

THE OPEN DOORS

Newsletter of the Ashby Congregational Church
October – November 2025

From the Pastor

Fall seems to be the one season in the year that forces into some uncomfortable realities. The knowledge of the cooling down and shortening days forces us to change what we have been doing since last Spring. Soon, we will be preparing for another holiday season with Halloween, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and, finally, Christmas and New Years happening one right after another. By the time that New Years arrives, we are all ready for a break. In the meantime, let us give thanks for all the blessings we enjoy all through the year.

Beginning in early November, we will start a new Bible Study by Adam Hamilton titled; “The Message of Jesus.” It is a 6-week study that looks into what Jesus had to say about certain topics. There will be more to come about this study.

There will be a “Bring a Friend to Church” special Sunday and a “Healing Service” upcoming. If there are any special topics that you may wish to hear about, please let me know and I will see what I can come up with. We have so much to learn about our relationship with Jesus and our walk with God, hopefully we will never stop seeking and praising our Creator for His never-ending love. Enjoy this upcoming season.

Blessings,
Pastor Ken

Sunday Morning Worship Service: 10:00 am

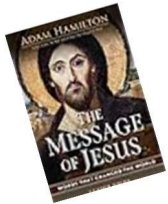


SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Curriculum this year is a unit of study called, “Oh the Places We’ll Go”. This is a spinoff from a Dr. Seuss book – *Oh, The Places You’ll Go!* Each week the children learn about a different place in the Bible, the event that occurred there and the significance of the event. Each child has a scrapbook to record the places traveled. Check the bulletin board to see their travels.

September travels: Garden of Eden, Euphrates River, Mt. Ararat

Upcoming Fall travels: Babylon, Ninevah, Canaan, Egypt



Bible Study “The Message of Jesus” Adam Hamilton

More than 3 billion people claim to follow Jesus. But aside from a few verses, how many actually know what he taught? In fact, much of what people think Jesus taught, he never said. In this six-week study, pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton explores six of the most important themes in Jesus’s teachings, why they matter and how they speak to us today. The book will explore Jesus’s preaching on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, the “I am” sayings in John, and more. Jesus’s message is not only life-changing, but world-changing. Join Adam Hamilton in studying The Messages of Jesus: Words That Changed the World.

If you interested in being a part of this study, let Pastor Ken know so that he can order books. Cost will be about \$13. We will meet on Tuesdays, 1:00 PM in the church and 7:00 PM at Pastor Ken’s home. Study will begin 2nd week in November.

Annual Church Meeting – Sunday October 5th – Immediately following the worship service. We hope you will be able to attend.

COAT DRIVE



MISSIONS

*God at Work,
Faith in Action*

The **Jordan's Furniture Coats for Kids & Families Drive** will take place now until January 2026. During this period, you can drop off gently used coats at church and leave them in the foyer on the side table, or on the back table in the Fellowship Hall. A member of the Missions Committee will bring the coats to Jordan's Furniture to be cleaned by Anton's Cleaners and go out for distribution to those in need.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The annual Thanksgiving food drive will take place on Saturday, November 23rd from 9-11am at the Ashby Congregational Church. We will be collecting Thanksgiving Dinner food items for families in our own community that may be experiencing difficulties at this time.

Stuffing	Canned vegetables	Cranberry Sauce
Pie Filling	Gravy Mix	
Boxed Pie Crust (NOT REFRIGERATED)		

NO expired food. Please check expiration dates.

Veterans Day Ceremony
November 11th at 11:00 am
On the Common



Please join us for a ceremony to honor our veterans who served our country.

ASHBY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

DRIVE-THRU

HARVEST BAKERY

Saturday, October 25, 2025

10am - 11am

****PUMPKIN WHOOPIE PIES \$8 FOR 1/2 DZ**

****FRESH APPLE CIDER DONUTS**

\$1.50 EA OR \$8 FOR 1/2 DZ

****PUMPKIN ROLL \$12 each**

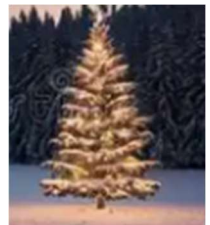
Preorders Only - Cathy 978-386-5502

Order Deadline: Sunday, October 18, 2025

Christmas Tree Lighting on the Common Bandstand

November 30th - 4 pm

Join us for some carols and the lighting of the Ashby Christmas tree
on the Common Bandstand.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It's hard to believe it's that time of year already – time to pack shoeboxes full of gifts that will bring joy to children in need around the world through Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse. Each November thousands of churches, schools, groups and individual donors prepare and collect shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies, personal items, and other small gifts. A booklet of Bible stories is often distributed alongside the shoebox gifts which are given to children based on need alone, regardless of their faith. These boxes are then distributed worldwide by volunteers.

Ashby Congregational Church has been a supporter of this mission for over 20 years. We are continuing to participate in this worthy effort. This year, we have Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes available for you to use (pick up at church or call Cathy 978-386-5502 to arrange a pickup) or you can use a standard size shoebox of your choice.

We will be collecting the boxes on or before Sunday, November 16th and Pastor Ken will bless them during the church service. Shoeboxes will be delivered to the collection site during the week.

- Drop off your shoebox at church on any Sunday morning.
- Drop off your shoebox on the Johnson's porch any day - 603 Wheeler Rd, Ashby
- Call to arrange for pick up 978-386-5502 or 978-496-6156

Attached you will find a list of suggestions for packing a box. Please include (inside the box) a check (no cash) made out to Samaritan's Purse for \$10 to cover the postage and other project costs. You can also go online to www.samaritanspurse.org/occ for directions on how to pay the postage and print out a label with a barcode to attach to your box. This will allow you to see the destination of your box for a lucky child.

Wrap the shoebox but make sure it can be opened easily for inspections.

Please remember that your shoebox may be the only gift the child receives.

More than ever, children need hope. Let's work together to bring the joy of Christmas and the love of God to children around the world!

Your Missions Committee,
Linda Mikkola, chairperson, Jessica Johnson, Peggy Mosher



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.

Fresh Apple Cake

5 small apples, peeled and chopped
2 cups sugar
3 cups flour
2 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
2 tsp. cinnamon Recipe
1 tsp. nutmeg
1 tsp. allspice
1 cup cooking oil
2 eggs
1 cup raisins
1 cup chopped pecans or nuts

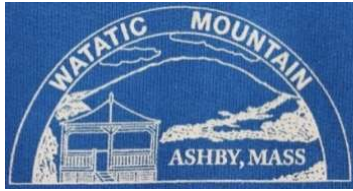
*Taken from Ashby Appeasers
Evelyn Pernaa (Matt Pernaa's
grandmother)*

Put apples into a large bowl: Cover with sugar. Let stand 10 minutes.

Sift together the dry ingredients.

Blend oil and eggs into apple mixture. Add dry ingredients, stirring just to mix.

Add nuts or raisins. Spread into a greased 13x9 pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes.



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

*Youth & Adult
Sizes Available*

(Extra charge for 2X and above)

There are many colors 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, Grilling tools and various cookbooks.

Any questions, call Cathy at 978-386-5502



LOOKING AHEAD

OCTOBER

Ashby Congregational Church Annual Meeting – October 5th

Drive-Thru “Harvest Bakery” Sale – October 25th

Coat Drive – Now – January 2026

NOVEMBER

Bible Study begins – November 4th (1:00pm at church or 7:00pm at Pastor Ken’s home)

Veterans Day Ceremony on the Common – Saturday, November 11th – 11am

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box collection – November 16th

Thanksgiving Baskets Food Collection – November 23rd (at the church)

Christmas Tree Lighting on the Common Bandstand – November 30th - 4 pm

DECEMBER - *(dates & time not noted will be in the December Newsletter)*

Children’s Church Celebration

Christmas Band Concert – Saturday, December 13th – 3:30 pm

A free-will offering dinner to follow in the Fellowship Hall

Parents Night Out

Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Eve Service

The Open Doors

Ashby Congregational Church

New Ipswich Rd - Beside the Common

P. O. Box 126, Ashby, MA 01431