



# The Church on the Cape Newsletter



July 2022

## Pastor Sammie's Thoughts

### Worship is Responsive Celebration

Shortly before I left Church on the Cape at the end of June, 2019, someone asked me if I could give a one-sentence definition of worship. Having thought about it, I have narrowed the definition down to two words—"responsive celebration."

Worship is a celebration in which we thank and glorify God. It is our response to God's gift of life and its many blessings. Worship teaches us how better to love—how to respond to God by participating in one another's joys and sorrows. It is therefore a sharing of needs accompanied by suggestions for solutions. Worship teaches us the wisdom of scriptures and involves us in the "hands-on" ministry of the "priesthood of all believers." It challenges us to live authentically and to give more of ourselves, making us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.

For the Wesleys and United Methodists, there is no religion, no worship, no holiness but social holiness, meaning that the love of God and love of neighbor (near and far) are always connected. In the days ahead, I want to get to know each of you individually and hear your own ideas of worship. I share the following poem as a way of expressing where my thoughts and prayers have taken me.

### *Worship as Responsive Celebration*

Glorious God, in this glorious hour,  
Gather us in worship  
To receive your holy power.

Teach us the wisdom of your Word,  
How to live in love and service  
As your holy voice is heard.

But a changing world makes each day new  
And stirs up fears—  
Must we change too?

The world is filled with such strange faces  
With new ideas—  
That seem to come from unknown places!

I stood upon the common with my peers  
I heard them speak and saw them act  
And then my eyes were filled with tears.

"No guns! No power?"  
Slogans such as this rang loud and clear,  
"Control" the watchword of the hour!

Hatred, shootings, war—oh, so much pain;  
And so much grief,  
But who's to blame?

I heard a hungry child cry out for bread;  
I waited to reach out, but then—  
The child was dead!

Oh, hurting, hungry, haunted world  
Imprisoned, held by ignorance and chains,  
What is the fate to which you're hurled?

Polluted air, polluted streams,  
A warming earth and rising seas—  
In such a world, dare we still to dream?

Yes, dream we must, and celebrate,  
Gives thanks, indeed,  
That God's good world's not bound by fate.

So seize us, God, and make us free  
To heal the world with love and care  
And bring thy children back to thee.

And for this loving, hoping caring world,  
Please teach us songs and jubilation;  
And teach us most--responsive celebration!  
--Pastor Sammie

## Church News Items

### NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

We are happy to introduce our new administrative assistant, **Jennifer Murray**, who will be starting her employment on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer moved back to New England after living many years in the Washington DC area. She is a single mother of four sons, two who still live at home. While in DC., Jennifer was active in a UMC spending much of her time servicing the youth programs. She is proficient with computer skills and interacting with the public. She is looking forward to meeting and working with members of Church on the Cape.

**Jen's office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9 am to 2 pm.**

### SUMMER CHOIR

Do you enjoy making a "joyful noise"? Please consider joining our Choir Summer Session. We plan to get together for four Thursday evening rehearsals in preparation for four Sunday Services throughout July and August. Designed with flexibility in mind; feel free to

join us for as many, or as few dates as your schedule will allow. Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship. All are welcome, the more, the merrier! Interested? Questions? Please see Wendy Hagarty, or send an email to [whagart27@gmail.com](mailto:whagart27@gmail.com)

## JULY LECTIONARY READINGS

### Fourth Sunday after Pentecost—July 3, 2022

- 2 Kings 5:1-4
- \*Galatians 6:1-6, 7-16
- Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Sermon Title: "What Does it Mean to Begin?"

### Fifth Sunday after Pentecost—July 10, 2022

- Amos 7:7-17
- Colossians 1:1-14
- Luke 10:25-37

The Gospel Lesson for Today: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sermon Title: "The Blessing Begins in Baptism"

## BAPTISMS

**Elia Louise Ilinca Bradbury** (Parents: Laura Bradbury and Dani Ilinca)

**Sophie Katherine Link** (Parents: Stacey Bradbury and Brian Link)

### Sixth Sunday After Pentecost—July 17, 2022

- Amos 8:1-12
- Colossians 1:15-28
- Luke 10:38-42

Preacher: Rev. Russ Pregeant

The Gospel Lesson for Today: Mark 16:1-8

Sermon Title: "The Synoptic Gospels: The Value of Their Differences"

### Seventh Sunday After Pentecost—July 24, 2022

- Hosea 1:2-10
- Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)
- Luke 11:1-13

The Gospel Lesson for Today: Various verses from the Gospel of John

Sermon Title: "Is the Gospel of John Like the Other Gospels?"

### Eighth Sunday After Pentecost—July 31, 2022

- Hosea 11:1-11
- Colossians 3:1-11
- Luke 12:13-21

The Gospel Lesson for Today: Luke 11:1-13

Sermon Title: "The Lord's Prayer"

## A Heartfelt Thank You to Pastor Parker and Mary

Pastor Parker, you and Mary have been outstanding in your service to us. Early on, when Pastor Ho-Soon was absent, and then when coming from retirement to serve us as our interim pastor until Rev. Maxwell returned. Your humility, kindness, and caring are exceptional.

Further, your extensive knowledge of the Bible you shared with us is especially appreciated. Your sermons showed your conviction in God's word and were expressed with clearness, sincerity, and strength. "Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding." Jeremiah 3:15



Both of you have been a blessing to us, and we are incredibly grateful for your service and hard work. You will continue to be in our prayers. We wish each of you God's blessings as you return to retirement. And we are also thankful that both of you will continue to be part of our Church Family.

Articles, Your Editor

## Ye!!! They Are Back

Pastor Sammie's first sermon with us was on August 5, 2018, and she faithfully served our church for eleven months before retiring. I had the honor of writing a newsletter parting article of appreciation for them, and the excerpts below show the delight again ahead for us – not for eleven months, but for two years.



Pastor Sammie has been a Godsend to us. From the beginning, it was abundantly clear that she was a gifted, inspiring, and righteous spiritual leader who wished to help us as much as she could, along with Russ, in our faith journeys. Her sermons - sometimes enacted, joined by Russ in some others, and occasionally included her real-life experiences - were especially meaningful and enthusing. Further, her loving care of each of us, and her fine example of staying true to loving and serving God and others despite encountering many of life's hardships, are held very dear to us.

Pastor Sammie provided us with superb guidance for believing, loving, and obeying God and loving others; and she helped move us forward in our faith journeys and closer to God for which we will always be grateful.

## Things You May or May Not Know About the Pastor

Our interim pastor is Rev. Sammie Maxwell. She grew up in northeast Georgia in the town of Tallulah Falls, known for the beautiful, three-miles-long, thousand-foot-deep Tallulah Gorge, which is the most visited state park in Georgia. It is famous for the aerialist Karl Wallenda's walk across it back in 1971.

As a youth, Sammie was active in the MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship) on the local and district levels. In high school, she participated in a church-sponsored trip to the United Nations—an event that made her an activist for both world peace and youth involvement in the church.

At the University of Georgia, Sammie was active in the Wesley Foundation. She graduated with an A.B. in sociology and a pre-professional in social work. Before becoming an ordained clergyperson, she taught kindergarten briefly and then took a position as a field advisor for the Girl Scouts of America with the responsibility of recruiting and training volunteers. She then transferred to New Orleans for a special assignment of aiding in the racial integration of Girl Scout troops. After two years in this job, she was hired as the Assistant to the Director of Metropolitan Ministries—an organization formed to facilitate the merger of the two racially-segregated Louisiana Conferences of the Methodist Church.

After marrying Russ and moving to New England, Sammie earned a Master of Urban Affairs degree at Boston University and later taught Introduction to Sociology and Social Problems at Curry College while completing a Master of Divinity degree at B.U. School of Theology. She was then ordained an Elder in Full Connection in the former Southern New

England Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Sammie served as pastor of St. Paul's UMC in Ludlow, Massachusetts (near Springfield). After eight years there, she served the United Methodist Parish, which consisted of three churches in Massachusetts and one in Rhode Island, and then for one year at Charlton City and Southbridge, Massachusetts and another three years in Charlton City. After twenty-four years in New England, she returned to north Georgia to care for her Mom for what she hoped would be a short time. After seven years, her mother died and she stayed on to be with her mother's "baby" sister, who had a stroke. While in Georgia, she served Antioch UMC and Tiger UMC a quarter-time each. For one year, she was Director of Senior Ministries as an associate pastor at the Clayton United Methodist Church. During all the years in Georgia, she kept her membership in the New England Conference, where Russ has his membership. After her aunt's death, she returned to New England to serve another eight years as a full-time pastor at Contoocook United Methodist Church near Concord, New Hampshire.

Sammie and Russ returned to Georgia in 2011 to live in a house that belonged to her aunt. During her first year there, she studied with Dr. Fred Craddock of the Craddock Center in Cherry Log, Georgia. Dr. Craddock's dream was for someone to travel the rural areas teaching preaching classes to those ministers who were unable to attend seminary. However, Sammie was able to do only a few of these workshops before Dr. Craddock's sudden death. When in Georgia, Sammie frequently substitute preaches, and she and Russ taught Disciple Bible Study for four years at the church where they worship when in Georgia. In 2017, Sammie served a brief interim as Senior Pastor at

Clemson United Methodist Church in Clemson, South Carolina. As most of you know, she also served from August 2018 through June 2019 as an interim here at Church on the Cape. Bishop Devadhar has appointed Sammie to this church once again, this time for a two-year interim. Both she and Russ are excited to be back in New England, where their conference memberships are held and delighted to be back at Church on the Cape.

Sammie and Russ are living in the clergy retirement village, Wesley by the Sea, operated by the Preachers' Aid Society, rather than in the parsonage. Once settled, they hope to invite those wishing to visit their home at 54 Charles Wesley Court in Wells. Sammie's first official Sunday to preach is July 3. The SPRC encourages everyone to attend in-person to welcome her back to the pulpit.

After worship, Sammie and Russ will host what they call "Southern Treats." Come and see what surprises they provide for us.

Sandy Day  
SPRC Chair

## INDEPENDENCE DAY LESSONS FOR CHURCH LIFE

• **Return to the basics** — On July 4, we commemorate our country's origins. In terms of faith, we also periodically need to hear again the foundational stories of Creation, the Israelites, and, of course, Jesus

• **Honor the gift of freedom** — "For freedom Christ has set us free ... do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1, ESV). We strive as citizens to preserve and live out our national freedom. Likewise, as citizens of God's kingdom, we live gladly in the freedom of salvation and share that gift with others.

• **Enjoy community** — July 4 is known for picnics, parades, and other community gatherings. Similarly, the church is nourished by coming together for worship, meals, and other special events.

• **Be light in the darkness** — As fireworks brighten the sky with light and color, the church is called to display the Gospel's unique light in a dark world. Our word *dynamite* and the Greek word for *power* — as in, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you" (Acts 1:8) — share a root. Through God's power in us, we share Jesus — dynamically! — with others. —Heidi Mann

## A PRAYER FOR THE FOURTH



Loving God, we thank you — the true Father of our country — for the blessings of this land and the gifts of cultures around the world. Prompt us to strive for justice for all, at home and abroad. Remind us, in the words of the hymn, that "this is our Father's world" and that your goodness prevails. Amid tragedies and conflicts, guard us against despair. Help us focus on the kindness evident daily: from generous neighbors to conscientious public servants (because most are). On Independence Day and every day, "O let [us] ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet."

Source: Newsletternewsletter



## **CONGRATULATIONS 2022 GRADUATES!**



### *Middle School*

**Bobby MacIver**, 8th Grade graduate of Middle School of the Kennebunks; Kennebunk, ME. Son of Jody Chase

**James Witham Spinney**, 8th Grade graduate of Middle School of the Kennebunks; Kennebunk, ME. Grandson of Joan and Jim Lennon

### *High School*

**Sydney Dumas**, Kennebunk High School, Kennebunk, ME. Daughter of Isabel Dumas  
**Katelyn Mary Gould**, Virtual Learning Academy Charter School. Granddaughter of Beryl Samia

**Chase MacIver**, Kennebunk High School, Kennebunk, ME. Son of Jody Chase

### *College & University*

**Allison T. Benson**, University of Maine at Farmington B.S. Early Education.

Granddaughter of Jim and Susan Hathorne

**Kathryn Hand**, University of New Hampshire, MBA. Daughter of Ann and Jeff Hand

**Elizabeth Hodenberg**, University of Southern Maine, B.S. Art.

Daughter of Ann and Jeff Hand

**Jeff Hodenberg**, Southern Maine Community College, Associates Degree in Information Technology Son-in-Law of Ann and Jeff Hand

**Matthew Davis O'Keefe**, Harvard Law School. Grandson of Sandy Day

**Grace Miriam Olson**, University of Idaho, B.S. Civil Engineering. Granddaughter of Rob and Carol Olson

**Heidi Reinemann**, Quinnipiac University, MBA with honors. Granddaughter of Jean Moulton

**"For I know the PLANS  
I have for you"  
declares the LORD  
"plans to PROSPER you  
and not to harm you,  
plans to give you  
HOPE and a  
FUTURE."**  
Jeremiah 29:11

***Adults Who Have Supported  
the Children's Programs***



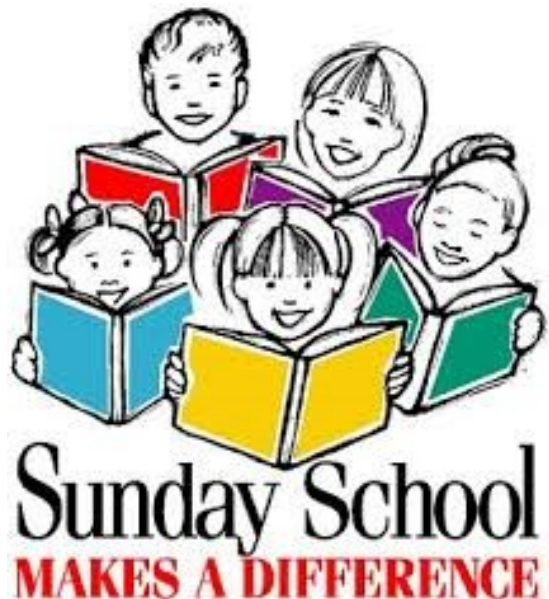
Roy Bruton  
Nancy Chamberlin  
Wendy Haggarty  
Ted Haggarty  
Annie Hidell  
Diane Hutchins  
Jean Moulton  
Brian Nason  
Heidi Phillips  
Donna Rooney  
Beryl Samia  
Bill Scarborough  
David Smith  
Marge Smith  
Nancy Viehmann

***And all those I have overlooked!***

***Education Committee***

Carol Nason  
Mary Parker  
Desmond Parker  
Heidi Phillips  
Beryl Samia

***Sunday School Children***



Adriana Gelardi  
Kinley Kading  
Anthony Gelardi  
Isla Phillips  
Jacksen Phillips

Article by Carol Nason

## CELEBRATING CHILDREN

Sunday, June 12th, was Children's Celebration Sunday. The theme for the day was "Big Things Can Come From Small Beginnings."

After listening to the story Jesus told of the woman and the leavened bread, Isla and Jacksen were asked, "what do you think the message is behind this story?" Both said, "Big things can come from small beginnings." Yes, a smile, a card, a conversation – all these little things grow big in the hearts of others.

On Sunday, June 12th, the many adults who have supported the children (see list on previous page) were acknowledged, and the children celebrated. Two graduating KHS seniors from our church family, Sydney Dumas, and Chase MacIver, were identified. We so enjoyed seeing Sydney in church, and wish them, and all the graduates, the very best.

Many thanks to Wendy and Ted Hagarty, Nancy Chamberlin, and Mark Thallandar for the beautiful music. Thanks also to Rev. Nonie Freeman for stepping in at the last minute and to Jean Moulton for the beautiful flowers on the altar. Special thanks go to our beautiful children for their participation in the service, Isla and Jacksen Phillips and Adriana Gelardi, and of course to Anthony Gelardi for his charm.

Because masking was in place on the 12th, the much-promised cake following coffee hour had to be postponed. Stay tuned for that later in the summer! It was a beautiful service, thanks to all who devoted their time and energy to making it happen. We are so blessed to have these beautiful children and their families in our church, and to all of you for your continued support and encouragement.

Article and photos from Carol Nason







Guidance from  
John  
Wesley's  
Sermons:  
More on  
Giving  
All You Can

### GIVE ALL YOU CAN

In several Sermons directed toward those who are rich, Wesley writes: "O that God would enable me once more before I go hence and am no more seen, to lift up my voice like a trumpet to those who gain and save all they can but do not give all they can!"

(Sermon numbers for excerpts are shown in the accompanying headings. For those wishing to read whole sermons, "The Complete Sermons" by John Wesley is available on Amazon and Kindle).

### BUT WHO IS RICH?

Sermon 87

"First, let us consider what it is to be rich. What does the Apostle mean by this expression? The preceding verse fixes the meaning of that: "Having food and raiment (literally coverings for the word includes lodging as well as clothes); let us be therewith content. ... It plainly follows that whatever is more than these is, in the sense of the Apostle, riches; whatever is above the plain necessities, or at most conveniences, of life. Whoever has sufficient food to eat and raiment to put on, with a place where to lay his head and something over, is rich."

### ARE THERE EXCEPTIONS BEYOND HAVING FOOD, CLOTHING, AND LODGING?

Sermon 87

"It is allowed, 1) that we are to provide necessities and conveniences for those of your own household, 2) that men in business are to lay up as much as is necessary for the carrying on of that business, 3) that we are to leave our children what will supply them with necessities and conveniences after we have left the world, and 4) that we are to provide things honest in the sight of all men, so as to 'owe no man anything.' But to lay up any more, when this is done, is what our Lord has flatly forbidden."

### PROFITABLE USE OF RICHES

Sermons 50 and 87

"Having gained, in a right sense, all you can and saved all you can, in spite of nature and custom, and worldly prudence, give all you can. I do not say, 'Be a good Jew, giving a tenth of all you possess.' I do not say, 'Be a good Pharisee, giving a fifth of all your substance.' I dare not advise you to give half of what you have; no, nor three quarters, but all!"

"Lift up your hearts, and you will see clearly, in what sense this is to be done. If you desire to be a 'faithful and wise steward' out of that portion of your Lord's goods which he has for the present lodged in your hands: 1. Provide things needful for yourself; food to eat, raiment to put on; whatever nature moderately requires for preserving you both in health and strength; 2. Provide these for your wife, your children, your servants, or any others who pertain to your household; 3. If when this is done, there be an overplus left, then do good to 'them that are of the household of faith;' 4. If there be an overplus still, 'as you have opportunity,' do good unto all men. In a sound sense, all you have. For all that is laid out in this manner is really given to God."

You render unto God the things that are God's, not only by what you give to the poor, but also by that which you expend in providing things needful for yourself and your household."

In order to see the ground and reason of this, consider, when the Possessor of heaven and earth brought you into being, and placed you in this world, he placed you here not as a proprietor, but a steward; As such, he entrusted you, for a season, with goods of various kinds, but the sole property of these still rest in him, nor can be alienated from him. As you yourself are not your own, but his, such is, likewise, all that you enjoy. Such is your soul and your body, not your own, but God's. And so is your substance in particular. And he has told you, in the most clear and express terms, how you are to employ it for him, in such a manner that it may be an all and holy sacrifice, acceptable through Christ Jesus.

IN GIVING ALL YOU CAN, HOW MUCH  
SHOULD ONE GIVE HIS WIFE AND  
CHILDREN AFTER ONE'S DEATH?

Sermons 50 and 126

"Every man ought to provide the plain necessities of life both for his own wife and children, and to put them into a capacity of providing these for themselves when he is gone hence and is no more seen. I say, of providing these, the plain necessities of life; not delicacies, not superfluities; and by their diligent labor; for it is no man's duty to furnish them any more than himself with the means either of luxury or idleness. But if any man provides not this far for his own children ... he hath practically denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel or heathen."

Wesley continues with an example of how he would care for children after death (Wesley was not married at the time of his death and had no

children). If I "had a considerable fortune to leave ... I know what I ought to do.... If I had one child, elder or younger, who knew the value of money; one who I believed would put it to the true use, I should think it my absolute, indispensable duty to leave that child the bulk of my fortune; and to the rest just so much as would enable them to live in the manner they had been accustomed to do."

"But what if all your children were equally ignorant of the true use of money? I ought then (hard saying!) to give each what would keep him above want, and to bestow all the rest in such a manner as I judged would be most for the glory of God."

"And if you have not children, upon what scriptural or rational principle can you leave a groat behind you more than will bury you? I pray consider, what are you the better for what you leave behind you? What does it signify, whether you leave behind you ten thousand pounds or ten thousand shoes and boots? O leave nothing behind you. Send all you have before you [go] into a better world."

MESSAGE FOR A  
MAN WITH RICHES

Sermons 51 and 126

"I have a message from God unto thee, O rich man! Whether thou wilt hear, or whether thou wilt forbear. Riches have increased with thee, at the peril of thy soul; 'set not thine heart upon them!' Be thankful to Him that gave thee such a talent, so much power of doing good. Yet dare not to rejoice over them, but with fear and trembling. ... 'Beware thou cleave not unto them, lest thou be entangled and perish.' Do not make them thy end, thy chief delight, thy happiness, thy God! See that thou expect not happiness in money, nor anything that is purchasable

thereby; in gratifying either the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, or the pride of life."

Wesley continues: "So much we may learn from Solomon's words, that 'there is no such knowledge or wisdom in the grave,' as will be of any use to an unhappy spirit; 'there is no device' there, whereby he can now improve those talents with which he was once entrusted. For time is no more; the time of our trial for everlasting happiness or misery is past. Our day, the day of man is over; the day of salvation is ended! Nothing now remains but the 'day of the Lord,' ushering in wide, unchangeable eternity!"

### HONORING ONE'S OWN ADVICE

Sermon 87

"Permit me to speak as freely as I would of another man. I gain all I can (namely, by writing) without hurting either my soul or body. I save all I can, not willingly wasting anything, not a sheet of paper, not a cup of water. I do not lay out anything, not a shilling, unless as a sacrifice to God. Yet by giving all I can, I am effectually secured from 'laying up treasures upon earth.'"

"But some may say, 'Whether you endeavor it or not, you are undeniably rich.'... Two-and-forty years ago, having a desire to furnish poor people with cheaper, shorter, and plainer books ...I wrote many small tracts, generally a penny a-piece, and afterward several larger."

"Some of these had such a sale as I never thought of, and, by this means, I unawares became rich. But I never desired or endeavored after it. And now that it has come upon me unawares, I lay up no treasures upon earth: I lay up nothing at all. ... I cannot help leaving my books behind me whenever God calls me hence; but, in every other respect, my own hands will be my executors."

### A FEW DETAILS ABOUT

#### JOHN WESLEY

Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, was a busy minister. He reportedly rode by horseback 250,000 miles covering the United Kingdom during his itinerant ministry (which is ten times around the planet earth) and gave more than 40,000 sermons. He was married at age 48 for several years, after which his wife left him reportedly for lack of attention and devotion. He had no children.

"Wesley believed that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason. Scripture is primary, revealing the Word of God so far as it is necessary for our salvation." (UMC Book of Discipline)

He was a charitable man and died poor, leaving 135,000 members and 541 itinerant preachers as Methodists as his life's work. (United Kingdom's population was much smaller at the time of his ministry.)

It has been said that when John Wesley was carried to his grave in 1791, he left behind him a good library of books, a well-worn clergyman's gown, and the Methodist Church. (Source: Wikipedia)

### IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

1. Is money necessarily the root of all evil?
2. Can a rich man tread the eye of a needle?
3. How to be a good steward of God's possessions.

Your Editor

## **Church on the Cape**

### **A United Methodist Church**

We of Church on the Cape represent various religious and cultural backgrounds and lifestyles. 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 risks, 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](http://www.churchonthecape.org).

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