



Chepachet Union Church

Our Church Life



Volume 62 Issue 6

July 2020



One of the more common responses on our Church reopening survey was, “I just want things to go back to normal.” Well I think we can all relate to that, can’t we?

However, the word “normal” can be a funny word. Normal can be the way things were before, or before the pandemic hit; when we could go about freely with little or no restrictions; before we had to wear masks and keep an appropriate social distance from others.

Speaking from the perspective of a Pastor, normal can take on a little different meaning. Normal can also mean, and I think it’s true, that we spend less and less time and interest in spiritual matters. Church attendance, for example, was declining significantly, before the pandemic came as well as the frequency of attendance, too. It is great to note that there are more folks who visit our virtual service than attended our services before March. That’s great news, and the reason why we will continue to put our services online, even when we return to “normal.”

My prayer, actually, is that we will find a new normal. A new normal that will deepen our love for Christ and his church; that Christ will “command the affections of our heart” in such a way that we will renew our “love for God; love for others, and our commitment to make disciples.” A new normal that will deepen our time in God’s Word and in prayer and fellowship.

Just a few thoughts that I hope will engender conversations among us.

Blessings to all, and a prayer to stay safe.

Pastor John



God has great plans for you!

Congratulations to
our 2020 High School Graduates

Merik Lanigan Alec Brown Ben Reese

Congratulations to

Jared Gansert, son of Norman and Joyce Buxton Gansert, graduated from Roger Williams University with a degree in Business Administration.

Megan Buxton, daughter to Scott & Brigitte Buxton, graduated from Worcester Academy and plans to continue her education at Nichols College in the Fall.

Prayers for you all as you step into your next journey.



Our June 21st Outdoor
Worship Was A Success!

Join us each week going forward on Sunday morning for Outdoor worship service at 9:30 am

It’s great to share time together as a church family!

Bring your lawn chair or blanket. There is lots of shade but an umbrella for more shade is recommended.

We Social Distance and follow all safety precautions.





Adult Bible Study

In this time of pestilence and social unrest many people long to see the better time Jesus promised, the Kingdom of Heaven. Many Christians had this same longing in 2000 believing that Jesus and the kingdom would come at the new millennium. This kind of longing for better times dominated the people of Jesus' day, even to this day. In Matthew 13 Jesus speaks in detail about this kingdom and the details do not match what many people believe or expect. Again we are either not listening or only partially listening to what God says. We want what we expect or think should be the case. Jesus, however, gives us details and information that we do not want to hear. And He does so in parable form. In these parables He gives us illustrations that are familiar:

- Sower with explanation (Matthew 13:1-23)
- Tares and wheat with explanation (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)
- Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32)
- Leaven (Matthew 13:33)
- Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13: 44)
- Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 13:45-46)
- Fish Dragnet (Matthew 13:47-51)
- Householder (Matthew 13:52)

Each illustration points out a different aspect of what this kingdom is like during the time leading up to His return. Take for example the leaven illustration.

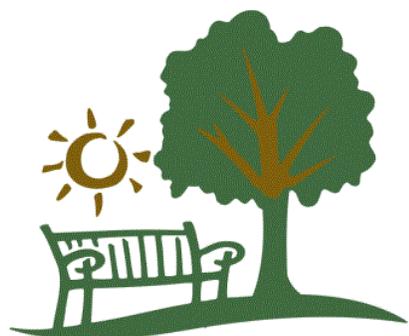
As anyone who bakes knows it is common practice to use leaven to make bread or dough. Leaven produces a gas which makes the dough lighter. It is a fermentation process producing the toxic gas CO₂ and is a sign of decay of the original material. Leaven in the Bible is used symbolically to represent impurity or evil. The teaching that this parable indicates leaven represents good is not found in scripture. It is wishful thinking that we can build a converted world and thus bring about the kingdom here on earth. The kingdom as we want will not happen until the harvest time as seen in the example of the tares and the wheat. The parable of the Leaven indicates that within the kingdom of heaven on earth evil still exists during the time leading up to Jesus' return. At the harvest time it is a calling out of the residents of the kingdom from this world which is illustrated.

You see the problem is that we want things to be the way we think they should be, but our understanding is imperfect. We need to understand God's thinking and to understand that we need to study His Word. God has graciously laid out understanding and wisdom in His book the Bible. We need to study it (2 Timothy 2:15).

From the Trustees

A Big Thank You to **Joe Huguenin** for repairing the two outdoor benches. They look brand new and are now safe to sit on.

Thank You to the **Rho Delta Club** for the donation of the new patriotic bunting that hangs on the front of the church. Also, **Thank You to the West Gloucester Fire Department** for hanging the bunting for us. Their enthusiastic attitude and service is greatly appreciated!



GUIDELINES FOR OUTDOOR SERVICE

In Case of Rain the Service is Cancelled and we'll see you online

Dear Friends and Family of Chepachet Union,

We are looking forward to Sunday when we gather for Outdoor Worship at Chepachet Union!

The Board of Deacons has set up the following criteria for this outdoor Service:

- All individuals, that are not within the same household, must adhere to social distancing requirements at all times, that is, 6 feet of spacing between persons.
- We will be having 2 songs in the service. If you want to sing along, you will need to be 14' away from others at the service.
- Face Coverings are required
 - Unless: children under 2, or
 - Physical or mental health issues where it would endanger the wearer
- We will be handing out ½ sheet disposable handouts with the words to the 2 songs.
- No hugging, hand shaking or social kissing
- Bring your own lawn chairs and umbrella (for shade).
- Follow guidelines on use of building/bathrooms:
 - 1 person or family allowed in the restroom at a time.
 - Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes are available. Please use the wipes to clean all areas that have been touched, including door knobs and sink knobs.
 - Only one door will be open. Access to the building is limited to the restrooms.
 - Parents, please go with your children to the restrooms.
 - Suggestion: Use a paper towel to open the door and turn the knobs.

SPECIAL NOTE:

Until we decide to begin having services indoors, the Deacons and the Pastor are planning on having outdoor services in addition to continuing the online service.



WE ARE OPEN! Food Pantry is available the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 10 –12

Donations are being accepted.



Happy 4th of July

Please be safe
during the
summer months!



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CHEPACHET UNION CHURCH
 CHEPACHET, RHODE ISLAND 02814

*Our Vision: Chepachet Union Church
 brings glory to God in worship as we
 welcome, witness, and nurture each other.
 We share the joy of God's love as one
 family in Christ.*



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Thank you to everyone who has faithfully support our church with your tithes and offerings. We remind you again to **please continue to send in your weekly offering.** We are counting on you to help keep our church ministry. We have cut back wherever we can, but we do have a few obligations to keep up with. SO.....

- Mail It!** to Chepachet Union Church,
PO Box E
Chepachet RI 02814
- Online It!** on ChepachetUnionChurch.org
click on "Online Giving,"
- Drop It!** A metal drop box outside the church office entrance. It is checked daily.



"IN DEPENDENCE" DAY!

Always live "in dependence" on God.

Directions: Use the vowel code to complete Psalm 16:8, NIV.

A=	E=	I=	O=	U=

k _ _ p my _ y _ s
 _ l w _ y s _ n th _ L _ RD.
 W _ th h _ m _ t my
 r _ ght h _ nd,
 w _ ll n _ t b _ sh _ k _ n.
 Ps _ lm 16:8, N _ V

Answer: I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:8, NIV