



# LIFE TOGETHER

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
West Parish Church of Andover  
United Church of Christ

## WEST PARISH CHURCH

United Church of Christ  
129 Reservation Road  
Andover, MA 01810-3430  
(978) 475-3528  
westparishchurch@verizon.net  
www.westparishchurch.org  
Church School ~ Sunday's 9:00 AM  
Worship Sundays at 10:00 AM

### IN THIS ISSUE

Worship/Event Hi-Lights	1
Corned Beef and Cabbage	1
Reflections from Rev. Katrina	2
Lenten Activities	2
Christian Education	3
WPC Upcoming Events	4
Ministry of Outreach	5
Welcoming New Members	6
Announcements	6
Non-WPC Events of Interest	7
Church Officers/Staff	8

## MARCH HI-LIGHTS WORSHIP

- March 1 Ash Wednesday Service  
7:00 PM in the Sanctuary  
Rev. Katrina Wuensch preaching
- March 5 1st Sunday in Lent/First Sunday  
Worship/Communion
- March 8 Lenten Vespers  
7:00 PM in the Sanctuary
- March 12 2nd Sunday in Lent  
Rev. Amanda Harmeling  
preaching
- March 15 Lenten Vespers  
7:00 PM in the Sanctuary
- March 19 3rd Sunday in Lent  
Rev. Katrina Wuensch preaching
- March 23 Lenten Vespers  
7:00 PM in the Sanctuary
- March 26 4th Sunday in Lent/Baptism  
Rev. Katrina Wuensch preaching
- March 29 Lenten Vespers  
7:00 PM in the Sanctuary
- April 2 5th Sunday in Lent /First Sunday  
Worship / Communion
- April 9 6th Sunday in Lent  
Rev. Katrina Wuensch preaching
- April 13 Maundy Thursday Service  
7:00 PM in the Cemetery Chapel
- April 16 Easter Sunday!  
Rev. Katrina Wuensch preaching

## WPC EVENTS

- March 9 Women's Evening Circle  
7:15 PM in Fellowship Hall
- March 18 Corned Beef and Cabbage  
Supper  
5:00 PM in Fellowship Hall
- March 25 Permaculture Concert  
7:00 PM in the Sanctuary
- April 1 Progressive Dinner

## CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE SUPPER

### MARCH 18, 5:00 PM FELLOWSHIP HALL

Come and enjoy this annual dinner featuring Thwaites corned beef, traditional sides, drinks and dessert.

Adults: \$15  
Children (12 and under): \$10

For more information please contact Jon Glesmann at 978-470-2998.

Proceeds benefit the education fund for the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence.





## FROM THE DESK OF

### Rev. Katrina Wuensch

Beloved People of West Parish,

On the first day of March we enter the most rich, sacred, wonderful time of year – Lent! The minor-chord hymns, the purple-draped chancel, the prayers of confession... I love it! I love this opportunity to embrace our liturgical season and go deep into the scripture readings, the prayers and the music. Sure, we might engage more deeply with our spiritual life at any time of year, but this church season provides us a readymade framework, a season, an excuse – if you will – to seek God in a more intentional way.

So join me in embracing the season of Lent! Join me on Sundays as we add a Prayer of Confession and an Assurance of Pardon to our worship, and our music takes on a more haunting tone. (Will these things be new for you?) Join me as we explore the themes of repentance and sin. (Find out how we can think of these loaded terms in a new way!) Join me in a daily devotional reading, and gather weekly with others on this journey. (Have you ever tried a daily spiritual practice?!) Join me every Wednesday evening for a liturgy-rich Vespers service. Join me! - Join me to sink into this season, to ground ourselves more fully in the sacred, to create space in our hearts, so we are courageously equipped to go into the world and do God's work.

Blessings to you all as we begin our Lenten journey!

Katrina



## CONTACTING KATRINA

As a reminder, Katrina is at the church Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. Monday is her day off, and Friday she works at home.

You can reach her by email at: [revkatrina@yahoo.com](mailto:revkatrina@yahoo.com) or through the church phone (978-475-3528 x201).

If you leave a voicemail, she is notified immediately via email, so can respond as soon as possible to a pastoral emergency.

## LENT: ANOTHER WAY

Lent is the season of reflection and preparation that runs for the six weeks prior to Easter. Lent always begins with Ash Wednesday, and ends with the Holy Week celebrations of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Lent is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your faith, and make time for a new spiritual practice. The season offers us rich themes to explore: repentance, renewal, return, temptation, and forgiveness. This year, we'll focus on the theme of "Another Way." Is there another way you feel called to live? Another road to take? Another dream to which you need attend? Is God's way different than 'your' way? Is the Christian way different than the way presented by our culture? Join us for our Lenten offerings this year, and discover the depth and beauty of this liturgical season!



## ASH WEDNESDAY

Join us on March 1 at 7:00 PM. for our Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary. This service is our entry into the season of Lent, and includes the ancient ritual of imposition of ashes: smudging ashes on the forehead (or hand) as a sign of our mortality, our need for redemption, and our humanness.



## LENTEN VESPERS

Join Katrina every Wednesday in March (3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29) at 7:00 PM, in the sanctuary for a 30 minute Vespers service. This will be a simple service with a litany of prayers, short songs and communion. (We will finish in time for choir rehearsal!) Everyone of all ages is welcome.



## LENTEN DEVOTIONAL GROUP

Are you interested in adding a spiritual practice to your life for Lent? Then join others doing the same and find support and engage in conversation around our theme of "Another Way." We will use the book, "A Way Other than our Own: Devotions for Lent" by Walter Brueggemann, that was just published. (Brueggemann is Professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary and also an ordained UCC minister.) We will meet every Wednesday in March from 6:30-7:00 PM, prior to the Vespers Service. You are encouraged to buy the book and use it daily, but copies of that day's devotion will be available for each Wednesday meeting.

## CHURCH FOR ALL

### A SERVICE FOR PEOPLE WITH NEEDS

You are most welcome to join us for our Easter-themed "Church for All" service! This is a short and simple worship especially for families with children or youth with special needs. They last about 30 minutes, include simple songs, and an interactive message. We gather afterwards for juice and cookies! Please join us as we celebrate new life, resurrection and hope on Sunday, April 2 at 2:00 PM.



## FIRST SUNDAY WORSHIP SONG LEADERS

Our First Sunday Worship for all ages usually tries to incorporate "newer" and more upbeat music. Some of these songs will be unfamiliar to most of us, so we need some leaders! If you'd like to help lead the songs, please gather at the piano with Eunhye at 9:15 AM on March 5 – you do not need to be in the choir to participate! Just show up and learn the songs! Please speak with Katrina if you have any questions or suggestions.



## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

**MARCH 5, 9:00 AM**

**PARLOR**

We will watch and discuss "The House We Live In." The film is part 3 of the 2003 PBS series, "Race: The Power of an Illusion." We will need to begin promptly at 9 AM, as the film is 57 minutes! This is the film shown at the library a few weeks ago.



## CONFIRMATION

**MARCH 12, 11:30 AM**

**YOUTH ROOM**

Our confirmation journey continues! Youth will gather with Victoria and Katrina to discuss "Why I am a Christian." What does 'being Christian' mean? Why would someone choose it? What difference does it make? In March, Confirmand-Mentor pairs should arrange their own visit to another religious service. This can be a different Christian denomination or different faith. (We'll send out some ideas!) And, on March 26, confirmands will discuss and TRY different types of prayer!



**VICTORIA GAISFORD**  
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION

### *Christian Education Update*

In March, Children's Sunday School will be learning about the life of Jesus and how he helped both powerful people and marginalized people see the world in a new way.

In March, we enter Lent, a time of preparation for the mystery of Easter. Our other season of preparation, Advent, is full of popular traditions that are fun, cozy, and easily adapted to the secular world. Lent also has some well-known traditions like receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday, giving something up for the forty days, Palm Sunday processions, and the solemnity of Good Friday. But I feel like these traditions are less easily secularized, probably because they lead up to a very serious and painful event: the death of Jesus. Once we get to Easter, with the pleasant message of new life, chicks and bunnies and candy and flowers are seen everywhere. The church does something the secular world doesn't do as well: acknowledges and grapples with the painful as well as the pleasant.

Sunday School is a place where difficult subjects arise, even among children: the pain of rejections and disappointment, the injustices of the world, the death of pets. Many Bible stories also acknowledge those truths of human experience, like the Parable of the Good Shepherd, the Parable of the Good Samaritan, and the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus, but they always point to the triumph of Love.



## YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2017 UPDATE

Hi everyone! Check out my mission trip website: <https://sites.google.com/a/k12.andoverma.us/wpcmission/home>

We would love for more adults and youth to join us, so please consider it and let Victoria or I know in the next week. If you cannot join us, but would like to help, please consider making a donation! Donations can be made by check or credit card.

- **CHECKS:** Please make checks out to WPC with Mission Trip in the memo line and drop them at the church office.
- **CREDIT CARDS:** We have a Go Fund Me account that charges us a 5% processing fee. <https://www.gofundme.com/wpc-youth-mission-trip>

I look forward to hearing any thoughts/questions.

Olivia Gaspar  
[oliviagaspar1@yahoo.com](mailto:oliviagaspar1@yahoo.com)

## UPCOMING WPC EVENTS

## WOMEN'S EVENING CIRCLE

**MARCH 9, 7:15 PM**  
**FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Women's Evening Circle is very happy that Jerry Greer has volunteered to talk about his home in the Kentucky Blue Grass region: horses, bourbon and a little history. Dessert will be served.

ALL members and friends (women and men) are encouraged to attend.

If you are not currently on the Women's Evening Circle email list and plan to attend, please contact Pat Greer at [pgreer1029@gmail.com](mailto:pgreer1029@gmail.com) or 978-975-1185.



## PERMACULTURE CONCERT

**MARCH 25, 7:00 PM**  
**SANCTUARY**

LIBANA will play a benefit concert at West Parish Church for the Permaculture Committee. West Parish donates 100% of its produce to food pantries in the Merrimack Valley area.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. They can be purchased at the WPC office or online at: <http://permaculturewestparish2.brownpapertickets.com/>



## PROGRESSIVE DINNER

**APRIL 1**

Once again we gather for a great evening of fellowship and good food. We're not fooling about the date! Sign-up will begin in March in Fellowship Hall or with Ed Pass at: [ep0260@yahoo.com](mailto:ep0260@yahoo.com). We will cater the dinner portion of this event at a cost of \$20/person.



## TRUMP, UNDOCUMENTED: IMMIGRANTS AND IMMIGRATION POLICY

**MARCH 19, 11:30 AM**  
**PARLOR**

Trump has denounced undocumented immigrants and is already sweeping up many more undocumented immigrants beyond criminals for deportation. Beyond undocumented criminals, who are these 11 million undocumented immigrants? Where are they from, what work do they do, what social services do they use and what taxes do they pay? This workshop will provide data to profile this population in both Massachusetts and the nation and interactively explore the impact of deportation on immigrant families and children, especially among mixed status families and immigrant youth brought here as children.

Marcia Drew Hohn is the retired director of The Public Education Institute at the Immigrant Learning Center in Malden where she directed a public education program about immigrants and immigration in Massachusetts and across the nation for over 12 years. She is also the author of many reports about immigrants, the most recent of which is "Immigrants in Health Care" published by the Institute for Immigration Research at George Mason University in 2016.

## END OF LIFE CONVERSATION

**APRIL 30, 11:30 AM**  
**PARLOR**

We welcome the Rev. Rosemary Lloyd, the Advisor to Faith Communities with the Conversation Project. Rosemary will lead a program that helps us all – regardless of our age – think about our wishes for end-of-life care. So often, we don't have these conversations with our families before it is too late. Please join us to engage with this crucial topic! All ages welcome - we do need an RSVP for this program, so please reply to the church office.

## COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

**COMING THIS SPRING**

Our town-wide conversation on race in America kicked off in February with a film screening at the library. It will continue with a book study: faith communities will together be reading, "Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race" by Debby Irving. At West Parish, we will begin discussing this book in May, but you may wish to purchase the book and begin reading now!

## WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MINISTRY OF OUTREACH

#### MARCH MISSION

##### Merrimack Valley Hospice

Merrimack Valley Hospice provides comfort care and palliative services to patients facing life-limiting illnesses. Whether patients are at home, in a hospital, a long-term care facility, an assisted living facility, or in the Merrimack Valley Hospice House, the expert staff offers physical, spiritual and emotional care specific to those nearing the end-of-life. Bereavement support and counseling is also offered to families and loved ones. Hospice care is provided by a multi-disciplinary team consisting of medical directors, nurses, therapists, counselors, chaplains, hospice aides, and volunteers. Together, they provide the highest quality care with compassion and commitment to patients and families.



### UNDIES SUNDAYS

Communities Together is a non-profit organization supported by congregations in the greater Lawrence area, committed to supporting outreach programs, sharing worship experiences and responding together to the needs of the people of greater Lawrence. (The organization was at one time called the Greater Lawrence Council of Churches.)

This Lenten Season will be the 20th year Communities Together has collected diapers, pull-ups, and new children's underwear in small sizes for distribution by agencies in Lawrence. The collection will be distributed by approximately ten different local social service agencies including Lazarus House, Neighbors in Need, Family Services, Bread & Roses, Emmaus House and Hancock Courts Manos Felices preschool. Service agencies have a particularly difficult time meeting the existing need for these items.

Please consider making a donation this year. Bring your donations to church any Sunday during Lent or leave them in the church office during regular office hours. Monetary donations are also welcomed and can be made out to Communities Together (enter "underwear drive" on the memo line). Checks may be mailed to: Communities Together, P.O. Box 428, Lawrence, MA.

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

#### MARCH 26

When the early followers of Jesus suffered a famine in Jerusalem, the Apostle Paul organized an appeal to respond to their needs. Christian communities in distant places contributed to this ecumenical offering, just as we do all these centuries later through One Great Hour of Sharing.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering reaches those near and far. God provides the resources so that we can give back. Our abundance becomes their need and their need becomes our abundance. What if we all lived as if this is our call? We would change the world.

Will you give to One Great Hour of Sharing? Will you put your check in the offering plate at worship on March 26th?



### NEIGHBORS IN NEED FOOD COLLECTION AND BLESSING

West Parish Church collects non-perishable food items for donation to Neighbors In Need. We no longer distribute paper bags for food collections -- but the yellow bin can be used for drop offs at any time.



Please continue to support this important project. This is a very worthwhile undertaking and is a tangible way of saying "We care". Thank you from The Ministry of Outreach.



### AFTER WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP HOUR

In March, the after Worship fellowship hour is sponsored by **Smith Purdon Board**.



## WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new West Parish members who joined our community on February 5th. Welcome! We're so glad you're with us!

#### CINDY PITERA

Cindy moved to Massachusetts recently from the Cleveland Ohio area. She raised her 19 year old twins in Ohio after moving there from Connecticut. Cindy loves to sing, loves her children and the new friends at West Parish. She also loves the beach!

#### LISA and JIM MELDRIM

Both from big families, Lisa grew up in suburban Chicago and Jim grew up in upstate NY. After both attending college in NY state, and meeting through friends in Boston about 10 years ago, they now live in North Andover. They have two young sons, Finn (7) and Henry (3) who keep life fun and active.

In between stepping on LEGOs, finding an unwatched Nature Show on a Friday night, baking yummy treats, or BBQing fall-off-the-bone ribs, they love to run around the yard playing any and all sports.

Thank you for welcoming us as members of the West Parish Church! We hope to meet more of you in the coming weeks.

#### STEVE MORRISON and JOHN SPAGNUOLO

Steve and John live in Andover and are engaged to be married in June, 2018.

Steve was born in Winchester. His parents moved frequently around the East Coast and returned to the area in time for him to graduate from North Andover High School. Steve is a software engineer specializing in embedded applications for hardware manufacturers. He has his dream commute walking to Brickstone Square in Andover where he works for Broadcom Ltd.

John is originally from West Roxbury, MA and has been attending West Parish since moving to Andover in June 2016 with partner Steve. John and Steve feel very welcomed in the community and look forward to being part of West Parish. John has been a hairstylist in South Boston for the last 14 years, currently working at Headquarters Salon. John now calls Andover and West Parish Church his home.

### CALL TO CARE CONTACT

Please contact the West Parish Church office at 978-475-3528 with the names of any church member experiencing a life event in which church members may assist, i.e. Birth, funeral receptions, cards, meals, etc.





### NEWSLETTER

#### Deadline

**March 20th** is the deadline for the April Newsletter. Please email your articles or notices to: [www.westparishchurch@verizon.net](mailto:www.westparishchurch@verizon.net).



### GREEN NEWS

Learn more about the West Parish Permaculture Garden <http://www.permaculturewestparish.org>

Read the West Parish Church solar panel story on the MACUCC conference page *Actions Taken By Congregation*:

<http://www.macucc.org/actionstakenbycongregations>



### WINTER STORM ALERT!



If Sunday worship service or church school are canceled due to severe weather, it will be announced on WBZ News Radio 1030 and CBS, Channel 4 and News 7, WHDH-TV.

## NON-WPC EVENTS OF INTEREST

### INTERFAITH PRAYER

**MARCH 2, 7:00 PM**

All welcome to attend: "Where We Dwell Together" - A Litany of Thanksgiving for the Religions of the World led by the Interfaith Alliance of Merrimack College

Merrimack College, Cascia Hall  
Rev. Ray Dlugos, OSA, presiding  
Guest sermon by Rev. Mariama White-Hammond

The sermon will focus on calling people of faith to model what the world needs in this moment. She will point to the three evils raised by Dr. King - racism, militarism, and materialism - and how they are creating great suffering and division. She will also describe how climate change gives us an urgent reason to transition to a better way of being and how people of faith need to embrace three key traits needed for this moment: Empathetic listening, Visionary courage, and Joyful creativity.



### ANNELIES THE COMPELLING STORY OF ANNE FRANK

**MARCH 4, 7:30 PM**  
**TEMPLE EMANUEL**

Hear the New England Classical Singers, the NECS Chamber Ensemble, and guest soloist Elissa Alvarez as we explore the compelling story of Anne Frank as told through the music of James Whitbourn's Annelies.

Tickets and information at: <http://newenglandclassical.org/>



### SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

**MARCH 7, 6:30 PM**

SURJ is a national network that is organizing white people against white supremacy. The Merrimack Valley chapter invites you to join their "orientation for interested and new members" at the Unitarian Universalist congregation in Andover at 6 Locke Street. For more information contact Corrie Martin: [c.corrie.martin@gmail.com](mailto:c.corrie.martin@gmail.com).

### MA INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT WORKSHOP

**MARCH 18 & 25 and APRIL 1 & 8**

**1:00 PM-5:00 PM**

MA Interfaith Power & Light is introducing a new experiential and relational program designed to enable people of faith to become active and effective leaders in the fight against climate change.

Where: Bethel AME, 40 Walk Hill Street, Jamaica Plain Embassy Room, Youth Center.

Information and registration at: <http://conta.cc/2klahUg>



### MORAL REVIVAL QUARTERLY COMMUNITY MEETING

**MARCH 27, 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

Moral Revival leaders recently joined the Massachusetts Communities Action Network at an interfaith press conference in support of undocumented immigrants, refugees and others impacted by executive orders. As people of faith, we stand in solidarity with immigrants and Muslims and others who now are under threat. We are continuing to develop this moral movement in Massachusetts and we invite you to join with us.

For more information, contact Katrina.



### SPIRITUAL RESILIENCE AND RESISTANCE IN A TIME OF CLIMATE CHANGE

**APRIL 1, 9:00 AM**

Looking deeply into our sources of hope can sustain our efforts to renew the web of life and to create a more just society. This retreat will explore a framework for the heart to help us become healers filled with compassion, energy, and hope.

The retreat at Trinity Church Boston, 206 Clarendon Street, will include presentations, guided meditation, silence, and conversation. Rev. Fred Small (Minister for Climate Justice, Arlington Street Church, Boston) will lead the singing.

More information at: <http://www.macucc.org/events>

## 2016/2017 CHAIRPERSONS/OFFICERS

### GOVERNING BOARD

Governing Board Chair	John Pearson
Clerk	
Treasurer	Steve Vano
Moderator	Blake Martin

### MINISTRIES

Education	Fitz Granger
Fellowship	Ed Pass
Outreach	Ellen Harmoning
Stewardship	Chris Swain
Worship	Jill Sergeant

### COMMISSIONS

Investments	David Bertetti
Operations	Pat Denny
Collector	Art Clark

### COMMITTEES

Flowers	Abby Martin
Music	Ed Pass
Nominating	Heather Gaspar
Planned Giving	
Smith Purdon	Walter Kreil
Women's Evening Circle	Pam Denny/Pat Greer

### CHURCH STAFF

Senior Minister	Rev. Katrina Wuensch
Director of Music	Yoo-Kyung Kim
Office Administrator	Elizabeth Collins
Temp Office Administrator	Larisa Henderson
Director of Christian Education	Victoria Gaisford
Sexton	Ed Pass
Wedding Coordinator	Kathy Vano
Cemetery Superintendent	Mark Atwood

## WEST PARISH CHURCH, U.C.C.

129 Reservation Road

Andover, MASS 01810-3430

Address service requested