

The Amagansett Presbyterian Spirit

Issue #7 Easter 2022

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Dear Church family,

In a place I used to live I would often hear about a former church member named Cynthia. She was well loved in both the church and the town, and she loved others in return. It turns out she also loved forsythia. Every spring she would admire the beautiful yellow bushes that bloomed so gloriously in her yard. Apparently, she came to call this bush "For Cynthia" because it seemed designed just for her, lifting her spirits in April after a long New England winter.



I am sure we all feel it this time of year: the blessing of warmer weather, bright colors, birds singing. Nature's rejuvenation can be just what the doctor ordered for winter-weary spirits. But as we enter Holy Week and Easter, we do well to remember that the gift of nature is only part of the gifts we receive from God.

While the wondrous sights and sounds of nature may seem at times truly "for us", *God is for us* now and always. "God for us" is a phrase put forth by Karl Barth, a prominent theologian of the last century, who wrote often about Easter being the evidence that the God of the Bible is truly our divine ally. As Jesus goes to the cross on Good Friday, God meets our need for forgiveness for all that separates us from God and one another. On Easter Sunday, God invites us into new life in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. *God is for us* because God loves us and understands that seeking after freedom and fresh starts is something we cannot accomplish on our own. The strength of Almighty God is ours in the battles we fight against sin and darkness. And God also sometimes just sends us joys and delights to provide the abundant life God wants for us.

As people of faith, our gratitude for God's grace means we willingly commit to be on God's side, too. We are sent to brighten bleak landscapes, to plant hope with our words and deeds wherever we find suffering and injustice. Our help is an act of service to the God who works on our behalf to bring about healing and redemption. Even creation is restored in the atoning work of Christ in this world and our care for the earth is part of our grateful response.

God is for us! May we have a joyous Easter, celebrating all this means for us and for the world!

Blessed be the Lord, who has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (I Pet 1:3).

Blessings,

Candy

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Join us for worship

Maundy Thursday Service with Communion

April 14, 7:00 pm Rev. Candace Whitman and Rev. Scot McCachren

Good Friday Service

April 15, 7:00 pm Rev. Candace Whitman and Rev. Scot McCachren
(NOTE LOCATION: First Presbyterian Church, East Hampton)



EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17

Sunrise Service, 6:00 am, Atlantic Beach
Easter Celebration of the Resurrection, 10:30 am

Easter Egg Hunt! Immediately following worship on the manse lawn

A PRAYER FOR EASTER SUNDAY

God of mercy,
We no longer look for Jesus among the dead,
For he is alive and has become the Lord of life.
From the waters of death you raise us with him
And renew your gift of life within us.
Increase in our minds and hearts
The risen life we share with Christ,
And help us to grow as your people
Toward the fullness of eternal life with you,
Through Christ our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever. Amen.

A Celebration of the life of

Joan Eichhorn

will take place
Saturday, May 7 at 11:00 am
Amagansett Presbyterian

All are invited

Reminiscing with Josephine Crasky

John 12:1-8



When coffee hour resumed on April 3, we were excited to be able to finally celebrate Josephine Crasky's 98th birthday, which was earlier this year on January 7. Susan Vorpahl provided a delicious cake.

The sermon text that day was John 12:1-8, the story of Mary, Lazarus' sister, who anoints Jesus' feet at a dinner with expensive perfume. It is a sign of her great love for him that she would be so extravagant in her giving. Interestingly, this passage took on new life to me when over the next few days I kept hearing of different people giving generously to the church and to family with no other reason than love.

One of these moments occurred when I was speaking with Josephine. She told me about something her father did when she was a young teen. On September 21, 1938 Josephine's father noticed the beginnings of what would be an infamous hurricane of '38. He quickly left work in Montauk and drove through high winds and water to get to the Amagansett school where his four children attended. Josephine was about 14 at the time and remembers that day well. "We went

across Montauk Highway with branches swaying and everything. Can you imagine, taking your kids outside in all that?" Fortunately, the family lived just across from the school. But no effort was too great for her parents to make sure their children were safe while they waited out the storm.

Fast forward to when Jo was a parent, and her daughter Sheila began college. Jo wanted her to have spending money, but the budget had all gone to bigger college bills like tuition. So Jo took a job as an Avon Lady, setting aside her earnings to give to Sheila while she was a student. "I loved being an Avon Lady," says Jo. "And turns out I did well at it."

Going door to door, Jo sold make-up, perfume, jewelry, and more. She received many prizes for her excellent sales record. Jo keeps her prizes in a glass case in her house - pretty dolls in fashionable outfits. The collection is a wonderful reminder to Jo of a time when God provided for her daughter's needs, and gave Jo much joy at the same time.



Thank you, Jo, for sharing these stories. Parental love is such a good example of sacrificial love, the kind of love we offer others when we understand like Mary in John 12 all that Jesus has done for us. Peace and joy await us in our giving.

- Rev. Candy

HEALTH FAIR HIGHLIGHTS

A GREAT SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY!

On Saturday, April 9 Scoville Hall drew community members for a large health fair sponsored by the Stony Brook School of Health Professions. There were 27 tables and organizations represented. We are pleased at the turn-out of people who were able to receive dozens of much-needed health screenings, health information, COVID kits and much more! The breast cancer screening van was fully booked and there were children enjoying the free, fun activities. Students from the School also received valuable experience for their training.

Thanks to Jerry Simons who spearheaded the event and to all the volunteers who helped make it happen!



HEALTH FAIR HIGHLIGHTS CONT.



LONG-AWAITED TERRACE AT SCOVILLE A BIT CLOSER

Good news! Last month the town's Zoning Board approved the plan for a terrace behind Scoville Hall. There are still some steps to go to obtain all the go-aheads, but this pleasant outdoor space for our renters is at last in the works. Kudos to Rick Whalen who has been ably shepherding this project through the approval process!

