



THE HARBOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

-Connect - Grow - Serve - Reach Out-

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September 5 ~ 12, 2018

From the Desk of the Pastor

Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing.

Instead, let us encourage one another all the more...

(Hebrews 10: 25)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope I find you well. Harbor UMC is a remarkable congregation because of the faithful dedication of our people to their God. 2018 has been an extraordinary year of tremendous financial challenges to our faith community. However, month after month we experienced the favor and grace of God as we witnessed him coming through for us financially, month after month. What we have been able to accomplish together as a congregation is remarkable. It is a testament to the power of God and the faith of our people. I marvel at how we have been able to sustain our church financially in the midst of uncertain numbers. We have so much to celebrate as a church community. However, each one of us needs to establish giving patterns that reflect our commitment to the ministry and discipleship.

I simply want to share with you where we are in the journey and to communicate openly, honestly, and transparently. Our biggest challenge right now is in our attendance. We need to be faithful in this area if we are to help our church and make it strong again. The other area is stewardship. Summer is normally a more difficult time in attendance and finances for the church. Most people are away on extended vacations. Hence, we experience sporadic attendance patterns. My prayer is that we will begin to turn the corner in September and finish strong in December with generous year-end contributions. Remember that stewardship is not about you meeting the needs of the church or institution. It is about our need to be faithful, generous followers of Jesus Christ in all that we do, all that we have, and all that we are. Ours is not simply a financial challenge. However, it is a very real opportunity to reexamine our priorities and align them with our faith and values as individuals and as a church. With every challenge, comes an opportunity to learn the better lessons of who we are and what we are called to do. Someone much wiser than me said it better when he said, *"If it's not hard, it's probably not worth doing."* Often the work of the church is hard work. However, God knows it is worth it ~ which means it is worthy of our best efforts. You are remarkable. I look forward to what God has in store for all of us in the coming years. I am honored to serve with you.

See you in Church!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abi'.

Pastor Abi

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



Announcements

1. The Boston Metro Hope District is having a District Resource Day: **Creative and Generous Stewardship: Peer Learning Workshop on Saturday, September 15th** from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm at First United Methodist Church in Melrose. We will be hearing from four different congregations whose stewardship ministry has been creative and generous. There is no fee for this program, and lunch is provided (free will donation). Please speak with Pastor Abi to register.
2. **SPRC Meeting September 11th at the church at 6.00 pm.**
3. **Church Conference on October 10th at 7:00 pm.** The District Superintendent Rev. We Chung will begin by visiting the pastor and his family at the parsonage at 5:00pm. He will then meet with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee at 6:00pm at the church. The Church Conference meeting begins at 7:00pm. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.
ALL committee chairpersons should begin now writing their reports for the Conference. Please give them to Pastor Abi by Sunday, September 30th.

4. **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.

Did you know that you could help stock the Pantry shelves of some much-needed items for just \$10.00 at Shaw's?

**10 for 10: Signature Apple Juice ~ Signature Creamed Chicken & Mushroom Soups ~
Chef Boyardee ~ Bumble Bee Solid White Tuna
OR**

Life Cereal \$1.99 ~ Cheerios \$1.88 (must buy 5) ~ Signature Grape Jelly \$2.00 ~ Classico Pasta Sauces \$2.00 ~ Kellogg's Cereals 3/\$5.00. If you would please remember just one item and purchase \$10.00 of that product, we could get a great start on restocking from vacation! Thank you!

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...

5. **Bottles and Cans** are still being collected and redeemed in the bin in Bruce Hall. We'll be staffing the Scituate transfer station's redemption area for the month of October. See Judy for details.



Sept 10	Alex Shannon	20	Julie O'Keefe
	Marcia McClanahan	21	James Crowell
11	Lucy Morris	22	David Sincoski
12	Andrew Ford	23	Melinda Cerny
	Elizabeth Rotchford-Long	24	Reid Fulton
19	John Ryan	28	Laura O'Keefe
			Lisa Ryan

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

From the Missions Corner:

Thank you, Church Family, for your Missions-minded hearts.

Bishop Bawa to visit HUMC on September 23

Our committee is so happy to share with you that Bishop Emmanuel Bawa of Zimbabwe is expected here on Sunday, September 23. Please plan to see pictures and hear an updated message from the Bishop about what is happening currently with this key mission of our church. You are welcome to invite a friend to join us! The scope of this program focuses on running a school for impoverished children whose parents are farm laborers in a very poor area of Zimbabwe. Can you begin to imagine living with your family on \$60 a month? These circumstances do not allow for luxuries. Education is not an equal opportunity. Neither is a nutritious diet available. Fortunately, many of you have taken this to heart and committed to supporting the special offerings that we take for this purpose. Some peripheral mission initiatives include a school lunch program and digging wells for clean drinking water. **“Water Is Life”**

Thank you very much for your support of the committee’s **“Let’s Do Lunch” (and breakfast, supper and snacks) program for Scituate Food Pantry.**

Today is the first day of school so let’s keep filling our grocery carts with healthy staples to bring to church for those in need. You may also make a monetary donation so long as it is placed in an envelope with the designation Scituate Food Pantry. Thanks to Alice for keeping us updated about this.

BTW: your own garden abundance is welcome and appreciated!

~ Nancy for the HUMC Mission Team



Please join the Mission team as we read and discuss the book **REFUSE TO DO NOTHING** by Shayne Moore and Kimberly McOwen Yim. It is a study on finding our power to abolish modern day slavery. Day and time to be announced, look for more info to sign up.
~ Dianne Thompson and the Mission Team.

Looking ahead to fall:

- ~ Operation Christmas Child Shoebox campaign kicks off in mid-October in case you want to be looking for gifts
- ~ Francina’s Mission is collecting summer flip flops and sandals, should you see markdown deals

As well, **Francina’s Mission** and **Maura’s Hopeful Mission** are ongoing...

The next opportunity to travel to Boston with Maura will be on **Thursday, September 20**. Consider joining them for a few hours as the team brings love and relief to the homeless. Lisa can answer your questions. Francina has become a regular participant, and Pastor Abi went last month. It’s a beautiful way to serve the Lord and his people.

In Faith, Nancy and Team: Alice, Carol, Chris, Dianne, Francina, Grace, Pastor Abi



Sunday School will be starting up again on Sunday, September 9th

Look forward to a great year of learning about God and the Bible.

Sunday School students will join us in the sanctuary at 10:30.

After the “Little Message” with the Pastor, the students will head off to class in Bruce Hall with Susan Lovering and another adult.



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 approach of Lucy Morris' **100th Birthday!** Thank you, Alice, for the reminder and the opportunity to sign the card for this milestone occasion. Her address is: Queen Anne Nursing Home, 50 Recreation Park Drive, Hingham, MA 02043 * For the small but significant bits of improvement in Mike Davies' condition. Prayers are working! Thanks to all our warriors. * For Sam Russell's returning home! Prayers answered! God is Good All the Time!

Prayers for those fighting cancer: For John Reilly just diagnosed with prostate cancer ... comfort, strength and healing. For James Grande who has esophageal cancer ... prayers for strength and comfort. For Cindy McCall For Ellen Hayes For Barbara Crowley who is in treatment for lymphoma For Gary Thompson ... fighting colon cancer ... no longer in treatment, his choice ... prayers for healing and comfort. For Lila Sparrell who has bone cancer ~ prayers for strength, comfort and healing. 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 For Paul Finnigan ... prostate cancer Parker Sullivan, a young boy who is responding well to treatment in his fight against leukemia George Neat ... prostate cancer in remission ~ now having lung issues

Prayers of the People: Continued prayers for Harvey as he now fights C. diff bacteria while in the hospital. * Prayers for Ruthee Burris for strength and healing after a difficult surgery. * Prayers for Gerard Sheehan, please. * Prayers for Linda L. who suffered a heart attack and is now at South Shore Hospital. * Prayers for Ann's friend Anne Russell whose grandson, Sam was at Vanderbilt's Children's Hospital with bronchiolitis (coughing, congested, and his oxygen levels were very low) for 6 days last week. * Prayers for Ann's CA cousin Tommy who's having a cardiac ablation procedure for atrial fibrillation (AFib) on the 10th. * Please keep Liz Watson in your thoughts and prayers... * Please pray for God to be with Travis Benware and his children Hailey 10 and Braeden 7. Guide them in the right direction. * Continued prayers for Mike Davies as he has had some little improvements in the past week. We are still prayerful and know all things are possible with God. * For the peace of Jerusalem. * Prayers for Charlotte's grandson Declan who is ill. * For all the children who "enjoyed" their first day back at school today.

Please continue to keep the following in your prayers for healing and strength as they continue to recover at home or in a facility: Alice Hamer, Shirley Lynam, Grace Longman, Joey Renzi, Ann's friend Peg McDonald, Wendy Murphy, Stan Briggs, and Sue Hands.

For all in nursing care: 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.

