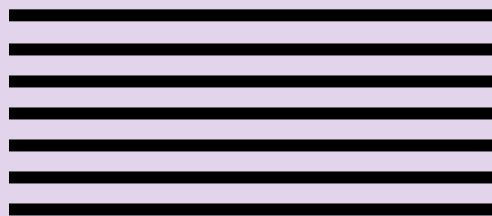


# • THE • STEEPLE VIEW



September  
2024



## From Our Pastor

Dear Members and Friends,

September greetings! I write with a "farewell" message since this is my last newsletter communication as your Interim Minister. It has been a joy to serve as your interim minister this past year. We have gone through the liturgical seasons of the church year, we have welcomed new members, we have confirmed two of our youth for membership, we have baptized precious babies and we, too, have had services for dear, beloved church members who have passed to new life, eternal life in Christ.

Thank you for this time we have shared and I pray that we have been able to continue building on the strong foundation of faith that you have had here over the years. I trust we have heard God's call to be ever evolving, forever being shaped by God's creative Spirit in our midst.

You, congregation, will always hold a special place in my heart as I think of you with appreciation for our ministry together. I am also grateful for the opportunity I have had to work with your gifted staff, Gail Evans, Guy Fein and Lorraine Link. I offer this prayer for autumn days as we adjust to changes in our lives and celebrate new beginnings.

A PRAYER FOR AUTUMN DAYS (by Sister Joyce Rupp, O.S.M., a Roman Catholic author and speaker. She is the co-director of The Institute of Compassionate Presence, a member of the Servite Order)

God of the seasons, there is a time for everything; there is a time for dying and a time for rising. We need courage to enter into the transformation process.

God of autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been. We, too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk. Help us to let go when we need to do so.

God of fallen leaves lying in colored patterns on the ground, our lives have their own patterns. As we see the patterns of our own growth, may we learn from them.

God of misty days and harvest moon night, there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives. We always need to

Old Steeple  
Community Church  
United Church  
of Christ

Organized 1758

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Moderator:  
Keith Young

Office Administrator:  
Gail Evans

office hours:  
Tu, W, Th 9-2

### September Events

Sept. 7 – hall rental 10-4 ELIQ  
Sept. 8 – Worship in sanctuary  
Sept. 10 – Council meeting  
Sept. 13 – Book Club 11:30 am  
Sept. 18 – Old Steeple Stitches 7 pm  
Sept. 24 – Steeple View articles due  
Sept. 27 – Book Club 11:30 am  
Sept. 29 – Rev. Ann's last day

recognize your power-filled presence. May we gain strength from this.

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain, many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender. We must wait for harvest in faith and hope. Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

God of geese going south for another season, your wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future. We yearn for insight and vision.

God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs, may your love keep our hearts from growing cold in the empty seasons.

God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. For all this, we are grateful. Amen.

I am grateful for the blessings we have shared as pastor and people and pray for God to enfold you with love and care and purpose as you move forward with Rev. Kerstin Weidmann, your new settled pastor. I look forward to sharing September Sundays with you in the days ahead. For pastoral care needs in September, remember you can reach me on my cell 508-221-8787, call or text.

Grace and peace, Rev. Dr. Ann Rogers Brigham

## ●●●●● Outreach ●●●●●



Our summer Outreach backpack project was a success again this year. A special thank you to Mignon Osmer for coordinating this effort. Thanks, too, to all who donated items to fill the packs. Your generosity stuffed 50 backpacks with many items. The backpacks, along with some extra supplies, were delivered to Roanoke Ave. Elementary School.

We continue to spend \$150 each week on groceries for St. John's Food Pantry. We are grateful for Nancy Goodale's commitment to picking up and delivering these groceries each week.

Our Soles4Souls shoe collection continues. With the help of First Congregational Church of Riverhead, we have shipped out 200 pairs of shoes this year.

Now, we turn to our monthly focus for September, Habitat for Humanity. The idea that became Habitat for Humanity began at Koinonia Farm, a community farm outside of Americus, Georgia, founded by farmer and biblical scholar Clarence Jordan. On the farm, Jordan and Habitat's eventual founders Millard and Linda Fuller developed the concept of "partnership housing." The concept centered on those in need of adequate shelter working side by side with volunteers to build decent, affordable houses. The houses would be built at no profit. New homeowners' house payments would be combined with no-interest loans provided by supporters and money earned by fundraising to create "The Fund for Humanity," which would then be used to build more homes.

The first house was a concrete-block home with a modern kitchen, indoor bathroom and heating system, replacing the unpainted, uninsulated shack with no plumbing where a family with five children had lived.

Then, in 1973, the Fullers took their idea to Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of Congo. After three years of hard work to launch a successful house building program there, they returned to the United States and called together a group of supporters to discuss the future of their dream: Habitat for Humanity International, founded in 1976.

Habitat now works in all 50 states in the U.S. and in more than 70 countries and has helped more than 46 million people achieve strength, stability and independence through safe, decent and affordable shelter. In addition to home construction, Habitat now offers a number of other programs, as well:

- [Aging in Place](#) – Helping older adults improve their homes and their quality of life so they can flourish where they live.
- [Neighborhood Revitalization](#) -- Partnering locally with residents, community leaders and organizations to address real concerns and improve lives of the people who live there.
- [Cost of Home Campaign](#) – Advocating for policies to improve home affordability for the 1 in 7 families who pay half or more of their income on housing.

- Home Equals – A five-year global advocacy campaign in cooperation with governments and communities to achieve policy change to ensure that people living in informal settlements have equitable access to adequate housing.
- Disaster Response – Providing shelter assistance, education, training and partnerships to affected individuals who are trying to rebuild after a disaster strikes.
- Financial Education – Provided for long-term personal success as part of the homeownership process
- Habitat Mortgage Solutions – Creating and providing financial services and capital that enable equitable homeownership opportunities and affordable housing solutions for underserved people.

There is also a local Habitat ReStore located at 2111 Lakeland Avenue, Ronkonkoma. It sells new or gently-used furniture, appliances, kitchen cabinets, home goods, and building materials at a very reduced rates. Donations are appreciated and pickup service is available for larger items. The phone number is 631-521-7789. For more information, go to [habitat.org](http://habitat.org).

### Global Ministries Prayer Calendar

tells us about places where the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ have partners through Global Ministries.



**SEPTEMBER: 1 – Zambia**  
**8 – Hungary**  
**15 – Philippines**  
**22 – Indonesia**  
**29 – Middle East region**



## WHO'S READY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL?



Can you believe it? It is almost time to go back to school! We certainly hope our youngsters have had a wonderful, fulfilling summer. We have exciting things planned for the upcoming Sunday School year!

Our first day of Sunday School will be Sunday, October 6. The theme will be "God Bless You!" We will learn what it means to say that to someone, after a sneeze or at other times. We will also talk about the Blessing of the Animals, which will take place the day before.

Each Sunday, we will begin in the sanctuary for worship, and then move the classroom after the Children's Message. Our new minister, Pastor Kerstin, is looking forward to meeting and getting to know you.

There will be arts and crafts, music, and drama throughout the year. We can't wait to see you, learn from you, and enjoy our classes with you! See you soon!

Rev. Bonnie, Miss Ann, and Miss Mignon

# We have a settled pastor!



On August 3rd & 4th we had the opportunity to meet Pastor Kerstin Weidmann and her husband Pastor Fred Weidmann. She is the candidate recommended by the search committee to fill our fulltime settled pastor position. Saturday afternoon there was a time of informal fellowship and conversation in Luce Hall. Sunday, she led us in worship and preached on the meaning of the food we eat and its connection to communion, using John 6:24-35 as the scripture lesson. After the service, the search committee answered questions from the congregation followed by a vote of the membership which was 100% positive. Our new settled pastor will start her ministry in Aquebogue on October 15, 2024.

The search committee is grateful for the patient support of the congregation. We also thank God for leading us to Pastor Kerstin. We believe she is an excellent fit for Old Steeple and are excited for our friends and members to get to know her.

## ●●●●● Council ●●●●●

### Minutes of the Council – August 20, 2024

Keith called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. Rev. Bonnie offered a prayer and food. Attendance - Keith Young, Amy Cosgrove, Edgar Goodale, Rev. Bonnie Miller, Barbara Crowley, and Ann Priapi. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the August newsletter, with a motion by Amy, and seconded by Ann.

#### **Treasurer's Report** - Edgar Goodale

Edgar went over his report ending July 31, 2024. The endowment increased in value during July. After taking out about \$3800 in expenses, the profit on the recent Chicken Barbecue was close to \$14,000. We are on target to take in amounts budgeted for cash contributions and pledges. The donations for Ukrainian relief continue to be strong. We are under our OCWM commitment for the year with 41% collected.

#### **Pastor's Report** - Rev. Ann Rogers-Brigham

Rev. Ann was on vacation but had submitted her written report to the Council. Her period of Interim service will end on September 30th. Her last day preaching will be Sunday Sept. 29th.

#### MINISTRY REPORTS

##### **Buildings and Grounds** - Rick Reeve

The trim work and wall repair in the downstairs classroom will be done next week by Kevin Goodale. Classes will resume there on 9/6. Keith encouraged council members to empty the dehumidifier in the office whenever they happen to stop in. Edgar is getting information on painting the exterior of the building.

## **Outreach** - Rev. Bonnie Miller

The effort for school supplies went well this year. In September we'll collect for Habitat for Humanity. This group is currently building a home in Riverhead near St. John's. October's outreach is Neighbors in Need. In November we'll ask for donations of money for twin blankets and pillows for Maureen's Haven. Bonnie reported that 200 pairs of shoes (most from First Congregational Church in Riverhead) were packed and shipped to Soles for Souls. Thanks to Nancy Goodale for making our weekly deliveries to St. John's food pantry.

## **Worship** - Kathy Stapon

The Sunday service on 8/25 will be outside on the lawn at the parsonage, weather permitting, with no coffee hour. Chris Magyar will substitute on the piano for the first three weeks in September. We'll need to find someone to play on 9/22, 9/29 and 10/6. Worship services will move back to the sanctuary on September 8th. We discussed a service of farewell for Rev. Ann. Kathy will work with Gail on finding pulpit supply for the first two Sundays of October, before Pastor Kerstin starts on the 15th. Plans are underway for a celebration of Guy Fein's sixteen year music ministry.

## **Welcoming / Advertising** – Barbara Crowley

Barbara will contact Lisa Drozd about updating the outdoor signs with Pastor Weidmann's name. She and Bonnie will look into quotes and items to put on the message board on the south lawn.

## **Continuing and New Business**

- 2025 Budget - Edgar reviewed his proposal for next year. He noted the increased cost of fire and liability insurance. The budget meeting and vote is scheduled for October 13th in the sanctuary after worship.
- Community Board Meeting - 10/13 after the budget meeting
- Keith is writing the two-year lease renewal of the downstairs classroom to Jessica de Vera-Wells
- Blessing of the Animals Saturday 10/5 - Amy will ask Janet Wright if she can lead the service
- Sunday School will start 10/6/24 - Bonnie will write an item for the newsletter
- Email addressing issue - Edgar communicated his idea of the problem to Gail
- Insurance for groups renting space for meetings - we need a signed lease agreement with each group, they must supply us with a current insurance certificate that is acceptable to our company, with Old Steeple named as an additional insured. The groups that can't supply one can be insured through our new carrier for a modest fee. We have applied for this coverage for the two AA groups.
- BBQ profits - we agreed to allocate a part of the profits from the barbecue this way; \$1000 for Christmas gifts cards for St. John's food pantry and \$150 in support of our weekly purchase & donation of food there, \$500 to Maureen's Haven for new blankets for the guests, \$500 for food distribution at the Cutchogue Library this December.

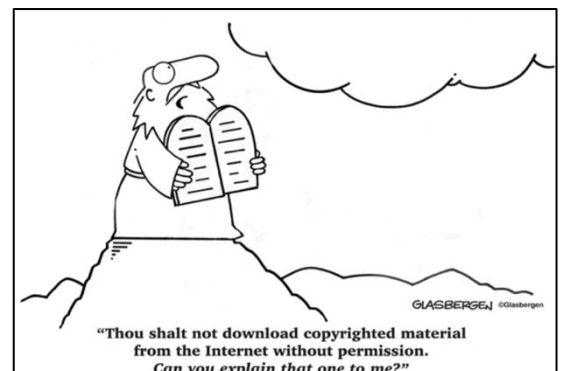
The next meeting will be September 10, 2024. Time and place TBD.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Priapi, Clerk

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### **In Celebration of Guy Fein's 16 Year Music Ministry at Old Steeple**

As you may know, Guy has retired from his position of Choir Director/Organist. We will honor and celebrate his dedicated service to the life of our Church on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. There will be a covered dish lunch in his honor after the service.





## World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

September 1-7, 2024—Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo

September 8-14, 2024—Ghana, Nigeria

September 15-21, 2024—Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay

September 22-28, 2024—Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru

September 29 - October 5, 2024—Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela

## OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Most members and friends understand that Old Steeple is governed by the Church Council but many may not know much more than that about how it works. The structure is described in our by-laws this way; *the Council is composed of the Officers of the Church and Chairs of the Ministry Teams, each having voice and Vote. All incoming Officers and Ministry Team Chairs shall be elected by the Congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January.* Each member is elected for a three year term and may serve a second consecutive term by approval of the congregation at the annual meeting. After a second term, an individual shall be off for one year before rejoining the church council. The pastor is an ex-officio member with voice but not vote and no member may chair more than one ministry team.

The Church officers are Moderator (currently, Keith Young), Treasurer (Edgar Goodale), Financial Secretary (Amy Cosgrove) and Clerk (Ann Priapi). The Ministry Teams are Worship (current leader, Kathy Stapon), Caring (Liz Wines), Outreach (Rev. Bonnie Miller), Spiritual Formation (currently vacant), Welcoming (Barbara Crowley), Buildings and Grounds (Rick Reeve) and Finance (made up of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary).

Behind the design of the ministry teams was the idea that they actually be **teams** of people. Our team leaders want and would **so appreciate** the help of any members or friends of the Church. How can you help? Volunteer to greet worshippers at the door, take collection, make the deliveries to the food pantry, teach Sunday School or offer to substitute once in a while, show up when we have spring and fall cleanups, read the scripture lesson during worship, bring flowers or plants for the altar on Sunday, update the sign on the south lawn, weed the memorial garden, serve as a delegate to the Suffolk Association or NY UCC state conference, serve on the nominating committee, attend and participate in community board meetings (held every other month), or stop by and pick up the trash that accumulates regularly around the church yard on the Main Road and West Lane. These are just a few ideas of how you can help the Council carry on week to week and month to month. Nine people can't do it alone and if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

*"After I have prayed and listened, God,  
motivate me to do Your will. Amen"*

Voting is free, but now voting can be  
very costly.

Finally, you should know that our Moderator graciously volunteered to serve on the Council again for a seventh year when no one came forward last fall to assume that role. We have no nominating committee, which is essential for keeping our Council and elected committee positions filled. And, we have no Spiritual Formation team leader. There is a great deal of talent, energy and spirit in our Old Steeple people as we start a new chapter in the life of the Church. Be with us, share the joy of this community as we work for God to make our corner of the world a better place. If you'd like to help, please speak to any member of the Council.

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

We meet each month on the 2nd and 4th Friday mornings from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM in the downstairs Fellowship Hall. Beginning September 13<sup>th</sup> we will be discussing the book *Cry of the Kalahari* by Mark and Delia Owens. This non-fiction book is about Mark and Delia living in the Kalahari Desert, and their studies of endangered species in the wild. Then we will read *James: A Novel* by Percival Everett, which is a reimagining of the Huckleberry Finn story told from the viewpoint of the enslaved Jim.

We are considering several other books to add to this list and should be able to let you know in next month's newsletter.

Everyone is welcome to join us for any (or all) these books.

## THE BACKPACKS HAVE BEEN FILLED!



Thank you for all of the very generous donations and packing help!!! We filled 50 book bags with pencils, notebooks, markers, etc., and we had two large boxes of extra supplies. These are being donated to Roanoke Avenue Elementary School in Riverhead.



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## OLD STEEPLE STITCHERS

The shawl group will resume our monthly meetings on Wednesday September 18th at 7:00 pm in the upstairs coffee hour space. All are welcome, and we have some yarns, knitting needles and crochet hooks available if needed.

We work on shawls, lap robes, hats (for the Angel Tree), etc. If you know of someone that would be comforted by either a shawl or a lap robe, please let us or the pastor know.

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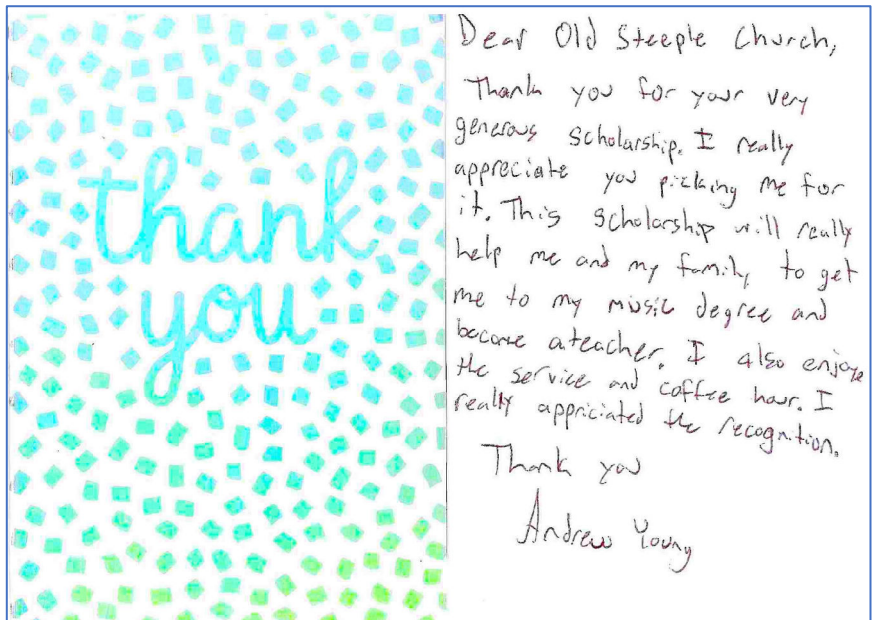
## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

August 4, 2024

Moderator Keith Young called the meeting to order at 10:55. In attendance; Jackie Wolfson, Jean Lapinski, Liz Wines, George Reeve, Nancy Goodale, Edgar Goodale, Janet Wright, Jim Sabatella, Linda Sabatella, Mignon Osmer, Jack Kratoville, Fay Young, Patricia Ruiz, Maria Heagy, Donna Atkins, Amy Cosgrove, Patricia Doroski, Ginny Taylor, Robin Tyson-Stoehr, Gerard Stoehr, Christopher Magyar, Denise Magyar, Gail Evans, Dave Wellen, Keith Young, Barbara Crowley, Valerie Stanford, Kathy Stapon, June Davies, Nancy Yannopoulos, Aris Yannopoulos, Sandy Reeve, Fran Liebert, Charlotte Liebert, Paulette Sherman, Rev. Mary Cooper, Lucille San Martin, and Ann Priapi.

The purpose of the meeting was to vote on calling Pastor Kerstin Weidmann as settled full time pastor of Old Steeple. Keith appointed Jim and Linda Sabatella as tellers. The search committee answered a few questions from the audience, then active members were asked to submit a written vote of either yes or no. The result of the voting was 29 yes, 0 no. The tellers were discharged and Keith thanked everyone for coming.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Priapi, Clerk



# ● SEPTEMBER 2024 ●

Outreach for this month is **Habitat for Humanity**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10 am Worship, Communion (the last Sunday worshipping in Luce Hall)  LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm	<b>2</b> AA 7 pm	<b>3</b> AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	<b>4</b> LaMision Church hall rental 8 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> AA 6 pm	<b>7</b> ELIQ hall rental 10-4
<b>8</b> 10 am Worship - in the sanctuary  LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm	<b>9</b> AA 7 pm	<b>10</b> Council mtg.  AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	<b>11</b>  LaMision Church hall rental 8 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Book Club meeting 10:30 - 11:30  AA 6 pm	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10 am Worship  LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm	<b>16</b> AA 7 pm	<b>17</b> AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	<b>18</b> Old Steeple Stitches meet at 7 pm  LaMision Church hall rental 8 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> AA 6 pm	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10 am Worship  LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm	<b>23</b> AA 7 pm	<b>24</b> SV articles due  AA 6 pm NA 8 pm	<b>25</b> LaMision Church hall rental 8 pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Book Club meeting 10:30 - 11:30  AA 6 pm	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10 am Worship - last Sunday for Rev. Ann Rogers Brigham  LaMision Church hall rental 6-8 pm	<b>30</b> AA 7 pm	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>

