



Pass It On!!

PASTOR LEE'S PONDER

Dear Friends,

What a day yesterday was! Your Vitality Scouts and I spent most of the day with Peter Wells from Hope Partnership and Kelly Gallagher from the UCC delving into the story of United Church. The day ended with a gathering of church folk for a time of Appreciative Inquiry – asking questions and giving answers from a place of appreciation. (See Gloria’s article on pg. 5 for more.)

We didn’t set out planning it this way, but three very important things are converging right now at United Church. Worship was a bit different last Sunday and will be for the next 5 weeks. This six-week series on creativity is called “Let Us Be Drawn In”. Last Sunday’s theme was “Dream” – appropriate as we continue to envision what our future might look like.

We also kicked off our Consecrating Stewards Campaign last week which had originally been planned for the fall. This change of plans gave us a wonderful opportunity to meld the Be Drawn In worship series into the larger vision of Being Drawn In. We are all called by God who is constantly reaching out to us to draw us in to his love, grace, joy and hope; and when we open ourselves to that God-gift, we are able to dream and imagine knowing the one who created all is holding us and cheering us on.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Living Our Social Justice
- 2nd Annual Woman’s Lent Retreat
- Valentines Day Bake Sale

SERVANTS IN FAITH/GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

It seems like we just finished the German Christmas Market, yet here it is the end of January 2019. We had a good Market and are back to planning for the next one. The dates for 2019 will be December 6-8. We did some changes last year and we will be tweaking some of the changes and trying to make 2019 even better. We were able to give the Church \$6,000 toward the budget.

We are going to start something new; one Sunday a month starting in February we will be having a Soup and Bread Sunday for coffee hour in place of our regular fare of pastries. We will be starting this on Feb 3rd, for Souper

Bowl Sunday. We are hoping to make this an outreach to the community as we go through the year. Also, we are going to be planning more Suppers, raffles, joining in the Town Wide Yard Sale, Olde Home Day, and hopefully getting our presence out into the community, and inviting them in to join with us.

Each of us on the committee will be working hard, and we will be reaching out to each and every one of you to ask for your help, time and talents.

Dawn Sivert,
Chairperson



Be Drawn In!

Consecration Sunday, March 3

Followed by a delicious potluck lunch!

It's that time of year when we prayerfully reflect on what it means to be good stewards of our church, our community, and all that God has entrusted to us.

Consecration Sunday, when we rededicate our time, talents, and treasure, is March 3. In the weeks prior, our church family will consider what it means to be drawn in by/to the love of God; and in response to that gift, consider how we might draw in others by our thoughts, words, and deeds.

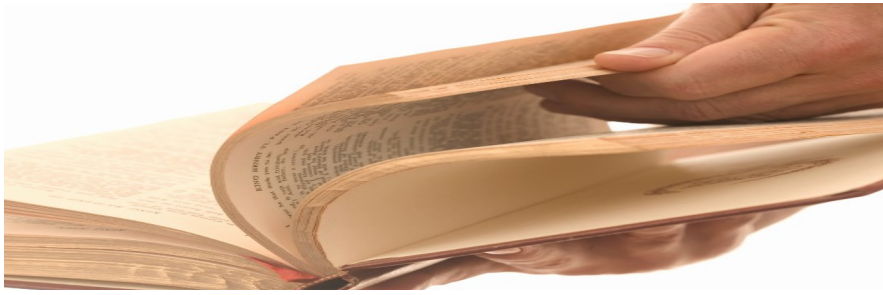
What does "Be Drawn In" by and to God mean? Jesus gave us the answer when he summarized the Ten Commandments: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." He continued: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

So simple; so challenging!

To be drawn further into God's love, we'll need to consider letting go of things that get in the way. To draw in others, we'll need to consider the sometimes difficult and less obvious needs of others. But as stewards of all that belongs to God, this is our assignment.

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Consecration Sunday, March 3, is the day we'll celebrate God's love as we promise God our time, talents, and treasure. Come, Be Drawn In!



PASTOR LEE'S PONDER (...continued from page 1)

"Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse: and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan.

As Abram and Sarah were called into the unknown, so are we. We don't know what the future holds, but we can be sure that this amazing creative God is in the midst of all we do!

As Rev Wells said last night, this is a challenging process; a time we wish we could hurry through so we can see the end results. Yet it is a time that calls for prayer, conversation, discernment; and then more prayer, conversation and discernment as we brainstorm and refine our vision and our mission. Our "WHY" that calls us forward to the future.

In Peace,

Pastor Lee



WOW!! WORKING on WEBSITE...

Attention Committee and Team Leaders.

Please take a look at our website

www.clintonunitedchurch.org and let us know what changes to make to information related to your ministry in the church.

Attention all members and friends. We often take photos at worship and other church events. If you do not want your photo included on the website or our publications, please let the office know.

LIVING OUR SOCIAL JUSTICE “WHY”

To seek justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. (Micah 6:8)

The past couple of months we’ve focused on collecting winter clothes for communities far and near.

Winter Togs Collection: In December we sent two large boxes of hats, gloves, and scarves to the Sioux YMCA in Dupree, South Dakota. The YMCA acts as a distribution center for the reservation and relies on our winter togs collection.

Winter Coat Collection: In January we squished four large bags of winter coats

into Gloria’s Prius and delivered them to the Thomas J. Sere-

wicz, Sr. Foundation in Clinton. In case you didn’t see it on the United Church of Clinton’s group Facebook page, here’s what Lynne Serewicz wrote:

“Unfortunately, I was not quick enough to get pictures of Gloria Parkinson delivering TONS of wonderful, warm items she col-

lected at her church for us this season. But I must take this opportunity to thank her and The United Church of Clinton for their help and support and dedication to helping others!”

Upcoming projects: Throughout the season of Lent, Our Spare Change Jars will be collecting for Abby’s House in Worcester that provides emergency shelter and affordable housing for women and their children. Learn more about Abby’s House at www.abbyshouse.org.

We continue to provide a monthly meal for the WHEAT Community Café in Clinton.

Please look for the social justice efforts of our children and youth elsewhere in the newsletter. Our young folks have been very active!

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40, 45,)

Peace.

Your Social Justice Committee



Update on Our Churches Alive! Process

From your Vitality Scouts

As everyone knows, our church has enrolled in the United Church of Christ's Churches Alive! program. Churches Alive! is an in-depth program designed to help us determine future directions for the vitality of our church. These past several months your Vitality Scouts and Pastor Lee have talked up a storm about the first step: Determining Our Quest for Why in today's world and into the future.

On January 29, we took the next step, a ten-hour assessment process that looked at our church, our neighborhood, the town of Clinton, and more. The process, which will result in a written assessment report brimful of data, will further help us to hone in as we evolve into the church that God has called us to be at this point in time and going forward.

The assessment process was conducted by an assessor trained to conduct such assessments. In our case this was Reverend Peter Wells, who among other responsibilities has had a life-time of hands-on pastoral experience. And guess what? Reverend Wells has preached in our church! (In 2009 he was our Guest Steward on Consecration Sunday.) On January 29 Reverend Wells was accompanied by Reverend Kelly Gallagher, Massachusetts Associate Conference Minister for the United Church of Christ. Reverend Gallagher has visited and assisted our church on several occasions recently.

So what happened on January 29? The assessment started at 11:00 AM with a meeting with Pastor Lee. At 2:00 PM there was a review of church property,

followed by a review of our finances.

Late afternoon there was an hour-long driving tour of Clinton so Reverend Wells might get a "feel" for the town.

An evening appreciative inquiry session started at 7:00 PM and ended around 9:00 PM. The session was an opportunity for the 18 folks from our church to share their appreciation of our church, others, and themselves. Identifying what we appreciate is a cornerstone of knowing who we are and how we might reach out to our neighbors, our community, and beyond. We discovered some cool stuff!

What happens next? Reverend Wells takes the information he gathered during his visit and then does a ton more research (aka. data collection) from reliable sources. The report he generates, which we get to read, is not intended to tell us what to do. That's our job. The report will, though, spell out several scenarios, including doing nothing and continuing with our status quo.

For the past months your vitality scouts have ventured into the unknown and brought back news.

Now it's time for our entire church to gather up what is really important for the life of our church and set off on our communal journey into the unknown. This won't be a weekend trip! As

Reverend Wells emphasized, our journey will take time, but we'll never be alone. God will always be with us.



Youth Council News

FEBRUARY



Thank you for your support in our Souper Bowl of Caring collection! Our goal was 250 items and we are crushing it! Your generous donations of non-perishable food items and monetary donations will benefit our Clinton community through our schools and community outreach programs.

THANK YOU!!

UPCOMING DATES

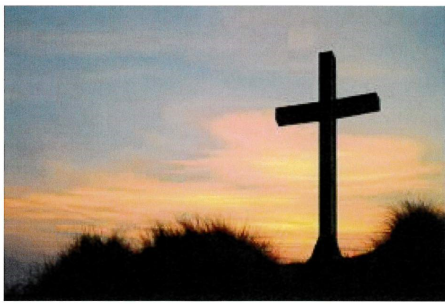
- ❖ Feb. 3rd – Last day of collection for Souper Bowl of Caring. Delivery immediately following church for those who are able to help.
- ❖ Feb. 10th – Valentine's Day bake sale

Intergenerational Service (children will remain upstairs)
- ❖ February 17th – No Sunday school
- ❖ March 5th – Shove Tuesday Pancake Supper

We have classes offered to children from pre-school age through grade eight. Classes are held during the worship service, following the Children's Message. The children are encouraged to become active members in the worship service by volunteering to be an acolyte. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside of the sanctuary.

Confirmation News: Students please come to volunteer at any of the events listed as Youth Events. We look forward to seeing you!

WWW.CLINTONUNITEDCHURCH.ORG



MARCH 2, 2019 COMING TO THE CROSS OF CHRIST

2nd Annual Women's Lenten Retreat

Come prepare for Lent as we consider the true purpose of these 40 days, explore spiritual practices to deepen our Lenten Journey, and consider how God is calling us into a more meaningful relationship. Women of the church and their women friends are invited to join in fellowship, food, friends, music, prayer, and laughter.

Why Lent?
Do I have to give something up?
Learn a new way to pray
Be Renewed and Refreshed
Labyrinth, Lectio Devina, and more

CoachRev @the CrossRoads
Marlborough MA 01752
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www.CoachRev.com



Daily Lectionary Scripture References February 2019 (Year C)

Fri., Feb. 1 Psalm 71:1-6 2 Chronicles 35:20-27 Acts 19:1-10	Sun., Feb. 10 <i>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</i> Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13] Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	Tues., Feb. 19 Psalm 120 Ezra 1:1-11 2 Corinthians 1:12-19
Sat., Feb. 2 Psalm 71:1-6 2 Chronicles 36:11-21 John 1:43-51	Mon., Feb. 11 Psalm 115 Judges 5:1-11 1 Corinthians 14:26-40	Wed., Feb. 20 Psalm 120 Jeremiah 22:11-17 Luke 11:37-52
Sun., Feb. 3 <i>Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</i> Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30	Tues., Feb. 12 Psalm 115 1 Samuel 9:15-10:1b 1 Timothy 3:1-9	Thurs., Feb. 21 Psalm 120 Genesis 43:16-34 Romans 8:1-11
Mon., Feb. 4 Psalm 56 1 Kings 17:8-16 1 Corinthians 2:6-16	Wed., Feb. 13 Psalm 115 Isaiah 8:1-15 Luke 5:27-32	Fri., Feb. 22 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 Genesis 44:1-17 1 John 2:12-17
Tues., Feb. 5 Psalm 56 2 Kings 5:1-14 1 Corinthians 14:13-25	Thurs., Feb. 14 Psalm 1 Jeremiah 13:12-19 Acts 13:26-34	Sat., Feb. 23 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 Genesis 44:18-34 Luke 12:57-59
Wed., Feb. 6 Psalm 56 Jeremiah 1:11-19 Luke 19:41-44	Fri., Feb. 15 Psalm 1 Jeremiah 13:20-27 1 Peter 1:17-2:1	Sun., Feb. 24 <i>Seventh Sunday after Epiphany</i> Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38
Thurs., Feb. 7 Psalm 138 Numbers 20:22-29 Acts 9:19b-25	Sat., Feb. 16 Psalm 1 Jeremiah 17:1-4 Luke 11:24-28	Mon., Feb. 25 Psalm 38 Genesis 33:1-17 1 Corinthians 11:2-16
Fri., Feb. 8 Psalm 138 Numbers 27:12-23 Acts 9:26-31	Sun., Feb. 17 <i>Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</i> Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	Tues., Feb. 26 Psalm 38 1 Samuel 24:1-22 1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 27-33
Sat., Feb. 9 Psalm 138 Judges 3:7-11 Luke 4:42-44	Mon., Feb. 18 Psalm 120 2 Kings 24:18-25:21 1 Corinthians 15:20-34	Wed., Feb. 27 Psalm 38 Leviticus 5:1-13 Luke 17:1-4
		Thurs., Feb. 28 Psalm 99 Deuteronomy 9:1-5 Acts 3:11-16

Diaper-A-Day Pantry



WHAT: Church of the Good Shepherd hosts a diaper pantry for families living in Clinton, Bolton, Sterling, Lancaster, Berlin or Boylston or WIC Clinton clients. **Thirty free diapers per month are available for qualified children, newborn to age 3 1/2.**

WHEN: First Wednesday of each month – 4:00-5:30 pm
Third Tuesday of each month – 10:30 am- 12 pm
(Recipients may pick up diapers once per month.)

WHERE: Church of the Good Shepherd,
209 Union Street, Clinton MA –
978-365-5169

Please bring your **WIC Household ID number OR your child's birth certificate** to the first pick-up. Only parents or legal guardians may pick up diapers for a child. Diapers may be picked up once per month. For example, if you attend a Wednesday diaper pantry, you are not eligible to pick up more diapers at the Tuesday pantry in the same month.

- Upcoming Diaper-A-Day Pantry Days:
- Wednesday, February 6, 4-5:30 pm
 - Tuesday, February 19, 10:30 am- 12 pm
 - Wednesday, March 6, 4-5:30 pm
 - Tuesday, March 19, 10:30 am – 12 pm

Diaper-A-Day is sponsored by Church of the Good Shepherd, Clinton, The Presbyterian Church, Clinton and First Congregational Church of Boylston.



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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CLINTON

A federation of the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church, we are a church home for people from all backgrounds, and we rejoice in each person who comes our way.

Our goal and hope is to help all to see faith and spirituality as a vital part of everyday life. Our worship is meaningful, friendships are significant, care is compassionately encouraging, and prayer is practiced as continuing communication with God.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARYS

February	18 - Kevin Wuth	March
03 - Bob Norwood	19 - Connor Gilcrest	06– Laura Allen
03 - Michael Khanoyan, Jr	21 - Bonnie Clark	15– Jake Poulin
03 - Bryan Titus	22 - Justin O’Toole	17– Richard Braconnier
05 - Laura Golas Facendola	24 - Bob McTague	19– Kate Gill
06 - Jacob Chetwynd	25 - James Erikson	21– Tiffany Sontag
10 - Janet Lamy	26 - Steven Jacobson	24– Mike Sawyer
11 - Susie Hoag	27 - Christine Dobeck	26- Madeline McTague
13 - Jon Sidney Sawyer	27 - Jack Lewis	29– Arthur Lamy
13 - Sydney Furman	14 - Alan & Grace Baer	30– Sharon Diaz
15 - Melissa Braconnier	17 - Betty & Michael Khanoyan	
16 - Jacqueline Wuth		
16 - Laura Garceau	26 - Heidi & Eric Furman	
16 - Colton Bradbury	26 - Donna & Allan Mueller	
17 - Natalie Burgos		

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