

THE OPEN DOORS

The Newsletter of the Ashby Congregational Church
September - October 2026



From the Pastor

We have gone through another Summer and are preparing ourselves for Fall. As the seasons change, we look back and discover the changes going on in our church family. We are growing and as more people become active, we discover the diversity of talents that are being shared together. We have more people, young and old, who are stepping up and sharing their gifts of music and dance which enhances our worship and gives glory to God. We not only see sharing in performance, we are blessed to have young people reading scripture and learning how God works in us to spread His Word. Each new family that walks through our doors brings new life and strength to our congregation. I will announce a date for October to “Bring a Friend To Church Sunday.” I am hoping that we can share what we have here in Ashby Congregational Church with people who are searching for what we have together. Start thinking who you want to invite or invite them now and then bring someone else in October.

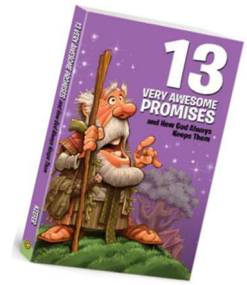
Blessing,
Pastor Ken



Sunday Morning Worship Service: 10:00 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

WELCOME BACK 2026 - 2027



Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome back to Sunday School! We are so excited to begin a new year of learning, exploring, experiencing, and growing in faith with you and your child! Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 13th.

Our curriculum this year will begin from a series of units of study called “13”. The first unit is called “13 Very Awesome Promises *and How God Always Keeps Them*”. Each lesson will focus on one key Bible truth, which children will explore and apply. Each lesson includes games and activities. Each child will keep a loose-leaf binder with activities, scripture connections and photos for each lesson.

Other future units:

- 13 Amazing Animals *and How God Used Them*
- 13 Very Bad Days *and How God Fixed Them*
- 13 Very Surprising Sayings *and Why Jesus Said Them*
- 13 Very Big Mistakes People Made *and What God Did About Them*
- 13 Very Cool Stories *and Why Jesus Told Them*

Dan Smith will be working with the children in grades 7 and up who are preparing for confirmation.

Classes will meet after “Children’s Time” and will be dismissed into the Fellowship Hall after each class has ended.

Please RSVP if your child is planning on attending this year so I can plan accordingly.

Hope to see you on the 13th!

Blessings,

Laurie Dillion, Superintendent

Cathy Johnson, Deb Dancause, Katie Flinkstrom, Dan Smith, Teachers

MISSIONS NEWS



Missions committee is grateful to have our church host 2 missionaries from the Fitchburg State University division of Campus Ambassadors on Sunday July 19th to share their mission with us. We have donated \$179 to help further their cause and they will join us again in January 2027 during worship for a update. Continue to pray and support them with snacks and homemade goodies for their Bible study time.

Locally, we supported Maine Seacoast Mission with a \$300 donation. Nationally, we supported Boys Town with a \$179 donation towards school supplies.

Internationally, they church members donated \$375 to Samaritans Purse for relief due to the natural disaster in Venezuela and missions added \$125 to bring the total to \$500.

Please continue to pray that these funds and missions are in alignment with God's will and put to good use.

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

WAYS AND MEANS

We have had another successful year serving ice cream sundaes and popcorn! Thank you to all who have worked, baked brownies and of course, purchased a sundae.

Our next fundraiser will be the Pumpkin Festival on Saturday, September 26th on the common. We will be making and serving apple cider donuts. You can preorder if you would like since they are always a sellout. We will not be having a Fall bakery this year so get them while you can.

We are working on completing the Community Calendar. If you are not listed on the calendar but would like to be, fill out the attached form and get it to Cathy Johnson or Deb Dancause by September 26th. The cost of the calendar is \$10.

Also, mark your calendar for Saturday, December 12th. The Ashby Band will have a Christmas Concert upstairs in the sanctuary. It is always a wonderful concert! The Ways and Means committee will have a freewill offering soup dinner following the concert.

ASHBY COMMUNITY BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Number of calendars @ \$10.00 each _____

Please list names/birthdate/anniversaries of family members (month/day)

Annual Church Meeting – Sunday, October 18th – Immediately following the worship service. We hope you will be able to attend.

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 require 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.

Pistachio Bundt Cake

Recipe from the kitchen of Nancy Rogers

- 1 white cake mix
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup of oil
- 1 cup club soda
- 2 packages instant pistachio pudding
- 1 Tablespoon almond extract
- 1 Tablespoon peach or apricot Brandy
- 1/2 cup chopped cherries
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts



Preheat oven to 350 degrees

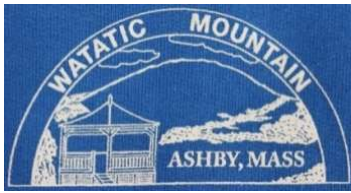
Lightly grease and flour bundt pan

Mix cake mix, eggs, oil, club soda, instant pudding, almond extract and Brandy until well combined. Stir in cherries and nuts.

Pour into prepared bundt pan.

Bake for 45 – 60 minutes

Enjoy!



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 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.



Looking Ahead



Pumpkin Festival on the common – Saturday, September 26th

Annual Church Meeting – Sunday, October 18th Following the worship service

Bring a Friend To Church Sunday – October (date to be determined)

Christmas Tree Lighting on the common – (date to be determined)

Christmas Band Concert – Saturday, December 12th

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

The Open Doors

Ashby Congregational Church

New Ipswich Rd - Beside the Green

P. O. Box 126, Ashby, MA 01431