

THE OPEN DOORS

The Newsletter of the Ashby Congregational Church
April - May 2024

From the Pastor

Spring is here and Easter is now behind us. This past winter was not as stormy or cold as it could have been and we are looking forward to the earth growing warmer and greener.

During this past winter, we have celebrated the birth of Jesus and the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. The joy that we found during these mayor events seems to diminish and go away as the year progresses. Why? We should feel the same excitement surrounding our day to day relationship with God as we feel during the holidays. Our love for God should not come and go just because the party is over. Loving God and Jesus Christ requires us to study and learn each and every day. The Holy Spirit has been made available to us so that we have someone to turn to so that we may grow in faith.

We are living in a world that seems to become crazier every day. Our priorities must be in God's love for us and our love for Him. 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-19; "Rejoice always, pray constantly, and give thanks in all circumstances: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit" Rejoice in God's love, pray for understanding. Give thanks to God for the blessings in your life, and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in all aspects of life. Join us in church each Sunday so that we ay worship together as Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Praise Be to God.

Blessing,
Pastor Ken



Sunday Morning Worship Service: 10:00 am

Prayer is Powerful



1 Chronicles 16:11 – “Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.”

Matthew 7:7 – “Ask, and it will be given unto you; seek and you will find; knock; and it will be open to you.”

There are no guarantees in life. We will be faced with many moments of affliction and pain that requires us to seek the Lord as our refuge and strength.

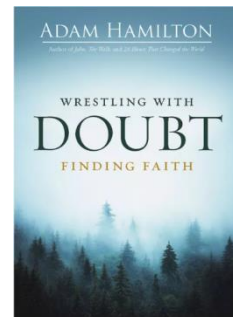
An integral part of our church is the prayer chain. We lift up the needs of not only the people in our church family, but also the needs of others. Through prayer, we often ask for Gods healing touch and divine intervention for individuals and their families.

We are thankful for those who take the time to pray. This act of love and compassion is a powerful expression of faith and hope.

Bible Study



Our next Bible Study has started!



Our study is the book “*Doubt, Wrestling with Finding Faith*” by Adam Hamilton.

Hamilton draws from the wisdom of the Bible to approach reservations with honesty and insight. Learn how doubt can drive you to a deeper encounter with the Lord.

We meet on Tuesdays in the church hall at 1:00pm or at Pastor Ken’s house at 7:00pm.

All are welcomed, come join us.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



The children are studying animals of the Bible and what they represent.

Do you know what the Bible says about these animals?

The children will tell you on Children's Sunday, June 9th during the worship service.



MISSIONS NEWS

MISSIONS
*God at Work,
Faith in Action*

The Missions Committee continued to make contributions to worthy causes. A donation of \$700.00 was sent to Prince of Peace Church in Lewiston, Maine following the shooting tragedy there in late October. The donation reflected \$500.00 from members and friends within the community as well as \$200.00 from the Missions fund. A donation of \$200.00 was sent to Project New Hope in Worcester, MA to help Veterans' families with health and wellness needs at the pantries. A donation of \$200.00 was sent to Boys' Town to help both boys and girls with food and clothing needs. A donation of \$200.00 was sent to the Meek and Humble Ministry in Fitchburg, MA to assist with getting the youth in Fitchburg off the streets and into a safe and Christian environment. A donation of \$250.00 was sent to Operation Smile, which will help a child receive a healthy smile. Children receiving these operations have been born with severe facial deformities, affecting both proper speech development and ability to chew and digest food.

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 the yard sale is right around the corner.

It will be held on: **Saturday May 18th**.

It will be held at the prime location of **Matt Peeler's home 708 Main Street**.

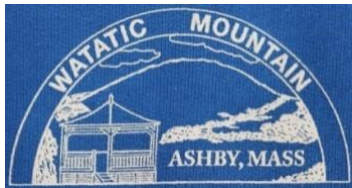
We are collecting saleable items and if you have any you would like to donate, you can call to arrange for pick up or drop off.

If you would like to help set up, price items or work the day of the sale, please contact Cathy.

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



\$24 - Crew Neck Sweatshirt

\$38 – Full Zip Front Hooded Sweatshirt



Tee-Shirts – are available also!

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

RADA Cutlery

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!

Finnish Oven Pancake (*Pannukakku*)

Pannukakku is an oven pancake that is sometimes call kropsu. It was original made from “new milk” or colostrum diluted with whole milk. It didn't puff up like this and was richer. This recipe adds evaporated milk for the richer taste.



Makes 8 servings

1/4 cup butter

2 eggs

2 cups whole milk or 1 cup whole milk and 1 cup evaporated milk

1 cup all-purpose flour

2 tablespoons sugar

1 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Melt the butter in two 8-inch round pans in a hot oven. A 13x9 pan can be used, but the two rounds pans are preferred.

In a large bowl, with wire whisk, beat eggs and add milk, flour, sugar and salt, beating until mixture is very smooth. Pour batter into the sizzling hot pans and bake for 30 to 40 minutes.

Remove from pans as soon as possible to avoid sticking.



Church Yard Sale – May 18th

Memorial Day Sunday Service – May 26th

Memorial Day Parade – May 27th

Memorial BBQ at Legion – May 27th

Children's Sunday – June 9th

Ladies Night – June (more information coming)

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

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