

THE OPEN DOORS

Newsletter of the Ashby Congregational Church
February-March-April 2026



From the Pastor

Looking outside, it is difficult to imagine the green fields that will be appearing before we know it. The snow and cold seem to last forever but the changes that are coming will allow us to forget what winter feels like. God has blessed us with the changes that each season brings, and each one has its good and bad moments. We need to see the blessings that are a part of all things and make the best of what we have been given.

As we prepare ourselves for the season of Lent and all that it teaches us, we look forward to the earth into soft breezes and the colors of Spring. The celebration that follows the tragedy of Good Friday and takes us to the glory of resurrection must be repeated every year so that we do not allow the true meaning of the season to devolve and become just another holiday. Jesus will rise and take His place alongside The Father each and every time we celebrate Easter.

Hallelujah, Christ will rise!

Blessings,
Pastor Ken

Sunday Morning Worship Service: 10:00 am



SUNDAY SCHOOL

This year's unit of study is called "Oh the Places You Will Go!" This is a spinoff from the Dr. Seuss book, "Oh the Places You Will Go!" We travel together to lands to learn about the journey of Biblical figures and to places where these stories unfold.

Previous Travels: Eden, Mt. Ararat, Ninevah, Babylon, Euphrates River, Egypt, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, and the Jordon River.

We especially enjoyed making unleavened bread! What about eating locusts & honey?

Future travels: Capernaum, Galilee, Samaria, Cana, and Gethsemane

MISSION'S NEWS

MISSIONS

*God at Work,
Faith in Action*

The Missions committee made donations to three worthy organizations.

Project New Hope in Worcester was given \$250. This organization supports our Veterans.

Samaritan's Purse was given \$250 to aid with hurricane relief in Jamaica.

Doctors Without Borders was given \$250 to support their work.

Without your support these donations would not be possible. Thank you!

Your Missions Committee,

Linda Mikkola, chairperson, Jessica Johnson, Peggy Mosher

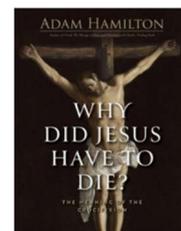
BIBLE STUDY

We will begin a new Bible Study for Lent on either February 17th or 24th.

The study is "Why Did Jesus Have to Die?" by Adam Hamilton. It is a 6-session study and will conclude before Easter. Sessions will be held on

Tuesdays at 1:00pm in the church Fellowship Hall and at 7:30PM at Ken & Cathy's home.

Books are \$21 each. Please reserve yours as soon as possible. Start date will be determined soon.



FAMILY MOVIE SERIES

MOVIE TIME



For the cold winter months of February, March and April, we will be hosting a monthly family-friendly movie in the Fellowship Hall with freshly popped movie-style popcorn.

Movies will be on the first Sunday of the month following coffee hour. Mary Poppins was enjoyed by 21 people on February 1st with much laughter and fellowship. Next movie will likely be Nanny McFee, a family friendly comedy on March 1st.

Details to come on movie selections.



EASTER FLOWERS

We will be ordering Easter flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. Information regarding the cost and deadline will be forthcoming.



Prayer is Powerful

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

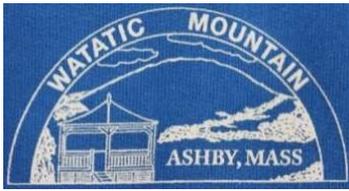
Matthew 7:7 – “Ask, and it will be given unto you; seek and you will find; knock; and it will be open to you.”

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 God's 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.





SWEATSHIRT & TEE-SHIRT SALE - ASHBY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

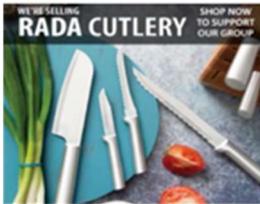
*Youth & Adult
Sizes Available*

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

(Extra charge for 2X and above)

There are many colors 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

*Spring
is coming*



CALENDAR of EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 18th – Ash Wednesday.

Ashes may be received at the church: 1:00–3:00PM and 6:30–8:00PM

Bible Study – Tuesdays – 1:00PM in Fellowship Hall, 7:30PM at Pastor's home

MARCH

Sunday 1st – Family Movie Series – Following coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday 8th – Daylight Savings Time – Spring Forward! - Turn your clocks ahead

Sunday 29th – Palm Sunday

APRIL

Family Movie Series – Date to be announced

Thursday 2nd – Maundy Thursday – Service of Tennebrae and Communion will be held in the Sanctuary. Time to be determined.

Sunday 5th – Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service on the Common, 6:15AM. Breakfast to follow.

Easter Service 10:00AM

Sunday 12th – Humor Sunday – save your jokes! – More details to come

The Open Doors

Ashby Congregational Church

New Ipswich Rd - Beside the Common

P. O. Box 126, Ashby, MA 01431