

Congregational Connection



Pastor's Column

Hello Church,

As May begins, I will be preaching a **SPRING SERMON SERIES: HELPING EACH OTHER GROW**. May 6th, 13th, 20th. My hope is that you will invite your friends, colleagues and acquaintances to come hear and share some good news about growth and hope with one another and our community.

Here's a bit about the series. Spring -- we know it's coming right? Everything grows in Spring. Just like the bulbs that break forth in bloom, we can too, no matter who or where we are on life's journey. Growing is not just about gardens, tulips and daffodils, or a kid's height chart. The good news is that with Christ, we can grow without ceasing. Remember how the risen Christ first appeared to Mary Magdala at the empty tomb as a gardener? In Springtime, we can think of Jesus as the ultimate gardener for us too, who brings about our growth, our blossoming, our fruitfulness.

We can grow into spiritual maturity, but we cannot do it by ourselves. Paul, the apostle writes: "I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you." Romans 1:12 You cannot grow to be the person God wants you to be by yourself. You need me, I need you, and you and I need tools for growth. Our Creator gives us those tools in abundance. So come, let us grow together. There are cards available for you to share with others and invite along. There is a sharable invitation on our FB, Instagram, Twitter, and website: www.eweyucc.org. Here's what each Sunday looks like.

May 6th, Part One: **GROWING AS INDIVIDUALS**, Each Made in the Image of God.

May 13th, Part Two: **GROWING WITH OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS**, Nurturing our Faith at Home. (Perfect for Mother's Day)

May 20th, Part Three: **GROWING TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY**, Celebrating the birth of the church and the church's love and support of community at Pentecost.

Faithfully Yours,
Rev. Gretchen



From the Desk of the Deacons

The Deacons want to thank everyone for attending the Easter Sunday service. The children helped create a powerful opening with the Alleluia processional joined by our Choir members. We sang some meaningful hymns and listened to insightful scripture. And it is always a pleasure to hear the gifted voice of our friend, Jerry McDonough.

As always, it is so gratifying to see our Church filled with members, guests and families; the young and mature, coming together to celebrate this blessed day of new life. Our Church lawn was filled with children from the Church and community who joined together to find Easter eggs. It was a very busy place!

Thank you to those who invited friends and family to our service. All who attended are welcome back any time.

On Sunday, April 29th, the Deacons will have a meet and greet gathering with anyone interested in becoming a member of the Church. It will be a very informal and quick gathering. Grab a cup of coffee and bite to eat after the service and join the Deacons to ask any questions you might have about joining the Church.

The new members will join during the Church service on Sunday, May 20th, which is another important date in our Church, it is Pentecost Sunday. Remember to wear red!

There is a lot of discussion and encouraging work taking place with Church coach, Paul Nickerson. He has provided important guidance as to the next steps that will keep our Church growing and evolving for years to come. We have dedicated people who faithfully participate in meetings and on conference calls to learn how to change with the times and be inviting to everyone. There are people looking for Churches and we want them to walk through our doors and know that we are here for them. Thank you to Pastor Gretchen, the vitality team and all others for their effort in reaching out and inviting people to attend our Holy Week services; it made a positive difference!!

Spring is on the way, it is just taking time to appear. Keep positive, warmer temperatures are in our future.

Blessings to all,
Board of Deacons



Notes from the Music Director

THROWBACK POPS MAY 4! --- Remember Arthur Fiedler? He was conductor of the Boston Pops from 1929 until his death in 1979. During that time, he put the orchestra on the map as "America's Orchestra" and paved the way for successors John Williams and Keith Lockhart.

The Southeastern Philharmonic Orchestra, our wonderful orchestra in residence, will play a program very similar to those that Fiedler conducted during his tenure at a celebration of the end of the Music at Sanctuary Hall season on Friday, May 4.

Doors will open at 7 p.m. for coffee and dessert. Music will start at 8.

The program will also feature our senior choir's alter-ego, the Herring Run Festival Chorus, in a performance of "Amazing Grace," a gospel-tinged arrangement by Ed Lojeski, and "Prayer for Our Time," a meditation and plea for peace.

Tickets are only \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students and \$25 per family. A concert of this quality in Boston would cost you at least three times as much.

Bring a friend, bring an enemy, bring a kid, bring everyone you can. This is THE musical/social event of the year!

GREAT JOB, KIDS AND ADULTS --- Many thanks to all the kids who participated in our special choral processions on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. They, along with the help of teachers Kerry Mortland and other members of the Church School staff, added immeasurably to our worship.

This year we were also grateful to have the North River Brass Quintet as part of our Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday services. Their wonderful sound brought another dimension to the celebration of the Resurrection, and they were so impressed by the great spirit in our congregation.

Finally, thanks to the members of our Senior Choir, who commit to providing their very best to our worship week in and week out.

MUSIC AT SANCTUARY HALL 2018-19 --- Plans are already under way for our eighth season of Music at Sanctuary Hall, which will start in October with a national act.

More in the June newsletter! If you want to know more, call 781-974-3503.

Victor DeRubeis, Director of Music
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Church School News

Last month we celebrated Easter with a joyful rendition of "The Lord of the Dance" sung by 20 children at the opening of worship! What a powerful message to all who attended about how Jesus will be with us wherever we may be on life's journey. Thanks to Victor, our Music Director and the children for sharing this beautiful music with us. Special thanks to our teaching staff, Martha, Tara and Michelle for working with the children to "Build a Better Basket" where we fill Easter baskets with scripture-based items that help us retell the story of Jesus' resurrection and presence here on Earth. Another great big thank you goes out to Sam and our Youth: Alannah, Emilio, Alex, Sinead, Niamh, Jasmin, Darian and Stori who placed over 600 filled eggs on the lawn so that we could have an Easter Egg Hunt. And we can't forget Leo who watched over the event to make sure that we were safe. What a memorable day filled with warm welcomes, hope and joy.

Prayer Pal season is well under way and we have started to hear about the different ways adults and children interact as they pray for each other. There is a family that had a flock of chickens donated in their name and the children were so excited to know that someone will have one of "their" chicks somewhere in the world. Another family wanted to let their children meet the adult that they pray for each night. We invite you to share your stories and prayers to uplift our little flock and spread love to all.

"Good night! Good night! Far flies the light:
But still God's love shall shine above,
Making all bright, Good night! Good night!
(Victor Hugo)

We are looking forward to warm spring days and learning about God's love for us and our love for God's great Earth!

Church School Supt., Kerry Mortland Seek Joy!



Stewardship Committee

The Strawberry Festival and Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, June 16th. The Stewardship Committee is looking for donations of strawberries, cans of whip cream and biscuits. If you would like to purchase strawberries to donate, please wash, slice and store in a zip lock bag and freeze them. We have 2 refrigerators with freezers at our church, one in the Thrift Shop and one on the stage in the Chapel. You may also place your cans of whip cream in the refrigerators also. Please check the expiration dates on the can before you purchase them.

There will be members here Friday, June 15th at 6 pm to accept any donations for our Flea Market table. The Thrift Shop will accept any gently used clothing and other items to sell.

We will be looking for Adult and youth volunteers so please take a look at the sign-up sheets in the Chapel after church or ask or call one of our Stewardship Members. A donation list for our Snack Bar will also be placed out if you would like to donate items to that as well.

If you would like to purchase a table to sell your crafts or wares, a 6-foot table with 2 Chairs can be rented for 30.00. There is a Vendor Registration which must be filled out prior to the fair and paid cash or check to the East Weymouth Congregational church. Please ask for a registration if you need one. There is a 24-hour cancellation policy prior to the fair, if you have applied and paid, to reimburse anyone who cannot keep or make the date of the 16th.

We have a Schwinn 26" Drifter Bike for Raffle this year! We will be selling tickets up to July 1st which is the date of the drawing. Tickets will be available and selling for 1.00 each or 6 for 5.00.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Fellowship and to be joined together with the community. It is a great event to bring family and friends and neighborhood together to eat some fantastic Strawberry Shortcake and browse and shop.

Peace,
The Board of Stewardship



Gillette Stadium Volunteers

Here is the upcoming schedule of events. Be sure to sign up with Donna at Coffee Hour if you'd like to attend any of these or the 10 Patriot events (dates-tbd) this season:

5/28	Mon 1pm	NCAA Lacrosse
8/25	Sat	Kenney Chesney
9/15	Sat	Ed Sheeran



Soup/Sandwich/Scripture

The next Soup and Scripture is May 15, 2018, from 6:30 to 7:30. The scripture is Acts 2:1-21.

We will not meet again until September 18, 2018.



Upcoming Pastoral and Preacher Coverage

May 6th – Pastor Gretchen Elmendorf
May 13th – Pastor Gretchen Elmendorf
May 20th – Pastor Gretchen Elmendorf
May 27th – Rev. Donna Vuillemier



Birthdays

Lois Kennedy	May 4
Linda Santacroce	May 19
Colleen Noonan	May 28



In Our Prayers

Jim Glynn	Peter Adams
Kelly Cassier & family	Cheryl Thornton
Angela	Bette
Wendy	Marjorie
Paul	Kathy & Andy
Chris & Dick	Michael R.
Jack	Chickie
Lynn & David Tenney	Michael B.
Tom Arthur	Servicemen & women
First Responders	Mary
Dave	Shirley
Don Kettles	Mary
Marcia & Barry	Mel
Mike R.	Nancy N.
Franco P.	Muriel Smith
Gigi	Mauri P.
Maryanne Healey & family	Rosie Mae's birthday
Alanna M. – Wentworth	Margie & Lane
Margie's sister	Paul & Paula
Michael F.	Bob
Pastor Gary Marks	Joy McLeod
Tim Moccia	Joe Lussier
Kevin Cullen	Kevin Cullen's accusers
Ritchie	



Notes from the Office

Please have your June newsletter submissions to me by May 18th. Thank you!

-Sara