Old Steeple Community Church

United Church of Christ

JUNE



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2025



From our Pastor ...

'When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.' Acts 2, 1-4, NRSV

On June 8th, we will be celebrating Pentecost – the coming of God's Holy Spirit among the disciples. Many call Pentecost the 'birthday of the church'. And there is something to it, because without the power of God's Holy Spirit, the disciples may have remained disheartened and clueless, and given up their faith in Christ. God's Holy Spirit literally inspired the timid band of Christ's followers to share their faith in word and deed, and to spread the good news about new life in and through Jesus Christ all over the known world.

Pentecost is a passionate festival, full of movement, full of life, full of fire – that's why the 'color of the day' for Pentecost is red. But red is also a color of warning: God is up to something, and we better be ready! We must remain awake and alert and pay attention to God's gracious and saving grace that calls us to faithful action in a world, where indifference, hatred, deceit and death seem to have the last word all too often.

We celebrate Pentecost not only for one day, but for an entire (and very long) season. During the summer and the fall, the Sundays will be called 'nth Sunday after Pentecost'. This time after Pentecost is also called the "ordinary time". Now we usually don't celebrate the ordinary – because celebrations are wonderful, but they are also quite exhausting (as anyone involved with my recent installation service and reception can attest). If we celebrated all the time, celebrations wouldn't be special, and we quickly would grow tired of them.



ETTER

That doesn't mean that the 'ordinary' has to be dull or insignificant. Jesus often sought out people in ordinary places. May the "ordinary time", which we will enter once the celebration of Pentecost is over, be a chance for us to discover how God works in and through the ordinary – and how the ordinary thus is transformed in a place or moment of God's grace, justice, and peace. God's Holy Spirit works in mysterious and often subtle ways, in us and with us and through us. There may be the occasional fiery outburst of energy and excitement – but mostly we serve through the little things. In contrast to the fiery red of the Pentecost Festival, the color of the ordinary time is green - the color of growth and life. There is plenty of opportunity to do things which may seem slow-growing and ordinary to us, but become extraordinary for someone else.

May God give us the grace to be good news in ordinary – and occasionally extraordinary – ways.

Kerstin Weidmann

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



Outreach



Outreach Focus for June ~ Heifer International

How much do you know about this organization?

It all started when a volunteer relief worker realized ladling out meager rations of powdered milk was not a solution. A cow which could produce milk would mean that families would not have to depend on temporary aid.

In 1944, the idea came to fruition when the first cows were sent abroad and distributed throughout Europe. More than eight decades later, Heifer has expanded its mission in an effort to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth.



Every gift to Heifer International represents a gift to its total mission of purchasing and transporting food and income-producing animals, as well as providing intensive training in animal husbandry; environmentally sound, sustainable farming; community development and global education. There are now 30 types of animals it provides—from goats, geese and guinea pigs to bees, silkworms and water buffalo. Here is a partial list of gifts available \sim

- \$ 20 -- Flock of chicks or ducks
- \$ 30 --- Honeybees
- \$ 50 --- Hope basket (rabbits and starter flock of chickens)
- \$ 120 --- A pig or a sheep
- \$ 150 --- An alpaca
- \$ 250 --- A heifer
- \$ 300 --- Mating pair of alpacas
- \$ 500 -- Honeybees
- \$1,000 --- Mating pair of heifers or Milk Menagerie (heifer, water buffalo, 2 goats)
- \$1,500 --- Joy to the World (heifer, 2 sheep, 2 alpaca, 4 goats)
- \$2,500 --- Honeybee farm
- \$5,000 --- Noah's Ark ("pairs of animals two by two" water buffalo, cows, sheep, goats, and bees, chicks, rabbits, and more)

How many animals will we be able to send? In June, Heifer International is having a 2X campaign. Each \$100 we send will be worth \$300! Hopefully, your generosity will result in lots of moos, quacks, clucks, and buzzing!



We continue to provide \$150 worth of groceries each week to St. John's Food Pantry, but this barely scrapes the surface of the amount of food needed to feed the more than 700 people served each month. Donations are most welcome. You may bring them to church and leave them in the hall by the side door of the church. The items most requested are: canned meats, rice (small bags), dry beans, strawberry jelly, pancake mix and syrup, cereal, Parmalat milk, small bottles of cooking oil, spaghetti and sauce, diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6), and baby wipes. Thank you for your generosity!

Please remember to bring in your gently used shoes for our Soles4Souls Collection. With the help of the Alley Cat Thrift Shop at First Congregational Church of Riverhead, we have sent out 198 pairs this year.





Thank You!

I want to thank everyone who helped make the day of my installation as pastor of Old Steeple special! I know many of you worked tirelessly to provide warm hospitality to those who came to celebrate with us. I also would like to thank you for the lovely 'Children of the World' stole you gave me. I cherish this gift very much – and will first wear it for 'Children's and Youth Sunday' on June 1st!



2025 OSCC Scholarship Winners

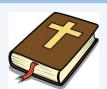
Congratulations to Old Steeple's 2025 scholarship winners! All are graduating from Riverhead High School this June, and all have impressive resumes and recommendations.

We are pleased that **Brooke Andresen**, one of our own, is a 2025 scholarship recipient! She was selected this year for our scholarship given in memory of Debbie Reeve, a valued OSCC member who passed away in August of 2020. In addition to her academic accomplishments, Brooke is an athlete (soccer) and a musician (alto saxophone). She attended high school in both Shoreham-Wading River and Riverhead and was actively involved in community service in both communities, organizing events, participating in fundraisers, offering mentorship to younger students and, uniquely, assisting her grandfather as he provided veterinarian services at local farms! At Old Steeple we have appreciated her help with special events like the Chicken Barbeque and her teaching support for our Sunday School children. Combining her interest in helping people and her passion for broadcast journalism, Brooke will attend the University of Rhode Island this fall.

Annabelle Dunn has challenged herself with the most rigorous courses that Riverhead High School has to offer, excelling in every area and ranking fifth in a class of over 400 students. She has taken a leadership role in all of her many extracurricular and community service activities: Student Government, Key Club, Riverhead Community Awareness Program (CAP), Riverhead Youth Coalition, honor societies, athletics (golf, track and field, fishing), and more. Nominated by her teachers, she has distinguished herself by becoming Riverhead's first student representative on the school district's Board of Education. In this role she serves as a liaison between the students and the adults of our school community. This fall Annabelle plans to major in pre-med (biochemistry) at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Another recipient who has excelled academically is **Ezekiel** (Zeke) **Herb**, who also has ties to Old Steeple through participation in our pre-school with his sister! In addition to required courses, Zeke has concentrated on advanced math and science courses, including chemistry, physics, calculus, robotics, and research (as an intern at Brookhaven National Laboratory and a mentor to conduct research on quantum communication). His extracurricular activities include the Science Olympiad team, National Hispanic Honor Society and National Honor Society, Key Club, Council for Unity, and Tri-M-Music Honor Society (double bass, bass guitar, guitar, ukelele, and piano). He has performed many hours of community service through involvement with Boy Scouts and North Fork Community Theater as a lighting technician. Zeke will major in nuclear energy generation at Cornell University this fall.

We look forward to meeting and celebrating our scholarship winners after church on June 1st at our joint Youth Sunday and Community Board meeting!



Bible Study will continue through June, with the exception of June 20. We are studying the Parables of Jesus. Most are very familiar, but we are finding that indepth study, applying the parable to our own lives, and open discussion leave us with new insights every week.

Coming up in the weeks ahead are the Parables of the Wise and Foolish Builders, New Cloth on an Old Coat, New Wine in Old Wineskins, The Two Debtors, and The Sower. There are more than 30 parables, so, in the fall, we will pick up where we leave off.

All are welcome to join us, whether it be for one session, or whenever you can make it. We meet at Rev. Bonnie's house on Fridays, 1pm. The address is 21 Victor St., Riverhead. (telephone 631-779-2560).



Council Minutes



May 14, 2025

Keith called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM. Pastor Kerstin offered a prayer. Members present were Keith Young, Pastor Kerstin Weidmann, Edgar Goodale, Rick Reeve, Amy Cosgrove, Barbara Crowley, Rev. Bonnie Miller - via FaceTime, and Jean Lapinski. The minutes of the April 10th meeting were approved as published in the May newsletter, with a motion by Amy and second by Rick.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Kerstin Weidmann

The Council reviewed Pastor Kerstin's written report, in which she highlighted Lenten, Easter, and Farmers' Services, visits and calls, and meetings attended and upcoming. She plans to continue the successful 'conversations over coffee' on a monthly basis.

Treasurer's Report – Edgar Goodale

Edgar reviewed April's budget with the Council. Expenses were as expected, and the Endowment Fund showed a net gain of \$25,000 for April. Pledges and outreach contributions are on target for the year.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds – Rick Reeve

Keith reported that AT&T has nearly finished its projected cell tower modifications in the steeple, and the remaining work will be done after a part that has been delayed arrives. Edgar said that the ramp is being completed and that the railing, which has already been manufactured, will be installed soon. Rick mentioned that the new defibrillator battery has been installed and that he will ask our landscaper to mow the church grounds on Thursday or Friday rather than Tuesday.

Worship – Ann Priapi

In her written report, Ann thanked Liz and David Wines and Donna and Joe Doroszka for hosting this spring's successful Farmers' Services. Regarding upcoming summer services, she said that the choir will take the summer off (although they will continue with rehearsals) and that Anyi will be away for the June 15th service. Council members decided to move Sunday worship from the sanctuary to Luce Hall on June 29th, maintaining the 10:00 start time. An outdoor service is scheduled for July 13th, with another possible outdoor service in August TBD. She added thanks to Pastor Kerstin for her "consistent efforts to warmly engage the kids in worship", which the adults enjoy as much as the kids!

Caring – Barbara Crowley

Barbara continues to speak with and visit members of the congregation each month. With Rev. Bonnie's assistance, she has completed the welcome pamphlets that will be distributed in church at an upcoming service.

Spiritual Formation (and Outreach by default) – Rev. Bonnie Miller

May 25th will be the final day of Sunday School, and Kathy Stapon will be the teacher, with help from Brooke Andresen. Bonnie has prepared the lesson plan. Sunday School Recognition Day is set for June 1st, at which time students will participate in the service with their teachers and receive their pins and certificates. This year's theme is Sunflowers. Rev. Bonnie and Pastor Kerstin have already discussed the order of service for the day. They are planning to strategize with the parents this summer about next year's Sunday School program. The Bible Study group has begun its study of parables on Fridays at 1:00 at Rev. Bonnie's house. Finally, she reminded Council that two of our youth are eligible for Confirmation, with classes proposed for the fall. May's outreach will focus on Heifer International. Rev. Bonnie said that Heifer International will triple our donation, thanks to contributions from Heifer International's benefactors. She will write an article for the June newsletter. Rev. Bonnie has also been working with the Riverhead Thrift Shop on the Soles for Souls project, and she is set to send another 100 pairs of shoes overseas.

Continuing and New Business

- Rev. Bonnie reported that Pastor Kerstin's Installation Service and the dinner that follows have been fully planned. She reviewed the order of worship with the Council and will follow up with Ann Van Cleef and Gail for the final details. The dinner menu has been established and Rev. Bonnie thanked all who have volunteered to help. Setup will be on Saturday, May 17th, at 11:00.
- The Chicken Barbeque is set for July 12. Jean has applied for the permit and Gail has prepared flyers and tickets, along with doing an inventory of supplies needed. Amy will check with Restaurant Depot for sturdy dinner containers and prepackaged cookies for dessert. Doug Corwin will again provide the chickens.
- The Scholarship Committee has selected three recipients of this year's Old Steeple Scholarships: Brooke Andresen, Annabelle Dunn, and Ezekiel Herb. They will be honored after the service on June 1st at the pot luck luncheon and before the Community Board meeting. Jean will prepare an article for the upcoming newsletter introducing our winners.
- Keith said that a new baptismal form has been developed which he will forward to Council members. He also mentioned that we need to keep an eye on the air conditioners and dehumidifier in the church office to be sure they are working properly.
- Rev. Bonnie requested that we look into recording or videotaping church services so that those who cannot attend can view the services online.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2025, at 5:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM, with a motion by Edgar and second by Rick.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Lapinski, Clerk





Sunday School News

We made it! We have now completed two years of Sunday School, despite the challenges this year presented. We are grateful to those who stepped up to lead the class in Rev. Bonnie's absence – Mignon Osmer, Ann Priapi, Kathy Stapon, Liz Wines, Paulette Sherman, Stacy Young, and Brooke Andresen.

The youngsters have all delighted us during Pastor Kerstin's messages each week. You can only imagine how they have entertained their teachers during class!

They have all grown in so many ways, and it is time for them to be recognized for being such an important part of our church family. On Sunday, June 1, they will receive their attendance awards and 2 Year pins, as well as a special surprise to take home.

That day is also our Community Board Meeting. There will be special treats for the youngsters (of all ages) during the meal – Pigs in Blankets, and two cakes – one left from Pastor Kerstin's Installation Dinner and an Ice Cream Sandwich cake.

We hope you will all be there for this special day. The Sunday School volunteers will meet with Pastor Kerstin and Rev. Bonnie over the summer to make plans for the fall. We hope to have a more consistent schedule and will be sure to let you know what it is before September.

Old Steeple Stitchers

We will resume our meetings on May 21st (third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm) and continue next month on June 18th. We will be taking the summer off (too hot to hold onto that yarn!) and return in September on the 17th.

Free Piano

Does anyone want a piano? Old Steeple has a piano to donate. We may even be able to deliver it!

Book Discussion Group

We will continue to the novel *Spirit of Brooklyn* by John Eric Lundin. Through extensive research the author has woven his fictional characters into an accurate portrayal of places and events during World War II.

The next book we are planning on is *The Day the World Came to Town* by Jim DeFede. This is the true story of the people of Gander, Newfoundland, who took care of the many passengers and flight crews that landed there when US air space was closed on September 11, 2001. The Broadway play *Come From Away* was based on this book.

We will be meeting on the second and fourth Fridays (6/13 and 6/27) at 11:00 AM for an hour in the upstairs coffee hour area. All are welcome to join.



John Eric Lundin

ome to join.

Outreach—Heifer International

Heifer is a global nonprofit that distributes animals, along with agricultural and value-based training, to families in need around the world as a means of providing self-sufficiency. Recipients must agree to "pass on the gift" by donating animal offspring, as well as sharing the skills and knowledge of their gift with other impoverished families in the community.

BBQ Chairperson Needed

We have specific instructions clearly written out for the various tasks on the kitchen side of our only fundraiser. We always get lots of volunteers to help and the tickets usually sell out. What we don't have is one person overseeing the helpers and answering questions that come up. This will not involve ticket sales or barbecuing the chickens. July 12th is coming!

If you want a job that only comes up once a year, please speak to any council member; Keith Young, Edgar Goodale, Jean Lapinski, Barbara Crowley, Amy Cosgrove, Rev. Bonnie Miller, Rick Reeve, Pastor Kerstin or Ann Priapi.

Conversations Over Coffee

Conversations Over Coffee in the parsonage will continue on a monthly basis. The next one will be on Thursday, June 12th, at 3:30 p.m.

Suffolk Association Spring 2025 Meeting Report May 3, 2025

The spring meeting of the Suffolk Association of UCC Churches was held at Middle Island Congregational UCC at 271 Middle Country Rd. Clergy and delegates enjoyed breakfast and fellowship from 8:30-9:00. The morning began with a worship service led by Rev. Robert Ruis, pastor of Middle Island UCC. The music was uplifting and inspiring with Jennifer Weber on the piano and Rev. Ruis on drums. His message, 'A New Standard for Love' was based on the reading of John 13:33-35.

The business meeting was led by Moderator, Rev. Mark Bigelow. Annual reports from the Association registrar, treasurer and committees were presented and accepted. The disbursements of two \$400 grants from



the association were affirmed by voice vote, having already been approved by the executive committee.

Rev. Dr. Marjorie Purnine, Associate Conference Minister for Leadership Development, spoke about issues at the state level. She spoke of opportunities in the NY School of Ministry, that OCWM certificates will be mailed soon, the registrations for State Conference in Albany this June are way up, resources are available for volunteer youth workers in congregations and the 3rd annual statewide ministry this year is prayer shawls. Finally, she said that there is a shortage of pastors statewide. To counter this, the NY School of Ministry (NYSOM) offers certificate programs, which prepare individuals for supply preaching, for lay ministerial standing and for ordained ministry.

The morning's guest speaker was Juana Cortes de Torre Esq., the Director of the Immigrant Legal Rights Project of the Rural and Migrant Ministry of New York. The RMM includes the UCC and eleven other faith bodies working for justice in rural NY. Juana is an attorney and advocate for the Latino community. She has been a public, radio, and television speaker on issues of housing, immigration, and workers' rights. Working out of the Riverhead office of RMM, she gives know your rights presentations that offer hope

and empowerment to immigrants, offers legal advice and advocates for all people to be treated with dignity. The group was an organizational plaintiff against the recent executive order to end birthright citizenship. Ms. Cortes de Torre took the time to answer many questions from the audience. The meeting concluded with lunch.

Old Steeple is scheduled to host the Fall 2027 meeting of the Association.

Respectfully Submitted, Ann Priapi – Delegate

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Recipe of the Month

Ice Cream Sandwich Cake (Jeannine Martin) (Double this recipe for 9"x13" pan) 12 ice cream sandwiches sliced bananas 1 container Cool Whip chocolate or caramel syrup, or both your favorite topping (sprinkles, nuts, M&Ms, crumbled Heath bar, etc.)

Place half of the sandwiches in a 9''x9'' pan. Place a layer of sliced bananas. Drizzle syrup over top. Place the other half of the sandwiches on top. Spread Cool Whip. Add your toppings and additional drizzle. Freeze and enjoy!



Old Steeple's Annual **Chicken Barbeque** is scheduled for Saturday, July 12, as a take-out event. Tickets are now available at \$25 if purchased before July 6 (\$30 if purchased between July 6-12). You can reserve tickets through Jean Lapinski by email (jlapin224@yahoo.com) or phone (631-722-4171); through Gail at the church office on Tuesdays through Thursdays between 9:00 and 2:00 (631-722-3070); or at church on Sunday. We hope you will join us with your friends and family!

Old Steeple Community Church



July 12, 2025

TAKE-OUT ONLY

Pick up your food between 4 & 6 pm

For tickets, call Jean at 631-722-4171 or email: jlapin224@yahoo.com Tickets: \$25 if purchased on or before July 5

\$30 if purchased between July 6 - 12

Barbecued chicken Baked potato Coleslaw Corn on the cob Roll Dessert

Partial proceeds will be donated to local food pantries.

Produce and side dishes donated by Bayview Market & Farms and the Modern Snack Bar.

Old Steeple Community Church • 656 Main Road, Aquebogue oldsteeplecommunitychurch.org



Aquebogue Cemetery Association

The Aquebogue Cemetery Association has been compiling a list of veterans interred here. We would like to have them honored with a flag on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. We have researched our files for notations regarding service, but could be missing some, so we are asking for your help. If you know of a veteran buried here, please let us know their name, what was there service (ie: Army, Navy, etc.) You can contact me at mvheagy@optonline.net. Thank you, Maria Heagy.

Last Name	First Name	Died	Born	Last Name	First Name	Died	Born
Barth	Eliot C	2010	1921	Stahl	Otto R	1970	1895
Benjamin	Richard	1808	1757	Sherman	Fred F Jr.	1942	2023
Benjamin	William	1809	1731	Storer	James E, Col.	1908	1829
Carver	Kenneth	1968	1898	Terry	Daniel Jr,	1828	1758
Chalaire	Walter Snowdon	1996	1923	Terry	James	1840	1758
Chester	Seth H, Captain	1874	1797	Terry	John, Major	1856	1771
Cleeves	Jedediah	1782	1707	Tuthill	Nathan	1803	1741
Conklin	George W	1893	1835	Tuthill	Leon H	1986	1892
Corwin	Jedediah, Captain	1824	1753	Vail	Steven P	1903	1819
Corwin	Leslie H Sr.	1973	1893	Wells	Isaac	1784	1745
Dayton	David E	1864	1827	Wells	Isaiah	1791	1757
Dohrenwend	Gustavas	1978	1914	Wells	John, Captain	1850	1774
Dort	Arthur A	1964	1899	Wells	Rev. Manly	1802	1746
Downs	Harold W	1991	1911	Wells	Daniel II	1793	1731
Downs	Wendell M Jr	2012	1930	Whitney	Norman A	1973	1920
Floege	Hans Charles	1982	1915	Young	Noah , Captain	1853	1788
Griffing	Nathaniel	1823	1750	Young	Curtis J., Major	1986	1914
Hallock	Zachariah, Captain	1820	1749	Young	Christopher, Captain	1800	1724
Hallock	Daniel	1844	1755	Young	Christopher, Captain	1841	1756
Jacobs	Cecil E	1948	1887	Young	Richard E	1996	1925
King	Abraham	1782	1725	Young	Gary	2005	1955
Muller	Michael D	2006	1949	Young	Lester W	2007	1913
Payne	James A	1991	1909				
Reeve	Paul, Captain	1825	1734				
Robinson	Richard E	1864	1846				



	•	JUNE	202	25 •							
Outreach for this month is Heifer International											
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday					
1 10 am Worship & Communion Community Board meeting Scholarship Sunday Sunday School Recognition Pot-luck Luncheon LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm	2 AA 7 pm	3 AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	4 LaMision Church hall rental 8 pm	5	6 Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am Bible Study at Rev. Bonnie's 1 pm AA 6 pm	7					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14					
10 am Worship LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm	AA 7 pm	Church office closed AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	Council mtg. 5:30 pm LaMision Church hall rental 8 pm		Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am Book Club 10:30 - 11:30 Bible Study at Rev. Bonnie's 1 pm AA 6 pm						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21					
10 am Worship LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm	AA 7 pm	AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	Old Steeple Stitchers meet at 7 pm LaMision Church hall rental 8 pm	Church office closed Juneteenth - (Federal Holiday)	Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am Bible Study at Rev. Bonnie's 1 pm AA 6 pm						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28					
10 am Worship LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm	AA 7 pm	SV articles due	LaMision Church hall rental 8 pm		Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am Book Club 10:30 - 11:30 Bible Study at Rev. Bonnie's 1 pm AA 6 pm						
29	30	1	2	3	4	5					
10 am Worship LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm	AA 7 pm	AA 6 pm NA 8 pm									