

# THE TIE that binds

May 2019



There is no love, like a mother's love  
no stronger bond on earth...  
like the precious bond that comes from God,  
to a mother, when she gives birth

A mother's love is forever strong,  
never changing for all time...  
and when her children need her most,  
a mother's love will shine.

God bless these special mothers,  
God bless them every one...  
for all the tears and heartache,  
and for the special work they've done.

When her days on earth are over,  
a mother's love lives on...  
through many generations,  
with God's blessings on each one.

Be thankful for our mothers,  
for they love with a higher love...  
from the power God has given,  
and the strength from up above.

*Happy Mother's day*



## Pastor's Page



### Celebrating the Easter Season

With gratitude we reflect on the Holy Week journey. Thank you to members and friends for sharing in our Palm Sunday celebration, our Maundy Thursday communion, our Good Friday remembrance, and our Easter morning worship.

Having experienced the joy and promise of resurrection, may we live now with a sense of restored hope and renewed life. May the spirit of the Risen Christ be with us in all we do!

### Child Dedication

What a privilege and special joy it was to gather together for a Service of Child Dedication in the midst of this Easter season.

We celebrate the precious gift of Jayson Albert Simonds, son of Crystal and James, grandson of Cheryl Smith, and great-grandson of Marilyn Benson.

We pray God's blessing upon little Jayson, and we promise our love and prayers to his family. May God be with them all for Jayson's journey of life and faith.

### Gifts to Church World Service

As we celebrate Mother's Day this month, and the Festival of the Christian Home, we will once again receive our Blanket the World with Love Offering. These gifts are given each year, in memory or honor of significant women in our lives, to Church World Service for their ongoing global work of emergency relief, education and health empowerment, sustaining care and comfort.

### Books We Have Recently Shared

*"Thank you, Earth: A Love Letter to Our Planet"*

*by April Pulley Sayre*

*"Hats of Faith" by Medeia Cohan*



Do you have someone graduating this year?  
Please let Pastor Claudine know so she can acknowledge them  
for their achievements!

Does not have to only be from high school or college—could  
be from nursery school—ANY graduate from  
any level will be named on June 16th !



Let her know the name, school, degree and any special awards  
that may apply!



## **MAY MINISTERS**

**Communion:** Prepare: Marilyn Baird & Carol Gatlin

Serve: : Marilyn Baird & Carol Gatlin  
Peg Straub & Londa Wesche

Assist Pastor: Barbara Brant

**Lay Leader:**

05 – Jonathan Liu  
12– Li Ling Liu  
19 - Carol Gatlin  
26 - Dennis Piscitello

## **JUNE MINISTERS**

**Communion:** Prepare: Holly Boyle & Gail Neff

Serve: Holly Boyle & Gail Neff  
Jane Imdahl  
Will Vars

Assist Pastor: Richard Tourjee

**Lay Leader**

02– Alex Lew  
09 - Holly Boyle  
16 - Barbara Brant  
23 - Patti Tootell  
30 - Marilyn Rodearmel





## **MAY**

12 – Eleanor Cebriwsky  
13 – John David Helsel  
15 – Andrew Dellarco  
21 – Mei Ling Liu  
22- Susan Schmidtknecht  
23 – Gayle Donahue  
23 – Jeff Land  
28 – Cherri Ashbey  
29 – Derek Bianchi

## **JUNE**

06 – Colby Ackley  
06 – Mason Harasyn  
12 – Len Lun Nlang  
13 – Charley Freeman  
16 – Jon Hiller  
17— Sue Shontell  
18 – Mike Freeman  
19 – Gail Neff  
21 – Rachael Dellarco  
22 – Hailey Bassett  
22 – Jerry Watkins  
23 – Dennis Piscitello  
26 – Ed Boyle  
29 – Brian Berry  
29 – Carol Gatlin



## PBBC Council Minutes

April 1, 2019

Our moderator, Catherine Hiller, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and Portia Freeman led us in devotions.

**Communications:** Nothing to report

### **Pastor's Report**

- First, Claudine wanted to share words of gratitude: when last we met we hadn't even begun Holy Week yet, and it seems like a long time ago, but thanks one and all for all who led and helped guide us through Holy Week and all the special services. Attendance and spirit was good. Claudine thanked all the readers and all those in attendance. She added that she is always open to hearing specific feedback that anyone wants to offer about the Holy Week services, whether it's something that spoke to you in particular or something that you'd like to see different. If you do have any comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to Claudine!
- Claudine also highlighted the success of the infant dedication of Jason, Marilyn Benson's great-grandson. Claudine thanked all who helped with the event and reception, and to the whole congregation for showering the family with love and celebrating them in such a grand fashion.
- There is a lot coming up in the near future! This upcoming Sunday (5/12/19) is Mother's Day, as well as the Festival of the Christian Home as we know it in the church. Jane Imdahl will be donating the carnations to be given to all the women of the congregation. We will also be doing our Second Sunday Food Collection, and will be taking the Blanket the World with Love offering.
- The following week, Claudine will be away for continuing education at the Festival of Homiletics in Minneapolis (5/13/19-5/17/19). Rev. Tim Chesser will preach on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Carol Gatlin will be the lay leader, and she requested that Catherine Hiller do the prayer list for that Sunday.
- On Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, which is during Memorial Day Weekend, we will have a special event in church; Drew Wesche will be sharing a brief flag ceremony that he has done in a couple of other churches, he and Jonathan Liu are working on some special music, and he asked if Catherine Hiller could share in the story of the PBBC flag as the historian.
- We will have a prayer shawl blessing on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Jane Imdahl has agreed to coordinate the prayer shawl ministry, so Claudine will be working with her to plan it.

### **Deacon & Committee Reports:**

Worship & Membership: Barbara Brant and Portia Freeman

- As we voted on in April, we will be replacing the black Lenten cross with a new, lighter one in time for Lent next year. Richard Tourjee will be in charge of building it, and he is donating both his time and the material so we are thankful to him for that.
- As per our discussion last month, the committee was prepared with an update on the topic of purchasing new altar items. They said that it would be returned to during Old Business.
- The committee has begun putting out the word in terms of searching for a new choir director, and that will continue in the upcoming months.

Buildings & Grounds: Alex Lew and Brian Berry

- The committee mentioned that we will be discussing the next steps for the rental garage under New Business.
- Following up on some things discussed in April, Alex said that he has talked with Ron and he said that as soon as the weather dries up he will take a look at the light in the front church sign.

- This past week, the internet cable running from the church to the parsonage was buried to keep it protected. This cable was installed a few months ago to extend the range of the church's internet service due to the non-functionality of the Wi-Fi at the parsonage.
- During the Tag Sale, Keith Ashby fixed the broken window in the sanctuary, but it still needs to be nailed up in place.

#### Finance & Stewardship: Pat Tootell

- The Memorial Fund is the same as it was last month. The Ameriprise and ABEC accounts are also the same as last month because the reports are quarterly.
- Now that the tag sale is over, the committee will soon be meeting to discuss alternative placement for the funds to improve the interest rate. We will return to this next month.

#### Education & Discipleship: Dianne Dellarco and Li Ling Liu (absent)

- June 9<sup>th</sup> will be Children's Sunday and the Annual Church Picnic. Wynonna will be preaching once again, and Pat and Dianne are working on putting together some music for the young children to perform. The picnic will be at Bluff Point and will officially start at 12:00 p.m., although people are welcome to start arriving as soon as the service is over. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to share, as well as their own hamburgers/hot dogs and beverages if desired. The committee will be providing paper goods.
- Claudine added a note that, as Children's Sunday is typically a time we also recognize any graduates in our congregation, she has spoken with Adam and Matthew Greene. At the moment they do not wish to be formally recognized, but we may try to do prayer shawls or something to honor them if they are comfortable.

#### Mission & Outreach: Carol Gatlin and Holly Boyle (both absent; report emailed in)

- 35 bags of groceries were received in the Second Sunday food collection, and were delivered to Groton Human Services by Jennifer Kent.
- As Claudine mentioned, the Blanket the World with Love offering will be taken on Mothers' Day, 5/12. Sarah Adams will put our own stamped envelopes in the pew racks. The donations will go to Church World Service.
- Londa Wesche is taking care of the Hospitality basket. Donated toiletries and personal hygiene items are picked up by the recipient organization.
- Catherine added a note that with Jane taking over the care of the prayer shawl ministry, we would like to think of some new ways to raise money for prayer shawl materials so that the burden for purchasing yarn does not have to fall on the person in charge. Cathy Greenfield expressed an interest in donating some of the money from the Hospitality Fund to help support the prayer shawl ministry. We also discussed some other options for appealing to the congregation for donations, and Heidi agreed to work on a handout on interesting facts relating to the ministry. Sue also suggested the possibility of utilizing Facebook's "donate" function; Heidi and Sue will explore that and bring more information back to the council.
- Patti Crooks is now handling the care and concern for our own congregation in sending out cards to those in need of prayers.

#### Hospitality: Sarah Adams and Cathy Greenfield

- The committee added their thanks to those who helped to make Jason's dedication a success and such a moving experience for Marilyn Benson and the rest of her family

Minutes cont.

**Standing committees:**

PRC: Sue Shontell

- Sue mentioned that during the Tag Sale some visitors had expressed their joy at being able to see how beautiful the church was or how they had attended as children and were happy for the chance to come back. She raised the question of if we could possibly consider some sort of Open House in the future.

Ad Hoc – Tag Sale: Dianne Dellarco and Pat Tootell

- Dianne and Pat had been asked to work with Belle in the last month to help her prepare for the sale. Catherine wondered if it would be useful to get a report/summation of how things went and what could be done better for next year so that we can continue to take the burden off of Belle. Pat and Dianne are willing to do that. Barbara noted that she has already sat down and done some of this with Belle. Catherine acknowledged this, but expressed a concern that this still brings the responsibility back to Belle, and said that she would like to develop something that would allow this to not be the case. Belle also mentioned the possibility of developing a permanent oversight committee to help make this more sustainable so that people do not get burned out.

On a separate note, Pat mentioned that with the Farmer's Market beginning in a few weeks, she had been asked to provide a brief bio about the church. She is working on putting that together, and is happy to share that with anyone who wants it for Facebook, website, etc.

**Old Business:**

- Altar Adornments: In April, the Worship & Membership Committee had brought up that the candles needed replacing, and had found a set in a catalog as a possibility, but people were concerned that the set was too small. Upon further exploration, the committee has found a set that's almost identical to what we have now with the addition of two vases as well. People have generously volunteered to pay for this. Barbara has found it for a cheaper rate than that of the catalog in the New Life Christian Store. The price of this set will be in the range of \$800-\$900, and the size of the cross will be 24 inches. The Worship & Membership Committee moved to amend the motion that was tabled last month, now moving that we purchase the set that almost replicates the one we have now (cross, two candlesticks, and two vases), thanks to the funding of our generous benefactors, from the New Life Christian Store. Marilyn Baird seconded. A vote was held and the motion was passed.
- Freezer donation: Pat Tootell looked in the room where the freezer is now, and doesn't believe that another freezer will fit. As such, we will be telling the possible donors that we do not have room for it.
- Candle lighter: in April, Pat expressed the need for a new candle lighter for the lighting of the candles at the start of worship. Barbara will take a look at what the store has available and report next month.
- Sue Shontell wanted to bring up further discussion over the internet situation at the church and parsonage. During the tag sale and other times in the office, people have had trouble with both speed and bandwidth of the current internet service. At present, we have the slowest, lowest plan possible. Ron Land had discussed the possibility of doing away with the parsonage landline, as most people contact Pastor Claudine via her cell phone anyway, and Sue wanted to suggest using the savings from that to improve our internet plan. Discussion was held over the line running from the church to the parsonage, both in terms of how that would work with an updated internet. It was decided that the issue would have to be discussed with Ron to see what the best course of action would be. That being settled, Sue moved that we take the proposed savings from the dropping of the parsonage landline and use it to upgrade the internet service to provide better efficiency for the parsonage and for church business. Alex Lew seconded. A vote was held and the motion passed.



Minutes cont.

- Rental property garage: Dave Rowley went to the Groton Town Hall to clarify the process for demolishing the garage. He found that the process is different depending on what we plan to do with the space, i.e. there is one process if we are just demolishing it and a separate process if we are demolishing *and* replacing it. The committee has begun looking around for quotes both for demolition and for the building of a new garage. These quotes include a demolition and filling/re-seeding quote from Champ Builders for \$4,200 and an estimate of \$5,500 from Dan's Dump Runs. Alex plans to explore more quotes for the cost of building. The idea was also brought up by Sue that we could possibly look into an organization that would help with such a building project, such as an Eagle Scout project or a local vocational school. Discussion was held about what would be the best course of action, including whether the existence of a garage/shed is part of the rental agreement for the current tenants, whether it would be helpful for the value of the property for future rental possibilities, and whether a garage could be utilized to help store items for the tag sale. While there are many options for how to proceed, the council seemed to be in agreement that the garage needed to be demolished. Alex Lew moved that we get rid of the rental property garage. Barbara seconded. A vote was held and the motion passed. Alex presented his recommendation, which was that we replace the garage with a similar structure. Because there are multiple concerns going forward that will dictate how we proceed, Alex will continue searching out information and will return to the issue with the council next month.
- Tag sale parking: One of the major concerns during the tag sale was the difficulty that we always have with parking and traffic. The combination of the high volume of customers, the usage of the parking lot as a selling area, and the traffic-heavy nature of South and Poquonnock Roads all make a situation that is frustrating and unsafe during the peak times of business during the sale. Dave Rowley had suggested to Dianne that we purchase some orange cones to block off the parking lot. Another council member suggested that we could ask John Rodearmel if he could build a stanchion to which we could tie a rope to block off the parking lot, only allowing certain vehicles in. Catherine asked that this suggestion be a part of the overall tag sale report. Pete Wong also suggested having someone present in uniform, and Claudine said that we could look into how much it would cost to have an officer here for those days in the future.
- Bylaws update to include provision for process of dissolution of corporation: Thinking about what OMBC has been going through, Catherine has been concerned of late that we have nothing in our bylaws to help guide such a process should the need ever arise. It was suggested that it could be helpful for us to have information on that in the bylaws hoping that we never need it, and that we could do some research with ABCCONN and ABCUSA to get some suggestions.
- Cortiva Institute chair rental/loan: Barbara had received a request from the Cortiva Institute, a Massage Therapy school across the street from the church, to rent or borrow 40 or 50 metal folding chairs for their graduation ceremony in June. Dianne moved that we allow the Cortiva Institute to use 40-50 metal chairs with the responsibility of picking them up and returning them for a donation of their choosing. Pat seconded. A vote was held and the motion passed.
- Vacuum cleaner: the church vacuum cleaners have died, and as they are used a lot and wear out quickly, it is imperative that we get a new one quickly. Sue moved that Belle Jordan be allowed to purchase the requisite vacuum cleaner appropriate for church custodian purposes. Marilyn seconded. A vote was held and the motion passed. Dianne added a note that we should purchase it through Amazon Smile.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Submitted by: Heidi Butler

## *Easter Flower Donations 2019*

*In Memory of Dina Umrysz - beloved daughter  
Given by: Mom and Dad (Ted and Catherine Hespeler)*

*In Memory of Kip Brant  
Given by: Barbara Brant*

*In Honor of all Medical, EMTs and Fire Department personnel  
Given by: Peggy Straub*

*In Memory of Lester Jordan  
Given by: His Loving Family*

*In Memory of Jim & Denise Baird  
Given by: Karen and Marilyn Baird*

*In Memory of Ching Tai Liu  
Given by the Liu Family*

*In Memory of Theresa Scroggins  
Given by: Sandy Vocolina*

*In Memory of Marjorie and John McGraw  
Lena Benson and Harley Osgood  
Given by: Marilyn Benson*

*In Memory of Loved Ones, Parents, Grandson and Brother  
Given by: Jerry & Joan Watkins*

*In Memory of Lois and Earle Rowley, Becky, Marion, and C. D. Chambers  
Given by: Carol & Dave Rowley*

*In Memory of the Deceased Members of the Lewis & Myers family  
Given by: Cathy & Clyde Myers*

*In Honor of Gail Neff  
Given by: Emma B. Neff*

*In Memory of Loved Ones Passed  
Given by: The Lew Family*

*In Memory of Connie Stalker  
Given by: Bob and Carolyn Lan*

*In Memory of Sue-Ming and Louie Wong*  
*Given by: the Wong Family*

*In Memory of Isabelle Freeman*  
*Given by: Portia and Charley Freeman*

*In Memory of Passed Loves Ones*  
*Given by: Gail Neff*

*In Memory of Bill and Pamela Adams*  
*Given by: Sarah Adams*

*In Honor of our Pastor, Claudine*  
*In Memory of Allen C. Fernald Jr.*  
*Given by: Anita Fernald*

*In Memory of parents, Mary and Arthur Marquardt*  
*Given by: Jane Imdahl*

*In Memory of Doris and Albert Kinney, Maureen and Fred Wesche*  
*Given by: Londa and Drew Wesche*

*In Memory of Ken Startz and Clifford Fabor Jr.*  
*Given by: Bob & Jane Startz*

*In Memory of Kristen Greene*  
*Given by: Joe Greene*

*In Memory of Allyn Lamb*  
*Given by: Alice (Pebbles) Quibble*

*In Memory of Grandma Floss, Grandpa Tom,*  
*Gramma Fots and Grampa Bob*  
*Given by: Austin and Family*

*In Memory of Loved Ones gone before us*  
*Given by: Marilyn & John Rodarmel*

*In Memory of Loved Ones Passed*  
*Given by: Catherine & Iru Hiller*

*In Memory of Aline and Ken Trail*  
*Given by: Carol Case*

## ***Elodie Armstrong- Ten Commandments***

Thou shalt not worry,  
for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.

Thou shalt not be fearful,  
for most of the things we fear never come to pass.

Thou shalt not cross bridges before you get to them,  
for no one yet has succeeded in accomplishing this.

Thou shalt face each problem as it comes,  
you can handle only one at a time anyway.

Thou shalt not take problems to bed with you  
for they make very poor bedfellows.

Thou shalt not borrow other people's problems,  
they can take better care of them than you can.

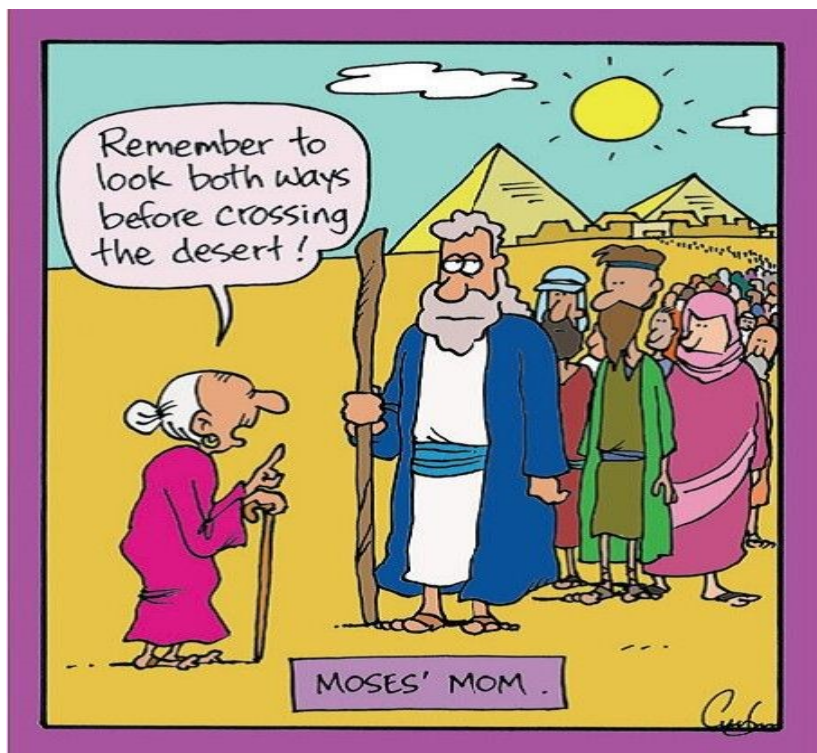
Thou shalt not try to relive yesterday  
for good or ill, it is gone  
concentrate on what is happening in your life today.

Thou shalt count thy blessings,  
never overlooking the small ones  
for a lot of small blessings add up to a big one.

Thou shalt be a good listener,  
for only when you listen do you hear ideas different from your own,  
it's very hard to learn something new when you're talking.

Thou shalt not become bogged down by frustration,  
for ninety percent of it is rooted in self-pity  
and it will only interfere with positive action.

## A Little Church Humor





## KNOW YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL AND WHAT IT DOES

For the next few months this space will be dedicated to informing you about the work of all the church's ministries. As a follow-up to last month's article about the Worship and Membership Committee, today I would like to reintroduce you to the responsibilities of the **Mission and Outreach Ministry**. Serving as deacons on the Church Council and as chairpersons of this ministry are Carol Gatlin and Holly Boyle and assisting them in specific tasks are Jennifer Kent, Londa Wesche, Joan Watkins, Patti Crooks, and Jane Imdahl. The duties assigned to this team by our church bylaws include the promotion of the four annual American Baptist Mission Offerings (America For Christ, One Great Hour of Sharing, World Mission Offering, and Retired Minister's and Missionary's Offering) through which we impact upon the lives of those who need both physical and spiritual nourishment. This year the offerings taken at the four Bread and Broth evenings during Lent went toward the America for Christ and the OGHS offerings and supported global emergency relief needs such as those caused by a cyclone in East Africa and severe flooding in Nebraska.

The deacons not only keep us up to date on ABC endeavors prior to each offering but periodically inform us about opportunities nearer to home. Each December they work with Groton Human Services and connect us with a local family for whom we provide a Christmas celebration that it would not otherwise be able to enjoy. Through your generosity each member of the family receives gifts, gift cards and a holiday meal. Throughout the year Carol and Holly organize the "Second Sunday Food Collection" when your donations are collected by the children, blessed, and donated to the Groton Food Bank. Again, your generosity has meant that many local families had wholesome meals when otherwise their tables may have been very sparse. We thank Jennifer Kent for seeing that the abundance of your generosity is transported to the food bank each month.

A fairly new outreach opportunity came to us recently when Tambria Moore, Director of the Homeless/ Hospitality Center in New London, spoke of her work there. She brought to us the great need for personal health and toilet articles by the clients of the center.

Through the efforts of Londa Wesche the M and O Committee now maintains a collection basket for such items as toothbrushes and toothpaste, combs, soap, deodorant, shampoo, and feminine hygiene products in the Fellowship Room along with informative material about the center. Whatever we can contribute to this cause will be appreciated by someone who does not have the resources to acquire these necessary items for daily living.

The outreach arm of this ministry also extends to include our own faith community where the needs for support are not ignored. With the help of the Joys and Concerns list that is an integral part of our worship together, and a coordinated effort of networking, Joan Watkins has been reaching out to those of our worship family who through illness or other circumstances are shut-in or grieving, with thoughtful messages of cheer or condolence. We thank Joan for performing this outreach so graciously for many years. Because she has indicated a need to take a break from her duty, we sought out a replacement and are grateful that Patti Crooks has agreed to join the team in this capacity.

And lastly, the Prayer Shawl Ministry is now under the umbrella of this committee. Anita Fernald has long been the custodian of the Prayer Shawl room, stocking it with a supply of yarn and assisting in the blessing ceremonies. Many thanks, Anita, for stocking it with choices of yarns and keeping the room orderly and attractive. Again, the baton is being passed and beginning this month Jane Imdahl will be taking on those duties. The blessed shawls are available for anyone to select and present to someone in need of special blessings of care and concern. This ministry was begun at PBBC in 2000 by the Ladies Circle and has since given away over 1200 shawls. It is maintained solely by donations to the PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY.

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP

- You may volunteer to serve as a deacon on the Church Council. (see Dave Rowley)
- You may volunteer to serve on one of the council ministries. (see the deacon of that ministry)
- You may donate cash for Prayer Shawls (see Jane Imdahl or Financial Secretary, Pete Wong)
- You may contribute items to the Hospitality Basket (Londa Wesche)
- You may donate greeting cards and postage. (see Patti Crooks)
- You may pray for the ministries of this church and the individuals who keep them active.

**Committee members do not attend council meetings and public speaking is not required. The only requirement is a desire to follow the commandment of our Lord to go out into all the world and serve.**

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