

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."*

Inside this Issue    Page

2024 World Methodist Peace Awards	2
M.L. King, Jr. Quote from 1967	
Birthdays	
Sept. Volunteers	
Firmin Baptism	
"The New World"	3
Those We've Lost	
Creation Care	
Serving in the Military	
Flag Pole Dedication	
UM Creation Justice Movement	4
FUMC Food Pantry	
Climate Change	5
The Reading Room	6
Church Calendar	7

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# The Messenger

First United Methodist Church, Chatham

## From the Pastor

*"Dear Lord, what new things do you have for us today?"*

**Greetings Church Family and Friends:**

"Back in the 70's, the cool kids wore tie-dyed shirts, sandals, flowers in their hair and on their attire, and lots of beads. The focus was on living off the land and simple attire that could readily be manufactured and cleaned. They had little-to-no interest in industrialism. They were content to have little or no possessions. They all lived together in harmony, sharing what they had and the supervision of their kids.

"But it was not a time of innocence, as they also believed it was appropriate to live in sin. They saw nothing wrong with sharing partners and the promotion of 'the brotherhood of man,' which was actually a sign of early indoctrination as to the "One World Order," in which the elites of today are almost ready to see come to fruition. To them, it was all just part of living in peace and harmony, although without God.

"Well, the early church we read about in Acts 2 bears a striking resemblance to that ideology. The early church members lived like wholesome hippies. They shared all they had, lived together, and were not concerned with worldliness of any kind. But, of course, the glaring contrast shows itself in the day of the hippie: a lagging understanding of God and, even

## September 2024—Issue 9

worse, indifference to him and his Kingdom on earth.

"If the hippies had lived wholesome, holy lives back in those days, perhaps more people today would be more likely to recall the early church members and glean many lessons about Christian living and the benefit of God's Kingdom on earth, with a great example of Christlikeness. But alas, that remains only a dream.

"The early church members had seen Jesus in his supernatural state when he returned and stood before them after his resurrection. They gleaned from some pretty powerful motivation. However, the Bible was available to the hippies of the 70's. They could have learned from the book of Acts and other passages of scripture that teach what true love really looks like: 'Therefore be imitators of God, dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.' (Ephesians 5:1-2)

"But one thing is for sure, the early church members were closely aligned to something that only exists in the imagination—a fantasy of wholesome hippies, which believers could have admired and imitated."

Excerpts from the Book of Acts and *The Jesus Movement, 1960s—1970s*, A. Cross.

Blessings, Pastor Sonny



**Norma P. Dollaga** listens as Bishop Ivan Abrahams reads the citation for the 2024 World Methodist Peace Award on August 15 during the

World Methodist Conference in Göthenburg, Sweden. Dollaga, a United Methodist deaconess, is being recognized for her efforts to stop extrajudicial killings in the Philippines. A continent and ocean away in the Philippines, she has advocated for the rights of poor people not to be killed.

United Methodist **Bishop Christian Alsted** also was honored with a peace award for his work in Ukraine. He has journeyed multiple times to war-ravaged Ukraine to provide spiritual leadership, comfort and connection to The United Methodist Church.



While they serve in very different ministry contexts, both Nordic-Baltic-Ukraine Area Bishop Alsted and Filipino deaconess Dollaga share a commitment to The United Methodist Church, and they both risked their lives for the cause of peace.

The World Methodist Peace Award is the highest honor bestowed by the World Methodist Council.

Abrahams is the outgoing general secretary of the World Methodist Council: "This award is presented annually, and it is not just for Methodists but for people who exhibit courage, creativity and consistency," said Bishop Abrahams.

He later explained how both Alsted and Dollaga are exemplars of those three virtues. The awards were presented at a ceremony during the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Methodist Conference. The Aug. 14-18 gathering brought together some 1,500 representatives of World Methodist Council member denominations. The council is an ecumenical association of 80 denominations in 138 countries with roots in the Wesleyan tradition. The United Methodist Church is its largest member.

The World Methodist Conference first established the Peace Award in 1976 at its 13<sup>th</sup> gathering in Dublin, Ireland, and gave the first award the following year to Sadie Patterson for her work advocating for peace in Northern Ireland.

The award includes a gold medallion, a citation

and U.S. \$1,000 in recognition for the recipient's achievements in peace, justice and reconciliation. Alsted and Dollaga join a company of award recipients that includes the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and the late South Africa President Nelson Mandela.

Alsted and Dollaga each delivered their award addresses in a city about a four-hour drive from Oslo, Norway, where the Nobel Peace Prize is presented every December.

After Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Alsted stepped up when it became impossible for Moscow-based United Methodist Bishop Eduard Khegay to provide oversight in Ukraine and neighboring Moldova. Since the start of the war, Alsted has visited Ukraine at least seven times. He also meets with Ukrainian United Methodist leaders each week online.

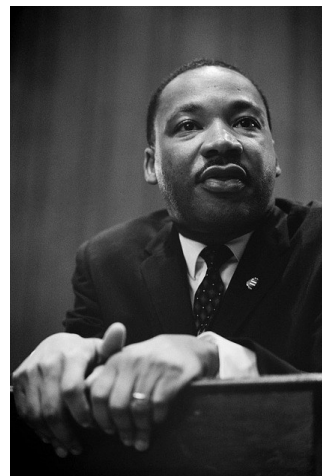
With Ukrainian United Methodist leadership, he now is developing a Methodist Center in Ukraine that will support internally displaced people with humanitarian aid as well as psychological support for dealing with post-traumatic stress.

"I come to visit from time to time and serve among them," Alsted said. "But afterwards, I travel back to my own country and my own region, where there is peace, while the Ukrainians continue to live their daily lives in the tumult of war. They live with the fear and the insecurity. They hear the air-raid alarms. They go to the bomb shelters. They care for the internally displaced. ... They point to Christ and they share our hope in him, and I have the deepest respect for them." He said that the peace Christ provides offers a guide for a way forward.

"The prerequisites for peace are freedom, truth and justice," he said. "When any of these is absent, there can be no peace. Right now, peace in Ukraine seems far away. Nevertheless, we must practice peace."

**Excerpts of piece by Heather Hahn  
Aug. 16, 2024 | GÖTHENBURG, Sweden (UM News)**

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In a 1967 speech at Riverside Church against the Viet Nam war, Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "If we do not act, we shall surely be dragged down the long, dark, and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power with compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight."

It very much applies to today. "Pray without ceasing" for those in peril. (ed.)



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**Jay Thompson—9.2**  
**Claire Thompson—9.12**  
**Anthony Pacillo—9.15**  
**Jean Patnode—9.26**

**SEPTEMBER 2024 VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

- Sep. 01 Greeter and Usher—Myron Kellberg**  
**Elevator Operator—Mike Firmin**  
**Liturgist—Alan Kuzirian**  
**Coffee Hour Hosts—Bonnie Freitas and Ruth Norman**
- Sep. 08 Greeter and Usher—Deb Smith**  
**Elevator Operator—Jay Thompson**  
**Liturgist—Karen Goggins**  
**POT LUCK LUNCHEON**
- Sep. 15 Greeter and Usher—Diane Kennedy**  
**Elevator Operator—Myron Kellberg**  
**Liturgist—Keith Bradley**  
**Coffee Hour Hosts—Suzanna Nickerson and Tom Sharkey**
- Sep. 22 Greeter and Usher—Phyllis Power**  
**Elevator Operator—Mike Firmin**  
**Liturgist—Jan Lovewell**  
**Coffee Hour Hosts—Marilyn Johnson and Ginger Murray**
- Sept. 29 Greeter and Usher—Jay Thompson**  
**Elevator Operator—Mike Firmin**  
**Liturgist—Alan Kuzirian**  
**Coffee Hour Hosts—Barbara Nickerson and Phyllis N. Power**

*If you have a conflict, please feel free to change with someone else and/or let the office know.*

**SERVING IN THE MILITARY**

*The following members of the military are associated with our church:*

- Lt. Forrest A. Bogue, U.S. Navy, San Diego, CA, son of Amy Bogue & Forrest Bogue, and grandson of Olive Bogue.
- Petty Officer 3rd Class, USN, Noah Firmin, son of Mike and Anita Firmin, who is stationed in Yokosuka, Japan.
- Pvt. Jacob Stewart, grandson of Elaine & Roger Trexler, stationed at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia.



The First United Methodist Church, Chatham, had its first Baptism in several years on July 28. Meet cute and cuddly Sofia Elsa Laila Firmin, daughter of Kaarina Firmin, granddaughter of Mike and Anita Firmin, and great-granddaughter of Asta and Matti Enila and David and Judy Firmin.

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**“The New World”** (Excerpts from *The Earth Gospel*)

Christ had to go through death in order to enter the new world, the world of communion with God. We have to go through death with him, both as individuals and as societies. This is the challenge that faces the world today: we are passing out of one world, the world of western domination. Something new is emerging. Our Patriarchal culture is being challenged at every level. It is a moment of trauma, of birth, and in these great movements of change, we can discern the purposes of God and of his kingdom.

Blessings, Pastor Sonny

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 Several people have suggested that we include those who have passed into God’s kingdom in the newsletter. During the week of August 11th, we lost two gracious and hard-working women of the church, **Fran Wynn** and **Lynne Long**. Lynne will be memorialized on **Sept. 21** at 11am at The First United Methodist Church, Chatham. Plans are being made for **Fran’s** service at FUMC.

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**Creation Care Corner Resources for Fall:**

“Greetings, Friends!

“I have some resources and opportunities to share with you for upcoming events: Two series for season of creation in September:

**‘Here We Are’ Worship Series**

“Rev. Kelly Turney and Lay servant Peggy Drew of Main Street UMC in Nashua, NH, developed a 6-week series based on the book *Here We Are: Notes for*

(cont’d. on p. 4, col. 2)







**First United Methodist Church, Chatham, recently received a generous gift from David Firmin to install a flag pole on its Cross Street lawn. It was dedicated on July 28 after worship services.**

**David is the great-grandfather of Sofia Firmin, whose baptism was the same day as the flag pole dedication (see page 3).**

**Creation Care Corner Resources cont'd.**

*Living on Planet Earth* by Oliver Jeffers. This resource brings together scripture, theology, art, music, science, and contemporary wisdom in the form of poetry to consider our place as humans in a wondrous but wounded Creation. Six themes ground the series: Creation, Incarnation, Diversity, Finitude, Abundance, and Wisdom. For more info email— <https://neumc-email.brtaapp.com/files/filesshare/creation+care/here+we+are+worship+series+resource.pdf>

**UM Creation Justice Movement**  
**‘First Fruits and Fig Trees: To Hope and Act with Creation’**

“The beautiful, biblical law of first fruits is that they belong to God. That they are gathered in joy and gratitude. That they are given freely and joyfully, as an expression of God’s plenty. And that they are shared by the community.

“As the UM Creation Justice Movement Worship Team tasked with preparing resources for celebrating the upcoming Season of Creation (9.1-10.6), they return to the idea of first fruits, especially the fig tree and its fruit, the fig. [with which] they explore biblical stories...both hopeful and challenging, to better understand the abundance of God and [His] desire that we share in it together.

“As we reach for hope and take action on the climate crisis, we choose to learn from and through the fig tree. There is fruitfulness for all.

“A sneak peak is available at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NZe-FxbITrOWyEgKmsGpMCMlIboV1lml/edit>

“The final version and its Study Guide will be available soon at—  
<http://sumcreationjustice.org/library/>

**POT LUCK LUNCHEONS: TO THOSE WHO HAVE FORGOTTEN TO BRING  
SOMETHING FOR POT LUCK—IT IS MORE THAN OKAY TO COME.  
“WE SPECIALIZE IN LOAVES AND FISHES.”**

**FAMILY FOOD PANTRY AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CHATHAM**

**Our mission at First United Methodist Church, Chatham, is to provide comprehensive food assistance to those in need of support and to encourage long-term support if needed. NO OUTDATED FOOD SHOULD BE DONATED. Monetary contributions are also welcome—send a check to the church office (put FUMC Food Pantry on the memo line), mail it to First United Methodist Church, 16 Cross Street, Chatham, MA 02633, or put it in the Sunday offering. Hours of Pantry Operation, which is located in our Thrift Shop, are Wed. thru Sat., 11—2. For information, please contact Pastor Sonny—508.241.4982.**

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Excerpts from **A Genuine Emergency Response**,  
Seth Klein, *The Climate Book*, Greta Thunberg

**“We’ve known about global warming** for mostly half a century. In response, we’ve run out the clock with distracting debates about the incremental changes we might make. After so many years of ‘blah, blah, blah,’ how can we know when a government truly gets the climate crisis and has shifted into emergency mode?”

“I’ve spent the last few years writing about how my country, Canada, has responded to different emergencies from our past and present—we have done this [twice] before, one to ramp up for military production [World War II], and one to convert back to peacetime—all in the space of six years. Through my study, I’ve identified four clear markers that show a government has genuinely shifted into emergency mode. With respect to the climate emergency, thus far at least, it’s clear that our governments are failing on all four counts.

**“1. Spend what it takes to win.** An emergency, once recognized as such, forces governments out of an austerity mindset. Government spending on climate action and green infrastructure pales in comparison to [the costs of ramping up for, say, the Covid-19 pandemic].”

**“2. Create new economic institutions to get the job done.** During the Second World War . . . the Canadian government established twenty-eight public corporations to meet the requirements of the war effort. During the Covid pandemic, we witnessed governments around the world take on a similar role, creating audacious new economic support programs with a speed that few would have predicted. These programs provided populations with testing, vaccination and health-care services on an unprecedented scale.

“If our governments really saw the climate emergency as an emergency, they would quickly conduct an inventory of our conversion needs to determine how many heat pumps, solar arrays, wind farms, electric buses, and so on, we’d need to electrify virtually everything [to] end our reliance on fossil fuels. Then they would establish a new generation of public corporations to ensure that those items were manufactured and deployed at the requisite scale . . . [and] create an audacious new economic program to catapult climate infrastructure spending and worker retraining.

**“3. Shift from voluntary and incentive-based policies to mandatory measures.** The second World War saw rationing of core goods and all manner of other individual sacrifices . . . the pandemic has seen our governments issue health orders and shut down non-essential parts of the economy when needed.

But for the climate emergency, we’ve seen nothing like this. In Canada, we incentivize change, offer rebates, send price signals. But what has decidedly not been done is to **require change**.

If . . . urgently needed greenhouse gas targets [are to be met], we must set clear, near-term dates by which certain things will be required. [It] should be declared that it will no longer be legal to sell new fossil fuel-burning vehicles as of 2025 . . . [and] advertising by fossil-fuel-vehicle-makers and [gas] stations should also be banned.

**“4. Tell the truth about the severity of the crisis.** In frequency and tone, words and action, emergencies need to look, sound and feel like emergencies. The [war] leaders we remember best were outstanding communicators who were forthright with the public about the gravity of the crisis yet still managed to impart hope, [and] their messages were amplified by news media and the arts and entertainment sector keen to rally the public. None of this consistency and coherence, however, is present with respect to the climate emergency.

“When governments do not act as if the situation is an emergency . . . they are effectively communicating to the public that it is not an emergency. Where are the press briefings on how the climate emergency response is going, the government advertising to boost the level of public ‘climate literacy’, the daily media climate emergency reports telling us how this fight for our lives is unfolding at home and abroad? If current leaders believe we face a climate emergency, then they need to act and speak like it’s a damn emergency.

“Every great mobilization comes with a pledge to leave no one behind—the climate mobilization must include a . . . just transition for all whose lives [were] tied to fossil fuels or who lived on the front lines of the climate crisis [in order] to tackle inequality.”

### **Assistance sought for recent survivors of Chelsea, MA, fire:**

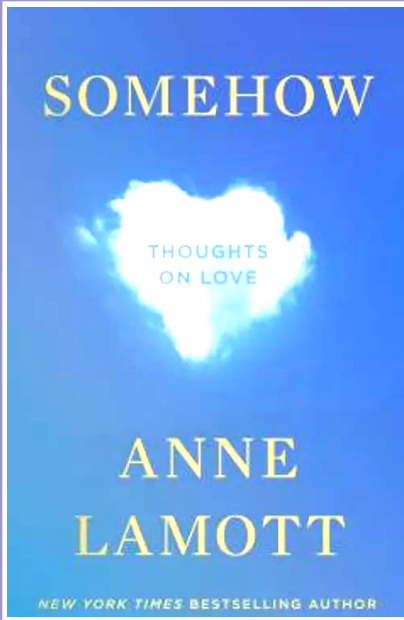
“At around midnight on Aug. 14, a large fire destroyed an 18-unit apartment building at 185 Washington Ave. in Chelsea, MA. The 45-60 residents include 14 children and at least seven pets. Many survivors are low-income and have health challenges.

“The city has found folks temporary space in hotels, but residents have lost everything. The largest needs for survivors are housing, financial support, clothing, food, diapers, formula, pack-n-plays, car seats and mental health support. There are Spanish and Portuguese speakers among the building’s residents.

“If you can, please support our neighbors in Chelsea as they recover from this devastating fire. To contribute items or otherwise assist fire survivors, contact me and I will coordinate donations and support. If you would like to offer financial support, you are invited to make a donation. Make checks payable to the New England Conference and indicate “Chelsea Fire” in the memo line. Send checks to: NEAC, P.O. Box 419371, Boston MA 02241-9371. Please include the survivors in your prayers. Thank you in advance for your support.

Pastor David A. Arruda,  
NEAC Disaster Response Coordinator

## THE READING ROOM



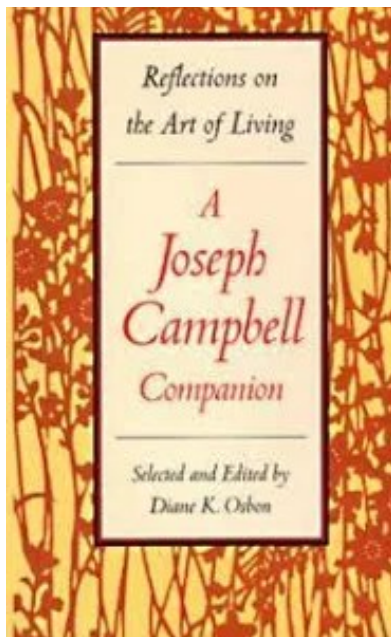
I have read this recently released book by **Anne Lamott**, and for me, it was sweet, ugly, uplifting, difficult, etc. There are a few “swear words” I think most of us have used; however the book offers wonderful reminders for all of us. A clue: **‘We are Easter people living in a Good Friday World. It gets colder and darker, and then the morning comes.’**” (by a friend of Anne’s, Barbara)

Chapters are “Swag, Shelter, Hinges, Minus Tide, Somehow, Song, Cowboy, Up Above, Fog of Love, General Instructions, and Glimmers.” The book begins with a translation of Rumi’s *The Guest House* by Coleman Barks:

“This being human is a guest house, every morning a new arrival. A joy, a depression, a meanness, some momentary awareness comes as an unexpected visitor. Welcome and entertain them all!

“Even if they are a crowd of sorrows, who violently sweep your house empty of its furniture, still, treat each guest honorably. He may be clearing you out for some new delight.

“The dark thought, the shame, the malice, meet them at the door laughing, and invite them in. Be grateful for whoever comes, because each has been sent as a guide from beyond.”



**“Celebrated scholar Joseph Campbell shares his intimate and inspiring reflections on the art of living in this meaningful and accessible volume.”**

*Selected and Edited by Diane K. Osbon.*

“The privilege of a lifetime is being who you are. The goal of the hero trip down to the jewel point is to find those levels in the psyche that open, open, open, and finally open to the mystery of your Self being Buddha consciousness, or the Christ. That’s the journey.

“Take this journey with Joseph Campbell [in which you’ll find] on every page [the words] from his Esalen Institute lectures supplemented by relevant excerpts from his past writings and the writings of others he often quoted to illuminate his work.” (Publisher)

This rather “deep” book is for those who enjoy delving into the meanings of life. Campbell has a way of explaining how he thinks that is sometimes magical. I once saw a Bill Moyers interview with Campbell, and it lifted me to a plane of understanding I’d never before felt. Here are a couple of examples from the book: (ed.)

“Out of perfection, nothing can be made. Every process involves breaking something up. The earth must be broken to bring forth life. If the seed does not die, there is no plant. Bread results from the death of wheat. Life lives on lives. Our own life, lives on the acts of other people. If you are life-worthy, you can take it. What we are really living for is the experience of life, both the pain and the pleasure. The world is a match for us. We are a match for the world.” And, “Eternity is a dimension of here and now, the divine lives within you. Live from your own center. Your real duty is to go away from the community to find your bliss. The society is the enemy when it imposes its structures on the individual. On the dragon there are many scales. Everyone of them says “Thou Shalt.” Kill the dragon “Thou Shalt.” When one has killed that dragon, one has become The Child. Breaking out is following your bliss pattern, quitting the old place, starting your hero journey, following your bliss. You throw off yesterday as the snake sheds its skin.”

## SEPTEMBER 2024 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 10am Worship and Holy Communion	<b>2</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b>  <b>Joyce is on vacation this week.</b>	<b>3</b> 8:30—9:30am Osteo Exercise in Fellowship Hall  10:30—Noon Faith Study in Peace Room (by the offices)	<b>4</b>  11am—2pm Thrift Shop Open	<b>5</b> 8:30—9:30am Osteo Exercise  9:30am— Meditation Group  11am—2pm Thrift Shop Open	<b>6</b>  11am—2pm Thrift Shop Open	<b>7</b>  11am—2pm Thrift Shop Open
<b>8</b> 10am Worship  <b>POT LUCK LUNCHEON—If you forgot to bring something, join us anyway—we specialize in loaves and fishes!</b>	<b>9</b> 7pm AA Group meeting in the Heberton Room.	<b>10</b> 8:30—9:30am Osteo Exercise in Fellowship Hall  10:30—Noon Faith Study in Peace Room (by the offices)	<b>11</b>  11am—2pm Thrift Shop Open	<b>12</b> 8:30—9:30am Osteo Exercise in  9:30am— Meditation Group  11am—2pm Thrift Shop Open  5:30—Finance and Trustees	<b>13</b>  11am—2pm Thrift Shop Open	<b>14</b>  11am—2pm Thrift Shop Open  11am—Memorial Service for Randall Fairbanks
<b>15</b>  10am—Worship	<b>16</b> 7pm AA Group meeting in the Heberton Room.	<b>17</b> 8:30—9:30am Osteo Exercise in Fellowship Hall  10:30—Noon Faith Study in Peace Room (by the offices)  <b>SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES</b>	<b>18</b>  11am—2pm Thrift Shop Open	<b>19</b> 8:30—9:30am Osteo Exercise  9:30am— Meditation Group  11am—2pm Thrift Shop Open	<b>20</b>  11am—2pm Thrift Shop Open	<b>21</b>  11am—2pm Thrift Shop Open  11am—Memorial Service for Lynne Long
<b>22</b> 10am Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 8:30—9:30am Osteo Exercise in Fellowship Hall  10:30am—Noon Faith Study in Peace Room (by the offices)	<b>25</b>  11am—2pm Thrift Shop Open	<b>26</b> 8:30—9:30am Osteo Exercise  9:30am— Meditation Group  11am—2pm Thrift Shop Open	<b>27</b>  11am—2pm Thrift Shop Open	<b>28</b>  11am—2pm Thrift Shop Open
<b>29</b> 10am Worship	<b>30</b>					





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