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May 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

Read John 21:1-17

Greetings in the name of the Risen Christ,

Shortly after my ordination as an Elder in the United Methodist Church, I was given a scholarship gift to travel to Israel and explore the places Jesus had walked. It was a wonderful trip with so many blessings. We were able to see the home of Mary in Nazareth, the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem where Jesus was born, the Holy Sepulchre where Jesus was crucified and so much more. Most of these churches are massive structures, as are many of the churches in the world. One church we visited on the trip that has stuck in my heart was the Church of the Primacy of St. Peter, found along the Sea of Galilee.



It was originally called the Church of the Coals. It is believed that this is the place where the Resurrected Jesus appeared to his disciples while they were fishing and cooked them breakfast. A simple church is built

around the rock where they ate the meal together. But what struck me most were six heart shaped stones found along the side of the church building in the sand. These heart shaped stones were used as the first gathering place for worship until a church was built. Later these stones would be used as the base of columns for the 2nd

century church. I have always loved the beach: fresh water or the ocean. The simplicity of six heart shaped stones as a worship space has intrigued me. It makes me ponder what truly constitutes a church.

There is the popular church hymn, "*I am the church! You are the church!*" by Hope Publishing Co. Verses are as follows:

1. The church is not a building;
The church is not a steeple;
The church is not a resting place;
The church is a people (Refrain)
2. We're many kinds of people,
With many kinds of faces,
All colors and all ages too,
From all times and places (Refrain)
3. Sometimes the church is marching,
Sometimes it's bravely burning
Sometimes it's riding, sometimes it's hiding,
Always it's learning (Refrain)
4. And when the people gather,
There's singing and there's praying;
There's laughing and there's crying sometimes;
All of it saying (Refrain)

The Board of Directors, Deacons, Christian Education Ministry, and the Pastor will be reading a book and discussing who The Federated Community Church is and what we expect of our members. We invite you to join in the study (five weeks). This is an exciting time for our church. We have been given two grants equaling \$7200.00. One grant is from the United Methodist Foundation and the other from the United Methodist *Together for Tomorrow*. The grants will be used to revitalize our congregation as we connect or reconnect to the Risen Christ, deepen our connection to one another and reach out in connections to the community: to be hands of service and to share our stories. No one person or one committee can do this. It will involve each one of us

to be an active part of this new ministry as we live out our call and our covenant to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

A few years ago, Wayne and I attended a church in Wyoming. It was the most welcoming and hospitable church I have ever attended. I will share more about the experience in a sermon (I hope you will be present to hear) that we might glean from them some practices to incorporate in our church. The choir music was okay, the sermon was average, but every person simply had the heart of God. They were welcoming, engaged, and hospitable. They simply allowed their heart to be shown, engaged, and given to each other; even guests. They remind me of the heart shaped rocks of the early church. It was simply their heart that mattered. The last verse of "*We are the Church*" is:

At Pentecost some people
received the Holy Spirit
and told the Good News through the world
to all who would hear it.

On May 23rd we will celebrate Pentecost. I love Pentecost. It is the giving of God's Spirit to each one of us with all the love and power of God for us to engage in the world fully. Please feel free to wear red or another color that makes us think of the flames of fire which is how the disciples described the arrival of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2). Please let me know if you would like to participate in sharing about who we are as a church and what we want to be as we roll out, "Connecting in the Spirit."

This is an exciting time. It is not a time for the pastor, the Board Members, or any one Committee but for all who are followers of Jesus to join in and shine in the World. Let's make our light shine brightly for the Glory of God and for the love for God.

In Christ's Light and Love,

Pastor Pat



From the Deacons' Bench

The Creation Story.....Continued

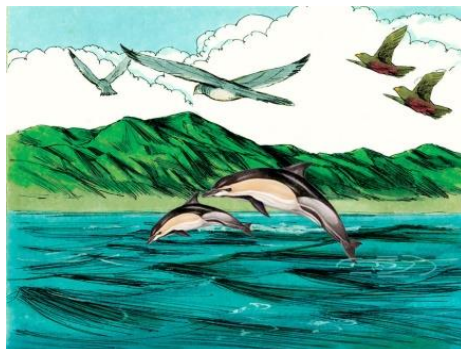
Genesis 1:26. *"Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

The beautiful imagery of The Creation Story assigns stewardship responsibilities to all of humankind. We are tenants in occupancy in a lovely and diverse and perfectly balanced global garden with instructions for its care.....co-creators, so to speak, on the land, in the sea and in the air we breathe.....co-creators in the homes that shelter and nurture us, in the work places where we build, in the schools where we teach, in the laboratories and hospitals where we attempt to fathom the universal energy that surrounds us and in the halls of governance where we seek tranquility and fairness and beauty and peace.

"Thus the Heavens and the Earth were completed in all their vast array".

May we be ever mindful of the tasks at hand.

May it be so.....David Spencer, Deacon.





May Birthdays

Birthday Greetings to the following members of our church who celebrate birthdays in May.

Anne Marie Matzko	05/01
Regina Germain	05/02
Philp Castellano	05/02
Barbara Schofield	05/03
Jodi Brodeur	05/03
Gail Romano	05/04
Paul Olesuk	05/05
Donald Ogonowski	05/05
Sandra Howell	05/05
Geraldine Kruger	05/08
Beverly Burnell	05/08
Sandra Dodd	05/09
Carroll Willey	05/11
Beatrice Moriarty	05/12
Lois Pixley	05/14
Robert Fernandes	05/14
Joyce Ogonowski	05/17
Cheryl Patterson	05/18
Scott Olesuk	05/18
James Bliss	05/20
Lori-Beth Sterling	05/20
Stephen Libby	05/24
Ruth Haley	05/26
Amy Bliss	05/28
Kylie Walulak	05/29
Rita Spencer	05/29
Bonnie Howell	05/30



Wedding Anniversaries

Jeremy & Kristi Tessier	05/03
Patricia & David Baker	05/04
Dennis & Sandra Chaffee	05/06
Jesse & Kathleen Lee	05/15
Robert & Mary Howell	05/18
Richard & Jeanne Regnier	05/20
Dale & Amy Varney	05/30
Lauren & Keith Hummel	05/31



Prayer Corner



Evie Meacham
Ingrid & Beth (Schwabe)
Joyce Brooks(back surgery)

Audrey Burger
John (Jack) Bennett
Janet Brehaut
Beverly Pease
Winnie
Don Facey
Fran Brown (at Baystate)
Frank & Phyllis Watson
Bob Green
Ann Kibbe

Bonnie Watson
Beverly Burnell (at home)
Carol Darnley
Judy
Lelum
Jackie Prior (at Baystate)
Dennis Connor
Jeffrey Howe
Edith
Earl Schofield
Christopher
Josh G. & Family
Marilyn Connor
(Rotator Cuff Surgery)
Mary Lou Black

For shut-ins and those who are isolated
For first responders & healthcare workers
For the homeless
For our country
For all world leaders
For Asians & Blacks & all who are persecuted for
simply being how God created them
For those impacted by changing weather disasters

Sympathy to

*Irene Cutting in the death of
Peter Matthew Bokulic,
who passed away on February 21st.*





FCC received a thank – you letter from Shannon Mumblo, Executive Director of Christina’s House, for our donation of \$5,575.06 for the new staircase. Well done, good & faithful servants! (see bulletin board in Libby Hall for the full letter)

Thank You for the Easter Goodies....

...Thank you for the nice Easter goodies and card. Sorry I didn’t hear the door ring or knock. The church looked lovely on Easter.

Sincerely Yours,
Joan Harris

...Thank you so much for your prayers and Easter remembrance. We are happy to hear you are able to gather together for worship again after the long shut down due to the pandemic. We wish we could be there with you. Perhaps sometime in the coming weeks that will be possible.

Blessings to all of you,
Don & Shirley

...What a nice surprise for us. It was good to be remembered and the cookies have been a tasty reminder. Again, our thanks and many wishes for a Happy Easter to everyone.

Sincerely,
Otto & Clara Kern



Altar Flowers

Starting in May we will have two bouquets of flowers on the altar.



Please email Janet Modlish @ jmodlish5662@gmail.com if you would like to have flowers in honor or memory of someone.

Church Spring Clean Up *May 8th*



Come and join in the fellowship as we clean up the grounds around the church on Saturday, May 8th starting at 9:00 AM. It has been a while since we have been together. Many hands make work lighter.

May 23rd- Pentecost

Wear red, yellow, or orange to remember and celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire.

Intentionally Developing Disciples

Many members of the BOD, Deacons, and Christian Education Ministries are engaging in a book study to develop a plan for our church. We will be rediscovering our WHY and planning how to move forward. We invite you to join in the study: about 5 weeks long. See Pastor Pat to join one of the classes and retrieve a book.

Connecting in the Spirit

Raise your hand if you want our church to grow in faith, and in membership.

We're very confident that every hand is raised. After all, growing personally in our faith and living our faith into the world is our very purpose for existing as a "Christ-ian" church! It's the calling Jesus himself gave us:

The Great Commission

Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: *"God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."* Matthew 18-20, The Message

The question for all churches has been how to do this. In our own church, as in most congregations, we have gone through cycles of more effective and less effective discipleship. During our 2019 Unity Dinners, you expressed that you wanted to be more effective disciples of Jesus, for one another and for those beyond our walls.

That formed the focus and vision for our future ministry together: *"Connecting in the Spirit"*. As we anticipate learning more about the details of this program of congregational mission and ministries, it seems appropriate that we explore together meaningful and effective discipleship in our current time. Over the last decade, discipleship has become centered less on congregants "going to church" and more on congregants learning to "be the church" for today's world.

Toward that end, we hope that you will participate in the upcoming study, "Developing an Intentional Discipleship System: a Guide for Congregations" (see Pastor Pat's message on page 1).

As Pastor Pat reminds us, growth and change cannot be effected by leadership alone; it requires all of us, and each of us, to be willing to commit to daring to dream, to hope, to pray, and to act, to

believe in the vibrant future that God calls us into.

Are you willing? We hope every hand is still raised.

Harvest Gifts



The need for food for our neighbors is still with us! Harvest Gifts will be back in operation again this year - offering fresh garden produce to food pantries in the local area. The Harvest Gifts crew is hard at work growing produce in our home gardens. Will you join us in this effort?? If you are a gardener, consider adding an extra row or extra plants earmarked for food

donation. If space is an issue, perhaps you can grow vegetables in large patio pots - cherry tomatoes and pickling cucumbers are examples of plants that do well in patio pots. If a green thumb is not in your DNA, feel free to ask friends and neighbors for surplus veggies for the church OR buy local produce to donate.

This year, we are also accepting nonperishable food items which will be delivered along with weekly produce. So, please take advantage of those BOGO sales and coupon discounts to fill the shelves. The Harvest Gifts crew will meet Tuesdays at 8:00 AM to package and distribute food beginning Tuesday JUNE 15th. Produce can be dropped at the church on Sundays before or after services OR at the Church Office on Mondays 9:00am - 1:00pm.

Food donations are needed more than ever as our community recovers from the economic hardships of COVID-19. Please help!

Thanks, Karen Anable

Christian Education

We were so excited to be back at church with our young people. We started out decorating Easter eggs and making Easter basket to be delivered by our Deacons to our church shut- ins.

We continued to talk about Easter and Jesus's resurrection. We learned about the great commission and we talked about Earth Day and how we can help save Gods creations with recycling, picking up trash, growing our own fruits and vegetables etc.



Please take time to look down the hallway and see the children's artwork.

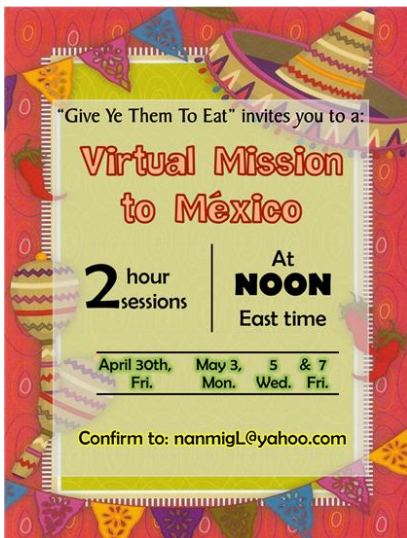
Blessings
Laurie & Kristi

Virtual Mission

Join a 'Virtual Mission' to the program "Give Ye Them To Eat" (GYTTE) in Puebla, Mexico, run by Global Ministries missionaries Nan McCurdy and Miguel Mairena.

Two-hour sessions begin at noon EDT on April 30, May 3, 5 and 7, 2021.

To participate,
contact nanmigL@yahoo.com



A Message from Bishop Devadhar

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble. — Psalm 46:1*

Beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We have been collectively holding our breath for many long months as we've suffered through the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and unrelenting racism.

In the past few months, we have begun to see a ray of hope with the distribution of effective vaccines. Today, the conviction of Derek Chauvin on all charges provides a measure of justice for George Floyd and that ray of hope for all who've been waiting for accountability.

Even as we recall with anguish George Floyd's dying cry, "I can't breathe," perhaps we can now begin to exhale fear and inhale hope.

George Floyd's murder prompted a worldwide movement of people of all ages and races, coming together in solidarity to address and denounce systems built on inequality and hatred. Today's verdict was a step forward in bringing justice, but there is still so much work to do.

Justice is not complete until all children of God can live together in community, with mutual respect and dignity and equity. As proud citizens and residents of the United States, let us work to bring to reality the final words of our pledge "with liberty and justice for all."

As people of God, followers of Jesus Christ, let us join in prayer for the Floyd family as well as the Chauvin family. Let us pray for victims of violence and racism and for those who commit such acts. And may all — protestors and protectors alike — heed the call to peace and non-violence.

When we hear the voices of those crying out for justice, may we respond with the heart of Christ, so that no one has to suffer such heartbreak again.

Tonight, we exhale, though we continue to mourn the loss that brought us to this day and the thousands of others who did not receive justice.

And tomorrow let us wake up and inhale hope, with a renewed call to action and accountability for ourselves and for one another as we continue to work for God's Beloved Community.

In Christ's Love,

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

*Second Annual Meeting of the
Southern New England Conference*

Come and build our new Conference together!

*“And it Came to Pass...” – Living into the Fulfillment of God's
Promises – Luke 2:15*

**Saturday, May 8, 2021
9 AM – 4 PM**

**Registration Deadline - May 5, 2021
Cost: \$25 per person
ONLINE meeting**

Email : bellarosaasneucc.org

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 11:30 AM Memorial Service for Peg Stearns @Hillcrest Cemetery
2 10:00 AM Worship	3	4	5 6:30 PM Bell Choir	6	7 10:30 AM Bible Study	8 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Spring Clean-Up
9 10:00 AM Worship Mother's Day	10	11 7:00 PM Finance	12 6:30 PM Bell Choir	13	14 10:30 AM Bible Study	15
16 10:00 AM Worship	17	18 6:30 PM BOD	19 6:30 PM Bell Choir	20	21 10:30 AM Bible Study	22 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
23 Pentecost 10:00 AM Worship	24	25	26 6:30 PM Bell Choir	27	28 10:30 AM Bible Study	29
30 10:00 AM Worship	31					

Harvest Gifts 2021



Harvest Gifts will be back in operation again this year - offering fresh garden produce to food pantries in the local area. Will you join us in this effort?? If you are a gardener, consider adding an extra row or extra plants earmarked for food donation. See inside newsletter for details.