



Church on the Cape Newsletter



April 2025



The Church on the Cape invites you to join us in the
CELEBRATION OF JESUS' RESURRECTION.

Sunrise Worship Service. 6:00 AM

New Location: 191 Mills Road, Cape Porpoise

COTC: Hymn Sing 9:45 AM

COTC: Easter Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM

From The Pastor's Desk

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunrise is moving! Well, not the actual sunrise, but the location of our service is moving! With all the construction on the pier, it won't be a good location for Easter worship. Tom Bradbury has offered us the use of a property owned by the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust. It has a spectacular easterly view, a lovely lawn on which to hold our service, and ample space for parking. This property is located at 191 Mills Road (which is Route 9). We will begin the service promptly at 6 a.m., so we encourage you to arrive ahead of time to view the actual sunrise at 5:51 a.m.

Sunday School Update

Rev. Sharon Miesel has volunteered to be our Sunday School coordinator to manage the scheduling of volunteers and curriculum resources. We still need volunteers to teach and assist with Sunday School because we will need a minimum of two adults every Sunday we have class. We will hold an organizational meeting for all interested volunteers on Sunday, April 6, right after church. If you think you are interested in helping, please join us then! We are hoping to begin classes after Easter!

The Ministry Of Reconciliation

The apostle Paul was concerned about many things in the early days of the Christian church, but one that seems to claim much of his attention was the splintering of the body into factions or tribes. He worried that people were being influenced by different sources of information and becoming so attached to them that they were becoming intolerant of others who did not share their ideas.

When I was growing up, one of the big debates was whether we preferred to get our news from Walter Cronkite or Huntley and Brinkley. Sometimes, those debates were animated, but the news from these sources was not dramatically different. Our society agreed that television news was largely accurate, sought to avoid bias, and was worthy of our attention. We could discuss and often did, different reactions to the news and ideas about how to address issues and problems, but we had a common ground of information and understanding.

When I was in seminary, we would all gather together to watch MASH. It was a community event. When the final episode was aired, we had trouble fitting everyone in the room. I didn't realize at the time that 125 million

people were watching that show, almost 77% of U.S. households. It was an amazing, shared experience around a show that had shaped our common perceptions and dialogue. The other thing I never imagined at the time was the way our society would become fractured and fragmented. It was impossible to know, at the time, that we were then at a high point of common understanding and unity.

We now live in the kind of world the apostle Paul worried about. Our sources of information and ideas are so different that we have trouble finding common ground for conversation. We don't even know what other people are hearing because the world of information and ideas is so fragmented.

When faced with division and fragmentation, Paul spoke a bold and challenging message. "From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view...All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation..." God sets the example of a new paradigm, an alternate reality. Division and hostility are not the rule of God's kingdom. Instead, God places reconciliation at the core of a new way of thinking, living,

and being. God, Paul proclaims, offers everything for the sake of that reconciliation. Then, God makes reconciliation our primary mission. We have been given—charged with—the ministry of reconciliation.

That is the work of the church and all those who claim to follow Jesus. Our ministry is to mend what is broken, heal what is wounded, and reconcile that which has been estranged. We are charged with showing the world that we do not need to be divided into competing and often hostile camps, but we can live out the reconciling love of God in our daily lives and our shared reality.

It wasn't easy for Paul, and it won't be easy for us. Still, as we approach the celebration of Easter, God's consummate act of grace and reconciliation, our faith in the risen Christ demands that we do not surrender to the demons of division but seek the resurrection of reconciliation. In Christ, we are, indeed, reconciled to God, once and for all, and commissioned to take the power of the reconciling Christ into the world in which we live.

Rev. Greg Smith



Lillian Bartlett
March 24, 2025

APR 06 | 5th Sunday in Lent (Purple)
Isa 43:16-21; Ps 126 (UMH 847); Phil 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

APR 13 | Passion/Palm Sunday
(Purple or Red)
Palms Lit: Luke 19:28-40; Ps 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839) Passion Lit: Isa 50:4-9;

APR 17 | Maundy Thursday (Purple or Red)
Exod 12:1-4, 5-10, 11-14; Ps 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837); 1 Cor 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

APR 18 | Good Friday (No Color)
Isa 52:13-53:12; Ps 22 (UMH 752); Heb 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

APR 20 | Easter; Festival of God's Creation Sunday (White or Gold)
Acts 10:34-43; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839); 1 Cor 15:19-26; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

APR 27 | 2nd Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)
Acts 5:27-35; Ps 150 (UMH 862); Rev 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

With great sadness, we announce the death of Lillian Bartlett. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Lillian's Celebration of Life Service will be held at Church on the Cape on Saturday, **April 5, at 11:00 AM.**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

If you would like to be a volunteer in a Sunday School program for our children, please speak to Rev. Smith. We would like to provide a program, but it will depend on having willing adult volunteers.



Disciple Bible Study
12:30 in the Parlor of Peace

April 1	Chapter 12	A People Set Apart	Pages 96- 109
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WHAT EASTER DOES

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is life-changing and life-giving for his followers. But, as Henry Knox Sherrill notes, Easter's "joyful news ... does not change the contemporary world." On earth, we still must deal with sin, pain, death, and brokenness. And before still lies work, discipline, and sacrifice." Sherrill adds: What Easter does, though, is provide Christians with "the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline, and make the sacrifice."

By defeating the grave, Jesus empowers us to bear our worldly troubles with joy, peace, and hope. His resurrection assures us that trials, tears, and suffering are only temporary, while eternal victory and life with Jesus are permanent.

"Easter is a time when God turned the inevitability of death into the invincibility of life."

—Craig D. Lounsborough

Source; Newsletternewsletter



Easter Blessings

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR LENT

Pastor Greg has prepared daily devotionals for Lent, Monday- Friday. Just click on the link each day. An email will go out weekly with a link to each day's devotion. Please check your inbox, our website, or our Facebook page for updates.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

Last year, Bruce Donath was our Lay Member for the Annual Conference meeting. With Bruce's move, we need to find a new person who is willing to go to Annual Conference to represent our church. The dates this year are June 19-21. This is an important job that we need to fill as soon as possible. Please speak to Rev. Smith if you are willing to volunteer or if you want more information.

FROM THE CARGO SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON TUESDAYS

The Cargo Shop needs help on Tuesdays, from 2-4 pm. Please reach out to Susan Hathorne at 207-985-5665 or skhathorne@aol.com

THANK YOU CHURCH ON THE CAPE CHIMERS

We are truly blessed by the Church on the Cape Chimers, who provide us with beautiful music during the year. The photo below by Annie Hidell shows them performing at the March 2, 2025, Worship Service, playing "Prelude to the Te Deum."



**Marilyn Crocker, Janet Wade, Sharon Miesel, Pastor Greg Smith,
Amy Hall, Barbara Fuller, Mary Parker, Desmond Parker, and
Susie Goodwin, Director**

RESURRECTION RUMBLINGS

In *Easter Earthquake*, James A. Harnish explores the “earthshaking promise” of Jesus’ resurrection. Easter Sunday “shatters the power of fear,” he writes. “Because Christ is risen, we no longer allow fear to dominate, control, or manipulate us. We don’t remain imprisoned in the tombs of our past failures or buried under the weight of present anxiety. In the risen Christ, old things pass away, and everything becomes new.”

Easter, Harnish adds, is proof that God hasn’t forsaken us and is present among us. “The Resurrection contradicts the assumption that Christ resides on an ethereal cloud in a distant heaven. Rather, we find him on the dusty road that leads to the real stuff of our ordinary world.”

Jesus’ followers can find him everywhere, Harnish concludes. “The risen Christ will meet us along the confused, chaotic, fearful paths of our lives and speak the same words the women hear at the tomb, ‘Do not be afraid.’”

FACTS, NOT FUTILITY

“If the resurrection of Jesus Christ did not happen,” writes Mary Fairchild, “then the apostles were all fakes, and everyone throughout history who has ever testified of Christ’s power is a liar. If the resurrection did not happen, then Jesus Christ has no dominion over life and death, and we remain lost in our sin, destined to die. Our faith is useless.” Paul sounds a similar tone in 1 Corinthians 15:14-19, saying unless Christ was raised, any preaching about him is “in vain” and our faith is “futile” (ESV).

Praise God that he doesn’t leave us in suspense. Unlike Thomas, we don’t need to doubt Easter’s good news. With utter certainty, Paul continues: “But in *fact*, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep” (vs. 20, emphasis added). So let us rejoice with the apostle: “Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (vs. 57)!

Source: Newsletternewsletter both columns



Senior Moment's Spring Concert

Please join us for an afternoon of
Musical Merriment...

Wednesday, May 7 @ 4 p.m.

**Church on the Cape,
Kennebunkport**

**Admission is FREE
Donations Appreciated**



Church on the Cape A United Methodist Church

We of The Church on the Cape represent various religious and cultural backgrounds and lifestyles. We are young, old, middle-aged, single, married, widowed, divorced, parents, grandparents, and members of extended families.

Above all, we are people who take risks, make mistakes,
confess, repent, and try again.

At the center of our community is Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection are the reasons we are together. The life and hope in this community have more to do with Christ's faithfulness to us than ours to Christ.

Whether you are searching for a faith community or just passing through, we want you to feel at home. Whoever you are, whatever your history, your scars, your gifts;
You are among persons like yourself.

Join us from wherever you call home. If you like what you see here, we post our virtual Hymn Sing and Sunday Worship Service on our website, www.churchonthecape.org.

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