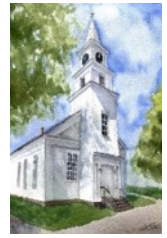




Church on the Cape Newsletter



July 2025



From the Pastor's Desk

Is war an inevitable reality of human life? I was born during the Vietnam War, and it continued until I was a teenager. With only brief respites, there have been wars going on somewhere in the world for my entire life. That is a sobering realization. These wars have not always involved the United States directly, but in my lifetime, the world has never been completely at peace.

Doctrine of a Just War

When I was in seminary, one of my ethics courses was a seminar on war and peace. One of the key principles we explored was the doctrine of just war. Here are its key components:

Jus ad Bellum (Justice of War): These principles concern the decision to go to war in the first place.

Just Cause: The war must be waged to correct a wrong, such as defending against aggression or protecting innocent lives. **Legitimate Authority:** The war must be declared by a recognized and competent authority, such as a government. **Right Intention:** The primary motivation for going to war must be to achieve justice and not for personal gain or aggression. **Last Resort:** All peaceful alternatives must have been exhausted before resorting to war. **Reasonable Prospect of Success:** There must be a realistic chance of achieving the war's objectives without excessive loss of life or resources. **Proportionality:** The potential damage and suffering caused by the war must be proportional to the good that is expected to be achieved.

Jus in Bello (Justice in War): These principles concern the conduct of war and the ethical treatment of combatants and non-combatants during the conflict.

Discrimination: Military force should be directed at legitimate military targets and not at civilians or civilian infrastructure. **Proportionality:** The amount of force used should be proportionate to the military objective and avoid unnecessary suffering. **Humane Treatment of Prisoners of War:** Prisoners of war must be treated humanely and not subjected to torture or other inhumane treatment. **Respect for International Law:** Military actions should adhere to international laws and conventions regarding warfare.

As we discussed in the seminar, this is not a doctrine to justify war or the use of military force,

but rather an accommodation to regulate war from a moral perspective. These principles are not framed in an explicitly religious context so they would not require a person to identify as Christian to agree that they represent a sound, ethical framework.

Our scriptures present a muddy picture of war. There are places where God seems to sanction and even require war. There are other portions that reject war and describe an almost utopian reign of peace and justice. The earliest Christians adopted a posture of pacifism, having seen Jesus crucified by Roman imperial violence, they rejected war and violent protest in favor of a nonviolent witness to God's saving grace. Perhaps that was because they lacked the resources to mount a successful armed rebellion—but that did not stop many of the groups around them. As we know, the armed rebellion of guerrilla forces in the Jewish homeland led to the final destruction of Jerusalem, and a Roman response with overwhelming force to quell the uprising.

In our time, those calling themselves Christian are divided in their response to war. Some favor the idea of a Christian nation or empire that enforces its faith and ideas on others by force and war as needed. Others still ascribe to a doctrine of absolute pacifism. Both extremes read the same scriptures to reach diametrically opposed conclusions.

I think I am a disillusioned pragmatist. As a student of U.S. history, I applaud the checks and balances written into the Constitution. It forbids the president from making war without a declaration of war by Congress. We know, though, that in much of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, Presidents have ignored this edict, often with the cooperation of a Congress unwilling to demand accountability.

While I dream of a world at peace, in the meantime, I yearn for a world that would at least agree to follow the principles outlined above. It grieves my heart when civilian casualties of war are labelled as "collateral damage" and considered a reasonable price to pay to achieve an objective. I wonder when the sanctity of human life deteriorated to such a point that we find thousands of innocent deaths, including those of small children, to be reasonable.

I wonder what God thinks when God watches. Does God applaud our justifications and sanction our

actions? Or does God weep over the destruction and death that we so often unleash?

Observations from the Annual Conference

Last week, we gathered for the meeting of the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. There were a number of high points and significant actions. We have recognized the continuing need to streamline and trim Conference expenses. Over the past several years, the Conference has had an operating deficit, which is not sustainable. This is due to churches that do not pay the full amount of their Mission Shares. As a result, we have significantly decreased the overall Conference budget for 2026. We will also be simplifying the way Mission Shares are described to make it easier for churches to understand how their money is used. We voted on Constitutional amendments adopted by the General Conference. The primary effort is to allow "regionalization" of the church so that rules and regulations may be better tailored to different cultures. These measures must be approved by a majority vote of all the Annual Conferences so we do not yet know if they will be approved. We participated in a powerful training session on Anti-Racism, which will be made available to pastors and lay people in the months ahead. I will share more information on that when it is available.

In our system, we have a two-step process that people follow to become ordained ministers. At the annual Conference, we approved and commissioned the "Provisional members" who have met the requirements for the first step and then ordained and welcomed the "Full members" who completed the second step. It is a joy to see young people who still want to become clergy and have the opportunity to mentor and affirm their faith and calling!

Pastor's Time Away

Pastor Greg and Diana will be leaving town on June 28 and returning on July 10. On June 29, we will join Greg's mother and sister to worship at the Dryden United Methodist Church in Dryden, New York. This is the church where Greg was confirmed and that voted to start him on the path to becoming a pastor. Every pastor in the United Methodist Church must begin as a confirmed member of a church and seek the approval of that church to start the process that

leads to being ordained. This will be the last worship service in the Dryden church as it is closing. Many of you know how difficult it is to face the closing of a beloved church and congregation. We are glad for the opportunity to be able to participate in this service of blessing and to say goodbye.

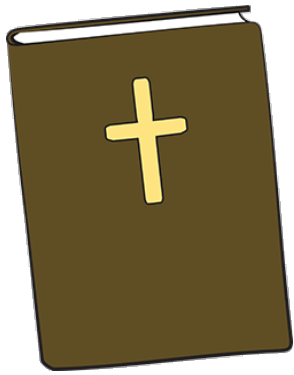
Rev. Greg Smith

Love Is Power

By comparing love to everything from oxygen and fire to wind and war, songs and poetry emphasize its immense power — for good or for ill. Christian author Patrick Morley uses metaphors that focus on love's practicality in everyday life: "Love is the glue that holds us together and the oil that keeps us from rubbing each other the wrong way." He also calls love "the WD-40 of relationships" because it "can seep into tight places where logic, threats, and even promises just can't seem to penetrate."

St. Augustine, who predated WD-40 by centuries, knew that love not only eases friction in personal interactions but, with God's help, can change hearts and lives. "Love all [people], even your enemies," he advises. "Love them, not because they are your brothers, but that they may become your brothers. Thus, you will ever burn with fraternal love, both for him who is already your brother and for your enemy, that he may by loving become your brother."

Source: Newsletternewsletter



July Lectionary

JULY 06 | 4th Sunday after
Pentecost (Green)

- 2 Kings 5:1-14
- Ps 30 (UMH 762)
- Gal 6:(1-6), 7-16
- Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

JULY 13 | 5th Sunday after
Pentecost (Green)

- Amos 7:7-17
- Ps 82 (UMH 804)
- Col 1:1-14
- Luke 10:25-37

JULY 20 | 6th Sunday after
Pentecost (Green)

- Amos 8:1-12
- Ps 52 or 82 (UMH 804)
- Col 1:15-28
- Luke 10:38-42

JULY 27 | 7th Sunday after
Pentecost (Green)

- Hos 1:2-10
- Ps 85 (UMH 806)
- Col 2:6-15 (16-19)
- Luke 11:1-13



With great sadness, we announce the passing of Jon Bangs, who passed away on June 22, 2025.

Please keep Beverly and the rest of their family in your prayers.

Service information will be announced at a later date.

Summer Fair

July 26, 2025, 8:30 am-1:00 pm

SUMMER FAIR
CARGO SHOP,
LAWN SALE & BBQ
BAKE SALE
BABY KNITS
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers Needed to Help with Food, Help with Sales of Outside Items, Help with Sales of Inside Items, Set Up, and Clean Up! Sign-up sheets are coming soon.

Outdoor Items Wanted

- Bikes • Camping Equipment • Furniture • Tools • Yard Decor
- Indoor Items Wanted • Books • Crystal • Lamps • Pictures • Puzzles • Silver • Toys/Games

Drop-off dates for the Cargo Shop & Lawn Sale: Thursday, July 24th, and Friday, July 25th.

Please do not bring these items to church before then. Thank You, One and All!



MANY DESPERATELY NEED OUR HELP

Forced Migration

More people are forcibly on the move today than at any other time in history, fleeing acute poverty, war and civil conflict, and natural and human-made disasters. U.S. governmental policies that fail to recognize the plight of people fleeing violence and persecution run counter to the inherent dignity of every person. We remain committed to providing refuge and offering support to people seeking safety and a better life, and we celebrate the ways immigrants enrich our communities by driving growth and innovation.

Peace and Stability

Corners of our world are under siege. While forced migration and the lack of accessible food, sustainable livelihoods, education, and healthcare all contribute to instability. There are places like Gaza, D.R. Congo, Ukraine, [Israel] experiencing devastating and ongoing bombardment and warfare. And once again, the dramatic reduction in U.S. foreign aid is exacerbating the suffering of people in these regions.

Feeding the Hungry

Feeding the hungry is a clear biblical imperative (Isaiah 58:8, Matthew 25:31-46). John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, emphasized the importance of living simply to help others and donated most of his income.

Your Compassion Relieves Suffering

As we continue to respond to the urgent needs of displaced people around the world, you can help extend a welcome, hope, and humanitarian support.

Please Give Generously

Choose a donating method using the Hyperlink [UMCOR – Where Most Needed](#), or write a check to Church on the Cape with a notation for UMCOR 999895.

Source: UMC.org

THANK YOU, MIKE KELLY, YOU ARE A BLESSING TO OUR CHURCH

Every Sunday morning, Mike Kelly enters the church sanctuary by 8 am and begins setting up the video and sound controls for the Sunday Worship Service broadcast at our Church. He has been doing this reliably, with only a few instances where he was unable to be present since COVID-19 began in the Spring of 2020.

At the outset, when COVID-19 was first identified, Mike, sensing the reluctance of members to gather in crowds and the potential for church closure, immediately saw the need for a workaround solution to ensure our Sunday Worship Service could still reach members. The solution was a portable camera and audio equipment, which Mike had up and running for the very next, or first, Covid Sunday. Consequently, worship services at Church on the Cape continued uninterrupted, except that they were now held online.



You might wonder how he could do this on such short notice. Part of the answer is that Mike, for many years, ran a company that built top-of-the-line speakers, requiring extensive knowledge of building and operating broadcasting systems.

As you might expect, the initial makeshift solution had its flaws. Still, Mike addressed them until the broadcasts ran as smoothly as they do now, with good picture clarity, sound, and camera motion, except for occasional technical issues.

Pastor Ho-Soon, our pastor during Covid, notes: "A tremendous amount of work exploring the options, researching the equipment, practice runs, modifying and remodifying the process was done. We have extremely talented people who are willing to help and be flexible, all with the same goal and purpose of serving the congregation. They understand worship is one of the major connections holding us together as a church family and try to make the worship experience as meaningful as possible."

By my count, Mike has been seated at his control station for 246 consecutive Sundays, except for very few breaks that I recall. This stretch includes a winter Worship Sunday when our church furnace took a rest, and Mike was back with his portable camera and sound equipment in a warmer Bartlett Hall.

Mike notes that his equipment typically shows online viewership running from 50 to 125, and last Easter, it reached 139. It is wonderful that our church shares God's Word with so many beyond our in-person members.

When you think about it, Mike has had to make the Worship Service Broadcast the anchor of his week, month after month, and year after year, which requires extreme dedication. We need, therefore, to be especially grateful to Mike and his wife, Donna, for their lifestyle adjustments and Mike's dedication to those of us who are physically unable to attend Church and to our online audience. Mike's sacrifice undoubtedly reflects his abundant love for his church family and others, as well as his dedication to serving God.



This is Mike's control station, and it is impressive. Additionally, there are cameras located at the back of the sanctuary, speakers at several locations, and other related equipment elsewhere.

Also noteworthy, Mike was a volunteer member of the Kennebunkport Fire Department and currently serves as a Trustee of the Goose Rocks Beach Fire Company. He's the producer of the "What's Your Story" program at the Graves Memorial Library and the founder and President of Aerial Acoustics.

(Recent Sunday Worship Videos can be seen at the following Hyperlink:
<http://www.youtube.com/@churchonthecapeinkennebunkport/live>)

Article by Charlie Benore

PENTECOST SUNDAY WITH RED ALL AROUND

Pastor Greg stands next to a beautiful cake he brought to honor the Holy Spirit's birthday for coffee hour. Please note the red stole he wore, the red flowers, and the red-colored cake with a delicious-looking frosting edge. His creativity, spiritual leadership, and tireless service to us continue to be greatly appreciated by all who follow our church.

Also wearing red was our fabulous choir led by Paul Stephan, whose choir continues to grow and provide us week after week with beautiful music. Paul does a marvelous job as our Music Director.

A selection from the Worship Service Pentecost Readings, which likely reflects the spirit of our choir members, follows:

*I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God
While I'm still alive.*

*Let my praise be pleasing to him;
I'm rejoicing in the Lord.
Psalm 104: 34-35*



Front row: Liz Phillips, Judy Unsworth, Joan Cole, Nonie Freeman, Elisabeth Boberg, Sharon Miesel, Ginny Hammar, Amy Hall, Debbie Parsons, Elaine Triplett.

Back row: Pastor Greg Smith, David Smith, Marshall Chamberlin, Rich Parsons, Nancy Chamberlin, Susie Goodwin, Helen Farnsworth, Marilyn Crocker, Ann Hand.

Photo by Mike Kelly

More on our wonderful musical program is planned for the August newsletter.



A CREED FOR JULY 4TH

I believe in America because in it we are free - free to choose our government, to speak our minds, to choose our different religions. Because we are generous with our freedom, we share our rights with those who disagree with us.

Because we hate no people and covet no people's lands.

Because we are blessed with a natural and varied abundance.

Because we have great dreams and because we have the opportunity to make those dreams come true.

-Wendell L. Willkie,
Republican candidate for president in 1940

Source: Newsletternewsletter

The Cookie Davis Mural

Now Featured at Church on the Cape, UMC

The Church on the Cape, UMC, at 3 Langsford Rd., Cape Porpoise, Kennebunkport, is pleased to host the first installation of the Brick Store Museum's traveling exhibition "Bold Visions," which premiered at the Museum in Summer 2024. The exhibit features a local transgender artist named *Dominique "Cookie" Helen Louise Emmanuelle Victoria Heather Renee Dejanaero London (1951-2007)*.

A long-time Cape Porpoise resident, Cookie was born in 1951 as Coleman Davis. Like many people in coastal Maine, Cookie went to work as a fisherman. In their adult life, Cookie became a well-known figure across The Kennebunks, often dressing in feminine attire and her famous white Go-Go boots. It wasn't until the mid-1990s that Cookie started to paint, after a request from a local lobsterman to complete a mural on his lobster tank. That led to two more tanks being painted, at the request of other fishermen. This was the beginning of Cookie's artistic path. While also painting in more traditional formats, Cookie continued exterior art projects that included fish house doors, fences, and signs. Cookie's identity transitioned to being her true self as Dominique, a transgender woman. Many close friends described how it made her feel complete and happy.

Cookie's life story was instrumental in the creation of "Bold Visions." As part of its commitment to a comprehensive history and connected community, the Brick Store Museum values the power of telling people's stories. As the exhibit of Cookie's paintings (all loaned by private collectors) came together, Museum staff and community partners formed a team to create a mural that would honor the public art that Cookie created.

This is how the Cookie Davis Mural came into being! Four amazing regional artists - Kristin Fuhrmann-Simmons, Leah Bares, KJ Shows, and Ben Spalding created the four panels that make up the two doors of the mural. It was hung on an exterior wall of the Museum during the "Bold Visions" exhibit in 2024. Then another vision came into view: maybe, every season, the mural should come out of storage to be hosted somewhere across the Kennebunks, for continued public interaction; a way to keep sharing the story of Cookie Davis, someone who was part of our community and

helped to better connect our community through their own courage, honesty, and artistry.

The Church on the Cape is honored to have been chosen as the first host for the traveling exhibit. The murals will hang on the exterior of the church's main entrance through the Summer 2025 season. For more information about the Church on the Cape, visit their website at www.churchonthecape.org.

If you are interested in learning more about the Mural and how to bring it to your location, please visit www.brickstoremuseum.org/cookiemural.

Portions of this article were sourced from the Brick Store Museum's catalogue from the Bold Visions Exhibit. Other portions were written by Sean Driscoll, Community Partner to the Brick Store Museum, and Susie Goodwin for Church on the Cape, UMC.



Article by Susie Goodwin with help from the Brick Store Museum. Photo by Sean Driscoll

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 foundation of our unity. 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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