

PURPOSE STATEMENT

**"We are disciples of Jesus
Christ committed to
making a difference in the
community and in the
world through service and
invitational outreach."**



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church, Chatham

Pastor' Meditation



(Excerpts from
The Bible and The
Earth Gospel)

Be Still

Blessings Church Family & Friends:

**"For to us a child is born, to
us a son is given; and the govern-
ment shall be upon his shoulder, and
his name shall be called Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)**

**December is [almost] here!
Can you believe we have made it to
the end of another year? As we think
over the past year and look forward
to Christmas, it is a great time to
slow down and enjoy the special
blessings of life. Your spouse,
children, and family (plus church
family) have all made a big impact on
your year. Spend some time with
them this holiday season encour-
aging each other.**

**When we can come together
in love and encouragement, there is
nothing that can steal the inner joy
we will be filled with.**

**This December we will take
some time to look at the full human-
ity of Jesus and how he gives us our
perfect example to model our life
after. As we follow Jesus, we will
learn never to underestimate what
God can do through his willing
people. This December we are going
to be still. This is the best gift we can
give to ourselves and others. Okay
now take a deep breath in...now let it
out. One more time.... This is how we
should be when we spend time with
God, relaxed. We get to enjoy God's
presence when we eliminate our
constant hurrying and make time for
him throughout our day. Making the
most of this brief life we have here
on earth.**

When we create space in our

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**day to hang out with God, you can
actually talk. You can pour out your
heart to him, but if we don't create
time for him to talk back, we can
sometimes leave our quiet times
wondering why God did not show up
and speak to us? The problem is not
that he didn't show up, because he
did. We just couldn't be still long
enough to listen, because we had to go.**

**This Christmas season I pray
we can be STILL and get to know
Emanuel, God with us, who we say
this season is all about. Ask God to
slow you down and make room for
Jesus.**

Christmas Blessings, Pastor Sonny

FROM THE EDITOR

After more than 10 years of the
current format of *The Messenger*
(wonderfully established by Pastor
Nancy Bischoff), a few content chang-
es will be made beginning in January
2026 (none of the congregants I speak
with can believe so much time has
elapsed so quickly!).

I believe there is a need to high-
light the Church's various activities
(i.e., Osteoporosis Exercise, Medita-
tion, Faith Study, Thrift Shop, projects
the Trustees are doing, Strawberry
Festival, Lobster Roll Lunches, Pot
Luck Luncheons, Craft Fairs and Holly
Jolly Fair, the Guild of Chatham Paint-
ers on our lawn, stewardship of and for
the Church and its Missions, steward-
ship of our beautiful/fragile Cape Cod,
and things you may want to see in
print.

It would be nice if we also high-
light the congregants who lead FUMC
Chatham, and the staff that works for
the betterment and edification of its
congregants.

Please let me know how you feel
about these ideas.

Thank you, Joyce

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**When we see God, it will not be a
new discovery. It will be a profound
recognition of that heart and soul of
yourself that is already in union with
God. All contemplation, all true pray-
er, is an attempt to go back to that
place.**

Richard Rohr

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY****12-2—Dona Connor****12-25—Miles Farber****HAPPY ANNIVERSARY****12-1—Kim & Peter Farber****12-6—Claire & Jay
Thompson**

**MEET THE NEW DAUGHTER OF
PROUD PARENTS LOGAN &
GINGER—POPPY—BORN
IN SEPTEMBER,
GRANDDAUGHTER OF
MIKE AND ANITA FIRMIN.**



Installation and celebration of District Superintendent of Commonwealth East

by Benjamin Musasizi
Director of Communications

New England Conference, The United Methodist Church

"The United Methodist Church in New England gathered in joy and reverence to celebrate a significant and Spirit-filled milestone, the installation of Rev. Byungmoo "Moo" Lee as the new District Superintendent of the Commonwealth East District. The service of installation and worship, held at Beacon of Hope United Methodist Church in Framingham, Massachusetts, brought together clergy, laity, and friends from across the New England Conference for a sacred moment of transition, thanksgiving, and renewal.

"Presiding over the service was Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, Resident Bishop of the New Hope Episcopal Area, joined by members of his cabinets from both the New York and New England Annual Conferences. The ceremony not only marked the beginning of Rev. Lee's new ministry but also affirmed the Conference's ongoing commitment to nurture faithful, compassionate, and visionary leadership for the transformation of the Church and world.

"The worship service was both reverent and celebratory, filled with songs of praise, heartfelt prayers, and a spirit of unity. In his sermon, titled *"Crucified God,"* Rev. Lee invited the congregation to reflect deeply on the meaning of discipleship in a world yearning for compassion and justice. Drawing inspiration from Mark 8:27–38, he explored the cross not merely as a symbol of suffering but as a profound testament to God's unwavering solidarity with humanity. 'Our faith calls us not to look away but to embody Christ's compassion in action,' Rev. Lee proclaimed. He challenged those gathered to walk alongside all who suffer from war, hunger, and poverty, adding, 'Discipleship is not about avoiding the hard places, but about meeting God and one another in those very places where pain and hope coexist.'

"Following the sermon, Bishop Bickerton led the

congregation in Holy Communion, reminding all that 'the table of grace is both a place of nourishment and a call to mission.'

"Rev. Lee expressed deep gratitude to the Commonwealth East District Committee on Superintendency, Beacon of Hope United Methodist Church for its hospitality, and to all who had helped make the day a meaningful celebration. 'This moment is not mine alone,' he shared. 'It belongs to all of us who believe that God is doing something new in our midst.' Rev. Lee's journey to ministry is one of deep faith, perseverance, and calling. A native of South Korea, he came to the United States as a student and settled in the Boston area, where his spiritual life found new expression in the United Methodist Church. His faith was shaped by prayer, community, and study, culminating in his Master of Divinity degree from Boston University School of Theology, one of Methodism's most historic centers for theological learning. [He is] guided by a passion for inter-faith understanding [and] is a bridge-builder who approaches ministry with empathy, humility, and intellectual depth.

"Ordained as an elder in 2011, Rev. Lee has faithfully served several congregations across the New England Annual Conference, most recently at Wesley United Methodist Church in Worcester, Massachusetts. Under his guidance, the church expanded its community ministries, deepened its worship life, and became a visible sign of God's love and justice in the city. Those who know Rev. Lee describe him as a thoughtful listener, compassionate pastor, and visionary leader. His approach to leadership combines theological depth with practical wisdom, always rooted in the conviction that the Church exists to embody Christ's love in tangible ways. 'Faith,' he once reflected, 'is the power that enables me to face the harsh realities of the world without fear, no matter how painful or hard they are.'

"In announcing his appointment, Bishop Bickerton praised Rev. Lee's spiritual maturity and innovative vision: 'Rev. Lee brings a passion for the Church, a sensitivity to multiculturalism, and a willingness to think beyond traditional boundaries about the future of ministry. He is deeply committed to helping our congregations thrive in faith and mission.'

"Throughout his ministry, Rev. Lee has woven together personal faith and social witness, insisting that spiritual growth must always lead to compassionate action. His preaching often returns to the question: *How are we, as the Church, reflecting the heart of Christ in the world?* He believes that authentic discipleship is lived out in the everyday acts of mercy, justice, and service that bring God's kingdom nearer to earth.

"For Rev. Lee, the path forward begins with humility and trust. 'The Church,' he affirms, 'exists not for itself, but for the world God loves. Our calling is to listen, to serve, to love — and to remember that Christ is always with us, even in the hardest seasons.'

"With compassion as his compass, faith as his foundation, and hope as his vision, Rev. Lee steps forward ready to serve, lead, and inspire the people of God in New England and beyond."

###

“With warm faith, pastors seek to counter ICE”

by Heather Hahn, UM News



“Illinois State Police Lt. Col. Jason Bradley (left) speaks with the Rev. Hannah Kardon, a United Methodist pastor who was among a group of clergy [recently] asking to bring Holy Communion to detainees in the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Broadview, near Chicago. Bradley reached out to ICE officials, who denied the clergy entry.”

“... as the Rev. Abby Holcombe prepared to welcome protesters and others present that day to partake in Holy Communion, the United Methodist pastor noticed some in the crowd pointing behind her. So, she turned around. ‘We’re serving communion, and they walk out with gas masks,’ said Holcombe, pastor of the West campus of the United Methodist (multi-site congregation) Urban Village Church.

“Just the day before, an Illinois judge blocked federal agents from using chemical irritants and other types of force to disperse crowds after agents outside the same facility repeatedly fired pepper balls at a praying Presbyterian pastor. As [the current administration in D.C.] has made moves to deploy armed National Guard troops to both Chicago and Portland, Oregon, United Methodists have stepped up to protect their neighbors, comfort the distressed, and bear witness to a more Christ-like way. They are following the well-worn path trod by fellow church members in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Both cities also have faced the administration’s militarization and the accompanying onslaught of armed masked federal agents seizing suspected undocumented immigrants from the streets.

“Many United Methodists see standing up for immigrants as part of following Jesus’ command to love their neighbors and, as part of living their baptismal vows, to ‘resist evil, injustice and oppression.’ Confronted with the cold calculations of ICE, these churchgoers — sometimes at personal risk — are bringing the warmth of their faith.

“These deployments are acts of intimidation meant to instill fear. No one is safe from such tyranny, and no one is alone in facing it,” said Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth, who leads the Oregon-Idaho, Pacific Northwest and Alaska conferences. We will continue to work with our ecumenical and interfaith partners. We will not abandon those in need. We will show up, listen to those who have been silenced, and use our facilities to support partners doing work we cannot do alone.’

“The Northern Illinois Conference has established an Emergency Solidarity Fund to provide food and other essentials for immigrants now fearful of leaving their homes.”

###

“Pet ministries unleash connections”

“Pet-related ministries are needed, and are flourishing”

Laura Buchanan with United Methodist Communications and David Burke with the Great Plains Conference have the stories.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Celebrating the connections people have with their pets and developing relationships with pet parents can lead to meaningful discipleship. A new book by Gayle Fiser and the Rev. Betsy Singleton Snyder, pastor at Pinnacle View United Methodist, offers “New Tricks” and practical advice for churches that want to build community with pet enthusiasts. At Resurrection, a United Methodist Church in Leawood, Kansas, a pet project has grown into full ministry.



A group of therapy dogs trained by the Pinnacle View United Methodist Church Pet Ministry visits students on a college campus during exam week.

“If we pay attention, [animals] can teach us a lot about God’s love,” says Gayle

Fiser, a pet ministry veteran and United Methodist layperson. ‘We always talk about unconditional love when we talk about our pets and how they model that for us.’ [Pets bring] ‘presence, mindfulness and loyalty...all those are right out of the Bible,’ adds the Rev. Betsy Singleton Snyder, pastor at Pinnacle View United Methodist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. She and Fiser are passionate animal lovers, and they collaboratively lead the church’s thriving, multifaceted pet ministry.

“Celebrating the connections people have with pets and developing relationships with pet parents can lead to meaningful discipleship. 51% [of people] think of their pets as much a part of their family as a human member. Consider this alongside the worldwide declining birthrate and we’ll see that, in the U.S., there are more pets in households than children.”

“What this means for United Methodists is there is a ripe mission field awaiting response. Snyder says, “This is pastoral care, evangelism, hospitality, mission and service. It could even be considered a Fresh Expression.” [Fresh Expressions](#) are creative ministries that focus on reaching people in new ways.”

Legislative Section Listening Sessions

“As approved at [the] 2025 Annual Conference, to help us prayerfully discern how...to introduce Legislative Sections at our New England Annual Conference sessions, we [are] holding Listening Sessions this winter. If you are clergy or a lay delegate to Annual Conference, please make every effort to attend one or more of these sessions—your presence and input will benefit us all as we seek to fill our conference sessions with as much of God’s Spirit as possible.

“December listening sessions are scheduled for **Sat., Dec. 13, 10am, and Thursday, Jan. 8, 7pm** on zoom. Go to the NEUMC website to see how to register; you can also see the Website for a simple primer on how legislative sections work at General Conference.



Poinsettia Order Form
In Memory and/or In Honor of Loved Ones

*Due to the demands of growers, we must order poinsettia soon. Please return this form to the church office no later than **December 1, 2025**, if you would like to have a poinsettia in the Sanctuary for Christmas Sunday, December 21, and/or donate to the church's Mission Committee.*

*You may attach a check to this order form, made payable to First United Methodist Church, and mail it to the church office, 16 Cross Street, Chatham, MA 02633, or place it in the Sunday offering plate. Please mark the memo area of your check "Poinsettia" and/or "Missions." The cost this year is **\$16.00 per 6" plant**. Your choice of colors is as follows (please put the number of plants you are ordering in the blank next to the color):*

Red _____

White _____

Marble (red and cream) _____

Picasso (pink and cream) _____

Lemon Glow _____

Beauty Princess (cream and pink) _____

Winter Rose (red) _____

Pink _____

Glitter (red and white) _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

Telephone no. or email _____

Total No. of 6" plants _____

\$ _____ **for Poinsettia** **\$** _____ **for Missions**

Check included in the amount of \$ _____.

Notes: _____



GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSIONS EARTHKEEPERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

“72 new Global Ministries EarthKeepers will launch creation care projects in the U.S.”

“Global Ministries EarthKeepers is a training program to equip United Methodists in the United States for environmental stewardship. Participants discuss theology, United Methodist resources, community organizing and antiracism, and then use what they learn to develop an environmental project for their churches and communities.

The program supports people looking to turn an idea into action and those who want to deepen an existing ministry. Participants develop plans in conversation with their peers, troubleshooting ideas and sharing strategies. With 2025 trainings held online and in Des Moines, Washington, this group of EarthKeepers represents 24 annual conferences and all five jurisdictions. Participants include clergy, laity, annual conference staff and agency staff.

“‘The vital leadership of Global Ministries EarthKeepers is an alternative to the political, economic, and social forces that undermine the flourishing of God’s creation,’ said Roland Fernandes, general secretary of Global Ministries and General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. ‘Their projects bring positive environmental impact and real hope to communities throughout the United States.’ At a time when environmental programs in the United States, both secular and religious, are being defunded and closed, Global Ministries EarthKeepers is flourishing with vision and purpose,” said the Rev. Jenny Phillips, director of Environmental Sustainability. ‘More EarthKeepers have been trained in 2025 than in any other year in the program’s nine-year history. Their projects are remarkably bold and ambitious, meeting the challenges of this moment.’

“... the EarthKeepers commissioning service has been held online, allowing EarthKeepers nationwide to participate along with their family, friends and church community. The service will be led by Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth, resident bishop for the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area. To read more about EarthKeepers projects and to get updates on 2026 trainings, join the Global Ministries Creation Care Network by downloading the app or visiting <http://creationcare.umcmmission.org/signup>.

“The 2025 Global Ministries EarthKeepers reside in the following conferences: California-Nevada, California-Pacific, Florida, Great Plains, Horizon Texas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Mountain Sky, New England, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Georgia, Oregon-Idaho, Pacific Northwest, Peninsula-Delaware, Rio Texas, Tennessee-Western Kentucky, Texas, Upper New York, Virginia, West Virginia, Western North Carolina and Wisconsin.

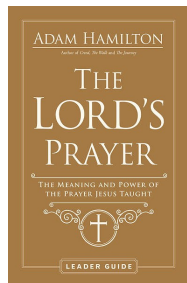
“About the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church: “Global Ministries is the worldwide mission and development agency of The United Methodist Church. Founded in 1819, Global Ministries today supports more than 160 missionaries in over 60 countries, including the United States. It has personnel, projects and partners in more than 100 countries. “Learn more by visiting www.umcmmission.org.”

DC News Now

Church leads way in affordable housing

“ARLINGTON, Va. — Central United Methodist Church in the Virginia Conference demolished its old building and has replaced the structure with 144 affordable-housing units, a day care and a new sanctuary. The new affordable housing is helping to address the D.C. area housing crisis. U.S. Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia is sponsoring legislation to make it easier for houses of worship to embark on such projects nationwide.”

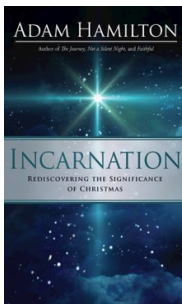
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READING ROOM
The Power and Significance of the Prayer Jesus Taught


"Most Christians know the Lord's Prayer by heart. We pray it often, at different times and in different settings. We remember it as the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. But do we really understand and appreciate the meaning and power of its words, what we ask of God each time we pray it?"

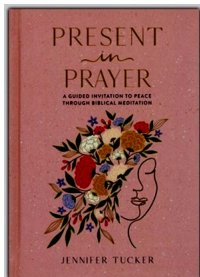
"When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, Jesus gave them this prayer. He likely taught it to his followers often, not just one time. He never intended the Lord's Prayer to be a museum piece, framed and placed on a mantel or in a display case. It was Jesus teaching God's people, through his disciples, how to pray."

"In *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught*, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton guides us to really know--and really pray--the Lord's Prayer. He explores each of its rich lines and their meaning in the Bible, illuminating what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves through its words. And he teaches us how to use it as a pattern for our own prayer life." *Publisher*

Be Transformed this Advent Season


"His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh."

"In *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth. This Advent season church families will come together to remember what's important. In the face of uncertainty and conflict, Christians reclaim the Christ Child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness." *Publisher*

Present in Prayer: A Guided Invitation to Peace Through Biblical Meditation (30 Devotional Meditations on Scripture to Guide You in Prayer)


"Still your soul and rest your mind as you cultivate a purposeful prayer life by focusing your thoughts on God's Word. Do you notice that even when your body is not moving, your mind is racing? Anxiety, to-do lists, and the spiral of negative thought patterns often keep us from the stillness we long for. In *Present in Prayer*, Jennifer Tucker invites you to allow the Holy Spirit to speak through God's Word and renew your mind through the practice of Christian meditation."

"A gentle call to silence, an opening prayer, and a thoughtful reflection on a Bible verse."

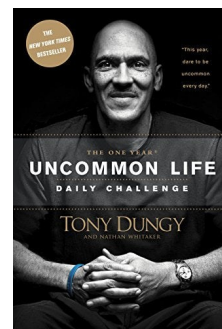
- "Guided meditation on Scripture using the centuries-old practice of *lectio divina*—a framework of Christian meditation that helps you slow down and linger on God's Word."

- "A prayer of surrender and prompts for how to live out the truths God is speaking to you; inspired art to draw you into each meditation as you consider what is lovely, true, excellent, and worthy of praise." *Publisher*

The One Year Uncommon Life Daily Challenge

"Strengthen the core of your life and faith like never before. Beloved Super Bowl-winning coach Tony Dungy is known for his truly uncommon character--as a coach, a dad, and a mentor. Yet it didn't happen overnight. He learned that the path to significance and ultimate success starts with a challenge that we can all take: to discover what God has in store for you by spending time with Him every day."

"Dungy shares 365 Scripture readings and reflections on how to live an uncommon life of integrity, create a life of real impact, honor your family and friends, and connect with God in a deep way. If you're truly uncommon, then you're dedicated to being more than what the world is calling you to be. You're ready to develop the beliefs, values, integrity, and faithfulness that lead to true victory in life. So step up to the challenge to spend time with God—and dare to be uncommon every day." *Publisher*





CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Poinsettia orders due in office	2 8:30-9:30 Osteo Exercise in Fellowship Hall 9:30—Meditation in Heberton Rm. 10-11:30 Faith Study in	3	4 8:30-9:30am Osteo Exercise in Fellowship Hall 9:30—Meditation in Heberton Rm. 11-2 Thrift Shop Open Mailed Pledges due in office.	5 11-2 Thrift Shop Open	6 11-2 Thrift Shop Open
7 10am Worship/ Communion.	8	9 8:30-9:30 Osteo Exercise in Fellowship Hall 9:30—Meditation in Heberton Rm. 10-11:30 Faith Study in Peace Room	10 5:30 Finance & Trustees	11 8:30-9:30am Osteo Exercise in Fellowship Hall 9:30—Meditation in Heberton Rm. 11-2 Thrift Shop Open	12 11-2 Thrift Shop Open	13 11-2 Thrift Shop Open
14 10am Worship POT LUCK LUNCHEON	15	16 8:30-9:30 Osteo Exercise in Fellowship Hall 9:30—Meditation in Heberton Rm. 10-11:30 Faith Study in Peace Room JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17	18 CHARLES WESLEY'S BIRTHDAY 8:30-9:30am Osteo Exercise in Fellowship Hall 9:30—Meditation in Heberton Rm. 11-2 Thrift Shop Open	19 11-2 Thrift Shop Open	20 11-2 Thrift Shop Open
21 10am—Worship	22	23 NO Meditation NO Faith Study	24 OFFICE CLOSED 4pm— Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service	25 OFFICE CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26 11-2 Thrift Shop Open	27 11-2 Thrift Shop Open
28 10am Worship	29	30 NO Meditation NO Faith Study	31 OFFICE OPEN	<u>JANUARY 1ST</u> OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR!		



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