



The Friendly Messenger

Amicable Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

William A. Sterrett ~ Pastor

July/August 2020

In This Issue

- Pastoral Letter _____ p. 1
- Worship Themes _____ p. 4
- Summer Festival Report _ p. 4
- News _____ p. 5
- Milestones _____ p. 6
- Financial Notes _____ p. 7
- Calendars _____ p. 9,10

Office Phone: 401-624-4611

Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Fridays

9 a.m. – 12 n.

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

RHODE ISLAND CONFERENCE

United Church of Christ

<http://www.ricucc.org>

A.C.T.S.

**Amicable Church Thrift
Shop**

**Open: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00
p.m.**

Thursdays and Saturdays

Rev. Sterrett out of office:

Rev. Sterrett will be on vacation from Monday, July 20, through Sunday, August 16. He will be back in his home office on Monday, August 17. In case of a pastoral emergency, please call Pat Campion, Chair of the Deacons, at 401-297-7323.

Pastoral Letter

God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. - I Corint

Dear Friends,

These last months have been hard. Pandemic. Economic Turmoil. Racial Injustice. It is a lot to wrap our heads around.

We have had more time to deal with the pandemic and money issues, than we have had with the upheaval caused by George Floyd's, and so many others', deaths. And, truth be told, the racial justice issues that those in power in our country (which includes most of us) are now seemingly willing to face are troubling and systemically deeply rooted.

Racism is a virulent and fatal virus that infects every aspect of our society.

We have institutionalized it, which is another way of saying we have legalized it. And I use "we" here in reference to people like myself – comfortable, peace-loving, White. Wanted or unwanted, willing or unwilling, knowing or unknowing, I have benefited greatly my whole life from White Privilege.

I want so badly to do something, anything to combat racism, this hatred, this deadly virus. And I have heard from many people who feel the same way. "What can I do?"

The impulse is to go and find a Black person to educate me; to tell me what to do; to tell me what would be helpful, as if I cannot read, cannot listen, cannot think, cannot change!

It is not the job of the disenfranchised, the oppressed to remove the blinders of the oppressor. They have enough to do just to stay alive. And, they are tired, after 400 years, of explaining and "educating" and still, after 400 years, seeing the same blinders in place, and no change.

Food Pantry



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 want to become 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

So, here are some things each of us can do:

- Use your internet search engines and find the voices of the oppressed – black, brown, indigenous, immigrants, LGBTQ+ (this is not hard). And then read about or listen to them. The number of stories available are mind-numbing – take some time and overwhelm your brain.

Thanks to Dr. Bonita Cade we have a reading and viewing list to help us begin to educate ourselves. I personally recommend you watch the three-part series “Race: The Power of an Illusion”. Here is Dr. Cade’s list:

1. Lies My Teacher Told Me by James Loewen (necessary information that still surprises many Americans)
2. Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debbie Irving, who mentions being a white multicultural competency trainer of teachers for years before she saw *The House We Live In* (Race: The Power of an Illusion) before she realized where she really was on the "woke" continuum
3. White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo
4. How to be Less Stupid About Race by Crystal M. Fleming (a book that I could not put down and just got this spring by a black author)
5. Why I Don't talk to White People Anymore about Race (by a black woman who is British ... a powerful perspective that is too familiar)

Films/videos:

1. **Them and Us** (an educational film by Learning Tree that demonstrates that as humans we "categorize" and "group")
 2. **Black. White.** (TV series by Ice T 2005?)
 3. **Shadow of Hate** (documentary on the reception of all immigrant groups to the USA)
 4. **Race: The Power of an Illusion** in 3 Parts (but particularly *The House We Live In* - part 3 - because it has great examples of institutional racism)
 5. **White Man’s Burden** (a 1990's film with John Travolta and Harry Belafonte where societal racial roles are “flipped” and less threatening parallels are shown)
 6. **The 13th** is a powerful and current documentary on Netflix
 7. YouTube Videos by Tim Wise and Robin Di Angelo
- Attend rallies and protests. White allies are needed – to stand, quietly, behind the speakers in a show of support or to stand on the edge of the crowd, as a buffer between the police and persons of color.
 - Make your views known to your political leaders – local, state, and national.

In our faith tradition, the Apostle Paul tells us, “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it.” Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. paraphrased this verse, when he said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” If we are not suffering in the midst of this injustice, if we are not, at least, uncomfortable, then we are not following Jesus.

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, starting the Wednesday after Labor Day. We sing typically twice a month in the service. Come give it a try! **COVID-19 HOLD**

Quilters - Knitters



Wednesdays, 9:00 – 11:00 starting after Labor Day. 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. **COVID-19 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.

To borrow some of the words, again, of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., God is calling us to be headlights for our society, leading people on The Way of Jesus into the promised land of justice, and not taillights, dressing wounds and burying the dead and feeling sorry for them and ourselves. Remember: the opposite of poverty is not wealth, it is justice!

It is my prayer for our community that we might seize the day and commit ourselves to ally ourselves with those our society marginalizes by carefully listening to their stories, educating ourselves, and challenging the status quo. For only then will we be able to live into the second half of Paul's verse: "If one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."

Yours in Christ,

Dear Amicable Members and Friends,

I write this second Pastoral Letter for this month's edition of our Friendly Messenger newsletter, because I was so focused on the need to communicate information about educating ourselves around racial justice issues that I forgot to tell you about an important change in my employment with Amicable Church.

As you know, I and Barbara were infected with the coronavirus in mid-March. From my viewpoint at the time it was a mild infection – no hospitalization, no breathing problems. I was fortunate in that I was able to lead our virtual worship services through my illness. However, since late May I have found myself losing "steam" faster than pre-Covid-19. Some days are better than others, but I am finding myself regularly more tired than I like. I am hopeful that the four weeks I will be taking off from mid-July to mid-August will allow my body to recover and all will be good again.

Still, I am uncertain whether or not I will be able to return and work at 100% all the time. This is why, beginning this month (July), I have asked the Church Council for a reduction in my salary in exchange for an increase in my time off; a request the Council has accepted. During the second half of this year, I will be receiving a 25% deduction in my financial package with an additional six (6) weeks off. The four weeks I am taking from mid-July to mid-August is composed of my normal remaining three (3) weeks of vacation, plus 1 of the extra six (6) weeks. For the remaining extra five weeks, I plan to take three weeks in the fall and another two weeks after Christmas.

The weeks that I am working, I will be working a normal full week. I care too much for you and our Church not to be available when needed. I will plan my fall time off spread apart and around Amicable's schedule and needs. Normally, following the Christmas season things are slow, so being away two weeks should not be a problem.

I am most grateful for the love and support I have always received from my Amicable Church family. I hope you will find this change in employment acceptable.

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. The host may add to this if s/he chooses but what is served is not nearly as important as who is served. Hosting duties can always be shared with others - one sets up the table and coffee, another provides a snack or baked good, another cleans up afterwards. Please sign up on the calendar or sign-up sheet in the Upper Hall if you can help out.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me or other Church Council members.

Yours in Christ,

Worship Themes

July 12 Lynda Loranger is a licensed independent clinical social worker and has led worship and meditations at Amicable before. Lynda's practice is in Little Compton. She will be addressing the stage of Depression, Reflection, and Loneliness, as experienced in the feelings of loss brought on by the pandemic. As part of the service Lynda plans to focus on the sadness many are feeling and talk about our "longing". She will also use her Cosmic Ray Singing Bowls to lead us through a guided meditation.

Also on this Sunday all are invited to attend our 10:00 AM worship at Fogland Beach. In case of rain, the service will be held on the following Sunday, July 19.

July 19 Bobi Zeiser, a member of Amicable's Worship Team, upon hearing the Fifth Stage's name, The Upward Turn, immediately said, "Oh, I have been feeling that, as I dig in the dirt." Bobi's comment fit well with where I found myself at the time and so I plan to go deeper into this idea in worship.

July 26 In our planning, as we reflected on the stage Reconstruction/Working Through, Kimberly Poulton told us about the interesting artwork Paula Becker has been producing on her Facebook page. It sounded exactly like Paula was reconstructing and working through the stress of the pandemic. We are hoping Paula will be able to share her work with us.

August 2 The final stage is Acceptance and Hope. The Worship Team felt the best expression of such hope is the joy of movement/dance and the Rev. Melody Ruffin-Ward came to mind immediately. Some of you will remember Rev. Ruffin-Ward's from last summer's special worship services. She led those gathered in a meditation-like movement/dance, which literally got everyone, from child to senior citizen on their feet and moving. Melody has agreed to lead this virtual worship service and we are grateful.

August 9 Rev. Beverly Edwards will be leading the worship service on this Sunday while Rev. Sterrett is away.

August 16 Rev. Beverly Edwards will be leading the worship service on this Sunday while Rev. Sterrett is away.

August 23 The focus of our virtual worship service on this Sunday is finding the elements of worship in our everyday living.

Also on this Sunday all are invited to attend our outdoor service 10:00 AM worship service at Movement Ground Farm, 592 Puncatest Neck Rd., Tiverton. In case of rain, we will gather at the farm the following Sunday, August 30.

*A.C.T.S.
The Thrift Shop is now
open on Fridays!!
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm*

August 30 The focus on this Sunday is a very important passage one of Paul's letters: Romans 12:9-21. The heading in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible for this passage is: Marks of the True Christian. The passage is a guideline for how to live in community.

Amicable News at a Glance

Church Council

Church Leadership wishes to thank all the members and friends that participated in our congregation's recent telephone survey. The feedback we received was shared at a Special Church Council Meeting held on June 17, 2020. The comments and insights of the congregation helped Church Council members to reach the decision to continue offering virtual services until the end of 2020. This means that there will be no worship services held in the Sanctuary. There will be additional member and friend outreach in the coming months to revisit when the congregation is ready to safely worship together.

The next Church Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, August 5th at 6:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to participate in the Zoom session please email office@amicablechurch.org.

Trustees

The next Trustee meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. Anyone wishing to join in please contact office@amicablechurch.org.

The Trustees are looking for volunteers to help with the following outside maintenance tasks:

1. Weed control in the North Parking lot. Spraying the weeds that are sprouting in the tarmac and the sidewalk cracks.
2. Power washing sections of the building facing the North Parking Lot.
3. Lake Road cemetery helping with the remains of a fallen tree.

If you are interested in helping please contact office@amicablechurch.org or leave a voicemail on the church's number: 624-4611.

Milestones



Deaths

It is with great sadness and yet thanksgiving that I share with you the news of Ruth Manchester's death. Sad because she was such a pillar of strength and dignity and faith. Thanksgiving, because she died as she lived. It was a good death.

As of this writing, there is still not a date for Ruth's committal service, but due to the rules of the present pandemic there will not be a service in Amicable's sanctuary and only a limited number of people graveside. So, only family members will be at the committal service. We are hoping to be able to have a memorial service in the sanctuary next year, but only time and the health of our country can decide that.

Ruth has specifically requested that all donations in her memory be given to Amicable Church to support the General Endowment Fund.

Garey Scholarship Recipients

As is tradition on Children's Sunday, we were able to give small scholarships to those in our church community, who are going to college and working on either an undergraduate or advanced degree. This year's recipients were: Shelby Hibbert, Emma Becker, Brianna Crain, Cris Medeiros, Sarah Mello, Aubrey Messenger, Jillian Goncalo, Victoria Glover, Cede Rashleigh McNally and Sophia Piffard. We wish them well in their academic endeavors. Congratulations Garey Scholarship recipients!



To the Friends and Members of Amicable Church:

I am writing to thank you for awarding me the Garey Scholarship for this upcoming school year. I feel very honored to be a recipient again and I appreciate your generosity in supporting students like me as we continue to pursue our education [even during a pandemic]. As I enter my last year of college I am taking time to look back on aspects of my life that have helped shape who I am. I have many fond memories of events, friendships, and lessons learned at Amicable that I will take with me throughout the rest of my life. Thank you again for continuing to support my educational goals throughout my time at college and for all of the great memories. I hope you all are well and staying safe. Thank you!

Best,
Emma Becker



Hello,

Dear Members of Amicable,

I am so grateful for your generous check! Every penny truly counts! It makes me so happy to know that I am still being supported by your community. One day I plan to give back to the church since you have all been such wonderful, caring and generous people. Hope everyone is staying healthy!

Best,
Jillian G.

Financial Notes of Interest – June 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 will not be taken. Instead holdings in Amicable's BankNewport checking and savings accounts will be used.
- To help supplement the Endowment Fund income loss noted above, Amicable has applied for and 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 22 through June 16, will essentially turn the loan into a grant with no need for repayment.
- Due to recent PPP SBA Loan changes made in the US Senate & House, and then signed by the President, the initial Loan Forgiveness Application has been changed. A new version has been provided, but there is also another version expected, so BankNewport is delaying the review of any Loan Forgiveness Applications until at least July 15th. They are expecting further guidance shortly and are hesitant to start any loan forgiveness reviews quickly. All the appropriate data to complete the current version of the application is available, but due to BankNewport's reticence to start reviews, the new plan is for submission at the end of July.
- June contribution receipts continued to decrease (about 30% lower than May), although overall are still a little ahead of the plan through June, due to heavier contributions early in the year.
- The postponed 5K Race Event is still planned for early September.
- A normal Summer Festival will not be held this year, although there are some preliminary discussions for some form of auction activities in the fall.
- The Thrift Shop finally opened again in June, under Covid19 protocol, and had an average month of income. Of course the expected income from April and May was lost.
- The budgeted repair & repainting of the Sanctuary ceiling has been postponed until 2021, and other ways to limit standard expenses are under discussion. Of course with the church building closed, oil and electric expenses are lower than planned, as are other building usage, cleaning, and supply expenses.
- An Operation Account budget deficit is expected this year. At this point it looks like it will be at least 10% of the budget, which will reduce our standard cash reserves going into 2021.

[Treasurer: R. Gauthier: 624-2323]



ACTS NOW OPEN FRIDAYS TOO

We are delighted to be back in business every Thursday and Saturday from 10:00 to 2:00. And very grateful that Pat and Grace Campion and Kathy Aguiar have volunteered again this summer to open ACTS on Fridays from noon until 4:00. They suggested this last summer and it was very successful in attracting new customers as well as financially.

And thank you to Chris Messenger who has joined our team and made a big difference in organizing donations. We not only want people who come into ACTS to be safe, we also want them to feel safe. Therefore we have made some changes to accommodate this new world we are living in.

Briefly they are:

- Signage everywhere to remind about “social distancing”.
- Hand sanitizer at entrance and around shop.
- We will wear masks and require that customers do also.
- Checkout has been moved from the center of shop to the north wall.
- Checkout will have plexiglass screen and customers will wrap and bag their own purchases.
- Bathrooms will be closed and no dressing room.
- Fans will pull in outside air to ventilate.
- Capacity is limited based on square footage (1,424 inc. hall) and government guidelines. Currently 8 customers at a time inside.
- We will sanitize commonly touched surfaces at the end of the day.
-

ALSO:

We are in need of more clothes racks. If you have a sturdy rack that we could use please contact Gale or Martha.

July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Amicable Church Thrift Shop CLOSED TODAY
5 10 am Worship Facebook	6	7 8 :30 am Faith Conversations (ZOOM)	8	9 10am – 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop 7:00 Standing Committee and Christian Ed Committee	10 12pm – 4 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop	11 10am – 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop
12 10 am Worship Facebook	13	14 8 :30 am Faith Conversations (ZOOM) 4:00 pm Trustees (ZOOM)	15	16 10am – 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop	17 12pm – 4 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop	18 10am – 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop
19 10 am Worship Facebook	20	21	22	23 10am – 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop	24 12pm – 4 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop	25 10am – 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop
10 am Worship Facebook	27	28	29	30	31	1

August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10 am Worship Facebook	3	4	5 6:30 pm Church Council (ZOOM)	6 10am – 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop	7 12pm – 4 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop	8 10am – 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop
9 10 am Worship Facebook	10	11	12	13 10am – 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop	14 12pm – 4 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop	15 10am – 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop
16 10 am Worship Facebook	17	18 8 :30 am Faith Conversations (ZOOM)	19	20 10am – 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop	21 12pm – 4 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop	22 10am – 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop
23 10 am Worship Facebook	24	25 8 :30 am Faith Conversations (CR)	26	27 10am – 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop	28 12pm – 4 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop	29 10am – 2 pm Amicable Church Thrift Shop
30 10 am Worship Facebook	31					



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

BIRTHDAYS

07/07 Chantal Galipeau	08/01 Marti Delpape
07/07 Wendy Sands Rosenthal	08/01 Alden & Jacob Reimels
07/10 Curt Hibbert	08/05 Rachel Poulton
07/11 Stacia Piffard	08/07 Emma Becker, Elizabeth Martin
07/11 Shelby Hibbert	08/08 Pat Runner, Bob Fazzino
07/12 John Poulton	08/09 David Durfee, Becky Priest
07/13 Narda Snell	08/09 Kendall Campion
07/15 Barbara Holmes	
07/15 Vivienne Strunk	08/15 Leslie Simonson
07/18 Caron Medeiros	08/20 Bente Sterrett
07/18 Sherry Winn	08/21 Brendan McNally,
07/21 Carrie Thombs	Jim Probasco
07/22 Cristopher Medeiros	Martha Nielsen
07/23 Steve Zuehlke	
Rosemary Probasco	08/23 Jimmy Durfee
07/24 Don Dufour, Sarah Zeiser	08/24 Jon Campion
07/25 Aidan McCoy	08/25 Victoria Glover
07/30 Amy Brayton	08/27 Paul Cellemme
	Bruce & Mark Reimels
	08/30 Lindsey Reimels
	08/31 Brody Olson

July/August



ANNIVERSARIES

07/06 Carolyn & Richard Melbourne
07/08 Jim & Rosemary Probasco
07/13 Barbara & David Holmes
07/22 Barbara Beckmann & Bill Sterrett
07/26 Allison McMillan & Mark Nickel
07/31 Marti & Paul Delpape
08/01 Peter & Sandy Berdos
08/06 Paul & Carrie Cellemme
08/08 Benjamin & Britney Goldenbloom
08/09 Ed & Jane Ouellette
08/10 Jennifer Rashleigh & Brendan McNally
08/15 Ryan & Tara Messenger
08/22 Kristen Zeiser & Brian Perrott
08/23 Bobi & Nick Zeiser
08/24 Pat & Bob Campion