

Congregational Connection



Pastor's Column

Dear Faithful and Beloved People of God,

It's that time of year where so many students open their fresh notebooks and textbooks and learn anew the many lessons of life to be taught and unfolded. May we too find autumn to be a time where we discover a new life lessons from our creator. Autumn is a great time to reinvigorate our faith lives with trying on some new faith practices, perhaps a new way of giving, a new way of praying, new spiritual readings, a new way of sharing our faith, a new way attuning to God's call to us. Below are some online resources to aide us in our daily faith practices, if you'd like. I leave you with an autumn prayer and blessings for this colorful, transformative season.

Faithfully yours,
Gretchen

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months,
may the earlier setting of the sun
remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colors of the leaves
remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air
remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been
given and bounty we are to share with others.
May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that
death is temporary and life is eternal.
We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen. (anonymous)

Here are a few new resources you might try on for your faith practices.

Piloting Faith Sign Up Page for daily devotions

All of us need reminders about the things that matter in life - family, love, kindness, our planet, our God. Sign up for an daily email from Rev. Cameron Trimble and the team at the Center for Progressive Renewal -- designed to boost our spirits, inspire our activism and challenge our complacency.
Website: www.progressiverenewal.com

Or check out: Desiring God

Find your joy in God with sermons, books, podcasts, video, and daily articles from the ministry of John Piper.

Website desiringgod.org
Daily Bible Reading Resources

Or check out our denomination's daily devotion, found on our website and on the UCC website for faithful, intellectually sound resources that help Christians think, pray, and act toward God's love and justice on small and large scale.

Website: www.ucc.org/daily_devotional

If you'd like to stay up to date with our Sunday Reading Cycles (lectionary), Websites: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/> and or: <https://www.nrsv.net/harper/the-nrsv-daily-bible/>

If you like podcasts, here's a good one -- UCC Podcast for a Just World
Website: <https://soundcloud.com/forajustworld>



From the Desk of the Deacons

Fall has arrived. We rejoice in the wonders of nature as we move forward from the lazy, hazy days of summer to the vivid colors and crisper air of the new season.

The Deacon Committee is also embracing changes that moves us forward. Many events have taken place over the summer that created some challenging times. The board of deacon's have made intentional efforts to move forward. Change is opportunity and we "accept our own responsibility for impacting the community". Some Community events held sad and tragic memorials with the Weymouth community that was impacted by the tragedy of Sgt. Chesna and Vera Adams. Our Pastor Gretchen was out in the community and attended and spoke at the memorial events that were held right here in Weymouth. Our Church held a beautiful Funeral service for Rose Dority, sister of Deacon Nancy Haley. We celebrated the Baptism of Vivian and welcomed this beautiful miracle into the faith of God. Rally Day began a new Church School Year for our returning students, whom most had attended summer school here each Sunday. We worked with the Christian Education Board to put on a delightful pot-luck luncheon after church welcoming our Students back and sharing in good Fellowship.

The Deacons continue to have feedback from the Vitality Teams commitment of outlining a Church Covenant, meeting the needs of our Church, reaching out into the community, putting new items on the calendar year ahead of us. Look soon for the New Member Sunday coming up in October. We will welcome Peter Prebel, an Associate Moderator of Pilgrim Association. He has asked to transfer membership here at EWEYCC. Also, World Wide Communion Day is October 7th and October 28th is Reformation Sunday. ... The Just Peace Players Service presented "We can Do It!" "Women of the Greatest Generation" on September, 23rd. We also celebrated Intergenerational Sunday and Social Media Day on September 30th.

We have attended two Church Council meetings and look forward to more future meetings as all the committees come together to continue the life of the Church.

We see reality more clearly and make intentional efforts to be transparent and communicate with everyone. "We act on our beliefs in the power of the Gospel". We don't just speak it, we do it...

On to the new season as we get busy and grow and change.

Peace,
The Board of Deacons



Notes from the Music Director

Many thanks to Pastor Gretchen and church leaders for inviting me to come and share this season with you as Victor takes a time of sabbatical. Questions about Music at Sanctuary Hall and Little Christmas can still be directed to Victor.

With one Sunday behind me I can testify that you are a warm and welcoming congregation! I look forward to being with you over the next several weeks leading up to and including Christmas Eve.

The fall, as school years start, is always a good time to consider a new habit for your routine. If you've sung in a choir in the past, or even if you haven't, maybe this would be a time for you to join the choir. We rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:30 before worship and also a couple of Wednesday evenings per month from 7:45-9:00.

I'd like to thank several members from the church who made it out to my church in Stoughton to witness, participate, and vote during my ecclesiastical council. It was a joyful occasion as I moved toward the end of my ordination preparation path with the Pilgrim Association. At the same time as I am with you, I will also be participating in the search and call process, looking for a call as a pastor. Please pray for me during this time, and join me in praying for Victor during his sabbatical and for your congregation too.

Peace,
Adam Isbitsky
Interim Music Director
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Music at Sanctuary Hall

JAKE ARMERDING AND JIM MELODY OCT. 13 --- 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.

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.

Advance discount group ticket sales are available through brownpapertickets.com

Here are the other concerts planned for this fall:

Sunday, Nov. 4, at 4 p.m. (Note time change!) --- 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.

Saturday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. --- The annual Holiday Concert by 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.

Victor DeRubeis
Director of Music
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Church School News

We have been busy deepening our understanding of Communion during the month of September. We have learned about the symbols that are used in the Christian faith for Communion, we have seen photos and videos showing people around the world celebrating Communion outside under trees, inside homes and inside churches and cathedrals learning that all welcome us to the table with God's love. The children each made their own Chalice that will be used on Oct. 7, World Communion Sunday where Christian's around the world celebrate Communion together. We were also very busy crafting the communion bread with our loving hands and we will share it with you on the 7th. Something that we also did was to learn how wine was made in Jesus' time. We crushed grapes and made grape juice and we learned that it is necessary to eat as many grapes as you can eat in order to fully enjoy the crushing, mashing, squeezing process. Our students and teachers are excited to come to the "Welcome table" with you!

Operation Christmas Child

Again this year as we have done for over 20 years we will be collecting donations for the "shoeboxes" that are sent to needy children around the world through Operation Christmas Child. What's different this year will be that the Youth Class will be shopping for and collecting the items for the boxes. We are going to have a signup sheet where we are only looking for 20 of each item and you can sign up for however many of an item that you wish to donate or you can donate a cash amount and the Youth Class will shop for the items. We have purchased 20 plastic shoeboxes which are more durable and easier to fill than the cardboard boxes that we have used in the past. We make sure that every box has school supplies, like pencils, crayons, pens and notepads: hygiene supplies like face cloths, bars of soap, toothbrushes, hairbrushes, combs, (no toothpaste, or liquids) Small toys like dolls, plush toys, matchbox cars, games and books that will fit in a shoebox. So keep an eye out in October for the donation signup sheet and help us to fill 20 boxes for children who live in poverty and refugee camps and need the hope that these boxes bring.

Youth Class

Our Youth Class meets the second and fourth Sundays of each month during the worship service. They also take an active role during the Intergenerational Worship services reading scripture and leading us in liturgy. They will also be learning how to spread our "Good News" through social media. We are so excited to welcome Ms. Sarah DeRubeis who will join us as a Youth Advisor with the goal of having mission service programs as well as fun with these older students on weekend afternoons as we enrich our faith journey here at EWCC.

Church School Supt, Kerry Mortland Seek Joy!
EWCC "Where we lead with our hearts!"



Stewardship Committee

Hello. It has been a very warm and humid summer, so cooler weather arriving soon will be a welcomed feel to the air. As Fall approaches life gets busier with renewed agendas and work that transitions us to the changes that nature has in store for us. Just as we tend to those changes in our own lives, our Church life moves into the season yet again with renewed energy as we continue to follow in the way

of our faith and show how we put to work that faith in our church and beyond.

The Board of Stewardship will be having a Kick-Off Luncheon for the Stewardship Campaign for 2019. We hope you can join us for this event that will be held on Sunday, October 14th. Everyone is welcome to join in for this time of fellowship and to learn about the upcoming 2019 Campaign, "What Shall We Bring?"

Once again, we are gearing up for the Christmas season. Our Annual Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, November 17th from 9 – 3. We have already been working and sending letters to donors and getting vendors, preparing lists and filling in our Silent Auction lists. Please reach out to us, as we would love to hear from you if you know of any organization or company that you feel should receive a donation request. Suggestions are always welcome. We will have a 26-inch Hyper Shocker Mountain Bike for Raffle this year.

Be on the lookout soon as reminders and flyers will be placed out for volunteers and signup sheets will be up in the Chapel when we get closer to the event. Also, read your bulletins each coming week for inserts of the Stewardship Campaign 2019 "What Shall We Bring?" and information on the Christmas Fair.

Event dates again are: Stewardship Campaign Kick – Off Luncheon, Sunday, October 14th and the Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, November 17th from 9 – 3.

Peace and Blessings,

The Stewardship Committee, Cheryl McMillan, Tara Haley, Martha Webber, Colleen Whitham, Kerry Mortland, and Kathy Mosher



Mission and Outreach

M+O is asking for your support for our Veterans who are now residing in the Brockton VA Hospital. We are collecting toiletry items.

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



Vitality Team

You are welcome to join our Vitality Team as we continue to discover ways to be of service and in relationship with our Weymouth Community.

Initiatives for September:

Women of the Greatest Generation with Just Peace Players
Our church vitality team helped plan a new worship service, along with the Deacons to reach and lift up the voices of women's lives during the Greatest Generation. We were able to reach Veterans within the Weymouth community of that era along with community organizers who organized the traveling Vietnam Wall that Heals for the South Shore. Our own Mary Crawford was interviewed and the Patriot Ledger did a wonderful spread on the play. Several on our team personally invited guests to come to the play. VT members also learned how to pitch our church events via social media.

Plans are underway for a new community Bible study. TBA

Initiatives for October:

EWCC's 2nd annual appearance at the Great Pumpkin Wey-Fest -- Oct. 13

Vitality Team is helping to pitch and invite people to Music At Sanctuary Hall Jake Armerding's performance -- also on Oct. 13 in evening.

Several members of our team will attend our CT, MA, & RI UCC Conference's workshops of Super Saturday, Oct. 20.

Pastor Gretchen will lead a Pet Blessing at the park off of 3 Bridge Street, Weymouth in conjunction with FRRACS as both a public service and also to raise the message of how important it is to keep Weymouth's pets and people safe in that area.

October 7
October 14
October 21
October 28

Nevaeh Crowder
Fiona Hogan
Cormac Hogan, Jr.
Kathleen Mosher
Piper Perette
Alannah Young

Brian & Brittany
Servicemen & women
Joe M
Mary & Bill O
Jack
*Kelly
Bette
Frank
Paul
Kathy & Andy
Joy M
Victims of Hurricane Florence
Family of Betty T
Tony A
Family of Nan K
The Church of the Pilgrimage, UCC, Plymouth
First Nation (American Indian) Sunday
Tom & Rosemary A.

Dick
Dottie
Muriel
Ann W.
Dr. Harvey Letterman
Second Congregational Church, Cohasset
*Pastor Gretchen
James
Kaycee
Joe
Herb
Jameail
Family of John McCain
Scotland Trinitarian Congregational Church, Bridgewater
Peace
*Victor D.
Quincy Point Congregational Church, UCC, Quincy



Upcoming Pastoral and Preacher Coverage

Pastor Gretchen Elmendorf
Reverend Donna Villeumier
Pastor Gretchen Elmendorf
Pastor Gretchen Elmendorf



October 12
October 14
October 14
October 21
October 28
October 29



In Our Prayers

Chickie
First Responders
Dave & Lynn
Michael B
Tom A
Angela
Wendy
Michael F
Chrissy
Dick
Victims of gas explosion
John
Dave
Shirley
Birth of Abigail S
Plymouth
Anita
Annie W.
Our Church
Gigi
Family of Herb F.
Families in Merrimack Valley
Brenda
Chris
Donna
Danny
Cheryle
Cindy
Cynthia B.
Church, Bridgewater
*Family of Rose Dority
Jim J.
Quincy



From the Office

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