

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."*

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During this time of inactivity at
the Church, the Church Office
is open Monday - Thursday
mornings for the time being. If
you come to the office, please
observe the social distancing
for which our federal and state
governments are asking.

The Messenger

First United Methodist Church, Chatham

From the Pastor

April 2020

Volume 24, Issue 4

It's time. It's time for us to start living
in the 21st century!

What do I mean by that? We are going
to utilize the internet and computer to
full capacity to worship and connect
with each other! Even if we don't like
using computers or sitting in front of
a screen, we need to be prepared in
case social isolating goes on for a
while.

I recommend a useful virtual
communication tool—'Zoom'. It
requires a one-time registration and
installation on your computer—it's a
wonderful alternative way to connect
with each other.

I encourage you to take the big scary
step and sign up for Zoom, either on
your computer or your smart phone.
No need to upgrade your current
programs. We are currently holding
Zoom meetings every Tuesday and
Thursday from 10am—noon. We see
each other's faces, talk, pray, read
good books, and listen to good music.
More details to come.

Church Council had its first virtual
online meeting recently and it was a
huge success—we even connected
with Karen Goggins in Florida. Here
are a few things we want to reiterate:

(1) the State of Massachusetts has
banned all gatherings of more than
10 people until April 7; all our
activities at church are also
suspended. Hopefully, we can
re-open after April 7, but everything
is subject to change.

(2) For all we know now, we may not
be able to hold Easter Sunday
worship services.

(3) The Council had a lengthy
discussion about doing live-
streaming on-line worship. We will
send a more detailed announcement
later.

(4) Karen Goggins and Mike Firmin
are working on "off-line" fellowship,"

and I am working on "on-line"
fellowship.

I didn't feel comfortable sending out
"all church emails" all the time - it
would turn into "on-line" pollution! So I
will use Zoom to "hold" my regular
office hours. No appointment is
necessary, you can just drop in on
Zoom to say hi or hang out. There is
no certain agenda, let's just be free
spirits. Hope you all stop by and say
hi!

Use the following link and click on
"SIGN UP, IT'S FREE"

<https://zoom.us>

Type in your email address and click
on 'Signup'. Follow the rest of the
steps and download. Install Zoom
interface.

When it's time for our Tuesday and
Thursday Zoom meetings, open the
Zoom website and go to the right side
of the computer screen and click on
'Join a Meeting'. Type in the meeting
ID number, which is 384 429 5463.
Please don't hesitate to call me if you
have a problem installing Zoom.

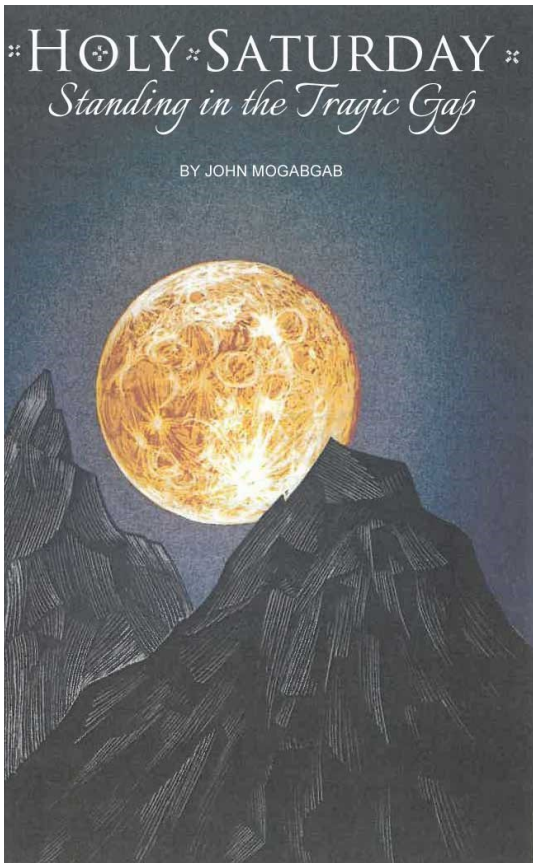
And of course, you know you can call,
text, or email me any time if you need
to talk or pray.

Stay strong in body and spirit. Hope to
see you all during the scheduled Zoom
meetings!

Peace,
Pastor Soo



The First United Methodist Church is obeying federal and State Mandates, therefore, we will not hold Sunday Services and other activities until further notice. This is an abbreviated *Messenger* without church and volunteer schedules. **If** we are able to resume our usual activities before the next *Messenger* issue, we will send you these schedules.



“AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS A GREAT EARTHQUAKE” (Matt. 28:2)

“With little or no warning the world seems to have been hit by a meteor. The initial jolt gives way to a shaking so violent the earth feels like prey in the teeth of some ravenous wild thing. Enormous pressures displace large landmasses. The ground splits and heaves, faults scarring its surface. Unfamiliar sounds and lights haunt the atmosphere. How quickly our predictable, safely ordered environment can be reduced to a ravaged remnant of its former self. When the earth moves beneath our feet, where can we stand?”

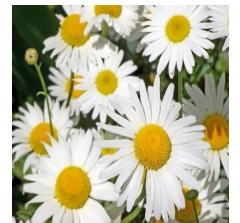
The earthquakes with which Matthew frames the Passion of Jesus suggest that this question is cosmic in scope and spiritual in nature. As Jesus breathes his last on the cross, huge rocks split apart and, following his resurrection, saints who had died come forth from their tombs (Matt. 27:51-53). In these tumultuous events, the most solid, unassailable truths of reality as we know it are subverted. The irresistible force of God’s love dislodges old creation’s death-grip on life. The uncontainable energy of God’s desire for life in abundance topples the tidy logic that governs our days. The rock-hewn tomb becomes the womb of a New Creation; the huge slab sealing Christ’s burial chamber is shoved aside and the stone of defeat becomes a throne of victory. The transformation of all things is underway. And yet, what a valley of tears continues to separate the old creation from the new. What perverse resiliency resides in all that harms, separates, angers, or saddens us. How tragic a gap yawns between glimpses of all that we hope for and the luminous fulfillment of our hope.

When familiar contours disappear and the earth moves beneath our feet, where can we stand? We can stand in the tragic gap. This is Holy Saturday ground, the ground we occupy between the virtue we see to be possible and its actual flourishing throughout the land. It is holy ground because the unanticipated, painful, incomprehensible loss of cherished landmarks offers an opportunity to see alternate perspectives, different paths, fresh horizons. It is holy ground because we stake our lives on it, holding fast to truth we know and holding out for truth yet to be revealed. It is holy ground because it holds within its soil the seeds of courage and the possibility of renewal. ‘I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it’ (Isa. 43:19)? These words contain the promise of Good Friday and the challenge of Easter. Between them rests Holy Saturday, the terrain in which we wait, watch, and prepare as best we can to be astonished.”



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO APRILITES!

04-04 Diane Kennedy	04-11 Roslyn Coleman	04-13 Elaine Trexler
04-04 Ann Barlow	04-11 Nancy Bischoff	04-17 David Thomson
04-09 Jeanne Kuzirian	04-12 Hwang Heo	



There are no April anniversaries.

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, grandson of Olive Bogue;
- Pvt. Jacob Stewart, at Camp Casey, South Korea, grandson of Elaine & Roger Trexler.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

by Suzanna Nickerson

Although it may seem there is no good coming from the outbreak of the coronavirus, perhaps there is. I saw a WGBH program of a before and after map, showing the town in China where the coronavirus had first been discovered. The after map showed the town 3-4 weeks after the area was shut down. It showed an incredible reduction of air pollution from the reduction of fossil fuel use.

I believe with the United States' reduction of travel and industry, we will also see how clean our air can be and how we impact our planet every day. I truly feel this is a time of reflection for all of us. Perhaps a time to make changes in our lives that respect the gifts of God we have been given—gifts of fresh air to breathe, clean water to drink, and for us on the Cape & Islands the incredible beauty that surrounds us.

With all of our gifts there is a responsibility to respect and honor these gifts. My environmental tip for reducing plastic use comes straight from my grandmother who loved to cook. I remember her using little glass dishes with glass tops. A few years ago I started to put my leftovers in regular bowls and place a dish on top. Now I always have different sized saucers and small plates that can be placed on bowls of different sizes. They keep my leftovers fresh and BPA-free, and they are easily stack-able, reusable, and dishwasher safe.

Suzanna Nickerson—774-563-0775

THANK YOU NOTE

Dear FUMC Congregation:

Thank you for the scholarship you gave me to attend my second semester at Cape Cod Community College. What a pleasant relief it was to receive this much appreciated gift.

I am studying information technology and feel I will have a good chance of finding meaningful work after I graduate. It also feels great to know other people care. I am sincerely grateful to you all.

Callum Brooks (*nephew of Diane Kennedy*)

EASTER 2020

"In the fast lane"

Slowing down, this holy season,
may be the way to go.
Letting go, at least an hour
here and there,
of that wheel with which you drive,
and which drives you.
Pulling over, kicking back,
searching for a rest area.
Shutting down
those surround sounds of music
and the breaking news
that keep you wide awake.
And tuning out and in again
to all those hungers never met
in daily destinations.

By J. Barrie Shepherd

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