



Summer 2020
Newsletter of
Second Congregational Church of Cohasset



THE VILLAGE BEACON

SCC Re-Opening

In-person Outdoor Services by the Harbor starting June 28!

We are excited to share the following plans for SCC Reopening:

1. **Live Streamed Sunday Worship Service will continue at 10 a.m. on YouTube through Sunday June 21.**
2. **In-person outdoor Worship is planned Sunday June 28 through September 13 at 9am.**
 - a. We look forward so much to being with you in person this month once again and sharing worship together.
 - b. The Sailing Club building is not open for use by SCC, but we are planning to hold Worship next door in the grassy area next to the Sailing Club.
 - c. Social distanced seating and wearing of masks will be required so that all attendees feel safe, and to comply with MA and Town of Cohasset Reopening guidelines. Attendees are asked to bring their own seating and masks, and to be prepared for New England weather, hopefully sunny and beautiful!
 - d. We are exploring the livestreaming of Sunday Worship for those not attending in person.



(continued on page 2)

Newsletter of the
Second Congregational Church
Cohasset, Massachusetts

June 12, 2020

Vol. 33, No. 4

In this issue...

SCC REOPENING PLANS	1
FROM THE MINISTER'S (OTHER) STUDY.....	3
INTERFAITH PEACE VIGIL ON THE COMMON	5
LET US PRAY.....	8
TREASURER'S REPORT	9
NOTE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE	10
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	11
CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES	12
OUTREACH NEWS.....	15

SCC Re-Opening (continued from page 1)

3. Reopening SCC for Worship is targeted for September.

The Reopening Working Group is looking forward to our return to the sanctuary this fall. We are monitoring MA guidelines and will define new policies and procedures to manage attendance, conduct of the service, seating plans, cleaning, etc., which will apply to Sunday Worship, weddings, funerals and other forms of worship.

Stay tuned for more information on www.2ndcc.org and the weekly eBlast. **And, please, watch for opportunities to volunteer to help!** It is going to take willing hands and committed hearts to manage these summer services.

Feel free to contact any member of Church Committee, Deacons or the Worship Team if you have questions or need additional information.

Thanks,
George Baumgarten, Moderator
geobaum@comcast.net

From the Minister's (Other) Study



But seek the peace of the city... and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its peace you will find your peace.

Jeremiah 29:7

There's not a lot of peace to be found these days... despite the broad swaths of separation. Part of that is on us. Who is truly comfortable with this artificial isolation and the suspension of "normal" activity?

Ironically, public polls and private conversation reveal that a good many of us feel busier than ever. And not necessarily in a fulfilling way. We're just frazzled by all that we cannot do and working diligently to be productive in spite of that.

And then there are our teachers, our care-givers, our emergency response providers and the plethora of other essential staff. You are "on" – despite the concerns; in the midst of the complexity and without regard to all the other roles you are asked to take on: technology worker, unintentional home school teacher, remote support provider, emotional anchor and general problem solver.

As one who has dappled in some of those roles, myself, I confess there are some forms of encouragement that I have come to find less than helpful. For example, I am very tired of the word "unprecedented."

Yes, it is true, we have never done all this suddenly new stuff before. And, yes, it is not part of our communal experience. And yet, for all that it is unfamiliar, we are not historically unique even if this *particular* set of circumstances are not shared with those who came before us.

For proof, I commend to you our Bible – from the series of crises in Genesis, through the prophets, the Psalms, Lamentations, apocalyptic and other wisdom writings, including the Book of Job. Scary stuff, messy stuff, horrible, dangerous, life-changing stuff has hit humanity before.



And yet, despite these scary, messy circumstances **not** being unprecedented, they ARE new to us. And scary. And messy. And hard to navigate *because* we are out of our element. What constitutes “safe enough?” What measures are prudent and where is the line that keeps us just shy of paranoid?

For me, those questions are best asked and answered in community with those with the insight to help us know: health professionals, town officials, state leadership, accredited experts... and our own circle of trusted thought-partners. You EACH have a role in that conversation as the ones best equipped to understand your own circumstances.

Your job in these moments is to use your good sense to assess what you’re hearing, what you’re feeling and what you need for yourselves, your family and those affected by the choices you make. Then skew toward the wisdom of the well-informed.

As trite as it sounds, this is a marathon, not a sprint. The virus that is running amuck among us is invisible. It rears its ugly head in spite of our precautions and the full extent of its damage is hard to anticipate... Not unlike another virus that is rampant in our midst.

Do any in this country believe that the violent horrors we’ve seen on the news, the emotional spectrum of community response, or the impulse to “take sides” are new? Are the dangers that ensue when authority loosens its ties to responsibility, accountability and scrutiny novel to now? Is the inclination to perceive “different” as dangerous a product of our times? Are the tacit assumptions, that can make everyday decisions about exercise, shopping, driving, walking or standing up for oneself less safe if one’s skin is dark, no more than a defensive response to the current state of our union?

The anger and the outrage, the grief, the loss and the pain of lives lost, justice ignored and rights discounted did not invade like a foreign army intent on taking us down. No, this enemy is home-grown; nurtured by centuries of separate and not-equal policies and practices that make racial disparity a defining characteristic of American culture.

This virus did not just appear. It has been incubated and adapted through every era, hiding in plain sight and binding – often seamlessly – to the other side of progress... the side that we choose not to see.

And now it's loose. It's in the streets. It's finding voice where before its sounds were silenced... because, before...

Because, before... what? Because before it was only the black and brown people making all the noise – calling “foul,” saying “stop,” demanding justice, seeking peace? That is both untrue and certainly too simplistic a way to explain what we're now hearing. So why we are now hearing the pain, the anger, the grief so much more loudly?

Perhaps George Floyd's death was really just the final straw. Perhaps the punch of a deadly pandemic, toxic politics and irrefutable injustice finally hit us so hard that we instinctively gasped... horrified to find that under the weight of all that pressure, none of us could breath.

No, these are **not** unprecedented times. But they could be. If, this time, we change.

“Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.” Amos 5:24
Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from the Birmingham Jail





Pastor Karen's Prayer at June 6th Interfaith Peace Vigil

God of the universal and the particular

Give us courage to claim our own particular failings on behalf of our brothers and sisters.

Push us to wrestle – deeply and hard – with the disconnections in our universal claim that you and we love all people equally...

and the difficult truth that we don't hold up our end of that particular commitment.

Forgive us for moving so quickly in our outrage from one indignation to another... and in the throes of the next distracting injustice, displacing our objections to the last...

God of the universal and the particular

Move us to see the faces, read the stories and say the names of those whose lives were stolen because we, as a society, have for so very long, ceded authority without our demanding responsibility for the actions that power allows.

Forgive us for claiming stories and names and faces that are not ours to claim.

Expect us to claim the stories and faces and families and names of our brothers and sisters whose pain we would share – full knowing that we do not – we cannot understand.

Make us agents of change –

- Change in our own understanding
- Change in our complicity of silence
- Change in our willingness to tolerate hate
- Change in those we trust to lead, to serve, to protect all your people
- Change in those we allow to assume that kind of power on our behalf

God of the universal and the particular

Free us of the hubris that tempers our horror by trimming it to fit into the frame of our own experience.

Grant us the humility to truly listen and the resolve to be specific in our insistence that **black lives matter**.



With thanks to the Cohasset Diversity Committee, the Cohasset Board of Selectmen, Police and Emergency Services Departments, 143TV and Cohasset Clergy for making this vigil a true community collaboration and particular thanks to Rev. Maggie Arnold, Keri Thompson and Ashley Webb Colleary for their planning efforts.

Special thanks to MetCo Director Aleisa Gittens-Carle, and CHS Sophomore, Isley Wilson, for your powerful words, to the Reverends Maggie Arnold, Robert McKetchnie, Karen Bailey-Francois and Scott Euvrard for your prayers and to St. Stephen's Music Director, John Whiteside, for playing the Carillon.



“No normal human being can watch the video of George Floyd begging for his life... and not be filled with both horror and rage... Bias and racism are real. We know this because incidents like this keep happening across the country.

The entire Cohasset Police Department stands steadfastly against police brutality, racism, and abuse of any type. Period.”

On behalf of the men and woman of the Cohasset Police Department,
Chief William P. Quigley

See Chief Quigley's full post on the Cohasset 143 Facebook Page June 5, 2020



Let Us Pray for:

The Afshar family on the death of Nader's mother, **Yvonne Afshar**, at age 97. She died peacefully at home where she's lived with Nader, Connie and their family for the past 35 years.

All who are grieving the loss of loved ones, especially in this time of separation.

Those convalescing following hospitalization, surgery or other medical procedures this month.

Those undergoing medical testing, receiving care or awaiting treatment that has been postponed.

Those who are sick, quarantined, worried and otherwise affected by the Corona Virus; those with responsibility to help keep them and all of us healthy and safe and those with the expertise to provide testing and, we hope soon, a vaccine.

Our communities, region, states and nation as the effects of this pandemic and the realities of racial injustice heighten tensions, strain relationships and demand our faithful attention.

*God of Solace, Clarity and of Strength,
Grant courage for this journey and companions on the way.
May those who long for your help, your guidance and your grace,
be blessed by your abiding spirit and your unfailing love.
In Jesus' name. Amen.*

Do you need a mask?

Mask making truly is a labor of love. Mask wearing is, too. If you need a mask and don't have one, our mask makers have offered to put one aside for you. Please call Jo-Ann Faust at 781-545-6578 to make arrangements.



We Build Sacred Community

Treasurer's Report April - May 2020

	<u>April 2020</u>	<u>May 2020</u>
<i>Income for Month</i>	10, 282	13,232
<i>Income Year to Date</i>	54,200	78,071
<i>Expenses for Month</i>	18,612	18,267
<i>Expenses Year to Date</i>	55,496	89,624
<i>Operating Fund</i>	38,034	29459
<i>Payroll Protection Loan</i>		29,255

<i>Restricted Funds*</i>	<u>April 2020</u>	<u>May 2020</u>
<i>Regular Reserve</i>	4,939	5,164
<i>Memorial Fund</i>	6,320	6,321
<i>Money Market reserve</i>	55,260	55,275
<i>Fund Raising to Date</i>	285	285
<i>Total Portfolio</i>	428,278	tbd

*investment information for May is not available as of this printing.



Thank you to the many of you who have sent in your gifts and pledges by mail, through your bank or using the on-line giving link on our website.

PLEASE know how very important your giving is to sustain the church. Your generosity sustains our commitment to be the church for today and for tomorrow.

Thank You!

A Note from the Finance Committee

As the summer begins, we are pleased to report pledges and donations have held up well during the last few months. However, you should know that two of our three budgeted fundraisers were canceled: The Strawberry Festival this month and the Time and Talent Auction scheduled for the fall. These were budgeted to raise \$8,000 each, leaving us with a budget shortfall of \$16,000. We are also heading into the season when attendance and the congregation's support usually wane, while our expenses continue at close to \$20,000 per month.

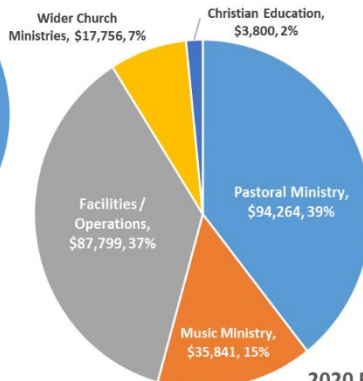
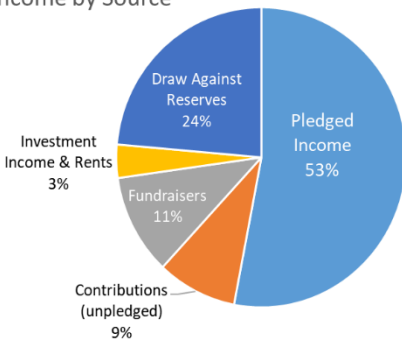
These past few months have been a challenging time for all of us and we appreciate your continued generous support over the years. Given the impact of these forced cancelations, we hope that, if your situation permits, you would consider making an extra donation during the summer to help your church over this period.

Best wishes for a good, safe and healthy summer.

Paul Carlson, Chair;
Jeff Nothnagle, Jack Creighton,
Kim Maynard (Treasurer), Ruth Nedrow (Asst. Treasurer)

2020 Budget

Income by Source



2020 Budget = \$239.5K
Expenses by Use

Christian Education

WHIRL! Kids

Thank you to the students and teachers that have made this year's Sunday School such a positive and uplifting experience.



Our kids have loved the classes and the ability to “transport” of weekly lessons to Zoom has strengthened the connections that our students and their families have to each other and to our church.

We celebrate CE Sunday on June 14th, during which the students will lead worship for us all! The theme is the Golden Rule.

As in “regular years,” CE Sunday will mark the end of the regular church school program. Special programs and “re-gathering” celebrations are being considered through the summer and into the Fall.

Again, thank you to all involved!

Students: Sam & Hollie Brown, Blithe Campbell, Scarlett & Colby Dean, Finnie Harrison, Zoey & Nelson Murray, George Voldan

Teachers: Connie Afashar, George Baumgarten, Christina Brown, Susi Coley, Kristen Dean, Michael Doherty, Jen Geoghegan, Tiffany Harrison, Rick Kielmeyer, Jo-Anne Lehr, Liz Lass, Joanne Molloy, Ruth Nedrow, Pastor Karen, Kristen Voldan, Natalie Young

FATHER'S DAY

June 21st

Live-Streamed at 10:00 a.m.

Join the Youth Class as they lead a special service to celebrate and honor Fathers! Konstantinos is planning some extra special music for this last Sunday of our regular program year. Hope you can come!



Youth Group: Rosie Harrison, Connor & Hannah Nicholls, Will Molloy, Penny Murray, Julia Willette, Maggie & Josh Young. Leader: Pastor Karen



“Hats off” to our High School Graduates!



Lauren Bellefontaine

Lauren loved cheerleading and has many fond memories. She hopes to attend Rhode Island College in September.



Finn Geoghegan

Congratulations Finn! We are very proud of your accomplishments and look forward to watching you achieve your dreams and goals in adulthood.

Love always, Mom & Dad

Finn, you run like a gazelle, you are kind, caring, funny and fun to be with. We are so proud of you! Love G'Ma and Pops Coley

Molly Greer

Molly will be attending Wesleyan University in the fall, where she will play lacrosse.



Molly,

Congratulations on your graduation! We are all so proud of you. We have loved watching you mature into a self-assured young woman who is a force to be reckoned with. The next chapter is certain to be full of amazing new adventures.

Although this time is not what you imagined, we are determined to make this a memorable time for you and your class of 2020s. Remember, we can do hard things!

With Love,
Mom, Dad, Will, Kate and Beacon



Rick and Laurie Kielmeyer's granddaughter, **Ella Kielmeyer**, graduated from High School in Lancaster, PA.



And to our College Graduates:

Rick and Laurie Kielmeyer’s oldest Grandson, **Evan Kielmeyer**, who lives on Long Island, NY, is graduating from Boston College. Evan is Ella’s cousin.



Ruth and Joe Nedrow’s granddaughter, Kara graduated from Colby College with a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Economics. While at Colby, Kara was a member of the swim team, student government, and studied abroad in both Spain and Uganda.

Another beloved Nedrow grand-daughter, Katie Jo graduated from Bucknell University with a Bachelor of Science in Global Management and Russian Studies. She was a member of the Water Polo Team throughout her time at Bucknell, and also studied abroad in Russia and Spain. She will be continuing her Water Polo career while getting her Master’s in Finance at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.



Congratulations to all our graduates and their families
We are very proud of you!

If you have a graduate that we have not listed, please let us know!

Outreach News

Cohasset Appalachia Service Project:

Regrettably, due to Covid-19, Cohasset ASP will not be participating in a home repair trip to Appalachia this year.

Special Offerings During Lent:

'Save the Children' received \$150 towards aid relief in the Syrian refugee camps. CE raised \$30 dedicated towards rehabilitating endangered wildlife in Australia post the wildfires. The Cohasset Food Pantry received \$200 in grocery store gift cards.

The Mother's Day Walk for Peace:

Thank you for supporting this year's virtual **Mother's Day Walk for Peace**. Our 'Compassionate Cohasset' team raised \$12,000 and was the 2nd highest fundraising team; just behind Massachusetts General Hospital. So far, the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute has raised \$367, 81 towards its goal of \$400,000. Please click on the following link if you would like to help achieve this worthy goal!
<https://lbdpeace.z2systems.com/cohasset2020>

Cohasset Food Pantry:

CFP is not yet accepting food donations. Gift cards to Stop & Shop and Shaw's, as well as checks made out to: Cohasset Food Pantry. Gift cards and checks can be mailed to: **PO Box 297, Cohasset, MA, 02025**. Thank you very much for your support!

The best way to contact CFP is at cohassetfoodpantry@gmail.com. For individuals without email access, please call CFP at [781-383-0219 ext. 25](tel:781-383-0219). Please leave a message with your name and telephone number, and a volunteer will return your call.

News from Father Bill's Place (in their own words):

We wish to take this opportunity to thank our many volunteers who have provided much needed support and resources to Father Bill's & MainSpring during this challenging time. We would like to also emphasize that your role with Father Bill's & MainSpring, although not on site for the time being, is a crucial support to our agency and we are grateful for your continued engagement with our organization.

Current Needs: Our highest needs at this time, in addition to meals, are for breakfast food items and for hotel travel sized toiletries (soap, shampoo, etc.). Scheduled donations for toiletries are accepted curbside at FBMS Distribution Center, 430 Belmont Street Brockton.

Spotlight on Carolina Hill in Marshfield, MA

Carolina Hill is an emergency assistance shelter for homeless families operated by a private, non-profit (Chapter 180, 501(c) 3) corporation. Since 1988, they have provided services designed to break the cycle of repeated homelessness experienced by many families. Carolina Hill can accommodate families whose members may have special needs (e.g., developmentally disabled or handicapped). Their physical facility and location are ideal for a family shelter with a fenced yard, a recreation building for young children and a fully-equipped classroom for adult education classes. The average length of stay for a family at Carolina Hill is three months. The facility houses up to 17 families at a time.

In November 2019, a huge tree crashed through a side building, causing a major disruption in day to day programming. To date they have had no outbreaks of Covid-19. The program director has been able to secure sufficient PPE for residents and staff. They are not taking in physical donations or receiving visitors. Overall, their outlook is upbeat.

