



# The Friendly Messenger

Amicable Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

William A. Sterrett ~ Pastor

October 2020

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Tuesdays and Fridays

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Pastor e-mail:

[williamsterrett@cox.net](mailto:williamsterrett@cox.net)

Website:

<http://www.amicablechurch.org>

 [amicable congregational church, ucc](#)

Amicable Sunday School

[amicablechurchss@gmail.com](mailto: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>

## COVID-19

**The Amicable Church building will remain closed for worship and meetings through the end of 2020 (12/31/2020). The Church Council will assess options for 2021.**

## Pastoral Letter

*Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.* - I Corin

I write this letter for our October newsletter assuming most, if not all, of you have received my letter telling you of my intent to retire from Amicable Church at the end of February 2021. It was not an easy decision, because I love being a part of your lives, but it really is the right time for me and Amicable Church.

Along with those who have been working hard at Amicable Church for years, we have a number of new families just coming on board. It feels like there is a slight shift in our culture and people are reevaluating what church is and can be. I believe there are other families and individuals on the edge, thinking about checking out church again. This is a perfect time for a new clergy leader to step in and reach out to the community.

Looking back, it is much like when Barbara and I first came. Amicable Church welcomed us with open arms and it has been a wonderful place to raise our daughters. This can be a great opportunity for a new clergy person to experience your warm, welcoming, accepting care and love.

There is much for all of us to do this fall, with our Thanksgiving Basket Project just gearing up, the thrift store doing a booming business and in need of volunteers, and education activities to give a better understanding of systemic racism in our country. I pray you will continue to commit yourselves to strengthening Amicable's ministries now and in the coming year. You will, in Paul's words, need to keep alert, stand firm in faith, be courageous, be strong, but most of all continue to do all you do in love. The welcome, acceptance, and love Amicable Church preaches and lives is needed now more than ever.

In these times of change, remember God's gracious and loving presence; a presence that can calm our fearful hearts, when we meet our fears with love.

May God continue to bless us and our ministry.

Yours in Christ,

## 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](mailto: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*

## Worship Themes

**October 4 World Communion Sunday** I am really excited about this worship service. I will be away, visiting my mother, but I will certainly tune in. The Sunday School children, youth, and families are helping to lead worship. They have a very special Communion Service planned and my daughter, Bente, will be preaching. You won't want to miss this virtual worship service!

**October 11 A2A Sunday.** As we focus on the positive achievements around justice issues this fall, A2A is a big positive that has been put on the backburner by the coronavirus. What is A2A? Accessible to All! In worship we will explore what accessibility means and how Amicable Church is living into that justice issue.

**October 18 Stewardship Sunday** Our fall pledge drive will be beginning and in worship we will talk about the importance of sharing one's time, talent, and treasure. Of course, your financial support of our church and its ministries is vital, so is the sharing of your time and talent, BUT how and why you give are as important as giving itself. How and why do you share the many and abundant blessings in your life?

**October 25 Higher Education Sunday** The plan for this Sunday is to have our young adults, who are in college, share what Amicable Church means to them; how Amicable Church influenced them. This is also Reformation Sunday and traditionally we give out Bibles to those new to Sunday School (our 4- and 5-year-olds) and those in third grade. We will name the children in our virtual worship and deliver the Bibles to their homes.

## **All Saints/All Souls Sunday**

Sunday, November 1, this year is All Saints/All Souls Sunday. On this special Sunday we are asking you to share photos of a loved one(s) who has passed, either in this past year or even longer. During our virtual worship we will name each individual and show their photo. For children (and adults, if applicable), you are invited to share a photo of your pet who died, if you are still in mourning.

Please email names and photos to the church office by Tuesday, October 27, if you would like your loved one included in this special worship service.

## **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



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.

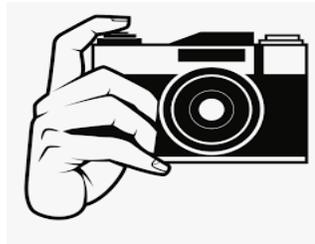
For more information, please call Barbara Holmes 401-624-2221.

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 is hosting a four-part conversation on racial justice using the 14-part podcast "Seeing White" from Scene on Radio's second season. The conversations take place on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 – 8:30. The first session was Tuesday, September 22. The next three sessions will be Tuesdays October 6, 13, and 20, each beginning at 7:30 PM. If you are interested in joining this educational opportunity, please contact Rev. Sterrett by email – [williamsterrett@cox.net](mailto: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](mailto:meadowgal@charter.net).*

[Amicable News at a Glance](#)

**Christian Education Committee:**

- Please see Racial Justice opportunity on page

**Trustees:**

'Dear Members' Letter on page 6

**Standing Committee:**

- Look for updates in the November Friendly Messenger.

**Stewardship:**

Fall Stewardship Drive Begins

Shortly after mid-October, you will be receiving a letter appealing for your support of the 2021 Amicable Budget for Operations and Benevolences. Please know that when you receive that letter our future is in your hands. In worship there will be three testimonials by members and friends of our church family

### 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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sharing why Amicable matters to them. We ask that you take this letter and these testimonials as opportunities for you to reflect on how much the love of God and neighbor matters and, then, let your heart lead you in what you promise to do in 2021.

Money of itself is but paper and coin. You can turn it to an intention of caring and building. You can send it out into the world as love walking.

–The Stewardship Team

## Other Amicable News

### Deaths

Here is information many of you are looking for about Ruth Manchester's funeral service. Due to COVID-19 restrictions only a limited number of people could attend her committal service, which was held on Saturday, September 12. Ruth was such an important person in her family, our church, Tiverton schools, and the larger community that we do feel a need for a memorial service. Given the number of expected attendees it was decided, pandemic rules allowing, to hold a memorial service on what would have been Ruth's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Friday, September 10, 2021.

It was Ruth's request that any memorial gifts people wanted to give in her honor be given to Amicable Church's General Endowment.

### Not By Bread Alone



As part of our Thanksgiving Basket Project we are, again, collecting items which families need, but are not covered by Food Stamps and other government programs. Below you will find a list of items we are collecting each week, beginning on Sundays.

While we are focusing on different items each week, please feel free to drop off any item at any time. The items we collect will be put into bags and given to families as they come to pick up their Baskets at the Tiverton Public Library. We will not be purchasing these items. So, we will only be able to give out what has been donated.

- October 4 Shampoo and Deodorant
- October 11 Paper towels and toilet paper
- October 18 Tooth brush and tooth paste
- October 25 Bar soap and dish detergent

## AMICABLE IS ON AMAZON SMILE!

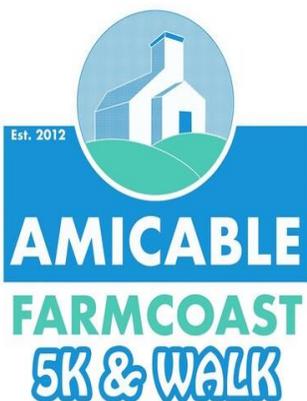
When you shop online this holiday season please support our church by shopping at Amazon Smile.

**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](https://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*

*September 12, 2020*



## Thank You

Thank you to all who participated in the Amicable Farmcoast Virtual 5K!

Thank you to all who continue to support the Amicable Church Thrift Shop. Your donations of goods, your purchases and your time as volunteers has gone a long way toward supporting Amicable during these challenging times!

Dear Members and Friends of Amicable Church,

In the days since Rev. Bill Sterrett sent his resignation letter, we have experienced a profound sense of loss. His thirty-three years among us have been incredibly significant in our congregation. These next five months together will be a precious time, and we will inform you soon about our plans for special events to celebrate Reverend Sterrett's ministry before his departure.

We want to assure you that we have been in touch with our SNEUCC Conference Minister, Rev. Chuck Ericson, about the process of seeking new ministerial leadership. Members of the Church Council have met with him to learn about and begin UCC best practices during a time of pastoral transition.

In the meantime, we want to share with you this brief overview of the process:

1. The Church Council has nominated members to sit on an Intentional Interim Pastor Recruitment Committee. These members represent a cross section of our church community as to age, gender, length of membership and skill sets. We are pleased and thankful to announce that the following members have agreed to help in the search for an Interim Pastor: Julie Lohr, Mike McCoy, Ray Medeiros, Kimberly Poulton and Kristen Zeiser. The Church Council will select an intentional interim pastor to provide continuity in worship, pastoral care, and program/staff oversight. This pastor will not be a candidate for the "settled" position as our pastor but will help to facilitate our transitional work in preparation for the settled pastor search. Rev. Ericson will advise us on this process and provide ministerial profiles of intentional interim pastors for the Church Council's consideration. We expect that the recruitment process will begin in earnest at the beginning of 2021.
2. After the interim pastor is in place, we will invite all of you to be part of a self-study and community learning process that will identify our church's imagination for the future and corresponding pastoral needs. With the help of our interim pastor, we will develop a church profile for potential candidates for our settled pastor, and we will form and commission a new search committee. It is expected that the interim Pastor will be with us for 18 to 24 months.
3. We will initiate a search process for a new pastor in accordance with our bylaws. Our conference office will advertise our open position to UCC clergy across the country. Our pastoral search committee will read ministerial profiles, screen candidates, conduct interviews, check references, and eventually select a candidate who will be recommended to the entire congregation, for consideration and hopefully approval.
4. Our goal is for the congregation to elect, in a unified way, a new pastor whose gifts God can use with us and among us for the sake of the Gospel. The tradition practiced in the United Church of Christ of "calling" a pastor affirms the active presence of God's Spirit in the search process. We will prayerfully seek a pastor with particular gifts and skills while recognizing that candidates are also engaged in a Spirited discernment process. We will keep you informed on a regular basis as we move toward God's future as a congregation.

For now, let us express our gratitude for Pastor Bill's ministry and enter a time of celebration and prayer with him.

In Christ's name,

Nick Zeiser, Moderator

On Behalf of the Church Council

## Financial Notes of Interest – September 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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/approved by the Government (House, Senate, President) to the PPP SBA Loan requirements & process in early June/July, with additional updates and different types of Loan Forgiveness Applications so being defined, so the application process for obtaining loan forgiveness continues to be delayed month by month.
- Trustees decided to postpone the budgeted repair/repainting of the Sanctuary ceiling until at least 2021.
- The Thrift Shop re-opened in June, under Covid19 protocol, after being closed for 12 weeks, and had excellent July & August income – even enough to cover for the 12 weeks!
- A yard sale was held on Saturday August 29<sup>th</sup> & brought in \$500. Discussions for some forms of auction activities for the fall remain under consideration.
- The postponed 5K Race Event took place in early September as an individual run/record race.
- The December Holiday Bazaar is currently not scheduled to take place.
- The Thrift Shop had great receipts in September – and a few new volunteer workers as well.
- September contribution receipts were quite good. A few people have been using the Amicable Website's donate option to send in contributions. Although, just mailing checks remains the more typical manner to send in pledged or standard contributions.
- Many typical expenses (e.g. utility, cleaning, supplies, custodial) remain low, or in some cases none or very small, since the church building remains closed for the most part.
- The Church is currently planning to remain closed at least through 2020.
- Committees are now in the 2021 Budget Process, with the first task being to review current income and expenses to date, and then to estimate the 2020 year-end Operation, Benevolence, and Christian Education Account positions. The Committees will use October to estimate 2021 income & expenses – somewhat difficult due to Covid-19 uncertainties. It is expected that the Operation Account will end the year with a small surplus, which currently looks to be sufficient to not take the typical 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter General Endowment withdrawal, still end the year in a budget-neutral position, & help preserve the General Endowment Fund's market value.

[Treasurer: R. Gauthier: 624-2323]

# October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> ACTS 10-2	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> ACTS 10-2
<b>4</b> World Communion Sunday  Worship – 10 a.m. Facebook	<b>5</b> 7-8:30pm Racial Justice Zoom	<b>6</b> 4:00 p.m. Trustees Special Meeting Zoom	<b>7</b> Church Council 6:30 p.m. Zoom	<b>8</b> ACTS 10-2	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> ACTS 10-2
<b>11</b> Worship – 10 a.m. Facebook	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 4:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting Zoom	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> ACTS 10-2	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> ACTS 10-2
<b>18</b> Worship – 10 a.m. Facebook	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> ACTS 10-2	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> ACTS 10-2
<b>25</b> Worship – 10 a.m. Facebook	<b>26</b> 7-8:30pm Racial Justice Zoom	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> ACTS 10-2	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> ACTS 10-2



*Amicable Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
3736 Main Road  
Tiverton, RI 02878*

### **BIRTHDAYS**

10/01	Pat Champion
10/02	Gale Gabriel
10/04	Ted Baer
10/05	Jessica Goncalo
10/13	Rayne Baer
10/14	Heather Champion
10/20	Midge Chace
10/23	Julia Canto
10/25	Ed Medeiros
10/26	Mitchell Hibbert
10/28	David Cabecieras



## October

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

10/09	Vaughn Bryner & Eric Bronner
10/17	Jeanna & Mike DaCosta
10/20	James Aiello & Ray Medeiros
10/21	Elliott & Dora Marshall