



The Friendly Messenger

Amicable Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

William A. Sterrett ~ Pastor

April 2020

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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>

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

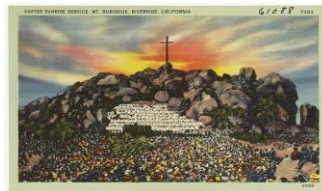
SYSTEM ACTIVATED

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

Easter Sunday Worship



Amicable's Easter worship service will be broadcast at 10:00 a.m. via our Facebook page on Sunday, April 12. All viewing the service are asked to prepare communion elements to partake in virtual Communion. "Breaking

Food Pantry



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



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.*

A.C.T.S.

Amicable Church Thrift Shop

We are now accepting Spring and Summer clothing. Thank you for your generous donations of Winter clothing, but due to storage constraints, we can only accept donations of Spring and Summer items at this time.

of bread and sharing of the cup of wine were the everyday elements of gathering for a meal. As we gather for worship, get a cup of coffee, a glass of juice or water and bring along a toasted English muffin or just buttered toast or a gluten-free cracker or a gluten-free brownie to share during that part of the Easter service."

Pastoral Letter

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Last Sunday was Palm Sunday, the beginning of the most important week in the Christian faith. Like so many of you I am truly going to miss coming together and celebrating with my faith family the truths of our faith and our life together that Holy Week represents. But, maybe the gift of Holy Week this year is that we cannot do "the usual". I know my own quarantine and sheltering in place and physical distancing, along with my church building locked up on lock down, is forcing me to look at Holy Week differently.

In the pageantry of 2,000 years of developing liturgy and traditions it is possible that some of us have put Holy Week in a bottle to preserve and treasure it. Palm Sunday with its processions, children waving palms or branches or flowers. Parades carrying statues. Hymns and anthems. What a party! Was Jesus in a party mood, knowing what was coming? Are we, today, maybe missing something?

This can be asked of some of our other days. Maundy Thursday with its washing of feet and a shared meal that includes broken bread and cups of wine, followed by the emptying of the church of all adornments. Good Friday, with stations of the cross in some churches and the extinguishing of candles and lights in most. Holy Saturday, or the Great Vigil of Easter, going from darkness into bringing in the light. And then there is Easter Sunday itself. All lilies and spring flowers and candles and organ with trumpets playing music in a major key, and full churches.

Oh, how I love all of this and, yet, looking at it now, it seems such a relic; something to be hung on a wall, like a photograph, to remind us of a wonderful past. Holy Week is supposed to be about universal human truths, "God" truths. Maybe, just maybe, with our world turned upside down, we are prepared to allow Holy Week to shed its wonderful traditions and speak to us in our present-day consternations.

One of the outstanding stories of Holy Week is Jesus "cleansing" the temple. How horrendous is it that some people hoarded things like hand sanitizers, just to sell them at extortionist prices? What is forgotten, often, in the cleansing of the temple story is what Jesus did after that. He taught in the temple. He did more than condemn the love of money, he taught a better way. As upset as I am by those cashing in on this pandemic, I am even more comforted by the sacrifice of so many; and by the kindness and support and love people are showing everywhere.

Maundy Thursday, with its focus on foot-washing and bread-breaking, takes on new meaning as we find ourselves handwashing and very careful about touching other people's food. If we are only washing our hands in order to keep the virus from our faces, we are missing the story of Holy Week. We wash our hands, because we do not want our neighbor to be

*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. 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.

*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.

infected. We physically distance ourselves out of respect for our neighbor. As important as communion (Eucharist or The Lord's Supper) as a community act is, more important is our remembering the one who gave his very life that we might know of God's love. So, those who today are on the front lines, filling bags with food for those who have none, while doing it at a safe distance, they are the ones sharing the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

Good Friday this year, around the world, will be more real, more visceral than ever. How many people are suffering the loss of a loved one, due to Covid-19? And, how many are having to wait to tend to their loved one's body until another day? How many are living with the pain of having to choose who gets a life-saving respirator and who doesn't? How many are not allowed in the hospital to be with their loved one on a respirator, hovering between life and death? Do we not begin to understand Mother Mary as she stood at a distance and watched?

The Great Vigil of Easter, my favorite service of the year, because all too often I find my faith caught between the cross and the resurrection, waiting. Waiting is probably a very good description of this year's Holy Week. Will I get the virus? Will there be a job to go back to? If I don't graduate this spring, what do I do next fall? There are just so many unknowns in the face of so much loss! We sit, isolated, just like Jesus' disciples. In my lifetime I have never felt so close to the disciples on that Holy Saturday than I do in these days.

What are we to do? The easy and difficult answer to this great unknown is Easter. The truth is not going to descend a week from tomorrow. Easter Sunday is just a reminder of how God has brought life back from the dead; filled people in darkness with light and hope. In our impatience with the great unknowns we face, we forget that the disciples' experience of the resurrection was not instantaneous. It took a while, and several visits from Jesus, before they moved from isolation and sheltering in place to new life. In church tradition that new life happened at Pentecost. 50 days after Easter. So, maybe this year's Easter in our lives may be a little bit more like Easter the followers of Jesus experienced. Hunkered down, keeping their distance from the world, wondering what the stories circulating among the followers were all about; wondering whether the stories were true.

This is the story of the Christian faith. In the panic of this pandemic what do you believe? Is resurrection possible? Will we get beyond our greed, cleanse our temple, and seek to serve those in need? Are we willing to sit with the suffering Christ found in our ill or unemployed neighbor? Shut away, distancing and sheltering in place, are we willing to look out the window, see the beauty of spring and choose to hope and to love?

I encourage you to choose Easter!

Wishing you an experience of the Spirit, as we, together, journey to Easter.

Yours in Christ,

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.

Hospitality



Greeters/Ushers

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.

Amicable News at a Glance

Trustees: The Trustees have developed a COVID-19 Preparedness document with recommendations as to building security and expense management during this challenging time. Please see details below under Church Council.

Church Council:

The Church Council met virtually using the Zoom application on Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

The agenda included:

1. Approval of March Meeting Minutes
2. Group Debrief
3. COVID-19 Preparedness Document
4. Stewardship in the Time of COVID-19
5. Pending Issues/Updates
 - a. Coordination of Annual Giving Opportunities and Annual Time/Talent/Mission Opportunities lists with the Website and Facebook
 - b. Donation Policy Dissemination and Oversight
 - c. Volunteerism Promotion – how and who
 - d. Fundraising Efforts - identify a small group to hold a "post-mortem" review/report of 2019 fundraising efforts/events to date
 - e. Messy Church - identify a small group to provide a plan/report for next steps
 - f. Concert Proposal – Ted Baer and guest – Update

The COVID-19 Preparedness Document recommendations were approved unanimously by the Church Council.

The highlights of the document are as follows:

Amicable COVID-19 Plan of Preparedness

Assumptions

1. Anticipate that members or friends of the congregation will develop or be impacted by the COVID-19 virus.
 - a. Request that members and friends self-disclose COVID-19 exposures to our Minister to allow the church community to support them in whatever manner possible.
2. Create plan to limit building access to critical personnel only.
3. Decision making should take place at the Church Council level.
4. Trustees as parties responsible for oversight of church property and assets will craft a plan for Church Council approval that will be ready for distribution by Friday, 3/27/2020.
5. Meetings will continue virtually using Zoom application (or similar capability).
6. Create “core group” of church volunteers to provide church

oversight during this period.

7. Convene Church Council meetings every two weeks via Zoom (or similar capability).

Plan

1. Building Access and Security

- a. Eliminate automatic locking and unlocking of North Lobby and Courtyard doors. Building will remain locked with access only by authorized staff.
- b. Lock Sanctuary and Upper Hall areas to limit areas that require sanitizing. Close off all classroom spaces. Sanitize and close off bathrooms. Leaving one for use.
- c. Suspending non-critical activities such as Life, Inc and Ken Stubbs, Custodian.
- d. Continuing regulatory activities such as NWSI (water testing for DOH submission) and Landscaping activities to preserve properties' appearance and value.
- e. Suggesting work arounds for continued congregational communication – how to best leverage Kathy, Church Secretary, remotely.
- f. Communicate to members via webpage, Facebook, Friendly Messenger and email blast any Church Council decisions.
 - i. Delay distribution of April Friendly Messenger to capture decisions taken at Church Council meeting on 4/1/2020.

2. Core Group

- a. Which roles need access to the building?
 - i. Minister
 - ii. Treasurer
 - iii. Moderator
 - iv. Standing Committee chair
 - v. Trustee Chair

Thrift Shop Volunteers (3)

- vi. Core Group personnel are not to enter building w/o an explicit supporting purpose and not if they have any reason to suspect that they have even possibly been exposed to COVID-19.
- b. Ask Core Group members to assist with limited housekeeping and office tasks to include mail collection, trash and recycling, building security until COVID-19 situation normalized.
- c. Such duties and assignments will be documented and maintained by the Core Group.
 - i. A Core Group member may recommend to the Core Group other church members who might be helpful in building maintenance and support activities. The Core Group will discuss and decide on authorizing any such recommendations.

3. Amicable's Financial View for 2020: Operation Account

- a. Based on the 2020 Operation Account's budget, funds were



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

SUBMISSIONS FOR ONLINE SERVICES

Jean Galipeau has very graciously agreed to act as our volunteer video producer, collecting and editing together the various remote videos and other materials, as well as adding effects to create the remote church services we're posting on Facebook! In order to give him the videos in a format that will best allow him to accomplish this, please follow these guidelines as you create and submit your materials:

Submission Deadline

- Materials need to be submitted to Jean **no later than Thursday evening** in order to be used in the service later that week.

Video formats that are usable

- .MP4 (Windows/Android devices)
- .MOV (Apple devices)
- **PLEASE NOTE:** In order to facilitate smooth edits from video to video, please allow a few seconds of dead space at the beginning and end of the video.

to be withdrawn from the General Endowment Fund on a quarterly basis, at the beginning of March, June, September, and December.

- b. The March amount of \$26,196.50 has already been withdrawn.
- c. Due to the serious downturn in the Stock Market, further withdrawals this year are discouraged unless a quick market rebound takes place.
- d. Need to manage our current cash holdings (bank accounts) without any further endowment withdrawals; and look at methods to stretch cash holdings through the end of 2020.
- e. Under the current Operation Account 2020 income and expense plan, without taking the remaining three endowment withdrawals, at the end of December we will be about \$19,000 short of funds. This deficit includes our loan payments for the Accessibility Project.
- f. If income from contributions, donations, and fund-raising events doesn't meet what is planned, we will even be shorter of funds. Already the 5K Race is being postponed – hopefully to later this year. There are concerns about holding the Summer Festival at the end of June, maybe postponed a month or two. The Thrift Shop will lose income, being at least a month not opened, maybe two (or more).
- g. Planned expenses must be reviewed and those that we can lessen or postpone until next year must be considered.
 - i. An obvious one is to delay the \$11,400 repair/repainting of the Sanctuary ceiling until 2021.
 - ii. The Trustees are looking at other specific expenses which might be postponed or lessened in some manner, such as weekly periodic tasks/expenses that won't be necessary while the church is closed. Church closure and maintaining low heating will also lessen electricity and oil usage costs.
 - iii. Depending on the length of the shutdown staff salaries may have to be reduced.
- h. Trustees will develop a pro forma austerity budget for discussion at the Church Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2020.

Polio Epidemic of 1952-54 (My Memory)

I must have been about seven that summer of 1954 when I was spending a few days with my Grandmother who lived on Riverside drive just past the railroad bridge up on the hill. My cousin Rita, a year or so older than I, was there too. Rita was my favorite cousin and we had great fun exploring the neighborhood and swimming at what I now realize was a tiny beach just

Audio formats that are usable

- MP3
- MP4

Photo formats that are usable

- JPEG
- JPG

Sharing files with Jean

- Email files to jeanpeau@cox.net, if they are not too large.
- If the file is too large to email directly, email a link to an online version of the file through one of the following:
 - Dropbox
 - OneDrive
 - Whatever option your email service gives you for sharing large files through a link. (For instance, Hotmail/MSN gives you the option to automatically send the addressee a link to a file in MailDrop or OneDrive when a file is too large.)

down the wooden stairs and across the narrow road. We had to wait one hour after lunch before going in the water as it was believed that any sooner and we would get stomach cramps and drown. But that summer the fear of drowning was eclipsed by the fear of polio.

We all had had, or would get, measles, chicken pox and maybe mumps. While these all might cause serious problems, they were an expected part of childhood. Full recovery was also expected. But polio, polio was different. Also called infantile paralysis it seemed to our parents that we, their children, were in particular peril. Still Dr. VonTrapp's wife in Adamsville had been stricken and of course the late President Roosevelt had too. They each spent the rest of their life wheelchair dependent. We weren't quite sure how it was spread and movie theaters, swimming pools, sleepover camp and so many places where people, especially children, might gather were closed. And then the girl who had sat next to me in Sunday School class just a few weeks earlier had it.

So I can still see my grandmother sitting on a chair by the phone and calling my mother. "Nina" she said, "Martha has a stiff neck." My mother must have flown that three miles or so to pick me up and take me straight to Dr. Lent's office. We didn't even go home to get cleaned up, the usual requirement before a doctor visit. A stiff neck could mean polio. The specter of the Iron Lung, heavy metal leg braces, lifelong paralysis and death stalked us all those summers. Each summer in the United States there were tens of thousands of cases every summer, thousands were paralyzed, thousands died.

I didn't have polio. I was lucky. The doctor put his hands around my head and lifted me off the floor thereby straightening out my neck. My mother cried. She was lucky too.

The next Spring, we all lined up in the basement of Fort Barton School to get our "polio shots". Dot Brooks was one of the nurses who volunteered to inoculate us. Just as now so many medical professionals are stepping us to be of service.

For so many of us of our generation, our current health crisis reminds us of the most feared disease of our childhoods.

-Submitted by our historian

How to Support Amicable Now Help Amicable Continue its Ministry and Outreach

Dear Amicable Pledgers & Contributors,

I've received a few inquiries about ways to send any contributions to Amicable during our period of the building being closed and with no on-site services.

First of course, is to just mail in any donation to the church. Just indicate in the check memo line, or a note, how you want your contribution applied.

If you leave the memo line blank:

- if you have pledged this year it will automatically be applied according to your pledge,
- otherwise, it will be applied to the Operation and Benevolence Accounts in a 90/10 ratio.

If you already do on-line banking thru your bank, you should be able to have the bank mail a check to the church, and you should be able to add a "memo line" note to the check if you want (see above about a blank memo line).

If you use BankNewport then you can even set up an account-to-account transfer from your BankNewport account to Amicable's BankNewport account; there is no charge for this. If you are interested in doing this, please give me a call (624-2323) and I'll give you Amicable's account number and walk you through the process.

Hope you are all well and staying safe.

Best,
Roger Gauthier, Treasurer

Thrift Shop News

The shop was closed for change over to spring for one week in March as planned. And then another and another. And still we are closed. We hope we can open again when our customers still want warm weather clothes. And we think about some of our regular customers who come to us from all over the state and beyond. We pray that they are well.

Given so much extra time we have undertaken a very thorough cleaning of the shop and hallway. Gale washed walls and we cleaned racks and tables and what seemed like thousands of pieces of china and glassware and kitchen items and on and on. Gale, who is a master of organization, has been making sure that all the items in the backroom (former kitchen) are in their proper place and labeled. We estimated that we had about three to four more days of work to finish up. For now, we are waiting until we can go back and finish the set up. Not just Gale and I but also Barbara Holmes and Jane Ouellette gave much time to these tasks in the first two weeks. Jane has even taken clothes home to iron.

So when "the lights come on again all over the world" we will be ready.

Annual Opportunities to Give

Seeking Your Support Where Your Spirit and Heart Lead

- January:** **Tiverton Community Food Drive:** non-perishable food donations - given to food pantries at East Bay Community Action Project & Old Stone First Baptist Church
- February:** Sponsor a youth for **Homeless Awareness Weekend** overnight, which supports a local non-profit working directly with the homeless
Youth Group **Super Bowl Grinders** sale
- March:** **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS):** all-church United Church of Christ annual offering supporting international mission projects & disaster relief
FunDrive: donations of gently used clothing that SAVERS will purchase; supports Amicable's Operation Budget
- April:** **Amicable/Farmcoast 5K (CANCELLED):** supports Amicable's Operation Budget
Easter Offering: supports Amicable's Benevolence Budget
*****Flower Floating Ceremony:** for Megan L. Cordeiro Memorial Foundation supporting families facing pediatric cancer
- May:** **Youth Group Summer Mission Trip:** donations support Amicable's Christian Education Budget
*****Amicable Art and Heirloom FUNdraiser:** supports Amicable's Operation Budget
- June:** **Summer Festival (CANCELLED):** donations of various items and goods, purchasing items, and bidding on Silent Auction items; supports Amicable's Operation Budget
- July:**
- August:**
- September:** **New Sunday School Mission** supports Amicable's Christian Education Budget
- October:** **Neighbors in Need (NIN):** all-church United Church of Christ annual offering supporting national (USA) mission projects
Pledge Drive starts for the coming year in support of Amicable's Operation and Benevolence Budgets
Not by Bread Alone: donations of non-food items for the Thanksgiving Baskets
- November:** **Thanksgiving Baskets:** donations of food items and financial support to provide food baskets to residents in the greater Tiverton community
- December:** **Holiday Bazaar: donations of items, goods, cookies, pies, cakes, making wreaths, knitted mittens and hats and scarves; supports Amicable's Operation Budget**
Mitten Tree: donations of mittens, hats, scarfs, gloves for needy families
Giving Tree: donations of Christmas gifts for selected needy families
Christmas Offering: supports Amicable's Benevolence Budget
Tiverton Emergency Assistance Mission (T.E.A.M.) Offering supports needy area families with emergency utility payments and food gift card assistance



April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 pm Church Council (Zoom)	2	3	4 5K Postponed to 9/12/20
5 Palm Sunday 10 am Worship	6	7	8	9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11 Holy Saturday
12 Easter Sunday 10 am Worship	13	14 4:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting (Zoom)	15 6:00 pm Church Council (Zoom)	16	17	18
19 10 am Worship	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10am Worship	27	28	29	30	<i>Friendly Reminder</i> Next <i>Friendly Messenger</i> Deadline for May submissions: 4/28/2020 <i>Thank You!</i>	

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

BIRTHDAYS

04/04 Lucy James
04/04 Brian Medeiros III
04/06 Jean Galipeau
04/06 Jamie Poulton
04/07 Dorothy Brooks *100*
04/07 Diane Medeiros
04/11 Rosalie Durfee
04/12 Barbie Lewis
04/12 Carrie Cellemme
04/13 Peyton Winn
04/16 Barbara Beckmann
04/16 Raymond Medeiros Jr.
04/19 Raymond Lundgren
04/21 Allison McMillan
04/22 Ken Kubic
04/29 Rike Sterrett

April



ANNIVERSARIES

04/12 Becky & Gary Priest
04/20 Keith & Barbie Lewis
04/25 Don & Judy Dufour