

# THE OPEN DOORS

The Newsletter of the Ashby Congregational Church  
April – May 2025

From the Pastor

Holy Week is almost here and we are preparing ourselves for the most important week in the Christian church year. As important as Christmas is to us, Easter takes far more thought. We are confronted with multiple emotional events that bring the realities of the world to our attention with an intensity we often don't understand.

We are forced to face our own fickle tendencies as we welcome our Lord and Savior on Palm Sunday. Then just 4 days later we witness His arrest, trial and torture which leads to His execution by crucifixion. Remember, it was the voice of His own people that cried out; "crucify Him, crucify Him" to Pilate. We are the same as those people who claimed Him as their own.

On Easter Morning, we all will join in a glorious proclamation of "Hallelujah, Christ is risen". Open your hearts and allow the joy of that statement to take root in your spirit and praise God for the glorious moment of new life in Christ. Let this feeling surround us from that moment on and inspire us to spread the gospel to everyone we know. Hallelujah Christ is risen indeed.

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.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



The younger children continue to “time travel” through the Bible. They will have chance to share their travels on Children’s Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> during the worship service.

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

The older children continue to work in preparation for confirmation on Easter Sunday.

## MISSIONS NEWS



The Missions Committee continued to make contributions to worthy causes.

A donation of \$500.00 was made to Doctors without Borders.

As sections of North Carolina continue to struggle to recover from the devastating effects of hurricane Helene, an additional \$200.00 donation was made. This and the \$700.00 sent earlier total \$900.00 in donations for the ongoing relief efforts.

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

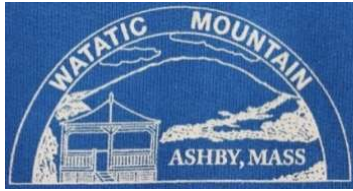
## SERVICE OF TENEBRAE



The word “Maundy” is derived from the Latin “maundatum,” which means commandment. It associated with Jesus’ words after the last supper, “A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another...” (John 13:34).

Our service is in the nature of an anniversary observance, held on the night of the institution of Holy Communion. It is brought to a close with the Office of Tenebrae, an adaptation of an early fourth century ritual, dealing with our Lord’s betrayal. The gradual extinction of the candles symbolizes the growing darkness as “The Light of the World” was taken away. At the very end of the service of Tenebrae the Pastor relights his candle which is symbolic of the Easter Promise.

## **SWEATSHIRT&TEE-SHIRT SALE - ASHBYCONGREGATIONAL 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



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## **RADA Cutlery**

**GROUP: ASHBY CONGAREGATIONAL CHURCH**



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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

## Blueberries 'n Cheese Coffeecake

1/2 cup butter  
1 1/4 cups granulated sugar  
2 eggs  
2 1/4 cups flour (divided)  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
3/4 cup milk  
1/4 cup water  
2 cups blueberries  
1 8-ounce package Cream Cheese, cubed  
1 teaspoon grated lemon peel



### Topping

1/4 cup granulated sugar  
1/4 cup flour  
1 teaspoon grated lemon peel  
2 tablespoons butter  
Powdered sugar

Beat butter and granulated sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Add combined 2 cups flour, baking powder and salt alternately with combined milk and water, mixing well after each addition. Toss blueberries with remaining flour. Fold blueberries, cream cheese and peel into batter. Pour into greased and floured 13x9-inch baking pan.

Combine granulated sugar, flour and peel; cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle over batter. Bake at 375° for 1 hour. Cool. Sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving.

Yield: 12 servings



This year the Church will not be participating in the Townwide Yard Sale



**Palm Sunday** – April 13<sup>nd</sup>

**Maundy Thursday** – April 17<sup>th</sup> – 7:30pm - Sanctuary

**Easter Sunday** – April 20<sup>th</sup>      Easter Sunrise Service – 5:45 AM on the Common  
Easter Sunrise Breakfast to follow – Fellowship Hall  
Easter Morning Service – 10:00AM – Sanctuary  
Reception of New Members  
Confirmation Class

Upcoming Event – Healing Service TBA

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Ashby Congregational Church  
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