

Congregational Connection



Pastor's Column

The Story of the Dinner Party

That triggered a response from one of the guests: "How fortunate the one who gets to eat dinner in God's kingdom!"

Jesus followed up. "Yes. For there was once a man who threw a great dinner party and invited many. When it was time for dinner, he sent out his servant to the invited guests, saying, 'Come on in; the food's on the table.'

"Then they all began to beg off, one after another making excuses. The first said, 'I bought a piece of property and need to look it over. Send my regrets.' "Another said, 'I just bought five teams of oxen, and I really need to check them out. Send my regrets.'

"And yet another said, 'I just got married and need to get home to my wife.' "The servant went back and told the master what had happened. He was

outraged and told the servant, 'Quickly, get out into the city streets and alleys. Collect all who look like they need a square meal, all the misfits and homeless and wretched you can lay your hands on, and bring them here.'

"The servant reported back, 'Master, I did what you commanded—and there's still room.'

"The master said, 'Then go to the country roads. Whoever you find, drag them in. I want my house full! Let me tell you, not one of those originally invited is going to get so much as a bite at my dinner party.'"



From the Desk of the Deacons

On March 8, 2019, we were saddened to learn of the death of Gretchen's mother, Ellen Elmendorf. She was 95 years old and passed away after a long illness. Our hearts and prayers go out to Gretchen and her family.

We also want to thank Rev. Gary Ritts who helped out with pastoral coverage during this difficult time.

On March 6th we began Lent with a lay led Ash Wednesday service. Many thanks to Victor DeRubeis and the Deacons for assisting with this service.

Nancy Haley began taking orders for Easter flowers on March 24th during coffee hour. She will continue taking orders March 31st, April 7th and April 14th, Palm Sunday. At that time all Easter orders must be paid for. Easter lilies, tulips in red, yellow and pink are only \$9.50 from Diersch Flowers, 545 Broad Street, Weymouth, MA. The flowers will be delivered April 20th and will decorate our altar for Easter Sunday Services. Please join us for Holy week beginning on April 14th, Palm Sunday.

Maundy Thursday Service on April 18th will be held at 7:30 p.m. On Good Friday, April 19th the church will be open between 12:00 Noon and 3:00

p.m. for quiet reflection. Easter Sunday will be celebrated on April 21st. Christ has risen! Christ has risen indeed!

Please invite your friends and family to join us during Easter week and Easter Sunday for this blessed time. May we all share together in the joy of Easter!

Also please note we will be having new pulpit supply preachers during the upcoming months:

April 28th – Rev. Peggy O'Neil Files;

May 26th - Richard W. Bartlett;

June 23rd – Rev. Gary Ritts; and

July 7th – Adam Isbitski

See you in church!

Happy Easter from the Deacons, Nancy Haley, Bettyanne Lang, Tara Haley, Donna Eliasson and Cheryl McMillan.



From the Trustees

NEW FIRESIDE ROOM FLOORING --- We're praying that the decades-old carpeting in the Fireside Room (that's the one on the lower level of the main church building right beneath the Chapel) will be replaced in time for Easter Sunday.

A flooring contractor has been chosen, and trustee and Church School Superintendent Kerry Mortland reports that projected cost for the laminate flooring is substantially less than expected.

This part of our beautiful building has undergone quite a transformation in the last year: repair of the chimney, which also serves as an exhaust for the main building boiler; repainting of the shabby walls, and now the final touch: a new floor.

We're still working on other building challenges: repairs to plumbing and floors in the annex kitchen and the repairs to the chimney in the church's 1960 annex.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 17, at 7 p.m. in the conference room, and anyone and everyone is invited to attend.

For YOUR Trustees

Kathy Mosher, chair, Bob Criswell, Victor DeRubeis, Donna Eliasson, Tom Kosonen, Kerry Mortland



Notes from the Music Director

LENTEN LUNCHTIME HUMP DAY CONCERT SERIES ---

Our audience keeps growing for our Lenten midweek concert series! Join us from 12:15 to 12:40 p.m. on the Wednesdays of April 3, 10, and 17 for music to help you find your quiet center in the middle of a busy work week.

Surround yourself with beautiful music as the springtime sunlight fills our sanctuary.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK --- The North River Brass Ensemble will be joining us on Palm Sunday to provide music for a Procession of the Palms in commemoration of Jesus' triumphant entry in to Jerusalem on the Sunday before his trial on trumped-up charges and death. Nothing says "triumphant" more than brass.

Later that week, our choir will provide special music as we commemorate The Last Supper at our annual, very moving Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m.

Then, on Easter Sunday, April 21, at 10 a.m. join us as special guest Jonathan Kessler conducts our choir and provides the music for our joyous celebration of Jesus' Resurrection.

MUSIC AT SANCTUARY HALL --- Our season will conclude Friday, May 5, with the annual Barbara Knapp Memorial Concert in a program of popular classics and classic pop. Doors will open at 7 p.m., and music will start at 8.

"Springtime for Jackson Square" will feature, among other tunes, music from the classic Broadway musical, "My Fair Lady."



Church School News

A Special thanks goes out to everyone that helped with the My ThirtyOne fund raiser for our Youth Camp Fund. We earned \$133.00 towards a fund to help send our Youth to Silverlake UCC Camp this Summer. Many other very caring folks made donations to add to this fund and we thank you and bless you all. We are hoping to get 7 Youth to camp this year .

Another way to show Thankfulness is to "Give Thanks for all that God has given us." One way to do that is to share with others and our Sunday School students made Thankful Jars during Lent that they will use to collect coins. Once the coins are counted and turned in after Easter we will donate to a mission project that our church supports. Our students are always eager to help others.

Prayer Pals have been praying, being kind and caring since last year. On Children's Day, June 9th Prayer pals will be revealed and new pals will be given to each child and adult. Each adult Prayer Pal family is given the name of a child's family that they will pray for during the year, then each child is given the name of an adult and their family to pray for during the year. All that it takes is to pray each day for that family and watch them grow in God's love.

The Fireside Room update for 2019. Back in the 1970's new carpeting, paint and lighting was added to what was known as the "Ladies Parlor". Joan Callahan and her family were directly involved in this update. The Women's Fellowship, the Deacon's, the Doll House Room at the Fair, special events and meetings were held in the new updated room. Along with these new updates also came donated sofa's, TV's, tables, bookcases, etc from generous members of the congregation until the room, now known as the Fireside Room become cluttered and unrecognizable as an educational space for children. So over the past 2 years the Christian Education Board has advocated for a major changes to be made using money donated in the 1980's by visionary families as a tribute to their deceased loved ones. The families of Rally Yocum and Mike Macomber put money in a trust fund that could only be used for the children of the church. So now we have undertaken the task with a newly painted room and soon to be updated with new flooring that will make the room welcoming, clean, safe and bright for young children and families. We are so excited to have this space for our children and we can't wait to show it off when it is complete.

Easter Sunday , April 21st: We are looking forward to our Easter Sunday worship and activities with the children. Worship starts at 10:00 and we are hoping to have our Youth Class perform during the service. When the children leave after the Children's Time we will head up to the Gym for an Easter Egg Hunt, Songs, Stories and crafts all centered around the Joy of Easter Morning when Christ arose from the grave! So we hope you bring your family, friends and neighbors to share in this special worship.

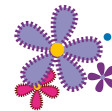
Kerry Mortland, Dir. Of Children's Faith Formation
Seek Joy!



Lenten Bible Study

We invite you to join us for 6 consecutive Tuesday evenings as we delve into the Lenten Lectionary scripture. We encourage you to bring your Bible and your curiosity. Please call the church office at :781-335-6919 and leave your name and number so that we can contact you in case of a cancellation.

Dates: Tuesday Evenings: April 2, 9, 16
Time: 6:30 to 7:30



Mission and Outreach

Our collection of eyeglasses for the Lions Club will continue through April.

Nonperishable food donations will be taken on Sunday 4/21 & 4/28 to alleviate the extra need during school vacation weeks.

In May, we bring back the favorite "Blanket the World with Love" campaign as we celebrate Mothers' Day on 5/12. A special collection for Church World Service will provide warm, comfortable blankets to disaster relief areas in US and around the world.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED on Saturday, 4/27 from 7 am to 1 pm to provide road support to runners/walkers at ISS' Stop the Stigma 5K in N Quincy. Our M&O team is working both water stops as 400 runner/walkers (including our own Michelle & Julie) will be spreading the word to eliminate the stigma of mental health and addiction. Please see Donna or Paula to join us!!!

Many blessings to you for all of the ways you give!!!
Your M&O Team: Sonia Clair, Karen DeMasi, Donna Eliasson, Paula Fulton, Lee Weilhouwer



Upcoming Pastoral and Preacher Coverage

April 7th - Rev. Gretchen Elmendorf
April 14th - Rev. Gretchen Elmendorf
April 21st - Rev. Gretchen Elmendorf
April 28th - Rev. Peggy O'Neil Files



Birthdays

Curtis Ellett	April 1
Alan Dwyer	April 2
Norm Fulton	April 5
Rosie Mae Railey	April 6
Nancy Haley	April 5
Cheryl McMillan	April 8
Judy Beth Matusiewicz	April 11
Emilio & Alex Valentin	April 15
Darian Ramirez	April 16
Patricia Noonan	April 19
Judy Holman	April 23
Joanne Haley	April 24
Kerry Mortland	April 28



In Our Prayers

Kelly	Joanne
Dave	Paul
Bette	Wendy
Bob	Michael F
Ethan	Beverly
Caden	Billy O
Mary O	Servicemen & women
Linda D	Mary C
Jack	Michael N
Chickie	Michael B
Kristin	Shirley
First Responders	Lynn & Dave
Dick W	Erin
Caleb B	Harold M
Joy M	Family of Anne M
Barrington C	Brian C
Tameika D	Justin C
Tanya D	Angela
Jada-Kay S	Jordan C
Tatiana C	MJF
Isiah C	Patrick F
Anne W	Victims of human trafficking
David	Donna & Leo
Ethan	Rev. Gretchen
Langille Family	MJ
Sonia C	Ellen Elmendorf



From the Office

Please have your April submissions to me no later than March 20th.
Thank you.