

# THE OPEN DOORS

The Newsletter of the Ashby Congregational Church  
October & November 2023

From the Pastor

Where has this year gone? The soft days of Summer are gone and the Fall is upon us. Every year, it seems as if we are surprised at how fast time flies. The days are growing shorter and as the temperature falls and so do the leaves from the trees. This year's Fall colors are not as bright and vivid as others but the beauty is still there if we look for it. Enjoy the blessings that you find around you.

I was made aware of a condition that has received a lot of attention lately; it is called "Seasonal Affective Disorder" and it is said to bring on a type of depression that requires treatment in some people. The shorter days and less sunlight along with dropping temperatures are the cause and specific treatments are available. While I am no doctor or psychologist and does not wish to sound cynical, this problem, to me, can be relieved by taking what some think is depressing and making it a time of change and beauty. The seasons have been going through their cycles of change for as long as this earth has existed and we change along with it. God has given us seasons of change for a reason. Fall is a time to prepare for the coming winter, a time of rest and renewal that is necessary for all of creation. Instead of becoming depressed at the change, we need to get in touch with the glory of God's plan and use the change to grow in our faith and our love of God and each other.

Enjoy the blessings that the changing season brings. Glory in the gifts that God gives and give thanks for each day we have. Praise the God who made us and renew your faith. Praise God. Amen.

Blessing to all,  
Pastor Ken



Sunday Morning Worship Service: 10:00 am

## Pumpkin Festival

Though the weather started out questionable the day ended well. The festival was well attended and we sold out before the tractor parade!



## DRIVE-THRU "HARVEST BAKERY"

Thank you to all the people who helped make this Bakery a success!



## Halloween



There were over 400 trick-or-treaters who stopped by the church to get their candy and friendship bracelets.



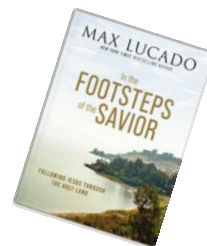
## Ashby Congregational Church Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held on Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Nancy and Walter Minor were voted in as honorary Trustees. We express our thanks for all they do for the church.  
If you like a copy of the by-laws, please see Nancy Rogers.

## BIBLE STUDY

We will begin a new study on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

It is titled “In The Footsteps Of The Savior.” It is written by Max Lucado and will go for 6 weeks. The study will take us to different places in the Holy land where Jesus lived and preached. There are two meeting opportunities on Tuesdays. 1 pm at the church hall and 7 pm at Pastor Ken’s house.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Samaritan's Purse Project Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup>



The church has been supporting this project for over 20 years. Your shoeboxes packed with toys, games, school and art supplies and approved personal items are sent to needy children around the world. There are Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes with labels and information on what to send in the church hall for you to use.

You can bring you shoebox on any Sunday morning  
Drop off on the Johnson's porch any day (603 Wheeler Rd.)  
Call to arrange a pickup 978-386-5502 or 978-496-6156

The final collect day is Sunday November 12th when Pastor Ken will bless the boxes and they will be delivered to the regional collection location.



## “LADIES NIGHT”

Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>  
7pm – 8:30pm



Ladies night is back! We will gather in the church hall for an evening of fellowship, refreshments and crafting. This month we will be making centerpieces for the Christmas season. We have oasis, various greens and accents to choose from. Bring your own container and design you centerpiece to suit you. We will have a limited numbers of containers available if you don't have one. When you RSVP please let us know if you need a container.

RSVP to Cathy Johnson 978-386-5502 or Deb Dancause 978-386-7927





## “Blue Christmas” Service

Thursday, December 21st

7:30pm

The Blue Christmas or Longest Night service will be on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm in the church sanctuary. This service is for those who find Christmas to not be the joyous occasion that others enjoy. It is a time of quiet reflection, music and prayer.



## Winter Coat Drive



Peggy and Paul Mosher will be collecting coats again this year. If you have coats that are still in good condition and could be passed on to someone in need, please bring them to the church or you can call Deb Dancause (978-386-7927) for pick-up.

## Pumpkin Bread

### Ingredients:

- 3 cups sugar
- 1 can (15oz) solid-packed pumpkin
- 1 cup canola oil
- 4 eggs
- 2/3 cup cold water
- 3 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 ½ teaspoons salt
- 1 ½ teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg



### Directions:

Preheat oven to 325’.

In a bowl, beat sugar, pumpkin, oil, eggs, and water until well mixed.

Combine remaining ingredients; gradually add to pumpkin mixture and mix well.

Pour into two greased 8x4-inch loaf pans. Bake 75-80 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

Cool 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks.

**There's a new  
Catalog available!**



**Check the table at  
Coffee hour**

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**

**GROUP: ASHBY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

Shop online [www.RadaFundraising.com](http://www.RadaFundraising.com) and search for our group name

or

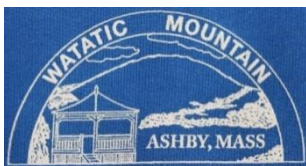
Save on shipping costs – pick up a catalog at church or view online. Complete the order sheet and submit with payment to me at church or call me to arrange a drop off of payment.

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!**

**SWEATSHIRT and TEE-SHIRT SALE - ASHBY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**



\$24 - Crew Neck Sweatshirt  
\$38 – Full Zip Front Hooded Sweatshirt  
\$12 – Tee-Shirt

(Extra charge for 2X and above)

There are many colors available.



*Youth & Adult  
Sizes Available*

To Preorder Call Cathy at: 978-386-5502



**Bible Study** – November 7<sup>th</sup> - 1pm in the church hall or 7pm at Pastor Ken's house

**Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox collection** – Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

**Church Council Meeting** – after service Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

**Ladies Night** – Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> – 7pm – 8:30pm

**Christmas Tree Lighting on the Common** – Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4pm

**Children's Church Christmas Celebration** – Sunday service, December 10<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Band Concert** – Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> – 4pm  
(Snow date, Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>)

A free-will offering dinner of soup, bread and dessert to follow in the Fellowship Hall

**Blue Christmas Service** – Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> – 7:30pm

**Christmas Eve Services** – Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup> - there are two services:  
10am morning service  
and  
11pm evening service

### **Other events of note:**

**Veterans Day Ceremony on the Common** – Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – 11am

**Townsend Congregational Church** – Holiday Fair - November 18<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 3pm

**All Ashby Seniors, the Annual Christmas Holiday Dinner** – Saturday, December 9th  
1:30pm at the Legion Post Hall – RSVP by November 25<sup>th</sup>.

Sign up form and information can be found in the Ashby Council on Aging Newsletter

### **The Open Doors**

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