

THE OPEN DOORS

The Newsletter of the Ashby Congregational Church
February – March 2025

From the Pastor

It is February and the winter season is slowly passing. Before we know it Spring will be upon us and the greening of the earth around us will begin. God has given us the gift of seasons that change and each one has its blessings. Spring brings us newness of life and the relief from the cold, dreary days. Looking forward to Spring causes us to make plans for gardens and outdoor activities. Giving thanks to God for the longer daylight hours and the greening of the earth should be a priority in our lives. The world is now rested and ready for another season of growth. Taking the time to give thanks and worship our Creator is good for our spirit and allows us to appreciate the blessings we have.

As we begin this new season, let us not forget those who are hurting from the catastrophic events of the past year. Their needs are as great as ever and we must not stop helping in any way we can. God calls on us to assist our brothers and sisters to the best of our ability. Remember we are all God's children and bear responsibility for each other. Our church has been a generous supporter of many charities and with your help we will continue to shine the light of Christ to all those we meet. Always remember Jesus' command to Simon-Peter: "Feed my Sheep."

Blessing,
Pastor Ken



Sunday Morning Worship Service: 10:00 am



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Samaritan's Purse Project

We had the largest collection with 56 boxes!
Thank you to all who filled a shoebox.

Many children were blessed by your generosity.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING ON THE COMMON

“Jingle Bells”! The Sunday school children showed their talent by playing the hand bells at the tree lighting on the Common.

ASHBY BAND CONCERT

The Ashby Band performed a wonderful Christmas concert which was very well attended. This was followed by a meal of homemade soup provided by a few exceptional church cooks.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The children gave us a wonderful and inspiring Christmas Pageant of Christ's birth. We even had an actual infant Jesus!

“THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE”

The Sunday school children sang for the congregation while shining their lights for all to see.



Prayer is Powerful



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

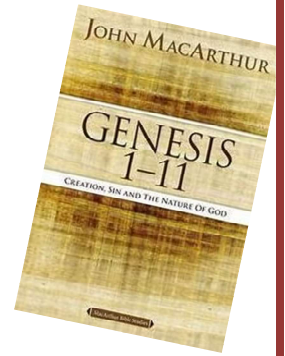
Matthew 7:7 – “Ask, and it will be given unto you; seek and you will find; knock; and it will be open to you.”

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



Bible Study begins Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Our study is the book “**Genesis 1-11**” by John MacArthur.

We will take an in-depth look at the creation story and some of our earliest interactions with each other and with our creator

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

If you have not ordered a book and would like one, please let Pastor Ken know. pastorkenashby@outlook.com or 978-386-5502 Cost \$7.50

All are welcomed. Hope you can join us.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Noah and the Ark

The children have built a Time Machine to travel back in time to visit people and places in the Bible.



They log their trip in their passport and receive a souvenir from each trip.

Check the bulletin board in the reception hall to see where and who they have visited.



and his coat of many colors



Jesus is born!



MISSIONS

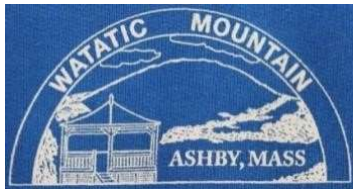
*God at Work,
Faith in Action*

MISSIONS NEWS

The Missions Committee continued to make contributions to worthy causes. A donation of \$700.00 was sent for hurricane Helene relief which consisted of \$273.00 from members and friends donations and the balance from Missions. Project Smile was sent \$250.00 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. Ruck-up, a Veteran's support group in Keene, NH that provides support, guidance, and resources to Veterans experiencing crisis, disabilities, or homelessness, has been sent \$250.00 A donation of \$300.00 was sent to the Townsend Ecumenical Outreach which provides help to Townsend and Ashby community members with food, daily living needs, and clothing. They are important to our seniors who have worked hard to make ends meet. Missions have collected \$429.00 and will be adding to that for the victims of the southern California wildfires.

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

SWEATSHIRT & TEE-SHIRT SALE - ASHBY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



- \$24 - Crew Neck Sweatshirt
- \$30 – Hooded no-zip Sweatshirt
- \$38 – Hooded full-zip Sweatshirt

- \$12 – Short sleeve Tee Shirt
- \$18 – Long sleeve 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

RADA Cutlery

GROUP: ASHBY CONGAREGATIONAL 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, Grillin g tools and various cookbooks.

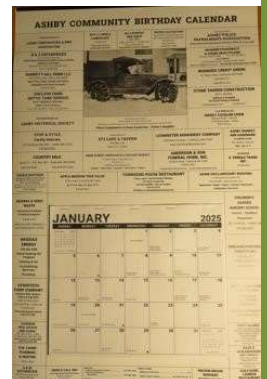
Any questions, call Cathy at 978-386-5502

WAYS AND MEANS

The 2025 calendars are in and there are a few left. If you did not order one and would like one, let me know and I will get you one. The cost per calendar is \$10. The calendar sale is a major fundraiser for the church.

Thanks for your support!

Ckjohnson01431@comcast.net 978-496-6156



Candy Bar Pie

5 Snickers candy bars (2.07 ounce each) cut into 1/4-inch pieces
1 pastry shell (9 inches), baked
12 ounces cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup sugar
2 eggs
1/3 cup sour cream
1/3 cup peanut butter
2/3 cup semisweet chocolate chips
2 tablespoons heavy whipping cream



Place candy bar pieces in the pastry shell; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, beat cream cheeses and sugar until smooth. Add the eggs, sour cream and peanut butter; beat at low speed just until combined. Pour into pastry shell.

Bake at 325° for 35-40 minutes or until set. Cool on a wire rack. In a small heavy saucepan, melt chocolate chips with cream over low heat until smooth. Spread over filling.

Refrigerate for 2 hours or overnight. Cut with a warm knife.

You can use Milky Way bars in place of Snickers

Yield: 8-10 servings



Ash Wednesday – March 5th - Lent begins

Ashes may be received at the Church (time to be determined)

Friends of Ashby COA Annual Sugar Supper – March 29th (time to be determined)

Palm Sunday – April 13nd

Maundy Thursday – April 17th

Good Friday – April 18th

Easter Sunday – April 20th Sunrise Service – 5:50 AM Band Stand
Church Service – 10:00AM

The Open Doors

Ashby Congregational Church

New Ipswich Rd - Beside the Green

P. O. Box 126, Ashby, MA 01431