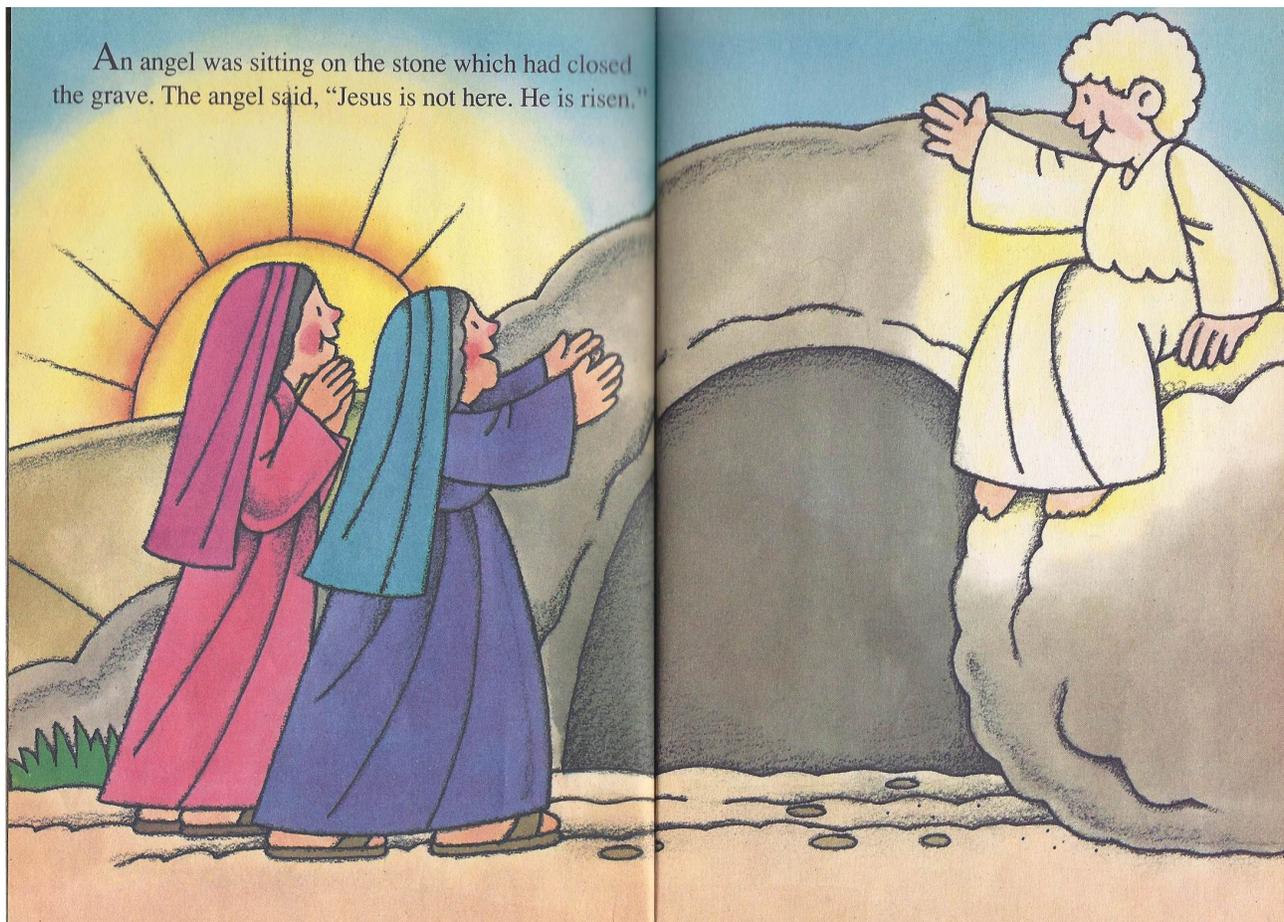


OPEN DOORS



Easter Season

Ashby Congregational Church, UCC
21 New Ipswich Road
P O Box 126
Ashby MA 01431

Pastor: Kenneth Johnson
Church Organist Natalia Klauer

Sunday Worship/Sunday School 10 am

website: ashbycongregational.com



From the Pastor

With Easter swiftly coming upon us we are called to praise Almighty God and give thanks for the blessings that we enjoy. It is all too easy to become complacent and take for granted the freedoms and liberty that we as Americans live with daily. All across this world there are millions of people who are persecuted for believing in one way or another. Simply praying can be a death sentence for many. Our faith in Jesus Christ carries us through so many situations that we cannot deal with by ourselves.

The Ashby Congregational Church has quickly become a family of brothers and sisters in Christ. The love and concern shown by all who gather for worship each week is being passed on to the many children who gather to be taught, by example, what it means to live and grow in a Christian environment.

This Easter, let us rejoice in the resurrected Christ and give thanks to Almighty God for our church in Ashby.

Pastor Ken

Our church is going through a new period of growth and learning that is going to require us to open our minds to new ways of thinking about how we worship. From time to time I am going to bring up topics for us to consider as a congregation. The first one that I would like for you to consider is regarding at what age should the children of our church receive communion. We will be hearing about this topic following Easter when I will use it as a sermon topic with a time of open discussion on the subject. I ask that you pray on this topic and study it so we can all be well informed when it is brought up for discussion. Please let me know if you have any questions on this issue as we go forward.

Pastor Ken

Calendar

April 2nd – Communion Sunday and the Reception of New Members.

Gayanne L. Boyer and Patrick & Angela Lyden will be received and welcomed into our membership.

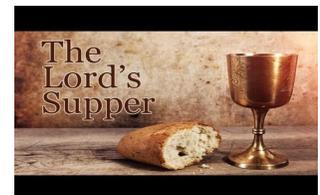
April 9th – Palm Sunday.

As we have been doing the past few years, we will be posting our sins on the Cross. There will also be a special ceremony to award badges to six Webelos Scouts who have been attending class with Pastor Ken. These boys will be participating in the service by greeting parishioners as they enter the sanctuary, taking the offering, and reading the scripture lesson. Pastor Ken will also perform the ceremony of “the washing of feet” with these six individuals, assisted by the Deacons. An arrangement of Palms will be at the altar during the service and will be given out to the parishioners as they leave the sanctuary.



April 13th – Maundy Thursday – a Service of Tenebrae – 7:30 p.m.

We will gather in Fellowship Hall to remember Jesus in the upper room eating the Passover meal with his disciples before his betrayal and death. The word “Maundy” is derived from the Latin “maundatum”, which means commandment. It's associated with Jesus' words after the Last Supper, “A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another...” (John 13: 34). Our service is in the nature of an anniversary observance, held on the night of the institution of Holy Communion. It is brought to a close with the Office of Tenebrae, an adaptation of an early fourth century ritual, dealing with our Lord's betrayal. The gradual extinction of the candles symbolizes the growing darkness as “The Light of the World” was taken away. At the very end of the service of Tenebrae the Pastor relights the Paschal candle which is symbolic of the Easter promise.





April 16th – Easter Sunrise Service.

This service will be held on the Ashby Common at 6:00 a.m. followed by a breakfast in Fellowship Hall prepared by the men of the church.

Traditional Easter Service at 10:00 a.m.

We will be decorating the Cross with daffodils as a reminder of the transforming power of Christ's resurrection that we may walk in the newness of life. A daffodil will be given to you by the greeter(s) for you to place on the Cross at the front of the sanctuary.



Easter Lilies.

If you would like to purchase a lily or lilies to help decorate the church on Easter Sunday, you may contact Nancy Minor at 978-632-3354 or fill out the request form located on the back table in the sanctuary and give it to Nancy after to worship service. The cost is \$9.25 each. If paying by check, it should be made out to the Ashby Congregational Church.

Sunday School news:

We have completed our study of Bible characters for this school year. For the next few weeks, we will be learning about Holy Week and the events leading up to Easter. After Easter, we will be working on our Bible character projects, music and skits to be presented on Children's Sunday, June 4th at 10:00 am in the sanctuary.

Mark your calendars Cathy Johnson

Prayer Concerns:

with the new website and face book pages up and running, we would like to keep an ongoing Prayer List . Please let Pastor Ken or any member of the Diaconate know of anyone who should be added. Also remember to let them know if a visitation may be needed.

Please remember to keep in your Prayers members of our family & friends:

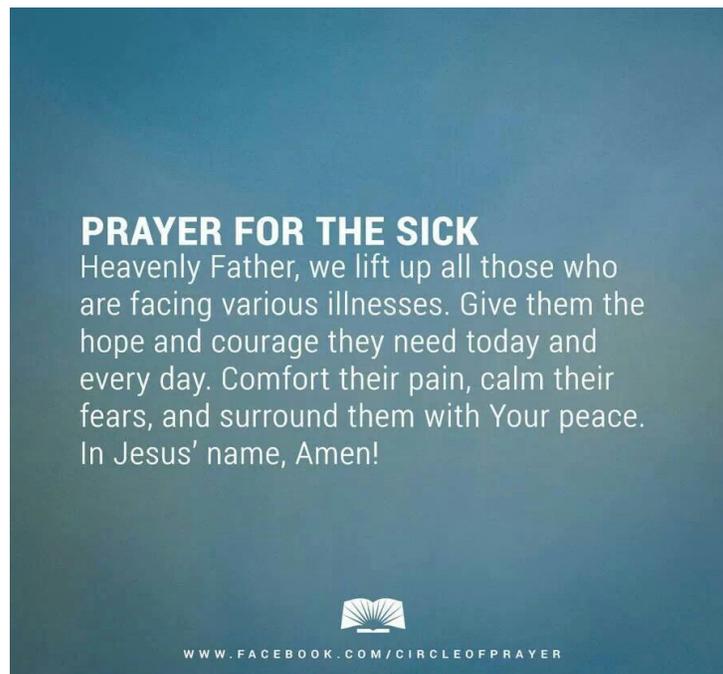
Dyllan Lagueux - Grandson of Linda & Wayne Stacy – he is currently serving a tour of duty in Syria – as well as all members of our armed services.

Going in for surgery:

Nadine Callahan, Matthew Johnson

Ongoing prayers -

Ollie Mutch, Shawn Kelty, Kristen Perna, Donna Leonard, Bill Davis, Barbara Gummerus, David Bixby, Grant Swenor



my apologizes if we missed someone, just let us know – thanks

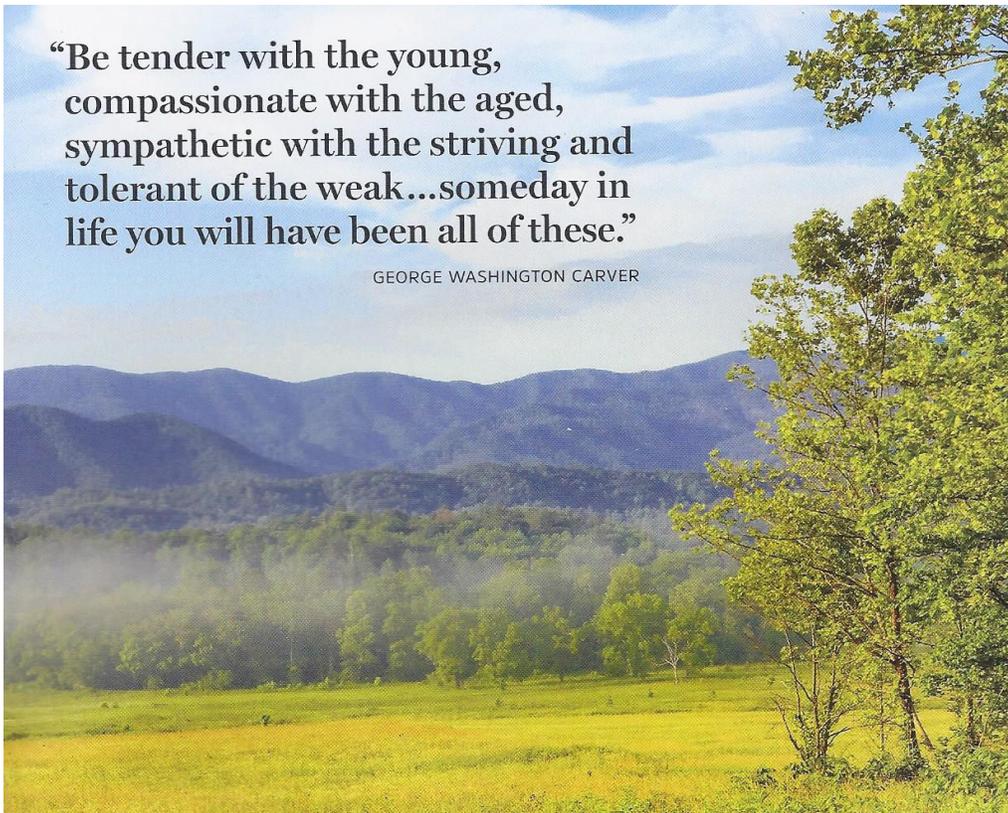
218th Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference

The Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ will be held on June 16th (Friday) and June 17th (Saturday) at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, CT. This will be a historic meeting this year. For the first time, the MA Conference will meet with the Connecticut and Rhode Island Conferences of the UCC in a Tri-Conference Annual Meeting. The three conferences will have separate business sessions, but come together for shared worship, a keynote address, and consideration of a proposal to form a new, unified conference. The scriptural theme for the meeting is from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, verses 4:4-6 and 14-16.

If you would like more information regarding this meeting, you can go online to www.macucc.org, refer to the information posted on the bulletin board downstairs in the hallway, or speak with Nancy Rogers.

**“Be tender with the young,
compassionate with the aged,
sympathetic with the striving and
tolerant of the weak...someday in
life you will have been all of these.”**

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER





HAPPY EASTER ENJOY the SPRING

