



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
200 Main Street, P.O. Box 1300 - Wellfleet, MA 02667-1300

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From The Pastor's Desk-

Easter Sunrise has always been one of my favorite services of the year. I find something particularly hopeful and inspiring about being up while much of the world still slumbers, celebrating Christ's resurrection. No matter whether the dawn brings grey clouds or the brilliant colors of sunrise, the sense of newness is tangible.

One year I was working as a deckhand on a small cruise ship, and Easter found us in port in St. Mary's, Georgia. Our ship was meant to depart at 6:15, but I asked the captain if we could delay casting off for 15 minutes or so in order to attend the sunrise service that was being held at the nearby marina. Captain Howe happily delayed the departure and accompanied me to the service. With the strains of "Up From the Grave He Arose" still ringing in our ears, we returned to the ship, cast off our lines, and headed for open water.

Unfortunately, that was when we ran aground on a submerged sandbar. In an instant, the peace of the morning was disrupted by our present circumstances: stuck, unable to extricate ourselves, and a danger to both navigation and the safety of our vessel and passengers. Thankfully, due to some skillful piloting by the captain we were free in about 20 minutes, and the only "damage" we found was spilled coffee in the galley. The captain did, however, vow that would be the last time he would attend a service before leaving port.

I have carried this memory with me as a reminder of how quickly our understanding of the miracle of Easter can be challenged, and how we are called to respond. We celebrate the empty tomb and the promises of resurrection, yet we live in a world that still knows illness, suffering, and death. We are not called, as my former captain did, to turn away in frustration and forget who we are: a people of hope who live into the promises of resurrection. This power is greater than the hidden sandbars of life, greater even than the tomb. When we run aground, when we feel in the midst of death, we cling more tightly to the one who calmed the seas for the disciples, and who called Lazarus, and ourselves, out of our graves. Christ is risen; He is risen indeed!

Pastor Jon


From the Moderator....

President Calvin Coolidge was famously a man of few words. One Sunday he went to church alone; his wife was otherwise engaged. When he returned home from the service, Mrs. Coolidge asked Calvin, "How was the service?" Calvin replied, "Fine." She probed a bit, "How was the sermon?" He said "Good." She asked, "What did the minister talk about?" He replied, "Sin." She went deeper: "What did he say about sin?" Calvin replied, "He's against it."

We all seek inspiration at church. We each take away meanings relatable to our own experiences and pertinent to our own circumstances. In some ways, perhaps we hear what we need. In Calvin's case, the message was simple – or more likely, he simply did not want to talk about it; the understanding we take from church is, sometimes, a thing we prefer keeping to ourselves.

We may hear differently, but we are in church together, and that creates opportunity. Let's remember the intrinsic value of our fellowship. As a church family, we multiply our individual gifts, energies, and ideas by working together. We are individuals, but also united in purpose. The meaning of our actions and results together is consequently enriched.

Peter Cook
Moderator



We express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Carol Loreto (Maddox) who died in December 31, 2022. Carol was an active member before moving to Florida.

We express our deepest sympathy to Geza Kantor on the death of his wife, Barbara who died on March 16, 2023. Geza and Barbara have been active members of our congregation since 2001 and celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on March 10th. Arrangements are in the care of the family.

We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Jean Cooper who died on March 16 2023 at the age of 97. Jean was an Associate member of the congregation, joining in 2018. A memorial visitation as held on March 24, 2023. A memorial service was held on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at the Truro Congregational Church.

"In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!"



PRAYER LIST

Please contact the church office to if you would like to add a name to our prayer list, which is printed in the weekly bulletin or request the names of those on it.

“If one member suffers, all suffer together...If one member is honored, all rejoice together.” (1 Cor. 12:26) May the presence of Jesus Christ be with those on our PRAYER LIST and with those who care for them.

And for those who are chronically ill and confined to their homes, nursing homes and hospitals.

Spring is here, and summer is just around the corner!

The Garden Volunteers will probably have begun their church grounds springtime cleanup by the time you read this newsletter! We have lots to do, and we will soon be needing supplies: hoses, mulch/wood chips, fertilizer, watering system equipment, and (eventually) flats of annuals. We have been tending and redeveloping the church grounds for three years now, and we need to make sure our resources match our ambitions! To accomplish our goals, we need your help again.

This year we hope to raise \$800. Your gifts have been and continue to be our lifeline. We can volunteer our time, and we do, but we need your financial support to sustain our efforts. As spring moves along and the church grounds bloom into life, please remember what it takes to make all this happen: time, talent and treasure. We hope that there's still some treasure left among you to share. As those plants around the church grounds start popping up, take a moment to look around. You'll see that your past contributions have been put to good use.

We are so grateful for your donations over the past three years, and we want to welcome your support again this year. Please continue to help; you may give by using cash, check or credit card (Paypal) payments. When you do, please make sure that your gift is clearly designated for the “Garden Fund.” Brad will note it on your Pledge Card (if applicable) and Dan will send you a written acknowledgement on behalf of the Garden Volunteers. Your contribution is also tax-deductible!

Thank you for remembering us; we hope to hear from you soon.

Dan Wexman
Dot Oberding
Charlotte Hands
Ron Boyles
Nancy Vitek
Cyndy Van Hook
Judie Palleschi



A Brief Note From The Trustees

The Trustees are moving along with our busy agenda, and we are making progress! Several maintenance and repair projects for both the church and the parsonage have been addressed and are now works-in-progress. We are formulating plans to tackle multiple structural and cosmetic building needs that have come to our attention. The Farmers Market contract is being renegotiated. We have approved a new church budget format and hope

to have that in place by the time you read this newsletter. The Financial Management, Building and Grounds and Personnel components of Trustee responsibilities are working on improving church operations, and we are happy that membership in these groups has increased. We are looking for ways to simplify the church's requirements when making our facilities available for local community events, and in doing so, we hope we can facilitate our church's outreach initiatives. New challenges seem to crop up every day, and I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for their energetic support. We envision bright days to come!

Best regards,

Dan Wexman
Chairperson

THE CLEANEST AIR AROUND!

To any of you who may be feeling hesitant about returning to in-person services, please remember that we have newly installed filtration upgrades for both air conditioning and heating systems that are designed to inactivate 99.4% of virus molecules! In addition, masks and sanitizers are easily available, and there is plenty of room to observe social distancing.
Tell your friends!

APRIL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

4/2 Dan W.
4/7 Isabel S.
4/18 Karen B.
4/21 Jane C.
4/22 Pearl J. & Susan E.
4/27 James C.



MAY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS !

5/1 Cyndy V.
5/6 Bailey S.
5/12 Jean M.
5/21 Peter C.
5/27 Ruth Anne D.
5/31 Ben P.

Nauset Neighbors Volunteer Opportunity

Want to make a difference in a neighbor's life? Join us at Nauset Neighbors, an all-volunteer non-profit organization, that helps senior stay in their homes and active in their communities. You can help by providing friendly visits, rides to appointments, tech assistance and simple handyman tasks. Volunteering is easy and flexible. Sign up online to help when it fits your schedule.

The members we help live in your communities of Brewster, Chatham, Eastham, Harwich, Orleans, and Wellfleet. We have a waiting list of seniors who need a hand. You can shorten their wait by volunteering with Nauset Neighbors.

Contact us at: nausetneighbors.org or call at 508-514-7067

TELL A FRIEND ABOUT THE FOOD PANTRY!

Last year the Wellfleet Food Pantry provided food to 185 Wellfleet families, but we know there are more families who could use a little help. Would you help us by telling your friends who live in Wellfleet about the Food Pantry and invite them to come?

We're open Monday 3-6, Wednesday 4-6, and Thursday 10-12.

- The Pantry has been serving Wellfleet families since 1999.
- Our only concern is that *everyone* has enough to eat.
- Financial status is not a consideration.

Our volunteers thank you for your help.



WELLFLEET FOOD PANTRY - Food for Neighbors

25 Lieutenant Island Road

South Wellfleet, MA 02663

508-349-3036 - Visit our website: www.wellfleetfoodpantry.org

Alcoholics Anonymous - Saturdays at 7:00p.m.

Choir Rehearsal - Saturdays at 4:00p.m.

Special Congregational Meeting – April 2, 2023 following 10:00a.m. Worship

Mission & Outreach Meeting - April 5, 2023 – 4:30p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Maundy Thursday Service - April 6, 2023 – 5:30p.m.

*Good Friday Service - April 7, 2023 at 12:00p.m.
Sanctuary open until 3 for personal reflection*

*Easter Sunrise Service - April 9, 2023 at 5:45a.m.
Newcomb Hollow Beach – parking lot*

Diaconate Meeting - April 16, 2023 at 11:15a.m. in church office

Trustees Meeting - April 19, 2023 - at 7:00pm – Fellowship Hall

Living Water Acupuncture Clinic – Weekly Clinic – Tuesday’s – 3-6p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Care Team – April 25, 2023 – 10:30a.m. in Fellowship Hall

*Childrends clothing swap to benefit the Wellfleet Montessori School
– April 29, 2023 – 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. in Fellowship Hall*

First Congregational Church of Wellfleet – May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AA = Alcoholics Anonymous MS = Mustard Seed WHS = Wellfleet Historical Society Handicap Accessible	1 8-10am – MS	2 8:00-11pm – MS 10-12 WHS Mtg. 3-5pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	3 9:00-2pm – MS	4	5	6 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
7 Fifth Sunday of Easter 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship, Communion	8 8-10am – MS	9 8:00-11pm – MS 3-5pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	10 9:00-2pm – MS 4:30pm – Mission & Outreach Mtg.	11	12	13 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
14 Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship 11:15am – Diaconate mtg.	15 8-10am – MS	16 8:00-11pm – MS 3-5pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	17 9:00-2pm – MS 7:00pm- Trustees Mtg.	18 Ascension Day	19	20 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
21 Seventh Sunday of Easter 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship	22 8-10am – MS	23 8:00-11pm – MS	24 9:00-2pm – MS	25 Deadline for Newsletter Submission	26	27 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
28 Pentecost Sunday 9am- Choir Reh. 10:00am Worship 11:15am Council Mtg.	29* 8-10am – MS	30 8:00-11pm – MS 10:30am Care Team – Fellowship Hall	31 9:00-2pm – MS	1	2	3 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA

First Congregational Church of Wellfleet – April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AA=Alcoholics Anonymous MS = Mustard Seed FH = Fellowship Hall WHS = Wellfleet Historical Society Handicap Accessible						1 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir reh. 7:00pm AA
2 Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship & Communion 11:15am -Special Church Mtg	3 8-10am – MS	4 8:00-11pm – MS 3-6pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	5 9:00-2pm – MS 4:30pm – Mission & Outreach mtg.	6 Maundy Thursday 5:30p.m. Service	7 Good Friday 12:00p.m. Service	8 Holy Saturday Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA
9 Easter 5:45am Sunrise Svc. At Nwcmh Hlw beach 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship.	10 8-10am – MS	11 8:00-11pm – MS 10-12pm – WHS mtg. 3-6pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	12 9:00-2pm – MS	13	14	15 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
16 Second Sunday of Easter 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship 11:15am Diaconate mtg	17 8-10am – MS	18 8:00-11pm – MS 3-6pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	19 9:00-2pm – MS 7:00pm – Trustees Mtg.	20 Deadline for submitting articles for newsletter	21	22 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
23 Third Sunday of Easter 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship <hr/> 30 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9am- Choir reh. 10:00am Worship 11:15am – Council mtg.	24 8-10am – MS	25 8:00-11pm – MS 10:30am – Care Team Ministry 3-6pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	26 9:00-2pm – MS	27	28	29 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA