

MATTAPOISETT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



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PLEASE NOTE NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2020:

Monday: Office closed
Tuesday-Friday: 8:15 am-1:15 pm

THE TIDEINGS

FEBRUARY 2020

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It's hard to believe but we are now into the second month of the year already! The holidays were very busy here at Matt Congo (see pics on page 7) but as we head toward Spring and Easter, our schedule of activities will be ramping up (see inside!). Our new website will be up and running soon so be sure to stay tuned for that announcement as well!



Pastor's Page

February blessings to you!

Winter is upon us, and for many that means more time inside. It might also mean more time with hobbies such as painting, writing, music, woodworking, or even playing with trains.

In December, in the middle of a sewing project, it occurred to me that sewing is probably my preferred hobby. There are several reasons for this:

- I'm not very good at it. Many in our congregation achieve remarkable precision and beauty in their sewing. These are true artists and craftspeople. Me? Please don't ask me to put in a zipper or make a buttonhole. With my trusty Elna, I can sew a relatively straight seam but that's about it! Even though I'm no master seamstress, I do it anyway because it brings me joy.
- It adds texture to my life. Especially with seminary studies, I spend much of my time sitting, usually in front of something flat — like a computer screen — usually in front of something black-and-white — like a book. Sewing surrounds me with color and different textures. It gets me moving, looking at things from different angles, working in three dimensions. It's completely different than what I usually do with my mind and body.
- I get lost in it. I can spend hours with a project and never notice the time go by. As I consider shapes and colors, and strategies for how to put them all together, my mind takes flight. When I have a sewing project going, my mind works on two levels. As I sew, life situations simmer on the back burner, and sometimes a solution presents itself. When I'm not sewing, my project simmers on the back burner and in the middle of something else, I will be struck with inspiration about my project.
- There's not a lot at stake. I don't sew for money, and not very often to a deadline. Nobody counts on me to complete a project well or on time. Practical projects, like mending, can usually wait and I never undertake anything of a practical nature that's very difficult. I know my limitations and stick to them.

The occasion for realizing sewing is my preferred hobby was changing thread on my machine. I reached for my plastic spool box, saw all those colors and realized just how long I've had some of that thread. Some spools I've had probably 20 years or longer. I cannot recall why I bought them. Some I remember buying specifically to sew patches onto Boy Scout sashes or Cub Scout "brag vests." I have three shades of purple thread for a project I never finished, and an untouched spool of peach-colored thread to match fabric I gave away a decade ago.

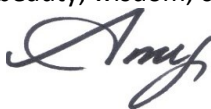
It's taken many years, many projects, many friends, many adventures, and many situations to accumulate that much thread. That box has lived and moved with me longer than just about anything in my life, including my husband and my cat. If it could talk, it could give you a fairly complete picture of all the thrills of victory and the agonies of defeat. Pardon the pun, but sewing has stitched its way into the fabric of my life without my even thinking about it.

For me, there's a certain lightness in sewing, and we all need lightness in our lives. We all need those things for which there's not a lot at stake, in which we aren't self-conscious, for which we don't get anxious about being perfect, and which we can put away without much consequence.

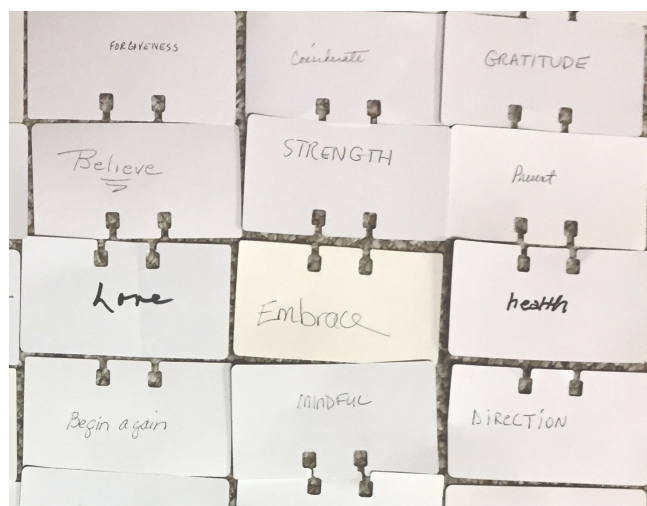
Of all the things we are carrying with us into this new year, may one of them be lightness of spirit. If we don't have anything that bears this kind of joyful lightness, may we open our spirits to make that discovery. It's an act of faith to be able to hand things over to God to take care of, while we tend to that creative side of ourselves.

For the final worship service of 2019, worshippers wrote on a card something they'll bring into the new decade. Examples are love, faith, curiosity, and gumption. You'll see these cards displayed at the annual meeting on Feb. 2. In the meantime, here's a snapshot of a few that were included.

May all that we carry with us into the new decade bear a dimension of beauty, wisdom, compassion, or love. Happy 2020!



Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken



CONGREGATION NEWS & NOTES

ANNUAL MEETING is scheduled for February 2, 2020 at 11 am following worship



MATTAPOISETT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PANCAKE SUPPER

Shrove Tuesday

February 25, 2020 5:30 pm-7 pm

Reynard Hall, 27 Church Street, Mattapoisett

What is Shrove Tuesday? Shrove Tuesday is a day of celebration as well as penitence, because it's the last day before Lent. Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. Giving up foods: but not wasting them. In the old days there were many foods that observant Christians would not eat during Lent: foods such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on Shrove Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that would spoil during the forty days of Lent.

The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name Mardi Gras; meaning fat Tuesday. Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.



All are welcome!

Free will offering to benefit MCC's Missions Outreach Programs

Memorials Scholarships for 2020

This year, the Memorials & Celebrations Committee has decided to offer scholarships exclusively to high school students graduating in June who are members of our Church family. Therefore, if you or a member of your family is a senior and planning to attend an institution of higher learning in the fall of 2020, please contact the Church office or a member of the Memorials & Celebrations committee who will guide you in the application process.

In the event there are no graduating seniors in 2020, the committee will assess its financial situation with an eye toward previous scholarship recipients who might need continuing support. These students should plan to submit a letter to the committee indicating their interest and explaining their need for additional support.

Look for more information on the process and timeline in *The Tideings*, which will be available in early spring. Members of the Memorials & Celebrations committee are Lenore Everett, Lee Heald and Cindy Johnson. Please telephone 508-758-2671 or email mattcongchurch@gmail.com for the committee members' contact information.



Please note that beginning in February, the church office will be closed on Mondays, however, will remain open until 1:15 pm Tuesday-Friday. This will allow for more efficient use of Tina's time and a cost savings to the budget by eliminating the need for heat and electricity one day per week. In the case of an emergency on a Monday, please call the office and leave a message on the machine and someone will return the call. For all other matters that can wait until Tina returns, please call the office Tuesday-Friday from 8:15 am-1:15 pm. Thank you for your understanding.

CONGREGATION NEWS & NOTES

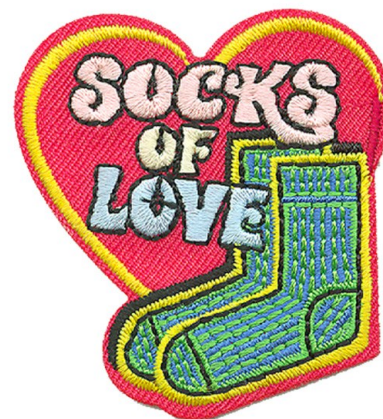
From Missions— Ora et Labora Team

Have you found the Ora et Labora combination meaningful as a way to combine worship and work? We have heard many positive comments to that effect and so we wish to provide a team (similar to the Mercy Meals team) that would honcho this effort from time to time throughout the worship year.

The team would work through email (NO regular meetings) and anyone on the team would be free to suggest and/or organize a project. There would only be a commitment to help when one is available and interested in a specific project. If you like the outside yard work or a mission project or something as outreach to the community, you can work on only that. You could participate in several projects or only get involved in one as your time and talents dictate. Or you might not have the time but wish to support a special project financially. It would be flexible and up to you.

For our first team O and L project, on Sunday February 9, after an abbreviated worship, we plan to construct 30 Valentine Socks of Love to deliver to Mercy Meals and More and the Community Economic Development Center—for both adults and kids. Each will consist of a new pair of socks filled with a valentine expressing God's love and care and basic toiletries (toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, small shampoo, hand sanitizer, pocket pack of tissues, etc).

So far the team members are Sue and Gary Grosart, Chuck Talley, Jen Schlitzer, Pastor Amy, and someone from Faith Formation (TBD). Won't you please join us? Contact Sue Grosart ggrosart@aol.com or Tina in the church office to add your name to the email list. Remember NO meetings and a flexible commitment but the chance to be creative, reach out to others and enjoy accomplishing a helpful project.



Super Saturday is March 14, 2020

8 am-3:45 pm
Minnechaug Regional
High School,
Wilbraham, MA



Super Saturday is a collaborative effort of the Southern New England Conference, UCC, with presenters and attendees from different states and denominations.

A full day of workshops, forums, networking, worship and marketplace. **Registration deadline is February 29, 2020.** Go online to www.sneucc.org/supersatreg to pick your workshops or pick up a handout on the table outside of Rev. Amy's office. Turn this worksheet into Tina in the church office for the discounted rate of \$49 pp (as long as we have a group of 5 or more attending). **These workshops fill up fast so don't delay!**



Christmas Eve 10 pm service with the Harper & Minstrel in the beautiful sanctuary

FAITH FORMATION

Confirmation 2020 is Underway!

Congratulations to our 2020 Confirmation class: Tommy Berry, Rylie Coughlin, and Elliott Talley!

Over the next few months, these bright and faithful youth will explore many aspects of the Christian faith including the Bible, Jesus, sacraments, and church. They'll gather in the Triads room approximately every-other Sunday evening with Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken and other caring adults. There, they will learn, share, have fun, and grow spiritually. Confirmation Sunday will be Pentecost Sunday, May. 31.

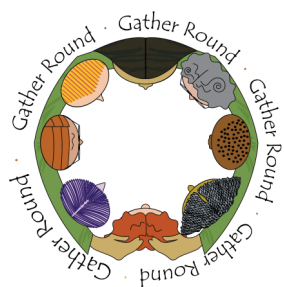
Thank you to the adult mentors: Gary Grosart, Lisa Hill, and Phil Jackson. Thank you to the many other adults who will be sharing their skills and their faith with the youth, including: Tracy Djerf, Loretta Sherman, Chuck Talley, Drew and Lynn Nahigyan, and the Deacons. Please keep all of our youth and children in your prayers; they are delightful treasures among us!

Faith Formation Classes

Sunday School for children 6th grade and under is held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. The 1st Sunday is a Communion Service so children will meet in the Media Room at 10:00 am and will join the service during the choir anthem. On the 3rd Sunday, the children will start in the sanctuary at 10:00 am and then be dismissed during the choir anthem. After the service the children can be picked up in the Media Room.

The Faith Formation Committee will send out a Sunday School text reminder and roll call on the first and third Wednesday of the month. To be added to the text group please contact either of the FF Co-Chairs, Tara at 508-264-4304 or Tracy at 508-264-7806. Our hope is to serve the children we have and reach more families with consistent communication and predictable schedule.

Also, for the youth, 7th grade and up we now have Second Sunday Shenanigans – a fun and entertaining evening from 6-8pm where youth can gather with their friends. Please contact Faith Formation Committee member Loretta Sherman at 508-414-7994 to get on the group text.



MORE CIRCLES? IDEAS WELCOME!

We've had a lot of positive feedback on the fall's Gather Round Circles series. Some of you have asked for more!

If you have a suggestion for a Circle topic, please e-mail the church office, or one of the Gather Round Team: Tracy Djerf, Karen Gray, Phil Jackson, Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken, or Tara Rajaniemi. If you'd like to be part of organizing our next Circles series, please let the Gather Round Team know! (And, if you've participated in a Circle, and haven't yet filled out a survey, please do so ASAP! - Surveys available in the church office)

FOR ALL PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES

There are children's activity packets in the basket by the door leading into the sanctuary along with weekly worship bulletins available on the table in the narthex. The nursery down the hall is always available for restless children as well. There is a fold-out baby changing station mounted to the wall in the downstairs bathroom in Reynard Hall.

MATTAPOISETT WOMAN'S CLUB OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS

Mattapoisett Woman's Club is pleased to offer three \$2,500.00 scholarship awards to Mattapoisett residents who are high school seniors, graduating June 2020. In addition there will be a \$1,000.00 scholarship granted to a Mattapoisett resident who is reentering the academic world after graduation and is in pursuit of advanced education. In offering these scholarships, the club supports educational leadership and helps to support the community whom has partnered with the club in its fundraising efforts.

Applications will be available in the high school guidance offices. Deadline for returning the completed application is March 31, 2020. Participating high schools: Old Rochester Regional High School, Bishop Stang High School, Old Colony Vocational Tech High School, Tabor Academy, Bristol County Agricultural High School. Questions? Contact the Mattapoisett Woman's Club at P.O. Box 1444, Mattapoisett, MA 02739.



MISSIONS

**“Remember our immigrant neighbors—
a salute”**

by Susan Czernicka, New Bedford Driver Network

I stand tonight to salute our neighbors.
All of you courageous people who have made it here
against insuperable odds.

You've left family.....mothers, fathers, children, spouses
Some crying “go, go save yourself”
others pleading “don't leave me”.

You left knowing you might never see them again.
You have suffered incredible hardship.
Hunger, thirst, cold (and now the inhospitable New England
winter).

You have ridden in rickety old buses and cars,
and walked and walked and walked til you could walk no
more.
You walked carrying crying children.....and to what?
Unknown....even to possible death.
And all you had was hope, trust, determination, and a be-
lief in God.

You suffered at best hostility and rejection,
at worst beatings, rape, physical abuse of all sorts
and wrenching separations at the border.

Some of you had all your personal possessions (those pre-
cious links to home)
taken away from you,
even medications essential to life.

You endured being locked in detention centers, herded like
cattle
and all in the hope of freedom.

You are survivors.
We, your helpers, are humbled in the face of your courage.
What we do is nothing compared to your sacrifice.

Nevertheless,

Estamos con tigo.

*Remember Joseph, Mary and Jesus were “ illegal”
immigrants in Egypt.

A Christmas Gift

Once again this year we are blessed with a Christmas
miracle for Mercy Meals and More. The same anony-
mous donor, not a church member, who donated \$250
for MMM last year has donated —but this year she has
doubled her gift to \$500!

Additionally our own Martha Anne Edminster has again
this year held her jewelry sale at Autumn Glenn to ben-
efit MMM. She raised \$400 and she made the residents
happy at the chance to buy some of her lovely jewelry,
just in time for Christmas.

Truly the gift of the Christ child is inspiring others at this
holy time of year.

To Grosart family and Mattapoissett Church

*Happy New Year! Hope your holiday season was a joyous and hap-
py one. On behalf of the staff and myself, I want to thank you for
supporting the Season of Hope campaign this holiday season. Your
kindness and generosity helped make the holidays happier for our
families and children.*

*The families involved at the P.A.C.E Family Center are determined
to make their lives and their children’s lives better. Through par-
enting education, parent and child literacy activities, and home
visits, our families are developing strategies to overcome obstacles,
gain financial independence, and build a strong literacy foundation
for their children’s future. Your generosity has made a difference
in their lives.*

*Thank you again for your overwhelming generosity and support.
From all of the staff and families at the Family Center, we want to
wish you a very happy and healthy year.*

With gratitude,

*Raquel Bourguignon
PACE Family Center Coordinator*

PHOTOS



FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10 am Worship 11 am Annual Mtg 3-5 pm Confirmation Class,	3 "	4 7 pm Deacons	5 1 pm Crafters Group	6 5:30 pm Missions	7	8
9 10 am Worship/ Ora et Labora 6-8 pm Confirmation class #3	10	11 5 pm Trustees	12 1 pm Crafters Group	13	14 4:30 pm Open Table	15 Mercy Meals and More
16 10 am Worship No confirmation class	17 School vacation week	18	19 1 pm Crafters Group 6 pm Exec Council	20 12:00 Matt Womens Club	21 7 pm New Member Gathering at the Van Inwegen home	22
23 10 am Worship 6-8 pm Confirmation class #4	24	25 5:30-7 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner	26 1 pm Crafters Group 5 pm WomenSpirit	27	28	29

REGULARLY SCHEDULED FUNCTIONS/ MEETINGS IN THE CHURCH BUILDING

<u>Catelli Dance School</u> Monday 2:30-6:45 Tuesday 3-6:30 Wednesday 3-8	<u>BS & CS Troop 53</u> Tuesday 7 pm <u>Pack 53</u> First 3 Thursdays of month 6 pm <u>Girl Scouts</u> Wed 5:30 pm	<u>Mattapoisett</u> <u>Woman's Club:</u> Third Thursday at noon	<u>AA:</u> Thurs, 9:30 am <u>ACA:</u> Mon. 6:00 pm Sat 10:00 am <u>AA Workbook:</u> Thurs 7 pm	<u>WomenSpirit</u> Last Wednesday of the month @ 5 pm
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