

April 2017



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
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www.westparishchurch.org
Church School ~ Sunday's 9:00 AM
Worship Sundays at 10:00 AM

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APRIL HI-LIGHTS WORSHIP

- April 2 5th Sunday in Lent/First Sunday
Worship/Communion
10:00 AM in the Sanctuary
Rev. Katrina Wuensch preaching

Church for All
2:00 PM in the Sanctuary
- April 9 Palm Sunday
10:00 AM in the Sanctuary
Rev. Katrina Wuensch preaching
- April 13 Maundy Thursday Service
7:00 PM in the Cemetery Chapel
- April 16 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service
7:00 AM in the Cemetery

Easter Sunday Worship
10:00 AM in the Sanctuary
Rev. Katrina Wuensch preaching
- April 23 Earth Day Sunday
10:00 AM in the Sanctuary
- April 30 3rd Sunday of Easter
10:00 AM in the Sanctuary
Rev. Katrina Wuensch preaching

APRIL HI-LIGHTS WPC EVENTS

- April 1 Progressive Dinner
- April 9 Confirmation Meeting
11:30 AM, Youth Room
- April 15 Easter Egg Coloring with
Victoria Gaisford
2:00 - 3:30 PM, Fellowship Hall
- April 20 Women's Evening Circle
7:15 PM, Fellowship Hall
- April 23 Confirmation Meeting
11:30 AM, Youth Room
- April 30 End of Life Workshop
11:30 AM, Parlor

Youth Group Fundraiser
to support Mission Trip 2017
4:00 - 8:00 PM, Fellowship Hall





FROM THE DESK OF

Rev. Katrina Wuensch

Beloved People of West Parish,

Easter is right around the corner! How good it will be, to be together rejoicing in new life! West Parish will have a lot happening Easter morning, with a number of opportunities for fellowship and celebration! First, gather in the cemetery at 7:00 AM, for an Easter Sunrise Service! (exact location TBD.) In-between the Sunrise Service and 10:00 AM, worship, about 8:00 - 9:30 AM, join us in Fellowship Hall for hot cross buns and coffee! At 9:15 AM, the youth will gather in the Children's Garden to hide Easter eggs. At 10:00 AM, join us in the sanctuary for our traditional Easter worship! After the service, about 11:00 AM everyone is invited to the Children's Garden for the Easter egg hunt! While children look for eggs, enjoy lemonade and conversation! Alleluia! I can't wait to celebrate my second Easter with all of you. Let us proclaim again our trust in God's love and new life!

**HAPPY
EASTER**

CONTACTING KATRINA

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: revkatrina@yahoo.com or through the church phone (978-475-3528 x201). If you leave a voicemail, she is notified immediately, so can respond as soon as possible to a pastoral emergency.

PLEASE NOTE: After Easter, Katrina will be taking some vacation days, probably April 20-23. Another local UCC pastor will be available for pastoral emergencies – just leave a message in the main church voicemail.

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 April 2 – 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.

CHURCH FOR ALL

**A SERVICE FOR PEOPLE WITH NEEDS
APRIL 2, 2:00 PM, SANCTUARY**

Join us for our Easter-themed “Church for All” service! 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! Join us in the sanctuary to celebrate new life, resurrection and hope!

VISIT A MOSQUE DAY

APRIL 2, 3:00 PM, MEET AT WPC

Meet at the church and we'll head together (along with members of the youth group) to the Islamic Society of Greater Lowell! The Associated Press writes— “Sixteen mosques across Massachusetts will hold an Open Mosque Day to give the public a chance to meet Muslim neighbors. Tour a mosque, hear a brief introduction to Islam and witness a Muslim prayer service. Wafaa Wahabi of the American Islamic Center in Everett said in a time of widespread misunderstanding about Islam, Muslims hope to show the communities they live in that they “live, pray and dream just like anyone else.” Participating mosques include: the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center in Boston, the Islamic Center of New England in Quincy and Sharon, and the Islamic Society of Greater Lowell in Chelmsford.” This is not only sure to be educational, but will be a witness of support for our Muslim neighbors! So join us April 2!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

**APRIL 2 & 9, 9:00 AM
PARLOR**

Yoga and Meditation During Lent: *Bringing Spaciousness into Our Lives* with Andrea Vallario. Bring a yoga mat or blanket to sit on. Appropriate for all ages and bodies.



**APRIL 23, 30, MAY 7, 14, 21, 9:00 AM
PARLOR**

Frank Hopkins will lead a discussion, *The Search for the Historical Jesus*, based on the book, “Zealot”, by Reza Aslan. Contact Frank at 978-470-0702 for a copy at \$2.00.



VICTORIA GAISFORD
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

Christian Education Update

Each year we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with singing and a procession in worship. Does your child want to join our Palm Sunday procession in worship? Send them to Children's Music and Arts at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings, to rehearse our music.

Easter is the central celebration of the Christian Year. We need that reminder of the triumph of love and the promise of new life. We have two family events to celebrate the joy of the season.

Easter Egg Decorating Party

Saturday, April 15
 2:00 - 3:30 PM in Fellowship Hall
 Bring a snack to share and a dozen hardboiled eggs and enjoy a variety of decorating techniques.



Easter Egg Hunt, after worship on Easter Morning

Youth will be hiding the eggs, and elementary and pre-school children are invited to the Children's Garden to hunt for eggs, which will be filled with small candies, stickers, and other treats. Everyone is welcome to join us! The hunt will begin around 11:00 AM.

April 23rd - No Children's Sunday School
 All are welcome to the Earth Day Service!

CONFIRMATION CLASS
APRIL 9 & 23, 11:30 AM
YOUTH ROOM

Our confirmation journey continues! On April 9 confirmands will explore worship: Why do we do it? Why do we do and say all those things in it? How is it changing? And how would YOU design worship? And on April 23 we'll learn about the United Church of Christ and West Parish! Mentors will join us again on May 14. And don't forget, Confirmation Sunday is June 4!

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES & SCHEDULE

The West Parish Youth Group has a great variety of activities coming up, including a visit to a mosque, attending the play Godspell (email the church for date TBA and to sign up) and attending the Earth Day March for Science in Boston.

April 2 Open Mosque Day at the Islamic Center of Greater Lowell. Meet at church at 3:00 PM. Let's reach out to our Muslim neighbors.

April 16 Hiding Easter Eggs for children's Easter Egg Hunt, 9:15 AM at church.

April 22 Earth Day March for Science in Boston, meet at 1:00 PM at church. Science helps us fulfill our duty to love and care for the Earth. Help counteract the misperception that religion and science don't mix!

April 30 Youth Group Dinner Meeting, 5:30 - 7:00 PM

May 14 Mother's Day Youth Service. Youth put on the worship service, honoring all women!

May 21 Youth Group Dinner and Game Night Mission Trip Fundraiser, 5:00 - 7:00 PM.

June 11 Last Meeting of the Year -- Dinner and Game Night, 5:30 - 7:00 PM

June 26 Youth Group Mission Trip to Puerto Rico!



YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER

APRIL 30, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

The Youth Group Mission Trip to Puerto Rico will have a child-friendly fundraiser filled with games, delicious food, and fellowship! Stay tuned for more details, but rest assured that you will want to be part of this youth-led event!



YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2017 UPDATE

Our youth are headed to Puerto Rico for WPC's 2017 mission trip. Please consider joining us or making a donation:

- **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>.

Learn more at: <https://sites.google.com/a/k12.andoverma.us/wpcmission/home>

UPCOMING WPC EVENTS

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

APRIL 1

Once again we gather for a great evening of fellowship and good food. Last minute sign-ups contact Ed Pass at: ep0260@yahoo.com. We will cater the dinner portion of this event at a cost of \$20/person.



WOMEN'S EVENING CIRCLE

APRIL 20, 7:15 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Women's Evening Circle is very happy that our snowed-out GAME NIGHT has been rescheduled!

All women who are members or friends of West Parish are encouraged to attend.

Kathy Vano will be teaching us to play Bunco. We will be playing a version which does NOT include gambling—no ante and no cash pay-out. Don't worry if you have never played. It isn't hard to learn and is a very sociable game. There will be refreshments!

If you are not currently on the Women's Evening Circle email list and plan to attend, please contact Pam Denny at andbflo.denny@gmail.com or 978-273-1731.

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. Join us to engage with this crucial topic! All ages welcome - RSVP for this program, as it will only run if we have 15 people. Please reply to the church office.

MINI WALK FOR HUNGER

MAY 7, 9:00 AM

WEST PARISH CHURCH GARDEN CEMETERY

Our "Mini-Walk for Hunger" returns in the cemetery. Children may walk any time from 9:00 - 11:00 AM. Parents, please check your child in just inside the cemetery arch. Youth and adults are also welcome to walk and are very helpful (and appreciated) as walking partners with the younger children. For those unfamiliar with this event, there is a marked route to follow in the cemetery. The "long" route is 1/2 a mile with a "short-cut" route that is just under 1/4 mile. Of course, quite often this becomes a friendly competition to see who walks the most miles! Water and orange slices are provided.

Money raised will go the Project Bread in Boston. Anyone wishing to support the children's effort is welcome to donate. On May 1st, there will be a collection "boot" in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour for checks, cash or change. You may also either place a check in the collection plate during worship or mail a check to the West Parish office. Please make your check payable to "West Parish Church" and note in the memo line that it is for "Mini-Walk for Hunger". Come join us! Pray for nice weather, please!



Thank you so much! ~

Bev Smith

BETSY RETURNS

Betsy Collins returns Monday, April 17th to the position of Church Administrator. She and her husband, Dick, had a great winter in Florida.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

April 17th is the deadline for the May Newsletter. Please email your articles or notices to westparishchurch@verizon.net.

WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY OF OUTREACH

APRIL MISSION

Communities Together

Communities Together is a non-profit collaborative of Catholic and Protestant churches in the communities of Andover, Lawrence, Methuen and North Andover. Founded as The Greater Lawrence Council of Churches in 1947, it is committed to supporting outreach programs, sharing worship experiences and responding together to the needs of the people of greater Lawrence. For more information, visit: www.communitiestogether.cfsites.org

Hancock Courts —Communities Together runs an after school program, Manos Felices (Happy Hands) in the Hancock Courts housing project in Lawrence that is home to nearly 1000 residents.

“Birthday-in-a-Box” is a program that provides children at Hancock Courts a month birthday celebration.

Pastoral Care—C.T. provides Protestant chaplain services at Lawrence General Hospital, Holy Family Hospital, and several area Nursing Homes.

Undies Sundays—C.T. collects children’s underwear and diapers during Lent.

Other programs—C.T. also sponsors, Lenten Lunch series, Interfaith Services, Prayer Shawl Teas, Annual Clergy Breakfast, and other community events.



UNDIES SUNDAYS

In support of Communities Together, WPC is collecting 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 as they 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.

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.

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.

AFTER WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP HOUR

In April, the after Worship fellowship hour is sponsored by **The Pastor Relations Committee** and **The Investment Commission**.



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>

UPCOMING WPC EVENTS

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SANCTUARY

We are all aware of the current furor over U.S. immigration and refugee policy. About 35 of us attended one of Marcia Hohn's presentations on refugees and undocumented immigrants, in order to learn more. And the reality is that many of our neighbors (in Lawrence especially), are deeply affected by the current climate.

There is a group of congregations from North Andover, Andover, Lawrence, Lowell and Haverhill currently in conversation about how we might support our immigrant neighbors. Some faith communities are considering being an actual site for sheltering undocumented families, while others are looking to be supportive through providing supplies, services or a supportive presence. This issue is complicated, and I'm certain that we are not all of one mind as to the best path forward.

But if you are interested in learning more, attending a meeting, or being informed of trainings or actions, please email Katrina to be added to an email list of interested folks: revkatrina@yahoo.com. You can learn more about the UCC's stance on immigration and Sanctuary, and download resources here: http://www.ucc.org/justice_immigration

No one quite knows how this will evolve, but I will keep you posted!



ORGANIZING MEETING ON IMMIGRATION

APRIL 12, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

We have been invited to a collaborative effort by Merrimack Valley SURJ (Standing Up for Racial Justice), Merrimack Valley Project, and the ACLU – on April 12 from 6:00-8:00 PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 6 Locke St., Andover.

We plan to discuss how to make our towns safe communities for our immigrant and refugee neighbors, friends, co-workers and family members! We can make a difference beginning here in our own towns. A coalition of individuals and groups led by the expertise and experience of the Merrimack Valley Project's staff is launching a campaign to see that our towns don't become aggressive, or even simply complicit, partners in hatred.

Join us at this meeting to learn about the larger campaign and to be oriented and trained to support our attempts to meet with our local police departments. Establishing a positive, open dialogue with local police is the first step in our hope to pass local Trust Acts and the proposed statewide Safe Communities Act in Massachusetts.

COMMUNITY-WIDE CONVERSATION ON RACE

Our community, including most faith communities in Andover and North Andover, will come together on Tuesday, May 4, to discuss the book: ***Waking Up White and Discovering Myself in the Story of Race*** by Debby Irving. (The book is available in paperback for \$11.89, and kindle for \$8.69, on Amazon – buy now and start reading!)

We are thrilled to announce that Wellesley College professor Peggy McIntosh, author of the famous ***White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack***, will be our presenter and facilitator for this evening. Let's join our Andover brothers and sisters for this vital conversation.

About Debby Irving and "Waking Up White" – "Irving uses her own life to explore the everyday systemic racism that goes largely unnoticed yet perpetuates long-held racial belief systems by well-intentioned white people. *Waking Up White* functions as both a 'Racism 101' for white people and a rare exposé on whiteness for people of color. As she unpacks her own long-held beliefs about colorblindness, being a good person, and wanting to help people of color, she reveals how each of these well-intentioned mindsets actually perpetuated her ill-conceived ideas about race.

About Peggy McIntosh – In 1990, Wellesley College professor Peggy McIntosh wrote an essay called "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack." McIntosh observes that whites in the U.S. are "taught to see racism only in individual acts of meanness, not in **invisible** systems conferring dominance on my group." Prof. McIntosh is an American feminist, anti-racism activist, scholar, speaker, and Senior Research Associate of the Wellesley Centers for Women. She is the founder of the National SEED Project on Inclusive Curriculum (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity). In 1988, she published the ground-breaking article *White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondences through Work on Women's Studies*. This analysis, and its 1989 shorter form *White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack*, have been instrumental in putting the dimension of privilege into discussions of power, gender, race, class and sexuality in the United States. The papers are unique in that they rely on personal examples of unearned advantage as McIntosh experienced them in the 1970s and 1980s. The papers do not presume to speak for all white people. McIntosh encourages individuals to reflect on and recognize their own unearned advantages and disadvantages as parts of immense and overlapping systems of power.



EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Due NO LATER than Sunday, April 9th

(Funds received after this date are contributed to the Flower Committee General Fund)

Easter is April 16th, just a few weeks away. It's time to place your order for Easter Plants used to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter, and to remember our loved ones.

Lilies: \$13.00 Choose from:

- White
- Farolito (light pink)
- Mona Lisa (pink/white)



Tulips: \$10.00 (colors subject to availability)

Please complete this form, and make your checks payable to "West Parish Church Flower Committee."

Return order form to the church office or place in the collection plate during worship.

Any questions, please call Abby Martin at: 978-475-3869 or email at: sebago21@comcast.net

Easter Plant Order Form

Return by **Sunday, April 9th**

With check payable to "**West Parish Church Flower Committee**"

Given By: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving of: _____

Number of Lilies (@ \$13.00 each) _____

Lily choice: _____ White, _____ Farolito (light pink), _____ Mona Lisa (pink/white)

Number of Tulips (@ \$10.00 each) _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

_____ I will take my plant(s) home after the Easter Service on April 16th, (one service at 10:00AM)

_____ Have the Ministry of Fellowship deliver to a shut-in.

2016/2017 CHAIRPERSONS/OFFICERS

GOVERNING BOARD

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

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
Church 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

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Address service requested