

AUMC

A Community in Faith Where All God's Children Can Grow and Thrive

May 2020

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOE

What Lessons of Life We Should We Learn?

Just recently a Christian living in Montreal wrote a blog, the Ten Plagues of 2019-2020. Of course, I don't buy into any thought that God is sending plagues against humanity!! Nor, do I buy into any end-times prophecies about a coming Tribulation. I prefer not to guess or speculate about the Second Coming of Christ!

Yet, her evidence was alarming, in light of events around the world. Here's a brief synopsis:

- 1) A month ago wine flowed through faucets in lieu of water in Italy. (Water into blood)
- 2) The University of Queensland (Australia) was overrun with Cane Toads after significant downpours of rain; and deadly toxic toads in large amounts in Florida yards (Frogs covering the land of Egypt)
- 3) Starving monkey gangs in Thailand
- 4) One billion (estimated) million animals dead in Australia due to wildfire
- 5) Hail falling in Delhi, India and gold-sized hail then blinding dust storms again in Australia
- 6) Hundreds of Billions of locusts ravaging on East Africa

The Ten Plagues 2019-2020



7) Darkness covering the earth due wildfires ‘Down Under’ (getting tired of writing Australia!)

8) Seniors and the informed dying due to Coronavirus (death of the first-born)

This list does look scary, but, once again, 2020 aren’t plagues sent by God. Yet, they are happening and one has to wonder, ‘What should we learn from all this?’

I believe the Book of James speaks to our lives today: **James 1:2-4** ² My brothers and sisters, think of the various tests you encounter as occasions for joy. ³ After all, you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ Let this endurance complete its work so that you may be fully mature, complete, and lacking in nothing. (CEB)

This passage points out that problems WILL come! Sometimes NUMEROUS (or various) problems WILL come. Another Bible translation reads “*When all kinds of trials CROWD INTO your lives ... as INTRUDERS...*” Then James says, the purpose of these numerous problems are for three different reasons, from this passage. 1) To test your faith, 2) To produce endurance, and 3) To make you mature and complete.

So, what do we do in the midst of these problems in life?

A) REJOICE IN the problems. “Think of these occasions as opportunities to be joyful. B) ASK GOD to give you more faith. In verse 7, James writes that if you lack anything, ask God and God will give to you generously! C) BE REAL with how you feel about your doubts. In verse 8 James writes, ask in sincere faith. That means be real with yourself about your secret doubts and ask for more faith. Then, 4) CONTINUE TO ENDURE faithfully IN the midst of the problems. Going back to verse 4, James writes, “Let endurance complete its work...”

Online Worship for Atlantic UMC

<https://atlanticumc.org/get-connected/worship-services/>

(just audio, download mp3 file & play)

<https://www.facebook.com/ATLANTICUMCOC>

(we will upload to Facebook on Sunday a.m.)

Share these links with friends!

Church Finances

Friends and members of Atlantic United Methodist Church, almost two weeks ago the church received official notification concerning the acceptance of our Paycheck Protect Plan loan/grant. This loan/grant is part of the CARES act recently passed by Congress and signed into law by the President. It allows small businesses, self-employed and non-profit organizations to receive a loan that can be forgiven if it is expended properly. **THUS**, it may become a grant! The church council had a special called Charge Conference with our District Superintendent and unanimously approved to go forward with the Loan/Grant. After approval, we received the funds, placed them in a separate account and will do our best to dispense appropriately!

This Loan/ Grant does not cover every expense; thus, your continued support and tithing are vital! We, the church council are doing everything to be good and faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms (1 Peter 4:10) and to continue the Lord’s Mission and Ministry (Matthew 28:18-20) in Ocean City. So, we ask for your continuing prayers for guidance and direction. God Bless You and continue to believe that our God is Good! All the Time!

Blessings, Atlantic United Methodist Church Council

Maura Vlachos, Church Council Chair

Rev. Dr. Joseph Barth, Pastor

CONTRIBUTION REPORT - DOT SIMPSON

March 31, 2020	Current Period	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	YTD Budget Difference
CONTRIBUTION INCOME				
Pledges and Donations	\$11,146.77	\$43,441.77	\$52,500.00	(\$9,058.23)
Loose Plate	225.00	1,345.00	2,769.23	(1,424.23)
Total	11,371.77	44,786.77	55,269.23	(10,482.46)

BELL CHOIR – BILLIE WALL

Good afternoon, Atlantic Church, it has been a while since we have seen each other and that the bell choir has had the pleasure of playing for you. I know that I have missed everyone and that I am hoping that the Handbell choir can get together to rehearse and participate in worship one more time.

Dot has asked what we have been doing during this time of "be safe - stay home"! I have had some really great ideas, and some have come to fruition. Others have slid along the wayside as I have decided that those plans can wait . . . until tomorrow or maybe the next day! Some that I have enjoyed finishing, Murrie, Mary, and Jennifer explained and got us on face time with the grandchildren since our quarantine began! We are able to talk with other family members also. It has opened new worlds to us!

Praying is a great way to spend some time! Our church family is on my mind and we have reached out to friends and neighbors as the wet weather and 6' social distancing will allow. Mary, Sarah and Rachel have been able to stop by and visit from the front yard! Sarah found a slug that she took home with her! She was so excited!

I must share that I have not felt afraid or anxious. I have called on the name of Jesus when I thought staying at home one more day was going to be too much! Remembering the personalities of Mary and Martha when Jesus would come visiting . . . Martha was the "party planner" and "hostess". Martha felt that she was to clean, cook, and arrange for all of those who came to see Jesus. She would wear herself to a frazzle with all of her "duties". Mary elected to sit by Jesus' feet and learn all she could as she listened to the master teacher. Martha told Jesus that Mary had left her with all the work and asked that he tell Mary to help her. Jesus told Martha that she was worried and upset about many things. That only one thing is important and that Mary had chosen the better thing. (Luke 10:38-42) gave me the prize of continuing to ponder, pray and listen as we were entering and staying fixed on the pandemic. As with all things that can cause worry and upset, we must look to our Lord for the comfort that will allow us to choose the "better thing."

God bless us, everyone, and open our hearts to give thanks to our first responders and all of their helpers, our leaders and to all those who lost loved ones

to this horrible illness. The Lord leads us through the valley of death and comforts us in choosing the better thing.

DONNA HOLDREN PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY - JOANN WAYZS



Mary Price and I have used our "free" time to crochet Prayer Shawls. Those who have tuned in through Facebook, saw the altar dressed with these beautiful expressions of faith.

Please feel free to arrange to get one of these to pass out to anyone that you think could benefit from this ministry. It's no good for them to simply hang in the chapel and wait. As I have paraphrased before " the love in your heart

wasn't put there to stay; love isn't love till it's given away".

THRIFT SHOP – BILL & LINDA JONES

We would like to offer a bit of a commentary on the Thrift Shop rather than an actual report as there is not much to say since we have been closed since March 16th. We have occasionally been going into the shop to make sure everything is okay. Linda has said that the shop “seems frozen in time”. There is an eerie silence as you walk through the place. The lack of customers and volunteers is very strange in a place where normally lots of people would be talking and laughing together. We know we must be closed especially for the safety of our volunteers, but we certainly do pray we will be able to begin re-opening in the very near future. We miss everyone.

MARTHA CIRCLE – BRENDA WIMPERIS:

The next Martha Circle Meeting will be ~~~ “the answer to the million-dollar question ~ **WHEN**”?

Seriously, I'm working on a plan for us to meet in late May ~ definitely June or July. Of course, we need to adhere to what our states government “guidelines” will be, both Maryland for most of you and Delaware for me ~ BUT we need to get together!

If we can't meet at church then my backyard is an ideal place! I know the Trustees are just beginning to gather their ideas and will come up with plans that meet all government requirements (and then some) for the use of our church

building! Our Social Hall might just not work for us ~ as far as getting us all in ~ **BUT** my backyard has more than enough space for us social distance, sit outside, conduct a meeting and still be able to enjoy each other's company!

We have a couple of items on our "agenda" that need to be completed for our 2019-2020 year! First and foremost, ~ since we haven't met since February ~ we need to formalize our election (for parliamentary procedures) for next year's officers! The following people have graciously agreed to serve:

Jackie Sterling ~ President

Peggy Timmons ~ Vice – President

Sharon Rutherford ~ Secretary

Donna Berg ~ Treasurer

When we meet again, we will have an election! And then secondly ~ I've organized and brought up-to-date, the Official Martha Circle Binder and am ready to hand it and the gavel over to Jackie!

In the meantime, I'll continue to write the "Chatter" letters I've been sending to help keep us all in touch! It's been wonderful to include women of AUMC who aren't current Martha Circle members. If you have anything, you'd like to contribute to the Chatter ~ send it to me and please let me know of others who'd like to be included at Bwimperis@comcast.net.

These are trying times for everyone. Stay home, stay safe and keep your faith! Know we'll be better when we come out of this! A saying that I like ~ ***"It isn't a waste of time, if you learned something"***

Just the thought of seeing you all is a blessing to me! I'll be in touch!

AUMC FAMILY NEWS

Mary Price: *Mom and I would like to thank everyone who has sent text messages, emails and posted comments about the music in the recorded services. Pastor Joe and Terry Hoption are doing a fabulous job with the recordings. Knowing that so many people look forward to and are enjoying the music means so much to both of us. Mom has been watching old family movies, reading and contacting her friends, from here and P.A. and Pine Tones members who have moved just catching up and staying in touch.*

I have tried to do projects around the house but I found myself getting caught up in making prayer shawls for our Donna Holdren Prayer Shawl

Ministry. Making them has made me feel like I'm doing something good for people without being close to people. I've made 8 shawls and a baby blanket so far. They were blessed on April 17th along with several others and a few minis. I'm working on one now that I will be sending to my sister in law in AZ. I pray this social distancing will end soon and we can all get our lives back to normal.

Debbie Collins: *Now it is time to bring you up to date on Grover. We are so grateful for all the prayers all through his heart issues last year and into this year as we learned his aortic valve needed replacing... we are happy to report he had surgery April this week (Tuesday) and came home Thursday. Dr. said it was like he had been playing ball swinging a lead bat and now would be swinging with a regular bat!! Praise God, we are so grateful and I just pray I'll be able to keep up with him!! Lol. Miss seeing everyone and will keep all in my prayers! We will get through this and have lots to celebrate once we can!*

Love to all. Debbie and Grover

Becky Yates: *Figured I should bring you up to date. Saturday night, April Larry started having chest pains. After resting overnight thinking it might be indigestion from Chinese food, the pains continued. So, Sunday after much discussion, an aspirin and a nitro tablet, the ambulance was called and Larry was transported to AGH. After testing and discussions with the doctors he was admitted with more monitoring overnight. The diagnosis is Afib not a heart attack. Unfortunately, the docs don't know what is causing it. He will be given a heart monitor soon and the doctors will go from there.*

I've taken salt, red meat and most snacks out of the diet. All is good so far. Because he has no spleen, there are extra restrictions on him for going out in public. We have plenty of masks, food, adult beverages, and Netflix shows.

All is good.

Penny Miller: *I've been getting out each day for walks in various parks, around the OP pond, and with some girls 3x a week in the Parke. We have had a few happy hours sitting on separate benches and I go on a few errands and dinner pickups. Did you know Mother's Cantina has grocery items as well as food? The other night I got rockfish tacos, dish detergent and a half gallon of milk! You order online or call and they bring it to your car wearing a mask and gloves.*

Nancy Thomas has been helping me with adopting a cat since she volunteers at the humane society. It's hard to see and play with available pets right now but I'm hoping to get a kitty sometime soon.

My granddaughter who is a fashion major decided to sew masks to earn a little money. She made a page a few days ago for the local Facebook Marketplace in southern Md. By 7pm that day she had orders for 70 masks and had to take down the page because she still has to study for 7 courses! The funny thing was she went to Walmart to buy elastic and they kicked her out because she wasn't wearing a mask 🙅.

Take care and stay healthy

Shirley German: *Thank you all for sharing your stories of isolation. It is like a breath of fresh air reading them.*

Penny stole my news of where to get groceries 🛒. Mothers Cantina! Not only do they have menu items but essential items from EGGS to rubber gloves and home delivery! Ps. They are opening another restaurant on 75th Street as soon as OC opens up.

Our daughter added us to her "Netflix" account which enables us to binge watch many shows and movies. Have really been enjoying them. We have also resolved ourselves to the fact that we must FaceTime our Granddog for the time being. Really miss our family! Rudy included!

We agree about the wet gloomy weather! ☁️🌧️👋 We did manage to do some reading on our back deck in the sun ☀️. It felt SO good.

Gary and I are really being careful with social distancing. We walk our neighborhood for 2-3 miles each day (with masks). Dr Gupta says Gary is "cruisin". This is spectacular news. As Nancy Sitskorn says, "one day at a time".

Miss all of you 😊 Stay well

Gary and Shirley

Ps. Thank you for all your prayers 🙏 They are working.

BJ Cain: *I continue to write. Joe just finished a magnificent America's Coastal birds puzzle and doing his Facebook sermons for Showell We have ordered and*

had a turkey meal for 4 complete with dessert from OP Yacht Club. It was delicious. By the way I love your poem at the end about the Caterpillar in isolation. Now I know why I am eating so much. I am going to turn into a butterfly! LOL B.J. Love to all!

Becky McArthur: *We are keeping up with family and friends through Facebook messenger. Each Sunday we gather with Holly's church and then meet for fun stuff afterwards. This Sunday we had a talent show which developed into just silly fun with different musical animals. (Had to be there). My son-in-law in Panama challenged us with an idea. We are to come up with a costume representing Coronavirus. He will give a 10\$ coupon for the winner. Oh well we have to keep up our humor someway. Will let you know the results. Keep well and safe!!!*

JOANN WAYSZ: *As for the what's happening at my house - The two books the AUMC Book Club had picked for March and April are excellent reads: The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michelle Richardson and The Keeper of Lost Things by Ruth Hogan. My husband and I try to walk every day when the weather allows. My garden is cleaned up and ready for Spring flowers.*

I am making things for our bazaar from my craft stash; Michigan pillow cases (see YouTube) for children in shelters and of course, crocheting Prayer Shawls.

We also await (not so patiently) for a call from PRMC allowing my husband to get his Pacemaker battery replaced. Prayers would help.

Fran Robinson: *Think this is week seven for me. Am fairing quite well. Kinda feel Like a queen of some sorts! Am not allowed out for any reason——Earl is doing the grocery shopping, and all of you know that he is not a kitchen fairy—— so he has that chore. I ask for a head of lettuce and I get a head of cabbage instead. Oh well! Then I asked for 5lbs of all-purpose flour and I get 5lb of self-rising flour. Oh well! But you know what, we are making it fine. Got the bathroom all finished after 6 wks, am happy with that project. My hope and prayers each day is to be in a better world when this virus is gone. God is good and I know in my heart that He will take care of us all Blessings to everyone, see you soon. Hugs*

Linda Jones: *The youth room is looking spiffy. Maybe we can use it for book club and other gatherings someday. I have been doing some Christmas room things. Lots of trees and wreathes to do after social distancing is over. The Thrift Shop looks frozen in time. With everyone home cleaning their homes, I am afraid of all the goodies that will come our way. 😊. Be safe and positive. 🙌*

Brenda Wimperis: *How are you keeping busy? I hear you're going to desperate measure now ~ rearranging furniture??!! Even vacuuming out floor vents! I hear "someone" (LJ) even slipped over to church and cleaned the "youth" room upstairs!*

AND now my hair needs "highlights" and my gel nails have all come off AND when we all go out; we have to wear masks???. Thank Goodness I'm wearing a mask ~ hopefully no one recognizes me???!!

Seriously, Bill and I have paper masks but we'd like to buy a couple "fabric" mask! Is anyone making and selling them or anyone in your family making them and selling them? I'm interested! Please send out the information!!

As we begin to think about "opening up" again, our new normal will probably include retail stores that are allowed open will only be able to accommodate 50 percent of their capacity at one time ~ so get ready to wait outside in line! Grocery aisles are being marked "one way" with arrows so we can keep our "social distancing" practices. When checking out, social distancing lines will be marked on the floor! Forget "self-service foods", I don't think we'll see that any time soon and notice the Plexiglas barriers between you and the cashier ~ already in place in DE! And ordering food online for pick-up = = = a big drag! Finding available "pick-up" times is near impossible and then receiving what you ordered is another big surprise!

I have heard from some that "getting what we ordered" (carry out food) is better than what you ordered! Lucky you!

Our development, Waters Run, in DE continues to have a Sunday afternoon Worship Service ~ outside! Maybe we'll continue this practice! We also collected non-perishable food items and/or cash and took it to the DE Food Bank today!

*I know there's a food bank ~ "**Shepherds Crook**" in Ocean City that AUMC donates to. Start a collection in your neighborhood and drop items off. You're doing something to help AND the Food Banks need all the help they can get right now.*

A thoughtful email I received

*The Latin root of the word "quarantine" is "forty".
So, what does the Bible say about "40"?
The flood lasted 40 days.*

40 years Moses fled Egypt.

40 days Moses stayed on Mount Sinai to receive the Commandments.

Exodus lasted 40 years.

Jesus fasted for 40 days.

Lent is 40 days.

40 days for a woman to rest after giving birth.

A group of theologians thinks the number 40 represents “change”. It is the time of preparing a person or people, to make a fundamental change.

Something will happen after these 40 days. Just believe and pray. Remember, whenever the number 40 appears in the Bible, there is a “change”.

Please know that during this “quarantine”, rivers are cleaning up, vegetation is growing, the air is becoming cleaner because of less pollution, there is less theft and murder, healing is happening and most importantly, people are turning to Christ. The Earth is at rest for the first time in many years and hearts are truly transforming.

So, during this time, enjoy it with your loved ones and return to the family altar together. Family prayer is a great blessing. Through prayer you will see the changes God can work in you and in your home. Christ promises us that everything works together for the good for those who love God: Romans 8:28.

Remember we are in the year 2020 and $20 + 20 = 40!$

Lastly, 2020 is perfect vision. May our sight focus on the Lord and living according to His perfect vision for us knowing He hold us in the palm of His hand.

May these days of “quarantine” bring spiritual liberation to our souls, our nation and our world!

The best is yet to come!

May Birthdays

May 8 – Carol Finke

May 11 – Earl Robinson

May 12 – Jackie Sterling

May 17 – Sheridan Bruckner

May 23 – Susan Lauer

May 24 – Joanne Harner

May 24 – Joan Strang

May 27 – Natalie Bloodsworth

Prayer List

**Please pray for our church, our pastor, our ministries
and for those listed below:**

Jerry Albright, Laurie Brucki, Grover Collins, Karen Conlon, Norman Connell,
Family & Friends of Carol Doman, Tricia Dougherty, Bob Eastman Jeff Facello,
Calvina Fisher, Gary German, Renee Greene, Hughes Family,
Henry Hungerford, Stuart Jarmon, Alice Jones, Ed Kriege, Susan Lauer,
Roger Marino, Milly Marx, David Moquin, Josh Shaffer, Nancy Smedley,
Marvin Steen, Richie Tesar, Paul Wall, Nina Wheeler, Allan Woodmancy,
Larry Yates, AUMC Soup Kitchen Volunteers, Shepherd Crook Volunteers,
Essential Workers First Responders

**Monthly Report of Trustees Activities and Work Projects Status
Month of April 2020**

Board of Trustees of Atlantic United Methodist Church reports the following:

Hello all. Even though we haven't been able to meet and worship or have our buildings and campus open for regular business or worship since March 15th we have still been busy attending to the safety and security of our Church.

The facilities are officially closed and admission to the building is controlled and restricted to persons who must enter. Otherwise no one is permitted in the Church building or Thrift Shop.

We dearly miss the opportunity to gather and worship and seeing our church family. We are out of sight but not out of mind! We anxiously wait to hear the weekly, and sometime more frequent "One Call" messages from Pastor Joe. We enjoy checking on our members by phone or text. It seems everyone is doing ok under these tough circumstances. Hopefully we will return to some semblance of order sooner than later.

We have helped Pastor Joe to facilitate weekly televised worship sessions via the technology of the internet. Even though it is not the same as being in our building with each other, it is nice to have a worship service.

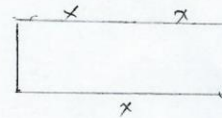
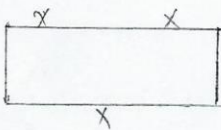
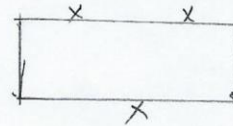
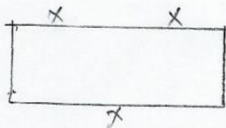
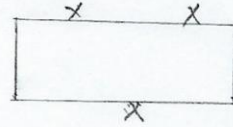
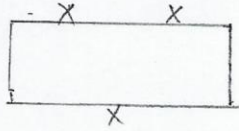
We are planning for the Church and campus to have a very detailed and complete cleaning. It will be fresh and ready when the opportunity comes to reopen – Hopefully soon.

**Since our last report in the previous newsletter the
Board of Trustees reports the following:**

Repair and Reinstall the Church Sign on Philadelphia Ave:

The Electric Church Sign on Philadelphia Ave was blown over by high winds during a storm in September of 2019. In October of 2019. The sign was removed and taken to Selby Sign Company for repair. They have been working on it, we check the repair status weekly, they tell us it should be back in place soon!!. **STATUS: PENDING Work being done by Selby Sign Company.**

Dining Room

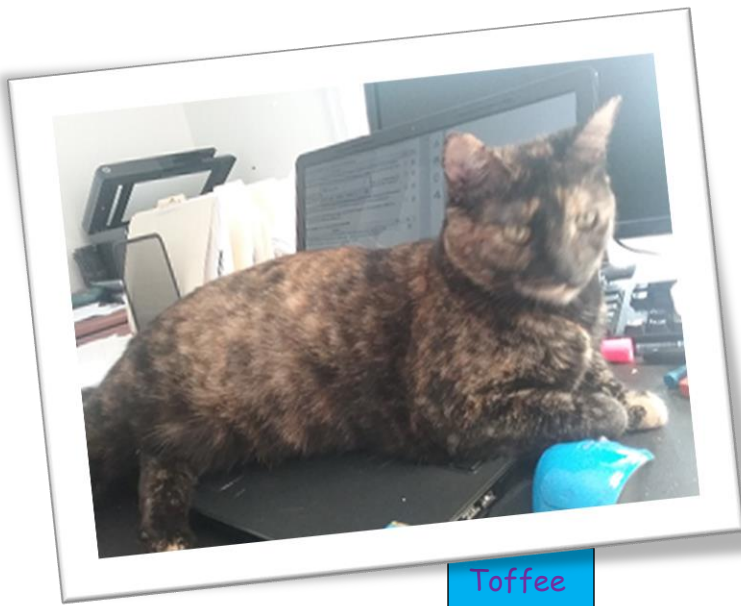


Door to
Hallway

Seated Capacity

18

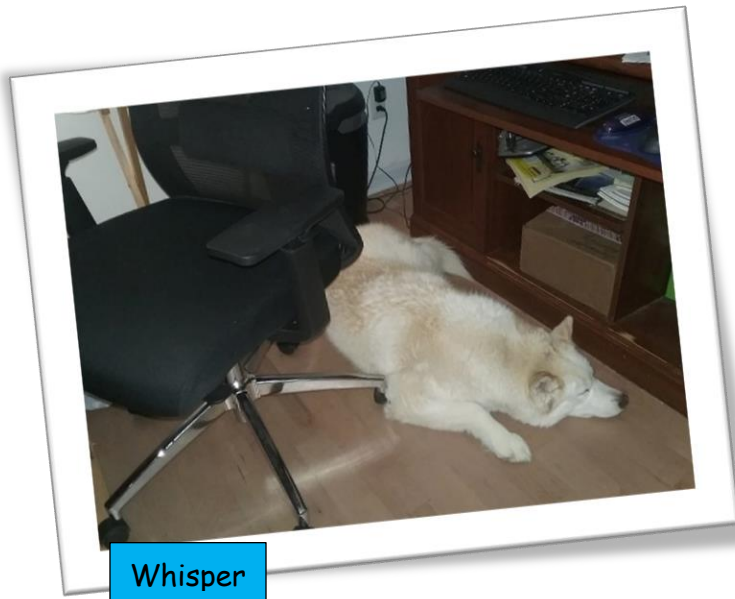
EVERYONE STAY SAFE AND CAREFUL. WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED ON THE STATUS OF THE BUILDING OPERATIONS AND CLOSURE STATUS AS SOON AS IT CHANGES.



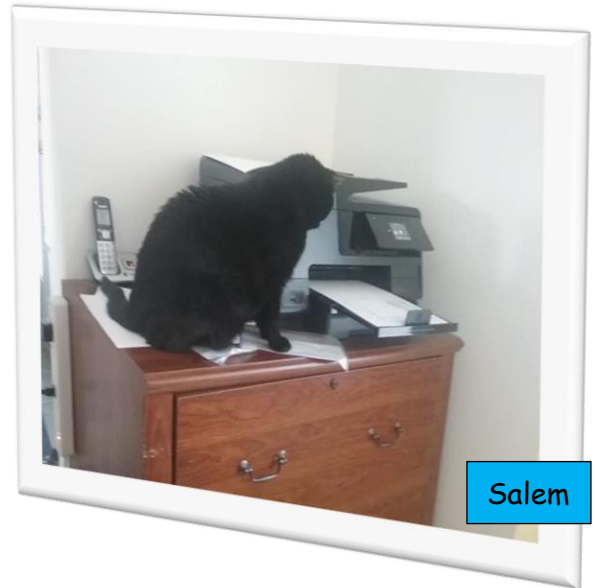
Toffee



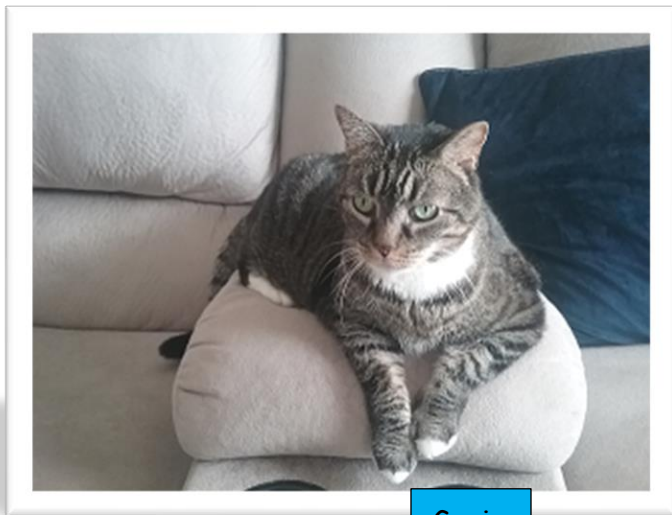
Saltee



Whisper



Salem



Geri

Dot has a wonderful team of volunteers helping her take care of church business as she works from home!