

PASS IT  ON!



THE UNITED CHURCH
of CLINTON
March Newsletter 2017



March Madness

Its that time of the year again. March Madness – not the NBA, but the beginning of Lent. This year Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1. Let the madness begin! You know, the madness about what you are going to give up for the season of Lent.

If you're not familiar with Lent, it's the 40-day period leading up to Easter when Christians practice a sacrifice of some kind, and spend extra time in prayer and worship. (Technically, Lent comprises the 40 days before Easter, not counting the Sundays, or 46 days in total.) It culminates in Passion or Holy Week observances, and a celebration of Christ's Resurrection on Easter morning. The sacrifice is usually some sort of fast or abstention from a particular thing, like coffee or chocolate or meat on Fridays.

Lent invokes ideas of giving up something fun, like chocolate. I know a lot of people who give up coffee for Lent, but that's just crazy-talk. Although Lent is intended to commemorate Christ's sacrifices and strengthen one's spiritual life, it has become more or less a second attempt at failed New Year's resolutions and an excuse for a crash diet. So what are you giving up for Lent? Before you answer consider the following

Lent is heavily associated with penance, fasting, and abstinence. It starts with Ash Wednesday, when churchgoers are marked with a cross on their foreheads, made from the ashes of palm branches used for Palm Sunday the year before. The ashes are symbols of repentance and mortality, and they are often accompanied by some variation of Genesis 3:19: "For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." For the next 40 days, followers practice fasting and abstinence in observance of Lent. In addition to fasting, people from a variety of Christian denominations will also give things up for the 40 days of Lent . Usually, these "things" will be foods, habits, or other things that they find pleasurable. It's common to see people give up their favorite foods, or vices like smoking or gossiping. Both the fasting and abstinence are meant to mirror Christ's fasting in the wilderness, but they also function as demonstrations of penance and solemnity in the days leading up to Holy Week, the week that commemorates the betrayal and crucifixion of Christ and finally culminates in the celebration of his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

So, as we begin with Ash Wednesday and its reminder of repentance, let us resolve to do our best each day, knowing that it is not the destination, but the journey that will ultimately transform us. No matter what you do during this Lenten season, I pray that God will draw you closer to him, and prepare us for a fresh experience of Good Friday and Easter. May God's peace be with You!

Dr. Scott Stewart

Best Fishes

<{}>< John 21:1-14



Missions & Social Justice Committee



FEED MY SHEEP

Our Lenten Spare Change Collection: Abby's House:

As we did last year, we'll be supporting the work of Abby's House in Worcester that provides both emergency shelter and affordable housing for women and their children. Learn more about Abby's House at www.abbyshouse.org. Look for the Spare Change jars in the Sanctuary from Sunday March 5 through April 9 (Palm Sunday).

Growing for Others 2017

Spring is almost here! Time to think about planting or at least preparing the soil in the four growing beds beside our church. Did! Dig! Dig!

WHEAT Community Café

We deliver a meal of pizza, salad, and ice cream on the third Monday of each month. Reminder that we have a place setting in the Sanctuary on Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of each month, for donations toward the cost of our Café meal, which averages \$130.00 each month.

As the daylight hours lengthen, let's celebrate: *All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, in love God made them all.* (Chalice Hymnal #61)

Peace and blessings,
Gloria

Gloria Parkinson on behalf of Mission and Social Justice Committee members: Dianne Mather, Madeline McTague, Gloria Popp, and Pastor Scott (ex officio)



Lay Readers

LAY LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Please be there by 9:45 to pass out bulletins & greet
- Read as specified
- Arrange for yourself or someone else to take the offering
- Stand at the door with the Pastor as everyone is leaving

If you have volunteered to be a "Deacon at the Door/ Lay Reader and can't make it please call or e-mail the Church Office or try to get a replacement. Thank you, hopefully this will work and give everyone a chance to participate in the life of our church.

JUST A REMINDER
Lay Readers are needed
for Sundays in March

Youth News MARCH

If you are interested in volunteering in the
Sunday School please contact
Heather McNamara -
heather.mcnamara@uelcontractors.com

or Chrissy Dobeck - cddbeck@comcast.net
at your earliest convenience

Date to Remember----

March 5
Youth Council Meeting
/ 9:00 am

Servants in Faith

Join us



Prayer Shawls and Chemo Caps: More prayer shawls have been added to our inventory so please feel free to take one to someone who needs a "hug" from our congregation. Please remember to write down who received it so we won't duplicate the favor.

Hugs by Mail: Would you like to be an "angel" – if so, please contact Mary Ellen at abmem57@gmail.com to learn more about the program. Also please let us know if there is someone who should be added to our list as a "special friend" so an angel can begin to befriend that person.

Please don't forget we're having a raffle!

Proceeds to benefit the

German Christmas Market

All prizes have to be in Marquardt Hall by March 19th.

Raffle tickets go on sale March 19th after service.

Winning tickets will be selected on April 2nd.

Any Questions ask

Dawn at 978-365-2840,

Edie at 978-430-8062,

or Jackie at 978-368-0358



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 01 - Aaron Littlefield
- 06 - Laura Newton
- 06 - Robert Ryan
- 07 - Gabrielle Turcotte
- 12 - Sam Chetwynd
- 15 - Jake Poulin
- 17 - Richard Braconnier
- 20 - Dudley Moses
- 22 - Tiffany Sontag
- 24 - Mike Sawyer
- 26 - Madeline McTague
- 27 - Alicia Casey
- 29 - Arthur Lamy
- 30 - Sharon Diaz
- 31 - Meghan Noonan



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 20 - Sue & Ron Oja
- 22 - Georgia & Chris Perez

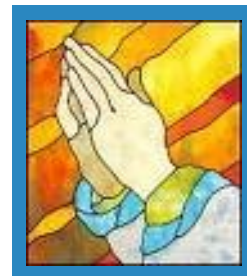
MARCH ACTIVITIES

- 01 - ASH WEDNESDAY
/ service 7:00 pm
- 05 - Youth Council Meeting/ 9:00 am
- 06 - Stewardship/ 2:00 pm
- 06 - Deacons/ 7:00 pm
- 08 - Council/ 7:30 pm
- 19 - Worship Planning/ 8:00 am
- 19 - Chili Cook Off/ after worship



CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER LIST

- The Arpano Family
- Sara Houghton
- Yvonne Quinn
- Jim Porcella
- Jim Garceau
- Larry Gilman
- Amanda Howe
- Chad Kay
- Don Davis Family
- Billie Jean Dotson
- The Duncanson Family
- Ruth Gentile
- Carol Buteau
- Brett Cooper
- Jeannette Sivert



In an effort to update our Prayer List in the new year, we have removed all names that have been on the list for longer than two months. If you would like someone's name returned to the list please notify the Church Office by e-mail or telephone. In the future, we will be removing names after two months unless we receive notification.

Thank you

ALSO, REMEMBER OUR HOME WORSHIPERS

- Mary Bisson, Herman Schultz, Marge Sheridan, Corinne Dobeck, Marilyn Center, Tina Norwood
- Eunice Salmon, Gloria Nillson
- Ruth Baer & Corinne Gebhardt

AND, THOSE IN THE MILITARY

- Mike Clark (Mary & Joe's son)
- S/SGT Frank R. Heron (Marge Sheridan's grandson)
- Captain Aubrey Sontag
- 1st Lt Tiffany Sontag
- S/A Jill Milewski
- Pvt. Alex Apell
- All who are deployed



PLEASE NOTE

Kelly Turcotte will now be handling the Altar Flower Orders.

Altar Flowers

**COFFEE HOUR
DONATIONS**



The kitchen ladies are still looking for donations of baked goods for Sunday Coffee Hour. (Please, if you are purchasing ready made baked goods, be sure to check the expiration dates.)



**Altar
Flowers**

May be purchased in celebration, honor or memory of Loved Ones or an occasion by using the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in Marquardt Hall. The full selection---two side pieces, center and bulletins is \$50, center is \$15, two sides are \$30 and bulletins are \$5. The arrangements are being made by Country Garden Florists. For additional information and payment contact Kelly Turcotte or the Church Office.

CHURCH E-MAIL & PHONE LIST

If you have recently changed e-mail addresses, telephone or cell phone numbers or are new to our Church Family and haven't completed a member information form, please do so as soon as possible and return it to the office. The Church Family e-mail and phone list is an important part of our contact network for announcements and updates.

WEBSITE

The Newsletter section is updated every monththe next updates are scheduled for the beginning of March...you can find us at www.clintonunitedchurch.org. We now also post the weekly bulletins, weekly sermons and information on upcoming and ongoing events.

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Any articles, photos, announcements, calendar events, etc. that need to be in the April 2017 Newsletter must be in the Church Office by no later than Wednesday, March 15 at 9:00 am.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CLINTON
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Committee Chairs:

Council Moderator.....Bob Lidstone (978-368-7747)
Deacons.....Pam Dobeck (978-368-1632)
Missions&SocialJustice.....Gloria Parkinson(978-368-7308);
Worship Planning Team...Gloria Parkinson (978-368-7308),
MusicMinistryCoordinator...GloriaParkinson(978-368-7308)

Youth Council

Sunday School.....Christine Dobeck (978-365-3105)
Heather McNamara (978-838-9963)
Year I Confirmation.....Bob Lidstone (978-368-7747)
Youth Council.....Cynthia Stewart (978-598-7142)

Property.....Fred Sontag (978-365-5669)

Servants in Faith... Mary Ellen Matthew (978-870-9145)



UPCOMING

Palm Sunday - April 9
Maundy Thursday - April 13
Good Friday - April 14
Easter Sunday - April 16

