

## Week of May 7, 2023



**From Woody:** . . .The world lost a great faith leader at the end of April when Rabbi Harold Kushner died in Massachusetts. As a young father Rabbi Kushner and his wife lost their young son Aaron to a rare genetic condition known as progeria. It causes rapid aging and is fatal. Aaron was 3 when he was diagnosed and 14 when he died. It affects about 1 in 4 million children. It caused the Rabbi to grapple in his grief with his understanding of his faith. The result was a very sincere and very helpful book, WHEN BAD THINGS

HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE. It became a best seller. Rabbi Kushner wrote, "What I felt...was a deep, aching sense of unfairness. I had been a good person and always tried to do what was right. I had assumed my side of the bargain, so how could this be happening to my family? If God existed, if He was minimally fair, let alone loving and forgiving, how could He do this to me?"

As he grappled with this question, he came to a conclusion that redefines God's power. "The theological conclusion I came to is that God could have been all powerful at the beginning, but He chose to designate two areas of life off limits to his power. He would not arbitrarily interfere with laws of nature, and secondly, God would not take away our freedom to choose between good and evil." He was praised by many theologians for the comfort he brought, but also criticized for "minimizing God's power." I leave these brief lines with his response to this criticism: " Your God wants the earthquake to happen, the little boy to die? Which one of us is diminishing God?"

May the good Rabbi rest in peace and see his son again. He wrote many books, all of which are very thought provoking.



**Organ Concert:** The organ concert last Saturday was a great success. It was wonderful to see what our 100-year-old organ can do in the hands of 2 very talented organists. Thanks to Lynda French, Sam Gorton, and all who help to bring this event about. You can still view it on our website [www.communitychurchnewboston.org](http://www.communitychurchnewboston.org)



**Clifford Nyquist Fund:** The Session had amended the guidelines for the Clifford Nyquist Fund. It is now open to both youth still in school and to those graduates seeking a college education or other type of vocational training. It is open to church family members and other children and youth from New Boston. Please see the church website to apply and please help spread the word. The limits of money given has also been expanded.

## Family Sunday

Sunday, May 21  
10:00 am



You and your family are invited to join us for a 'playful' Sunday worship service to celebrate the end of the Covenant Kingdom school year.

Bring a picnic lunch, blanket, and chairs because after service we will have a picnic lunch on the lawn outside of church!

Drinks and dessert will be provided.



**Peace Quote:** .If I, walking through the wards of a hospital, have to face the fact that either God is all-powerful but not kind, or thoroughly kind and loving , but not totally powerful, I would rather compromise God's power and affirm his love.....*Rabbi Harold Kushner*