



The Friendly Messenger

Amicable Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

William A. Sterrett ~ Pastor

May 2020

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Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Fridays

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

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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

Closed Until Further Notice

RHODE ISLAND CONFERENCE

United Church of Christ

<http://www.ricucc.org>

Food Pantry

Virtual Services During COVID-19 Outbreak

Following the advice of the CDC and our Denomination, we have cancelled all in-person gatherings, including worship, Sunday School, the Thrift Shop, and building use by members and friends. See below for video worship experiences and virtual meeting schedules. Below is an example of signage that has been placed on all exterior church doors.

BUILDING SIGNAGE

WARNING

COVID-19 CONCERN

BUILDING ALARM

SYSTEM ACTIVATED

IF YOU DO NOT POSSESS THE AUTHORIZATION CODE TO DISARM THE SYSTEM DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ACCESS THE BUILDING USING YOUR KEY OR FOB

03/26/2020

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Pastoral Letter

I want to share with you part of my Pastoral Letter from May 2019. It seems fitting in these unsettling and anxiety-inducing times. Sharing the message below with you is not an endorsement for breaking out of shelter-in-place, rather it is to recognize and name our fears, rather than isolate ourselves even more out of fear, and, then, to encourage us to allow ourselves to be vulnerable, placing our hope in our ever-present God.

And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

These words from Paul came to mind, when, several years ago, I heard a podcast from the NPR radio program "On Being," where Brené Brown was being interviewed by Krista Tippett. Ms. Brown has written several books based on her research, which tries to understand what allows some people to succeed in life despite adversity. What she found was that those who were able to allow themselves to be vulnerable were best able to deal with life's adversities.

Vulnerability, adversity, and hope are at the core of Paul's faith. His faith in



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

**Salvation Army Soup Kitchen –
New Bedford**

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*

God’s love allowed him to be vulnerable. He no longer feared failure, or death for that matter, because his faith gave him the peace he needed to live life boldly. His vulnerability came with consequences. He did suffer, and suffered greatly. But, knowing and trusting in the love of God, he also endured and his endurance made him stronger, more ready and able to take on even more adversity, because his hope had been strengthened through experience.

In order to try something new or to get better at what you have started doing, you have to make yourself vulnerable, you have to risk making a mistake or even failing. This can be fear-inducing. Many people choose to do nothing, rather than make a mistake. The problem is: no adversity, no hope.

Over the years I have seen how children and youth here at Amicable Church have overcome some of their fears by taking a risk, by making themselves vulnerable. They have done this, because they know this is a safe place, that no matter how well they “perform” they will be supported and loved; accepted for who they are.

This is not only true of children and youth. I have known many adults who were afraid or uncertain about church, who, upon stepping through the doors of Amicable Church, found not only a church home, but themselves; found not only a welcome, but renewed life. *(end of quote)*

These are hard times. Many of us are suffering from the necessary isolation. And, yes, things are changing and, even when we are allowed to gather safely, how we gather will be different. Nevertheless, we are a people of hope, supported by love shared. We will meet this adversity with humility, care for one another’s safety, and hope.

Remember, each time a person took a risk here at Amicable, made themselves vulnerable, they were rewarded with reduced fear and greater hope – a strong support for life’s adversities. There is no doubt we are living in very trying times, which is why I want to encourage you to take part in and invite others to join in our virtual worship services and take advantage of all the resources our faith community has to offer. It is only as we open ourselves to the world around us and face adversity openly that we can continue to grow in the hope and love God offers to all.

Together, we will rise from this adversity stronger than ever!

Yours in Christ,



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!

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.

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.

Worship Themes

These are unusual times. Shelter-in-place, self-isolation has moved worship services from the sanctuary to “on-line”, known as “Virtual Worship”. We started this here at Amicable Church on Sunday, March 15. As I write these notes, we have worshiped together virtually seven times. In planning our post-Easter Sunday services, the Worship Team thought it would be good to examine what we are learning in the midst of our “physical distancing”. We began on April 19 with Holy Humor Sunday and recognizing the importance of laughter in the face of adversity. The April 26 worship service focused on the how important community is for our well-being, especially being in one another’s physical presence. Seamus Galligan sang the Beatles’ song, “With a Little Help from My Friends” in that service and the song’s title is the over-arching theme of our post-Easter virtual worship series.

Here are some of the other “learnings in isolation” we will be taking with us when we are allowed to leave our “entombment”, our isolation:

May 3 -One of the most important phrases to come out of the Covid-19 pandemic is “essential workers”. We are learning that in God’s economy many of the lowest paid jobs in our economy are the “essential” jobs. Can anyone really be “self-made”? What does this tell us about God’s economy? What does our “interconnectedness” have to do with this? In this service we will once again share communion virtually.

May 10 Mother’s Day Sunday - This is the Sunday we traditionally lift up our mothers. We plan to expand the parental theme here a little. This pandemic has caused us new concerns about our elders, especially those living in nursing homes and independent living facilities. We will focus on ways we are honoring our elders or will try to honor our elders, when we, and they, emerge from isolation and face-to-face visits are allowed.

May 17 -On this Sunday we are over the hump; mid-May has just passed, which means (hopefully) the end of frost and the beginning of gardening (for us non-pro’s anyway). This Sunday we will look at what skills we are dusting off in our home confinement – gardening, sewing, knitting, games, puzzles, etc. and how we might be learning to do with what we have.

May 24 -For many of us this pandemic has given us a new sense of gratitude: for our health, for our families, for our neighbors, for those who so unselfishly have cared for the sick, the vulnerable, and even us. Gratitude will be our theme on this Memorial Day Weekend.

May 31 -Pentecost. In this service we had planned to confirm our confirmands, but, as of this writing, it is uncertain whether or not we will be back in the sanctuary worshiping together again. We will wait for the movement of the Holy Spirit in our life together in the coming weeks. Stay tuned, and pray for the gift of the Spirit.

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.



RHODE ISLAND CONFERENCE
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Amicable News at a Glance

Christian Education Committee:

- Look for updates in the next Friendly Messenger.

Trustees:

- The Trustees were informed by Sanford and Sons that they would no longer be providing lawn mowing services. After approaching other lawn mowing services for bids the Trustees selected Jason Ramunno to provide lawn cutting services at the church and Lake Road cemetery.
- The Trustees are looking to staff a "virtual work party" at the Lake Road Cemetery. There are tasks that need to be performed after tree limbs fell during a spring storm. We are looking to have individuals work at their convenience to help whittle down the work that needs to be done. Please send an email to office@amicablechurch.org if you are interested. The tasks include brush removal, filling in holes created by the downed limbs, picking up branches, etc. A Trustee will get back to you with the existing "To Do List" and you can select a task.

Standing Committee:

- Look for updates in the June Friendly Messenger.

Deaths

Pamilla Lois Smith died on Friday, April 10. Pam was the daughter of Alton and Lois Smith and sister of Lynn Perrault and Barbara Westbrook. A committal service was held at Pocasset Hill Cemetery on Tuesday, April 14. Our thoughts and prayers are with Pam's family as they mourn her death. May they find comfort in the knowledge that the love they shared is a gift from God and is a love from which we can never be separated from.

IN MEMORIAM



Financial Notes of Interest – April 2020

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/cb/05-0377166>

- 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 will not be taken.
- Instead holdings in Amicable's BankNewport checking and savings accounts will be used.
- To help supplement the 2 items noted above, Amicable has applied for and has obtained a PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) SBA loan for \$24,100. By using these funds primarily for payments of employee salary, wages, and benefits over the 8 week period from April 23 through June 17, will essentially turn the loan into a grant with no need for repayment.
- Although there has been a slight reduction in contribution receipts since the church building was closed near the end of March, so far, the typical income receipts are doing ok.
- There are some concerns about having to postpone the 5K Race and Summer Festival fundraisers until late summer and/or early fall time frame.
- To ease off on planned expenses the Trustees have decided to postpone the budgeted repair & repainting of the Sanctuary ceiling until 2021 and is also searching for a grant opportunity.
- With the church building closed, oil and electric expenses will be down during that period.

Annual Report

The 2019 Amicable Church Annual report will be available electronically. Please request a copy at office@amicablechurch.org.

SPECIAL AUCTION!!
ONE OR MORE OF THESE BELOVED FIGURES
COULD BE YOURS!



Amicable's nativity figures are in need of a rest and would like to go to a good home. You are invited to bid on these unique wooden figures by way of a special auction, lovingly carved by Michael Higgins. Each of these figures represent a character from the Christmas story written by Rev. William Sterrett 1999-2001. Those interested are encouraged to view the figures, in person, where they are located on Amicable's front lawn. Please email the church office at office@amicablechurch.org and place your bid with your name and telephone number by **May 15, 2020**. You will need to pick up the figure you have purchased. All proceeds from this special auction will go towards Amicable's important ministries serving the church and community.

Thank you for your interest!



MAURA AND HOPE



GABE THE ANGEL



APPA SHAEFFER,
HOSPITAL CPA
(SHEPHERD)



DAVID EAGLE WING,
WALGREEN NIGHT
CLERK (SHEPHERD)



ISMA'IL AHMAD
AL-AZHAR, SUFI
MYSTIC (MAGI)



API RINPOCHE,
FEMALE BUDDHIST
MONK (MAGI)



JOSE, MAURA'S
STEP-FATHER



APPAR, A
SAPPYASIN, HINDI
HOLY MAN (MAGI)

Amicable Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

3736 Main Road, Tiverton, RI 02878

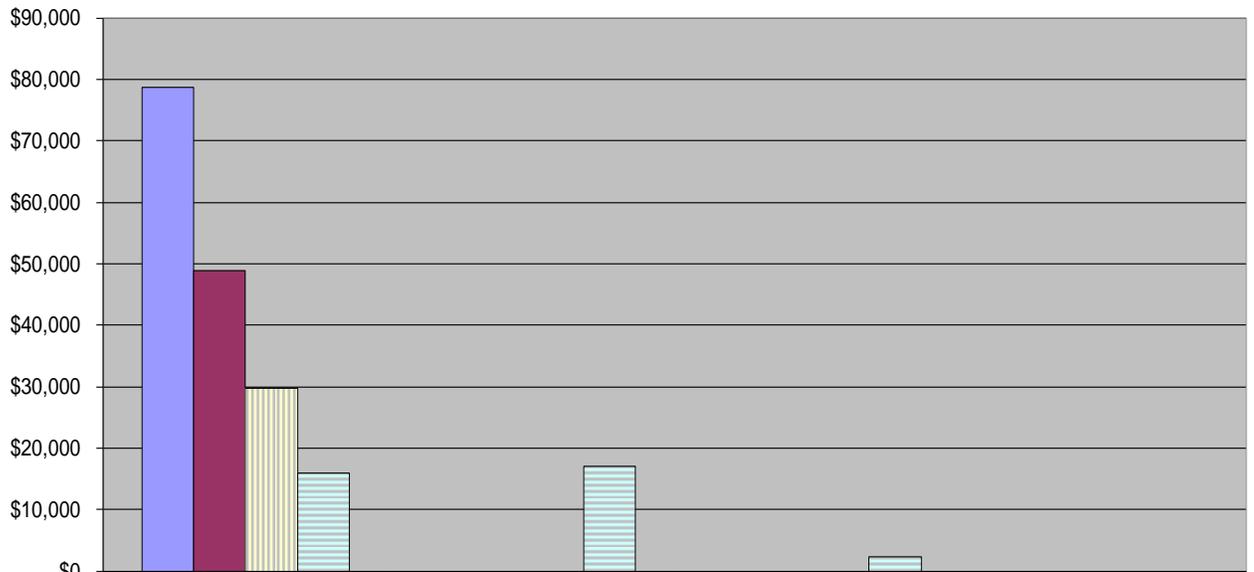
Just north of Four Corners

www.amicablechurch.org (401) 624-4611

Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY - MARCH: 1st QUARTER

Total Operation's Income vs Expenses 2020



	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
■ Quarterly Income	\$78,644.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
■ Quarterly Expenses	\$48,833.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
□ Gain/(Loss) Act. (Cum)	\$29,810.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
□ Gain/(Loss) Plan (Cum)	\$15,976.00	\$17,057.00	\$2,361.00	\$0.00

1st Quarter Status: We're ahead of the game to start with the extra \$8,000 provided as extra income from the positive 2019 results.
 Income receipts so far have been on plan, although normal contributions slowed some in March, with closing the church due to COVID-19.
 Expenses: a little less than planned due to warmer than normal weather; but repair of the Lift door and cemetery tree fall were unplanned expense

Memorial (& In Honor of) Gifts Received so far this Year are in the Name of:

Memorials: Leonard Chace Nan Gray

In Honor Of:

Treasurer: Roger Gauthier (624-2323)

Annual Opportunities to Share your Smile & Time & Talents

Seeking Your Support Where Your Spirit and Heart Lead

- Weekly:** **Coffee Hour after Sunday Service:** sign up for a week or two during the year
Quilters, Knitters Group: design, make, informal chatter
Visit the Home-bound, Elderly, Those in Hospital: share a story, bring a smile
Sunday School, Child Care, Youth Group
- Thursdays & Saturdays:** **Help out in the Thrift Shop**
- Sundays Services:** Lay Reader, Greeter, Choir, Special Music, Altar Flowers
- Cold Weather:** Sidewalk Snow Clearing
- When Needed:** Collations, Small Repairs, Minor Housekeeping Tasks
- More Formal:** Join a Committee, be an Officer, maybe an Area Watch-dog
- January:** **Tiverton Community Food Drive:** help collect, sort, deliver
- February:** **Homeless Awareness Weekend:** spend an evening out under the stars with the Youth Group
- March:**
- April:** **Amicable/Farmcoast 5K:** hand out registration material, help set up & take down
Spring Clean-up Inside & Outside: bring your gear & tools
- Warm Weather:** Gardening
- May:** **Youth Group Summer Mission Trip:** chaperone
Amicable Art and Heirloom FUNdraiser: organize, support, set up, take down
- June:** **Summer Festival:** organize, set up, take down, staff areas & tables during the day – Paused for 2020
- July:**
- August:**
- September:** **Rescheduled Amicable/Farmcoast 5K**
- October:** **Fall Clean-up Inside & Outside:** bring your gear & tools
- November:** **Thanksgiving Baskets:** help sort food donations, fill baskets, hand them out
- December:** **Holiday Bazaar:** organize, set up, take down, staff tables during the day
Mitten Tree: organize, set up, take down, deliver
Giving Tree: organize, set up, take down, deliver

May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Christian Ed Meeting – 9 a.m. Worship – 10 a.m.	4	5 8:30 am Faith Conversations Zoom	6 Church Council 6:30 p.m. Zoom	7	8	9
10 Worship – 10 a.m. <i>Mother's Day</i>	11	12 8:30 am Faith Conversations Zoom 4:00 p.m. Trustees Zoom	13 5:30 p.m. Choir Zoom Party 6:30 p.m. Church Council Zoom (Tentative) 8:00 p.m. Standing Committee	14	15	16
17 Worship – 10 a.m.	18	19 8:30 am Faith Conversations Zoom	20 Church Council 6:30 p.m. Zoom (Tentative)	21	22	23
24/31 Worship – 10 a.m.	25 <i>Memorial Day</i>	26 8:30 am Faith Conversations Zoom	27 5:30 p.m. Choir Zoom Party 6:30 p.m. Church Council Zoom (Tentative)	28	29	30



*Amicable Congregational Church
United Church of Christ*

*3736 Main Road
Tiverton, RI 02878*

BIRTHDAYS

05/03 Sophie Piffard
05/04 Mark David Coelho
05/05 Abigail Canto
05/06 Connor Campion
05/07 Jim Goncalo, Sheila Gediman
05/10 Laura Mello, Marcia Phillips
05/11 Arthur Mello, Karen Sheehan
05/12 Henry Picard, Camden Pyne
05/15 Ryan Campion
05/16 Robert Campion, Ragen Almy, Savannah Almy
05/18 Sandra Lovley
05/21 Eunice Durfee, Kristen Zeiser, Sarah Mello
05/22 Warren Berg
5/23 Richard Melbourne
05/25 Dominique Dufour

May



ANNIVERSARIES

05/02 John & Kathi Zeller
05/09 Kate & Larry Carvalho
05/16 Diane & Ed Medeiros
05/18 Kim & John Poulton
05/21 Ray & Nancy Lundgren
05/22 David & Rosalie Durfee
05/25 Laura & Arthur Mello
05/27 Bob & Chris Messenger
05/28 Sherry & Steven Winn