

Old Steeple Community Church

United Church of Christ

NOVEMBER 2025



WEBSITE: oldsteeplecommunitychurch.org

EMAIL: oldsteeplecc@gmail.com

PHONE: 631-722-3070



From our Pastor ...

THE
*Steeple
View*
NEWSLETTER

"For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing." Deuteronomy 8:7-9a, NRSV

Doesn't it seem like these words, spoken to the people of Israel roughly 2,500 years ago, could be spoken to us here, today? We live in one of the wealthiest countries of this world. Here on the North Fork, there are apples and peaches, grapes and potatoes, corn and cauliflower – plus many other crops that do well here. There is so much abundance – the farm stands around here are witness to that. But even during the winter, we can walk into a supermarket at any time and get what we want. Many people say they don't believe in miracles, but if that isn't one, I don't know what is.

Now the abundance most of us enjoy reaches beyond food: most if not all of us have a roof over our heads, many own cars, we have clothing galore, plus many other nice things. In fact we own so many things that we often don't know where to store it, more than we need. There are 2.3 billion square feet of self-storage space in America, or more than 7 square feet for every, man, woman and child in the country. In addition, in this country, an estimated 75% of all garages are not used to park a car, but to store our stuff.

This is the result of living in a capitalist society, where the mantra is 'more'. And the meaning and the value of one word is almost forgotten: enough. It is quite an interesting fact that, the more people have, individually and as a society, the greater the fear of not having enough - the harder it seems to share the abundance. There is often more solidarity among poor people and poor countries than we see among the wealthy.



This is not a modern phenomenon. Going back to God speaking to the people of Israel in the book of Deuteronomy, we sense that God has a reason to admonish the chosen people to not forget who is the giver of this wonderful land with the abundance they are about to enter. God commands the people over and over again to not forget the poor and marginalized – the widow, the orphan, the stranger – and to take care of them. Share, God says, because a society at large is only healthy and

(continued)

POB 154 | 656 Main Road • Aquebogue, NY 11931 • office hours: Tu, W, Th 9-2
Rev. Kerstin Weidmann, Pastor • Keith Young, Moderator
Anyi Cai, Music Director • Gail Evans, Office Administrator

strong if everyone in it is healthy and strong. It seems that the people 2,500 years ago already had forgotten the sense and the value of the word 'enough' – it seems that they already had an issue with hoarding stuff and amassing wealth and forgetting that they are merely stewards of all God has given them and entrusted to them.

Jesus in his entire ministry juxtaposes the false gospel of 'more' with the gospel of 'enough' in light of the abundance of God's grace. This leads to all of Jesus' commandments we know all too well: love your neighbor as yourself, which implies sharing what you have. Don't amass wealth here on earth which rust and moth destroy, but rather seek for the true treasure, the kingdom of heaven, a realm of peace and reconciliation. 'More' can't buy you life to the fullest, and least of all eternal life.

At the core of thankfulness is a sense of 'enough'. We can be thankful and give thanks because we've been given so much. So as you sit around the table with family or friends on Thanksgiving Day, I invite you to reflect on the 'enough' you experience in your life.

Pr. Kerstin Weidmann



Outreach



The **Maureen's Haven** Emergency Winter Shelter Program provides safe overnight shelter and meals to the homeless throughout eastern Suffolk County during the coldest months of the year (November-April) with volunteer sites in the towns of Southamptton, Southold, Riverhead & East

Hampton. Guests are screened and transported to the host sites where they receive a hot dinner, sleeping accommodations, breakfast, and a bagged lunch to take with them.

Old Steeple will once again partner with Riverhead Building Supply and their coordinator Victoria Pace for the 2025-26 season. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (269 Main Road, Aquebogue) allows us to host at their space for a nominal fee for the season. The schedule for November and December has been set and Old Steeple will provide the dinner meals for two Mondays, November 17th & December 15th (dates for January – April will be announced as they are known). We will be responsible for providing a hot main dish, a salad, a vegetable, a starch, dessert, ice cream, soda, orange juice, and milk for 25 guests. Sign-up sheets for the needed items will be in the coffee hour area. For anyone willing to contribute to the meal but is unable to drop off at Our Redeemer on Monday nights at 6 p.m., items that do not need to be heated can be brought to the church on Sunday mornings for delivery on Monday night.

To go along with our meals commitment for the season, our November monthly outreach project is financial donations to supplement our participation in the Maureen's Haven program – envelopes will be available in the pews. The donated funds are combined with the church's \$2000 annual budgeted amount for Maureen's Haven to provide for the rental of the space at Our Redeemer, the overnight innkeepers, laundering of the bedding, and breakfast/lunch items. Thank you for your continued support and please reach out to Amy Cosgrove with any questions or to volunteer: acosgrov@optonline.net or text to (631) 680-0136.



Council Minutes



October 8, 2025

Moderator Keith started the meeting at 5:32 and Pastor Kerstin offered a prayer. Members present were Keith Young, Rick Reeve, Pastor Kerstin Weidmann, Ann Priapi, Amy Cosgrove, and Jean Lapinski. The minutes of the September 10th meeting were approved as published in the October newsletter, with a motion by Amy and second by Ann.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Kerstin Weidmann

Pastor Kerstin summarized her written report for the Council, noting that she has completed her first full year at Old Steeple! She has visited and met with a number of Old Steeple members, and Council members suggested several more people to contact. She and Ann attended a webinar on church governance on September 17, and Pastor Kerstin participated in the UCC's OWL (Our Whole Lives) Facilitator Training in Ithaca on October 2-4. This year's interfaith Thanksgiving service will be held on November 23rd at Temple Israel of Riverhead. Her idea of organizing a Christmas cookie bake and exchange on Saturday, December 6, was well received, and Ann suggested using Survey Monkey to determine interest and a possible time. Pastor Kerstin will be away from October 13th - November 2nd. She has arranged for Rev. Matthias Heuer from Germany to preach on October 19th and Rev. Lorraine DeArmitt on October 26th and November 2nd. Rev. Dr. Sean Murray of Riverhead First Congregational will be available in case of a pastoral emergency.

Treasurer's Report – Keith Young for Edgar Goodale

In Edgar's absence Keith reviewed September's budget, along with the year-to-date budget, with the Council. The endowment fund did well again last month, increasing in value by \$32,000. There were no unexpected expenses for the month, and pledges and outreach contributions remain on target for the year.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds – Rick Reeve

Rick reported that he received no repair calls this month. Pastor Kerstin said that she has noted a damp spot in her office. Rick will confer with Edgar to address the issue.

Worship – Ann Priapi

Gail developed a flyer for the Blessing of the Animals service on October 11 and Ann, Barbara and Mignon distributed the flyers. Ann will set up for the service this Saturday. She has arranged for worship coverage for the three weeks she will not be in church (October 19th, 26th and November 2nd). She will purchase a rose for the baptismal service on November 9th. Ann suggested locking the side door of the church for safety reasons after the church service begins.

Spiritual Formation / Sunday School

Sunday School will begin on October 12, with Kathy Stapon teaching for the first Sunday and a volunteer needed to assist her, as required by our Safe Church Policy. Pastor Kerstin reported that we had only one application for the paid Sunday School teacher position from a candidate who was not a good match.

Outreach

October's outreach focus is Neighbors in Need, a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

Continuing and New Business

- Keith provided Nancy Raynor with the new rental agreement for the Quilters, to take effect in January. She will get back to him after conferring with her group. She asked about the possibility of serving



alcohol at their December meeting, but Council reinforced that no alcohol is permitted for any outside groups.

- Keith said that Jessica de Vera Wells has not yet responded to his request for clarification about using the Luce Hall kitchen one day a week. She did provide an updated schedule which Keith will share with Gail.
- Optimum called Gail regarding a possible upgrade to our wifi, and Keith will share the proposal with Edgar. He will also check on the progress of securing a new computer for Gail's office.
- Because of the shrinking pool of people willing to accept a leadership position, Council is considering revising the by-laws to allow a different organizational structure which better reflects the reality of our situation. Ann suggested scheduling a meeting with UCC to ask for their help.
- The 2026 budget was approved unanimously by the Council, with a motion by Amy and second by Rick. The congregational meeting to approve the budget will be held on November 16th.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, November 13, 2025**, at 5:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Lapinski

The Congregational Meeting of the Old Steeple Community Church, UCC,

Aquebogue, New York, will be held on

Sunday, November 16, 2025

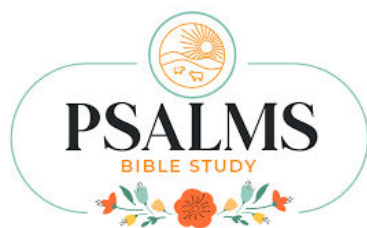
The Congregational Meeting will take place following the 10 am Worship Service.

This meeting is for the purpose of presenting and voting on the 2026 budget.

Council Members

Keith Young • Barbara Crowley • Rick Reeve / Donna Doroszka • Jean Lapinski

Ann Priapi • Edgar Goodale • Amy Cosgrove

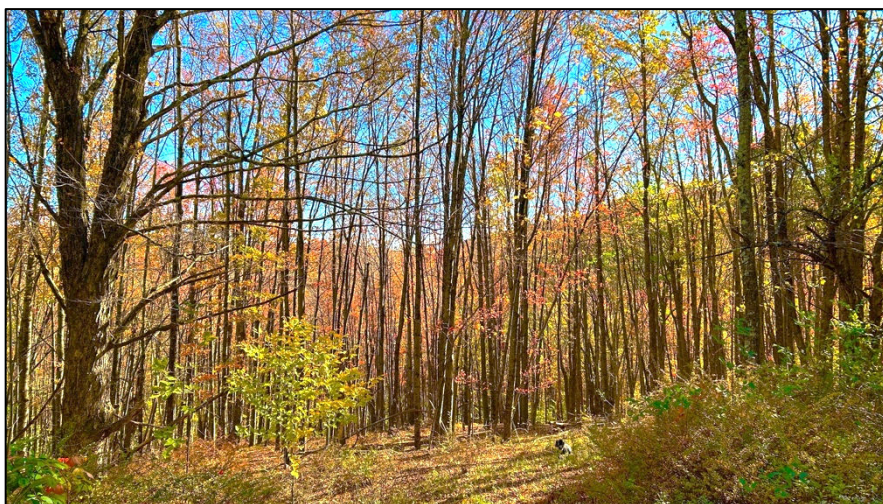


Our Bible study group has started our study of the Book of Psalms. We are using resources from Yale Divinity School and have already learned so much! We meet on Fridays, 1 p.m., at my home, 21 Victor Street, Riverhead. However, members of our group have travel plans in upcoming weeks. Therefore, we will meet next on October 31 (no costume required), and then not again until November 21. No decision has been made yet about November 28, as Thanksgiving plans have not been finalized.

All are welcome to join us, whether on occasion or every week. A comprehensive study guide is provided for each lesson. It is surprising how much there is to learn, even when you are familiar with scripture!

For more information, feel free to call me at 631-779-2560. We would love to have you join us!

Rev. Bonnie



Conversations Over Coffee in November will be November 20th, at 3:30 in the parsonage.



Crochet? Knit? Sew? Weave?

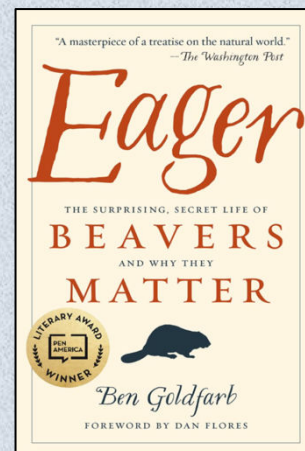
The Old Steeple Stitchers November gathering will be on the 19th at 7 pm in the coffee hour area. Beginners and novices are welcome! If you know of someone in need of a prayer shawl, please let us know either at the worship service or by contacting the church office.

Book Discussion Group

We will be completing the discussion of the novel - **"As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow"** by Zoulfa Katouh. It is set in Syria during the war and the New York Times calls it "a searing story of war, loss, family, and love, of seeking grace in madness and hope in tragedy ..."

The next book that we will be discussing is **"Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter"** by Ben Goldfarb. According to National Geographic "Eager takes us inside the amazing world of nature's premier construction engineer ... and shows us why the restoration of an animal almost driven to extinction is producing wide-ranging, positive effects on our landscapes, ecology and even our economy."

For this month, we will be only be meeting on the second Friday (11/14) at 11:00 AM. We will be meeting in the coffee hour area. All are welcome to join!



The meaning of life is
to find your gift.

The purpose of life is
to give it away.

— Pablo Picasso, artist

● NOVEMBER 2025 ●

Outreach is **Maureen's Haven**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10 am Worship and Communion (no Sunday School) LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm	AA 7 pm	AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	LaMision Church hall rental 8 pm		Choir Rehearsal 9:45 AA 6 pm	ELIQ renting hall (9:30 am - 4 pm)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10 am Worship and Sunday School Baptism of Levi Mlodynia LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm	AA 7 pm	OFFICE CLOSED (Veteran's Day) AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	LaMision Church hall rental 8 pm	Council mtg. 5:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am Book Club 11 AA 6 pm	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10 am Worship and Sunday School, followed by budget vote and potluck luncheon LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm	AA 7 pm	AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	Old Steeple Stitches 7 pm LaMision Church hall rental 8 pm	Steeple View articles due Conversations Over Coffee 3:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am Bible Study at Rev. Bonnie's 1 pm AA 6 pm	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10 am Worship and Sunday School Interfaith Service at Temple Israel LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm	AA 7 pm	AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	LaMision Church hall rental 8 pm	OFFICE CLOSED	Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am AA 6 pm	
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
10 am Worship and Sunday School LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm						

