

WEST STOCKBRIDGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

45 MAIN STREET, WEST STOCKBRIDGE, MA 01266

Open and Affirming

A NOTE FROM PASTOR PATTY

Dear Beloved People of God,

As I sit down to write this article Minneapolis is burning, black and brown people are crying out in pain, COVID-19 cases are rising in especially vulnerable spots across the globe, the economy is in dire straits, and we haven't been able to meet face-to-face for worship in eleven weeks. To say it is a difficult time would be an understatement. Of course some days are easier than others. Some days a caravan of cars might drive past your house honking and waving signs that say "we love you". Some days the sun is so warm and the breeze is so gentle that it feels like God is loving us right through both! Some days we get to talk to each other from a distance whether through panes of glass, or the windows of our computers. When things are not as they should be those moments of connection with each other mean the world.

Our God intends for us to make our way through the devastation this world hurls across our path by exuding the love of Christ; by enacting the justice of Jesus; by proclaiming the hope of the Spirit. We manage these difficult times by being the church. Although our beautiful church building remains closed for the time being, we the church remain open. Open to the Spirit of Pentecost, the presence of Christ, blowing through us to heal a broken world. And we remain open to each other.

I leave you with one of the songs I wrote this month for the Musical Menagerie. It's called "Take A Deep Breath".

Take a deep breath and let love breathe through you.
Let that breath out and send that love out to -
Those who are hurting and those who are scared,
Hold them in God's love and then -
Take a deep breath!

Take a deep breath and let love breath through you.

Let that breath out and send that love out to -

Family and friends, both near and far,

Hold them in God's love and then -

Take a deep breath!

I am holding you all in the love of God. Please let me know if I can be of help to you! I can be reached at my cell which is (908) 938-2481.

Peace to you,
~ your pastor,
Patty

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

6/2: Maddie Elling
Marjorie Kilmer
6/7: Chris Williams
6/8: Justin Persing
6/11: Rev. John & Anne McKinstry
6/18: Jancy Butterworth
6/19: Rob & Chris McDermott
6/25: Merchelle Springstube
Andrew Ash
6/28: Diane Kilmer

This month we remember...

~June Foster's birthday and Arthur & Jean Baldwin's anniversary would have been June 1st.

~Chipp Matthews birthday would have been June 15th.

~Connie Lockenwitz's birthday would have been June 26th.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Prayers for Skip and Patty Johnson as Skip struggles with his health and finding a reliable home health aid.

Prayers for Brian and Amy Butterworth as Brian navigates his health and diagnosis.

Prayers for Gege Kingston as she copes with terrible sciatica.

It is a wonderful joy that Patty Johnson contacted Peter Thorne and had our outdoor chapel sign refurbished! It looks great!!

As always, and necessary now more than ever, we pray for our world.

REUSABLE MASK ORDER

An independent maker has offered to make reusable masks for us, with our rainbow comma logo on them! These can be ordered for \$8 per mask, if we place the order all together. If you would like to order a mask, contact Cait at wscongregationalchurch@gmail.com or (413)329-6095 by June 7th with your request.



Memories from our Wave Parade

Thursday, May 21st

