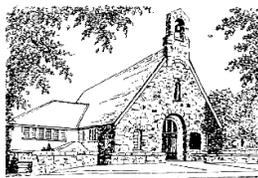


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HOUGHS NECK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Beloved Sisters and Brothers,

You have heard me say that we are made of stardust. And in a very real sense, the whole of the universe is within each of us. The chemical elements that make up the cells that are the building blocks of our bodies, our energy, and even our consciousness is made of the magic of the universe. Absolutely amazing!

While on vacation this week I had the opportunity to look at some of the photos taken by the James Webb space telescope that were released this month. Crystal clear images of galaxies millions and millions of light years from us, some of which don't even exist anymore except in the light that remains from their brilliant shining. We are seeing the past in the present. It's the reason contact with intelligent extraterrestrial life is little likely, at least with any technology we have now. The distances are too far. It boggles the mind.

The experience of awe and wonder has the unique gift of waking the human mind and soul from the slumber of limiting imagination. Looking at the images of vast galaxies like our own, but nothing like our own, we are compelled to see a more authentic picture of our reality - we are EARTHLINGS. It stops mattering if we are Europeans or Americans or Russians or Colombians or Africans. We are all, together as one, Earthlings, children of God, living in one universe among thousands, maybe millions of others.

Friends, In the face of such awe-inspiring revelations, how could we miss the sacred and moral call of God to care for something as beautiful and precious as Planet Earth? The creation stories of Genesis remind us that the awe of creation is eternally linked to our moral responsibility to care for it.

The images from the Webb Telescope are entering human consciousness at an interesting time when climate change is becoming more and more evident. Either we will awaken and act to save our world at the last moment to do so, or we will continue our path of mutual self-destruction. In what is indeed a sacred moment in time, God seems to be beckoning the entire cosmos to light our way.

As I was writing this epistle, I had what I call one of those "God moments" when I dare to believe God is speaking to me. In this moment God sounded very much like Joni Mitchell who was singing on the radio,

*We are stardust
We are golden
And we've got to get ourselves
Back to the garden.*

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

Weekly Lectionary for August 2022

Season after Pentecost Year C	First* reading and Psalm	Alternate* First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost August 7, 2022 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>Isaiah 1:1, 10-20</u> <u>Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23</u>	<u>Genesis 15:1-6</u> <u>Psalm 33:12-22</u>	<u>Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16</u>	<u>Luke 12:32-40</u>
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 14, 2022 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>Isaiah 5:1-7</u> <u>Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19</u>	<u>Jeremiah 23:23-29</u> <u>Psalm 82</u>	<u>Hebrews 11:29-12:2</u>	<u>Luke 12:49-56</u>
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 21, 2022 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>Jeremiah 1:4-10</u> <u>Psalm 71:1-6</u>	<u>Isaiah 58:9b-14</u> <u>Psalm 103:1-8</u>	<u>Hebrews 12:18-29</u>	<u>Luke 13:10-17</u>
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 28, 2022 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>Jeremiah 2:4-13</u> <u>Psalm 81:1, 10-16</u>	<u>Sirach 10:12-18</u> or <u>Proverbs 25:6-7</u> <u>Psalm 112</u>	<u>Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16</u>	<u>Luke 14:1, 7-14</u>
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost August 7, 2022 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>Isaiah 1:1, 10-20</u> <u>Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23</u>	<u>Genesis 15:1-6</u> <u>Psalm 33:12-22</u>	<u>Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16</u>	<u>Luke 12:32-40</u>



HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY!!
WISH A HAPPY BIRTHDAY WITH A SMILE, A
CALL OR A CARD TO OUR AUGUST BIRTHDAY
FOLKS!



AUGUST

Nancy Rounseville Kropp
 James L. Witham
 Amanda Schaefer
 Jacqueline Freel Prejsnar
 Deanna Smollett
 Barbara Kemp

Susan Stimpson
 Robert Christie
 Stephen Christie
 George Freeman
 Philip Giggey
 Cameron Jacobs

SPIRITUAL MESSAGES



The God who Changes Us

Scripture: He who is the Glory of Israel will not lie, nor will he change his mind, for he is not human that he should change his mind! The Lord your God will change your heart.

-1 Samuel 15:29; Deuteronomy 30:6, NLT

Quote: Lord, where we are wrong, make us willing to change.

-Peter Marshall

Sustained

Scripture: Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and rescue you.

-Isaiah 46:4, NIV

Quote: When I am frightened He is there to comfort and sustain me. His words give wisdom to my ear, and peace will always claim me.

-Jessie A. Lee

Love Others

Scripture: And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will will cover a multitude of sins."

-1 Peter 4:8

Quote: Love is rightly called "the Queen of Christian graces."

-A. W. Pink

The Gift of God

Scripture: And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.

-Colossians 2:13

Quote: Faith is not an achievement, it is a gift.

-Roland Bainton

Guard Your Heart

Scripture: Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

-Proverbs 4:23, NIV

Quote: It is not the Word hidden in the head but in the heart that keeps us from sin.

-Vance Havner

"Sin? Who, Me?"

Scripture: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

-1 John 1:8

Quote: In spite of worldly success, I felt empty and purposeless. Then... I realized I was a sinner in need of a savior...I surrendered my life to Christ,,I realized that my life was not

my own. Rather, I knew I needed to live for Christ.

-Scott Kedersha

NOTES FROM NEAR AND FAR

It was nice to see Dick and Ann Beaumont from California in church during the summer worship.

It was also nice to see Patty Corea from California visiting in our area this summer after 3 years absent because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Summer has settled in. Quick visits for us to 'God's Country' is our relief from the sweltering heat of Texas. 😊 I pray everyone has the opportunity to get outside and enjoy these warm months.

*- Dannette Costas-Carrion
Houston, TX*

IN MEMORY OF MARY E. GIGGEY

The church lost a dear member on July 8, 2022 when Mary Giggey passed at the age of 90. Mary lived with her daughter Sheena Curley and her husband Bill for the last several years in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Mary was born and raised in Unity Maine where she met and married Waymon. They moved to Houghs Neck where they raised their four children.

Mary and Waymon were active members of the church. For many years, Mary ran the coffee hour and served each person their coffee personally. She also assisted with Sunday School and with the Pilgrim Fellowship group. Along with her friend Carol Hallett, she ran a pre-school program at the church for several years. Mary was an active member of the Mothers Club. Mary was known for two culinary treasures: her lemon meringue pies and her homemade jam. Each year at the Christmas Fair, Waymon would make several trips down the stairs carrying dozens of jars of jam, mostly Maine blueberry and also strawberry. Any bake table was sure to feature her lemon meringue pies. At one fundraiser, the Parable of the Talents, members were given \$10 and were challenged to multiply it in any way they wanted. Mary made hundreds of dollars selling her yummy pies.

Mary was very soft spoken and was much more comfortable one-on-one than in a large groups. She often shared stories of her early life when working along side members at church events.

Her care and compassion carried over to her jobs and volunteer activities. She worked as a Home Health Care provider for over thirty years and as a daycare provider for the staff of the Massachusetts Cerebral Palsy. Mary volunteered at the Great Hill Elementary School. An active member of the Houghs Neck Boy Scout Pack and Troop 6, Mary acted as both a Den Mother and Committee Member for many years. In February of 1989, Mary received the Pop Josselyn Award for her love of scouting and commitment to service. Additionally, in 1974, Mary was honored by the Houghs Neck Community Council with The Good Neighbor Award.

Mary and Waymon loved spending time at the family farm up in Maine, and after retirement, spent much time there.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband Waymon; parents Benjamin and Hazel Chase; brothers, Claude "Butch", Lauris "Joe" and sister Martha. Mary is survived by her daughter Sheena Curley and Sheena's husband William; sons, John, Stephen and Joseph and their respective spouses, Susan, Antonette and Jennifer. She is also survived by her brother Malcolm "Mac" Chase; sister Lucy Daru; five grandchildren, (Phillip, Christopher, Adam, William and Rebecca); five great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Donations in memory of Mary may be made to the Houghs Neck Congregational Church.