



Church on the Cape Newsletter



May 2025



On this wonderful Mother's Day, we lift up all mothers in our prayers to God. May the Holy Spirit grant them joy and peace.

Source: Newsletternewsletter

From the Pastor's Desk

Resurrection is complicated. The stories in scripture make that clear. It is so novel and so unusual that they don't even really know how to talk about it. The people involved clearly struggle to understand it and know how to respond.

Resurrection is so surprising to the disciples that they often don't recognize Jesus' presence in their midst, they don't trust the witness of others, and they don't know how to respond. Luke tells us the story of the Emmaus Road, where Jesus walks for miles, conversing with two disciples, and they don't realize it is him. John tells us about Mary, who sees Jesus in the garden and thinks he is the gardener. Later Thomas struggles to believe what his friends tell him. When Jesus visits them on the lakeshore, they, again, take time to recognize him even though this is not the first time he has appeared to them.

John gives us the most extensive account of the resurrection interactions and shows us that the disciples, at first, seem to think they should return to their former way of living. Luke tells us that the disciples stay together in a group but need an additional push from the Holy Spirit to realize the full impact of the resurrection.

The heart of the problem is not simply understanding what has happened with and to Jesus but what that does to us. Resurrection is more than just seeing Jesus alive again; it is about how that changes our world and our lives. Our scriptures show us that it is neither easy nor automatic that resurrection will make a difference. It takes time, openness, willingness, faithfulness, and patience!

First, the power of resurrection took time. Jesus had to visit the disciples more than once. It wasn't enough for them to see an empty

tomb or have one visit from Jesus. There are multiple stories of how Jesus worked to make resurrection real for them, and John's Gospel tells us that there were many more stories that just didn't make it into the printed version!

The disciples and the world around them had to be open to the possibility and the reality. Not everyone was. Thomas is an example of someone who initially was closed to the possibility but then found his heart and mind opened. In our lives and in our world, it can be just as difficult to be spiritually open to receive the gift of resurrection.

Then we must be willing! Openness alone does not bring us fully into resurrection reality. We must be willing to learn, grow, and work at faith and nurturing the spirituality that makes resurrection come alive within us.

Finally, it requires faithfulness and patience. Just as Jesus had to keep trying with the disciples, so they had to keep trying to learn how to respond. They had to commit themselves to learning and growing and remaining faithful to Jesus as they discovered how his resurrection could change them and how they could make it real to those around them.

So, it is for us as we, once again, celebrate Easter. We are intended to be resurrection people who, to quote an Avery and Marsh song from the 1970's, "Make Every Sunday Easter Sunday!" Or more to the point, make everyday resurrection day! Yes, Jesus rose from the dead, and we are called to live that reality to keep him alive in our hearts, in our lives, and in our world!

Rev. Greg Smith



*May
Lectionary
Readings*



MAY 04 | 3rd Sunday of Easter; Native American Ministries Sunday (White or Gold)

- Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)
- Ps 30 (UMH 762)
- Rev 5:11-14
- John 21:1-9

MAY 11 | 4th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day; Festival of the Christian Home (White or Gold)

- Acts 9:36-4
- Ps 23 (UMH 754)
- Rev 7:9-17
- John 10:22-30

MAY 18 | 5th Sunday of Easter; Heritage Sunday (White or Gold)

- Acts 11:1-18
- Ps 148 (UMH 861)
- Rev 21:1-16
- John 13:31-35

MAY 25 | 6th Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)

- Acts 16:9-15
- Ps 67 (UMH 791)
- Rev 21:10,22-22:5
- John 14:23-29

MAY 29 | Ascension Day (White or Gold)

- Acts 1:1-11
- Ps 47 (UMH 781)
- Eph 1:15-23
- Luke 24:44-53

**FROM THE CARGO SHOP
SUBSTITUTE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Cargo Shop needs substitutes. If you are interested, please reach out to Susan Hathorne at 207-985-5665 or skhathorne@aol.com

TO OUR ONLINE VIEWERS:

Our live-stream video quality is occasionally affected without warning by technical issues or slow internet speed. If that happens, a smooth recording from our backup hard drive will be uploaded to YouTube by 2:00 pm the same day.

To play, go to the church website, www.churchonthecape.org, and click on the green Video Archives button.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

If you would like to be a volunteer in a Sunday School program for our children, please contact Rev. Smith.

Sunday School begins on May 5.

OFFICE HOURS

The office hours at the church are:

Monday-Thursday from 9 am Until 5 Pm.

Messages left on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday will not be retrieved until Monday morning. If you need to reach Pastor Greg, please email him at revgregsmithumc@gmail.com.

**Save The Dates
Save Your Stuff**



Church Summer Fair **Saturday, July 26**

Burgers & Dogs – Cargo Shop Sale –
Indoors & Out – Lawn Items: Bikes,
Tools, Furniture – Bake Sale – Baby
Knits

Marge Smith & Susie Goodwin, Leaders

THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE

To greet the day with reverence for the opportunities it contains ... to hold ever before me, even in the doing of little things, the Ultimate Purpose toward which I am working; to meet men and women with laughter on my lips and love in my heart; to be gentle, kind and courteous through all the hours; to approach the night with the joy that comes from work well done, this is how I desire to spend wisely my days.

Source: Newsletternewsletter

Minister to Those Needing Your Love

Ministry of Caring comprises church members who serve those in our parish who are homebound, hospitalized, or in extended care facilities. Our goal is to share the love of Christ through the acceptance and support of the individual.

This group meets once a month at the church. We review the names of our fellow parishioners who meet the above criteria and design plans to assist them. For example, our members may deliver meals, make *phone* calls to say hello or send cards with notes of encouragement.

Our spiritually guided mission seeks to lessen the feeling of isolation to those who are aging and may be experiencing loneliness.

New members would be more than welcome to join us in supporting our mission.

*Please contact the church office
at 967-5787 or
office@churchonthecape.org*

Article by Majorie Nickerson-Smith

The Easter Egg Hunt Was a Popular and Fun Event



Our Evangelism subcommittee organized and deployed an Easter Egg hunt after the Easter Sunday Service. God provided nice weather, and outreach efforts resulted in twelve happy children's participation. A big thank you to Diane Hutchins (AKA Joy the Bunny) and her handler Margaret Myatt. Our church congregants were generous with candy donations and even some eggs stuffed with money.

We had three or four local families who were first-time visitors. It is super exciting to raise community awareness and participation at COTC.

Article by Kathleen Berger

(The newsletter apologizes for not sharing the many delightful photos of the children having fun, but children identification and time constraints made it impossible to adhere to the newsletter's policy not to print children's pictures without parental approval.)

CONTINUING BIBLE STUDY

We have completed the two-part study of the Old and New Testament with Disciple Fast Track and found an enlightening trip through the Bible with historical undertones and lessons for our lives in today's world. The bi-monthly gathering also gave us fellowship, prayer, and conversation. We are ready to continue to a new text.

Please join us on Tuesdays at 12:30, beginning on May 13, to explore Max Lucado's book "GOD NEVER GIVES UP ON YOU."

He presents what Jacob's story teaches us about grace, mercy, and God's relentless love. The book has 12 short but wonderful chapters and includes challenging questions for discussion in each chapter. Each chapter has an intriguing title, such as The Tilted Halo Society, Ladders from Heaven, and Face to Face with Yourself. Max Lucado is a best-selling author of many other inspirational books.

This study asks you to be responsible for obtaining your own book (with help if needed). Check local bookstores or go to Amazon and purchase it as a hardcover or Kindle for between \$15.00 and \$17.00. There's so much to enjoy and discuss with this book, which makes it well worth the search and investment!

This is an opportunity not to be missed for more discussions and fellowship on the same day. Please come for a picnic (bring your own) at 11:30 and spend a delightful hour with wonderful people and a great book.

If you need assistance obtaining the text, call or email me, and I'll help!!

Judy Tripp: 207 653 2213
or jbtripp@maine.rr.com

Please let Jen at the office or me know that you will be attending beginning May 13. Pastor Greg assures us that missing a meeting is not a problem. Just come the following week and continue with us.

SEE YOU ON MAY 13, 12:30.

Judy Tripp, Chair of the Education Committee

Camping and Retreat Scholarships

United Methodist Conference Camping and Retreat Scholarships are available for families and individuals of any age. For more information, please contact the church office at (207) 967-5787

or office@churchonthecape.org



Local UMC Affiliated Camps or Retreats:

Rolling Ridge Retreat & Conf. Center

North Andover, MA

Website: <http://www.rollingridge.org/>

Distance from Church on the Cape: 1 hour 15 minutes

Camp Mechuwana, UMC

Winthrop, ME

Website: <http://www.mechuwana.org>

Distance from Church on the Cape: 1 hour 29 minutes

Wanakee United Methodist Center

Meredith, NH

Website: <http://www.wanakee.org>

Distance from Church on the Cape: 1 hour 53 minutes

Article by Diane Hutchins

UNDAUNTED

Elaine Triplett writes that David had shoulder surgery but is still determined to sing.



Nonie Freeman, Ginny Hammar, Judy Unsworth, and David Smith

A PRAYER OF PRAISE

Creator of the heavens, the sun, the moon, and the stars,

Who has determined the mind-boggling number of the stars and given names to every single one of them,

We can't begin to fathom why you would bother yourself with mere human beings and care for mere mortals.

Yet you stoop to lift up the **downtrodden**, heal the brokenhearted, and bind up their wounds!

We call on sun, moon and shining stars to praise you!

By Jesus, our Morningstar, lead us out of darkness into the light of your truth and grace, and fill our mouths with praise to you!

Make us wise, O God, so that we may shine like the bright stars in the sky, leading many out of darkness to see your righteousness.

By the transformative power of your Spirit, we pray. Amen.

A Stunning Morning to Celebrate Jesus' Resurrection Sunrise Service

Twelve disciples gathered for the Sunrise Service to proclaim the good news and hear Pastor Greg's message. The setting at 191 Mills Road was exceptional, and we thank the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust for inviting us to this beautiful location overlooking the marsh. After the service, the clouds parted, revealing a dramatic shaft of sunlight. Alleluia!



Article and Photo by Susie Goodwin

April 2025, Easter Sunrise Service

Photos by Tom Bradbury:



EASTER SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE

The Flower Rememberances of loved ones by Family and Friends were beautiful and enhanced the spiritual gratitude for Christ's Resurrection.

As did the fabulous singing by our Church Choir led by Music Director Paul Stephan.

HYMN SING AND WORSHIP AT 10 AM

The celebration of Christ's Resurrection continued back at the church. The Hymn Sing concluded with How Great Thou Art, our unofficial trademark song, the providential request by Mary and Desmond Parker's granddaughter Kiera Emerson. In a gentle tease about the music to come, Susie Goodwin suggested the congregation fasten their seat belt. Then the Choir and Song Sisters, led by Helen Farnsworth, did, indeed, raise the roof singing "He's Alive." More music and the message followed, concluding with a rousing congregational sing-along of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." A glorious morning, indeed.

Article by Susie Goodwin



Front Row: Debora Berry, Nonie Freeman, Joan Cole, Judy Unsworth, Liz Phillips, Susie Goodwin, Nancy Chamberlin, Elaine Triplett, Ginny Hammar, Sharon Miesel

Back Row: Pastor Greg Smith, David Smith, Marshall Chamberlin, Natalie Smith, Helen Farnsworth, Ann Hand, Marilyn Crocker

Hymn Sing Article by Susie Goodwin; Photos by Mike Kelly

Janet Gray Writes Sophomore Essay

From Margaret Myatt: I am scanning and organizing old family photos, clippings, and memorabilia, and I came upon a particularly moving newspaper article. It probably came from the Rahway News Record of Rahway, NJ, in 1943. My mother, Janet Gray, was a sophomore in high school.

The following essay won the first prize for sophomores in a contest conducted by the National Honor Society in Rahway High School during American Education Week.

"Renewing Our Faith"

By Janet Gray

Over three hundred years ago, in 1620, a small band of pilgrims landed in a new world. These people came for many reasons, one of which was the longing to worship God as they pleased. Religion was practically forbidden in their own land, and they sought to break away from this tyranny. New experiences, new opportunities for development lay before them, and best of all, democracy. They came to this new young country with the idea of setting up a government of their own, free to do as they wished.

The country grew and they had to work hard. God was their guide, for all of these people were deeply religious. Not long afterwards they had to fight to keep this freedom. In this Revolutionary War, General Washington commanded these brave, unconquerable people. Washington turned to God for help in times of great peril.

Slowly, the country grew in strength and unity until the great Civil War came. Abraham Lincoln, the President, did everything in his power to keep the North and the South united, but in vain. Lincoln was a very religious man and hated war, but war did come, and after four years, the country was united again.

As time went on, people fell away from God and took democracy for granted. Inventions of all kinds came into use, and people felt that they no longer needed God.

Then World War I taught us many things, and people realized the importance of democracy.

Now in World War II, we are feeling as never before, the power of democracy. In Europe, the cruelty, starving, and killing have made us feel so very safe living in a free land. In the conquered countries of the Nazis there is no freedom, no religion; all their privileges are taken away. In the United States, we may worship and speak as we please, no one dictates to us.

Many more people have turned to God for guidance since this war began. More people go to church, praying for sons, husbands, brothers, in the armed services and also for victory. Many people put up the argument that there is no time for religion now, that God has forgotten the world. To them, we should answer that if there was ever a time for religion it is now.

We live in a free land, free to do the things we desire.

More than ever, we realize this now, and we should ask God to help America to be free always.

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WE REMEMBER



More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.

By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.

MEMORIAL DAY

Over the years, Memorial Day has become a big holiday weekend. It's now the unofficial start of summer, rather than a day of tribute to the departed it was originally meant to be.

Even if we plan fun events for Memorial Day weekend, it's important to stop long enough to bow our heads and pay respect to our departed loved ones — especially those who fell in battle while helping preserve America's liberties.

Let us take time to make the pilgrimage to various cemeteries and pause long enough to say, "Thank you, Father, for these special lives, for the sacrifices made, and for the friendships we have shared."

Source: Newsletternewsletter

Mark Your Calendar!
Camp Mechuwana Clean-up Day
Saturday, May 10th, from 10am to 3pm



It is a huge task every spring to get camp ready for summer. Tasks include:

- Raking and brush clearing
- Cleaning of cabins
- Cutting wood
- and much more!

Join us from **10 AM until 3 PM**, or as long as you can be there, during those hours.

Lunch will be provided. Please rsvp with Carol at mechuwana@fairpoint.net



Article by Diane Hutchins

LUNCH AND LEARN

Don't miss a great opportunity to learn what Hospice offers besides end-of-life care. The Education Committee is providing the connection for information about all the services Hospice provides!

On June 22. after church and a lovely buffet light lunch, Kimberly Mann, Community Liaison from Hospice of Southern Maine, will present an informative session on all that is available for help if a difficult illness arrives. These include consulting with your physician, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, aide, social worker, chaplain, and volunteers for the patient and the family. Family support is critical!

Palliative care is also very important! You don't need to do it alone!! So often, there is resistance to their services because of preconceived notions about when you should call them.

My experience was so supportive and so needed when my husband was diagnosed with terminal stage four lung cancer 14 years ago. After all treatment had reached the end of being the solution, a dear friend who had been a volunteer for Hospice said, "Judy, it's time!"

I realize now I should have called sooner. The initial intake was painless and overwhelming as the services were explained. The social worker helped me activate the long-term care policy. The nurse came 3 times weekly to change a drain and check on his vitals. The chaplain spent time with both of us. The aide helped with some daily chores to keep the household operating. The nurse came immediately at the end and stayed until he was admitted to Gosnell House, where I could be a devoted wife and not a caregiver. I thank God for all of them. And amazingly, there was no cost!! Additionally, there is also grief support throughout the illness and up to a year after death.

A question-and-answer time will be available.

All you have to do to join us is to call Jen at the office or contact me at 207-653-2213 or jbtripp@maine.rr.com. We need to have a headcount for lunch and seating. A free-will offering container will be available.

PLEASE JOIN US!!

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 persons 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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