

THE TIDEINGS MAY 2016

Mattapoisett Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pastor

Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken

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Michelle Gordon

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9:00—Noon

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PENTECOST, CONFIRMATION on SUNDAY, 5/15

Congratulations to our 2016 Confirmation Class!

Seven amazing young people participated in the Monday night classes, did mission work (including the Carlos Pacheco library, Open Table, and Gifts to Give), watched a movie, and learned about our church. Class members were: Khalil Awer, Freemin Bauer, Billy Osborn, Noah Perdigao, Ryan Picewick, Anneliese Schipper, and Noah Schipper.

Confirmation will be held May 15 as the highlight of our **Pentecost** worship service. Two confirmands will share their musical talents, and all will speak about what their faith means to them in their statements of faith. You won't want to miss this celebratory Sunday; be sure to wear red!

Since January, we have been exploring various aspects of the Christian faith while growing together as a group sharing spiritual journeys. The highlight of the class was the overnight retreat, held at the home of Cindy Wicks in Acton, ME. We were greeted by a beautiful sunset and a delicious dinner of BBQ chicken. We played Bible Pictionary, shared communion on a scenic hill top, and created a video with vignettes from the life of Jesus.

Thank you to all the teachers, mentors, class leaders and mission chaperones for their talent, insight, and leadership.

Continue to pray for these fantastic young people as they continue their faith journey. This a group of young people of whom we can truly be proud!



At one of our last confirmation classes, the topic was church history. I warned the teens this would likely be the most boring and “class-like” class; they slouched a little lower in the couches.

While we have jettisoned most of the more structured (and dull) classes outlined in denominational materials (with the blessing of the Deacons, the Christian Education Committee, and our UCC Conference minister Jim Antal), I do feel it is important that teens be exposed the basics of church history.

So, we started a timeline, with year 4 B.C.E (Jesus’ birth), and ending with the year 2016 (the year of their confirmation). In the way that ripping off a Band-Aid is ultimately the most painless way to remove it, I ripped through church history: the travels of the Apostle Paul, the conversion of the Emperor Constantine in 313 C.E., the Protestant Reformation with Martin Luther and John Calvin, Henry VIII’s creation of the Church of England, the Pilgrims, the Puritans, the Mayflower, Congregationalism, the creation of the United Church of Christ in 1957. Whew!

The exercise got me thinking: As an organization, church is a very strange animal. There’s really nothing quite like it.

Consider our place in the community: We provide space for any number of community groups, service groups, and support groups. Last week, youngsters attended a dance camp in our hall; soon, our lawn will be the site of tai chi classes. When a town entity such as the Council on Aging or the Public Library needs a large space, they call on us. Many town employees rely our parking lot daily. Many consider Mattapoisett Congregational Church *their* church, whether they worship here or even worship someplace else. We are in many ways a community institution, and a public space.

On the other hand, we are a private institution. We receive no public funding, and we decide who meets here and when. We elect from among ourselves a few dozen folks to keep things humming along. As a whole congregation, often through our committees, we make our own decisions about worship, facilities, and serving the community.

Because we receive no funds from any entity other than our members, we are beholden to no outside influences except those whom we choose to heed.

And, the influences we choose to heed are a motley assortment: our denomination, its leaders and published resources; our own members with expertise in finances, facilities and administration; an ancient document we call the Bible; our memories and traditions of this and other churches; our own common sense; outside experts we hire for guidance on a variety of topics; and, of course, God.

While it’s “the Congregational Way” (a term coined by Puritan John Cotton in 1636) to make our own decisions through discernment together, we invite anybody and everybody to come and be a part of us. Anybody who chooses to become a covenant member gets to help us decide the variety of issues we discuss. It doesn’t matter if a person has been a member for eight minutes or 80 years; all input is valued.

We are a rare creature indeed: ancient yet relevant; open to all yet self-sustaining; reliant upon tradition yet responsive to current needs.

After I finished up with the boring aspects of church history, Bob Field blessed us with a far more interesting history of our own congregation. He unfurled a map of the town, and pointed out where each of the meeting houses had been located, and why. He referred back to the timeline and talked about how much it meant to him to know that he was on that timeline, too, just as the confirmands would be when they were confirmed.

Thank you, Bob, for that lovely thought. What a thing to think that we are on the same timeline as all the heroes of our faith – St. Paul, Martin Luther, the Pilgrims.

May we continue to pray for the newest additions to our church family, and pray that God continues to draw people to us!

Pentecost blessings,

Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken



Mattapoisett Friends Meeting
P.O. Box 795
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Mattapoisett, MA 02739
www.mattapoisettquakers.org

3/15/16

Dear Congregational friends:

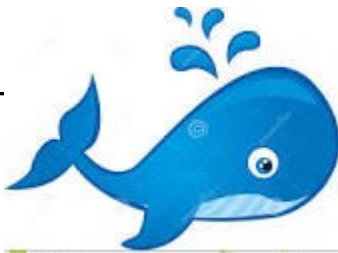
Mattapoisett Quakers wish you well in your fund-raising efforts to rehab your place of worship.

Although your goal may seem daunting at the moment, know that with God's help and a caring community, it can be met.

This gift enclosed is but a token as we, too, continue our fund-raising to restore our own historic meeting house.

We thank you once again for your past support in this regard.

In peace,
Mattapoisett Friends



A Welcome Home: Capital Campaign Update

Be sure to check out the bulletin board and whale spout outside the church office for the latest news on our capital campaign, "A Welcome Home." We are well over half-way to our \$650,000 goal! Plans are rolling along for the new lifts and associated changes to the main hallway, with construction to start this summer. Also, a prayer team is forming to provide spiritual support and discernment of God's guidance.

If you'd like to be involved in the prayer team, please call Rev. Amy at the church office. To offer feedback on the campaign, please go to: <http://mattapoisettcongregationalchurch.org/a-welcome-home/your-opinion-matters/>

Stewardship Committee Update

Happy spring! While we all tend to think of Stewardship as something that happens once a year in the fall, in reality that is only one part of being a steward to God's kingdom. We give our time, our talents, and our financial support all year long.

Our financial support comes in three parts. One way to think of it is as short term, mid-term and long term financial planning.

1. **Annual Stewardship campaigns** (short term) fund the church's annual operating expenses in support of our active, current church ministries to our congregation, community, and mission work.

2. **Capital campaigns** (mid-term) upon which churches embark every 5 – 10 years. We are in the middle of one right now. Capital campaigns fund bigger, intermittent needs of the church and usually fund large building projects – roofs, windows, improving accessibility, etc.

3. **Planned giving** (long term) is the third pillar of financial stewardship. It is a way we can all assure the church's presence and successful ministry for all generations to come, long after we are no longer here to see it. It is no different really than wanting to insure and ensure our children are well cared for should something happen to us, or wanting to be part of something and make a difference, knowing our efforts will continue on for generations to come.

The Stewardship Committee had a special meeting in April to learn more about the Planned Giving portion of Stewardship. Our guest was Rev. Jonathan New, a UCC pastor who assists churches in understanding all aspects of Stewardship including Planned Giving. He helped educate the Stewardship Committee, Capital Campaign committee leaders, and Finance Committee and Council chairs, about Planned Giving and resources available from the national UCC. He is one of the resources available to assist us in formulating a Planned Giving ministry for Mattapoissett Congregational Church.

The Stewardship Committee will continue to explore this topic during 2016 and begin the process of determining what such a ministry might look like for our church moving forward into the years to come.

Bountiful Blessings,

Cindy Wicks, Stewardship Chair



Our Music Director, Michelle Gordon, has been named the April, 2016, Teacher of the Month by MusicLink. Go to

http://www.musiclinkfoundation.org/totm_archive/2016.html#apr

Music is a strong component of physical and mental health, so thank you to Michelle for providing this valuable asset.

Thank you to Arthur Blackburn as well for being our Sheet Music Manager!

LIBRARY AT CARLOS PACHECO SCHOOL

Dozens of Mattapoisett Congregational Church volunteers cleaned shelves, moved boxes, and dusted and sorted books to help build a library at the Carlos Pacheco elementary school in New Bedford.

They were joined by other volunteers: teachers, community members, and college students. It's a huge job to build a library from scratch, and thanks especially to Johanna Riley for masterminding the operation.

It's a joy to behold full shelves, knowing that 391 young minds will benefit,

Each 1st grader at Hay-Mc and Carlos Pacheco has been given a book to own, take home, read, and re-read.



MEMORIALS & CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

The Memorials & Celebrations Committee (Lenore Everett, Lee Heald, Cindy Johnson and Sharon Titcomb) is delighted to report receipt of scholarship applications from nine high school seniors graduating in June 2016. The students are residents of Rochester and Mattapoisett and seven of the nine attend Old Rochester Regional High School.

The deadline to submit applications was April 1; all students will be notified of the Committee's decisions by Friday, May 6. Presentation of the scholarship winners will occur during the 10:00 service of worship on Scholarship Sunday, May 22. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to meet and celebrate the accomplishments of these fine young people!

Three \$1000 scholarships will be awarded, including the Dagmar Coquillette Scholarship. Speaking for the Committee, Lee Heald said "We are very impressed with the caliber of the applicants. Each one brings a unique constellation of abilities, skills and talents. Selecting only three individuals to receive scholarships has been very difficult."



Christian Education

Faith and Family
Growing Together

Upcoming Sunday School Schedule

"But the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faith, Gentleness, and Self-Control" Galatians 5:22-23a

Sunday School series, Fruit of the Spirit Journey, continues and is filled with stories, engaging activities, prayer, and discovery! We learn about expressing God's love to others through caring actions, and healthy attitudes, with the help of God's Spirit. Each Sunday is a Fruit of the Spirit Journey stop.

Fruit of the Spirit Stops

5/1 "Self Control"- Extended Sunday School- small and large group activities- 10-11:30am

(to help parents with young children attend the church-wide meeting following service)

5/8 "What does it mean to belong to Jesus"- small group classrooms

5/15 Pentecost, Confirmation Sunday, Family Service

5/22 "Living by the Spirit"- Preparing for Celebration Sunday-

5/29 "Living by the Spirit"- Preparing for Celebration Sunday-

6/5 Celebration Sunday - "Living by the Spirit" in Reynard Hall



"Bible Sunday" on April 10

We celebrated the word of God through personal stories, personal Bibles, welcoming new members, and presenting "My Bible" Faith Milestone. In preparation for this milestone, Keegan Plante, Elliott Talley, Sofia Gillen and their families participated in a family Bible class. Congratulations!

Thank you to Sue Roylance, Dan Berry, Marc Anderson, Judy Kennedy, and Suzanne Perdigao for sharing your Bible and Bible story. Much appreciation to everyone who contributed to the Bible display. It was filled with rich family history and depicted who are as God's people today. The Bible cake was enjoyed by all during fellowship time.




Thank you to: Phoebe Girard, Tara Rajaniemi, Chuck Talley, Ken & Liz Ackerman, Kim & Bob Field, Loretta Sherman, Ali Caine, Dan Berry, Sue Grosart, Paul Magee, Bruce Harken, Steve Pickup, Lisa Dunn, Dan Berry, Erick Carroll, Ross Edminster, and Lauren Keene for lending your talents, insights and leadership to the Confirmands.

MattMen to Host BBQ on Sunday, 6/5, after Celebration Sunday

Once again, Bruce Harken and the band of merry MattMen will be hosting an all-church BBQ to kick off summer after the worship service on Celebration Sunday. It's fast becoming a MattCong tradition right up there with the Chili Bowl - once again featuring great eats that don't disappoint!





CHURCH WORK DAY, 6/4, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

There is a lot to taking care of a church as old as ours, and some of it can be done in house—by us! Your Trustees are organizing a work day to scrape, sand, and paint here and there, inside and out. We have a long list of projects but a longer list of volunteers will make short work of it!

SAVE THE DATE!

Rummage Sale

The Woman's Community Guild will have a Rummage Sale on Saturday, 5/7, 9:00 am to noon. Clothing, shoes, handbags, and household linens (sheets, towels, bedspreads, blankets, curtains, etc.) and books will be accepted. **No dishes, glassware, electronics, appliances, sports equipment or other white elephant type items will be accepted.**



MAY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
1 10:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION MATTMen Bkfst. 10:30 MTG.	2 9:30 am WORSHIP CTTE.	3 6:45 am PRAYER	4 6:00 pm DEACONS 6:30 pm CHOIR 8:00 pm BELLS EXODUS 6:30-8:00	5 5:30 pm MISSIONS 6:30 pm STEWARD SET UP FOR RUMMAGE SALE	6 SET UP FOR RUMMAGE SALE	RUMMAGE SALE 9:00- NOON
8 10:00 am WORSHIP MOTHER'S DAY	9	10 6:45 am PRAYER	11 5:30 pm TRUSTEES 6:30 pm CHOIR EXODUS 6:30-8:00	12	13 OPEN TABLE 4:30 pm	14 9:00-3:00 LAND TRUST
15 10:00 am WORSHIP CONFIRMATION/ PENTECOST	16	17 6:45 am PRAYER	18 6:00 pm EXEC 6:30 pm CHOIR	19	20	21 4:00-6:00 EAGLE SCOUT CT. OF HONOR
22 10:00 am WORSHIP SCHOLARSHIP SUNDAY	23	24 6:45 am PRAYER	25 6:30 pm CHOIR	26	27	28
29	30 OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY	31 6:45 am PRAYER				

REGULARLY SCHEDULED FUNCTIONS/MEETINGS IN THE CHURCH BUILDING

<u>Catelli Dance School</u> Monday 2:30-6:45 Tuesday 3:00-6:30 Wednesday 3:00-8:00	<u>Brownies & GS</u> <u>Troops #88266,</u> <u>#80017, #62147</u> Monday 2:45 pm <u>Troop 75429</u> Friday 6:00 pm	<u>BS & CS</u> <u>Troop 53</u> Tues 7:00 pm <u>Pack 53</u> 1st/2nd Thurs 6 pm Pack Night: 3rd Thurs 6:00 pm	<u>Mattapoissett</u> <u>Woman's Club:</u> Woman's Club will resume in Sept.	<u>Sippican Choral Society:</u> Will resume in September	<u>AA:</u> Thurs, 9:30 am <u>ACA:</u> Mon. 6:00 pm Sat 10:00 am
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