

PURPOSE
STATEMENT

*"We are disciples of
Jesus Christ
committed to making a
difference in the
community and in the
world through service
and invitational
outreach."*

The Messenger

First United Methodist Church, Chatham

From the Pastor

May 2021

Volume 25, Issue 5

Brothers and Sisters - Greetings!

Close to Our Hearts

As we gradually end our period of Covid isolation, it is time to remember those we have loved and lost over the past year or more and have not been able to honor through our traditional funeral and memorial services.

We will have a service of remembrance on Sunday, May 16, at 10am (this may last a bit longer than our current worship hour), to celebrate the lives of these, our brothers and sisters in faith:

Florence "Flo" Bassett

Betsey Ann Buck Bloomer

Olive F. Hart Bogue

Joseph Buckley

Arthur Frederick Clough

Benjamin Kelley Goodspeed

Grace Hathaway

Pamela Tuttle Humphrey

Diane Carol Kellberg

Rev. Barbara Kszystyniak

Phillip "Phil" Morse

Dana Moulton

Helen Moulton

Elizabeth A. Raggi Nickerson-Power

Wendy Jean Pickard Njenga

Kenneth "Herbie" Pratt, Jr.

Dr. Florence Reynolds

Kara Leanne Sissell

~

This will not be a full individual memorial service, but it will be an opportunity to acknowledge and give thanks to God for some wonderful souls who have graced our lives for many years. If any of our families or friends would like to place flowers during this service, we ask you to bring them with you, and we will have a special time to do that during the service.

This Easter Season is a good time to remember that our lives live on in the promises of the Bible and as we live out all that we have learned from those who have gone before us. We welcome all to share in these moments of sacred memory.

God Bless us all!

Thom Gallen, Pastor



Inside this Issue Page

Worship Services update 2

"Offering" by Claire
McKeever-Burgett

Serving in the Military

"Milkweed and
Caterpillars" by
Suzanna Nickerson 3

LCOC Letter

Birthdays and
Anniversaries

Staff Contact

#####

The Thrift Shop is open
Thursday—Saturday
10AM—3PM

First United Methodist Church

569 Main Street

Mail: 16 Cross Street

Chatham, MA 02633

Pastor Thom

(Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Gallen)

Cell: 508.209.4551

tjgjt@hotmail.com

Joyce Lance, Admin. Assistant

and *The Messenger* Editor

Office Phone: 508-945-0474

Email:

office@chathammethodist.org

IN-HOUSE WORSHIP UPDATE

AS OF THE MESSENGER DEADLINE, THE CHURCH IS STILL UNDER A MANDATE OF 100 PERSONS AT SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES (SINGING MAY BE ALLOWED). SERVICES ARE AT 10AM. COVID PROTOCOLS ARE FOLLOWED—MASKS MUST BE WORN AND SEATING IS 6' APART EXCEPT FOR FAMILIES. You may also continue to join us for virtual Sunday worship services, which are available on: <https://umcom.zoom.us/j/38442955463>.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Offering by CLAIRE MCKEEVER-BURGETT

"On this dark, sleepy morning, with light dancing just beyond the horizon, with Jupiter joining the moon, our prayer is a simple one, a holy one. It is a confession, of sorts—a testimony—a truth. For we know you will come, O God. We know. Has there ever been a more certain certainty?"

"As one voice joins with another and then another and still another, our certainty gains confidence, grows legs. We know you will come, O God. We know. And with each confession of God's presence in our lives, light breaks forth—joy dances in our souls—and all creation lives."

"The alarm clock sounds. It is still dark...I'm not convinced even the birds are awake. I shift to my left, reach for the alarm, and turn it off. I place one foot on the cold, hard floor and then the other. Slowly but surely my body begins to wake, my heart and mind not too far behind.

"After the mundane early rising tasks...I make my way to the desk in one of our guest rooms. I light a candle. I sit still. I breathe. The desk is one my mom found for me at a garage sale and spent a summer refinishing so I would have a desk on which to work and write during college. It warms me to the core, even now, to sit at the desk in these early morning hours. I like to think of it as a sacred, holy space, created by calloused hands, sweating brow, and diligent work. My mother's offering to me now becomes my offering to God as I sit, as I breathe, as I pray, as I write.

"...for some time now I've committed to the practice of rising early to read, to pray, and to write, following in the footsteps of our monastic mothers and fathers, who pray the hours each day, rising even in the dead of night to offer praise to God. ...when I...participate[d] in a series of Writing as Spiritual Practice retreats...I began to understand the importance of writing, praying, and reading in the morning. ...I fear that if I wait to write later it will never happen—and on the days I do wait, my fear comes true. I try to pause and recognize the [beauty of words], their worth, their message:

We need a place to live and breathe, too.

"Hence, the writing, praying life is really one of making space for the deepest desires and truths within us to come out, trusting that the Holy of Holies not only can receive our truths, but will receive them.

"God, as a woman it's often difficult to read the Mary story without question, and, if I'm honest, some outrage. To think of you telling me my body would soon produce a child—commanding me to be the Mother of God—to think on these things—well, in all honesty, they make me squirm. It is my body, after all. And Mary had a body, too. Which is why I pause and pray and remember You are God—You are faithful—You do not overcome—instead, you create with us. And when I pause and when I pray this Mary baby body story becomes less difficult and more profound. It becomes the story of a woman child who in some miraculous and mysterious way trusted You enough to say yes. I pray. I pause. Help me trust when the time comes for me. Amen. God, you know every nook and cranny of our bodies. You know those places tight with tension, loose with love. God, meet us here—in the tight, loose, and in between. Meet us here, in our bodies, so we may know Peace. Amen.

"...trust that you are enough; that what you have to offer God is enough; that even when you have no words to speak...write...no thoughts to utter, God is with you, God hears you, God loves you. If all we take with us in the end is what we learn here on earth...I hope we learn that God meets us where we are, God listens, God receives.

"I want to learn something in the end. When I take my last breath, visit the pearly gates, or, more, return to the dust that bore me in the first place, I want to offer all I can. I want to learn something in the end. Lest my returning feel shallow, unnecessary—frivolous, silly. If I must hurt, cry, struggle—if I must know what it is to fight for air—long for safety—fear someone I love—I want to learn something in the end. Return to earth a small portion of what it offers me."

"Weavings, Nov / Dec / Jan 2014-2015,
A Journal of the Christian Spiritual Life"

Serving In The Military

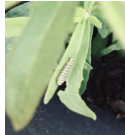
Please keep in your prayers all those serving in the military, especially the following members associated with our church:

- Lt. Forrest A. Bogue, U.S. Navy, San Diego, CA, son of Amy Bogue and grandson of Olive Bogue.
- Petty Officer 3rd Class, USN, Noah Firmin, who is stationed in Yokosuka, Japan.
- Pvt. Jacob Stewart, grandson of Elaine & Roger Trexler, is at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia.

MILKWEED and CATERPILLARS

It is spring once again and time to talk about native plants, in particular Milkweed. Milkweed comes up late. Right now, in the sunniest spots, the Common Milkweed is just popping up. The areas where I have Swamp/Marsh Milkweed or butterfly weed planted, there is no sign of them. I do not despair, they will magically appear one day, much later than most plants. My biggest challenge is not to step on those tender shoots as they come up amongst the invasive ground ivy and garlic mustards. As I did last year, I will put seeds out on my lawn at 606 Main Street and in the Church's Fellowship Hall for the taking.

Each year, I've planted the milkweed seeds near the beginning of April. Many seedlings get eaten by slugs and others get pot rot, so this year I'll plant in mid-May and think my results will be better. I recommend planting in pots and transplanting into the soil when the plants are about 6" tall. Swamp Milkweed and Common Milkweed come up faster and stronger than the bright orange Butterfly Weed.



Be aware that caterpillar may hatch out on a plant before the plant is large enough to support it. Many times I have found caterpillar who have eaten up the small plants with no more milkweed in sight for them to eat.



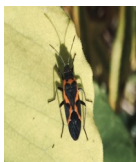
The caterpillar when hatched are so small that you cannot see their stripes. Look for areas of the plant that are damaged or that have holes on them. That may be where a caterpillar has been feeding. Congratulations! this is what we want! It will become the monarch butterfly.

It is best to check your seedlings daily for baby caterpillar, and have a place to take them to feed on Milkweed leaves if there are not enough on the small plants. Once you have established your garden you should have enough, but it is always good to have a backup supply, a neighbor's garden, or a wild patch in your neighborhood. If you get stuck, call me.

Swamp milkweed I have tried to grow, through the years, in my dry, sandy soil, without success. I had a discussion with a plant expert who has been helping me to choose native plants for our Church's proposed and in-the-works "butterfly garden". His home is in Provincetown, and he grows swamp milkweed successfully in dry and sandy soil. So I suggest you give it a try. It is a beautiful plant, and I think the easiest to grow.



Last year, I had a large population of milkweed bugs. These strange and wonderful insects live on the milkweed stems and pods. They drink the milkweed sap. They are brilliant red and develop black markings as they mature. They look like race cards with a big black x on their back. They cluster in groupings of 10-40 bugs on the seed pods. I have brought them in the house by mistake, and they seemed to know that I could take them back to their milkweed patch. They were very cooperative and once back on the milkweed plant, joined their friends in a happy commotion.



Another bug that likes to invade the milkweed is the orange aphid. My first few years I would try to kill the aphids thinking the plants would never survive the many hundreds of them, but was assured by Russell Norton at the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension (morton@barnstablecounty.org) that my plants would be fine, and they were. The plants lived on with no ill effects, the pods and seeds were both healthy, and I did not kill any of God's creatures.

Happy Spring to you all!

Suzanna Nickerson—774.563.0775

We received the following letter from the LCOC responding to our Church's Missions Committee's recent donation:

Dear First United Methodist Church of Chatham:

In these days, in this moment in time, when the *Lower Cape Outreach Council* is stretching to help our neighbors in need, and with our neighbors' circumstances exacerbated by the Covid-19 crisis, your generosity and kindness give us hope. Thank you!

Approximately 86% of your donation will go immediately into services and support to help folks in need here on the lower and outer Cape. Because you donated, we will respond to families and individuals of all ages. They turn to us humbly, many for the first time in their lives, because they are out of options.

This year we anticipate providing over \$1,000,000 in assistance to our neighbors living here on the lower and outer Cape—neighbors who have been laid off or furloughed; neighbors who are retired and living on fixed incomes; young families with children, who surely deserve life's basics.

We are grateful for your contribution of \$5,000. You are our champion! With gratitude,

John J. Roman, Board President, Lower Cape Outreach Council
#####

O Lord You have searched me and known me ~ You know when I sit down and when I rise up ~ You discern my thoughts from far away ~ If I take the wings of the morning And settle at the farthest limits of the sea, Even there your hand shall lead me, And your right hand shall hold me fast.
Psalms 139:1-2, 9-10

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
05-01 Roy Bischoff
05-05 David Murray
05-06 Bonnie Freitas
05-14 Anna Buckley
05-18 Phyllis Power

05-26 Isadora Power
05-27 Donna Lumpkin
05-28 Barbara Nickerson
05-30 Laurel Tileston
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
05-16 Janet & Jim Heatley

STAFF CONTACTS

Thom Gallen, Pastor

Cell: 508.209.4551

E-mail: pastor@chathammethodist.org or
tjgjt@hotmail.com

Office hours: Wednesday mornings, 10 - 12

Joyce Miriam Lance, Administrative Assistant

Address: 569 Main Street, Chatham, MA 02633

Mail address: 16 Cross Street, Chatham, MA 02633

Office hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 - 12:30

Telephone: 508-945-0474

Email: office@chathammethodist.org

Jeanne Kuzirian, Music Director

jkuzirian@comcast.net

Drs. Wm C. Coleman & Roz Coleman,

Pastoral Counselors

Telephone: 508-945-1985

Email: RozColeman@comcast.net

First United Methodist Church
16 Cross Street
Chatham, MA 02633