

The Chimes Newsletter



*Federated Church of Ashland
118 Main Street
Ashland, MA 01721*

~ May 2022 ~

A Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: so mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one God, to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. Amen



Dearest Friends,

As I write this, we await the confirmation by Council of the unanimous recommendation of the Christian Education Committee for our next Director of Christian Education--we are very excited--stay tuned! We are also approaching our first \$1000 raised for World Central Kitchen, to

benefit the people of Ukraine--both those still in the country and those who have fled to border regions--our efforts here have a direct impact on the suffering of our brothers and sisters in Eastern Europe. By the time you read this, we will have celebrated the end of a reflective and growth inducing Lent, the Alleluias of Easter Morning, and starting our journey together of the Great Fifty Days of Easter that carries us now until Pentecost on June 4--what does God have in store for us??!

This year as we look at stewardship together in the Easter season, we do so perhaps with a new sense of just how blessed we are--and--what a DIFFERENCE a small but committed congregation can make in God's world! Who would have known at the beginning of Lent what we were capable of? God knew--and continues to strengthen us as we work together for the people of Ukraine, to provide new leadership for the Little Ones--and the adults who love them--in our congregation, as we fix furnaces and seek a better understanding of our finances and reserves. The season of Easter is about hope--in concrete and tangible ways--it is about the flesh and blood among us that gives voice and form to the mission we feel called to live into, and out of. As this new season of Easter comes, what are you most blessed by, with?

The majority of our church budget has to do with the staff that are here to help us accomplish the work God calls us to. Some of the budget goes to insurance, building upkeep and maintenance, postage, and general upkeep. Yet we invest most in the people we believe are called into ministry with us. My hope is that in this new Stewardship season, we will get to know our staff in new and deeper ways; and see just what their work has to do with the ministries we feel called to serve. The Stewardship Committee will be sending you more information soon. Just as Lent was different, perhaps deeper and richer for many of us--so too, I pray, the Easter season will newly inspire our following the Risen One!

Alleluia! Christ Is Risen! The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!!

Joy to you!

Katie

Annual Branch Meetings Sunday, May 1

Come to your branch meeting! We will be holding the annual meetings for our four branches, Baptist, Methodist, UCC and Affiliated on Sunday, May 1. The meetings will be held after church, as in the past. Be there, and participate in your branch's important business!

Thanks!

Tina Kingsbury, Church Clerk





Ukraine Fundraisers

Show your support for the People of Ukraine!
Purchase heart shaped pins in the Ukrainian national flag colors, Flag pins, Sunflower pins or Silk sunflowers.

Small pins (Hearts or Flags) - \$5 each

Large pins (Hearts or Sunflowers) - \$10 each

Silk Sunflowers - \$10 each

If you would like to purchase any of these items, please leave a message in the Church Office @ 508-881-1355 or call Rev. Katie Keene @ 617-721-2002. You may also purchase them at the Thrift Shop on Wednesdays or Saturdays.

100% of All proceeds to benefit the People of Ukraine through the work of the World Central Kitchens in the Ukraine and neighboring countries.

Church Office

The Church Office remains closed, due to the pandemic.

Linda continues to work from home. If you need to reach her, please feel free to leave a message at the church office 508-881-1355 or send an email to fcooffice@verizon.net

Stay safe and be well,

Linda :)



Ukraine - Donations Needed

As you know, Lisa Colby is collecting items requested by her Ukrainian Dance Instructor to help the people of Ukraine.

Below is a list of items being collected.

FOOD ITEMS: Non-perishable Food, Canned Food, Pet Food, Baby Formula

MEDICINES: For Colds, Viruses, Diarrhea, etc., Pain Relievers, Band-Aids, Gauze, Disinfectants

TOILETRIES: Hygienic Products, Soap, Diapers, Tampons and Pads



Donations may be dropped off at the Church on Sunday mornings between 10:00-11:00 AM.

Lisa will deliver all donations to her Dance Instructor and they will be shipped to Ukraine.

Please email Lisa @ Lsaabcolby@comcast.net if you have any questions.

Thank you for supporting the people of Ukraine!

Church Pledges



Thank you to everyone who has faithfully sent in their pledges.

If you are able to keep up with your pledge, we would appreciate you mailing it to the church.

For those of you who are unable to contribute at this time - we do understand.

Thank you for your continued support!

**Mother's Day
Sunday, May 8**



Prayer Requests

Prayer needs, concerns and thanksgivings: the prayer life of our community is as vibrant as ever - If you would like to add anything to our weekly prayer list, please leave a message for Linda in the church office 508-881-1355 or send an email to Linda at fcoaoffice@verizon.net





Our Thrift Shop is OPEN ...

**Wednesdays 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
AND
Saturdays 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

Masks are Required to Enter the Thrift Shop
Donations will be accepted on the days that we are Open.

**Memorial Day
May 30**



Sunday Worship Service

We continue to hold in-person worship services at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings in our Sanctuary.

Our worship service is also available live at 10:00 AM on YouTube FCOA.

You may also view any of our past services on YouTube.

Brown Bag Sunday

The Ashland Food Pantry continues to accept donations.

Would you please consider picking up a few extra non-perishable food items while you are grocery shopping?

Donations may be brought to the Church on Sundays between 10:00 -11:00 AM.

Thank you for your continued support!



Our Members' Birthdays

June

**6/25 Busi Maswoswe
6/28 Yuna Woodward**

**"Joy follows the path of least resistance.
Welcome it, and it flows!"**

**Federated Church of Ashland
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