



The Friendly Messenger

Amicable Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

William A. Sterrett ~ Pastor

February 2020

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Office Phone: 401-624-4611

Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Fridays

9 a.m. – 12 noon

Office e-mail:

office@amicablechurch.org

Pastor: 401-787-8828

Pastor e-mail:

williamsterrett@cox.net

Website:

<http://www.amicablechurch.org>

 [amicable congregational church, ucc](https://www.facebook.com/amicable.congregational.church)

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.

*10am-2pm Thursday &
Saturday*

**RHODE ISLAND CONFERENCE
United Church of Christ**

<http://www.ricucc.org>



Tiverton Community Food Drive,

Jan. 26–Feb. 10

Hosted by Amicable Church, all donations will help stock local food pantries. Please drop off any non-perishable, unexpired food items or personal care items to any of the following locations: BankNewport (both Tiverton branches), Tiverton Public Library, Union Public Library, Tom's Market, St. Christopher's, St. Theresa's, and Amicable Church. All food goes to local food pantries at EBCAP and Old Stone Church.

For more information, please call the church office at 401-624-4611.

Homelessness Awareness Weekend



The youth group's night in the cold to raise their awareness of the physical effects of

homelessness has grown over the years into a weekend of awareness for the church and community. This year's overnight begins at 7:00 PM on Saturday, February 1st. The youth, who spend the night out-of-doors, seek financial sponsors and the moneys raised will go to First Step Inn, a homeless shelter in Fall River. This non-profit organization seeks to serve the homeless in the greater Fall River community by being the first step toward permanent housing.

If you would like to sponsor a youth (or Rev. Sterrett), as part of this fundraiser for those in need, please contact the church office.



Super Bowl Grinder Sale



Amicable's youth group members will prepare their annual Super Bowl Grinders on Sunday, February 2nd. They are currently taking orders for their special Italian grinders (ham, salami, and provolone cheese with lettuce and tomato on the side). You can place an order at coffee hour following worship, by calling the church office, or ordering on Facebook.

Grinders are \$8.00 each and may be picked up before church on Sunday, February 2nd, between 9:00 and 10:00 AM or after church between 11:00 and noon. This is a fundraiser for Amicable's youth group.

Food Pantry



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

New Bedford Salvation Army Soup Kitchen



Please contact Pat Campion
pjcamp53@aol.com
for details or to volunteer.

Join a Ministry- Share Your Gifts



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. 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.

Foundational Justice Commitments

We believe that it is our call to “live the love and justice of Jesus.” Based on both the established commitments of our three historic Conferences and our aspirational priorities as a new Conference, the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, at its first Annual Meeting on November 2, 2019, pledges in covenant:

- To be an Open and Affirming Conference;
- To be a Just Peace Conference;
- To be an Accessible to All Conference;
- To be an Immigrant Welcoming Conference;
- To work for climate justice and the restoration of God’s creation on which all life depends;
- To advocate for economic and restorative justice;
- To be a multi-cultural multi-racial church working to eradicate racism in all of its forms, both within the church and in the structures of our society and world;
- To advance immigrant justice and human rights for all people;
- To oppose all forms of sexism and violence against women, especially women of color.

We recognize that these are expressions of both identity and intention, and we commit to align our resources and our efforts with these priorities. We encourage our local churches and other covenant partners to do the same.

FunDrive Fundraiser

The Savers FunDrive will not take place this year as the program is no longer available to us.



Perpetual May Breakfast

Sunday morning, February 9, we invite you to once again travel to Matthewson Street Methodist Church to share breakfast at their weekly neighborhood open house. For those interested in attending we will meet at 7:30 in Amicable’s south parking lot and carpool to Providence. Breakfast and a brief worship service in their fellowship hall begins at 8:00 AM and we will leave for Amicable at 9:00 AM, in order to be on time for our own worship service. For 10 dollars we donate toward our breakfast that morning we pay not only for our meal, but that of one of the other 9 guests at the table.

For more information or just to let us know you will be going, contact Pat Campion at (401) 297-7323.

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.

Hospitality



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.

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 at jeanpeau@cox.net or 401-624-8540.

Pastoral Letter

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.
- Romans 12:9-13

After the last Inquirer's Class, where some of the leaders of the church tried to share information about Amicable Church with those new to the church, I was approached by a long-time member, who said I/the leaders failed to speak about the most important part of Amicable Church – the community and how much fun we have together, as we work together and support one another. She was absolutely right. And I still cannot believe I forgot to talk about the very foundation on which our church life together rests – a strong, supportive, loving community.

The fact that I could so easily forget such a foundational truth leads me to speak about how one creates and maintains a healthy community. I share in a marriage ceremony (marriage being the smallest possible form of community), albeit in a little different form, the following guide for how we are to live in community. It comes from the Romans passage above and is found in the pew Bible under the heading "Marks of the True Christian":

"Let love be genuine." This means we are to love one another as God loves us – unconditionally and with a desire that all whom we encounter attain their God-given potential. It also means that we are to be honest with one another. There will be days when we do not feel so loving toward one another. It is important that we recognize this as a part of life, but we are not to wallow in the momentary lack of love we might feel or be accusatory about it.

"Hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good." Anything that turns us away from God's love is evil; anything that breaks relationship and, thus, community, is evil. Hate it; avoid this evil at all costs. Anything that strengthens our relationship with one another, and with God, is good. Practice it.

"Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor." Such affection and honor require true respect for the other person. Be aware of the strengths and weaknesses of those we interact with. Support the strengths. Do not abuse or take advantage of one another's weaknesses. Such mutual affection and honor are the outward sign of respect, the cornerstone for any healthy community.

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." No matter how hard we try, none of us is perfect. We all make mistakes. Through the rough times, through times of tragedy, hold on to, and rejoice in, hope – in the community, in God's love, and in life. It is what will keep us and our community alive. When we are hurting, be patient; trust in God's love. And, above everything else, do not underestimate the power of prayer.

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 located just inside the Upper Hall. (On your right as you enter)

Word Ministry ~



Church Membership

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 Church Office :

401- 624- 4611

to add, remove or change someone's status or if you would like to be added to the weekly on-going prayer list.

“Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.”

If our community is to deepen and grow, we must look beyond ourselves. It is when we live in an open, welcoming, and affirming community that we will find vitality and growth. It is when we are willing to reach outside of ourselves and offer help and support to people in need that we will find and know healing and wholeness in our own lives. It is in the welcoming of friends and strangers into our community that we turn our church building into a house of God.

If, and when, we strive to live out Paul’s words, we are not promised a community without problems, but I have no doubt that we will be blessed with the gift of true, life-sustaining community in one another always.

I pray it may be so.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Worship Themes

February 2 Homeless Awareness Weekend. This Sunday’s worship focus will be on our homeless experience. Informed by a night out-of-doors, we will give thanks for our own warm homes and pray for those who do not have such comfort.

February 9 Sometimes, to quote Ecclesiastes, “there is nothing new under the sun.” In Isaiah 58:1-12 the prophet spells out, very clearly, what God expects of us; how we are to live. Then, a little over five hundred years later, Jesus is having to say the same thing, as he calls the people to be “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world”. Still today the words of Isaiah and Jesus are both a rebuke of our living and a call to live into the will of God.

February 16 In today’s Gospel lesson, Matthew 5:21-26, Jesus challenges us to let go of our anger. Instead we are to meet those who have angered us with openness and gentleness. Or, as the children will be singing in worship this Sunday, Jesus is inviting us “to put on love.” What does this kind of “clothing” look like? How are we to go about putting “on love”? Let us listen to the children’s voices, and just maybe we will better understand what the “clothing” of love looks like.

February 23 Transfiguration Sunday. Our newly formed Southern New England Conference UCC voted on November 2 in the affirmative about the Conference’s justice commitments. Amicable’s Church Council gave verb approval of these commitments, indicating they were Amicable’s commitments as well. This year’s Lenten journey will be a sharpening of our eyesight around these justice commitments. “Just Peace” is the theme of our 2020 Lenten journey. We open our Lenten series a week early – appropriately Transfiguration Sunday, where we will examine why Accessible to All (A2A) is a justice issue.

(Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the Justice Commitment Statement of the Southern New England Conference.)

Amicable News at a Glance

Christian Education Committee:

- **Saturday, February 1**-Homelessness Awareness Sleepout
- **Sunday, February 2**-Make grinders for Super Bowl Fundraiser!

Stewardship Committee:

We're the three kings ...with gifts we bring.

How can you help with some of these things?

We would like to ask for your time and talent with "gifts for Amicable".

We continue to have the first Amicable "Epiphany Tree" in the upper hall.

Just like a giving tree, there will be "tags" of tasks, requesting your time and talent for a specific task, either on-going or to be done just once.

Please consider taking a tag and giving a "gift" of your time and talent to Amicable.

- Thanks from the Stewardship Committee.

**Please see page 9 for Drive Status*

Financial Stewardship at Amicable

Confidentiality: First and foremost, it is important in our congregation that the financial gifts people make to the church are a private matter between the person and God and the Treasurer. Information about what is given by individuals is not shared with other people in the church; not with the Stewardship team, or with the Pastor. Only one other person has any knowledge because she helps the Treasurer count the Sunday offerings.

Giving Philosophy: Each Fall the Stewardship Team urges people to make an annual pledge to the Operations and Benevolence budget and also urges members and friends to think of giving in terms of a percentage of all they have received from a generous God. Through-out the year there are other opportunities to support in special United Church of Christ offerings and other causes important to members, like Holy Joe's Coffee ministry or the One Egg for Haiti of the Sunday School. Gifts in kind are often appealed for as well as cash. We hope that as people know more about what the church is all about that they will steadily increase their giving

Guidelines for Giving: There is a Biblical tradition that urges people to think of giving up to one tenth (the tithe) of their disposable cash. Knowing that people often have other charitable commitments outside the church (family, colleges, charities of all sorts) - so instead a 5% goal (called a modern tithe) is offered to people to consider.

For many people it is a new thing in their finances to make a pledge to a church. I would suggest that if you are pledging for the very first time that you choose an amount that you are very confident that you are able to

Amicable is on Amazon Smile!

When you shop online, please support our church by shopping at Amazon Smile. You shop. Amazon gives

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to Amicable.

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>

Google Calendar

Did you know that we have a 'real time' calendar on the Amicable website? If any changes to the calendar are made, they are updated on the website calendar. (The printed calendars will continue to be edited as needed with changes marked in red.)

<https://www.amicablechurch.org/calendar-ongoing-events>

fulfill. Then the next year you might consider what increase toward a higher goal you might be ready to try.

It is important to understand that this is not seen as some unbreakable contract. If your financial circumstances change and it seems the pledge will not be fulfilled, just let the Treasurer know what you will do and the pledge will be adjusted to what you want it to be.

Sometimes people make a financial promise that they cannot fulfill and then get to feeling guilty and begin to avoid coming to church. We would not want anything like that to happen and so financial promises can always be adjusted, as needed.

If you are uncomfortable with an actual pledge, you could just pick an amount and contribute it periodically throughout the year-weekly, monthly or quarterly. If you would like a box of 'giving envelopes' to use just ask the Treasurer, Roger Gauthier, or just drop some cash or a check into the collection plate during Sunday Service. As you become more comfortable with the process and amount you can transition to pledging in the future.

—from the Stewardship Team



Thank You

Since the January Friendly Messenger went to press just before Christmas this year, this thank you note was delayed a month in reaching you. Nonetheless, our gratitude for your kindness is not diminished:

Kathy Wilme, Vaughn Bryner and I are deeply grateful for your generous Christmas gift, and even more so for your loving support of us and our ministries throughout the year. Many thanks from each one of us. We wish you all a blessed new year, as we continue to work together to bring the good news of God's transformative love to our community.

Amicable Church Thrift Shop

Thank you to everyone who donated used (and often new) clothes and other items to ACTS this year. And thank you to all who donated time to wait on customers, sort and price, iron and polish, and clean and display. Truly "many hands make light work" We had a wonderful year making new friends and introducing Amicable Church to more people. We were also able to make \$30,632. Again thank you.



Join us for our annual 5k Run/Walk on our new date: **April 4, 2020**. Start time is at **9:00am** at Tiverton Four Corners. So, get your running shoes out, stretch your legs, and prepare yourself to go the 5k (or 3.1 mile) distance. Don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors. Leashed dogs and strollers are welcome. Go to **amicable5k.com** to register!

The Amicable 20th Annual Homeless Awareness Sleepout

Youth, friends and chaperones will sleep outside in cardboard boxes on the church lawn from 7:00 PM, February 1, to 7:00 AM, February 2.

To tie in the 20th anniversary, the youth will welcome your help with sponsorships by making a donation of \$20, bringing 20 donuts on sleepover night, serving up 20 cups of hot chocolate. All funds raised will go to purchasing necessity items for homeless awareness kits, which will be given to individuals when shelters close at the end of March.

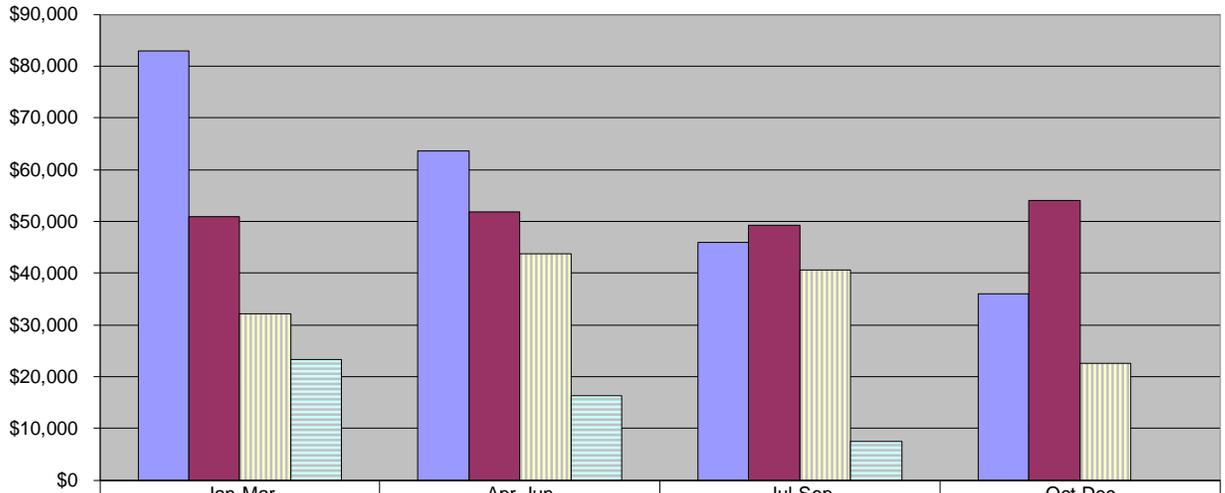


Enjoy these snapshots from years past!

See Rev. Sterrett for all the fun facts from the past the 20 years....he has been at every one!

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER: 4th QUARTER

Total Operation's Income vs Expenses
2019



Quarterly Income	\$82,975.67	\$63,552.75	\$46,003.80	\$35,891.76
Quarterly Expenses	\$50,919.46	\$51,850.58	\$49,163.13	\$54,007.55
Gain/(Loss) Act. (Cum)	\$32,056.21	\$43,758.38	\$40,599.05	\$22,483.26
Gain/(Loss) Plan (Cum)	\$23,266.00	\$16,378.00	\$7,377.00	\$0.00

4th Quarter Status: It was an excellent year regarding beating the planned budget. The larger income positives were: Thrift Shop and Art/Heirloom event. Expense positives (i.e. lower than planned) were: Water System maintenance, Oil/Electric, and general cleaning and maintenance. Because of this we were able to avoid taking the planned 4th quarter withdrawal from the General Endowment Fund.

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

Memorials:	Skipper Brooks	Len Chace	Doris Cole	Bill & Charlotte Freeman	Tanda Gauthier
		Rob Roberts	Cheryl (Morotto) St. George	Elliott Whitney	Jeanne Williams
In Honor Of:					

Treasurer: Roger Gauthier (624-2323)

Stewardship Report

2020 Pledge Drive Status

There have been a total of 41 pledges from individuals and households for a total of \$95,422 for the Operation Budget and \$13,018 for the Benevolence Budget. There was a small but significant increase of 8% over the 2019 pledges.

Thank you so much!

If you haven't pledged yet but plan to, let our Treasurer know.
It would be great if we could meet our goals.

Charles Simonson, Stewardship Committee Chair

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Food Drive Collection Bins Can Be Found Across Tiverton				10am - 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop GTCC 6:15-9:30 (UH)		1 10am - 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop 7 pm Homelessness Awareness Sleepover
2 4th Sunday after Epiphany 10 am Worship Youth Group Grinder Sale	3 7:30 - 8:30 pm Al-Anon - CR	4 8:30 am Faith Conversations - (CR)	5 9 - 11 am Quilters/Knitters - UH 6:30 pm Choir - S 7:30pm Church Council (CR)	6 10am - 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop GTCC 6:15-9:30 (UH)	7	8 10am - 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop
9 5th Sunday after Epiphany 7:30 a.m. Mathewson Breakfast 10 am Worship	10 7:30 - 8:30 pm Al-Anon - CR Food Drive Ends	11 8:30 am Faith Conversations - (CR) 4:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting (CR)	12 9 - 11 am Quilters/Knitters - UH 6:30 pm Choir - S 7:30pm Standing Committee (CR)	13 10am - 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop GTCC 6:15-9:30 (UH)	14	15 10am - 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop
16 6th Sunday after Epiphany 9 am Christian Ed Meeting (CR) 10 am Worship	17 7:30 - 8:30 pm Al-Anon - CR	18 8:30 am Faith Conversations - (CR)	19 9 - 11 am Quilters/Knitters - UH 2:00 PM Book Group Tiverton Library 6:30 pm Choir - S	20 10am - 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop GTCC 6:15-9:30 (UH)	21 Publish March Friendly Messenger 6 pm Touro Confirmands	22 10am - 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop
23 Transfiguration 10 am Worship	24 7:30 - 8:30 pm Al-Anon - CR	25 8:30 am Faith Conversations - (CR)	26 9 - 11 am Quilters/Knitters - UH 6:30 pm Choir (S)	27 10am - 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop GTCC 6:15-9:30 (UH)	28/29 <i>Friendly Reminder</i> Next <i>Friendly Messenger</i> Deadline for March submissions: 2/18/2020 <i>Thank You!</i>	



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



BIRTHDAYS

02/01	Barbara Alex
02/02	Barry Brayton
02/03	Cooper Mello
02/11	Mike McCoy
02/14	James Durfee, Jr.
02/14	Phil Wetterland
02/15	Deannedre Dufour
02/19	Ed Ouellette
02/24	Benjamin Goldenbloome
02/25	Bill Sterrett
02/25	Hank Gediman
02/27	Vaughn Bryner



ANNIVERSARIES

02/01	Sheila and Hank Gediman
02/07	Midge and Ira Chace
02/17	Martha MacNaught and Roger Gauthier