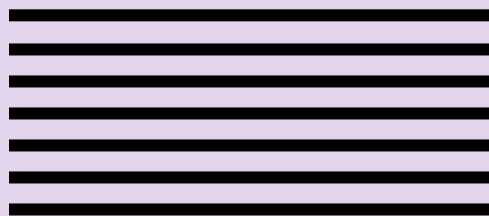


# ● THE ● STEEPLE VIEW



May  
2024



## From Our Pastor

Dear Members and Friends,

We come into May still in the season of Easter but ready for Pentecost to arrive. In my message this month, through our newsletter, let me share some quotes related to Pentecost to help us prepare for the birthday of the church. I will also add a "thank you" for a "pentecost" experience that you supported me in having recently.

Pentecost — Our classic text comes from Acts 2:1-4 (NRSV) "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 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. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability."

For the author of Luke-Acts, the coming of Jesus and the continuation of his presence in the power of the Spirit inaugurated a new age in which the fragmentation of humanity was overcome. Yes, Pentecost was marked in a new way.

Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes tells us "that the disciples, who spoke Aramaic (and with an accent), suddenly were able to speak in other people's languages. The true miracle and gift of Pentecost, he says, is not ecstatic prayer, but conveying love by bridging differences, by reaching out to the Other. Whatever separates us is the place where the miracle of Pentecost happens." (Website -Unfolding Light is a daily reflection (weekdays) by Steve Garnaas-Holmes rooted in a contemplative, Creation-centered, justice-oriented spirituality.)

Where do we begin to bridge differences? We hope it begins in our homes, our workplaces, and, surely, in our places of worship. This is not easy work but it is possible with the gift of the Spirit. Brazilian liberation theologian Leonardo Boff is known for his writing about the church and that hard work of conveying love by bridging differences.

He believes "that the church can be a sign of the sacred and the divine in the secular world and in the process of liberation of the oppressed." Recently, I read what he said about how he witnesses the presence of the Holy Spirit: "The Spirit is present wherever people live

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**Moderator:**  
Keith Young

**Choir Director/Organist:**  
Guy M.L. Fein

**Office Administrator:**  
Gail Evans

office hours:  
Tu, W, Th 9-2

### May Events

May 10 – Book Club 10:30 am  
May 12 – Mother's Day  
May 15 – Council meeting 5 pm  
May 15 – Old Steeple Stitches 7 pm  
May 19 – Confirmation Sunday  
May 19 – Community Board and  
potluck luncheon after worship  
May 23 – Steeple View articles due  
May 24 – Book Club 10:30 am  
May 26 – guest speaker:  
Antje Danguillier

by love, witness to the truth, act in solidarity, and practice compassion. Wherever such realities are manifest in human beings, anywhere in the world, it is a sign that the Spirit has come upon them and is active within them.” (Leonardo Boff, *Come, Holy Spirit: Inner Fire, Giver of Life, and Comforter of the Poor*).

Now, let me offer my thank you for your support of some of my continuing education days. In March, I felt I witnessed, in a unique way, the Spirit moving in and among people committed to living by love, witnessing to the truth, acting in solidarity and practicing compassion. As a representative with our small UCC delegate group (from the national UCC setting) to the United Nations meeting, I was able to attend a few days of the two week session to hear reports from the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

Some of the reporting was online but how wonderful it was to be at the UN in New York in person to hear reports from member countries. It was surely a “pentecost” type experience as I entered the world of people speaking different languages and displaying diverse cultural traditions in the way they dressed and shared stories.

Most of the meetings I attended were in small conference rooms that held around 60 people. These meetings were called “side events” while the larger conference rooms of the UN were set up for the general reporting. The “side event” rooms were filled to capacity and many times, if you did not arrive early, you had no seat.

I decided to attend “side event” meetings hosted by people from the countries of Lesotho, Myanmar (Burma), Bangladesh, and Saudi Arabia. I wish I had the time and space to share some of the stories I heard about desperate situations and needs expressed from each country, but I will share one.

You may remember that in June 29, 2022, CNN reported, “More than seven million people in Bangladesh are in desperate need of shelter and emergency relief after what one aid agency has described as the worst flooding to hit South Asia in living memory. Hundreds of thousands of homes near the Bangladesh-India border are underwater, and in the worst-hit areas whole neighborhoods have been submerged.”

The reporting I heard in 2024 from Bangladeshi officials at the United Nations (CSW) was centered on how people are doing in the recovery efforts since that terrible disaster. The news was not good. Aid agencies, government representatives and Bangladesh Red Crescent volunteers are working in the districts affected the worst. They hand out food, drinking water and hygiene kits, and provide first aid. The big concern continues to be for displaced women and children, gender based violence, and reproductive health. In the camps set up for displaced people, I heard about the need for more portable toilets that have locks to protect women who need to go out at night to the toilet. I never thought of this being a concern but this is one important need among many.

The needs expressed called for the world not to forget the struggles there and to advocate for government leaders to release donated funds for recovery projects. I was giving thanks for those who were on the ground addressing needs, pushing for change, making a difference and keeping hope alive.

### **SPECIAL SERVICES IN MAY, JUNE AND JULY - SAVE THE DATE!**

MAY 28 GUEST REV. ANTJE DANGUILLER, Pastor, Evangelische Church In Germany (a colleague friend of Rev. Ann’s) will deliver our sermon.

JUNE 2 HONORING OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS at coffee hour.

JUNE 9 10 A.M. CHILDREN/YOUTH SUNDAY Celebration of our Sunday School Children and their teachers. Picnic to follow worship!

JUNE 16 10 A.M. CONFIRMATION SUNDAY Brooke and Logan Andresen will be confirmed.

JULY 7 10 A.M. BAPTISM OF DECKLAN REEVE VOSHALL, SON OF KIMBERLI AND SHANE VOSHALL. Decklan was born in Pittsburgh, PA on January 11, 2024.

### **Global Ministries Prayer Calendar (United Church of Christ/Disciples) asks us to pray for our mission work in these countries in May**



MAY 5 – Republic of Congo

May 12 – Palestine

May 19 – Venezuela

May 26 – Japan

I learned that a big majority of those on the frontlines are from faith communities. The importance of reaching out to others, conveying love by bridging differences, can't be stressed enough. I surely felt a reality of what Pentecost is about. It seemed I witnessed in those meetings the statement, "The Spirit is present wherever people live by love, witness to the truth, act in solidarity, and practice compassion."

I am reporting to you from a "world stage" yet what I learned can be applied right here where we live. For our Pentecost celebrations here at Old Steeple, my prayer is that we indeed prepare our hearts to celebrate the Spirit who calls us to live by love, to witness to the truth, to act in solidarity and to practice compassion. May we know the true miracle and gift of Pentecost in the ways we convey love in our communities and beyond, by bridging differences, and by reaching out to the Other.

I continue to thank you for your support of our mutual ministry during this interim time. Don't forget to call or text if you need to my support — 508-221-8787. You can email as well: [ann.oldsteeple@gmail.com](mailto:ann.oldsteeple@gmail.com).

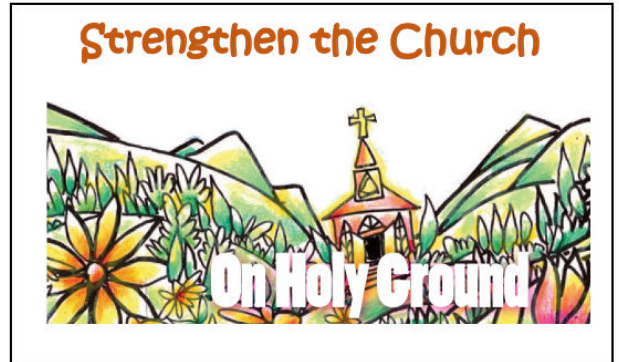
Grace and peace, Rev. Ann Rogers Brigham

## ●●●●● Outreach ●●●●●

Our congregation continues to be generous when it comes to support of our various monthly outreach projects, even when we don't actually see where our dollars go. This was true in April, as we turned our attention to Church World Service blankets. There were two types on display in our sanctuary, each costing \$10. We will soon know just how many blankets we were able to supply to wrap around those in need.

We also honored some very special people who provide the hands-on effort with the needy on our behalf ~ Victoria Pace, Michelle Paladino, and, Deb Viani who oversee the overnight Maureen's Haven program on the first and third Mondays of November through March; and Jessica Ruiz, the new director of St. John's Food Pantry. Each was presented an Appreciation Award during worship and spent time with us at coffee hour.

In May, we will focus on one of our UCC 5-for-5 offerings, Strengthen the Church. This offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.



### ONGOING OUTREACH PROJECTS:

- Soles4Souls – 85 pairs so far (52 from Riverhead, 33 from OSCC). There are others to be packed and shipped. The confirmands have been invited to participate in this project.
- Ukraine relief -- \$900 collected to date
- St. John's Food Pantry -- \$610 (to subsidize shopping budget of \$150 per week)
- Maureen's Haven - \$840 (to subsidize budget line, \$2,000)
- OCWM -- \$867.26 (to subsidize budget line, \$3,500)

Thanks to all who generously share their resources and their heartfelt prayers in support of our outreach projects. Our church really makes a difference in the lives of so many others. For more information, you may speak to me at church or call me at 631-779-2560.

Rev. Bonnie Miller, Outreach

# Sunday School Happenings



The children prepared for Palm Sunday by reading a story and practicing for the procession with musical instruments. We found a set of handbells among the instruments, and they will soon be learning how to use them, as well.

Easter morning went very well. Thanks to all who provided candy, to Kathy Stapon for filling the eggs, and her grandsons for hiding all them. After discussing the story of Easter and doing some Easter activities in class, the older students teamed up with younger ones for the hunt. We were pleased when they returned to the classroom to even out the number found by each pair.

In the weeks ahead, we will introduce various Biblical heroes and heroines. As always, activities include stories, arts and crafts, games, and puzzles. We will also be working on our plans for Children's Sunday on June 9. In addition to leading worship and receiving Attendance Pins and Certificates of Attendance, the children will present a pageant and special music

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Bonnie Miller

Note: Please let us know if you are interested in nursery care for children under 4, or confirmation class for those over 12.

## Delegates to State Conference Meetings

These Zoom meetings are in Town Hall format and will allow the delegates to the State Conference to understand the change in By-Laws, which will be presented and voted upon at the State Conference. It is important that the delegate knows what the congregation would think about these proposals.

1) Zoom meeting on Thursday, **April 25** at noon and 6 pm. Each meeting will be approximately 1 hour. Your questions will be answered. These changes will affect all churches within NYS.

2) Zoom meeting on Monday, **May 13**, with one meeting at noon and the other at 5 pm. This meeting will present the budget for the 2025 Conference. Again, this will affect all churches in the NYS Conference.

Thank you. Shalom and Blessings, Janet

## SUFFOLK ASSOCIATION – NEW YORK CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, SPRING MEETING  
You are invited to the Suffolk Association Spring Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 4, at Farmingville Congregational Church, 335 Horseblock Road, Farmingville, NY. Breakfast and registration is at 9 a.m., worship at 9:30, program at 10, business meeting at 11, and lunch at 11:30. The meeting will be in-person only. Everyone is invited to the meeting and each church is allowed voting delegates. We are delighted if you'd like to attend and be an "Old Steeple" voting delegate. If you want to just attend the meeting, please feel welcome to be in attendance. Let our Moderator Keith Young know if you want to attend and represent Old Steeple as a voting delegate.

Thank you! Rev. Ann Rogers Brigham,  
Interim Minister



## Minutes of the Council – April 14, 2024

Keith called the meeting to at 11:35 am. Rev. Ann offered a prayer. Members present were Keith Young, Amy Cosgrove, Rev. Dr. Ann Rogers-Brigham, Edgar Goodale, Rev. Bonnie Miller, Kathy Stapon, Barbara Crowley and Ann Priapi. Brooke and Logan Andresen, members of the confirmation class, were there to observe. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the April newsletter, with a motion by Edgar and second by Kathy.



### **Treasurer's Report** - Edgar Goodale

The month ending 3/31 was typical. The endowment increased slightly in value and we are ahead on pledges collected. Last week we were notified that our liability and property damage insurance coverage, provided through Church Mutual, would not be renewed due to the type of construction of the building and the threat of windstorms in the northeast. We have no right to appeal. Edgar is gathering information on coverage with another company which he expects will be substantially more expensive.

The roofing work was postponed due to rainy weather and rescheduled to start the week of 4/22. Lastly, Edgar believes we'll go over budget on repairs in 2024.

### **Pastor's Report** - Rev. Ann Rogers-Brigham

Rev. Ann reviewed her report which was emailed earlier this week. She let us know how confirmation classes have been going and introduced Brooke and Logan. Edgar is Brooke's sponsor and Lisa Drozd is Logan's. Lilly Doroski will be baptized on 4/28, the date for receiving new members needs to be changed and Rev. Antje Danguillier, visiting from Germany, will preach on 5/26.

### *MINISTRY REPORTS*

#### **Buildings and Grounds** - Rick Reeve

Keith went over the items on the agenda in Rick's absence. Last week one of the storm windows on the east side of the sanctuary was broken when it blew off. We'll need a new one before winter. Keith will install the air conditioners in the two offices. Kathy said the doors on the south side of the sanctuary have been sticking, Edgar will take a look.

#### **Outreach** - Rev. Bonnie Miller

We have received \$765 towards One Great Hour of Sharing and \$305 for Church World Service blankets so far. Upcoming outreach efforts will be Strengthen the Church in May and Heifer Project in June. Bonnie continues to shop for and deliver one hundred and fifty dollars' worth of food to St. John's food pantry weekly. Today (April 14) we honored volunteers from Maureen's Haven (Victoria Pace, Michelle Paladino, and Deb Viani)

and the director of St. John's food pantry (Jessica Ruiz) during the morning worship service.



#### **Worship** - Kathy Stapon

Kathy will take down the banners in the sanctuary before the rehearsal and wedding on the 26th & 27th. She will be traveling on April 28. She will order a flower for the baptism happening that day. The 7 am farmer's services have been lightly attended, there will be one more on the 21st at Iron Pier beach.

Summer worship service time will remain at 10am.

#### **Spiritual Formation** - Ann Priapi

Rev. Bonnie commented on the great job the Sunday School kids did on Palm Sunday and Easter. She thanked Kathy and her grandsons, Dylan and Brett for handling the set up for the Easter egg hunt. Next the kids will study biblical figures and work on mastering the handbells. Classes will end with a celebration on Children's Day, June 9th.

#### **Welcoming / Advertising** - Barbara Crowley

Revisions to the church brochure are underway, current photos are needed. Bonnie reported that women of the church have been getting together for lunch once a month to share fellowship and ideas for activities.

#### **Continuing and New Business**

- Search Committee - Ann P. updated the committee on recent progress.
- The La Misión Cornerstone Church group had about 50 people attend their first Sunday evening service

- on 4/7. They discontinued the Thursday meeting and now use Luce Hall Sunday and Wednesday nights.
- Quilter's Group - requested additional meetings in Luce Hall on 5/11 and 8/10. We anticipate increasing the fee we charge for their usage in 2025, they have been paying the member rate of \$75 for four hours once a month.
  - Chicken BBQ 7/13/24 - ticket price will be \$25.00 (\$30.00 the week before). Keith will contact Otto W. about the Food Certificate and Bonnie will talk with Gail about tickets.
  - The spring meeting of the Suffolk Association will be Saturday 5/4 at Farmingville UCC Church.
  - The Community Board Meeting will be Sunday 5/19 with potluck lunch.
  - The Riverhead Clergy Council has been meeting with Supervisor Tim Hubbard to discuss homelessness in Riverhead Town.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday 5/15/24 at 5 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Priapi, Clerk

## We celebrate our Mothers on Mother's Day, May 12!

Mother's Day Prayer (Rev. Ann offers this prayer written by UMC minister, Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes)

God of Love, Mother of our Souls, we thank you for the gift of life: that by your grace we are born anew from you; that you nurse us at the breast of Creation, that you have held us, guided us, and taught us to walk. You gather all your children in your loving arms; grant us peace with one another in your love. We pray for all mothers, givers of life; strengthen them with your love and grace. We pray especially for mothers who raise their children in poverty, violence, war or unhealthy environments; that we may care for one another as for our own kin. We pray for mothers whose children fight our wars for us; that we may learn peace. Gracious God, Mother of us all, grant us your peace. Amen.

### Book Discussion Group

We meet each month on the 2nd and 4th Friday mornings from 10:30 am to 11:30 am in the downstairs Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing the book *All Together in One Place* – a novel of kinship, courage, and faith by Jane Kirkpatrick, for the month of May (5/10 & 5/24). This is a book based on a true story of a group traveling on the Oregon Trail in 1852. In June we expect to be starting the book *Destiny of the Republic* by Candice Millard. This book is about the life of President James Garfield. All are welcome to join us for any book that would interest you.

### INTERESTED IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

Please contact Rev. Ann or any member of our Church Council. We are planning to welcome new members on Sunday May 26. Applications are available in the church office. Thanks for letting us know about your interest in joining us to become a member of Old Steeple. It is a joy for us to welcome new members into our Old Steeple life.

### May 19 Luncheon Theme

We've chosen a luncheon theme for May 19 to be Hawaiian! This will be for our potluck luncheon that follows the Community Board meeting in Luce Hall. So, bring food donations with a Hawaiian theme, or, of course any lunch donations will be welcome! If you have any questions, you can contact Rev. Janet Wright at 631-722-4486.

### World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

*During May we pray for people who live in the following parts of our world:*

April 28-May 4 — Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

May 5 - 11—India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

May 12-18 —Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal

May 19-25—Indian Ocean Islands: Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius

May 26-June 1 — Angola and Mozambique



### Summer Worship

The summer worship service time will be 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. The date for services taking place in the hall has yet to be determined, so stay tuned!

We have a

new roof!



### **The Doxology – A Reflection From Our Music Director**

Every Sunday, at the conclusion of gathering the offering, we sing the Doxology. Actually, we sing **a** Doxology, because there is more than one. But wait... what is a doxology, after all?

Simply put, a doxology is a short hymn of praise to the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There is no liturgical reason that the Doxology is sung where it is. It can be sung anywhere in a worship service. Often it is sung at the end of psalms, canticles or even hymns. But it is never wrong to sing a song of praise. In our hymnal, the section from 39 to 52 are all songs of praise to God. Actually, hymns 1 to 118 are hymns of praise, and thus are also Doxologies. So if you take a moment to look at our hymnal you will see that there are many hymns of praise, thus many doxologies.

Some churches use a text variation as is indicated in hymn #46, which is gender specific, calling God "him". The hymnal suggests changing "him" to "God" and in hymn #47 we use "Creator", thus avoiding the gender problem.

Other denominations alter texts to find a substitute for "Holy Ghost". That's because the word "ghost" conjures up a vision of an apparition such as in Dickens' "A Christmas Carol". In some usages we change that to "Spirit" but it doesn't work well metrically so we stay with "Holy Ghost".

There are several doxologies that are often used in services. The one we use these days in our service is called the Common Doxology. The text was written by a 17<sup>th</sup> century Church of England clergyman named Thomas Ken. The music was written by Louis Bourgeois, who created music for the sung Psalter, which was part of Calvinism.

If you go to a Roman Catholic, Protestant Episcopal or a Lutheran Church you will find them using (not necessarily singing) the Greater Doxology. It begins with the line: "Glory Be to God on High", and is also known as the Gloria Excelsis. These are the words of the angels at Jesus' birth!

Finally, the Lesser Doxology is the Gloria Patri, which uses the words: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son" and is #35 - #37 in our hymnal.

Why do we sing the Doxology where we do? I suppose to recognize that our financial contributions are a gift to and from God.



Guy M. L. Fein





## ● MAY 2024 ●

Outreach for May is **Strengthen the Church**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
			La Mision Church hall rental 8 pm	Choir rehearsal 10:15 am	AA 6 pm	Confirmation class 5 pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10 am Worship, Communion and Sunday School  1 pm Holocaust remembrance at Temple Israel Riverhead  LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm	AA 7 pm	AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	LaMision Church hall rental 8 pm	Choir rehearsal 10:15 am	Book Club 10:30 am   AA 6 pm	Hall rental ELIQ 10 - 4  Confirmation class 5 pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<i>Mother's Day</i> 10 am Worship and Sunday School  LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm	AA 7 pm	AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	Council mtg. 5 pm  Old Steeple Stitchers 7 pm  LaMision Church hall rental 8 pm	Choir rehearsal 10:15 am	AA 6 pm	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Pentacost Sunday - wear red  10 am Worship and Sunday School, followed by Community Brd. & potluck luncheon  LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm	AA 7 pm	AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	LaMision Church hall rental 8 pm	SV articles due  Choir rehearsal 10:15 am	Book Club 10:30 am   AA 6 pm	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
10 am Worship - guest speaker: Rev. Antje Danguillier German pastor Membership Sunday 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 10:15 am	AA 6 pm	