

THE TIMES NEWSLETTER

*A publication of the First Congregational Church
of Scarborough, Maine 04074*

JULY-AUGUST 2020



MINISTER'S CORNER

Dear Friends:

During our church's Annual Meeting on July 12th, the question of when we might worship in person again was raised. At the meeting it was agreed that we won't hold any services in the sanctuary for the rest of the summer, but we will revisit the subject in September. Hopefully, God willing, the threat from the COVID 19 virus will have eased by then. That being said, I want to update you on plans for two other types of church worship services that I'm in the process of preparing for with the help of the Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Care and other individuals in the church. Please note that, depending on the circumstances, these plans may need to change.

First, on Sunday, August 2nd at 9:30 a.m., I am planning to have a Communion service outside in the church parking lot. It will be different than the previous parking lot service we had in May because, rather than remaining in the car, chairs will be set up so people can sit and take part in the service.

Social distancing guidelines will still be adhered to so the chairs will be spaced at least 6 feet apart, those in attendance will be required to wear masks, and greetings will be limited to waving and air hugging one another. We have ordered some sealed, individual Communion packets that will allow us to safely receive the elements of bread and grape juice. We will once again be asking people to RSVP so we have an idea of how many people will be coming to worship. The details are still being worked out for you, but you will be notified when the preparation for this Communion service is finalized.

And second, we are getting ready to have worship services via *Zoom* on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. (our usual time of worship), beginning on August 9th. I have subscribed to *Zoom Pro* and it will allow us to log in and worship together through our computers, tablets and smart phones. There is also an option to dial in using your telephone so you can listen to and verbally participate in the worship service. (You should know that calling in to *Zoom* gatherings will not be toll free, so if your telephone service doesn't include long distance you will be charged).

We recently had the church's annual meeting via *Zoom* and it worked very well, so there's no reason why it won't work just as well for worship services. But again, the details are still being worked out, and you will be notified when the planning for this *Zoom* service is complete. I'm very excited about these worship opportunities, and I look forward to leading them and seeing you again. Please contact me if you have any questions or thoughts.

Fred

LETTERS TO GOD

In these stressful times, it's imperative that we find opportunities to laugh. I think these rib-tickling letters to God from children, collected by writer Michael Levine, will do just that.

DEAR GOD, I love to eat. Thanks for all the food. Pizza was the best idea you ever had!
Ralph.

DEAR GOD, Are you in charge of babies? I have three sisters, which is good. But I would like to put in an order for a brother. I hope this special order won't upset you. Paul.

DEAR GOD, old pal, how's it going, man? Can you fix it so my friends and me can stay out later in the summer? Chris.

DEAR GOD, Thank you for my parents, my sister Anita, and for my grandma and grandpa. They are all real warm and special. I forgive you for my brother Jeff. I guess you didn't finish working on him. Daniel.

DEAR GOD, I saw the Grand Canyon last summer. Nice piece of work. Robert.

DEAR GOD, My dad thinks he is you. Please straighten him out. Scott.

DEAR GOD, My sister Tina has a friend named Wendy. It would take a miracle to shut Wendy up. Got any left? Samantha

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Stewardship is God's people in action. It is more than raising money. It sees our wealth, time, influence and environment as gifts and opportunities from God. The apostle Paul even suggested that stewardship involves evangelism and how we use our knowledge of God. Stewardship is about God's people sorting out their priorities and deepening their commitments. It cultivates gratitude. Our sense of stewardship is reflected more in what we hold back for ourselves than what we give to the church.

-Raymond R. Roberts, pastor, Amherst, VA, Presbyterian Church

TIME OUR OR PRAYER

Dear God, it is so hard for us not to be anxious.
We worry about work and money,
About food and health,
About war and politics, about love and being loved.
Show us how perfect love casts out fear.

Monica Furlong

From a Grateful Family

Thank you for all the cards, kind words and support we received on the passing of our dear wife and mother, Alice. We appreciate the years of good wishes and knowing many of you cared so much. God has blessed us with an outpouring of love during a difficult time.

The Family of Holm N. Fielding



From a Grateful Daughter

On June 18, 2020, my mother, Alice Fielding died at the age of 97. I was unable to attend her funeral due to the uncertainty surrounding the travel quarantine restrictions in place from Covid-19. Since 1939, at the age of 16, she was an active member of our church. During those 81 years, she was well-liked and respected by many members of our congregation for her kindness and morality.

My mother worked hard to instill those values into her children. Two of the sayings that she most often quoted were “Think before you speak” and “Put yourself in the other person’s shoes.” I have always tried to take my mother’s lessons to heart, which has helped me when confronting the challenges and setbacks of life.

My Dad, three sisters, and brother, along with their children and grandchildren, will all miss the woman they affectionately referred to as “Grammie”. I will miss her as well, but I am thankful that she is at rest and has gone to be with God.

Karen (Fielding) Crovetti

NOTICES AND UPDATES:

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE ANNUAL MEETING

The ministry of Governing and Finance wishes to thank all who participated in our Zoom Annual Meeting on July 12th. Because many sent proxy votes and many showed up we achieved our quorum easily. Thank you to Terri Brown for skillfully moderating the meeting. We continue to manage through uncharted waters and our church family continues to support the church. Thank you !!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING FUND THE PARKING LOT RESTORATION

First of all, thanks to each of you who so generously donated to the pavement replacement of a section of the parking lot that much need fixing. Even though the whole lot needed new pavement, it was decided to do the lower corner as with the funds raised to date.

Thyng Paving provided all striping of the lot free of charge, for which we are very grateful.

Joan Deering, for the
Ministry of Governing and Finance



OUTDOORS EVENTS SCHEDULED THIS SUMMER

July 25th, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.

The Men's Fellowship will meet behind the Annex/Office on the lawn.

July 25th, Saturday, 11:00 –1:00

The Boy Scout troops that normally meet indoors in our Parish Hall will be holding a Cookout for the Scouts and their families in the lower parking lot and on the back lawn,

July 26th, Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

The Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Care will meet outside the Parish Hall

June 29th, Wednesday, 3:00—4:00

The Women's Fellowship will be meeting in the Parking Lot outside the Parish Hall. Please bring your own chair!

August 2nd, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Gagnon and the Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Care are planning a Communion service to be held in the lower parking lot. Please bring your own chair and an umbrella for sun or rain. There will be some chairs set up, socially distanced, for anyone who comes without a chair.

