

# THE STEEPLE VIEW

SINCE 1758

OLD STEEPLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

OCTOBER 2022

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Suddenly the year-end appears so close. Our last days with you feel too few and too short. The reminder is that life never waits for us — it just ploughs on.

I must say that my heart swells with gratitude when I think of you as a congregation. Six years feels like a fleeting moment in time, but the influence of our sojourn here has added a lifetime's memories of great people, warm hearts, and generosity in action.

You will hear more of this from Henza and myself in this last month and a half, but we want you to know that you have given us the gift of acceptance and trust. We appreciate that so much. Our hope for you will be that the church will continue to be the best it can be, living fully and hopefully. The reality of a slowly aging congregation and a question about the long-term future must never rob you of your dynamics of the church you are.

It is with these thoughts that we begin to pack our boxes. Sometimes we will do so reluctantly when we think of leaving you, our faith-family, behind, and sometimes enthusiastically as we begin to imagine new adventures awaiting us. It's a mixed bag of thoughts.

The one thing I would like to make you aware of is the rule that once a minister leaves a congregation, there must be a complete separation for a few years. This means, no communication and absolutely demands the exiting minister to refrain from any contact with the church or its members as you prepare for the new minister to be called.

This might feel rather stringent, and it is. But its intent is good, and that is to make sure the departing minister allows the new minister to build their own relationship with the congregation. Trust me, it is for the better, and I have only seen trouble when the minister does not respect this process. So, there will be no return for funerals or weddings or baptisms. But the bond of deep gratitude will continue in our hearts.

Next month is the last newsletter article I will be writing and more detail on our departure to follow then.

For now, my last Sunday will be on November 20th. Love, peace and grace to all.



### Old Steeple Community Church United Church of Christ

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oldsteeplecommunitychurch.org

#### Minister:

Rev. Dr. Anton DeWet  
antondewet@aol.com  
631-779-2670

#### Moderator:

Keith Young

#### Choir Director/Organist:

Guy M.L. Fein

#### Office Administrator:

Gail Evans

office hours:  
Tu, W, Th 9-2



# OUTREACH

September's special collection has been for Maureen's Haven. Our goal is \$1,200.00. Hoping to meet that! Maureen's Haven provides a warm and safe place for the unhomed persons in our community during the coldest months. Also provided is a warm evening meal, breakfast, and a bagged lunch to go. Last year and again this year, a team from Riverhead Building Supply has been handling the cooking, serving, and laundry. We are grateful for this wonderful team.

October 1st is the Blessing of the Animals. We also collect for Church World Service during the entire month. Thanking you for donating to whatever speaks to your heart.

Andrea for Outreach.

## Update on the Search for Our Next Settled Pastor

In the past week the search committee and council have been at work. We had an organizational meeting and a meeting with our assigned Associate Conference Ministers, who joined virtually via Zoom. The first step in the process is for the congregation of the Church to complete the Welcoming and Diversity Survey. This survey enables the conference and the committee to get input from members and friends that will help us complete the Local Church Profile. The profile is used by the conference to advertise our opening for a settled pastor. We cannot have it posted on their website without first doing the survey.

The Welcoming and Diversity Survey is most efficiently completed and collected electronically. There will be a paper version available for members and friends who would prefer to do it by hand. It is completely

anonymous and will be sent in an email. It should take about six minutes of your time. You'll be asked to click on a link to open it, answer the questions, then submit your responses. Most of the questions have the answer choices, yes, no, or I don't know. Your participation is the first action you can take to help us find a replacement for our beloved Rev. Anton. To get results that accurately reflect our congregation, it is important that you respond to the survey questions honestly. Thank you in advance.



Once the survey and profile are completed, our conference will advertise our open position to UCC clergy across the country. The search committee will read ministerial profiles, screen candidates, conduct interviews, check references, and eventually select a candidate who will be recommended to the entire congregation.

# Old Steeple Community Church

## *Blessing of the Animals*

**Saturday, October 1, 2022 at 10 am**

rain or shine

**There will be scripture and blessings to honor our animal friends.**

(They must be leashed or crated.)

The blessings will take place  
in the church parking lot.

A free-will donation will be taken.



656 Main Road, Aquebogue • 631-722-3070 • [oldsteeplecommunitychurch.org](http://oldsteeplecommunitychurch.org) • [oldsteeplecc@gmail.com](mailto:oldsteeplecc@gmail.com)

## COUNCIL MINUTES

### September 14, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

Moderator Keith Young called the meeting to order and Rev. Anton led us in prayer. Members present were Amy Cosgrove, Edgar Goodale, Andrea Hanulec, Ann Priapi, Rick Reeve, Kathy Stapon, Rev. Anton DeWet and Keith Young. The minutes of the August meeting were published in the last newsletter, Rick made a motion to accept them with no additions or corrections and Kathy seconded it.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Edgar went over the monthly report reflecting the church's finances through 8/31/22. We are still running behind on pledges having taken in \$45,886 toward the \$75,000 budget figure. He proposed taking on an outreach project with some of the profits from the July chicken barbecue. Everyone agreed that since the money came from the community, we ought to give back in some way. After some discussion, we decided to use four thousand dollars to buy food and replenish the shelves at St. John's food pantry in Riverhead. Andrea will get a list of items needed and Edgar volunteered his trailer to transport the goods.

## **PASTOR'S REPORT**

Anton informed us that the Suffolk Association of the UCC is having a town hall type Zoom meeting Tuesday Sept. 20th at 6pm. It will be hosted by the conference moderator and the transitional conference minister, who are interested in hearing from local churches. Anton asked to use his remaining vacation time to take off the following days this fall; 9/29 -10/3 and 11/11-11/16. This request was approved by the council.

## **MINISTRY REPORTS**

### ***Buildings and Grounds***

Rick thanked Edgar, Keith and Kevin (Goodale) who worked with him on getting the playground area ready to be used by children. The fence has been repaired and the playhouse reassembled. Jessica de Vera Wells has put up a lock box for her key to the downstairs back door for her use.

There recently was a sinkhole on the east side of the building; Edgar said it was caused by heavy rain, not a leaking pipe. It was repaired by Tim Block at no cost.

The memorial garden in the front lawn was weeded and sprayed and the clips on the flagpole rope have been replaced.

Anton has noticed the outside light left on when the building is not in use. Rick suspects that switches have been mistakenly left on and will ask Joe Doroszka if he would label the switches to prevent this. Also, Anton got two orange traffic cones to warn drivers of the chain across the driveway.

### ***Outreach***

Andrea advised the council of projects for the rest of the year. They are, in October - Church World Service and Blessing of the Animals on 10/1 @ 10 am; November - Habitat for Humanity; and December - our traditional Angel Tree collection of socks, hats, gloves, scarves and mittens. She asked that we add warm throws and twin sized blankets to the donation list for the Angel Tree, the council members all were in favor.

### ***Worship***

Kathy contacted Marguerite Volonts to substitute for Guy Fein this past Sunday, 9/11, and Lois Ross is scheduled to do it on 9/18. Rev. Lorraine De Armitt will be our supply pastor during Advent. Kathy will speak with Janet Wright to see if she can conduct worship on 10/2 and 11/13 when Anton is off.

### ***Welcoming / Advertising***

No report.

### ***Caring***

No report.

## **PROPOSED BUDGET OVERVIEW**

Edgar prepared and presented a draft budget for 2023. He explained each item and answered questions that came up. The final version will be available for congregational vote next month.

## **SEARCH PROCESS**

The council will meet jointly with the search committee after worship this Sunday and again on Monday September 26th. At the second meeting Rev. Gary Ferner and Rev. Shernell Stillely will join by Zoom link to answer questions and explain next steps.



**Potluck**  
**LUNCHEON**

**Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> following Worship**

**Please bring a dish to share and join us for  
a time of fellowship in Luce Hall**

## CONTINUING and NEW BUSINESS

- Ann revised the 'About Us' section of the new website. Everyone approved the revision and she will ask Gail to post it.
- Congregational budget meeting to be held 10/16 after worship.
- Potluck luncheon for fellowship and fun will be 10/23 following worship.
- The time capsule is ready to be tucked away, but not back in the steeple. Edgar thought that upstairs in the old projection room might be a good spot. The wooden box it is in will be labeled to identify what it contains, list the dates it was originally placed in the steeple and the years it has been opened.
- The downstairs AED has been replaced in its case. We still have no one with a current certification to use it.
- Amy got a copy of the insurance certificate covering the use of the downstairs classroom by Jessica de Vera Wells as a play school. Today the September and October rent on the space was received.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Priapi, Clerk



## PRAYER LIST

### Prayers & Concerns:

Those in harm's way who serve our country including Christopher Mascia, Ben Pileski, William Gilmore Jr., and Justin Krue; and to family and friends of Elaine Olsen.

### Our Prayer List includes those in hospital, at home recovering or taking extra COVID precautions:

Ray Atkins  
Grace De Friest  
Robin Duvall  
Barbara Fein  
Guy Fein

Hannah Galinski  
Gene Goodale  
Geraldine Hulse  
Lucas Mascia  
Arthur Miller & Rev. Bonnie  
Elaine Olsen  
Patricia Overs  
Scotty Robertson  
Arthur Schnell  
Fred Sherman  
Beverly Sherman  
Rachel Sirel  
Walter and Betty Stewart  
Michael Taylor

Please let us know of any additions or changes. Contact the church office at 631-722-3070; or e-mail [oldsteepleccc@gmail.com](mailto:oldsteepleccc@gmail.com). Include your name, and let that person know that those at Old Steeple will be praying for them.

# OCTOBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 Blessing of the Animals 10 am
2	3 AA 7 pm	4 AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	5	6 Choir rehearsal 10:15	7 AA 6 pm	8
9	10 DEADLINE for Annual Reports  AA 7 pm	11 AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	12 Council 7 pm  hall rental 6:30 - 9:30	13 Choir rehearsal 10:15	14 AA 6 pm	15
16 Congregational meeting	17 AA 7 pm	18 AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	19 Old Steeple Stitches 7 pm	20 Choir rehearsal 10:15  Steeple View articles due	21 AA 6 pm	22
23 Pot luck luncheon following worship	24 AA 7 pm	25 AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	26	27 Choir rehearsal 10:15	28 AA 6 pm	29
30	31 AA 7 pm	1	2	3	4	5

If you would like a copy of our Friends & Family list, please contact Gail in the church office.