

The Chimes Newsletter



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

~ June 2022 ~

A Prayer for the Season of Pentecost

**There is no plant in the ground,
But tells of your beauty, O Christ.
There is no creature on the earth
There is no life in the sea
But proclaims your goodness.
There is no bird on the wing
There is no star in the sky
There is nothing beneath the sun
But is full of your blessing.
Lighten my understanding
of your presence all around, O Christ
Kindle my will**

to be caring for Creation.

~ John Philip Newell



Dear Members and Friends of FCOA,

On Sunday, May 8 our children and the congregation welcomed our new Christian Education Director, Bema Yusupova, and what a marvelous Sunday it was! The children knew it was a special day because it was Mother's Day,

because Bema and her daughter Naomi were joining us for the first time, and because, as we learned together that morning, every Sunday is a little Easter--every Sunday the life, death, and new life of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit is with us again--calling us ever into the future, into new and wonderful opportunities to grow, all of us, in the knowledge and love of God!

The future is bright with the new energies Bema, our children, and each of you bring as we get excited about what's ahead at FCOA. As we welcome Bema, let us intentionally reach out to each other and learn something new about the person you have perhaps sat next to in worship for years! As Pentecost comes--and the gift of the Holy Spirit is given anew, let us start dreaming again about what God calls us too now!

I have asked Bema to share a little about herself and you will find her autobiographical piece below. Please continue to welcome her and our children back to church!

Joy to you!

Katie

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Hello, Dearest Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

I am honored to be part of this welcoming and loving community. My name is Bema. I am a mother to a two-year-old girl. Her name is Naomi. I am back to this church after two years from our last visit with Naomi on Christmas Eve of 2020. I believe it is a very amazing experience as if we were called back to complete some sort of mission. All I remember from that day is that it was a cold, unusually quiet year as we were at the peak of the pandemic. Like many of us during that hard and isolated year, we felt so lonely that we decided to walk over to the church to see if we could see a service. Naomi and I walked in together and saw pastor Katie, live music, and a few church staff members. It was warm inside despite the door being left open, and bright with lights of candles and the beautiful sound of music. I sat in front of the altar at peace watching how Naomi was actively walking up & down the steps. After two years we are here with You to reconnect. Back in 2020 I felt like I was missing a sense of belonging. When I stepped into this place, I felt this community could give me the love and sense of belonging that I was longing for.

I am from Kyrgyzstan, a former Soviet Republic. I grew up in a big and supportive family. I have received so much love, learned to value family, friendships, hard

work, and diligence. I came to the USA in 2007 in my late teenage years after a second year of college. Here I got myself through college working on many jobs, chasing my American dream, and I wanted to be part of this culture.

I moved to Massachusetts for family reasons. Currently I help run a local daycare. I am excited to get to know everyone in this community. As a mother, sister and a daycare assistant, I spend a lot of time with kids. I want to make them feel loved, understand the blessings of God, help them form friendships with their peers in the church and engage their minds through play and structured curriculum.

I am looking forward to getting to know your children. Please encourage your children to participate in Sunday School.

With warm regards,

Bema

Annual Meeting
Sunday, June 26th



It's time again for our Annual Meeting!

It is very important for as many members as possible to attend the meeting, as we need a quorum. We need to vote on the important business of the church, including the budget for the 2022/2023 year and the Nominating Ballot.

The meeting will be held immediately after church, please plan to attend. Thank you!

Tina Kingsbury, Church Clerk

PLEASE NOTE: Everyone is invited to join us for a picnic following our annual meeting. More information will be shared soon!



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 fcoaoffice@verizon.net

Stay safe and be well,

Linda :)



Ukraine - Donations Needed

Lisa Colby continues to collect 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 the 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!

**Father's Day
Sunday, June 19**



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.

***Summer Begins
Tuesday, June 21***





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. If you would like to drop off your donations directly at the Community Center, there is a bin located outside.

Thank you for your continued support!



Our Members' Birthdays

June

6/25 Busi Maswoswe

6/28 Yuna Woodward

July

7/11 Irene Brown

7/30 Shelby Howard

**May the sun bring you new energy
every day!**



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