

MATTAPOISETT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

THE TIDEINGS

MARCH 2020

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Matt Congo has been busy with lots of activities these last few months. We've had Ora et Labora and the Socks of Love project (see page 7), Annual Meeting and Shrove Tuesday (see page 8 & 10) AND the start of a new Confirmation class (see page 9)!

March is now upon us and Spring is right around the corner along with the Lenten season (see page 4 for the schedule of events). Be sure to check out the calendar so you don't miss anything!



Pastor's Page

You may have noticed a familiar furry face around the church lately.

Irving, my fluffy yellow cat, has been coming to church. He often comes with me in the morning, and occasionally in the evening. At the most recent Confirmation class, he sat on the back of the couch and enjoyed a lot of love from Rylie.

When the Harken family moved to Mattapoisett in 2011, we landed at the parsonage, which at that time was on Barstow Street, next to the church parking lot. In nice weather, our three cats hung out in the gravel lot, receiving pets and coos from teachers and COA visitors. Irving often trotted to the church, lurked by a door, and snuck in when the opportunity presented itself. He loved coming to church, whether I was there or not. He attended meetings of committees, recovery groups, and Girl Scouts. Of course, he also liked to hang out in the church office, or in my office.

In January 2016, we moved to the new parsonage on Abby Lane. The cats discovered they liked country living. It was difficult to get Irving into the car. He hated the 7-minute commute, and wasn't happy being at the church. The thrill was gone; he wanted to be in the big new house surrounded by trees.

This year we lost our other two cats. Olive, the calico, contracted a tumor in her belly, and we had her euthanized in July. (Many thanks to Dr. Phil Gaudet for his incredible compassion.) In November, we lost Edgar, our huge fluffy gray cat. We don't know the cause: one minute he was clamoring for his breakfast, per usual, a few moments later, he had passed away.

Edgar and Irving weren't litter mates, but came to us as a pair from a woman who rescues cats as her life's work. They were maybe a couple months old, and grew up together, as much as any feline ever "grows up."

After we lost Olive, Edgar and Irving were more vigilant about keeping tabs on each other. Sometimes they snuggled, but mostly just wanted to be in proximity. When Edgar died so suddenly and mysteriously, Irving wasn't sure what had become of his brother. He sniffed at Edgar's usual napping spots, sat on the deck waiting for Edgar to appear, and wandered the house calling out. We gave Irving treats, bought him special food, and generally coddled him in ways we had avoided in the past. Still, Irving roamed the house calling piteously. I thought maybe Irving needed something to take his mind off Edgar's absence. I brought him to church.

This time, Irving didn't resist the car ride. He didn't struggle when I carried him in the Mechanic Street door. When I set him on the floor in Reynard Hall, he trotted across it like he'd never left. Since then, Irving has loved coming to

church. Those who come and go tell him how handsome he is. He flops onto his back so people can rub his belly. He attends recovery group meetings, where he flirts shamelessly with everybody. He tries to help Bryan with projects from time to time, but seems to understand that Bryan is slightly allergic. So, when he's not napping in his basket on my desk or welcoming visitors, he hangs out with Tina, who plies him with treats.

At the parsonage, Irving is back to his old self. Every morning, he stands by the back kitchen door, eagerly meowing to "go see Tina." He jumps into the car at every opportunity, and doesn't understand when we don't go to church. Irving wants to go to church every day because it is so pleasant for him: He knows he's safe, that people love him, and will show him love in ways he likes (treats and belly rubs).

I like to think church can do this for all of us. In our toughest moments, when our world has turned upside down, can church be a place where we aren't just welcomed, but where we are fussed over? I hope so. And, not just fussed over, but treated like the special people we are. Where people go out of their way to remind us of our best qualities. A place where we can get back to our best selves, and, with loving support, to be the creatures God intended when God created us.

This Lent, let's commit ourselves to live by the Golden Rule, and treat every other human being in exactly the way we would want to be treated. If there's someone we haven't seen in a while, let's reach out. If someone is going through a tough time, let's make every effort to understand. Christ created his church to be a place of love, and support. It's up to each one of us to make that happen.

Please read this issue of the Tide-ings cover-to-cover. Exiting things are coming up for Lent to enrich your life, and increase the love within our community.

Peace for the journey,



Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken.

and Irving



CONGREGATION NEWS & NOTES



Memorials Scholarships for 2020

This year, the Memorials & Celebrations Committee has again decided to offer scholarships *exclusively to high school students graduating in June 2020 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 ASAP.** Details on the application process and, most importantly, deadlines for submission will be provided.

Members of the Memorials & Celebrations committee are Lenore Everett, Lee Heald and Cindy Johnson. You may call the office 508-758-2671 or email mattcongchurch@gmail.com for further information.

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 a post secondary degree. Please go to the website, www.mattapoisettwomensclub.org for further information and/or to obtain the application for this scholarship.

Final deadline for all applications is 3/30/20.

WomenSpirit: Come Grow with Us!

All women of the church and their friends are invited to a time of joy, fellowship, and growth in faith. We welcomed some new folks at our January gathering, and welcomed back a few people we haven't seen in while. Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken led us in a discussion of "Symptoms of a Spiritual Awakening". In February, Amy Nahigyan led us to consider "Special Places".

WomenSpirit is an intergenerational group, meeting the last Wednesday of every month, 5 – 6 p.m., in the Living Room in the basement. Our next few meetings are:

March 25, led by Rev. Amy on the topic of "Resilience."
 April 29, led by Ellie Blackburn and Lynne Nahigyan on the topic of "God's companionship and guidance throughout our lives."

If you'd like to know more about this casual, supportive group, or to join the e-mail chain, contact Amy Nahigyan at anahigyan@hotmail.com.

DINNER FOR TWO BOOKS

Dinner for Two books are still available in the church office for only \$29.95! These coupons offer over \$1500.00 in free dinners to restaurants like Riccardi's in Fairhaven and Dartmouth and the Boat House in Tiverton, plays at the Newport Playhouse, cruises with Hy-Line Cruises, as well as the New Bedford Whaling Museum, Edaville Railroad and the RI Philharmonic, just to name a few! These coupons are valid until the end of the year but the coupon books will only be available until April 1 so get yours NOW! Please see Tina in the church office Tuesday-Friday from 8:30 am-1:00 pm or see Lisa Hill on Sunday during coffee hour following worship.

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Mattapoisett Congregational Church

Will be making available for your purchase, **DINNER FOR TWO DINING BOOKS** Proceeds of this fundraiser will benefit The Mattapoisett Congregational Church

To purchase **Dinner For Two™ Dining Books** Please Call **Tina** at **508-758-2671** or email: mattcongchurch@gmail.com

Valid thru Dec. 30, 2020
www.dinnerfortwobook.com

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 JANE'S DINER
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 COLD STONE CREAMERY
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 CASA VALLETTA
 BARCELLO'S BAKERY & CAFE
 PLOUGH FARMER & SUNSET
 KAMAIA LUNA
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RICCARDI'S
 SEAPORT INN GRILL
 BOAT HOUSE
 EDVILLE THEATRE FRANK
 GATEWAY TAVERN
 LEFAGE'S GRILLE
 COVE SEAS & TAVERN
 LOBSTER POT
 SAIL LOFT
 CASA CANTON
 SAGAMORE INN
 TA RESTAURANT
 FREDSON'S
 LOLEY'S CAFE
 CAPE COD RAILROAD
 BUTTERNWOOD PARK ZOO
 BEN & JERRY'S
 SAM DIEGO'S
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 NARROWS CROSSING
 NEWPORT CREAMERY
 TAVERN ON THE WHARF
 IHOP
 WHALING CITY DINER
 BEN & JERRY'S
 LUCIA RESTORANTE
 DARTMOUTH'S OVEN
 CIO'S CREATIVE RESTAURANT
 COZY RESTORANT
 DANNY'S SEASFOOD
 LOCALS
 KAROL & CLARY
 MYSTIC CAFE
 EL PHARMACIUM
 NEWPORT PLAYHOUSE
 LA GONDOLA PROVIDENCE

CONGREGATION NEWS & NOTES

Sunday Evening Vespers for Lent "Love Overcomes Fear"

Need a spiritual boost before you start your week? A way to disconnect from the frenzied, fearful world, and a time and place to re-connect with your best self? An experience of unconditional love?

During Lent, Mattapoisett Congregational Church is offering a Sunday evening Vespers service, from 5 – 5:30 in the Sanctuary. Beginning on March 1. This simple, nourishing service is called "Love Overcomes Fear." Its focus is connecting with God in the company of fellow travelers. Following a spiritual reading, we'll enjoy 10 minutes of quiet meditation, followed by a time of blessing. No hymns, no sermon. Just sacred companionship to counter this frenzied and fear-filled world.

We'll gather every Sunday in March around the following themes: Love, Peace, Healing, Miracle, and Hope. Everybody is welcome. Please invite a friend or neighbor, or pass along this information to someone who is hungering for spiritual connection.

For more information contact Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken, Sue Grosart, Phoebe Girard, or Nancy Perry.

Lenten Movie Series

Faith Formation is planning a Monday evening movie series for Lent. Beginning on March 2, we will meet every Monday evening during the month of March from 6:30 - 8:30(ish), in the Media Room for dinner and a movie. Each week will be a different themed potluck dinner. Sign up sheets for potluck will be available in Reynard Hall during coffee hour. All are welcome!

Please see page 6 for more details!



HOLIDAY FAIR PLANNING COMMITTEE

Would you like to be involved in the 2020 Matt Congo Holiday Fair? If so, please plan to attend the first meeting on Tuesday, March 31 at 2:00 pm in the upstairs conference room. We welcome new ideas and suggestions!



EASTER AND HOLY WEEK



Among the most special times of the entire church year is Holy Week, which commemorates the last week of Jesus' earthly life. Holy Week starts on Palm Sunday, April 5, and culminates on Easter Sunday, April 12. In between, we honor Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples on Maundy Thursday, and the crucifixion on Good Friday.

With music, Word, story, and scripture, we will observe each of these special occasions. Please invite a friend to join you.

April 5 ~ Palm Sunday

10 a.m., in the Sanctuary. Wave your palm fronds high! Recalling Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and the suffering that awaits him. Music by David Dunn and the Matt Congo Choir.

April 6 ~ Lenten Movie Night

6:30-8:30 pm in the Media Room.

Movie: "Jesus Christ Superstar" with pizza.

April 9 ~ Maundy Thursday

Evening service in Reynard Hall. Communion and candle lighting. Music by the Matt Congo Choir.

April 10 ~ Good Friday

12-3 p.m. Sanctuary. Sanctuary open for quiet meditation.

7:00 pm "Seven Last Words of Christ" candlelight service.

Scripture and reflections by members of the congregation.

April 12 ~ Easter Sunday

7 a.m. at the Gazebo in Shipyard Park. A Sunrise Service with coffee!

10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Christ is risen indeed! Traditional family-friendly service. Music by the Matt Congo Choir, Bob Williamson and Patrice Tiedeman.

CONGREGATION NEWS & NOTES

New website coming soon!

As you may or may not have heard, we are in the process of building a new website which will enable us to connect more easily with our current members as well as potential new members and everyone who has internet access. The new website will be easier to navigate with additional features of being able to view video recordings of Rev. Amy's sermons as well as a Members Only section where members can access the online directory. In the process, we would also like to update our home page screen but need your help! Watch your emails and upcoming Tideings for a date this spring when we are going to ask EVERYONE to come to church looking their best for a new picture on the front steps! We really need 100% participation so we can show the world the love and strength we have as a congregation at the Mattapoissett Congregational Church!



New Committee Member Lists for 2020 are now available for pick up in the church office Tuesday-Friday from 8:30 am-1:00 pm!

The wonderful power of Facebook!

I posted on my Facebook page the need for winter coats for Dr. Ashley Weber. I was contacted by a gracious lady from Cranston Rhode Island, asking if we would take hats. I replied "yes". We received them the first week of February and they are beautiful.



Lisa Hill

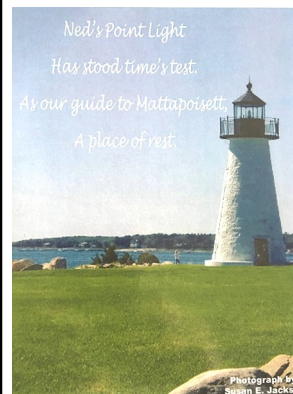
***Please note**, the need for winter coats, hats and gloves is ongoing. If you have winter clothing you no longer need or want, please consider donating them! There are bins available in Reynard Hall.

God's Beacon of Light at Matt Congo

Would you like the steeple to be lit in remembrance for, in celebration of, or in honor of a loved one or blessed event? If so, make a donation in any amount to the Mattapoissett Congregational Church. On the check's memo line, please mark "God's Beacon of Light." Forms are available at the church office. We will publish a list of monthly donors in the Monthly Tideings.



Can you believe the last Matt Congo Cookbook was 17 years ago?? That means it's time for a new one!



Start looking for your favorite recipes now that you would like to contribute. These can be for your favorite things you like to bake in the oven, in the crockpot or even a favorite Instant Pot recipe! We will also include past favorites from the prior cookbook! All written recipes can be dropped off at the church office or you can email them to Lisa Hill at hill4747@comcast.net. The deadline to submit recipes is August 31. Stay tuned for pricing and sale dates for the NEW Matt Congo Church cookbook COMING SOON!!

From Missions

On Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29 your missions committee will be supporting this important cause by providing lunch on site for the Habitat For Humanity workers. If interested in helping please contact either Lynne Nahigyan at nahigyan@comcast.net or Dennis Desrosiers at dennisanew@aol.com to see how you can help.



FAITH FORMATION

Game Nights

On the second Friday of each month in 2020, a group has gathered after Open Table for Game Night. In January, the Keenes, Talleys, and Berrys battled it out in cut-throat tournaments of Uno and Squarrels. Everyone had a few good Uno hands, but In Squarrels, Chuck blew away the competition by hoarding away the most acorns before winter arrived. In February, long-time cribbage players Claire Keene and Tara Rajaniemi indoctrinated new players Chuck Talley and Don Bjerre. Meanwhile, Lauren Keene, Elliott Talley, Henry Berry and Tommy Berry banged the table, beat their chests, and slapped each other's hands in an effort to be the first to get rid of their cards in Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza.

Everyone is invited to come for next month's games (Friday March 13, 6:00 pm in Reynard Hall). Join us . . . if you haven't played cribbage in ages and you're ready to brush up your skills . . . if there's another Uno player you'd like to play all your Draw -Two and Skip cards on . . . if you're curious to see what Squarrels and Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza are all about . . . if you think you might be the next champion at Chicapig or superstar at Sorry . . . if you have a new game or an old favorite to share!

Sunday School

Sunday school classes continue to meet during the service on the first and third Sundays each month. The groups range from 3 to 7 kids, ages 5 to 13. Our rotating crew of teachers and helpers has included Tracy Djerf, Phoebe Girard, Tara Rajaniemi, Loretta Sherman, Jen Shepley, and Chuck Talley. In a typical Sunday school class, the kids share their joys and concerns and pray for each other and their loved ones. They read and talk about the same Bible verses that the congregation is hearing up-stairs. They visit the library that was set up by Ora et Labora volunteers (across the hall from the media room) or work on craft projects related to their Bible lessons.

Faith Formation maintains a group text to keep families informed about Sunday school plans and to help us plan for attendance with an informal "roll call" each week. If you would like to be added to the group, please contact Tara Rajaniemi.

Lenten Movie & Discussion Series: Faith for the Journey

A journey may mean packing our bags and setting off on an excursion to another part of the world, or it may mean settling in and navigating the challenges life sets out for us right where we are. Either way, life's journeys call on our faith to get us through, and shape our faith along the way. In this six-week series we'll watch movies about life-changing trips and challenges, share our own significant moments as travelers, and enjoy meals together. Everyone is welcome at every gathering.

We will meet Monday evenings, 6:30 - 8:30(ish), in the Media Room. Each week includes a themed potluck dinner. Sign up sheets for potluck will be available in Reynard Hall during coffee hour beginning February 23.

March 2: Movie "The Way"

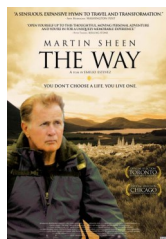
March 9: Movie Discussion Circle on "The Way"

March 16: Sharing of Travel Photos

March 23: Movie "Breakthrough"

March 30: Movie Discussion Circle on "Breakthrough"

April 6: Movie "Jesus Christ Superstar"



More details on movies, discussions, and meals will be provided in your weekly bulletin.



MISSIONS

Ora et Labora—Socks of Love

It all came together on Sunday February 9th to create these bins chock full of Valentine Socks of Love for distribution at Mercy Meals and More and the CEDC (Community Economic Development Center). The congregation with the help of the new O&L team had a great time stuffing the pairs of socks with toiletries and necessities along with a cheery valentine wish from the church.

Thanks to all who donated and helped! Spreading a bit of joy during these bleak February days....



Ora et Labora was also Scout Sunday and we had the honor of having members of the Boy Scouts and the Cub Scouts here to take part in the worship service (Ora) as well as the cleanup (Labora). The scouts were a tremendous help and we made a lot of progress on the basement clean-up. Closets were cleaned and reorganized. All of the baby toys were donated and delivered to Gifts to Give.



ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, February 2nd, we gathered after worship for MCC's Annual Meeting. A wonderful luncheon was served by our Hospitality team. Karen Gray, our Vice Council Chair, gave a moving tribute to all the Committee Chairs and volunteers (past and present) who bring our church community and experiences to life. There was a robust review and discussion of our church's budget, physical plant, committee structure and plans for Faith Formation. It was an excellent meeting and further reminder that we are united as a Congregation to build our community and to serve God. Copies of the 2019 Annual Report are available in the church office.



New Faces



Many Graces



Thank you to Barbara and Richard Van Inwegen, who were hosts to a gathering of both new and familiar faces. In all, 16 people came to the gathering Feb. 22. Following a time of snacks, we shared stories and asked questions about the church.

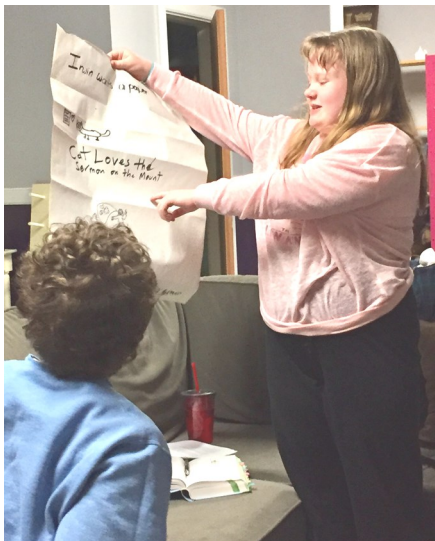
CONFIRMATION CLASS PHOTOS

Confirmation Class Underway!

Confirmation 2020 got off to a great start in January, with three youth and mentors commissioned: Tommy Berry with Mentor Gary Grosart; Rylie Coughlin, with Mentor Lisa Hill; and Elliott Talley with Mentor Phil Jackson.

We've spruced up the Triads room to create a cozy space to share our thoughts and curiosities about God, Jesus, the Bible, and anything that's on our minds. Check out the new large dry-erase white boards!

Please keep these awesome youth in your prayers as they continue to learn, question, do mission work, go on retreat, and grow in faith!



SHROVE TUESDAY PHOTOS

Another successful Shrove Tuesday, "pancake supper"! We had a good turnout and raised \$126 for Habitat to benefit the new Mattapoissett build! Thank you to everyone who helped and everyone who came to eat!



PHOTOS



Scout Sunday
February 9, 2020

Mattapoisett Cub Scout Pack 53 is excited to announce it's annual **53**

PINEWOOD DERBY

Cub Scout Division

Saturday March 28th -
Onsite registration begins at 9:30 am at the Mattapoisett Congregational Church.
Racing begins at 10:00am

If you are a Derby Enthusiast and want to compete for bragging rights, please join us!!

Details of the competition and rules are on the Pack our Facebook Page (search for Mattapoisett Pack 53). You will need to create your own car from a block of wood - kits (regulation block of wood and wheels) are available for \$5 from the Pack - contact us at Pack53cubscout@gmail.com for more info and we hope to see you race day!!!

Enthusiast Division




Another full house for February Open Table! Thank you to everyone who helps make this happen every month!



Despite, the cold February rain, there was a good turnout for the February meeting of the Mattapoisett Womens Club. Luana Josvold from the League of Womens Voters was the speaker for the luncheon.

MARCH 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 am choir rehearsal 10 am Worship 5 pm Vesper's service	2 Office closed 6:30 pm "The Way" movie (Media Room) & dinner	3	4 1 pm Crafters Group 7 pm Deacons	5 5:30 pm Missions	6 3 pm Babysitting Class in RH	7
8 Daylight Savings begins 9 am choir rehearsal 10 am Worship 11 am Celebration Ken Stickney 5 pm Vesper's service 6-8 pm Confirmation	9 Office closed 8:30 Worship team 6:30 pm Discussion Re: "The Way" movie (Media Room) & dinner	10 5 pm Trustees	11 8 am staff meeting 1 pm Crafters Group	12	13 4:30 pm Open Table	14 Super Saturday
15 9 am choir rehearsal 10 am Worship 5 pm Vesper's service	16 Office closed 6:30 pm Travel photos (Media Room) & dinner	17	18 1 pm Crafters Group 6 pm Executive Committee	19 12:00 Matt Womens Club	20 Confirmation Retreat	21 Mercy Meals and More Confirmation Retreat
22 9 am choir rehearsal 10 am Worship 11:15 Leader huddle 5 pm Vesper's service 6-8 pm Confirmation class	23 Office closed School vacation week 6:30 pm "Breakthrough" movie (Media Room) & dinner	24	25 1 pm Crafters Group 5 pm WomenSpirit	26	27	28 Scouts Pinewood Derby 8-2 pm
29 9 am choir rehearsal 10 am Worship 5 pm Vesper's service	30 Office closed 6:30 pm Discussion Re: "Breakthrough" movie (Media Room) & dinner	31 2 pm Holiday Fair Planning Committee				

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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