



THE HARBOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

-Connect - Grow - Serve - Reach Out-

55 First Parish Road Scituate, MA 02066

Church Email: harborscituatumc@gmail.com

Church website: www.humcscituate.org

Office: (781)-545-0818/ Pastor Cell: (978) 332-6817

The pastor's private email: revdrmoyo@yahoo.com

December 5 ~ 12, 2018

From the Desk of the Pastor

Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

(Joshua 1:9)

Dear Family Church and Friends,

This Sunday, December 9th we LIGHT the second candle in Advent ~ The Candle of Preparation and Love. When Advent was first celebrated, the idea was to prepare people for the second coming of Jesus. The candle of preparation is an important candle to light in our lives. It reminds us of the need for love and being ready for the coming of the Lord at any time. The candle calls us to love and be ready to accept and welcome Jesus as our Lord and Savior. It also reminds us of the dual role Christmas has for people of faith. It prepares us to again celebrate the birth of the Christ and to look forward to his second coming. As we celebrate Christmas, may we not forget we are observing an event that had already happened. However, the season of Advent does not only focus on what happened on Christmas. It also reminds us that we are to be alert for an event that has not yet happened, and that event is the second coming of our Lord.

The candle we light this Sunday reminds us that the season of preparation for the coming of Jesus began last week when we lit the first Advent candle. The goal of celebrating Advent is to show us the twofold aspect of our Advent celebrations. We not only remember his coming to us as a baby at Bethlehem, but we also look to Christ's second coming at the end of time. The New Testament (Luke 21:25-31) helps us understand that we live between, "seeking the daily advent of Christ in our lives, while also under the command to live with the end in mind."

The question then is ~ How do we prepare for Christmas in a world where Christmas has become all about filling our homes with bright lights, groceries, new clothes, gifts for each other and Christmas trees? Listen, I am not saying all these things are bad. What I am saying is that we are forgetting the reason for Christmas. What should we do then? In Luke 3:11-14 the Bible says: "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise. Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." The Bible is saying here that preparation for Advent involves giving to those in need, as well as preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ. In other words, true Christmas is living with the end in sight. True Christmas means feeding the hungry by filling the food pantry. It means clothing the homeless. Not exploiting others. It means being satisfied with what you have. Is there a more counter-cultural statement than all that I have mentioned here at this most-shopped season of the year? Giving and living. Happy Advent to you all! See you in church this Sunday!

Love in Him,

Pastor Abi

Called to Serve ~ not to be Served (Matthew 20:28)



Announcements

1. **Women's Bible Study** continues every other Wednesday at 6:00 pm. The next meeting is on December 12th, and we will continue through spring. Each week is a stand-alone study, so please join us when you are able ~ and bring a friend! Call or text Chris Longman at 517-404-6816. *"I look forward to learning and growing in faith with each of you!"*
2. As is our tradition here at Harbor UMC ... on Christmas Eve we'll be supporting three free-will offering opportunities: **Scituate Food Pantry, Zimbabwe Children's Mission, and Ministerial Support Offering.** You may select one, two or all three of these three mission outreach projects of our church that you'd specifically like your donation to be directed toward. More information to follow.
3. **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: **Small Canned Hams Large Bottles of Fruit Juice**
Healthy School Snacks / Granola Bars Juice Boxes Coffee (all kinds)

Any and all sizes of donated items are needed; larger sizes are appreciated by larger families.
Matthew 25:35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...



- Dec 4** Inga Freya Voelger
 9 Micaela Lovering
 14 Stan Culy
 16 Nancy Sincoski
 16 Joan Nahigian
 16 Alex McKinley

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



Christmas Poinsettias and Decorations

Each Christmas season it is our tradition to decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias. Mike Hamer will purchase the poinsettias with monetary donations. You can remember and/or honor loved ones by sharing in this beautiful seasonal tribute. There is a sign-up sheet in Bruce Hall or you may submit this form. Make check payable to: "Harbor United Methodist Church" and write "Christmas Flowers" in the memo line. Sign-up by Thursday, December 20th and put this form into offering plate or mail to: HUMC, 55 First Parish Road, Scituate, MA 02066. You may also drop off this form to Lisa Ryan's, 400 First Parish Road, Scituate.

Donation given by: _____

In memory (deceased) of: _____

In honor (living) of: _____

Monetary donation of \$_____ towards the purchase of Christmas Flowers for the Sanctuary.



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 safe return of our favorite organist and his favorite lady. We missed you, Dan and Carol! * For the beginning of another Advent Season here at HUMC. For the beautiful decorations in the sanctuary (thanks Mike and his elves). Praise for the children at worship. The more the merrier! God is Good, All the Time!

Prayers for those fighting cancer: For Vickie Weston, fighting cancer ... prayers for comfort, healing and strength. * For Dr. Anne-Marie Fields, Nancy and Anthony’s niece who is fighting cancer ... prayers for healing and strength. * For Charlie (he works with Peggy’s son) who has testicular cancer ... prayers for strength, comfort and healing. * For Laura who has received her fourth round of chemo ... prayers for comfort, strength, and healing. * For Rev. Pamela Barz, minister of the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, had surgery to remove cancer ~ prayers for healing and strength. * For John Reilly ... please keep John in your prayers for comfort, strength, and healing. * For David A. Wheelwright ... continued healing. * For Barbara Crowley who is in treatment for lymphoma ~ continued prayers for healing and strength. * For Gary Thompson ... fighting colon cancer that has spread to his liver ... continued prayers for healing and comfort. * For Cindy McCall. * For Ellen Hayes. * For Joanne M. for strength in dealing with lung cancer and finding a new treatment that may work. * Prayers please for Brian who will need chemotherapy for the rest of his life ... it will be periodically interrupted with steroid treatments, which make Brian cranky ... prayers for patience all around. * Parker Sullivan, a young boy who is responding well to treatment in his fight against leukemia. * For Paul Finnigan ... prostate cancer. * George Neat ... prostate cancer in remission ~ now having lung issues

Prayers of the People: For Fran (Mary’s SIL) who’s in ICU since Sunday (first sepsis and then a heart attack). Prayers for healing for Fran and Mary’s brother. * For Pam Lynam, wife of John and mother of Hannah ... scheduled for open heart surgery on the 18th in Maine. Prayers for successful surgery with complete recovery. * For Cathy Gunther and family, as her mom died last Friday. * Comfort for the families of Kate Shurtz and her fiancé, Joe, both of whom were killed in an auto accident on the way to their wedding. * For 8-week old Austin who’s been diagnosed with epilepsy following seizures ~ please pray for his parents and grandparents (Ann’s cousin Marcy and Warren). * For Mike S. whose knees are used a lot in his work. He needs surgery but can’t afford the time off. Prayers for comfort and healing. * For the families of those still missing in the California fires. * For all those stuck in addictive behaviors (especially Jack), that Jesus’ healing power will help them find their way out. * For Barbara who’s in the hospital. Wisdom for the doctors in knowing how to treat her. Prayers for her husband Harvey, for strength and courage in dealing with the love of his life being ill. Wisdom to know how to “be there” for her. * For all who have been left homeless and worse by the raging fires in California. * For those who put themselves in danger trying to control the spread of the fire. * For Bob Richards’ Mom, that God’s love reigns supreme in their relationship. * For Charlie’s son. * For Richard and Pam who were in a car accident and their daughter, Kim. * For our Gracie who is having a rough go right now. * Prayers for Murray for healing and salvation. * Prayers for Mel. * Prayers for Gerard Sheehan, please. * For the peace of Jerusalem.

Please continue to keep the following in your prayers for healing and strength as they continue to recover at home or in a facility: Dan Spahn, Ruthee Burris, Declan, Charlotte’s grandson, Grace Longman, Joey Renzi, Wendy Murphy, and Sue Hands.



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