



THE HARBOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

-Connect - Grow - Serve - Reach Out-

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From the Desk of the Pastor

Dear Church Family and Friends of Harbor UMC,

In Romans, 14:1 Paul says to the church at Rome, *"Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters."* What Paul is saying here is that, we should reach out across cultures and ethnicities and make disciples. We are not simply ambassadors of those people in our own cultures and vicinities, who think or see things the same way we see them. However, we are to be like a mother hen, which takes care of all its chicks. Jesus' use of the mother hen image in Matthew 23:37 is a wonderful reminder of God's love for all of us. In today's America, the world is at our doorsteps. The Great Commission asks that we preach to people and accept them ~ as they are ~ when they come to our churches. It directs us to connect cross-culturally with those who live across the street. Paul is teaching us here that a diverse congregation benefits from the insights, gifts, and perspectives each person from a racial group or background offers.

In one of the books in my library, I read a fable about the biblical Abraham. It says, one day Abraham was sitting by his tent door when he saw coming along the way a very old man, a nomadic from an Arabic tribe. Abraham invited the old man to a meal. At the meal, he asked the old man about his religion, and the old man said that he was a fire-worshipper. At this, Abraham grew angry that the man could be such a fool and an infidel and thrust him out of his camp. Then God called to Abraham, and said, "Where is the old man that came to you?" "I thrust him out," replied Abraham, "because he did not rightly worship you." God said, "I have put up with his foolishness for almost a century. Why could you not put up with him one night?" Thus, Abraham learned that love and hospitality even toward those who do not have what he thought himself to be correct beliefs was mandatory.

When you read Romans 14 and 15, you will discover that Paul was dealing with divisions in the church, on such issues as eating meat that was offered to idols, diets, and days of worship and who to include and exclude from the church. The battle was between those Paul called the "weak and strong believers." The ones Paul calls "weak believers" would eat only vegetables, because the meat they could buy in the marketplace was generally leftovers from offerings to pagan idols. The ones that Paul calls "strong believers" said that they could eat anything because idols were not real and meat was just meat. Again, the weak believers kept special holy days whereas the strong believers said keeping special days does not save you, only faith in Jesus can save you. However, both sides in this church argument agreed on one thing ~ to judge and despise each other.

Our United Methodist in some ways is not different from the folks whom Paul is communicating with. We have created confusion on subjects such as relationships, sexuality, justice and marriage. We have forgotten the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:1; *"Do not judge, or you too will be judged."* The major point that Paul is highlighting in Romans 14: 1 is that in any religious

disagreement we should not put down or despise those who believe differently from us or who disagree with us ~~~ even when we know that we are right. Thus, Paul says, “We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak,” (Romans15:1). Paul recognizes in these chapters the unpleasant truth that believers do not agree about many aspects of the faith. So, what do we do about our disagreements? We accept each other and bear with each other. However, I have noticed that many people (including myself) are unwilling to take Paul’s advice. It has always amazed me that people in the church will fight over the least little thing. All of the events of Easter compel us to acknowledge that none of us is a worthy recipient of God’s love. However, despite all of our failures and shortcomings, God loves us still. He is like a mother hen who longs to draw us all close to her side. How hurtful is it when those who were forgiven much, refuse to allow others to come under the wings of mother hen for safety. A baby chick should be close to its mother. That is where we all belong. My brothers and sisters, it is now time to throw open all the doors of the church and let the fresh air of the spirit blow through.

Love in Him,
Pastor Abi



Announcements

1. The District Superintendent Rev. We Chung is inviting Pastor Abi and all our leaders to attend a one-day vision training event that provides the perfect opportunity to discover what it means to be the Church in new and creative ways. The **Healing Ministry Seminar titled “Fresh Expressions” is scheduled for Saturday, May 5th from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm** at the Crawford UMC, 34 Dix Street, Winchester. We will hear from Fresh Expressions practitioners and learn how to renew existing congregations through “fresh expressions” of church, and discern what this could mean for your region, community, or neighborhood. There will be an active discussion as well as opportunity to build networks and relationships among those in your area. Cost (includes lunch): \$15/person and \$10/person for group of 3 or more registering together. Let Pastor Abi know if you’re going so that we can carpool. Will you please let Pastor know that you are onboard for this? Please do also assume responsibility to make everyone at church aware... Mark your calendars!
2. **United Methodist Conferences Petition Denomination to Change Laws**
The decision to change church Law, which forbids the ordination of LGBT ministers and bars its pastors from officiating at same-sex weddings is gaining momentum among U.S. Methodist bodies. Many Annual Conferences including our own Conference have approved resolutions to change the law in regarding gays and lesbians. Let us all pray for our church as we take a big step to throw open all the doors of the church and let the fresh air of the spirit blow through. Many of the changes that were proposed will be, presented for discussion at the General Conference, the denomination’s highest legislative body.
3. **Annual United States Post Office Food Drive on May 12th**
Each of the churches in Scituate is preparing 1,000 bags/each for mail carriers to deliver to all the homes in town. Our work will begin next week: Come to a “stuffing party” at the church at 10am Tuesday and 2pm Wednesday. See Alice.
4. **Women’s Bible Study:** We’ll meet again on Tuesday, April 17th. For more information, contact Chris Longman at (clong350@yahoo.com) or (text or call) 517-404-6816.



5. **Scituate Food Pantry:** is open!



Food Pantry hours: TUESDAY: 10am-12:45pm for clients (9am-1pm for donations)
 THURSDAY: 3:30-5:30pm for clients (3:30-6pm for donations)

The immediate needs are: **Spaghetti Sauce** **Flavored Rice,**
Coffee – Ground & Instant – Regular & Decaf **64 oz. Juice**
Jello **Pudding Box mixes** **Ketchup, Mayo**

Any and all sizes of donated items are needed; larger sizes are appreciated by larger families.

Isaiah 58:10-12 Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.

6. **A Celebration of Life Service** will be conducted here at HUMC next **Saturday, April the 21st at 10:30 am for Martha Rotchford**, long-time and faithful member of our church. Her obituary tells of her love for and involvement with Harbor United Methodist Church for 65 years.



BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY

	April 6 Galina Smith	May 3 Christy Bruccoleri
	12 Pam Pretzer	6 Ben Pretzer
	13 Madeline Ryan	8 Bobby Sincoski
	14 Michael O'Keefe	8 Hope Crowell
	15 Hannah Ellis	9 Amber Rinehart
	18 Corina Ellis	12 Lisa Moura
	30 Marissa Pintarelli	13 Joanne McNally

Please let me know your birthday. We'd love to celebrate YOUR day!

Well, we knew it was only a matter of time...

The aged furnace that powered Bruce Hall blew up last Friday so there's no heat in our fellowship hall. Since winter is hanging on and Bruce Hall is used by many groups, we need to replace the furnace ASAP. Anderson Fuel has estimated that a new furnace will cost \$6800. We've already received donations totaling \$1000 so we're on the road to warmth! Whatever you can donate is gratefully appreciated ~ the sooner, the better!!!





PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE



Please lift the following in prayer, that they may be strengthened, guided, and healed.

If there are other prayer concerns that you wish to have on the Prayer Chain,
please contact Alice Hamer at 781-545-4112 or

Kerry Renzi at 508-513-7193 or kerryrenzi@yahoo.com or Mary Voelger at 781-545-9000 or at
zackzipp@aol.com Updated information is appreciated.

*"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests
With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." (Ephesians 6:18)*

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving: For the pleasure of having Bishop Emmanuel Bawa speak to us on Sunday morning with slides of some of the children who are being helped through our Christmas donations to Zimbabwe. * That John S. had good news from the biopsy ... negative! Thank you Lord! * That Ann's friend, Peg McDonald, is home following successful lung cancer surgery (not needing chemo or radiation). Thanks be to you, Lord!

Prayers for those fighting cancer: For James Grande, our daughter-in-law's Dad, just diagnosed with several types of cancer ... prayers for strength and comfort. Cindy McCall
For Gary Thompson ... colon cancer ... struggling with reactions to chemotherapy. Ellen Hayes
For Barbara Crowley who is in treatment for lymphoma
For Lila Sparrell who will soon begin her 2nd course of treatment for bone cancer.
For Joanne M. for strength in dealing with lung cancer and finding a new treatment that may work.
Prayers please for Brian who is in the midst of 8 months of daily chemotherapy and weekly injections.
Dan, fighting prostate cancer Dianne ... friend of Jan Hawver Paul Finnigan ... prostate cancer
Parker Sullivan, a young boy fighting leukemia, who is responding well to treatment in his fight against leukemia
George Neat ... prostate cancer in remission ~ now having lung issues
Janet, friend of Dot Harris, has a fast-moving type of brain cancer ~ prayers for her and her Family.

Prayers of the People: Prayers of healing for Harvey after his surgery. * Healing for John, from Peggy.
* Prayers For the Grande Family as they grieve the loss of Christopher ~ son, brother, Dad and uncle on Good Friday. * Prayers for Charlotte's grandson Declan who is ill. * Prayers for Elizabeth Flaherty who is suffering from vertigo. * Prayers of healing for John from Peggy. * Prayers for Ann's friend, Fred Buckley who's at SSH with a "broken lumbar area (3 vertebrae), compression fractures" (not cancer, as was originally diagnosed), Praise the Lord! He's in pain but the healing has begun!

Please continue to keep the following in your prayers for healing and strength as they continue to recover at home or in a facility: Coni Wessman, Skye McCall, Grace Longman, Joey Renzi, Carolyn Harbour, Wendy Murphy, Sue Hands, Louis who's still very weak (Ann's friend, Linda Nusum).

For all in nursing care: Peggy's sister Claire, Lucy Morris, Evelyn Murphy, and all others. Please bless them with comfort and peace. Grant that their caregivers are kind, compassionate, and very well trained.

WORSHIP
SERVING
LEARNING
GIVING
PRAY