

## **Mattapoisett Congregational Church**

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

### **Pastor**

Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken

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### **Director of Music**

Michelle Gordon

### **Christian Education Director**

Patricia Berry

### **Administrative Assistant**

Judy Kennedy

### **Sexton**

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### **Office Hours**

Monday-Friday

9:00—Noon

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## **Summer Sermon Series Continues: Who Are We as Church Today?**

Sabbath time is an opportunity to take a breath, get your bearings, and start again with renewed energy and clarity. A sabbatical offers the same opportunities. The sabbatical planning team chose a theme of “Homecoming.” According to the grant application, “The question pervading our exploration will be, ‘How can we, today, be who God intends us to be?’”

Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken has prepared a pre-sabbatical sermon series inviting us to begin to imagine anew our church’s vibrant role in the community.

July 3 – “Pride that Looks Ahead” –

1 Cor. 9:16-23

July 10 – “Stability and Stewardship” –

Acts 17:16-22

July 17 – “What’s Happening?” –

1 Cor. 13:8-13

July 24 – “Dignity of Work” –

Mark 6:30-37

## **Summer Evening Worship July 10**

Summer Sunday night worship services continues July 10 with musician Jeff Dunn.

This monthly evening communion service has a more casual feel and contemporary music. It’s especially for those who want to spend the rarified days of summer on the water, in the garden, on the deck, or entertaining visitors. Enjoy your beautiful Sunday morning, and come to church to give thanks to God. All are welcome!

We’ll gather in Reynard Hall at 6 p.m. with a brief time of fellowship. Bring a nibble to share if you are so inclined. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you.



As I prepare to be away, I am filled with gratitude for all of our capable leaders who will keep everything humming along here at church.

Leaders can be found everywhere. Yes, certainly in the positions of committee chairs and officers. But also among those who kindly and courageously step into the breach and pull things together for the common good.

Our capital campaign has revealed the leadership skills of many: those who have made phone calls, attended endless meetings, persevered to problem-solve, and so forth.

Lately, we've held a lot of meetings to talk about possible modifications to the sanctuary. When the call went out to form an ad hoc sanctuary committee, several folks stepped up. They are surely leaders, not only giving up considerable time and energy, but setting aside their personal viewpoints long enough to understand what others think, come up with a plan, and possibly take some guff.

The many who have attended the meetings are also leaders. You've asked a lot of good questions and boldly expressed yourself. Together, in our sanctuary we created a safe venue for all to share their hopes, fears, and ideas. I believe these meetings can be a model for future matters that require discernment as the body of Christ. When the way is not clear, this is how we work together to find a direction acceptable to us, and pleasing to God.

Meanwhile, others made plans for new lifts, secured our temporary ramp, cooked for and served at the final Open Table (until fall), planned church sabbatical activities, balanced the church books, volunteered for our ice cream fundraiser, and helped with funerals.

The activity level of our church is astounding, and it is because of the number of our member-leaders who are involved, representing every constituency of our body: long-time members and newbies; men and women; young, middle-aged, and seniors; workers and retirees.

As the time draws near for Bruce and my departure (We will be gone July 24 to Nov. 13), some people seem to be a little anxious at the extended absence. Be assured: This church is in excellent hands. The deacons already serve as spiritual leaders and guides. The staff already keeps the office, education, and worship moving smoothly. Our officers already capably handle the business of the church.

Moreover, you will have an excellent minister in Rev. Nancy Strickland. She is a caring and creative, warm and effective professional. She brings us a wealth of ministry experience, including a number of interim ministries and sabbatical relief experiences, most recently at the Congregational Church in North Falmouth. We are truly blessed to have her, and I am confident you will be delighted and enriched by her ministry, and excited for what she will bring to the pulpit and the pastor's office.

Finally, all of us are always held in God's tender care. Wherever we go, God holds us together, as we hold each other together in prayer and Christian fellowship.

I will look forward to sharing with you all of our adventures when we return!

Sabbatical blessings,

Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken



## INTERIM MINISTER

Dear Friends,

I look forward to joining you in August as the sabbatical coverage pastor while Rev. Amy is away. From what I have learned about this congregation, I see that you have much to celebrate here with vibrant programming in many areas and a deep worship life. I will do my best to contribute to the life and ministry of this church for the three months I will be with you. I am contracted for 25 hours a week, which means adjustments will be necessary all around. You are accustomed to a full time pastor and now with basically a half time pastor, you will all need to go the extra mile to support the life of the congregation. I know that this will be a time of growth and excitement for us all. As Rev. Amy and her family travel and learn, may we here in Mattapoisett do the same as we delve into the meaning of the overall theme of this time of "Homecoming." I will begin with you the week of August 8 and typically be in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays, with Friday as a sermon day at home. Sunday I will be here with you to lead worship. On my first Sunday, August 14, the sermon theme will be "Life Lessons Learned at Sea," with Matthew 14:22-33 as the focus scripture. I look forward to being with you.

In Faith,

Rev. Nancy W. Strickland

### Harkens Prepare for Sabbatical Adventures

With ice cream on the lawn, nature hikes, and community events, the church will be very busy during the upcoming sabbatical, August through November. Meanwhile, the Harkens will be enjoying their own time of rest and enrichment.

As specified by the Lilly Foundation, a clergy sabbatical includes a healthy mix of R & R, spiritual nourishment, and pursuit of personal interests. The Harkens will be enjoying travel, workshops, retreats, and connecting with family and friends. Their itinerary includes...

**August:** Travel to Germany, staying in Munich, Bonn, and Frankfurt, with side trips that include castle tours, the Dachau concentration camp, and Wittenberg. Amy has an extended spiritual retreat in Wales, and meets with spiritual writer Esther DeWaal.

**September:** Amy and Bruce are at home to regroup and be "tourists" in their own backyard, exploring Boston and the Islands, as well as enjoying a spiritual retreat. They begin an extended cross-country driving trip that includes stops in Pennsylvania (Frank Lloyd Wright's Falling Water; the pottery of William Campbell), Ohio (the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame), Iowa (family and friends), and two weeks' of workshops at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico (art and geology Bruce; writing for Amy).

**October:** The Harkens begin the journey back home that includes a "barbeque safari" in Kansas City, worship at the church where Amy was ordained, and a spiritual retreat in Kansas. After a few days at home to regroup, the Harkens travel south to the Craddock Center in Cherry Log, Ga., to complete the sabbatical. Amy returns to the pulpit on Nov. 13.

All these activities are made possible by a generous Clergy Renewal Grant from the Lilly Foundation of Indianapolis, and by the efforts of the sabbatical grant-writing team of Marc Anderson, Erich Carroll, Diana Dunn, Pat Goss, and Elizabeth Milde. ***If you'd like to help put these plans into action, please contact Debra Pickup!***

## COMING HOME Renewal Sabbatical Activities

We are happy to announce that the schedule for our COMING HOME activities that will take place during Rev. Amy's sabbatical is nearly complete. Thanks to the work of many individuals the following events have been confirmed. Full details will be announced within the next few weeks.

- July 24 Sabbatical Commissioning Event – Send off event for Amy & Bruce
- July 27 Old Fashioned Games & Stories for children of all ages on the church lawn from 5-7pm
- Aug 3 Storytelling & Music with Rev. Bert Marshall on the church lawn, 5-7pm
- Aug 10 Storytelling & Music with the HOPE youth puppet Ministry on the church lawn, 5-7pm
- Aug 20 Nature Walk of Grace Pond & preserve guided by Marc Anderson. 2:30-4pm.
- Sept 11 Homecoming at Ned's Point.
- Sept 11 Homecoming community lecture series "The role of the church in the community: past, present and future."
- Sept 22 Community lecture: Opioid Addiction. Starting @ 6:30pm.
- Sept 24 Nature Walk of Munn Preserve guided by Marc Anderson, 2p-4:30p.
- Oct 1 Workshop: Coming Home to Self, facilitated by Rev. Cynthia Good
- Oct 9 Missions Sunday / Mission fair. Rev. June Cooper, Executive Director of City Mission Boston
- Oct 16 Stewardship Sunday
- Oct 25 Community lecture: "What if"
- Nov 13 Rev Amy returns with Time of Sharing during Sunday service
- Nov 19 Post Sabbatical Church workshop



Made possible by a generous grant from Lilly Foundation.

## Update on Open Table

On Friday, June 10, the last supper, Open Table's that is, was enjoyed by almost 80 people in Reynard Hall. Drew Nahigyan and Gary Grosart were back together again in the kitchen, since our fearless leader, Paul Magee, was out of town on another assignment. As usual, the meal was delicious and well received by our guests. Rick LeBlanc provided great music, as he always does, and his adorable granddaughters added to the festive, family atmosphere.

Open Table's goal is to offer good food and fellowship on a monthly basis to our neighbors without charge. Attendance has been growing steadily over the last year, with highs in the springtime months. The free-will offering, collected at each meal, occasionally covers the costs of food and supplies; donations from members of the congregation, as well as a contribution from GH Dunn Insurance and a corporate match from the Arbella Insurance Charitable Foundation, have made-up the difference. We also received a donation from the St. Vincent DePaul Society. We are very grateful for these generous gifts.

Open Table owes its success to the dedication and commitment of the following individuals who have faithfully volunteered their time and talents, shopping, cooking, baking, serving, setting-up/tearing-down tables and washing pots/pans/dishes/floors. Many happy hearts and willing hands have made light work of these tasks! HUGE THANKS go to Marc Anderson, Carol Atkinson, Khalil Awer, Freemin Bauer, Arthur Blackburn, Nancy & Jack Braitmayer, Penny Carlstrom, Erich, Jill, Maggie & Ted Carroll, June Damery, Anthony Days, Dennis Desrosiers, David, Diana & Griffin Dunn, Lisa Dunn, Lois Ennis, Megan, Abby, Kim & Bob Field, Gary Grosart, Lee Heald, Charlie & Penny Hiller, Jerry & Cindy Johnson, Rick LeBlanc, Paul & Mary Magee, Joan Manchester, Drew Nahigyan, Betty Parker, Nancy & Joe Perry, Steve & Debbie Pickup, Ellen Schneider, David Silva, David Smarowski, Jan Spark, Alyson Stellato and Dakari Waite.

**We're looking forward to September, when Open Table will resume operations.**

## **ANNUAL NIGHT AT THE OXFORD CREAMERY!**

### **Fundraiser for MCC**

Once again, the Oxford Creamery will open on a Monday evening, for the benefit of the Mattapoisett Congregational Church. On **Monday, August 15**, the Oxford Creamery will be open from **5:00 to 8:00 PM**. All their delicious dinners, sandwiches and ice cream will be served by MCC volunteers. If you have experience at the grill (think MattMen, you know who you are) and you prefer to cook, you may be asked to assist Ken and Liz with food prep.

Two shifts (4:30-6:30 and 6:30-8:30), 5 to 6 people each, are needed. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Church office (open Monday-Wednesday, 8:00 to noon and Thursday, 10:00 to 2:00) OR you may email Cindy Johnson, [Cynthia.johnson1@comcast.net](mailto:Cynthia.johnson1@comcast.net). Please indicate which shift you'd like to work.

If you're not able to assist with serving or cooking, **please mark your calendar, plan to eat at the Oxford and most importantly, bring your appetite.** Oops, almost forgot: tell your friends, families, neighbors: **the Oxford Creamery WILL BE OPEN Monday, August 15, from 5 to 8 PM.**

## **Congratulations to the 2016 Scholarship Recipients**

Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> was 'Scholarship Sunday' at the Mattapoisett Congregational Church. Four exceptional young women were introduced during worship: Abigail Field, Alexis Garcia, Keegan Lant and Charlotte Van Voorhis. The service was followed by a reception in Reynard Hall of cake and coffee for family and friends of the scholarship winners.

### Women's Community Guild Scholarship

**Abigail Field** is a senior at Old Rochester Regional High School. Abby is very interested in vintage clothing and textiles and may often be seen wearing something she has collected. Last summer, she interned at the Mattapoisett Historical Society, cataloging their clothing collection. Abby is an enthusiastic member of the ORR Drama Club and was voted 'most unique' by her classmates. She will be attending the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth in the fall, majoring in history.

### Memorials Scholarships

"What a gift **Alexus (Garcia)** has been to our school community!" writes her guidance counselor. She is described as mature, genuine, compassionate, thoughtful and positive. Alexis is the recipient of the President's volunteer service award certificate and gold medal for giving over 200 community service hours in education. For the past two years, she has been an integral part of ORR's early childhood education program, where she serves as a teacher to pre-schoolers. She plans creative and engaging lessons for extremely energetic three and four year olds and assumes a leadership role with enthusiasm, humor and great patience. Alexis also received the MIAA Award of Excellence for exemplary display of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. She will study early childhood education with an emphasis on special education at Southern New Hampshire University.

**Keegan Lant** is the student who always sits in the first row, engaged in the subject matter, curious and brave. Where others are afraid to participate in discussion or share their ideas, Keegan forges ahead. She asks insightful questions and eagerly soaks up the knowledge gained from textbooks, as well as her classmates. One of her teachers wrote "She is a wonderful role model for sharing honest observations about the curriculum and life." Another said "Keegan is the type of student that makes every assignment her own, looking at the challenge as a new opportunity to learn rather than just a chance to receive a good grade." She is described as bright and talented, whose altruistic nature shines through in all she does. Keegan will attend Plymouth State University as a psychology major.

### Dagmar Coquillette Memorial Scholarship

Charlotte's college adviser wrote "If I had to be stranded on a desert island with a teenager, **Charlotte Van Voorhis** would be my choice. She is highly intelligent, athletically gifted and possessed of great stamina, but most importantly, she is inherently cheerful, can-do, and simply does not give up. Her teachers consistently praise her intelligence, love of learning, disciplined approach and ability to work with everyone and bring the best forward from a group." Her soccer coach said "She is probably the toughest athlete that ever came through the door at Falmouth Academy. She plays through pain with remarkable skill and grit. Her ability to lead her peers through positive encouragement and example is unsurpassed in my experience." Charlotte will attend Yale University with a major in English literature and composition.

## Three-level Lift Bid Selected

The Trustees Committee received three bids to install a new 3-level lift at the east end of the office wing. After evaluating the proposals, we selected the bid from Mattapoissett's Form Custom Building and Renovation. The good news is that Form's bid falls within the amount budgeted by the Capital Campaign. The bad news is that Form is too busy to start until January 2017. But as the other bids were considerably higher, the Trustees concluded it was worthwhile to wait. This is only possible due to the generosity of Chase Canopy, which is renting us the wheelchair ramp at a deep discount, and anonymous donors who have picked up the cost. Whoever you are, we thank you!

### Meeting of Capital Campaign Committee May 16, 2016

Present: Jen Shepley, Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken, Dave Kaiser, Jeffrey Riley, Diana Dunn, Marc Anderson, Lisa Hill, Cindy Johnson, Rick Price, and Robert Field

#### **Process of the complete campaign:**

On the advice of Jeff Riley, the CC committee should "post" the progress of the campaign. Example: recommendations on how the funds raised will be spent; when bids go out; updates on the bidding process and the schedule of meetings.

Detail the plans for the first phase of construction: three level lift (bid process under-way) and the bathroom. The next meeting should be more focused on why we are doing what we are doing with the sanctuary. Also, the work that the building committee did two years ago should be brought forward again to remind folks of what was accomplished. It might be helpful to itemize the proposed changes to the sanctuary.

#### **Sanctuary brainstorming:**

An ad hoc committee will be formed to lead the conversation about proposed changes to the sanctuary. This committee will collect, discuss and process the feedback received from all sources and formulate recommendations. These recommendations will be presented to the CC. These will also be made available to the congregation and then will be voted on July 17.

The call for volunteers to serve on this committee will be made during the services of May 22 and 29. The committee will meet during the week of June 6. Cindy Johnson has agreed to chair this committee. Also, there will be an email blast calling for members.

The two meetings will be immediately after 9:00 worship on June 12 and 19.

The committee will meet the week of June 19 to compile the feedback and comments.

#### **Reaching members that have not been visited yet:**

A letter will be mailed out to the members not yet visited (about 70).

## Capital Campaign Update



The new pledge total as of June 14 is \$369,540.00. This is an exciting and spiritual time at our church. The after church meetings have been well attended and have produced meaningful conversations. The committee is still hard at work making visits, calls, and compiling meeting feedback. As a committee, we ask that when you make an installment payment to your pledge, please write on the memo line "Capital Campaign."

The ad hoc Sanctuary on the Sanctuary will be reconvening late June to review all of the suggestions and dialogue that was a result of the after church conversational meetings. This committee will arrive at a consensus to be presented to the entire congregation following the July 17 service. At that time we will vote on any change(s) to our worship space. We look forward to your attendance at this most important meeting. As we reach a consensus on the sanctuary, we will make it possible to bring the "A Welcome Home" capital campaign to a successful and positive conclusion!

### **MISSIONS MESSAGE - Stay Involved - You are all needed!!**

**Supporting Education:** Carlos Pacheco has a wonderful new library! Now we need volunteers to help in classrooms next year. There will be a CORI/training session with Principal Celeste Hoeg the 3rd week in August.

**Fighting Hunger:** A team goes (**join us!!!**) to Mercy Meals & More on the 3rd Saturday of each month, 6:00-8:00 am, to cook breakfast - donated by you, the congregation!

**Helping People:** in cooperation with Physicians and Nurses Against Opiate Abuse, we will be involved in community outreach. We are hosting a community forum on 9/22.

**ORR Breakfast Program:** a quarter of our tri-town students qualify for free or reduced lunch. The schools are now serving breakfast and we have donated a needed piece of equipment to both Old Hammondtown and Center Schools.

### **Youth Chime Choir**

Miss Holly is starting a youth chime choir for kids 4th grade and beyond! This is a year long commitment and will give you the option to join the hand bell choir.

Rehearsals start on September 18 following Sunday service. For more information and/or to sign up, see Holly Gordon by August 28.





## Celebration Sunday Service, June 5, 2016

Thank you for everyone's contribution to the Celebration Sunday's worship service. It was truly a unique, meaningful and enthusiastic experience for all ages - a wonderful way to end and welcome a new season; by celebrating the life of our church and giving thanks to our Lord. The children led the way, reminding us that the Holy Spirit is living and breathing within each us and we can share this gift with the world. We are guided by the Fruit of the Spirit.

Much appreciation to our Christian Educators, children, youth, and parents for your dedication, creativity, and passion. And for all who support our children's ministry. We are blessed to be a part of the many, wonderful essential ministries of our church.

Special thank you's to the MattMen for provided a smoking, delicious BBQ. Photography provided by Marc Anderson and Margaret Berry.



Pastor Amy leads  
Communion.



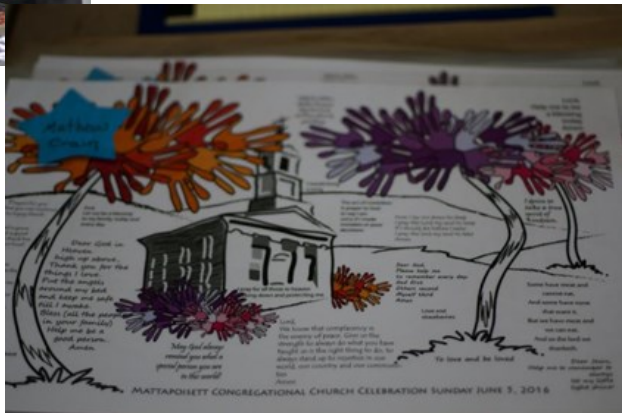


Flat Jesus preparing for his summer travels.

Delicious BBQ enjoyed by all generations!



Prayer Placemat with thanks to Claire Keene, Chuck Talley and our congregation.



# JULY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 9:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 6:45 am PRAYER 5:00 pm Pastoral Relations	6 6:00 pm DEACONS	7 5:30 pm MISSIONS 6:30 pm STEWARD	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9
10 9:00 am WORSHIP 6:00 PM EVENING WORSHIP	11 6:30 pm 2017 Confirmation Parents Mtg.	12 6:45 am PRAYER	13 5:30 pm TRUSTEES	14	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 Craft Fair Reynard Hall
17 9:00 am WORSHIP	18	19 6:45 am PRAYER	20 6:00 pm EXEC	21	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 9:00 am WORSHIP Rev. Amy leaves for Sabbatical	25	26 6:45 am PRAYER	27 "The Home Scoop" 5:00-7:00 pm	28	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30
31 9:00 am WORSHIP						

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED FUNCTIONS/MEETINGS IN THE CHURCH BUILDING

<u>Catelli Dance School</u> Will resume after Labor Day	<u>Brownies &amp; GS</u> <u>Troops #88266,</u> <u>#80017, #62147</u> Monday 2:45 pm <u>Troop 75429</u> Friday 6:00 pm	<u>BS &amp; 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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# AUGUST 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 6:45 am PRAYER	3 6:00 pm DEACONS 5:00-7:00 "The Home Scoop"	4 5:30 pm MISSIONS 6:30 pm STEWARD	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6
7 9:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION 6:00 pm EVENING WORSHIP	8 Rev. Nancy Strickland starts interim pastorate	9 6:45 am PRAYER	10 5:30 pm TRUSTEES 5:00-7:00 "The Home Scoop"	11 9:00 am Worship Team	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13
14 9:00 am WORSHIP	15 5:00-8:00 NIGHT AT THE CREAMERY	16 6:45 am PRAYER	17 6:00 pm EXEC	18	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20
21 9:00 am WORSHIP	22	23 6:45 am PRAYER	24	25	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 9:00 am WORSHIP	29	30 6:45 am PRAYER	31			

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