



The Friendly Messenger

Amicable Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

William A. Sterrett ~ Pastor

September 2020

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Office Phone: 401-624-4611

Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Fridays

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Office e-mail:

office@amicablechurch.org


Pastor's tel. #: 401-787-8828

Pastor e-mail:

williamsterrett@cox.net

Website:

<http://www.amicablechurch.org>

 amicable congregational church, ucc

Amicable Sunday School

amicablechurchss@gmail.com

We offer Sunday School for
Preschoolers – 12th grade

We offer Child Care for
Babies – Toddlers

A.C.T.S

Amicable Church Thrift Shop

Open 10am-2pm
Thursdays and Saturdays

RHODE ISLAND CONFERENCE

United Church of Christ

<http://www.ricucc.org>

Pastoral Letter

His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.

Following the question and answer session Jesus spit on the ground, made mud, put it on the man’s eyes, and sent him to a water source to clean his eyes. The man’s sight was restored, but the story didn’t end there. People couldn’t believe that this was the blind man they knew. They apparently didn’t like the new-seeing man, because they reported him to the authorities, who in turn question him and rejected him and his new vision.

Jesus maintained that the man’s blindness allowed for God’s works to be revealed. We have always interpreted this through the lens of the miraculous healing powers of God. But there is more to being blind than a physical disability. People with 20/20 vision can often not see the forest because of the trees.

For far too long Blacks, people of color, in our country have tried to get the world to see and understand racism. In her book, White Fragility, Robin DiAngelo focuses on how Whites become so defensive, when the conversation focuses on White privilege. She tells us racism and White privilege are not our personal sins. It is a systemic problem into which we have been born; a problem we need to address. Whites, the privileged, in our country have been willing to try to be nicer to Blacks, even laws have been passed to try to make available equal access to goods and services White citizens take for granted, but Whites have, for the most part, been blind to the deeply rooted systemic and structural racism of our country and our world. I know I certainly have been.

In recent years books, documentaries, podcasts, even seminars trying to educate our society about the nature and origins of racism have been springing up in abundance. Thanks to guidance from Dr. Bonita Cade I was able to share with you a small list of these resources, hoping to begin to heal our blindness to the sea of systemic racism we all swim in. Through my reading and listening I feel that my vision is beginning to clear. I see, understand many things much better. I now know that understanding systemic racism and working for racial justice is a life-long journey, requiring me to be constantly vigilant, listen attentively, and be willing to challenge my prejudices.

As I have stated in other missives, it is not the job of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) to educate me, or us. We must do the work ourselves. This fall Amicable Church will offer several ways for us, as individuals and as a congregation, to do the hard work of healing our blindness. I am offering to lead a

Food Pantry



East Bay Community Action
Program
1048 Stafford Rd, Tiverton, RI
(401) 625-5123

Salvation Army Soup Kitchen – New Bedford

On Hold

Volunteers Needed!

Contact Pat Campion for
information
pjcamp53@aol.com



Membership at Amicable

If you are interested in becoming a
member of Amicable Church
please contact Rev. Bill Sterrett –
401- 787-8828 or

Call the Church Office
401- 624-4611.

Prayer List



*Please call
the
Pastor*

*401- 787-8828 or the Church
Office ~401- 624- 4611*

*Join a Ministry-
Share Your Gifts*

small Zoom group, which would meet once a week for four weeks, to discuss together either a book or a podcast. I am also trying to set up a two-part seminar, to be held over Zoom, called “What is Whiteness?”, led by Aimee Davidson, who is a trainer working for the Providence YWCA. (Stay tuned for more information about this.)

So far, I have 5 individuals interested in the Zoom gathering. There is room for more and we can, if the interest is there, have more than one group. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in such a group. I will be trying to coordinate the day and time the first two weeks of September so that we can begin our conversations by mid-September. I look forward to hearing from you.

It is when we are willing to allow ourselves to experience the muddy-mess the world is in and go to the healing pools to clean our eyes “that God’s works might be revealed in” and through us.

May God continue to bless us as we seek to live out God’s healing justice in our lives.

Yours in Christ,

Worship Themes

September 6 Labor Day Weekend. This is a time to lift up the importance of labor and how work helps us to find meaning in life. In the midst of these difficult economic times, when so many people are trying to find work, we will lift up the gift of our thrift store, those who work so hard to make it successful, and how it seeks to serve those struggling to make ends meet.

September 13 Rally Day Sunday. In pre-COVID times this Sunday would mark the start of our fall church school programming. In our virtual world we will be talking about the importance of Sunday School as a part of our larger plan for faith formation. In worship we hope to hear from our children and youth, our teachers, and other adults about faith formation in a time of social distancing.

September 20 On our denominational calendar this Sunday is listed as **Just Peace Sunday**. In worship we will lift up some of the justice issues that Amicable has been trying to address; issues around accessibility, gender identity, opposition to sexism and violence against women, and caring for creation.

September 27 On our denominational calendar this Sunday is listed as **American Indian Ministry Sunday**. In addition to raising awareness of our deepening ties and work with the Indigenous peoples through our denomination, we will kick off this year’s all-church offering, Neighbors In Need (NIN). Traditionally half of the moneys raised through our NIN offering goes to support the large ministry our denomination has among Native Americans, especially in the western half of our country.



LOVE TO SING? That is all that is required to join the Amicable Choir! You need not be an accomplished singer, nor do you need to have any choir experience.

We meet once a week for one hour on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. We sing typically twice a month in the service. Come give it a try!

On Hold

Quilters - Knitters



Wednesdays, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.. This is a great opportunity to enjoy two hours of relaxed companionship with other women who have similar interests. No experience is required. You may attend these sessions and learn. Those who do other hand crafts are also welcome.

On Hold

*Prayer Shawls ~
"A Warm Hug"*



The shawls are knit or crocheted for those in our church or community who are going through challenging times, for our confirmands, and for babies who are baptized.

Shawls can be worked on at home or on Wednesday mornings during the knitting and quilting time. Yarn, patterns and needles are available at the church. We also use fleece prayer shawls for young children, if you do not knit or crochet.

For more information, please call Barbara Holmes 401-624-2221.

What Is Whiteness?

Amicable’s Faith Formation Team has organized a two-part seminar called “What Is Whiteness?” to be held on Zoom. The first part is a 90-minute presentation on how racism was built into the structure of our society over the past 400 years. The second part will be a chance for participants to talk about what we heard in the first session and reflect on how we might affect positive change in our lives and our community in the face of such a monumental, seemingly intractable social structure.

The facilitator will be Aimee Davidson from the YWCA of Providence. The first 90-minute Zoom session will be on Monday, October 5, from 7:00 – 8:30 PM. The second session will be on Monday, October 26, from 7:00 – 8:30 PM.

To participate in this two-part seminar, you will need to register in advance. Please email the church office with any questions you might have and/or if you want to sign up for this seminar.

A Four-Part Conversation on Racial Justice

Rev. Sterrett and the Faith Formation Team will host a four-part conversation on racial justice using the 14-part podcast “Seeing White” from Scene on Radio’s second season. The plan is to meet once a week for four weeks on Zoom for an hour to talk about what we learned and ask ourselves questions based on 3 to 4 parts of the podcast we listened to during the week. The day and time of our Zoom gathering will be determined by those interested in taking part in this program. If you are interested in joining this educational opportunity, please contact Rev. Sterrett by email (williamsterrett@cox.net).

Pics, Posts, Articles about Positive Local Events Requested

We are so bombarded in the media and elsewhere by so much that is so discouraging that Amicable’s Worship Team decided this Fall in our virtual worship services we will be focusing on the positive, especially at a local level. We will be lifting up positive steps being taken through Amicable’s ministries and in the greater Tiverton community around global concerns and general justice issues. We are developing a bank of pics, posts, articles and other artifacts highlighting these steps in the right direction that could be used in our virtual services or elsewhere. *Please keep an eye for such items and when you find them, email them to Kimberly Poulton at meadowgal@charter.net.*

Amicable News at a Glance

Christian Education Committee:

- Look for updates in the next Friendly Messenger

Trustees:

See page 6

Standing Committee:

- Look for updates in the October Friendly Messenger.

Lay Reader

Volunteers are needed to serve as Lay Readers. A sign-up sheet is in the rear of the Sanctuary. **Speak with any Deacon or contact** Jean Galipeau-jeanpeau@cox.net or 401-624-8540.

Hospitality



Ushers/Greeters

We seek to be as welcoming as Jesus was at the wedding feast at Cana and as our name suggests. Please consider serving as a Sunday greeter. The sign-up sheets can be found on the long table at the back of the sanctuary. Please let Kristen Zeiser know if you need or have misplaced your name badge. She'll be happy to make you a new one.

Coffee Hour...

...offers the chance for members, friends, and visitors to get to know one another better, share concerns and catch up on the latest news. Volunteers are always needed to help host each week throughout the year. Coffee, juice and snacks are already available in the Upper Hall Kitchenette. Please sign up on the calendar or sign up sheet in the Upper Hall.

On Hold

Virtual Zoom Coffee most Sundays following worship



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Other Amicable News

Deaths

There have been several deaths since our last newsletter, as a result there will be several committal services this month. Due to the present health restrictions, these committal services are for family members only.

Matthew Ouellette's committal service will be held on Thursday, September 5th.

In addition to this service a good friend of mine, Michael Menges, died in Germany in August. A memorial gathering will be held on Saturday, September 12th.

For these named, and so many in our world unnamed, we pray their families and friends will find comfort in the loved they shared, for through love shared we are connected forever. Shared love never dies.

ACTS NEEDS YOU

We need help! Please consider an hour or two now and then. Or even a more regular schedule with us. We really do have fun while serving our church and the community. There are many small tasks that make the whole thing run and we could sure use the help.

Give Gale or Martha a call/email: ducks4jkj@yahoo.com
m.s.macnaught@cox.net

Or stop in anytime you see our cars in the lower lot.

Thank You

Dear Amicable Church Community and Garey Scholarship Committee Members,

Thank you for awarding me the Garey Scholarship. This scholarship will supplement the expenses of my undergraduate degree in Neuroscience at the University of Vermont. Going into my senior year, I am particularly grateful, reflecting back on the support I've had from Amicable throughout my college experience. I am extremely blessed to have not only this financial support, but also the unconditional love and support from my Amicable family.

With great appreciation and love,
Sophie Piffard

'Your Kindness Means the World to Me'

Thank you for thinking of me and helping me forward my education. Hope everyone is staying safe & healthy and miss you all.

♡ Aubrie Messenger

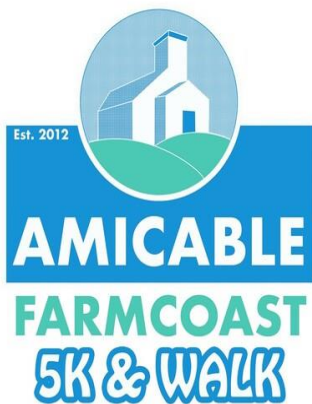
AMICABLE IS ON AMAZON SMILE!

When you shop online this holiday season please support our church by shopping at Amazon Smile.

You shop. Amazon gives.

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Amicable.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support our church home by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com. Select Amicable Congregational Church from the search bar.
- Or you can go directly to us at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0377166>

*Virtual 5K
Results due by 11:59 a.m.
September 12, 2020*



Up on the Roof sharing time and talent!



The Trustees extend a big “thank you” to our fellow Edifice Trustee, Jim Aiello! On Thursday, August 20th Jim cleaned our church’s North and West facades plus the North entrance bench.

Well done, Jim!

As we go into Fall, the Trustees are looking for members and friends to help with fall clean-up and small housekeeping and edifice tasks. If you are interested, please email Maryellen Castro at meccastro@cox.net.

Financial Notes of Interest – August 2020

- Due to the Stock Market fluctuations & continued market uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the withdrawals from Amicable's General Endowment and Special Endowment funds planned for the 2nd and 3rd quarters of this year are not being taken. Instead, holdings in Amicable's BankNewport checking & savings accounts are being used. To help cover this Endowment Fund income loss, Amicable applied for & obtained a PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) SBA loan for \$24,100. These funds will be used primarily for payments of employee salary, wages, and benefits over the 8 week period from April 22 through June 16. When used in this manner the loan will essentially be turned into a grant with no need for repayment.
- Changes were made and approved by the Government (House, Senate, President) to the PPP SBA Loan requirements and process in early June, as well as in July, with additional updates being considered, so the application process for obtaining loan forgiveness has again been delayed until at least the end of September.
- July & August contribution receipts were fairly typical, & we remain a little ahead of the plan.
- The postponed 5K Race Event is still planned for early September (virtual).
- In lieu of our normal Summer Festival, a yard sale was held on Saturday August 29th, and there are some preliminary discussions for some forms of auction activities for the fall.
- However, the December Holiday Bazaar is unlikely to occur, although some components may be attempted.
- The Thrift Shop finally opened again in June, under Covid19 protocol, and had an average month of income in June along with two very good income months in July and August; even enough to make up for the lost income from April and May.
- The budgeted repair & repainting of the Sanctuary ceiling has been postponed until 2021, and other ways to limit standard expenses are under discussion. With the church building closed, utility, cleaning, and supply expenses are lower than planned.
- It is quite difficult at this point to predict an end-of-year Operation Account position with such a crazy year of change. It is even possible to end up the year with a surplus, although if that looks likely, the Board of Trustees is already discussing the possibility of not taking the planned 4th Quarter General Endowment withdrawal so as to end the year in a more budget-neutral position, while also preserving the General Endowment Fund's market value.

[Treasurer: R. Gauthier: 624-2323]

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 ACTS 10-2	4	5 ACTS 10-2
6 Worship – 10 a.m. Facebook	7	8 4:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting Zoom	9 Church Council 6:30 p.m. Zoom	10 ACTS 10-2	11	12 ACTS 10-2
13 Worship – 10 a.m. Facebook	14	15	16	17 ACTS 10-2	18	19 ACTS 10-2
20 Worship – 10 a.m. Facebook	21	22	23	24 ACTS 10-2	25	26 ACTS 10-2
27 Worship – 10 a.m. Facebook	28	29	30			



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*3736 Main Road
Tiverton, RI 02878*

BIRTHDAYS

09/05 Jeanna DaCosta, Haley Winn
09/07 Louis Nielsen
09/09 Kayla Peckham
09/10 Ira Chace, Rick Messier
09/11 Michael James
09/12 Phyllis Rowland, Grace Champion
09/13 David Holmes, Tommy Coelho
09/14 Ben LeJacq-Smith
09/19 Charlotte Strunk
09/26 Nancy Kubic
09/27 Roger Gauthier, Mica Silvia
09/30 Owen Messenger

June



ANNIVERSARIES

09/02 Tim & Amy Messenger
09/09 Ken & Nancy Kubic
09/18 Donna & Curt Hibbert
09/21 Kim & Jim Goncalo