

THE OPEN DOORS

The Newsletter of the Ashby Congregational Church
April 2023

From the Pastor

Now that Easter is over, we can look forward to the soft, warm days of Spring and on to the heat of Summer. Our church family is growing with new members being received and some who have started attending church once again after being absent for a time. We welcome them all. There are many events in the planning stages and more than enough to keep us all busy.

We will begin a new Bible Study on Tuesday, May 9th. It is from Adam Hamilton, titled “The Walk”, a study in becoming better disciples of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please let me know if you are interested in joining with us. The book is about \$15 a copy and I will be ordering them soon.

Our summer schedule will include services on the Common the 1st Sunday of June, July and August, and perhaps September, if the weather permits.

Band Concert season will begin in July with the church selling ice cream and popcorn each Wednesday.

As the trees become green and we begin gardening and enjoying outdoor activities, take the time to give thanks to God for the blessings we all enjoy. I would also ask that you invite someone you know to join with us in church so that we can all share the gift of faith with others.

Blessing to all,
Pastor Ken

Sunday Morning Worship Service: 10:00 am



OUR CHURCH HERITAGE



Prior to Ashby being incorporated as a town, the people were required to meet in the town where they resided in order to be considered as voting citizens. This was one of the primary reasons for the formation of smaller towns as people began to settle further from their town centers making it difficult for people to attend church. The people who lived in what is now Ashby were living in Townsend, Lunenburg or Fitchburg. When Ashby was incorporated in 1767, the new town needed to organize a meeting place for church and town business. In 1779 they voted to build a meetinghouse on the site where the First Parish Church now stands. In 1809 the old meetinghouse was torn down and a new one was erected.

After the church split in 1819, the newly formed Ashby Calvinistic Congregational Church began to meet in the home of Jonathan Blood. The first building that the new church owned stood where the Ashby Library now stands. When this building proved to be too small it was sold to a group who opened an academy for education and a new building was built which is our present home. It was built in 1835 and dedicated in 1836.



SERVICE of CONFIRMATION and BAPTISM

Easter Sunday

Mason, Payton, Riley and Tyler



BIBLE STUDY

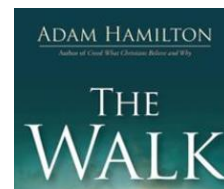
Our new Bible Study begins on Tuesday, May 9th.

It is from Adam Hamilton, titled “The Walk”, a study in becoming better disciples of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Meet at 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall and at 7:00 PM at Pastor Ken’s house

Please let me know if you are interested in joining with us.

The book is about \$15 a copy and I will be ordering them soon.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK!

Follow Jesus on a Life Changing adventure to the Rainforest.

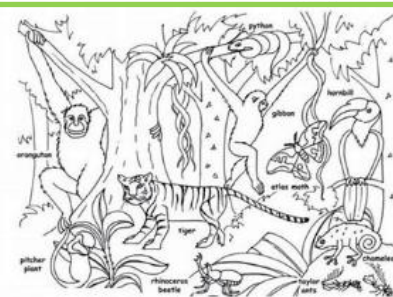
Bible Stories – Crafts – Games – Songs

July 17th – 21st 9:00AM – 11:30AM

Ages 5 – 12

Space is limited to 25 – so reserve now!

Call Cathy at 978-386-5502 or email ckjohnson01431@comcast.net



LADIES NIGHT!

Friday, April 28th 7-9 PM

Ashby Congregational Church Fellowship Hall

Come and enjoy an evening of fellowship and make your own May Baskets!

Bring a small bag of wrapped candy to share to fill the baskets.

Please let me know if you are planning to attend so I can be sure to have enough materials.

ckjohnson01431@comcast.net or text 978-496-6156

**If you would like to bring a snack to share, please let me know.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



GROUP: ASHBY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Shop online www.RadaFundraising.com and search for our group name

or

Save on shipping costs – pick up a catalog at church or view online. Complete the order sheet and submit with payment to me at church or call me to arrange a drop off of payment.

It's not just cutlery! There are Seasonings, Marinades, Gourmet Popcorn, Cheeseballs, Party Dips (you may have sampled a couple at coffee hour), No Bake Cheesecake Mixes, Sweet Dips, Soups and Sauces, Kitchen Tools, Grilling Tools and various cookbooks.

Any questions, call Cathy at 978-386-5502

MADE IN THE USA!

Ashby Congregational Church Yard Sale

Saturday, June 3rd 8am to 2pm

708 Main St (Matt Peeler's garage and yard)

Furniture, household items, tools.....BARGAINS!

**Accepting saleable items to sell. No electronics, please.

Drop off at church or call Cathy (978-386-5502) or Matt (508-331-7278) to arrange for pick up.





**ASHBY
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**



SATURDAY, MAY 6th

9am @ Town Meeting

Ashby Elementary School Lobby

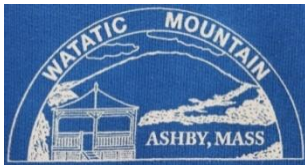
Assorted baked goods *AND* our well-loved APPLE CIDER DONUTS!

*preorder donuts recommended! Call Cathy 978-386-5502

Proceeds to benefit the Ashby Congregational Church

We'll be looking for bakers and sellers!

SWEATSHIRT SALE - ASHBY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



**Coming soon!
We will be adding T-Shirts!**



\$24 - Crew Neck Sweatshirt

\$38 – Full Zip Front Hooded Sweatshirt

Various Colors

(Red, Orange, Forest Green, Royal Blue, Navy Blue,
Heather Gray, Black, Cranberry, Purple & Pink)

*Youth & Adult
Sizes Available*

To Preorder Call Cathy at: 978-386-5502

North Middlesex High School Play

Friday, April 28th at 7pm

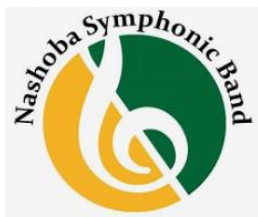
Saturday, April 29th at 1pm and 7pm

Adults \$15

Students and Seniors \$10

MAMMA
MIA!

Nashoba Symphonic Band presents



Sunday May 7th, 3pm

Nashoba Regional High School

Rte. 117, Bolton, MA

ADMISSION FREE!

FABULOUS FINALES

LOOKING AHEAD

Ladies Night – April 28th 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

“Mamma Mia” – April 28th – 7:00 PM North Middlesex High School
April 29th – 1:00 PM and 7 PM North Middlesex High School

Bake Sale - May 6th – Annual Town Meeting – Ashby Elementary School

Reception of New Members – May 7th

Nashoba Symphonic Band – May 7th – 3:00 PM – Nashoba Regional High School

Bible Study – May 9,16,23,30 – 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall & 7:00 PM at Pastor’s Home

Memorial Day Sunday Service – May 28th

Memorial Day Celebration on the Common – May 30th

Church Yard Sale – June 3rd

Church Service on Common – June 4th - July 2nd - August 6th - September 3rd

4th of July Celebration & Bonfire at Allen Field – July 3rd (Monday)

Vacation Bible School – July 17th – 21st

The Open Doors

Ashby Congregational Church

New Ipswich Rd - Beside the Green

P. O. Box 126, Ashby, MA 01431