

# Congregational Connection



## Pastor's Column

*Love tenderly, act justly, and walk humbly with our God. Micah 6*

I prayed before I sat down to write this newsletter article. The deadline has come. It's time. "Okay God," I said to myself, as I sat in my prayer chair with my laptop. I'm going to write something quick and cheery so I can get on with my day, alright?" "God," I prayed, "could you put something simple in my mind to write about, something nice and easy?"

Church, does that sound like a prayer God would answer according to my will? What a foolish prayer for me to ask God who always prods me to grow more faithfully. God has a sense of humor, because the word that kept coming into my mind over and over again was "Justice." "Wait God," I thought in my prayer, "that's not an easy concept. I don't have that much time to explore. It's sometimes an uncomfortable subject to take on in church, especially in a world ripe with injustice everywhere. Where would I even begin?"

And then, as if God has run out of patience with me, another word popped into my mind. "Barth." "What???? Barth?" I thought. "Karl Barth? The theologian? The one I spent semesters studying in divinity school, wrote papers on and still don't completely understand? My goodness God, remember I said nice and easy in my prayer."

So let me begin with this word justice by going right to Karl Barth and rather than try to explain how he pursued justice in the World Wars via the greatest theology of our time and writings of moral imperatives that he sent directly to Hitler, I'll start simpler. Here are a few of his pre-eminent quotes. Will you pray with me over these words of wisdom?

"To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."

"The Church should be the place where a word reverberates right into the world."

"Take your Bible and take your newspaper and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible." Karl Barth

We have made a commitment as a church through our new purpose statement to care not only for our immediate community but also for our world. "Faithful to God's ways, we bring hope, love and light to our community and the world."

Every day we are barraged with injustices in our world when watching news. I trust you, like me, are praying about all these injustices. It's hard to watch unfold, but it's even harder to process how we as people faithful to God's ways and to Jesus Christ, can act justly, as the prophet Micah, in the face of such mammoth injustices. We need to pray not only with our hearts, but with our feet and our actions. This is a place where we have growing edges as church, as the body of Christ. God is clearly not letting me off the hook today with taking on the concept of justice, nor is scripture. The prophet Isaiah writes: "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."

"The Talmud states, "Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly now, love mercy now, walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it."

Let's pray.

Almighty God, source of justice beyond human knowledge: We thank you for inspiring Karl Barth and other brave people of faith to resist tyranny and evil and to exalt your saving grace, without which we cannot apprehend your will. Teach us, like him, to live by faith, and to get out of our comfort zones so we can seek justice for those who are uncomfortable. Empower us to live like Jesus, even in chaotic and perilous times and to perceive the light of your eternal glory, Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, throughout all ages. Amen.



## From the Desk of the Deacons

We have had a busy summer here at East Weymouth Congregational Church. Church School was in session, the Thrift Shop was open, Stars Day Care was bustling, and meetings taking place that are important to keep our Church up and running and planning for the future. Our early summer services were held in an intimate setting in the Chapel to keep us cool. Our music Director was instrumental in seeking out cool air for us to enjoy in the heat of the summer. We thank him for connecting with George Toma for the rental of an AC Unit. Rally Sunday was held on September 8th. We enjoyed a Fellowship Picnic together after service put on by the Christian Education Committee and Deacons to kick off the new Church year. All enjoyed a wonderful time. Also, thanks to Victor and Mike who lead us in sharing Celebratory Moments from where we were and how far we have come with all the things that make our small church work.

Bible Study is underway for 6 weeks on Tuesday nights led by Kerry Mortland, our Church School Superintendent and Rev. Gretchen is leading in a book group once a week with "Books on Tap" at the Barrel House Z on Wednesdays at 7 pm. Discussions are about our Climate change by a well-known author on this topic. Just Peace Sunday was held on Sept 15th. Rev. Gretchen played a recorded speech by a young girl named Greta Thunberg whom is a Climate Activist, taking action around the world to awaken awareness of our Climate. Rev Gretchen is talking on the topic as other clergy around the world who are asked to speak about Climate Change and become active in their congregations and community as leaders to help spread awareness on the topic.

The Vitality Team is busy with the visioning process and developing a Vision Statement. The Purpose Statement is complete and should be read and used regularly at all church committee meetings, and in all printed material.

Deacons are busy working to help keep this small church running and we are looking forward to the season ahead while planning and filling the pulpit when needed. Doing the work of Christ is never ending. God Bless.

Peace,  
The Board of Deacons



### Notes from the Trustees

**CHURCH YARD RENOVATIONS** --- Our entire congregation has been invited to a celebration from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 3, to celebrate renovations to the South Shore Stars play yard at the rear of our church building.

The Trustees and Stars, our day care tenant, have been working over the past month on a project that's had its challenges. While the end result is a beautified yard for the approximately 100 children who attend South Shore Stars at our church, the Trustees have also needed to deal with the remediation of an outdoor underground oil tank to insure the safety of the children AND to avoid possible ground pollution.

There have been many calls among the Trustees, South Shore Stars, and the various contractors on this project, especially board members Kathy Mosher, Bob Criswell and Kerry Mortland, to solve the various problems that presented themselves during this process. Please thank them! We'll have more information regarding costs to the church once all the bills have been paid. That responsibility falls to our treasurer, Donna Eliasson, who pays all our bills.

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

**THANK YOU TO OUR MUSIC AT SANCTUARY HALL CREW** -- This newsletter was published before Jake Armerding and Andy&Judy opened our 9th season, but there was lots of work behind the scenes to help make it as successful as can be.

A big thank-you to those who baked and otherwise donated to this gala event, which would not be possible without the efforts of our social media expert, Pastor Gretchen, who has a knack for finding potential audiences and reaching out to them, Jerry MacDonald, who donates his time, and to the Weymouth Cultural Council, which provided a grant to help defray costs and keep admission prices low.

Here's the rest of our fall schedule:

Sunday, Nov. 10, at 3 p.m. --- Fresh from a recent tour of Europe, the Joyful Voices of Inspiration Gospel Choir brings its 40-voice, multi-racial, multi-cultural, intergenerational talents to shake the mighty rafters of our church.

Sunday, Dec. 8, at 2:30 p.m. --- The third annual Holiday Extravaganza, a joint venture of Music at Sanctuary Hall and the Southeastern Philharmonic Orchestra, promises afternoon of sacred and secular music that's sure to put you in the mood for the season.

**CHRISTMAS SUNDAY JAZZ BRUNCH** --- We're planning an expanded coffee hour on Sunday, Dec. 22, with music from Weymouth High School students. Look for more in November.

**CHOIR REHEARSALS HAVE RESUMED!** --- It can be hard work, but it's also a joyous time of worship and fellowship at midweek. If you've thought of joining our senior choir, we meet at 7:45 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO KNOW HOW TO READ MUSIC!** And anyone is welcome to just visit and listen at any time.

Victor DeRubeis  
Director of Music  
781-974-3503  
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### Church School News

By the time this newsletter reaches you the incredible students of the EWCC Sunday School will have placed their beautifully handmade

steppingstones into the Prayer Garden in front of the church. It is a peaceful spot to sit and visit on the front lawn of our church. It was created 7 years ago when a student wanted to do a project outside the building that would be decorated and maintained by the children. So, this year we have made new steppingstones to add to the path. We will also be making inspirational stones with words of hope and prayers on them that will be placed in the middle of the garden. Keep checking back each week and see if you can be inspired by our precious children!

### Operation Christmas Child 2019

Yes, it's October and for more than 20 years our Church School children have gathered donations from the congregation and filled shoe boxes to be delivered to needy children around the world by Samaritan's Purse. These shoe boxes are delivered to children in refugee camps, huts in the jungle and on riverbanks in So. America, mountains in Asia and to children that have survived hurricanes and lost their homes, where ever people struggle to survive. Along with these gifts medical help and nutritional needs are sent to be distributed. This is Christian outreach at its' best!

Listed below are ideas for donations to be collected and attached to this email is the official flyer with information about the shoe boxes. During the month of October, the CE will be collecting donations each week in the Chapel, before and after Church. We thank you ahead of time for your generosity and love.

Items for donations: Toys/ small cars, jump ropes, yo-yos, toys that light up w/ extra batteries.

Accessories: Socks, hats, mittens, gloves, sunglasses, hair clips, watches, flashlights.

School Supplies: Pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, coloring books, solar calculators

Non-Liquid Hygiene Products: toothbrushes, bar soap, washcloths, combs

A "WoW" Gift: shoes, musical instrument, soccer ball w/pump, stuffed animal, doll

### EWCC Church School Information

Each week in the Sunday School we have ongoing practices such as "Gathering" with all of the children at the beginning of their class, where they pray, share concerns and learn about the lesson for the day. We also encourage the children to bring an offering each week that is collected during the class. The offering is tallied in December and the children make a donation to the Heifer project. We also remember to pray for our Prayer pals each week and use our talents to send home small gifts to them. Our Youth class has been helping with the younger students for the past few weeks, but they meet twice a month in the Annex Conference Room on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. This year we also encourage the students to help with the small Food Pantry in Stars Daycare by bringing in shelf stable items such as, pasta, soup, cereal that will help hungry families that attend the school. Small acts can show great love! Also, a reminder that our Sunday School is a "Peanut Free" space. Thank you

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

Here is the Monthly Chapter from the book: Faithful Families; Creating Sacred Moments at Home

*Morning: Prepare for the Day to come*

As we embark on each new day sometimes we wearily open our eyes and find that we are in need of energy or courage. There are other days when we wake up with anxiety or nervousness and find that we are in need of peace and calm. On still other days, we are in need of joy or self-control, or something else. For this simple tradition family members take a moment at breakfast and reflect on what the day might bring. Each person identifies the thing he or she most needs for the day ahead choosing the appropriate card and putting it in a pocket to use as a prayer and hope for the day.

Designed for ages 6+

Materials

1. Empty box
2. Index Cards, cut in half
3. Markers
4. Scissors
5. Clear contact paper or laminating machine

Time Investment: 30-minute initial investment to make the box, then 10 minutes daily whenever the tradition is practiced.

**How To**

1. Cut the index Cards in half. Make several cards, each with the following words;  
 LOVE GRACE PEACE JOY KINDNESS FRIENDSHIP  
 PATIENCE MERCY SELF-CONTROL  
 COURAGE COMPASSION HONESTY CALMNESS  
 ENERGY

2. Leave several cards blank, as well.

3. Laminate the cards with either a laminating machine or clear contact paper (optional)

**For the Tradition**

1. In the morning, sit together as a family and talk about the day ahead. What significant things are happening in the day? What do you need for the Day?

2. Pick what you need out of the box and carry it with you for the day, in your purse, backpack, or pocket. Return it to the box at the end of the day so that it might be taken again another day.

**Notes**

+ Parents might feel tempted to use this as an “information gathering” session. If a child mentions needing courage because of a difficult situation at school, the instinct might be to say “Oh really, what’s the situation? Is someone picking on you? Are you in trouble? Does it have to do with that girl, Martha?” etc. Try to resist the urge to do this, instead saying, “Anything else you would like to share about that?” Encourage family members to share as little or as much as they feel comfortable sharing. The focus of the tradition is to be quiet before God and to reflect on the day ahead.

+ If your family practices this tradition daily, it will be necessary from time to time to reevaluate the box and replenish it, because the cards may get lost in pockets, shoved in bags, etc.

+ The blank cards in this exercise are meant to represent a value or quality that is not listed here. When the cards are passed around, tell family members that they can select something that is not in the box.

**Variations**

+ Eliminate the sharing time and leave the box by door. Allow family members to sift through it and take what they need for the day.

+ Gather together at the end of the day to evaluate how the day went for each of the family members, and how they experienced the thing that they were hoping to receive throughout the day.

*“This practice excerpted from the book” Faithful Families: Simple Practices for Daily Family Life by Traci Smith. Published by Chalice Press, 2017. All rights reserved. Used by Permission.”*



**Stewardship**

The 2020 Stewardship Campaign will kick-off on Sunday, October 13th with great Fellowship and delicious luncheon foods and desserts. The theme for this coming year is “The Way, I am the way...”, John 14:6.

Through East Weymouth Congregational Church, UCC, “we have shared a particular way of being Christian and being Church”. It states “the life of faith is a way living in the faith by following the paths of those before us. Join us to learn more about this “way of being faithful, of being East Weymouth Congregational Church, UCC.

The 2020 Stewardship letter and pledge cards will be sent via email to those who have it, and sent via mail to all as well. The Stewardship materials will also be uploaded to the Church Website (<http://www.eweyucc.org/>). Anyone has the ability to donate online. To do this there is a Giving tab at the top of the Home page and then click on the Donate button. If you prefer hard copies, they will be available during coffee hour or please ask a Stewardship Committee member for the information.

We are in full swing looking for Silent Auction and raffle donations for the Christmas Fair to be held on Nov.16th. Please note that this year the

Christmas Fair time will be from 9 – 3 pm. Calls are being made and our feet are on the ground running. Vendors are signing up, Santa is planning a visit, and there will be a dance performance by South Shore Dance Academy. We will once again have a Holiday Food Basket raffle that can be used for the upcoming holidays. Sign-up sheets will be out on the table at Coffee Hour every Sunday until the Christmas Fair for anyone who would like to donate their time and talents to our Christmas Fair fundraiser.

These events bring meaning to Mission and Ministry for all of us in our church, community and in our world. We are all Stewards of God.

Blessings,

The Board of Stewardship



**Birthdays**

October 12

October 14

October 14

October 21

October 28

October 29



**In Our Prayers**

Jack

Ethan

Linda D

Bette

Mighty Quinn

Robert

Karen D

Timothy

Shirley

Priscilla

Servicemen & women

Mary W

Tameika

Braleigh

Laurie

Mike & Debbie F

Francisco

Alexis

Volunteers walking for breast cancer

Preservation of Fore River Basin

Youth Global Climate Strike

Kelly

Angela

Mary

First Responders

Michael F

Sonia

Dave

Bob & Cri-Cri

Joanne

Mary

Wey. Police & Fire

James

Brian

Brooklyn

Linda R

Dan & Maria

Jamison

Joy M

Wendy

Nick

Esther

Paul

Rick & Lisa

Michael B

Peter

Matt’s dad

Brian & Crystal

Kristin

John & Nancy C

JT & Family

Brody

Hurricane victims

Eli T

Peace

Family of Phyllis W



**From the Office**

Please have your November submissions to me no later than October 20th. Thank you.