

Congregational Connection



Pastor's Column

"Look, I'll pour out my spirit on you. I'll reveal my words to you." - Wisdom (from Proverbs)

To continue in our Lenten worship, we continue to quiet things down and heighten our attention to the "still, small voice" of God and our own true self. Listening through prayer as well as meditation on holy texts is an ancient Lenten practice. The Deacons and I are relying upon some special thematic worship by Marcia McFee. How are you experiencing these Sundays of Lent? How is your prayer practice coming along? We are lifting up two prayer practices in the worship -- lectio divina and examen prayer. How are these for you? Do you need any personal support with your faith journey? Don't hesitate to reach out to me and the Deacons. We are here for you. Come and rest, come and listen. These are the following themes for Lent.

Finding a Word: Listening to the Texts 3/4/18

Guest Preacher 3/11/18

Finding Your Power: Listening for Healing 3/18/18

Palm Sunday - Finding Your Purpose: Listening to Your Heart 3/25/18

Here is another method of prayer that you might like to try on for this month.

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer. Rather, it adds depth of meaning to all prayer and facilitates the movement from more active modes of prayer - verbal, mental or affective prayer - into a receptive prayer of resting in God. Centering Prayer emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God and as a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Christ.

The four guidelines, in their simplicity, are,

1. Choose a sacred word as a symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within.
2. Sitting comfortably and with eyes closed, settle briefly and silently introduce the sacred word.
3. When engaged with thoughts, return ever so gently to the sacred word.
4. At the end of the period of prayer, remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.

God be with you on each of your faith journeys.

-Gretchen



From the Desk of the Deacons

During February we began our Lenten services on Ash Wednesday with a beautiful service done by Pastor Gretchen. The season for prayer and reflection has begun.

Hard to believe, but Spring will begin on March 20th. Easter Sunday is April 1, 2018. Why not brighten up your home and yard with some beautiful Easter plants. Our good friends at Hartstone Flower and Garden Center are once again offering the sale of Easter lilies, and tulips in red, yellow and pink at the same price as last year, \$9.50. I will begin taking orders on Sunday, March 4th and again each Sunday thereafter (March 11; March 18 and March 25 - Palm Sunday) during coffee hour. The final day and collection of money will be March 25, 2018. The flowers will be delivered on Saturday, March 31, 2018 and decorate our altar for the Easter Sunday service on April 1, 2018.

You may pay in cash or check payable to Hartstone Flower and Garden Center. Let us brighten up our beloved church with the presence of lilies and tulips. Any question, you may contact Nancy Haley at (781) 812-0737.

Please also join us for our Easter week services on March 25, 2018 - Palm Sunday. On Maundy Thursday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. and on Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!

See you in church!
Peace and blessings,
The Deacons



Notes from the Trustees

The long-awaited resolution of our efforts to sell our AT&T and Verizon shares has at last been accomplished. Through the good efforts of Martha and with the assistance of Susan Rose (the branch manager of Equitable Bank on Broad St., the sale was completed netting the church \$122,000. This sum has enabled to pay our balance to Stained Glass Resources and have a meaningful discussion on the date of the reinstallation of our windows. We don't have a firm date yet, but I expect to have one this week. We will of course let everyone know when we do.

The remainder after the stained-glass repair (about \$65,000) will enable us to complete another capital project that is looming. The huge chimney that starts in the boiler room, goes through the Fireside room and exits the building along the east wall is in dire need of rebuilding. The chimney has very little mortar remaining in it, and at this point is essentially a beautiful, carefully stacked pile of bricks. We put money into this year's budget for the project and hope to get it done late spring or early summer.

With what remains, we will work to rebuild our trust (investment fund) and work to ensure our future.

Any questions, please ask one of us, thanks.

Your Trustees

Bob Criswell, Curtis Ellett, Norm Fulton, John Holman, Tom Kosonen, Kathy Mosher, Tom Ritchie



Notes from the Music Director

COME HOME TO CHURCH ---- Our choral music for the beginning of Lent will be on the theme of listening to God, finding sanctuary and comfort, along with words and music of challenge said with care. If you're weary of the tumult in our nation, find some peace and perspective in the music we prepare and sing.

MUSIC AT SANCTUARY HALL --- We had a wonderful afternoon of gospel music with Joyful Voices of Inspiration on Feb. 25.

Join us Saturday, March 10, for The Lindsays, who were a huge hit when they opened our 2016-17 season. They'll be back with some Irish favorites for St. Patrick's Day, plus a few surprises. Admission is only \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors 62 and older, \$30 per family and just \$5 for students with ID.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR LENT! --- The North River Brass Ensemble, composed of members of the Southeastern Philharmonic Orchestra, will be offering special music at our Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. You may remember the brass ensemble's fine performances at the Little Christmas in Jackson Square concert in January.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1. --- Be sure to tell your friends about our Easter Sunday service on April 1. We'll have special instrumentation and soloists for that day!

EASTER KIDS CHOIR --- We'll be preparing special music for Easter Sunday, and we'll have meeting on Sunday, March 10, right after worship. Join us!

If you want to know more, call 781-974-3503.

Victor DeRubeis, Director of Music
vderubeis@yahoo.com



Church School News

Epiphany Season ended with a generous donation by our Sunday School children and the congregation to the Weymouth Food Pantry. It was an opportunity to bring up the subject of hunger with the children. Many of the students were aware that some people in our community go hungry and they were excited that they were able to help by serving others. Thank you to the Staff and our congregation for making this happen!

Our Lenten Season opened with a joyful Pancake Breakfast that was enjoyed by the whole congregation. By celebrating the beginning of Lent with fellowship and a shared meal, it helps us to engage in faith experiences that we can use to start our Lenten Journey. During the worship service the children went out in the rain to watch the burning of the palms that would be used to mark ourselves on Ash Wednesday. A special thanks to the Staff and children for such an act of kindness in this sacred space.

On Easter Sunday we have decided to venture out to the lawn for an Easter Egg Hunt after church (weather permitting). This is a new idea that the Staff wants to try out and we hope to invite and include

children from the community in this event. During our worship service time we will invite all Nursery and Elementary age children downstairs for a Build a Better Basket program where we teach the children about the Easter Seasons with fun additions to a basket. We hope that you and your children will be able to attend.

We hope that you will take time to slow down and reflect on your faith during lent. We have sent all of the children and youth home with a calendar that invites them to think about their faith and the many stories that we share with them about Jesus during this time. Families can join in with them to have faith conversations anytime and to remember that wherever love, kindness and fairness exist, that God is there!

Church School Supt., Kerry Mortland Seek Joy!



Gillette Stadium Volunteers

Can you believe the next season is already starting? On March 10th, Kathy Mosher and I will bring our newest trainee, Lee Weilhouwer to Gillette (while Bob Child is on standby) for the Season opener for the NE Revolution.

Here is the upcoming schedule of events. Be sure to sign up with Donna at Coffee Hour if you'd like to attend any of these or the 10 Patriot events (dates-tbd) this season:

3/24	Sat	1:30	Revs Soccer
4/6	Fri	7:30	Revs Soccer
4/21	Sat	2:30	Super Cross
5/28	Mon	1pm	NCAA Lacrosse
8/25	Sat		Kenney Chesney
9/15	Sat		Ed Sheeran



Soup/Sandwich/Scripture

The next Soup and Scripture meeting will be March 20. The reading is John 12: 20-33.



Upcoming Pastoral and Preacher Coverage

- March 4th - Pastor Gretchen
- March 11th - Rev. Donna Villeumier
- March 18th - Pastor Gretchen
- March 25th - Palm Sunday - Pastor Gretchen
- March 29th - Maundy Thursday - Pastor Gretchen



Birthdays

Bill Noonan	March 14
Lily McCready	March 14
Jack Hall	March 16
Hailey Johnson	March 16
Christian Johnson	March 16
Mary Crawford	March 19

Niamh Hogan
John Holman

March 19
March 19



In Our Prayers

Tom Arthur	David & Lynn Tenney
Servicemen & women	First Responders
Dave	Leo
Michael B.	Shirley
Angela	Bette
Wendy	Kathy & Andy
Chris & Dick	Michael F.
Chickie	Family of Bridgette
Linda Austin	Eileen Hennessey & family
Cheryl Thornton	Kelly Cassier
Frank	Jensen Family
Rose Dority	Connolly Family
Ritchie	Family of Paula Kettles
Family of Edward Goss	FL families & friends
Jeff & Joan Kelley	Parents of Ford Amos
Jim Glynn	Austin
Melvin	Muriel Smith
Family of Ted Whitlock	Mary Crawford
Jack Hall	



Notes from the Office

Please have your March newsletter submissions to me by February 20th. Thank you!

-Sara