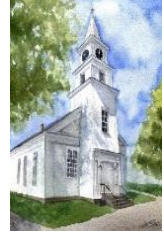




Church on the Cape Newsletter



July 2026

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

PREPARING FOR THE UNEXPECTED

When my father was dying, he asked my mother and me to go to the cemetery and choose a plot where his ashes could be buried. Mom and I went and found a place that she and I liked, and I asked her if I could have the plot next to them. She agreed so we bought two plots. I did that not because I expected to need it any time soon, but because I was concerned that if something unexpected happened to me, that was one thing I didn't want Diana to have to worry about. I wanted to be prepared. I also sat down and wrote out my funeral service and sent it to my District Superintendent with the instructions that she would be in charge of my funeral if the need arose.

The good news is that I have not yet had to use either of those things! It is my fervent hope that I won't need to for quite some time! However, the hardest things to cope with are the most unexpected things in life and making plans and preparations are the greatest gifts we can ever give to those whom we love most.

Many years ago, while our children were young, Diana and I worked with a lawyer in our church to draw up a will and make plans for the care of our children if the need arose. We also filled out advanced directives to make clear what kind of medical care we would want if we could not advocate for ourselves.

Recent experiences have reminded me how important it is for all of us to make these kinds of decisions and preparations. We often think that these things are most important for those of us who are growing older, and that is not wrong, but it is even more important to care for these needs when we are younger because that is when the people around us most need to know what we want.

As your pastor, I am always willing to have these conversations with you. I have had people share with me their advance directives. I have also had many people who have shared their wishes for what they would like their funeral or memorial services to include. When people do this, I make careful notes and file them so that I have them if and when they are needed. I have been careful to leave these notes for my successors when I have left my former churches so that they too will know the thoughts and wishes that people have shared.

I encourage all of you to give this careful thought and consideration. Try to make plans and make them known. Putting it off can place a burden on your loved ones and force them to make difficult decisions without guidance. If I can help, please let me know and, again, I am glad to make time to talk to you, to hear what you want and then to advocate for you if the need arises.

God bless all of you,

Pastor Greg

TUESDAY STUDY GROUP

Marilyn Crocker attended Annual Conference as our Lay Member this year. She came home with two books by Ashely Boggan who is currently the General Secretary of our General Commission on Archives and History. Dr. Boggan was also a speaker at Annual Conference and Marilyn, and I found her to be engaging and insightful! I would like to invite our Tuesday study group to read and discuss Dr. Boggan's book "Wesleyan Vitality: Reclaiming the heart of Methodist identity." This is a wonderful book for life-long Methodists and those new to Methodism to reflect on John Wesley's teaching and legacy while considering how it can inform our own spirituality and practice of faith.

The Tuesday group would meet after picnic lunch. Lunch is scheduled for 11:30-12:30 so I would like to schedule the study group for 12:45-1:45. That gives us a full hour for a lively lunchtime conversation with a 15-minute break before we start our book study. Please pre-register with the church office so we can order the books! The books will cost approximately \$17 each.

THE UPPER ROOM GROUP

This will be a new offering at Church on the Cape. The group will meet on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. for one hour. Each participant will be asked to read the daily devotions from the Upper Room. Our conversation will be guided by the questions for each week in the last pages of the Upper Room. This group will combine in person participants at the Church with ZOOM participants. This means people can join the group even if they do not live nearby.

We are now in the "interest assessment" phase. If you would like to join this group, please pre-register with the Church office.

We expect to begin this group in mid-July if there is enough interest.



Graceanne Barbour

June 23, 2026

With sadness and prayers, we share the news with you that Graceanne Barbour passed away on Tuesday, June 23. We ask you to keep her family members in your prayers. When details of the service arrangements are available, we will share those with you.

Mary Parker

June 30, 2026

With sadness and prayers, we share the news with you that Mary Parker died this afternoon. We ask you to keep Desmond in your prayers as well as Mary's other family members.

Mary Parker Memorial Service

Mary Parker's Memorial Service

will be held on

Wednesday, July 8th, at 2:00 pm,

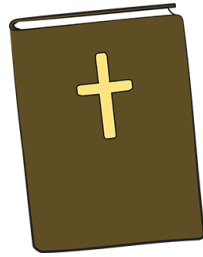
at Church on the Cape.

3 Langsford Road, Cape Porpoise.

Please call the office with any questions.

207-967-5787

BIBLE READINGS



JULY 05 | 6th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

- Gen 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
- Ps 45:10-17 or Ps 72 (UMH 795)
- Rom 7:15-25a
- Matt 11:16-19, 25-30

JULY 12 | 7th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

- Gen 25:19-34
- Ps 119:105-112 or Ps 25 (UMH 756)
- Rom 8:1-11
- Matt 13:1-9, 18-23

JULY 19 | 8th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

- Gen 28:10-19a
- Ps 139:1-2, 23-24 (UMH 854)
- Rom 8:12-25
- Matt 13:24-30, 36-43

JULY 26 | 9th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

- Gen 29:15-28

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION SUNDAY

On May 31st, the children of our church were honored and showcased. If you were unable to be in church that Sunday, we invite you to take a few minutes and watch the service online. It will bring a smile to your face.

The service began with all eight children processing down the center aisle and placing candles on the altar. Zadio read a beautiful passage on The Creation. Remy, Zadio, and Leizander received their Bibles, the children sang three delightful songs, and Isabella lead the congregation in the Lord's Prayer.

The children gathered for story time and presented Pastor Greg with another book for his growing collection.

Sixteen Sunday School volunteers were also recognized and thanked for their service to the Sunday School program. The morning ended with cake and ice cream, and a lot of happy and joy-filled people. Sunday School is



now over until September, but Pastor Greg will still have a book ready to read every Sunday of the summer, except for Communion Sunday. A deep and heartfelt thank you to each one of

you that embrace the children each week and make them feel part of the church community. God bless you all.

Article by Carol Nason







many teachers are effective and help our church children begin their faith journeys.

I admire Pastor Greg's storytelling and appreciate that Carol Nason shares with the newsletter each month, the activities of the Sunday School program with photos.

Should you have articles you want to share for the newsletter, please send them to the church office or directly to me at sailchess@gmail.com.



IN EVERY SEASON, TURN TO GOD



Are you enjoying a happy time? *Praise God.*

Is life becoming difficult? *Seek God.*

Are you experiencing a quiet moment? *Worship God.*

Are you suffering great pain? *Trust God.*

Are you unsure what to do? *Ask God.*

Are you overwhelmed with joy? *Thank God.*

Source: Newsletternewlsetter



It is wonderful that our church family with children is growing. The good efforts of Pastor Greg, and

A REPAIR FOR BROKENNESS



Our lives are marked by brokenness, including broken relationships, broken promises, and broken expectations. Left unattended, these fractures can quietly shape us, hardening into bitterness or resentment.

How do we live with such brokenness without losing heart? We return, again and again, to God's faithful presence. In Him, we find not only comfort but restoration. God does not ignore what is

broken. He meets us in it, gently mending what we place in His

hands and reshaping what feels beyond repair.

Scripture reminds us, "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3, NIV). What we cannot fix on our own, God is able to restore in His time and in His way.

Henri Nouwen, a Dutch Catholic priest, professor and spiritual writer, often spoke of this sacred return, the daily turning back to God where healing begins and hope is renewed. In His presence, our brokenness is not wasted. It becomes the very place where grace takes root and new life begins.

Source: Newsletternewsletter

UPCOMING CONCERT SAT AUG 15 AT 2PM

The Joan Kennedy Trio
folk - pop - country

by the McClelland Music
Foundation

Church on the Cape A United Methodist Church

We of The Church on the Cape represent various religious and cultural backgrounds and lifestyles. We are young, old, middle-aged, single, married, widowed, divorced, parents, grandparents, and members of extended families.

Above all, we are people who take risks, make mistakes, confess, repent, and try again.

At the center of our community is Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection are the reasons we are together. The life and hope in this community have more to do with Christ's faithfulness to us than ours to Christ.

Whether you are searching for a faith community or just passing through, we want you to feel at home. Whoever you are, whatever your history, your scars, your gifts; You are among people like yourself.

Join us from wherever you call home. If you like what you see here, we post our virtual Hymn Sing and Sunday Worship Service on our website, www.churchonthecape.org.

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