



# The Church on the Cape Newsletter



April 2022

## Pastor's Letter

Dear family and friends of Church on the Cape,

When a Jewish rabbi taught God's wisdom and prayers he always said, "put them on your hearts." One day a student asked him, "Why do you say to put them on our hearts, not in our hearts?" The rabbi answered "All you can do now is to put them on your heart. And one day when your heart is broken by the grace of God, it will open and they will fall in your heart."

(excerpt from "lamp in the darkness" by Jack Kornfield)

There's something about broken-heartedness, woundedness, and scars that is sacred. There's something about them that make us whole, create new and another beautiful pattern when, by the grace of God, they are embraced and integrated into us

There's so much wisdom in what the Psalmist says,

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
God will not despise a broken and contrite heart (Psalm 31:17)

and in what Paul says,

It is in our imperfection  
God's power is perfected (2 Cor. 12:9)

While journeying in this world of imperfection as an imperfect human being we often are vulnerable, wounded, scarred, and broken-hearted. When that happens, all we can do is to lean our head slightly on the shoulder of the One who sits beside us

with an ever-ready listening heart,  
with a never-ending song of grace  
offering a gentle touch of soul massage,  
with the healing balm of celestial fragrance  
breathing along in our rhythm and pace  
bringing us back to the One who is Love.

Lent gives us the opportunities for us to contemplate on the suffering and death of Jesus. From His woundedness and brokenness we find comfort as He shared our human fragility. From His willing to carry our weaknesses we find courage to walk through our own times of trials and tribulations. And finally, when we reach Easter, from His resurrection we find the possibility of healing and new life.

May your heart be open to embrace the wisdom and love of God through Jesus Christ.

In peace, Ho-Soon

## May Your Hearts Be At Peace

Dear Family and Friends of Church on the Cape,

First of all, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your prayers and the ways you have expressed your concern, compassion, and wishes for a speedy recovery. Thank you.

As those of you who joined the service were informed, the announcement was made today [February 27th] that the Bishop of the New England Conference intends to appoint me to First UMC in Rochester, NH, as of July 1, 2022. My last Sunday at Church on the Cape will be Easter Sunday, April 17, after which I will be on a renewal leave until I move to Rochester in late June.

I'm sure that everyone has different reactions to this announcement. Some of you may be perplexed or have mixed feelings based on how much you knew about this process. Like many events in life, there are layers and complexities about how we came to this place. No matter what your initial reactions to this announcement are, it is my deepest prayer and yearning that you will remain faithful to God and compassionate toward yourself and others while processing this individually and collectively.

No matter the situation, this is a season of remembering and releasing. As for me, I remember the moments and ways God has been present and blessed us over the past two and a half years. At the same time, I release the sacred burden I have carried as the pastor of the Church on the Cape.

My recent injury has revealed to me that I am broken in many ways, both heart, and body. Yet as you know, I am someone who believes in the God of healing and wholeness. And I want you to know that God has already planted a new seed of hope and vision, which I am deeply humbled and grateful for.

Thank you for journeying with me through the pastures and valleys—I want you to know that you have kept me strong, and I pray that you will continue to stay close to God and draw strength from God.

- May you all be held in Christ's gentle presence.
- May your hearts be at peace.
- May any strong feelings you may have been eased.
- May the tenderness and mercy of God's compassion guide your hearts, minds, and souls.

In peace,  
Ho-Soon

## **DEPARTING TRIBUTE TO OUR PASTOR HO-SOON**

Dear Pastor Ho-Soon:

We are deeply grateful and appreciative for your being our pastor, and dedicated service to us. You have led us in righteous and holy ways while being faithful to the Bible. And you have brought us closer to God and one another through Bible studies and other spiritual activities at church. Importantly, you have also been our friend who loves us.

Your calmness, humbleness, and love for each of us are very much treasured, and we pray that God will bless you in your new ministry. We will surely miss you, Pastor Ho-Soon, and you will continue to be in our prayers.

Pastor Ho-Soon's last worship service with us will be Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Your Editor

## **NEW APPOINTMENTS FOR CHURCH ON THE CAPE PASTORAL CARE**

Karen Munson, District Superintendent of the New England Conference, met with the SPRC of Church on the Cape to present the appointment of our Interim Pastor. Rev. Sammie Maxwell will serve as a full-time Interim pastor starting July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024. Bishop Devadhar requested the announcement be made at the Sunday service on March 20, 2022.

Pastor Sammie is no stranger to the COTC congregation, and we warmly welcome her return and her husband, Russ. They were planning a move to Wesley by the Sea when she was invited back to COTC. Blessings from above.

The Bishop also appointed Rev. Desmond Parker to provide COTC renewal pastoral coverage from April 18, 2022, until June 30, 2022. We have enjoyed having Rev. and Mrs. Parker in our church family, and he has frequently substituted for Pastor Ho-Soon at our worship service in recent months.

Article by Priscilla Campbell Wyman

## **SPECIAL THANK YOU TO**

Sue Cayford for the past 4 years of service as the Administrative Assistant, a dedicated member of the staff, a kind and compassionate friend, and a pleasant and reliable presence in the office. Sue certainly provided invaluable support for the three pastors during her time. As she moves forward to a new calling of God, may God continue to bless her journey. Thank you, Sue! From Pastor Ho-Soon



## April Lectionary Readings

### April 3:

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

### April 10:

*Liturgy of the Palms*

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Luke 19:28-40

*Liturgy of the Passion*

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

### April 17:

*Resurrection of the Lord*

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

### April 24:

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Acts 5:27-32

Psalms 118:14-29 or Psalm 150

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

## CINEMA DIVINA - LENTEN SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

There will be four 1-hour Zoom sessions of Lenten spiritual practice "Cinema Divina" using the short films created by Marilyn Freeman, film director, writer, media artist, spiritual director. We will watch a 3-5 minute film in each session and use it for contemplation, reflection, and discussion. The schedule is as follows.

**March 14, 7 pm - Meanwhile**

**March 25, 7 pm - Loss and Love**

**April 4, 7 pm - The Mystic**

**April 11, 7 pm - Hope**

Please sign up on the sheet outside Bartlett Hall or contact the office.

## CARGO SHOP DONATIONS

The Cargo Shop is now accepting donations from church members only at this time. Donations of gently used clothing, accessories, jewelry, household items and décor, and small furniture items such as plant stands or side tables are welcome. Please bring donations to the church during office hours, Tuesday through Friday, from 9 am to 2 pm. This will help the Cargo Shop Chairs manage the quantity and quality of donations. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Lovejoy or Donna Rooney.

## SPECIAL DATES

- Holy Week, *April 10-17, 2022*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *April 10, 2022*
- Maundy Thursday, *April 14, 2022*
- Good Friday, *April 15, 2022*
- Easter Sunday, *April 17, 2022*
- Administrative Professionals Day, *April 27, 2022*

• **UKRAINIAN UNITED METHODISTS  
KEEP WORKING**

ATLANTA — The small United Methodist communities in Ukraine continue to help their neighbors amid the chaos and violence of the Russian invasion. Elliott Wright writes about the priorities of the current United Methodist humanitarian work and shares background on the Methodist history and presence in the country.

**How to assist the Ukrainian people**

United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute to Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

**EASTER PLANTS**

We will again be ordering Easter plants to beautify our sanctuary. If you would like to participate, please print, fill out, and return the attached [order form](#) and return it to the church office **no later than Monday, April 11, with your payment.** Order forms will also be available at the church, or you may contact the office to place your order.

**EASTER EGG HUNT**

Bring your family and friends to the Church on the Cape annual Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 16th at 10:30 am.** This will happen outside, weather permitting, or inside if the weather is bad. We will have a visit from the Easter bunny. To sign up, call the church at 207-967-5787. Questions? Contact Carol Nason at [cgnason3@gmail.com](mailto:cgnason3@gmail.com).

**Letter from Jan Stover  
March 11, 2022**

To My Dear Friends at Church on the Cape,

It is with great sadness, yet with the strong conviction that God is leading my steps, that I am resigning as Director of Music at Church on the Cape, effective May 29, 2022.

It has been a beautiful nine years of service at Church on the Cape for me! I have been blessed to work with wonderful, talented, and committed people who will have a forever place in my heart. I have had the privilege of watching the Holy Spirit orchestrate beyond our humble efforts. I have seen a family grow in commitment to each other.

My next step has been to accept God's very clear call to be the Minister of Music at a church near my home. The announcement will be made at that church this Sunday, March 13.

While I am challenged and expectant about "growing" another church music program, I am also committed to helping Church on the Cape in any way that I am able to move forward and to find the right person or persons to lead on in music and worship.

I wholeheartedly accept my next assignment with joy, also believing that God will honor the pure hearts and prayers of the congregation at Church on the Cape to seek and find His will.

May God richly bless you all,  
Jan Stover



# *Who Is Jesus?*

## A Short Candlelit Tenebrae Service

*with*

*\*Choir \* Song Sisters \* Soloists \* Narration*

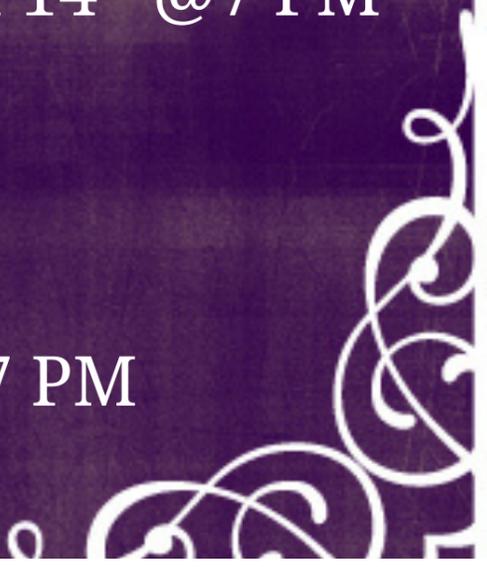


Church on the Cape  
Cape Porpoise

Maundy Thursday April 14 @7 PM

Village Baptist Church  
Kennebunkport

Good Friday April 15 @7 PM



# "Who Is Jesus?"

All are invited to worship with Church on the Cape, as we present a moving Tenebrae service called *Who Is Jesus* on Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7:00 pm, at Church on the Cape in Cape Porpoise, and Good Friday, April 15, 7:00 pm, at Village Baptist Church in Kennebunkport.

This 30-minute work will feature Choir, the Song Sisters, soloist Jim Ryan of Franklin, MA, and narrator Pastor Joe Everett from Village Baptist Church.

In examining the events of Holy Week, *Who Is Jesus?* uses music and narration to provide some answers to this important question. Along with the original musical, the wonderful composer-arranger Joel Raney has woven many familiar hymns, such as *Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us, Sweet By and By, O Sacred Head, Now Wounded, and Fairest Lord Jesus*.

After the final seventh candle is extinguished and the last note is sung, we will exit the churches in silence, better prepared to receive the Sunday miracle of the Resurrection.

For more information contact:

Janice Stover, Music Director, Church on the Cape  
603-978-3910

[janicleastover@gmail.com](mailto:janicleastover@gmail.com)



I hope you have had an opportunity to drive down Mills Road to see the amazing progress on the first Habitat home! We have had great volunteer groups participating and fairly decent weather, so we are still hoping for a June completion date. The Harmon family are very involved in the build and are rapidly accumulating their sweat equity hours. There is still plenty of time for a COTC group to get involved.



Family selection is also underway for a Partner Family for the second Mills Road home. We don't have a firm date for that build yet but anticipate starting in late May or early June. Stay tuned for more updates. Visit our website or email program@ [habitatyorkcounty.org](http://habitatyorkcounty.org) for volunteer sign-up.

Article by Beth Doty



## Plenty of Time to Read During Covid

During Covid, I had plenty of time to read, and my favorite so far is John Wesley's "The Complete Sermons." He, of course, is the founder of the Methodist Church, and I like his direct, foundational, and righteous-driven theology expressed in his sermons.

I also admire his sometimes, concise expression of spiritual goals: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." Another is "Earn all you can, save all you can, and give all you can."

One sermon I found especially meaningful for guiding my spiritual future was "On Working Out Our Salvation," in Sermon 85. Salvation cannot be done with our own strength but can through God's grace.

Wesley writes: "If God worketh in you, then work out your own salvation. Your own - for you yourselves must do this, or it will be left undone forever. Salvation begins with what is usually termed preventing grace, including the first wish to please God, the first dawn of light concerning his will, and the first slight transient conviction of having sinned against him."

"Salvation is then carried out by convincing grace, usually in Scripture termed repentance, which brings a larger measure of self-knowledge, and a farther deliverance from the

heart of stone. Afterward, we experience the proper Christian salvation; whereby, *'through grace,'* we *'are saved by faith,'* consisting of those two grand branches, justification, and sanctification."

"By justification, we are saved from the guilt of sin and restored to the favour of God; by sanctification, we are saved from the power and root of sin and restored to the image of God."

Salvation "begins the moment we are justified, in the holy, humble, gentle, patient love of God and man. For when he is justified, he is 'born again,' 'born from above,' 'born of the Spirit'.... It gradually increases [sanctification] from that moment...till the heart is cleansed, from all sin, and filled with pure love to God and man. But even that love increases more and more, till we *'grow up in all things into him that is our Head'* till we attain *'the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.'*"

"If ever you desire that God should work in you that faith whereof cometh both present and eternal salvation, by the grace already given, fly from all sin...carefully avoid every evil word and work; yea, abstain from all appearance of evil. And *'learn to do well.'* Be zealous of good works, of works of piety, as well as works of mercy; family prayer, and crying to God in secret. Fast in secret.... Search the Scriptures...be a partaker of the Lord's Supper...."

"As ye have time, do good unto all men; to their souls and to their bodies. And herein *'be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.'* It then only remains that ye deny yourselves and take up your cross daily. Deny yourselves every pleasure which does not prepare you for taking pleasure in God...."

"Since he worketh in you of his own good pleasure, without any merit of yours, both to will and to do, it is possible for you to fulfill all righteousness. It is possible for you to 'love God because he hath first loved us,' and to 'walk in love,' after the pattern of our great Master. We know indeed, that word of his, to be absolutely true: 'Without me, ye can do nothing.'"



I have also enjoyed reading religious books before Covid to learn about God and please Him.

A Bible with study notes is first on my list. I sometimes find it hard to understand particular Bible verses, and the study notes are most helpful in understanding the text's meaning. I also read other books to add to my understanding of God's Word, especially by John Wesley, William Barclay, and John Stott.

And I wish to share several of these books with my church family. Please see the photo at the bottom of this page of books that are now part of the church library in the parlor room. They are waiting for readers to enjoy and learn more about God and the wonderful future He has made for us. I hope you will give one of them, several, or all of them, a try.

Among these books, Barclay's seventeen "New Testament Bible Commentaries" are the easiest to read and understand and have sold over 1.5 million copies. I am grateful to Pastor Ruth Merriam for suggesting that I read them, which I did with pleasure. Barclay, I found, fulfilled his goal of "making the best biblical scholarship available to the average reader." On the other hand, Wesley's "The Complete Sermons" on the far right in the photo is the hardest to read but has in-depth explanations; and is full of guidance for faith, hope, and love.

Barclay's NT books shown in the photo include:

- Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- Acts of the Apostles
- Letter to the Hebrews
- Letter to the Romans
- Letters to Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians,
- Letters to John and Jude
- Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon
- Letters to the Galatians and Ephesians
- Letters of James and Peter
- Letters to the Corinthians

Next in the photo with partially green spines is the "Bible Speaks Expositions Today "by John Stott. He has been described as "An architect of



20th-century evangelicalism who shaped the faith of a generation." "The BBC referred to him as someone who could 'explain complex theology in a way laypeople could easily understand.'"

Other books included are "Counterfeit Gods" by Timothy Keller, Joyce Meyer's "Battlefield of the Mind," "The Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel, and Charles Stanley's "Handbook for Christian Living."

The Complete Sermons includes 141 Sermons by John Wesley; Counterfeit Gods tells of the empty promises of Money and Power and the only hope that really matters. Battlefield of the Mind has sold over 2 million copies and "teaches you how to deal with thousands of thoughts you have every day and focus your mind to think the way God thinks." "As The Case for Christ and its ancillary resources approach 10 million copies in print, this updated edition will prove even more valuable to contemporary readers." And the Handbook for Christian Living, I found, was a very readable book providing "biblical answers to life's tough questions."

Your Editor

## WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS

O God, we come before you to praise you for your overwhelming kindness toward us all. How loving and generous you are! How merciful and supportive day by day you are to us. What a beautiful and bountiful earth-home you have provided for us. Sometimes the beauty and majesty of what we see before us are breathtaking. Dear Lord, we need not understand the brilliance we see in your creation; we only need to know that you are

mindful of us, that you care for us, that your love for us is unfathomable and everlasting. We gladly affirm that you are our loving Lord who has provided for all our needs. For all your gracious and loving acts — and especially for our hope of salvation through Christ our Lord — we express our profound and everlasting thankfulness. Amen.

## A LOVE-FILLED VICTORY

It's tough to read about Jesus' agony on the cross, where he felt "forsaken" by God (see Matthew 27:46). But as Philip Yancey explains in *Where Is God When It Hurts?* the Father didn't desert Jesus — and didn't desert us.

"God was not 'up there' watching the tragic events conspire 'down here.' God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself," he writes. "If Jesus was a mere man, his death would prove God's cruelty; the fact that he was God's Son proves instead that God fully identifies with suffering humanity. On the cross, God himself absorbed the awful pain of this world.

"To some, the image of a pale body glimmering on a dark night, whispers of defeat," Yancey continues. "But another sound can be heard: the shout of a God crying out to human beings, 'I LOVE YOU.' Love was compressed for all history in that lonely figure on the cross, who said that he could call down angels at any moment on a rescue mission, but chose not to — because of us."

He concludes: "Any discussion of how pain and suffering fit into God's scheme ultimately leads back to the cross."

Source of articles: Newsletternewsletter

## 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, 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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