

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."*

**Inside this Issue    Page**

Worship Service info            2

**NO** Craft Fair or Lobster  
Roll Dinners in **August**

"Reflections" by  
John S. Mogabgab

Congregational news

Serving in the Military

Scholarships                        3  
Awarded

Bird Watching as a  
fun, non-distancing  
pastime

Staff Contacts

Office Phone: 508-945-0474  
Emails:  
office@chathammethodist.org  
pastor@chathammethodist.org

Go on our Web Site to see  
church activities that are  
ongoing:  
chathammethodist.org

www.Facebook.com/  
FUMC Chatham

Pastor Thom  
(Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Gallen)  
Cell: 508.209.4551

# The Messenger

First United Methodist Church, Chatham

## From the Pastor

Chatham Brothers and Sisters -  
Greetings!

### Persistence

"We may have to fight a battle more than once to win it!" I think of these words from Margaret Thatcher when I think about our current struggle with our pandemic. Churches, like schools, our military, our economy, and every facet of our society are impacted in ways we never would have believed even months ago.

And then I think of the life of Christ. He was single-minded in his determination to bring a message of peace and kindness to the human community. Daily, he was up against the religious leaders of his day, the Roman authorities and even his own disciples at times. But, he never took off the mask! He never gave in to pressures from within or outside. He fought the battles of misinformation, skepticism, betrayal, and eventually, even the cross. As much as anything, Jesus persisted.

As a faith community striving to work and witness in His image, we are called to do the same. We have to change our way of public worship, community service, and communal life in ways we never imagined.

It tries our patience and sense of security to not know what will be happening from one Sunday to the next.

I want to suggest to you that this may become the "new normal." We have seen dramatic rises in pandemic activity in many of our states here at home, and we are constantly hearing of new and strange viruses emerging in other parts of our world. We may, indeed have to fight this battle more than

August 2020

Volume 24, Issue 8

once to win!

But one thing will not defeat us: we will always be the community of believers in God and in each other. We will always care for the sick, celebrate with our neighbors, hold each other up spiritually and emotionally and do to each other what we would have others do to/for us.

We are a Christian community and we will rise above anything else the world throws our way. So when we change and adapt to new concerns in our Church life, let's do it with a sense of purpose and not discouragement.

Jesus promises us a life that is richer than just material wealth, more rewarding than we ever imagined, and full of the joy of human love and natural wonder. Let us embrace these days even in the midst of new dangers and heartaches. Stay positive and persist in that!

Virtual hugs...Thom



The usual activities at First United Methodist Church are still not happening because of the Coronavirus. However, please check with the church office, 508.945.0474, to see whether 10AM Sunday worship services will be held inside or outside; masks are mandatory, and our seating follows the distancing protocol.

There will **not be** a Crafts Fair or Lobster Roll dinners in August. We look forward to the time when we can begin operating fully under “new normal” conditions! The church building isn’t the same without our usual group meetings, study classes, exercising sessions, etc.



### Reflections from John S. Mogabgab

“In 1528 Lieutenant Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca and three others found themselves the sole survivors of a shipwrecked Spanish expedition to Florida. Thus began what was eventually an eight-year journey from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean. Subjected to tempests, starvation, and enslavement, these military adventurers were stripped of their armor, their weapons, and finally even their European way of perceiving the world. This progressive nakedness symbolized the deepening vulnerability which marked the encounters between Cabeza de Vaca’s band and the native peoples of the regions through which they passed.

“It was in this condition of vulnerability that the destitute Spaniards discovered within themselves a power of healing, of granting life and health and joy to others. As they began to perceive the Indians as fellow human beings, they also found their own humanity enlarged. The haunted eyes of the suffering people who came to them for help became a gateway to a new world: ‘Those eyes...they thrust me out of myself, into a world where nothing, if done for another, seems impossible.’ Cabeza de Vaca was thinking of more than geography when he

concluded, ‘A gulf deeper than ocean yawns between the old world and the new.’ He and his comrades had entered the land of compassion.

“It is this same yawning gulf between the old world and the new that God traversed in Jesus Christ. Stripped of all divine accoutrements, God entered our worn-out world in the naked vulnerability of a newborn child. Jesus never lost this vulnerability. The suffering of the people penetrated to the core of his being. The word most commonly used in the Synoptic Gospels to portray the compassion of Jesus recalls the ancient imagery of the womb of God (Isa. 49:15). It was from this deep inward place that Jesus brought forth healing and new life (Matt. 14:14, Mark 1:41, Luke 7:13; see below). Compassion expresses the inmost truth of God’s nature; it is the fertile suffering of love that births a new creation.

- From Editor’s Introduction, *Weavings Journal*,

Vol. V, No. 6 (Nov./Dec.1990): “Compassion”

Matthew 14:14—When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Mark 1:41—Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Luke 7:13—When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

08-04 Monique Perry	08-20 Olive Bogue
08-06 Barbara Natarelli	08-20 Ginger Murray
08-09 Bernie Powers	08-22 Marilyn Johnson
08-12 Peter Farber	08-22 Ev Harrison
08-13 Jane Powers	08-22 Soo Kim



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

08-16 Vera & Ev Harrison



### 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.
- Petty Officer 3rd Class, USN, Noah Firmin, who will be stationed in Yokosuka, Japan.
- Pvt. Jacob Stewart, at Camp Humphreys, Dagou, South Korea, grandson of Elaine & Roger Trexler.

## FIRST UMC, CHATHAM, AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Last, year the Church Council approved a new Community Outreach program: the sponsorship of two scholarships for graduating seniors from local high schools. Each scholarship is for \$1,000 and is to be awarded for second semester expenses the next year. We asked the schools to select the recipients based on high academic achievement as well as outstanding character and activity in extracurricular and community service activities. To date, we have not received notification of a recipient from Cape Cod Technical High School, but we are pleased to announce the recipient from Monomoy Regional High School. Daniel Street of Long Pond Drive, Harwich, is the first recipient from MRHS. He plans to pursue a career in computer engineering at UMass Amherst with the hope of using computers to create better options for impoverished nations. In addition to computers, Daniel has developed an interest in studying inexpensive geothermal energy, which would also be beneficial for underdeveloped countries. His activities in high school include varsity tennis and cross country, president of the MRHS Animal Welfare Club, and a Global Studies Service Trip to the Dominican Republic. Daniel has worked at local businesses in both Chatham and Harwich during high school and is an active member of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Chatham.

In addition to the two scholarships for graduating area seniors, our church has been proud to award \$500 scholarships to four other students who have a connection with our congregation. In January, Rhianna Jones, granddaughter of Robin Rank, was awarded a travel scholarship for her high school choir's trip to Ireland. In February, Callum Brooks, nephew of Diane Kennedy, received a second semester award to Cape Cod Community College, where he is studying I.T. Grace Haskell, a long-time member of our church family, received her award for her sophomore year studies at UMass Amherst, where she has a double major of Communication Disorders and Speech Pathology and Psychology. Our fourth recipient was Parker Firmin, Michael Firmin's son, who has just finished his sophomore year at Holy Cross, where he is majoring in Math. These additional scholarships have been made possible through the generosity of the June and Dennis Marquis Memorial Fund.

We are so very proud of all our students and are very happy that First United Methodist Church of Chatham has been able to help them achieve their goals.

### Prayer for the Unknown Future

Thou dost beset me behind and before,  
and layest thy hand upon me.  
Whither shall I go from thy Spirit?  
Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, thou art there!  
If I make my bed in Sheol, thou art there!  
If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
even there thy hand shall lead me,  
and thy right hand shall hold me.

- Psalm 139:5, 7-10



## • BACKYARD BIRDS of MASSACHUSETTS •



My niece, Sam, has had a great idea that is a lot of fun and works well to get us together, but not too close together, during the COVID-19 pandemic—bird watching!

This fun activity can be done from most homes as well as from beach parking lots. At the beach between 9—4:30, you will need a parking sticker; a pass will be needed by non-residents. Go online for more information—[chatham-ma.gov/sticker](http://chatham-ma.gov/sticker), and you will find beach pass and resident sticker information.

Since my niece and I both drive and live in opposite directions, we choose a meeting spot and each drive there. For us it is usually Forest Beach in South Chatham, but there is also the overlook at the Lighthouse, Stage Harbor Pier, Oyster Pond, Hardings Beach, and Cackle Cove. Since Cape Cod is in the migration path for so many birds, we have great opportunities for viewing.

Remember always, that wild animals are very much affected by human behavior. Plastic trash is now found frequently in birds' nests and bird necropsy (bird dissections). Picking up plastic garbage trash on the beaches and in the forests is always helpful to wildlife, but stopping use of plastic and finding alternatives to plastic enables a cleaner environment all around. Cleaner air, cleaner water, cleaner food, cleaner land, and better health.

Also, let's celebrate 100 years of women's right to vote!

Stay well, and stay safe.

With love to you all,  
Suzanna Nickerson

## STAFF CONTACTS

### **Pastor Thom Gallen**

Cell: 508.209.4551

E-mail: [pastor@chathammethodist.org](mailto:pastor@chathammethodist.org)

Office hours: Wednesday mornings, 10 – 12 (begins July 8)

### **Joyce Miriam Lance, Administrative Assistant**

Address: 569 Main Street, Chatham, MA 02633

Mail address: 16 Cross Street, Chatham, MA 02633

Office hours: Monday –Thursday

Telephone: 508-454-0474

Email: [office@chathammethodist.org](mailto:office@chathammethodist.org)

### **Jeanne Kuzirian, Music Director**

[jkuzirian@comcast.net](mailto:jkuzirian@comcast.net)

### **Drs. Wm C. Coleman & Roz Coleman,**

#### **Pastoral Counselors**

Telephone: 508-945-1985

First United Methodist Church  
16 Cross Street  
Chatham, MA 02633