

THE OPEN DOORS

The Newsletter of the Ashby Congregational Church
March 2023



From the Pastor

Spring is soon coming and the promise of the season has begun. Thoughts of how we will plant our gardens, outdoor events, and simply getting outside fills our minds. Spring reminds us that God does bring new life to us in the form of growing plants and new baby animals all around us. We will busy ourselves cleaning up flower beds and yards, preparing the gardens for planting. We also find time to just get out and enjoy the warm spring breezes. As we look around at the wonders of spring, let's remember who is responsible for the beauty. In our prayers, let God know just how much we appreciate the gifts of His creation.

We are looking forward to a busy time ahead as we plan our spring and summer schedules. In May, we look forward to our annual yard sale and welcoming several new members to our church. I hope that everyone will turn out to see our Confirmation Class celebrated on Easter morning. Starting in June, we will be having our morning service on the common every 1st Sunday of the month, weather permitting. There will be Vacation Bible School this summer.

Blessing,
Pastor Ken



Sunday Morning Worship Service: 10:00 am



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children continue their study of Miracles of the Bible.



Here the stacking dolls are painted to represent the characters in the story, “Jesus Calms the Sea”.

The children’s bell choir played during Sunday morning service. Thanks Paytin and Mason for filling in.





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK!

Follow Jesus on a Life Changing adventure to the Rainforest.

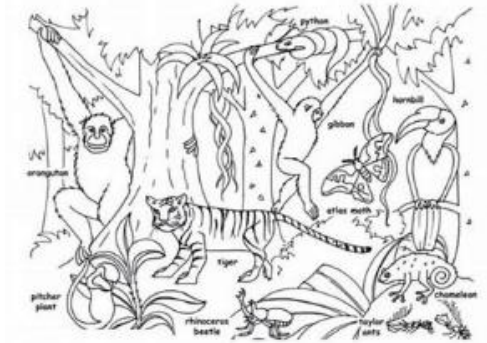
Bible Stories – Crafts – Games – Songs

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



BIBLE STUDY



We will be having Bible Study on Tuesdays during the Spring and Fall. We will be announcing the topics before we begin a study. We continue to study the book of Romans with commentary from Max Lucado. We meet in the church hall on Tuesdays at 1:00pm and at Pastor Ken's house at 7:00pm.

LADIES NIGHT

Friday, April 28th 7-9PM

Come and enjoy an evening of fellowship and make your own May 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.



MISSIONS NEWS

MISSIONS

*God at Work,
Faith in Action*

As mentioned in last month's report, the Missions Committee offered to hold a special collection for the earthquake that devastated parts of Turkey and Syria on February 6th. This opportunity to contribute to the Earthquake Fund, either at church or by mail and available to members and friends alike, ran until February 26th. We thank you for your most generous support in the amount of \$500.00! With the addition of \$200.00 from the Missions Fund, Ashby Congregational Church was able to send a check for \$700.00 to Samaritan's Purse for earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria!

In the latest correspondence from Franklin Graham, we are told that when the earthquake first struck, the hospital collapsed taking medical personnel and supplies with it, leaving the area desperate for medical help. That's when the Samaritan's Purse organization was able to set up an emergency hospital, staff, and supplies ASAP to the devastated area in Turkey.

Our dollars at work once again. Praise be to God!

WAYS AND MEANS

Church Yard Sale



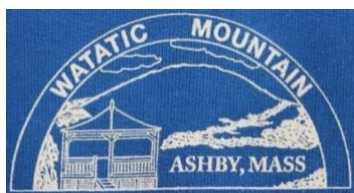
You know spring can't be far away when we start planning for the yard sale. It will be held on the same date as the Town wide yard sale, which hasn't been announced yet. We will let everyone know the date as soon as we have it. It will be held at the usual prime location, Matt Peeler's on Main Street.

We are collecting saleable items and if you have any you'd like to donate, you can bring them to the church on Sunday or call to arrange pick up or drop off.

Please call: Cathy Johnson - 978-386-5502 or Matt Peeler - 508-331-7278

Based on past experiences – No electronics or clothing please!

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

Congo Squares

This recipe is a favorite of my family, having been passed to us by our neighbor during the late 1950's! Then my mother baked them for her grandchildren, and I, in turn, baked them for my grandchildren --- and their bake sales during high school years! It was told to us that the term "congo" came from being associated with the Congregational, or Congo, Church. Enjoy!
Submitted by Nancy Catalini



Sift together and set aside: 2 2/3 cups flour
 2 1/2 teaspoons Baking Powder
 1/2 teaspoon salt

Melt: 2/3 cup butter or oleo. Add 1 teaspoon Vanilla extract
Stir in: 2 1/4 cups Brown sugar (= 1 pound bag)
Beat in: 3 eggs

Add: Flour mixture and then add 1 cup + chocolate chips

Bake: 350 degrees for 30 minutes

Use pan size of choice and bake accordingly!

Cool and cut into squares --- and there you have Congo Squares!

LOOKING AHEAD

Sugar Supper – March 25th – 5:30pm Ashby Friends of the COA - Fellowship Hall

Palm Sunday – April 2nd

Maundy Thursday – April 6th – 7:00PM in the Sanctuary

Good Friday – April 7th

Easter Sunday – April 9th Sunrise Service – 6:05 AM Gather on the Common
Sunrise Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
Church Service – 10:00AM

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

Reception of New Members – May 7th

Church Yard Sale – May (to be announced)

Memorial Day Sunday Service – May 29th

Memorial Day Celebration on the Common – May 30th

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

Vacation Bible School – July 17th – 21st

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Ashby Congregational Church
New Ipswich Rd - Beside the Green
P. O. Box 126, Ashby, MA 01431