

Article by Charlie Benore, photo is a screenshot

CHURCH FAMILY, THANK YOU

Dear heavenly Father, we come as your children to praise you for putting us in our family — and in our church family. Thank you for the love and nourishment we receive from the people in whose presence you've placed us. We confess our need for your guidance in our families and congregation. Please grant us harmony in our homes and church body. In all situations, help us show love, patience, and respect for one another. In your name we pray. Amen.

Source: Newsletternewsletter



October's Party

October gave a party;
The leaves by the hundreds came—
The Chestnuts, Oaks and Maples,
And leaves of every name.
The sunshine spread a carpet,
And everything was grand,
Miss Weather led the dancing,
Professor Wind the band.
—George Cooper

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

How truly wonderful to have children in church these days. We had a kick-off BBQ on Sunday afternoon, September 7th, for Sunday School families and Sunday School teachers.



Carol Nason and Diana Smith

Bartlett Hall was bursting with the energy of young children. They did crafts, made name tags, visited their Sunday School room, and ate lots of cookies! As we watched them run around, it was clear that these children enjoyed being in church.

One week later, on September 14th, Sunday School resumed after stopping for the summer months. First, during the Prelude, we enjoyed seeing children come down the

center aisle carrying battery-operated candles, Bringing Up the Light. The curriculum included the story of The Lost Sheep.

Pastor Greg kicked things off with a bag of lost items and a story of a lost animal. Check the website for the children's message to see if he held up one of your lost items!

Later, in Sunday School, the children looked for lost sheep, heard the story of the lost sheep, talked about the importance of each one of us, "Everyone Counts" (see photo of cake), and decorated sheep. They hunted for pennies and heard the story of The Lost Coin. When Tom Bradbury went to collect his two grandchildren, Ben held out a fistful of pennies and called out, "Poppy – I'm rich!"

If you want to teach this fall, see Pastor Greg to be vetted, and Sharon Miesel to be put on the schedule.

Article by Carol Nason

Greatness

It's great that we humans
Have knowledge and skill
To fly to the moon
And through space;
But greater than that
Is the God you can trust
To keep outer space
In its place!

—Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems

NEW CHURCH ON THE CAPE SIGN



The new sign was dedicated to the Rev. Dr. David Kerr by his family, supported by memorial funds donated in his memory and by the Trustees. The design of the sign was a collaboration of the Trustees and Faye Kerr to present a new sign, long in the planning but timely, as our Church Family is starting to grow, and our Sunday School restarts, indicating new life. This sign signals a new statement that we are here, and all are welcome. The Rev. Kerr was such a dynamic person, and in his short tenure as interim while Pastor Ruth was on sabbatical, he was uplifting and powerful. It was very apparent that he loved Church on the Cape and the Church Family.

Bob Metcalf

Dedication of the New Church Welcoming Sign to the Reverend Doctor David A. Kerr

The new CHURCH ON THE CAPE Welcoming Sign was dedicated to the Reverend Doctor Robert Kerr at the September 14th Worship Service. Faye Kerr and her two sons, Donald and Mark, were present and told of Reverend Kerr's love for our church.



Faye stated:



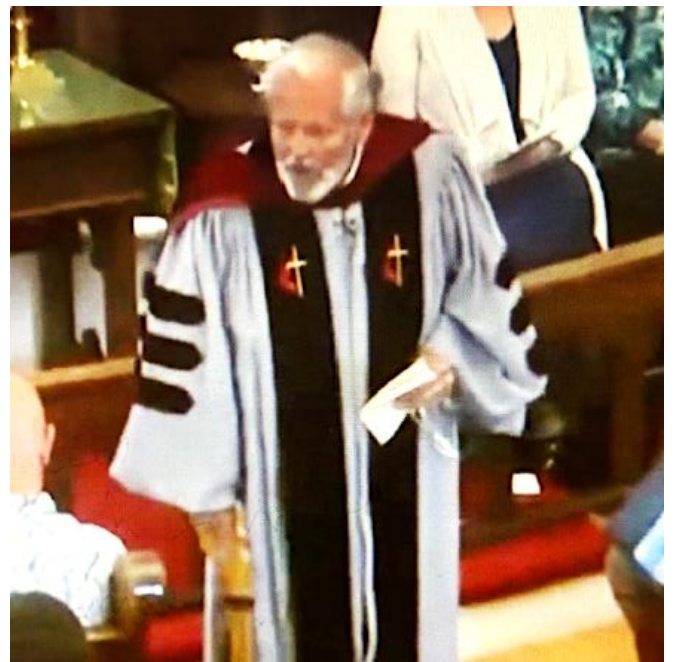
We present this sign in dedication to the almighty God and the service of CHURCH ON THE CAPE in the loving memory of Dr. David A Kerr.

Screenshots from the church website; video from church archives, article by editor

A video recording of Reverend Kerr's most memorable acclamation, "Alleluia" (Praise the Lord), was shown. It must have been a most powerful and inspiring live event to witness as he walked down the church's main aisle – turning his head side to side and greeting everyone with his eyes – while singing beautifully and repeatably with spiritual affection:

1. Alleluia, Alleluia...
2. Lord, I love you, alleluia...
3. I will serve him, alleluia...
4. Thank you, Jesus, alleluia...
5. Lord, we praise you, alleluia...
6. Alleluia, alleluia

A screenshot from his "Alleluia" performance is shown below: Should you



need an inspirational lift, please visit the church website, open the September 14th worship service, and witness it first-hand. It's spiritually lifting and expressive of Rev. Kerr's love of God and his church.

CHURCH ON THE CAPE

A United Methodist Church

We of The Church on the Cape represent various religious and cultural backgrounds and lifestyles. We are young, old, middle-aged, single, married, widowed, divorced, parents, grandparents, and members of extended families.

Above all, we are people who take risks, make mistakes,
confess, repent, and try again.

At the center of our community is Jesus 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 people 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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