

Congregational Connection



Pastor's Column

THANK YOU!

I would maintain that thanks is the greatest form of thought and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder. G. K. Chesterton

1 Chronicles 16:34

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love endures forever.

We know at church how blessed it is to be thankful. Scripture tells us to be "thankful in everything, in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). When we find ourselves overwhelmed with burdens and worried about tomorrow, we can praise God for who God is and God's promise to never leave us or forsake us. We have been blessed with the free gift of salvation and eternal life! Being thankful to God and for each other is like a vaccine that helps ward off the crippling disease of worry.

As we close our church program year this month, let us be thankful more and more. I'll start. Thank YOU! I'll probably forget someone, so let me know if I have and I'll give a shout out for the next newsletter. I am so thankful for all the extraordinary ways you are being church in this world!

THANK YOU, PARISHIONERS, for coming to church faithfully.

For loving and worshipping God in our sanctuary together, for sharing your faith, your spirit, for giving, for caring for and believing in one another, for your goodness and love. Each of you are made in God's image. Thank you for bringing your unique ways of being you to us! Each of you is precious to the beloved community God is cultivating through us with Christ's grace and Holy Spirit power.

THANK YOU CHURCH CHILDREN AND YOUTH for your inspiring growth in the faith, for your songs, your inspiring prayers, your treasure of insight offered during Children's Time, your commitment to Church School, your leadership in All Age Worship, your help with our church fairs, your amazing energy and music that fills our church with joy.

THANK YOU, MISSION AND OUTREACH. You have developed very important projects and blessed us with an opportunity to give to others in need. The Martin Luther King Jr. service project for children needing warm clothes, including refugees and Blankets of Love with Church World Service for victims of national disasters was especially powerful. We wouldn't be church without you. Jesus serves the "least of these." Because of you, so do we. We are learning to live Matthew 25.

THANK YOU, KERRY AND CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS. Church children are safe, loved, treasured, and edified through your steadfast, devoted leadership. Thank you for great teaching, curriculum, mission projects, prayer pals, crafts, trips to get to know our beautiful parks and neighborhoods, and for generous acts of blessing our community as it mourned last summer while supporting our town heroes when they especially needed your love and strength. Thank you for a great new Children's Church classroom, fresh and kid friendly. A special thanks also to Kerry for reviving our Bible Study which grounded us further in God's word!

THANK YOU, VICTOR, OUR MUSIC COMMITTEE & CHOIR for soul stirring music, a gorgeous concert series, concerts that raised the rafters – who can forget the exuberance of SPO & Joyful Voices & LCJS? Thank you for singing our beloved parishioners home to heaven. Thank you for blessing us with extraordinary musicians and brass during worship and filling us with Holy Spirit each and every Sunday without fail!

THANK YOU, DEACONS, for every candle lit, every greeter, usher, reader you organized to offer their spiritual gifts. Thank you for beautiful worship that has drawn our hearts nearer to Christ. Thank you for blessing our members and our wider community with Christmas and Easter worship, the most sacred moments that lodge in our hearts all year round—I can still see beloved people lifting candles high, shining in the darkness as we sang in a circle, "Christ our Saviour Is Born." I still see the altar flowers that miraculously bloomed just in time for the resurrection and hear the music and prayers of "Christ is risen" echo with hope.

THANK YOU, TRUSTEES, AUDITOR, COLLECTOR, TREASURER. Bless you. Your tasks have been mighty ones! We thank you for chimneys, dry floors, mowed and raked lawns, shoveled driveways, for generating electricity, light, and heat. We thank you for budgets kept, pennies scratched together, investments and bank accounts protected. We are more than fortunate – you are the glue that holds us all together as church, our "foundation."

THANK YOU TO OUR MODERATOR MIKE. Each time we gathered for council this year, for every single month- thanks to you, I believe we each came away grateful. Our agendas were full with good ideas, new initiatives, goals, action plans, accomplishments, spiritual strength, and much respect. Our discussions and discernments at monthly and annual meetings have been so very fruitful, faithful, and good. What a gift to our community. Thank you also to our clerk Victor for ensuring we assemble and tracking all our special services and occasions.

THANK YOU, GILLETTE TEAM, for literally your sweat, very long hours, and hard work for us at games and concerts, no matter what the thermostat says – 0 or 95 degrees! Your dedication is awe inspiring and truly wondrous!

THANK YOU, STEWARDSHIP. You organize massive projects in superlative ways. You comfort and care for our community with crafts, Santa Claus, baked goods, auction items, strawberries, raffles and somehow come up with a master plan where we brim with love and excitement. Thank you for your creative Stewardship annual drives. Your testimonies and invitations re: giving faithfully were inspiring and gracious.

THANK YOU, THRIFT SHOP. We hear miracle stories emerge out of the Thrift Shop where seekers come leaving with arms filled and gratitude. I love how you take the time to engage in fellowship with people who thought they were only looking for clothes. Who knew you could learn about faith through brick a brac?

THANK YOU, VITALITY TEAM, VISION TEAM AND OUR COACH REV. PAUL. Thank you, congregation, for participating in vital retreats and congregational meetings re: our vision as we interpret God's vision and dreams for us. Our work together has been very impressive and well led. Vitality team, you brought us into places we've never been before with your service for 4th of July festivities, town fairs, the extraordinary

Vietnam Traveling Wall exhibit, and our First Holiday Event on our lawn for Jackson Square packed with excitement, lights, community hope and music.



From the Desk of the Deacons

May seemed to fly by. We enjoyed excellent worship services and times of fellowship. Mother's Day was celebrated with the young people giving a carnation to everyone in church.

Pastor Gretchen presented a wonderful sermon series on resurrection and new life and their ancient symbol of the butterfly called Emerge.

Holy Week was so special. People who normally do not have speaking parts were asked and happily participated in the Maundy Thursday service by taping each speaking part. It also gave everyone an opportunity to enjoy the worship service.

There was a discussion on removal of the wooden cross on June 2nd – who will remove it; who will bring the brass cross back into the sanctuary. We also discussed Pentecost which is also Children's Day. It is also the birthday of the church which will be celebrated with a birthday cake and everyone wearing red.

The Deacons are working with Kerry Mortland and the Board of Christian Education to make this service special for our youth. We are proud that we celebrate our youth each week.

Traditionally, summer worship begins the Sunday after Father's Day. Discussions are being held as to whether to hold worship earlier in the day, have the service on another day of the week, have a service outside on the lawn, or leaving it as is. Further discussion needs to take place. More information will be in the next newsletter.

The Deacons are currently inviting guests from the Easter service to join us for various events.

Would you like to participate in our worship service? We are seeking people to join the present team of scripture readers. The scripture would be provided in advance. The responsibility would be to read on a rotating schedule. Please speak to one of the Deacons listed below to let them know of your interest.

We are grieving and saddened at the sudden passing of our brother in Christ, Norman Fulton. We are dealing with our grief as best we can. Norm was an integral part of our family and is missed more than words can say. A wonderful Celebration of Norm's life was held on Saturday, May 25th. Please continue to hold Norm's family in your prayers.

Blessings,
Donna Eliasson, Nancy Haley, Bettyanne Lang, Cheryl McMillan



From the Trustees

THANK YOU, NORMAN FULTON --- A hot water shutoff valve in one of our restrooms needed replacement, and just a day after his memorial service we were asking ourselves: WWND? What Would Norman do?

We may mourn the loss of our beloved church member and longtime trustee, but he is still very much with us. The valve is a relatively minor, easily resolvable problem, but if it's not addressed it could become a very big one.

It is a perfect metaphor for the life of Norman Fulton. In matters of our beautiful church building or in matters of faith, Norman always strove mightily to keep small problems from becoming big ones. As we move forward, please pray that our work be guided by God and that it honors Norm's life as we strive to be prudent and responsible stewards of the marvelous community resource that has been entrusted to our care.

DAYCARE PLAYGROUND REPAIRS --- The Trustees are expected to meet with representatives of South Shore Stars, our biggest tenant, in June to discuss a proposal to make repairs to a retaining wall in the playground. This is in conjunction with a proposal to extend the day care's current lease, which expires in 2021.

ANNEX BOILER MATTERS --- As the heating season came to a close, some pipe leaks were resolved in the boiler that serves the 1960 annex to the church building. We should be good to go into the next heating season. Repairs to the boiler chimney, which was damaged in heavy winds earlier this year, are expected to take place this summer.

For YOUR Trustees

Kathy Mosher, chair, Bob Criswell, Victor DeRubeis, Donna Eliasson, Tom Kosonen, Kerry Mortland, Norman Fulton, emeritus (1933-2019)



Notes from the Music Director

BARBARA KNAPP IS SMILING --- Just when you think the annual collaboration between our church and the Southeastern Philharmonic Orchestra can't get any better, it does.

Exhibit A is this year's 16th annual Barbara Knapp Memorial Concert May 4, featuring the brilliant work of clarinet soloist Michael Coronella.

Mike is a teacher at the South Middle School in Braintree, and his parents and 98-year-old grandmother were there to hear and see the bravura performance of "Concertino for Clarinet and Orchestra" by Carl Maria von Weber, a contemporary of Beethoven.

Concertgoers enjoyed the extravagant hospitality of our congregation with super desserts and fair-trade coffee and then were treated to a feast of some fine music.

Once again we ministered to a wide and diverse group of people who might not otherwise have experienced the architectural and acoustic beauty of our sanctuary.

Thanks be to God and to all who participated!

MUSIC AT SANCTUARY HALL, SEASON NINE --- Efforts are under way to improve our concert series for 2019-20. So far we have tentative commitments from a singer-songwriter of international renown, a singer-songwriter of local renown, and two mind-blowing classical talents, and the triumphant return of the Sharon Concert Band. And don't forget the SPO annual Holiday Concert, our newest annual tradition, in early December, and the 21st annual Little Christmas in Jackson Square on Jan. 5. More in our summertime newsletter!

YES, WE'LL HAVE A SUMMER CHOIR --- God never goes on vacation; neither does our choir. In fact, we are one of the few churches where the choir doesn't disappear for the summer.

If you have friends who attend other churches who miss singing in their choirs during the summer, invite them to come to our church. Better yet, invite them to sing with us!

OPEN REHEARSAL JUNE 12 --- Wednesday, June 12, will be our senior choir's last rehearsal before the summer break. We will be singing all the anthems that will be used during our summer worship services, and anyone is welcome to sit in on this informal "concert."

The doors will open at 7:45 p.m. and the music will be from 8 to 9 p.m. EVERYONE is invited! We'll also be doing some live recording!

Victor DeRubeis
Director of Music
vderubeis@yahoo.com
781-974-3503 (cell)



Church School News

During the first weeks in June we will be celebrating the Pentecost story found in Acts 2: 1-21. God sends the promised Spirit as an act of renewal and creation of Earth. When the Apostles and people from near and far gathered in Jerusalem, they come out from isolation to join other believers as a community. Peter spoke to them as tongues of fire and a great wind blew through the city and he told them that they were now filled with the Holy Spirit and they should go out and teach what they have learned about Jesus. This was the beginning of the Christian Church and what an exciting time it must have been for that gathered community and it reflects our desire to go out into our own community and be a powerful voice for the those in need and those seeking a relationship with God.

Children's Day, Sunday June 9th at the 10:00 Worship Service

Our annual Children's Day celebration will take place on Sun.

June 9th at 10:00 worship. This is when all ages gather to worship together and celebrate the end of another year of our Church School.

The worship service brings children and adults together in prayer, scripture and song. The children will lead the congregation while we sing "What a Wonderful World", a song that encourages us to look around and see God's beauty everywhere.

We will be celebrating the children's efforts in Sunday School and we also recognize the efforts of our very dedicated teaching staff that work each week with the children. We invite you, your friends and family to come and celebrate with us on June 9th.

Summer Session Sunday School June 16th – September 8th, 2019

Throughout the summer months we have Sunday School every Sunday at 10:00. Our Staff rotate the schedule so that we are all involved with the teaching during the Summer. All classes will meet together in the newly renovated Fireside Room downstairs where fun activities accompany the lessons. We always welcome new friends that visit us each Summer. We hope to get the children outside again this year to "Grow a Heart for their Neighborhood" taking in all the natural beauty of East Weymouth. We want to remind the congregation to pray for a healthy happy Summer for all of our Church School Children as well as the children in our community and those children beyond our borders, and to remember that the Holy Spirit watches over us wherever we travel to this summer.

Kerry Mortland, Dir. Of Children's Faith Formation Seek Joy!



Bible Study

We invite you to join us for 6 consecutive Tuesday evenings as we delve into the Lectionary scripture. We encourage you to bring your Bible and your curiosity. Please call the church office at 781-335-6919 and leave your name and number so that we can contact you in case of a cancellation. Dates: Tuesday Evenings: May 14 through June 18
Time: 6:30 to 7:30



Mission and Outreach

In April, we collected over 15 pairs of used eyeglasses which were donated to the Lions' Club. On Mothers' Day, we celebrated Blanket Sunday and kicked off a month of accepting \$10 donations for Emergency blankets that are distributed by CWS throughout the world. Many donations were made in honor/memory of our mothers and Norm Fulton, who supported Church World Service efforts in many previous campaigns.

Over the summer, you can look forward to an Ice Cream Sundae social for our Coffee Hour in July!



Safe Church Team

We are looking for a volunteer to cover 1 Sunday a month on our Safe Church team. Please reach out to Leo Eliasson at #781-767-8162 if you are interested.



Stewardship

The Strawberry Festival and Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, June 15th. The Stewardship Committee is looking for donations of strawberries, cans of whipped 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. They are on sale now in stores. We have two 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 whipped cream in the refrigerators. Please check the expiration dates on the cans before purchasing.

The Stewardship Committee decided not to have a Flea Market table this year, to reduce some of the work required with doing the Fair.

The Thrift Shop will be open, and it is accepting gently used clothing and other items to sell.

We will be looking for adult and youth volunteers so please look at the sign-up sheets in the Chapel after church or ask 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, a 6-foot table with 2 Chairs can be rented for \$30.00. There is a Vendor Registration which must be submitted by June 7th with full payment of cash or check to the East Weymouth Congregational Church. Please ask for a registration form if you want 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 15th.

There will be a raffle item, yet to be decided, and raffle tickets will be available for purchase and sale of \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. This is a wonderful opportunity for Fellowship and to welcome our community to our church. It is a great event to bring family and friends and the neighborhood together to eat some of our famous, well-known Strawberry Shortcake and to browse and shop.

Peace be with you,
The Board of Stewardship



UCC Desk Calendar Plan Book

UCC Desk Calendar Plan Books (July 2018- December 2019) are available for purchase. The cost will vary depending on the quantity ordered. It will be either \$16 or \$18 per Plan Book. Please let Bettyanne know if you wish to order a Plan Book.



Birthdays

Diane DeRubeis
Martha Webber
Dorothy Costello

June 9th
June 14th
June 20th



In Our Prayers

Kristin
Brian
Brooklyn
Brian C
Dave
Johnathan T
Mary C
Servicemen & women
Ed M
San Diego
Jada-Kay
Marlen J
Wendy
Frank
Peter A
Karen D
Caden
Norman Fulton

Amanda Y
Brody
Tameika D
Barrington C
Mary
Shirley
Jack
Natalie
Michael B
Jordain
Angela
Paul
Great concert
Richard B
Tameika D
Ed M
Johnathan T

Lu
Braleigh
Tanya D
Justin C
Pastor Gretchen
McCarthy family
First Responders
Michael C
Karen
Jack
Tatiyana
Bette
Michael F
Tom K
Fulton family
Ethan
Ethel
Graduates



From the Office

Please have your July submissions to me no later than June 20th. Thank you.