

THE TIE that binds

March /April 2022

1241 Poquonnock Road, Groton, Connecticut 06340
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Pastor's Page



Lent into Holy Week into Easter

"Awaken Me"

By Joyce Rupp

*Risen One,
come meet me in the garden of my life.
Lure me into elation.
Revive my silent hope.
Coax my dormant dreams.
Raise up my neglected gratitude.
Entice my tired enthusiasm.
Give life to my faltering relationships.
Roll back the stone of my indifference.
Unwrap the deadness in my spiritual life.
Impart heartiness in my work.
Risen One,
send me forth
as a disciple of your unwavering love,
a messenger of your unlimited joy.
Resurrected One,
may I become ever more convinced
that your presence lives on,
and on, and on, and on.
Awaken me! Awaken me!*

Throughout this season of losing and finding, of letting go and taking on,
of claiming a Word for Lent and being claimed as God's Word for the journey, may we continue to
awaken to signs of hope and resurrection around us.
May we reach out to one another with unwavering love and unlimited joy, even as our world reaches
out for healing, peace, and an end to suffering.
May we rise up in the days ahead, bringing new life to all people.

Pastor Claudine

MYSTIC AREA ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Mystic, Connecticut



MAEC GOOD FRIDAY WALK 2022

The purpose of the Walk is to support local food agencies and assist rural communities in Alabama and Mississippi. The southern areas have been personally identified and monitored by the Kay Doherty, Director of *Sharing, Inc.* of Braintree, MA and founder of this Walk. Our contributions have helped improve life in these communities.

The scenic 7-mile route travels from Mystic Congregational Church to Old Mystic Methodist Church and back. Stations of the Cross along the way are easily seen by walkers to emphasize the theme *We Are Walking with Jesus*.

Directions:

- Register between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall of the Mystic Congregational Church.
- Walk along Main Street, cross the bridge, turn to Gravel Street, Eldridge, Pearl, Starr, River Road, Route 27 to Old Mystic Methodist Church. Arrow signs will guide walkers.
- Walkers must return to the Parish Hall to account for all participants.
- Sponsor sheets and donations should be turned in at the start of the walk.
- Checks are to be made out to MAEC.

For more information please see Dianne (Dellarco) Augeri or Li Ling Liu, our deacons of Mission and Outreach



MARCH MINISTERS

Lay Leaders:

**06 - Holly Boyle
13– Drew Wesche
20 - Richard Tourjee
27 - Carol Gatlin**

APRIL MINISTERS

Lay Leaders:

**03 - Charley Freeman
10 - Marilyn Rodearmel
17 - Carol Rowley
24 - Pete Wong**

Birthdays

MARCH

07- Josh Chomicz
10- Mela Magno
11- Claudine Crooks
11- Ann Mauer
13- Jennifer Kent
13- Carla Berry
15- Daniel Morton
15- Peg Ackley
15- Meghan Berry
15- Gianni Pezzolesi
18- Matthew Johnson
18- Cassie Johnson
18- Robert Johnson
21- Cheryl Piscitello
25- Heidi Butler
26- Janice Watrous Quick
29- Portia Freeman
29- Carol Case
31- Aida Amuan



APRIL

01- Irving Hiller
05- Jonathan Liu
08- Anita Nelson Fernald
10- Mark Mundell
10- Reese Friedman
16- Liz Rousseau
17- Stephen Morton
21- Nancy Spalluto
21—Will Vars
22- David Augeri
26- Becky Freeman

**Poquonnock Bridge
Baptist Church
1241 Poquonnock RD**

**Spring
Tag sale**

crafts

**Sat. April 2nd
9 to 1**

books

jewelry

needlework

Inquires

antiques

glassware

860 445 6126



Masks required, thanks

Church Humor



"Pastor, 'confirmed' means we only have to attend church on Christmas and Easter, right?"



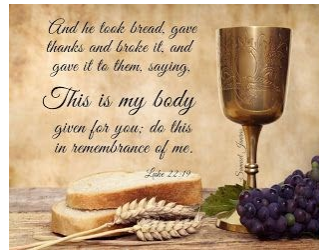
Looking ahead

Holy Week

Palm Sunday April 10th



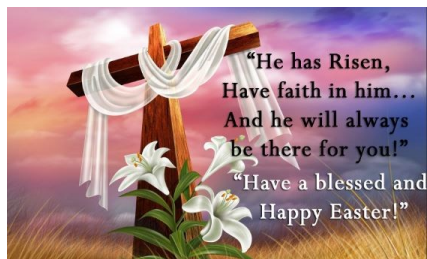
Maundy Thursday Service April 14th 6:30 pm



Good Friday Service—in our sanctuary at noon



Easter Sunday, April 17th



America for Christ Offering

2022

“I will praise you and testify about what you have done.”

Psalm 22:22

In the above verse, the psalmist tells of God’s many acts of deliverance and rescue in tumultuous times. We are stirred and inspired to praise God for all the wonders that God is performing in our lives.

It is up to us to answer God’s call to help and to heal. COVID 19 has devastating communities across the US and Puerto Rico. Wildfires are raging in the West. Floods are rising in the East. Hurricane Ida leaves destruction from the Gulf Coast to the Northeast. Unemployment soars in many communities. In this context, our American Baptist partners are faithfully serving in congregations and communities with helping ministries and creative responses to the diverse needs in their local contexts, whether helping innocent children living in conditions of poverty, assisting a family that is being evicted, providing food and shelter to the homeless man pushing all his belongings in a shopping cart, or so many other who are hurting and lost.

Through your generous financial partnership with ABHMS, (American Baptist Home Mission Societies) we can—together—work to bring more hope into our broken world with leaders and disciples who are the hands and feet of Jesus.

Our ministries, along with the ministries of our mission partners, are making a difference in the lives of so many individuals and families. With your help, we can bring God’s healing touch to so many more.

Envelopes have been in your bulletin for the last two weeks but if you need one we have extras in the office.

Thank you.

Minutes from Church Council Meeting March 7, 2022

Call to Order at 6:31 by Moderator, Charley Freeman

Devotions – Portia Freeman shared the message of enjoying today what we receive, to turn small moments into occasions, so that we may enjoy with serenity in our “time left” and not wait until “sometime later”, after health passes, promises are forgotten, moments are past.

Minutes of previous meeting – Charley requested that Council Members read the agenda of the current meeting and minutes of the previous meeting that are distributed before each meeting in an effort to assure informed discussion and efficient conduct of business. The Church Clerk had previously distributed the minutes of the Feb 7 meeting. Marilyn reported that she had advised Clerk of needed correction: addition of activity and current balance of the Benevolence Fund, and she then moved to accept corrected minutes. Joe seconded; motion approved. The Clerk is to distribute corrected minutes.

Pete raised the question of Item 4.06 Snow Removal: was this for plowing blizzard peak? Reply that there has been more than one plowing and higher cost if more than certain depth.

More bills are expected from contracted service provider: Mikey B’s Lawn Care, Stonington. Patti moved to accept Treasurer’s Report; Li Ling 2nd.

Deacons

Building and Grounds -

Richard Tourjee reported a number of things he has noticed that need attention:

- fix gravel parking lot: manual labor raking stones that have been exposed by snow plowing

- church parking lot: asphalt repair in multiple places

- parsonage roof needs to be replaced - dry, pieces noticed on ground; thinks 25-30 years old, done previously by Irving and Jon Hiller; new roof will be more costly and more involved as it was laid over multiple old layers

- basement window of parsonage - repair if possible or replaced if needed; some wood rotted

Windows of parsonage - some frames and windows need scraping, putty, paint

Front door of church is not closing properly (way two doors come together)

Side door of church at ramp - scraping and painting

Windows in balcony need to be repainted - on inside and outside; one was worked on last year but not sufficient

Marilyn suggested make list public so congregants can step up in providing labor and /or materials.

Charley asked that Drew develop list and follow up on suggestion that it be made public. Richard suggested that Drew compile a list of persons as sub-committee to do the work. Joe reported that a parishioner has asked about lighting on the parking lot, ramp side area. Charley noted that front spot lights are thought to serve that side; perhaps they need to be evaluated for reach distance and adjustment.

Drew acknowledged list and idea of compilation of names to do various jobs.

Finance and Stewardship -

Patti reports account balances of \$5418.21 in Ameriprise and of \$4909.13 in American Baptist Extension Corporation (ABEC). She has been notified that ABEC account has matured (5 years) and will roll over automatically. She needs to provide verification from meeting minutes that she is authorized to send back documentation as signatory to renew ABEC contract. She suggests that other person be added to serve as back-up. Marilyn suggests that name authorization cover more than this activity. There was discussion on how to word, including details in previous paperwork and wording to reflect that names are changed with change of deacons in new year.

Patti moved that deacon of Finance & Stewardship, Patti Tootell or Deacon of Benevolence, Marilyn Rodearmel, are both authorized to sign individually as legal representative for Ameriprise and ABEC contract. Drew seconded. Approved.

It was decided that meeting minutes not be provided to ABEC, but Carol to write up in letter.

Richard - as nominating committee, has asked Sandy Vocolina to accept position vacated by death of Sarah Adams; Sandy accepted but requests a few months to get beyond current family issues.

Old Business –

Financial Secretary Backup; Treasurer Backup–

Charley requested suggestions, noting that Moderator is signer on accounts unless you want to change that, and that back up needs to be available to sign checks. It was suggested that backups for Treasurer be Mei Ling and Patti Tootell. Marilyn Rodearmel volunteered to be backup for Financial Secretary, with agreement by Pete. Richard moved that proposed backups for both positions be accepted; LiLing seconded. Approved unanimously.

Electronic Voting–

Discussion: Marilyn said would like to be able to vote electronically, as it has come up several times. Joe described his research: not included in PBBC Constitution and Bylaws; Robert's Rules of Order (RRO) is not specific but says each institution comes up with verbiage to include in bylaws, making distinction between voting and meeting. RRO mentions a "deliberative assembly," so can identify what is being said, by whom, eg., like current meeting or otherwise interactive. Zoom works as "deliberative assembly". Voting as secret ballots would require specific verbiage in bylaws. Charley notes that the person who sets up Zoom meeting must deliberately authorize attendees and that we are not set up with logistics to function by Zoom. Discussion continued: question if could be done without changing Bylaws but by response to Clerk as has been done for consensus to lower rental property, should begin with change of by-laws and that anyone can initiate, requires approval by portion of congregation who have been given 30-day notice, per Constitution and Bylaws. Dianne acknowledged Joe's research and reporting efforts to comply with business rules and that others on council had been tasked with this and it was not brought to fruition. She volunteered to work with Joe, that even though there is no specific urgency it is better to do sooner than later, i.e., before summer.

Other old business:

Joe reminded that Annual Meeting minutes were previously distributed and asked if corrections/additions. None raised.

New Business –

Organ Maintenance

Charley reports that when he first took Moderator position he got letter offering services to tune organ by new person who had been given PBBC name by prior organ tuner. (See attached document reporting conversation with McNeely Organ Co.) He thinks appropriate to make responsibility of Building & Grounds. Charley has recently signed a contract w/ McNeely Organ Co. Richard moved that new organ contractor be hired to paint and repair the pipes per the \$500 estimate, with provision that we provide manual labor to lift, remove and replace pipes. Discussion: Painting is by mix w/ brass shavings. This provides nice completion of prior work in sanctuary of ceiling and walls. Marilyn suggested this is something to be brought before congregation for help and contributions. Charley said that it will need to be done when weather is good, thinking May or June, to be able to take the pipes into parking lot for painting. Drew seconded. No further discussion. Approved unanimously.

Patti announced that she has been in contact with Holly B who has items for children so they will have an Easter Egg hunt on church lawn area on Easter Sunday.

Additional Business – none raised

Adjourned at 7:42 - as moved by Marilyn, seconded by Li Ling and approved unanimously.

Devotions for April: Joe Green

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Gatlin

Clerk of Council

Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church
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Groton, CT 06340