



Community Church of Durham, UCC
An Open and Affirming Congregation



The Chronicle

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GOSPEL SEEDS

Inside this issue:

Over the past month, our Church Council has met regularly and explored the complicated needs and clear vision of our Community Church. Among us there is a deep and resonant consensus that we are committed to the health and wellbeing of our entire community. We miss our regular patterns; we even grieve the absence of worship opportunities and community gatherings. But we are steadfast in our shared commitment to practices that protect and cherish public health and community wellness.

For this reason, we are moving especially slowly this summer, and even into the fall. We're looking at guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, the Stafford County Public Health Network and our own United Church of Christ. On all fronts, we're counseled to be cautious and careful, and to consider the needs of our many members, and especially those most vulnerable to illness and respiratory complications.

In the midst of these many conversations, I continue to marvel at the creativity and passion of our church community. We continue to push forward in our ministries of justice, witness and compassion. This month's violence in American cities has renewed our purpose and conviction: that white privilege is a moral disease on the American body, and that we in the church must stand up and take new paths to heal and renew the country. And even in a time of physical distancing, your many friendships continue to inspire, sustain and encourage you in daily life. Though so many things about our daily lives have changed, our spiritual covenant is stronger than ever. And we are, together, united in our love for God, for one another, and for our broken and beautiful planet.

Working with the Church Council and our Ministry leaders too, I look forward to some new opportunities over the summer and into the fall. We'll take this very slowly; but we'll do some things we feel confident in doing safely. In the near term, this means occasional outdoor services, on the lawn in front of the Church Hill Apartments. Given the guidance we're getting from the Stafford County Public Health Network, we feel we can safely and wisely gather on an occasional Sunday morning, sitting in family groups at a safe distance, wearing our masks, but all the while enjoying one another and the Holy Spirit's blessing and courage.

We're planning the first of these for **Sunday, July 12, at 9 am.** (Beginning July 5, we move to our summer schedule of 9 am Sunday services). We trust you'll come if you feel safe in doing so. And we encourage you to wear masks, bring blankets and outdoor chairs of your own to sit in. There will not be coffee hour, or any refreshments following; but there will be a lively sense of community and all kinds of gratitude among us. For we miss one another! And we cherish every moment of our togetherness!

In the meantime, I look forward to your phone calls and messages. And I want you to know that you're very much in my daily prayers. As hard as this year has been, it only serves to remind me of the gift we have in one another, and the great power that is ours to change the world.

Yours in that Faith,

Dave Grishaw-Jones

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DOVER FRIENDLY KITCHEN

J&W Ministry is looking for a co-ordinator(s) to join Bryn Burns on our ministry efforts around the Dover Friendly Kitchen. This involves being available 5x a year to help determine the meal; help get volunteers to cook and serve; and clean up.

It is an amazing group of volunteers who take this night to serve others a healthy meal, share in hospitality, and send our guests away fed and with a smile. Thank you.

Please contact Bryn Burns at brynb07@comcast. if you could do any of the 5.



SPRING CLEANING

While the church is closed, our Church Custodian, Pete Lanoix, is using his time to do some extra cleaning. See Pete here using the new floor cleaning machine. Many thanks to Pete for the wonderful job he does keeping our church clean!

Reminder:
July and August
Worship Services will
move to 9:00 am.

SAVE THE DATES:

OUTDOOR SUMMER WORSHIP GATHERINGS:

We're hoping to do these once a month this summer. Save these dates for a **9 am outdoor service** on the lawn in front of Church Hill Apartments: **July 12, August 9 and September 13**. We trust you to come if you feel able and safe to do so! (If you can't be with us, you will undoubtedly be in our hearts, in our gratitude and in our prayers. Count on it!)

HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI—75TH ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL REMEMBRANCE:

Our friends with New Hampshire Peace Action are hosting a national event (on-line, of course) on **Friday, August 7 at 7 pm** (Eastern). Across cultures and nations, we remember the devastating violence of 1945 and redouble our work for peace. Speakers from Japan and across the USA will offer their perspectives and hope, and call us to commitment, nonviolence and peace. Watch our weekly e-news editions for links and more information.

Church Clean Up Day!
June 27th 8:30 – 12:00
Come lend a hand raking, cleaning,
and painting outside the church!

SUMMER PEACE AND MEDITATION

Led by our Spiritual Nurture Ministry, we're sprucing up the Peace Garden, just outside our church offices on the Main Street side. We want this to be a summer oasis for you—a place for you to come individually for prayer, meditation; even to shed a tear or two.

We recognize the swelling of feeling, loss, isolation and sometimes even gratitude we feel these days. It's been a pretty hard spring! And we want there to be safe and healthy spaces at the Community Church—where you can find respite, comfort and the steady Spirit of a Loving God.



There are very simple benches there. There will be laminated prayers, if you wish to use some written materials to facilitate your own reflections. We hope you'll continue to know the Community Church as a 'space for grace'—and a beloved community of care, prayer and justice—in this uncertain and difficult season.

In commitment and love,

The Spiritual Nurture Ministry (Diane Mix, coordinating)

A TIMELY ONE-TO-ONE CAMPAIGN

As summer rolls in, church leaders are imagining new ways to connect us and encourage discernment around the huge challenges facing our communities, families and even our country. A service team is just coming together to consider a summer "one-to-one campaign"—a tool the church has used in the past to build deeper community and explore energies for ministry and action among us. What kind of power do we have—as a church—to make a difference in the fractured world? What's really possible in a community like ours: as we grieve racial injustice and fear for climate change, as we seek healing in a divided land? What might we be together? Can we make an impact?

In our Christian Scriptures, we find two words, two different Greek words, for "power." Exousia is authoritative power, power wielded from above, the power of a commanding officer, a policeman in the street, patriarchal power. Dunamis, on the other hand, is relational power, power generated by faith and respect, the power of alliances pursuing justice, the power of compassion and sacrifice, the power of God-in-us-together. This is the power (dynamic power) that Jesus embodies in ministry and invites fully and boldly in his followers. It grows in relationships built through conversation, collaboration and trust.

We imagine a "one-to-one" campaign that encourages conversation, curiosity and connection: rebuilding the changing and growing body of our church. How has this spring's upheaval affected you and those you love? What are your hopes for your community, your nation? What kinds of energy, anger, hope do you feel churning, developing within? In having these kinds of conversations, we will "lean into love and power," exploring the power that is ours together by faith. Relational power.

Watch for more over the summer! The service team for this summer's "one-to-one campaign" includes Chuck Hotchkiss, Rachel Roulliard, Lorie Bromley, Pam White, Maggie Morrison, Meg Fairbairn, Scott Bogle and Dave Grishaw-Jones.

ART GALLERY NEWS:

BEYOND OUR SOLITUDE: AN IMAGINARY SHOW FOR AN UNIMAGINED TIME

(Please realize that nothing is required of you... this is purely an invitation for you to use your imagination as a part of our 'gallery community.')

While we still have a show in the gallery called "Through a Child's Eyes," which would normally go down in June, we will not be setting up a new show until much later in the year, or possibly even next year. The time is to be determined. So in the meantime, I'm hoping that you can leave your work on the walls as a testament to our transformation of the mezzanine into a place to rediscover art, poetry, and potentially ourselves.

For the interim, I hope that our artists, poets and writers can collectively create the following show, which can go up in our minds and imagination at any moment. It may return, drift around in dream, and become recreated as each of us sees fit. In this way, the gallery can continue to promote your own creative thinking. I also welcome your thoughts

and feedback for any additions:



drogs-eth@dennisnils.com

Beyond Our Solitude: an imaginary show for an unimagined time

Coming up soon in the mental space that makes our gallery so unique, is a show that's a testament to our willingness to unify hearts and minds in a time of distance. A show rich in images through which each of us will see the world differently, as we reach out into a broader communion that no longer recognizes the conventional boundaries of space and time. In this new continuum, we will see America, and the world in general, changing. We will see ourselves changing along with it. And we will seek to interact with each other in new and different ways. This includes images through which we show how we care about all those who have suffered from the hardships. How we care about the other 'transformation' in raising awareness of racial prejudice and police abuse. How we care about how we feel and see things more clearly that we once took for granted. And we care about the beauty of the moon and the blue sky that now seem irrevocably fresh. "Beyond Our Solitude" is an imagined exhibition of new possibilities, and a prayer for togetherness, in which each of us may begin to recognize who we really are.

CCD VIGIL: FRIDAY EVENING 29 MAY

Some 40-45 people turned out for the Vigil, including an impressive number of young people! I stood between Cindy Nottage and Betsy, a delightful woman from Dover who was up and down in her walker, brandishing her sign "I Confess White Privildge". Other signs read "Black Lives Matter"; "If we want to see justice done, we cannot remain silent."; "George Floyd, Rest In Peace."; "Racism is a Pandemic."; etc.

Passing vehicles honked their support. Driver, cyclists, and pedestrians flashed the peace sign or gave us thumbs up. All in all, a memorable and significant event. To be continued...

-Henry M Smith



GENEROUS GIVING TO SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS

Thank you for your generous support of the mission and ministry of Community Church. In these difficult times your gifts have enabled Community Church to continue to support our wonderful Church School Programs. Many thanks to Kristin Forselius for making this happen. We have also been able to make special contributions to the NH Food Bank and Goodwin Community Health. Both of those agencies play a critical role in times like these. You have also contributed to 68 Hours to End Hunger through your gifts of food and supplies. Finally, we have been able to provide Immigration Relief and Support.

Thanks to Dianne Thompson for her tireless effort to obtain funding through the government PPP program. At a time when we lost income from ECHO Thrift Shop and were refunding student parking fees when UNH closed the campus, the PPP grant allowed us to support our staff and our many member and outreach programs.

Did you know for those who take Required Minimum Distributions from their IRAs, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is still available this year, even though RMDs are not required in 2020. A QCD is a way to make a tax-free withdraw from your IRA to support Community Church. Contact Grant Armstrong for additional information.

Another option to support Community Church is a contribution to the Fourth Century Fund, which is an endowment that will support our programs now and in the future. Your gift will be matched by a group of our generous members.

Grant Armstrong for the Stewards

JUNETEENTH FLAG

Dear Friends of God,

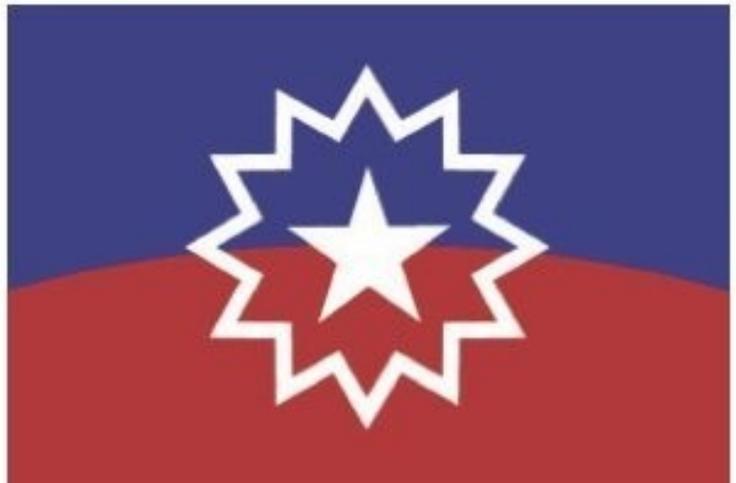
Juneteenth is June 19. There is more than one Independence Day in America. On June 10, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enforce the abolition of slavery. (Of course, the Emancipation Proclamation had been signed by Lincoln more than two and a half years before).

When freed slaves tried to celebrate the first anniversary, they were faced with a recurring problem: no public places permitted them to gather. In 1870, former slaves purchased 190 acres of land in Houston and named it Emancipation Park. Until the 1950s, it was the only public park and swimming area in the Houston area open to African Americans.

Also known as Freedom Day, Juneteenth is a state holiday in all but Hawaii, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana; there is an active movement to make Juneteenth a federal holiday. Americans celebrate Juneteenth with parades, rodeo races, Miss Juneteenth contests and barbecues featuring soul food: fried chicken, barbecue, greens and black-eyed peas.

The Juneteenth flag depicts a "bursting new star" on the horizon, representing a new freedom, a new people, and a new start. Red, white, and blue colors communicate that the American slaves and their descendants are all Americans. With humility and commitment, we fly the flag at the church this month, a reminder of our commitment to that new start!

Diane Mix (Liturgical Arts Committee)



LECTIONARY BIBLE READINGS FOR JUNE & JULY

June 7: This is Good

Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

June 14: Sarah Laughed

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) & Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Exodus 19:2-8a & Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

June 21: Daring Discipleship

Genesis 21:8-21 & Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Jeremiah 20:7-13 & Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

June 28: Holy Welcome

Genesis 22:1-14 & Psalm 13
Jeremiah 28: 5-9 & Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

July 5: Chosen Journeys

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 & Psalm 45:10-17
Zechariah 9:9-12 & Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12: A House Divided

Genesis 25:19-34 & Psalm 119:105-112
Isaiah 55:10-13 & Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13
Romans 8:11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19: Wheat and Weeds Together

Genesis 28:10-19a & Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26: Weaving the Future

Genesis 29:15-28 & Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
1 Kings 3:5-12 & Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH WITH THE BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated event commemorating the end of slavery in America.

In light of the COVID 19 pandemic, the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire will celebrate Juneteenth virtually this year, on **June 18, 19, and 20** with a series of informative and entertaining programs focusing on the history of Soul Food and Soul Music and examining the connection between food and historical events in the Black Community.

Find out more about these Facebook and Twitter live events and register for the Zoom events on the website: www.blackheritagetrailnh.com.

The Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire is a nonprofit organization that connects the stories of New Hampshire's African heritage by making visible many of the historic sites that testify to its rich history and by providing a variety of learning experiences for adults and children, including guided tours, school programs, lectures, and workshops.



All-Church Email Schedule:

TUESDAY: **"This Week"** — a newsletter with church news and opportunities

THURSDAY: **"Love & Justice"** — an invitation to weekly witness & action

SATURDAY: **"Weekend Update"** — links for Sunday, and other happenings

If you're not presently on the regular email list, please contact Heather Curran at office@ccdurham.org so that she can add you as a regular recipient.

Mindfulness by Email – July 2020

Free 4-week Learn Mindfulness Basics by Email – July 6–

August 3. Want to learn some mindfulness basics? Mindfulness can be used to strengthen focus, reduce stress, manage pain and illness, and bring us into a more vibrant experience of daily life.

Participants will receive weekly emails from Judith with a new practice suggestion and basic guidance to try for each week. After a week, participants will email back their questions and observations of their experiences, to which Judith will respond. This process with new suggestions will be repeated for 4 weeks.

This is a skills-based class that we can use in responding to the challenges, the demands, and the joys that arise in our own lives.

Prerequisite: a phone call with Judith to decide if this class might be beneficial for you. Please email first j.n.moyer@comcast.net to set up a time.

Limit: 10 participants

No charge: Please contribute to a charity such as a local food bank.

Ongoing Weekly Mindfulness Suggestions and Dialogue for Mindful Meditators. Receive a weekly email with a practice suggestion from Judith. Email the participant group during the week to dialogue about your observations and experiences.

No charge. Prerequisite: Some previous meditation/mindfulness experience. Register at: j.n.moyer@comcast.net

Staff at Community Church of Durham:
The Reverend David Grishaw-Jones
Kristin Forselius, Education and Faith Formation
Director David Ervin, Music Director

Catherine York, Organist
Dianne Thompson, Business Administrator
Heather Curran, Office Administrator
Clark Williams, Building and Grounds Manager

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