

(Written March 25, 2020)

A banner for The Steeple View Old Steeple Community Church. The banner features a photograph of the church building on the left. The text on the banner includes the date "April 2020" in a large font, the church's name "The Steeple View Old Steeple Community Church", and contact information: "(631) 722-3070", "oldsteeplecommunitychurch.org", and "oldsteeplecc@gmailcom". The church's affiliation and address are also listed: "United Church of Christ", "POB 154/656 Main Road", and "Aquebogue, NY 11931".

(631) 722-3070
oldsteeplecommunitychurch.org
oldsteeplecc@gmailcom

April 2020

The Steeple View
Old Steeple Community Church

United Church of Christ
POB 154/656 Main Road
Aquebogue, NY 11931

From Anton:

For some reason Sonny and Cher is on my mind this morning. Actually, it's the words of their song that keeps on playing over and over in my mind...

"The beat goes on, the beat goes on
Drums keep pounding a rhythm to the brain
La de da de de, la de da de da..."

Our lives continue in faith (the beat goes on) even as the world appears to become shaky and uncertain. So, if that is true, let's be like the person who built his house on a firm foundation. (Matt 7:24-27)

²⁴ "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

I hope you are all healthy and have avoided this dangerous virus. Play it safe, be prayerful, be patient and life will return to normal over time.

Despite the disruption, our season of Lent progresses. We imagine Jesus and his disciples nearing Jerusalem, his destination. He is still in his "teaching mode", preparing his followers for what he knew would be a final showdown.

Even when staring this reality in the face, Jesus was probably already dreaming of resurrection. Without death, there can be no new life.

The French philosopher, Voltaire, said - "It is not more surprising to be born twice than once; everything in nature is resurrection."

We approach the challenges we face knowing that new life comes to those who wait.

Speaking of new life—Henza and I are monitoring our phones as I write. Jessica, our daughter in law, was induced this morning and we ask prayers for the safe birth of Charlotte Louise DeWet at any time now.



At the same time, we ask for prayers for Rev. Sean Murray, pastor at First Congregational downtown, who is critically ill in ICU. We are not certain of the cause, but he was found unresponsive on Monday morning. This morning's news is that he is speaking. Praise be to God. May his road to health be a steady and sure one. We know it was not the Coronavirus.

I am still working on trying to have an internet link ready for Sunday where you could listen to a short message. Please feel free to link up with other members of the church as we give that first step to "virtual church". It's a shaky beginning as I am a shaky operator of technology. We will let you know, with a follow up email, how to sign in.

We remain on lockdown at church. Our services remain suspended until further notice. I am already imagining our first Sunday together again. How about a great potluck to celebrate, when the time comes?

Until then, let's maintain our distance and keep our community as safe as we can.

With love and wishes for a healthy week.

Anton.
631-779-2670



From Andrea (Outreach):



Thank you for the contributions to March's One Great Hour of Sharing. There is so much need in the world outside our borders, and it is wonderful that we can do our part to help. Yesterday Paulette picked up the donations at the church and delivered them to St. John's Food Pantry – and they were SO HAPPY to receive them!! Very few people are coming in with items, and they are very impressed with Old Steeple!

As we look forward to April, we will focus on Neighbors in Need. This ministry aids those in need within our own country. Please send your contributions to OSC with Neighbors in Need noted on the check. Indeed, remember, the needs are now greater than ever

See you all soon!



From the Scholarship Committee:



As you know, Old Steeple Community Church is very pleased to be able to offer three \$1000 scholarships each year to deserving students eligible for graduation who are residents of the Town of Riverhead and/or members of Old Steeple Church, and who plan to pursue a career in human health services.

The scholarship application is available on our Old Steeple Community Church website (<http://www.oldsteeplecommunitychurch.org>, click on News and More) as well as in the Guidance Office at Riverhead High School. Applications and attachments should be submitted to the church office or the high school guidance office no later than Friday, May 8th.

We welcome your participation!



From Rabbi Deborah Miller, Chaplain at Peconic Bay Medical Center:

"One of the greatest needs for us here at the hospital is the support of our front line health care providers. If you are not already doing so, please consider adding a prayer for their continued strength and health in your devotions."

"Also, we have created an area to display any cards, pictures, or words of support sent to the hospital staff and patients from the community. I would like to add words of prayer from local clergy, worshippers, pictures from our religious education students, etc. It doesn't have to be fancy museum art or worthy of an Oscar acceptance speech – a heartfelt "God Bless You" is plenty. But I do hope that as many people as possible will participate.

Please mail any artwork or messages you create to Peconic Bay Medical Center, Healthcare Heroes, 1300 Roanoke Avenue, Riverhead, NY 11901. Alternatively, they can be dropped at the front entrance of the hospital with security."



From Old Steeple:

Tomorrow is the official 262nd anniversary of Old Steeple!

Happy Anniversary to us!!

