

Amicable Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Friendly Messenger
March 2021

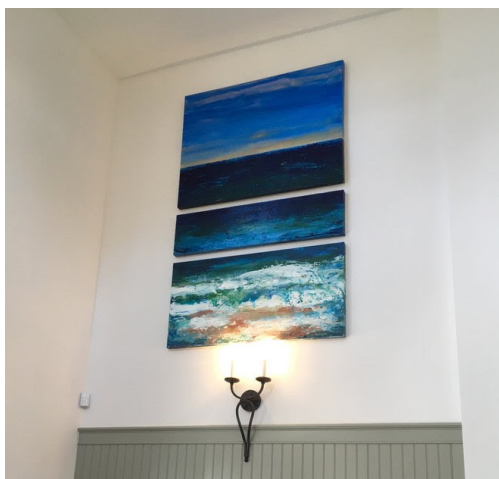
Farewell Service



On Sunday, February 28th Rev. Bill Sterrett celebrated his farewell worship service in our church sanctuary. All members of the Sterrett family participated in this service, and we are grateful for their loving words of closure. The service was broadcast live via Zoom and is available for viewing on the church's website.



Dedication of Skyline, Sea and Surf



Following the Worship Service a painting entitled “Skyline, Sea and Surf” was dedicated. This beautiful painting was donated by gifted artist Jennifer Rashleigh to honor Rev. Bill Sterrett and his wife, Barbara Beckman. There are two plaques mounted by the painting. One reads:

"Skyline, Sea and Surf by Jennifer Jones Rashleigh, Acrylic on Museum Stretched Canvas

A gift from the Rashleigh McNally family in honor of the Reverend Bill Sterrett and Barbara Beckman: community paradigms of inclusion, friendship, kindness and ceaseless inspiration."

The second plaque conveys the congregation's acknowledgment of Rev. Sterrett and Ms. Beckman's extraordinary contributions to our church family. "Given in loving recognition of The Rev. Bill Sterrett and Barbara Beckman for their partnership in faithful ministry, service, and commitment to Amicable Church for 33 generous years. We have been blessed."

Bente Sterrett read the following blessing at the dedication ceremony:

Blessing the Waves of Change

Loving God, bless the artists, the craftsmen, the makers. For through them we glimpse the chaos, majesty, and beauty of you, the Ultimate Creator.

O mighty God, your creation is ever changing, ever moving like the ocean currents. Allow it to wash over the hurting and fearful spaces in our lives, to mend what is torn, and call us back from lost places. May we learn to trust that you are always with us, as surely as high tide always follows low.

O ever-present God, beginnings, endings, and transitions can feel volatile and uncertain. Help us to think like artists, taking a tumult of forms and colors and weaving them together to create new meaning.

God, bless the gift and the giver. Bless all who will pass by and find their spirits touched by beauty and the raging sea. Bless us all, now and always. Amen.



Goodbye Drive-bye

Starting at 2 p.m. a stream of members and friends drove through our South Parking Lot to say good-bye to the Sterrett family. Scores of folks took this opportunity to thank them for all they have done for our church family and to wish them well in the future.



A slideshow of this day's moments is available on our website.



A Thank You from Reverend Bill

Dear Members and Friends of Amicable Church,

Distance must be kept. Allowing the new to enter as effortlessly as possible is needed. But, it would be impolite of me not to at least say, "THANK YOU!!!"

Thank you for 33 years of welcome and support and love!

Thank you for allowing me into your lives all these years!

And, in this moment, Thank You! for the gift of planning, for the sharing of time and talent to make my last Sunday so memorable, for your generous words about my ministry, and for a financial gift which will help Barbara and I ease into my retirement. I cannot begin to tell you how much my emotional, spiritual, and physical batteries were re-charged Sunday afternoon, when I was able to see – in person! – so many of you and to speak with you. Then, Sunday evening, you joined with me in a Zoom gathering, continuing to shower me – and Barbara! and my daughters! – with kind words, shared with great love. I thank those who organized the videos and those who made one.



Pastoral Care

During this period of time where we are in search of an Interim Minister any requests for Pastoral Care should be made by calling the church phone: 401-624-4611. Pat Champion will be checking voicemails and will ensure that your request is addressed.



Worship/Mission

March 21st - There will be a live Zoom service starting at 10:00 AM

March 27th - Please swing by the north parking lot of the church anytime between 9 and noon to pick up your palms. There will also be take-home activities for children to enjoy while learning about Holy Week. There may even be a few delicious surprises for them!

March 28th - Palm Sunday, this live Zoom service will be recorded on Sunday morning and then made available on Facebook and the website. Please join us in celebrating Jesus' triumphant entrance to Jerusalem by the waving of the palms in your home.

April 4th - Easter Sunday, this live Zoom service will be recorded on Sunday morning and then made available on Facebook and the website.



Music Ministry News

1. **Choir Zoom Chats** will be held on 3/10 and 3/24 at 5:30 pm on Vaughn's Zoom Meeting Room: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4075400496>
2. **Children & Youth Virtual Palm Sunday Procession.** The children and youth of Amicable have traditionally processed with palms during the opening of Palm Sunday services. Because featuring the kids with their valentines was such a hit with kids and viewers last month, we are asking the children and youth to participate in a Virtual Palm Sunday Procession. Please follow these steps to participate:
 - a. **Let us know if you plan to participate!** It really helps us to know if you plan to participate, and will allow us to send you a reminder close to submission time.
 - b. **Create your artistic version of "palms."** They may be drawn, cut out of construction paper, made from trimmings from evergreens -- whatever you like! If you are looking for some ideas on creating palms, check out these links <https://mommynippets.com/hosanna-branch-wavers/> <https://www.christianitycove.com/hand-print-palm-tree-palm-sunday-craft/4782/>

c. Share your palms through pic or video. You may submit a pic of yourself with your palms, a video of you processing with your palms, or just a pic of your palms. (Since Amicable's services are available to the public, no names will be listed with the images.) Above all, have fun with it.

d. Submission instructions:

- i. Pics and videos should be *emailed or shared through Google Drive, Dropbox, etc. They should not be texted, which creates a much lower resolution image.*
- ii. **Submissions should be made to BOTH Vaughn Bryer at vaughnbryner@msn.com AND Jean Galipeau at jeanpeau@cox.net.**
- iii. **DEADLINE:** Videos/pics must be received by Tuesday, March 23 in order to be used in the Palm Sunday service.



Contact Information

WORSHIP SERVICE SUBMISSIONS

- **Music videos, artwork & photos.** Any music videos (special music, hymn leading videos, etc), OR photos, artwork and other kinds of videos to be used in photo or video collages should be **emailed to both** Vaughn Bryner at vaughnbryner@msn.com and Jean Galipeau at jeanpeau@cox.net.
- **Liturgist videos.** Should be *emailed directly to Jean Galipeau at jeanpeau@cox.net.*
- **Video files too large to email.** If a video file is too large to email, send it through a file sharing service. (Google Drive, Dropbox, OneDrive, Mail-Drop, etc. are all fine.)



Employment Opportunities

There are two employment opportunities currently available at Amicable Church. The first is the Church Secretary position which is a part-time 10 hour per week role. The second is the Church Custodian position, also a part-time position. Weekly hours dependent on candidate skill level. If anyone is interested please send an email to office@amicablechurch.org or call the church office at 401-624-2323.



Financial Notes of Interest - February 2021

- 2021 remains in a general “Church Closure” mode, with weekly Worship Services still being presented via Zoom and Amicable’s Facebook page.
- Cleaning, maintenance, and utility expenses should remain lower than budgeted during this period.
- Donation receipts remain steady, with all varieties of giving methods being utilized - mail, drop-offs at church, transfers into Amicable’s bank account, via Amicable’s Website Donate option, general PayPal donation.
- The Thrift Shop was closed thru January except for its 2020 reopening day on Saturday, Jan. 30th; and has been open all of February, continuing with very good receipts.
- No big income or expense surprises yet, although we are currently operating without a Secretary or Custodian so that these normal expenses are not accumulating at present.
- Also, until we are able to find and hire an Interim Minister, there will not be any normal ministerial expenses, although Guest Minister (or similar) expenses will be higher than normal.

Respectfully Submitted: Treasurer, Roger Gauthier (624-2323),



Thank You's

A big thank you to everyone who has donated gently worn clothes and gently used household goods to ACTS, and to all our volunteers who have made our Thrift Shop a success. Despite a 12 week Covid shut down and capacity limits, we were able to make over \$30,000 in 2020. Our customers have been wonderful and appreciative of not only our shop but of all that Amicable Church means to the community.

We've just reopened on March 11 after a week's closing to change over to our new spring clothes and accessories AND we have a table dedicated to Easter!

A big thank you to our long serving custodian, Ken Stubbs. Ken shared with us that he really is going to retire and take things a bit easier. We at Amicable Church are very grateful for Ken's service. He's been a reliable and capable custodian - always willing to help and pitch in. Best wishes, Ken!



Church Spring Clean-Up

Please join the Trustees in sprucing up the church grounds on Saturday, April 17th from 9 a.m. to noon. Please call and leave a message at the Church Office or send an email to office@amicablechurch.org if you are interested.



Happy Birthday!



Happy Anniversary!

Dora Marshall	03/02
Mary Rinne	03/06
Debby Scheel	03/06
Grace Lily Messenger	03/08
Peter Berdos	03/10
Jared Priest	03/11
Kohei Ishihara	03/18
Pablo Medeiros	03/20
Aimon Miranda	03/27
Michael Reimels	03/28

No Anniversaries this month.

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:00 AM Worship	8	9	10 5:30 Choir Zoom Party 7:30 Standing Committee	11 ACTS open 10:00 – 2:00	12	13 ACTS open 10:00 – 2:00
14 10:00 AM Worship	15	16	17	18 ACTS open 10:00 – 2:00	19	20
21 10:00 AM Worship	22	23	24 5:30 Choir Zoom Party	25 ACTS open 10:00 – 2:00	26	27 ACTS open 10:00 – 2:00
28 PALM SUNDAY 10:00 AM Worship	29	30	31			