



THE HARBOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

-Connect - Grow - Serve - Reach Out-

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February 14 ~21, 2018

From the Desk of the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every year Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. This year Ash Wednesday, surprisingly coincides with Valentine's Day. As we give those red roses to our loved ones, what are we going to give to the lover of our souls, who loved and gave his life for us? Is it by chance that Ash Wednesday coincided with Valentine's Day? Are we going to show Christ our love by focusing on him this Lent or ignore him? We can show our love for him through prayer, fasting, living simply, and moving closer to him. To give you the opportunity to show your love to your savior, we will be gathering every Wednesday at 6:30pm for a time of moving testimonies from some of our church members. On Sunday mornings at 10:30am, we will gather for worship and remind each other on the importance of a Lenten discipline of fasting, praying, and giving both money and ourselves.

We must not also not forget that Lent is a time to repent, to turn to God, or return to God, to refocus oneself on God and our relationship with others in the church and at home. There are many ways to do this, my brothers and sisters. We can do it by praying and forgiving those who have hurt us or said things about us that were untrue. On the other hand, we can do that by simply picking a Lenten discipline for ourselves. Lenten disciplines involve fasting from something or adding something to your life that has meaning, giving of yourself and / or your money for service, to help others meet Christ. Lenten disciplines also involve prayer and worship, reading the Bible intentionally. Lenten disciplines are about helping us to repent and return to God.

This year at Harbor UMC, when I return from my pilgrimage in Israel on Thursday, March 1st, I will offer some ways for you to experience God in a different way. I will use some of the things I will bring back from Israel and use them in my sermons, as well as sharing them with you. I will bring back with me ~ Water from the River Jordan, Olive leaves from the garden of Gethsemane, Oil from Jerusalem, and many other things of both ecclesiastical and secular interest from the land of the Bible. May we not forget that Lent is a time of refocusing ourselves on God? In addition to the Lenten season of worshipping with others, I also challenge each one of you to find time to be with God on your own. Some ideas for a Lenten discipline at home are: "Fast from unkind words, add a letter writing time, fast from meanness, add forgiveness. Do not always be critical of others. Start an intentional prayer time. Write a letter to someone you have not seen in church for a while. Tell them you are sorry if you are the reason why they are not attending church services. Pray for immigrants. Pray intentionally for those who hurt you or cause you pain. In everything always look for the positive. Give money to your church or to someone who needs it. Cultivate a life of gratitude."



I hope you will join us for the Wednesday evening services at 6.30pm and Sundays worship services at 10.30am, as we build together a communal fellowship of discipleship that can help us grow together in love and grace for each other and our God.

Sheillah and I are excited to spend our time for the next few days following the footsteps of Jesus Christ in Israel. We thank the Bishop who invited us to join him and the conference team on this journey. May I also take this time to thank some of you who have helped us with some money to use on this trip? We never expected it, but for the love of Christ, you came through for us, when we did not even expect it. God bless you for your support and love to us. Harbor, you are truly the best. We will forever be grateful, for all of you. We hope to see you in church this Sunday as this will be the last Sunday with you before leaving for our pilgrimage to Israel.

In his love,
Pastor Abi



Announcements

-  **March 17 and April 7, 2018:** The Metro Boston Hope District will host its 2018 Lay Servant Academy in March and April (8:30am – 4:30pm) at the Holbrook UMC, 60 Plymouth St., Holbrook. Registrants must participate in BOTH full days in order to graduate. The Basic Lay Servant course is foundational for all courses in lay servant ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders. Cost is \$20; lunch is \$7 or you may bring your own. For more info and to register: <https://www.neumc.org/newsdetail/mbh-lay-servant-academy-march-and-april-2018-10107516>
- May 5, 2018:** All church leaders in our district are invited to a district seminar / training called “Fresh Expressions Vision Day.” Location TBA. ALL Leaders: please mark your calendar for this training.
- October 6, 2018:** The Bishops District Day with pastors and all church leaders in our churches. Location TBA. Please ~ all leaders mark your calendars!
- 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:
Proteins: Canned Ham, Canned Hash, Canned Chicken, Canned Salmon, Beef Stew
Ketchup, Mayo 64 oz. Juice Pancake Mix and Syrup
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.
- Women’s Bible Study:** We’ll meet again next Tuesday, February 20th. For more information, contact Chris Longman at (clong350@yahoo.com) or (text or call) 517-404-6816.
- The **Scituate Historical Society’s Annual Turkey Dinner** here on Saturday, February 10th was a sold-out event! The presentation by Bob Gallagher (who lives at the Lighthouse with his family) of “The Blizzard of 1978” was excellent with many personal remembrances by locals. THANK YOU to Rose and Dave Lockwood, Judy Ward, Sue Lovering, and EVERYONE ELSE who assisted!

Hi HUMC Missions Committee members and friends,

I have started to prepare for an upcoming mission trip to bring relief, hope and the love of Christ to the impoverished residents of sugarcane villages around La Romana, DR. Because we share a concern for mission, I feel led to write to you about this great big passion of mine.

Mobile medical clinics, construction, clean drinking water initiatives, and educational support are amongst the current mission goals.

However, in the past, the goal was to build a medical clinic / hospital for the poorest Haitians in and near the city of La Romana. When I first became involved 1995 and 1996, I chaperoned my son Nick, as well as Ian and Noreen White and other Scituate teens who did construction work. The hospital opened in 1997 and now serves 60,000 + patients each year. They are seen regardless of ability to pay. It is a hospital with a great reputation!!! Everything has been paid for with private donations ~ both large and small.

For the upcoming mission, I am beginning to pack donations of clothing, soap, toothpaste, over the counter pain relief and vitamins, etc. for hygiene kits that will be distributed in medical clinics along with prescribed meds. This morning I came across these photos taken during one of the mobile medical clinics last year...



The boy in the photo has been on my mind since my last trip. He is wearing a torn shirt and sandals. That is all. Because he does not have school clothes, he is not allowed to get an education. He is one of the reasons that I have put underwear high on my list for donations this time. More importantly, khaki pants, blue shirt and black shoes are required for school. They cost about \$35. I will likely not see this boy again. I wish that I could see him once more. I would like to go back and hand him underwear and school clothes. If I could do that, I would tell him "Dios te bendigo" (God bless you) and about the message of Jeremiah 29:11

In this photo, there is a batey (Haitian term for sugarcane village) water hole. This is where the entire village comes to fill containers. There is no electricity or running water in these homes. Home construction is not exactly up to "code" either!



The whole purpose of these villages is to have the resources to manually harvest sugarcane. Haitians are sometimes "trafficked" across the border for this work. The expectation of manually cutting cane, two tons of it per day by hand, is daunting. (Mechanized cutting destroys the quality of the product.) Working seven days a week for under \$5 per day never is enough to support a family. Prices in the village store are rigged to leave you in debt. Neither will it buy documentation of citizenship. It simply leaves you spent at some point in life.



In this photo you will see Jenn Mulkern and a little Haitian boy who trustingly came to greet her as our mobile clinic bus pulled into his village. After growing up in Scituate and going on mission as a teen, Jenn studied to become a registered nurse. She works as a cardiac ICU nurse at Tufts in Boston. Now in her twenties, she takes a week of vacation and returns on mission. These days her credentials are those of a medical professional with a great big Christian heart. I am delighted to be planning to travel with her again.

Thanks to each of you for your mission mindedness. Special thanks to Anthony and Nick for their loving support!

In faith,
Nancy Antonello



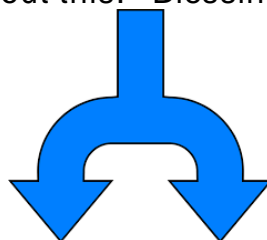
Feb. 15 Valerie Sweeney
17 Kelly O'Keefe
Olivia Moura
18 Judy Ward
Mary Ellen Ross

20 Peggy Wheelwright
Sue Hands
27 Lyman Preston
29 Francina Campbell

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

Dear Prayer Warriors: You will see that I have removed several items from the prayer list. We are trying to get back to the Prayer Chain being for things of an urgent nature....those fighting cancer are certainly in need of continual prayers. This does not mean that we should not always be praying for our Church, president, pastor and family and friends. I pray that I have not offended anyone. This is not my intent.

Please let me know how you feel about this. Blessings, Mary





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: That the doctors have settled on a treatment for Coni Wessman and she is beginning to heal. * That the Historical Dinner was a huge success and gave HUMC an income to do even more outreach. * That Barbara Crowley was able to be with us in worship service last Sunday. God is Good ... All the Time!

Prayers for those fighting cancer: For Barbara Crowley who is in treatment for lymphoma
For Lila Sparrell who will begin radiation treatment for bone cancer in early March Cindy McCall
For Joanne M. for strength in dealing with lung cancer and finding a new treatment that may work.
Janet, friend of Dot Harris, has a fast-moving type of brain cancer ~ prayers for her and her Family.
Paul Finnigan ... prostate cancer Ellen Hayes Dianne ... friend of Jan Hawver Dan ... prostate
Brian ... will need 8 months of daily chemotherapy treatments and injections once weekly, keep on praying!
Gary Stohler ... pancreatic cancer George Neat ... prayers for good results after radiation
Parker Sullivan, young boy fighting leukemia, responding well to treatment, prayers for continued success
Amanda ... ovarian cancer and recovering from surgery related to the cancer.

Prayers of the People: For John S. while he awaits results of thyroid and prostate testing. Also prayers for travel for him and his family. * “Thank you everyone for your prayers. Louis has definitely turned the corner in a good way. He’s still in CCU but they lowered his concentrated oxygen to 55% (down from 100%). He’s a little more talkative but still gets winded ... we’re taking this one day at a time.” Ann’s friend, Linda Nusum. * Prayers for Brandon Isberg who was badly injured in an automobile accident ... Prayers for his complete healing and strength. * Prayers for the Family and Friends of Martha Rotchford on her passing. * For Ruthie who is in the hospital being kept comfortable ... prayers for her family and friends, and that she will hear the Good News. * For Georgina and her Family. * Prayers for Coni Wessman ... that her recovery after surgery will now be uneventful since the doctors started her on a new medication ... Please, Lord, no more complications.

Please continue to keep the following in your prayers for healing and strength as they continue to recover at home or in a facility: Skye McCall, Grace Longman, Joey Renzi, Carolyn Harbour, Wendy Murphy, Hope Crowell, Sue Hands, and Artie Sharpe who’s home after a 3-day stay and IV antibiotics at SSH for a badly-infected knee.

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

