

# THE OPEN DOORS

The Newsletter of the Ashby Congregational Church  
July - August 2026



From the Pastor

Summer is almost here and we prepare ourselves for the hot, lazy days to come. Vacations will begin and gardens will need tending and it will soon seem as if there is no time to rest. Take some time to slow down and enjoy what God has provided. Enjoy moments with family and friends and allow yourself the chance to unwind. God has given us this season so we can have time with each other and relax for a while.

Ashby has a lot of things happening this summer; A Patriotic Band concert on Wednesday July 1<sup>st</sup> on the Common, the Bonfire on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July at Allen Field and Band concerts on the Common every Wednesday through the second week of August.

This year we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of our nation. We have been blessed, by God, with this country, founded on freedom and equality. We need to remember that it is an ongoing process that requires constant work and dedication. The signing of this document in July of 1776 did not instantly fix everything that was wrong. It gave us a blueprint to work on that will take effort, through time, to come to fruition. God wants us to improve ourselves, always, so that we can leave a better nation for those yet to come. On this Independence Day, give thanks to God for giving us the opportunity to love and serve each other and shine a light of freedom around the world. God bless this nation and all its people.

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 children of the Sunday School celebrated Children’s Sunday/Flag Day on Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> during the worship service.



The children participated in readings, bell ringing and a series of puppet shows.

The puppet shows – John the Baptist, Lazurus, The Wedding, and Mary and Martha – were about people who met Jesus. The shows featured puppets made by the children.

The pastor, organist, teachers and children were all recognized for their ongoing involvement in Sunday School.

The spirit of the children continues to inspire and uplift our congregation.



## GIFT OF RECOGNITION

A special “Gift of Recognition”, \$2,500 from the church scholarship fund, was given to Ethan Hopkins for his continuing education. He is planning on attending UMass Lowell in the Fall.

Congratulations, Ethan!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Theme: “Shipwrecked”

Vacation Bible School will be from 6:30PM-8:30PM

Grades Pre K – 6<sup>th</sup>

Monday, July 27

Tuesday, July 28

Thursday, July 30



When life feels stormy or stuck, God is with us. He protects, leads, speaks, and even uses unexpected people to bring help.

\*\*\*\* stories, crafts, music, games, and more..... MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

To sign up or for more information call/email Cathy

978-386-5502

ckjohnson01431@comcast.net

## MISSIONS NEWS

**MISSIONS**

*God at Work,  
Faith in Action*

Thank you to all those who donated bibles for “Bibles 4 Kenya” mission. We continue to collect to support this cause.

Our church will be hosting Campus Ambassadors, a missionary organization from Fitchburg State University. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> when representative will speak directly to our congregation during the worship service.

We continue to distribute funds in support of various causes:

Gideons, Samaritan’s Purse, Operation Smile, Doctors Without Borders and Project New Hope.

Speak to anyone on the Missions Committee if you want to learn more about these organizations.

## WAYS AND MEANS

It's that time of year!



We will be serving ice cream sundaes at the Bonfire as well as all the band concerts on the common. Come and enjoy the homemade hot fudge sauce, homemade butterscotch sauce and strawberries topping your ice cream!



We will also have root beer floats and of course...  
popcorn still at \$1 a bag!

Ice Cream Sundaes!



Concerts are on Wednesday evening at 7:00pm to 9:00pm  
beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> through August 12<sup>th</sup>

## RELAY FOR LIFE



Thank you to everyone who supported  
Relay for Life.

The event was successful and provided  
opportunities for fellowship while raising over  
\$160,000 for the American Cancer Society.



## RECIPE

This summer try a fruit punch from a 1933 cookbook to keep cool.

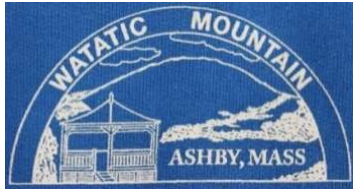
### Mixed Fruit Punch

1 cup syrup drained from canned fruit  
1 cup loganberry or grape juice  
1 cup orange juice  
1/3 cup lemon juice  
2/3 cup water

Mix all together  
Add ice

Simple!





**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

*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 CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**



Shop online [www.RadaFundraising.com](http://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



**Patriotic Band Concert** – July 1<sup>st</sup> 7:00 – 9:00 PM on the common

**Fourth of July Celebration Bonfire** – July 3<sup>rd</sup> – at Allen Field

**Band Concerts** – Wednesday evenings 7:00 – 9:00PM on the common  
July 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>  
August 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

**Campus Ambassadors** – Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup> during worship service

**Vacation Bible School** – 6:30PM – 8:30PM  
Monday July 27<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday July 28<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday July 30<sup>th</sup>

### **The Open Doors**

Ashby Congregational Church  
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