

Congregational Connection



Pastor's Column

Dear Church,

I hope you have had a blessed summer with time for Sabbath and resting in God's love for you and our creation. We have much to look forward to in our new Church program calendar year.

Rally Day, Sept. 9th, will be a day of blessing for the season ahead, uniting us in God's love, covenant and fellowship with gospel music and backpack blessings. We will be blessed with a baptism September 15 of Vivian, rejoicing that a baby who made her first appearance at our church at Easter will be here. September 23rd we will have the wonderful Just Peace Plays perform a play celebrating the women of the Greatest Generation, led by Rev. Fran Bogle. She will lead us in the inauguration of our Faith and Life Forum after church coffee hour – a monthly forum for discussion of matters of faith and public life.

We will have another new members service this Fall. Rev. Peter Preble, for one, is joining our church. He lives in East Weymouth and is Associate Moderator of the Pilgrim Association of MACUCC. He is an interim pastor at a UCC church in Salem, NH.

CE Superintendent Kerry Mortland and the CE Teachers have fresh and exciting plans to help children and youth grow in their faith, beginning in September. Some of our youth went to UCC summer camp for the 1st time. This year we will plan fundraisers for our youth so they can partake of new opportunities for camp and fellowship.

Our Music Director Victor DeRubeis has an amazing Music at Sanctuary Hall series planned beginning with the one and only nationally regarded folk and blues singer Jake Armerding.

We will continue working with Coach Rev. Paul Nickerson on Reaching New People, invigorating our outreach into the community. We will prepare for a Pet Blessing in the park, supporting kid's sports teams, and the Pumpkin Fair in October. The kids and youth too are making amazing forays into our community. Anyone is invited to join our Vitality Team or get involved in our events.

Church leaders have worked hard this summer to address occasions of church conflict. Conflict is bound to happen in any organization. Church leaders have learned tools which we will share throughout the year for helping us develop healthier ways to improve respectful, faithful, covenantal communication, which our loving savior challenges us to do. We are developing a church covenant, relying upon God's grace. We had our first church council in 2 ½ years which is a step in the right direction. Church leaders are meeting monthly to work on

church goals, planning and vision. If you have ideas you would like us to consider, please let me know. You are welcome at any meeting.

One goal this program year is to redevelop a church vision -- finding together our "Why." Here is an excellent overview from our Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ about how we grow in our faith when we discern intentionally together how God is calling us to be and why in East Weymouth and our world. <https://www.macucc.org/visioncongregation>. See Ted Talk by Simon Sinek. <https://youtu.be/IPYeCltXpxw>. This will be a church wide process. Your input will be valued.

Finally, and most importantly, it is a blessing to begin another church program year with you. You are precious in God's sight. You are beloved in ours. You help shape and enhance who we are becoming and who we can be together as church. With each of you in our midst, we are not just an organization, we are the living, breathing body of Christ. As the apostle Paul explains In the New Testament, the human body became the primary picture of the church body. Each part is essential to the functioning of the whole. "Even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ." – 1 Corinthians 12:12 Let us rejoice in who we are as church together and in service for the world, with Jesus as the head and author of our salvation.

Blessings,
Gretchen



From the Desk of the Deacons

Summer finally arrived! We hope you have been able to enjoy the warm weather and also relax a bit. Summer is a perfect opportunity to spend time outside in the sunshine with family and friends.

The Deacons would like to begin monthly Faith and Life Forums. These will be educational and spiritual forums and a communication platform for everyone. We hope you all can participate when your schedule allows. Stay tuned for details and dates.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 23rd. The Just For Peace Players will be at our Church to "perform" our Sunday morning worship service. They are an interfaith group that shares the vision of peace and justice through liturgical drama. They have been doing this type of ministry nationally and internationally at churches, seminaries, workshops and events for over 30 years. It will surely be a lively, dramatic, entertaining service and a chance to hear God's word in a new way. Don't miss it!

Have you ever wondered how to get the opportunity to read Scripture on Sunday morning? Well it is very easy and here is how to do it. Simply inform a Deacon of your interest in doing readings on a Sunday

and you can be added to the list. The Scriptures can be provided in advance so that you are aware of what is to be read. We would like to involve more of the congregation and welcome all who are interested.

Even though it is summer and time to rest and relax, there are lots of exciting things happening in our Church community. Stay tuned for more information.

Enjoy the season; unwind, breathe, namaste.



Notes from the Music Director

MUSIC AT SANCTUARY HALL SEASON 8 --- Artists of national and local renown will open the eighth season of Music at Sanctuary Hall on Saturday, Oct. 13, at 8 p.m.

Weymouth's own Jim Melody will team up with nationally-known singer-songwriter Jake Armerding. Jake opened the very first Music at Sanctuary Hall concert back in 2011. Jim Melody, whom many of you know as the composer of "Christmas in Boston" a good friend of Mayor Bob Hedlund, is very excited to be sharing the Music at Sanctuary Hall stage with Jake, who has played all over the world but especially likes the acoustics and aesthetics of our beautiful sanctuary.

Tickets will be \$20 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors, and \$40 per family. Doors will open at 7 p.m. for coffee and dessert.

With Jim's promotional help, we're hoping for a full house. And a chance to honor the memory of the victims of this summer's murders in Weymouth. We'll have more on that soon.

Advance discount ticket sales are available through brownpapertickets.com

Here are the other Music at Sanctuary Hall concerts planned for this fall:

Sunday, Nov. 4, at 3 p.m. --- Duo Amie, with pianist Elysses Kuan and cellist Julie Reimann. These amazing women take their respective instruments to a totally different realm. One thing's for sure: Their program will dazzle you. Invite and bring someone who thinks they hate classical music.

Saturday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. --- The annual Holiday Concert by the our orchestra in residence, the Southeastern Philharmonic, is sure to become a tradition for families who love the holiday pops experience but don't want to spend a small fortune going into Boston and paying for parking. Both orchestra and sanctuary will be decked out for this festive concert of traditional and contemporary Christmas music, plus a sing-along of sacred and secular favorites.

A LITTLE CHRISTMAS IN JACKSON SQUARE XX --- Preparations have begun for the 20th annual A Little Christmas in Jackson Square on Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019. We started with one choir and two soloists in 1999. Who knows what this year's edition will bring? We're hoping to bring back folks who haven't been with us in years.

Mark the date now: Sunday, Jan. 6 at 3 p.m.!

Victor DeRubeis
Director of Music
781-974-3503

vderubeis@yahoo.com



Church School News

This Summer has been an adventure into our Community for our Church School children and their families. Our teaching staff and parents lead an outdoor adventure to the new Osprey Overlook here in Weymouth. The Osprey Overlook looks out over the Back River Estuary where the annual Herring run takes place. We explained to the children how important it is to be stewards of this delicate ecosystem.

The following Sunday we were out in our community again with Pastor Gretchen leading us in a Community Prayer Vigil for Sgt. Chesna and Mrs. Adams that lost their lives in a tragic crime. We prayed, we cried

and then we honored them. In our shared grief we found ways to help the families, some of our children had a lemonade stand that raised almost \$500. Our Sunday School children distributed Thankful Bags to the Mayor's Office and the Weymouth Public School Office who were devastated with the loss of life. Children also decorated the bulletin board in the main entrance to reflect our thankfulness for our community.

In August we were able to send some of our Youth to Silver Lake UCC Camp. This was due to the effort of Pastor Gretchen reaching out to the camp staff and church families to make it possible. Just think of the possibilities for next year at camp where we will hopefully be able to get some younger students along with more of our Youth and adults on this live changing journey.

Church School Rally Day, Sunday September 9 at 10:00 Worship We will start back to our regular Sunday School Classes on Rally Day, Sept. 9th. All summer long we have enjoyed learning in a one room class room but our teachers are coming back refreshed and renewed and ready to teach our children.

Our annual Blessing of the Backpacks will take place during the Rally Day worship service on Sept. 9. As always we ask folks to bring in their backpack, purse, tote, briefcase, gym bag, basket or whatever it is that you take with you each day as you journey out into the community. We will bring our bags up to the front of the church and Rev. Gretchen will lead us in a Blessing for the year ahead.

Our annual Rally Day Pot Luck Picnic is another time for feasting together with fellowship and fun. The Deacons and Christian Ed. Comm. sponsor a luncheon immediately following the worship service on Rally Day. Everyone brings their favorite salad, sandwich, dessert or side dish and we share our meal and celebrate our time together. Hope to share this special day with all of our church families.

The Fall Season in our Church School is looking full of wonder and surprises. September starts the Season of Creation and along with our regular lessons we will be learning more about Communion so that we can fully participate in World Communion Sunday on Oct. 7th. During the month of October we will be collecting items for Operation Christmas Child. November brings us to a time where we pack and bless 20 OCC Shoeboxes to be shipped around the world to needy children. We also volunteer at the Interfaith Social Services Food Drive, by filling bags of groceries for Thanksgiving meals to be distributed through the Food Pantry. Our Children and Youth volunteer at our Christmas Fair on November 17th. December begins the time for Advent when we are waiting for our Savior's Birth on Christmas Day. During this time of Advent our Church School children will put on a Christmas Pageant to be shared with everyone during the worship service. We invite families to be a part of all of these activities and join in the joyous experience of being part of the East Weymouth Congregational Church experience!

"Lead with your heart!" Church School Supt., Kerry Mortland



Stewardship Committee

The Strawberry Festival and Craft Fair was held on Saturday, June 17th. The total amount earned from everyone's hard work on the Fair was, \$1,667.60!! That does not include the thrift shop total of \$163.00.

The Stewardship Committee wants to thank all for the donations of food for the bake table, the strawberries, cans of Whip Cream and your valuable volunteerism and endless support. We want to thank Nancy Haley and Lee Wielhouwer for running the Bake Table, they did an awesome job!! Also, we shout out to Tammy & Ruben Valentin, their sons Emilio, Alex and Gabriel for running the Snack Bar this year. They were awesome! Thank- you Elliot Curtis and Colleen Whitman for a great job working the Flea Market Table. A big thank you to Scott and Jeff McMillan and everyone that helped set up and break down tables, awnings and chairs. We are filled with gratitude. We were blessed with good weather and for the great fellowship and working together by all. It

takes a village to put on these large events. We also had a couple of new vendors selling their crafts.

Congratulations to Lee Wielhouwer for winning the Bike Raffle that was held on July 1st. She was so generous to turn around and gift it to a woman visiting our Church for the first time. She had a daughter that needed a bike and she was so grateful.

Peace and Blessings to all and have a fabulous rest of the summer.

Peace,
The Board of Stewardship



Mission and Outreach

M+O will be collecting new backpacks and school supplies in the month of August for the Weymouth Youth Center. After they are blessed in the sanctuary they will be delivered to the Center and given to children in need in Weymouth. There will be a basket in the chapel for you to drop off gifts the month of August.

Looking ahead to September and October, M+O will ask again for your support for our Veterans who are now residing in the Brockton VA Hospital.

Thank you for helping those we do not know, who love receiving our gifts.



Vitality Team

PAST EVENTS BY EWCC VITALITY TEAM 2018

SPRING AND SUMMER EVENTS RUN BY VITALITY TEAM

- EASTER EGG HUNT
- HERRING RUN CLEAN UP DAY
- WEYMOUTH CLEAN UP DAY AND STOP THE STIGMA 5K
- MEMORIAL DAY WELCOME AT JACKSON SQUARE -- May 28
- WEYMOUTH 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS (with Bob and the church ladies)
- VIETMAN VETERAN'S MEMORIAL WALL (Rev. Gretchen led prayer for opening ceremony and volunteered w/ Donna, Victor, Bettyanne)
- PRAYER CIRCLES AT KING'S COVE PARK with FRRACS
- THANKING HEROES IN OUR COMMUNITY – Children and Youth thanked in generous ways our Weymouth Police, Weymouth Town Hall Staff, and Weymouth School Superintendent and summer staff
- JULY MOTORCYCLE FUNDRAISER FOR JOANNAS PLACE
- AUGUST 30th WEYMOUTH TOWN WIDE VIGIL WITH WEYMOUTH PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE DEPT.

Please reach out and thank a team member when you get a chance. Ask them about what it's been like to get to know our neighbors in our Weymouth community. We are blessed with a really great town and awesome church!

You're welcome to join the Team. Any of us can give you an overview. Team members are Samantha Hogan, Kathy Mosher, Donna Eliasson, Kerry Mortland, Bob Criswell, Tara Haley, Lee Wielhouwer, Nancy Haley, Bettyanne Lang, Martha Webber, Victor DeRubeis, Rev. Gretchen Elmendorf



Upcoming Pastoral and Preacher Coverage

- September 2 Rev. William Ketchum
- September 9 Pastor Gretchen Elmendorf
- September 16 Pastor Gretchen Elmendorf
- September 23 Pastor Gretchen Elmendorf

September 30 Pastor Gretchen Elmendorf



Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Tom Ritchie | August 3 |
| Michelle Young | August 15 |
| Donna Eliasson | August 17 |
| Summer McMorrow | August 20 |
| Victor DeRubeis | August 29 |
| Paula Fulton | September 19 |
| Jamison McMillan | September 21 |
| John Lew | September 26 |
| Ivy Eckhardt | September 29 |



In Our Prayers

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Peace | *Kelly Cassier |
| *Cheryl Thornton | Shirley |
| Frank | *Family of Rose Dority |
| Kathy & Andy | Chickie |
| *Victor D. | Michael F. |
| Dick | *Gretchen E. |
| Michael B. | Jack |
| Lynn & Dave | Bette |
| Tom A. | First Responders |
| Servicemen & women | Jim B. |
| Leo | Angela |
| Wendy | Baby Aubrey |
| Dave | Paul |
| Dick Ward | PA O'Reilly |
| North Community Church, Marshfield Hills | Flood victims |
| Fire workers & victims | Old South Union Church, Weymouth |
| Ryder Trent | Gigi |
| Lennie | Maury |
| Dottie J. | Muriel |
| Dave & Maria | Gerry C. |
| Sergeant Chesna | Vera Adams |
| Hingham Congregational Church UCC | *Nancy Haley -thank you! |
| Leo | Kelly |
| Ray L. | Dave |
| Cynthia B. | Alice M. |
| Joy M. | Claire W. |
| Cindy | |
| Linda D. | |



From the Office

Please have your October submissions to me no later than September 19th. Thank you.