

February 2018



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

Sundays 9:00 AM

Adult Education

Sundays 10:00 AM

Worship & Sunday School

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FEBRUARY HI-LIGHTS

WORSHIP

February 4 ~ 10:00 am
First Sunday Worship
Baptism/Communion
Rev. Katrina Preaching

February 11 ~ 10:00 am
Rev. Katrina Preaching

February 14 ~ 7:00 pm
Ash Wednesday Service
Rev. Katrina Preaching

February 18 ~ 10:00 am
First Sunday of Lent
Rev. Katrina Preaching

February 25 ~ 10:00 am
Second Sunday of Lent/Baptism
Rev. Katrina Preaching

WPC EVENTS

February 3
WPC Chili Cook-off
Muggia Residence
(see pg. 1 for details)

February 8
Women's Evening Circle
Fellowship Hall
(see pg. 4 for details)

February 11
Valentine's Day Parents Night Out
Fellowship Hall
(see pg. 3 for details)

SAVE THE DATE

March 29
Maundy Thursday Service

April 1
Easter Sunday

CHILI-COOKOFF

FEBRUARY 3RD, 6:00 PM

This year our cook off will be on "Super Bowl weekend" so here's your chance to experiment with a new recipe or just show off your favorite one. If you have a friend that enjoys making or eating chili, please invite them so they can experience our style of community.

You do not need to make chili to enjoy this event, everyone is welcome. If you are leery of spicy food, historically, most have been on the mild side so you should be ok.

To sign up, contact Ed Pass at (978) 337-0587 or ep0260@yahoo.com. The event will be held at the home of Melanie Muggia at 6 Midland Circle in Andover. Hope to see you there.

Ed Pass

Ministry of Fellowship

THANK YOU!

Dear West Parish Community,

Thank you all for making my retirement party an amazing day. You are all so kind and generous and I am so appreciative of my time at West Parish. My prayers are with all of you!

Blessings,
Betsy Collins



FROM THE DESK OF
Rev. Katrina Wuensch

Good People of West Parish,

In a few weeks we will leave the “ordinariness” and green paraments of the post-Epiphany season, and delve into the rich season of Lent! Like Advent, Lent is a church season that offers us hymns with minor chords and aching melodies. Lent offers us invitations to enter an alternative time. Lent will find our sanctuary draped in purple again, a color that evokes royalty and mourning. Lent will invite us to slow down and notice what is going on both within ourselves, and outside ourselves. Lent is a wonderful opportunity to repent – which literally means “to turn around.” What new paths are we being called upon? What new things are we being called to see? What things are no longer serving us from which we need to turn away?

Lent will offer us much to reflect upon, and much to notice. So I invite us all to PAY ATTENTION in this season. Yes, that will be our theme for this Lent: paying attention! It sounds so simple and obvious doesn't it? And yet, truly being attentive to what is around us is a great challenge to our minds and our souls. Come, and let us join together for this journey!

-Katrina

FEEDBACK CIRCLES

This spring, you will be invited to participate in a “Feedback Circle.” A Feedback Circle is a process for gathering information about our experiences of the church's staff, worship and programs in a deep and healthy way. We'll gather in small groups and share our experiences of a particular aspect of our church life. We'll speak for ourselves, we'll reflect on our feelings, we'll listen to one another and gain a greater appreciation for the diversity at West Parish! And *why* are we doing this? Because every organization should find out what is working well, what could work better, and how we might make our life together more meaningful and connected. The only way to do that is to ask, and to hear from all of us! So stay tuned for the dates of the first circles, which will probably begin in March.

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 via email, so can respond as soon as possible to a pastoral emergency.

FIRST SUNDAY WORSHIP PLANNING

We will again gather to brainstorm our First Sunday worship services! Everyone – kids, too! – are welcome to join us as we imagine how we might celebrate the first Sunday in March and the Sunday after Easter. Do you have creative ideas? A favorite song? An idea for engaging all ages in worship? Come and be creative with Katrina and Eunhye after church on February 4! We'll gather in the conference room at 11:30am.

MEMBERSHIP/LEARNING MORE GATHERING

FEBRUARY 11, 11:30 AM

Are you interested in becoming a member of West Parish? Would you like to find out what it means to become a member? Are you new to the community and have questions? Then join Katrina after church on Sunday, February 11, for an informal gathering for everyone interested! For those who would like to join the church, we will choose a date at this meeting. (If you would like to become a member but can't make this meeting, please be in touch with Katrina.)

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

FEBRUARY 11, 11:30 AM

Join us in the sanctuary on February 14 at 7:00 pm for our Ash Wednesday service. This day starts the season of Lent, a 40 day period of reflection prior to Easter. Ash Wednesday is traditionally a time to recognize our mortality and our need for God, and through this recognition, feel an urgency to deepen our living and our spiritual lives. This service will include the imposition of ashes, which can be received either on the forehead or the hand.



VICTORIA GAISFORD
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

Christian Education Update

Sometimes parents come up to me after Sunday School and apologize for not coming to church recently, or assure me that they will start bringing their kids more often. Maybe they have really heard the message about how beneficial it can be for kids to be part of a church community! I hope that parents also feel comfortable coming when they can, even if it isn't all that often. We have almost fifty babies, children, and youth that come to church, but usually about 15 on a normal Sunday morning. Our belief is that the child who comes once a year is just as important a part of our community as the child who comes every Sunday. Susan, the adult volunteers, and I make a special effort to make newcomers feel welcome. I say this because I don't want parents to feel like they have to apologize to me! We're each doing our best for our families. On the other hand, I think that when a parent says that to me, they are probably expressing their own desire to emphasize the pattern of Sunday church attendance into their family life. They are probably responding to God's call into a sacred rhythm.

So, if we only see your kids a few times a year, know that they are still an important part of our Sunday School!



FEBRUARY ADULT EDUCATION
SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM IN THE PARLOR

February 11

Exploring the UCC

What is the United Church of Christ beyond West Parish? What does it look like at the state and national level? How can we participate in it? And why should we care?

February 25

March 11, 18 and 25

A Lenten Journey with Stained Glass Art

Making art can be prayerful worship. This Lenten series is an art class! In four sessions, you will go through all the steps of creating a stained glass artwork as a preparation for Easter. Imagine, sketch, cut glass, cement the pieces, grout, and frame.

Registration required, and \$25 donation for materials is requested (but not required.)

VALENTINES DAY PARENTS NIGHT OUT

FEBRUARY 11TH, 5:00-8:00 PM

Drop your kids at church and go out for a night! Kids will play games, do crafts, and watch a movie. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall.

Donations welcome to cover supplies.

Space is limited! Email vgaisford@gmail.com to reserve a spot.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

FEBRUARY 11 & 25, 11:15 – 11:45 AM

All kids welcome to join – we meet every 2nd and 4th Sunday after church in the music room with Victoria. New children are welcome!



YOUTH GROUP

MARCH 4

No Youth Group meeting on February 4 due to the Super Bowl! We hope you can join us for our next meeting on Sunday, March 4 at 4:30pm.



PARENTING CIRCLE

MARCH 18

No Parenting Circle this month. Save the date for our next one in March!

WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

FEBRUARY OUTREACH MISSION

Lazarus House: "Opening Doors Out of Poverty"

Lazarus House works to provide nourishment, comfort, stability and dignity to individuals and families in need. Their ministry provides a place for those with nowhere else to turn. Lazarus House...

- feeds people through their soup kitchen, food pantry, evening bag lunch and winter soup truck.
- sells affordable items or gives vouchers for free clothing and household items to those in need for use in thrift shop.
- provides Emergency Shelter that is both the last line of defense and the first ray of hope.
- works to move families and individuals out of poverty and homelessness, to stand on their own with dignity.
- offers facility tours to those who wish to learn more.

DANCE PARTY

MARCH 3, 7:00 PM

Join us in Fellowship Hall for a fun-filled night learning some exciting new Latin dance moves with instructor Stanley Martinez. Try the Bachata, Merengue, Kizomba, Pasada and Salsa. Don't be "that guy" who sits down at a wedding. Shake it up! Amaze your friends! Beginners welcome, no partner required.

Cost: \$20.00/person or \$30.00/couple.

Proceeds benefit the West Parish Church College Scholarship Fund. For more information contact Kim Glesmann at 978-470-2998.

COFFEE HOUR

One or two Coffee Hour volunteers are needed every month but we especially need help (3 or 4) in February and April. The committees responsible in these months only have 2-3 members and that puts a lot of strain on them. We'd prefer non-committee members to volunteer, but all are welcome and encouraged to do so.

To volunteer email Ed at ep0260@yahoo.com or visit: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054babaa2ea4f58-coffee>

February's after Worship fellowship hour is sponsored by Stewardship Committee and volunteers.

WOMEN'S EVENING CIRCLE

FEBRUARY 8, 7:15 PM

Women of West Parish, set your artistic soul free with a fabulous evening of painting! Share laughs and paint brushes with the fellow women of West Parish!

RSVP to Pam Denny at andbflo.denny@gmail.com or 978-283-1731 or by Thursday, February 6th to insure enough painting supplies are available.

"If you hear a voice within you say you cannot paint, then by all means paint and that voice will be silenced." (Vincent van Gogh)

NEIGHBORS IN NEED FOOD COLLECTION

West Parish Church collects non-perishable food items the first Sunday of the month for donation to Neighbors In Need. Food donations may also be left in the yellow bin, across from the Nursery, at any time during the month. Thank You all for your contributions.

CALL TO CARE

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.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

We have a new platform for our church directory! We've just moved our list of members and friends to "Instant Church Directory" which is an easy-to use, easy to edit, web-based directory. You can download the app to your phone or Kindle by searching for "Instant Church Directory" in the app store. With the app, you can email or call church folks with ease! Because you must be IN the database in order to access it, it's also very secure.

Please note: this is a work in progress! If you see an error in your entry, prefer a different or no photo, want any changes, just tell us! Email Jill Sergeant (jillsergeant@comcast.net) or Larisa Henderson in the church office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUPER SATURDAY

MARCH 17, 8:00 AM - 3:45 PM

We are all invited to join other Massachusetts UCC churches for a wonderful day of workshops. You can learn about: church marketing, church revitalization, conflict and conversations, worship, curriculum development, ONA, racism, stewardship, music, outreach, and the opioid crisis. This event is in Wilbraham, MA. The registration deadline is March 3! For more information, a list of workshops and to sign up, go to: www.macucc.org/eventdetail/super-saturday-march-2018-9985355.



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NEW ENGLAND WOMEN'S CELEBRATION

APRIL 6-8, 2018

The New England Women's Celebration takes place every 4 years at various locations in New England. It is held over (or near) the weekend of Mothering Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Lent, which is traditionally a time when the strict observances of Lent were relaxed for a day so church folks could return to the Mother Church of their roots.

The purpose of the Celebrations is to reach women in the pews and to involve them in learning and sharing their faith beyond the local church and Conference setting. It is organized by women from United Church of Christ (UCC) congregations across New England, however women from all denominations and religious traditions are welcome to attend.

This year's event is at Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, Maine. For more information contact Kathy Vano at: kvano@verizon.net.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

February 19 is the deadline for the March Newsletter. Please email your articles or notices to: www.westparishchurch@verizon.net.

JOURNEY INTO LENT:
CONFESSION, COMMUNION, CELEBRATION

Rev. Cindy Maybeck is leading three retreats using biblical storytelling to deepen our experience of Lent. A Day Apart happens locally at Rolling Ridge Conference Center in North Andover.

- Confession - Ash Wednesday - February 14
- Communion - Holy Week - March 28
- Celebration - Eastertide - April 4

People may attend one or two or all three days.

To learn more, an event flyer is posted outside the Parlor or visit: <https://www.rollingridge.org/event/confession-a-journey-into-lent-ash-wednesday-10288432>



COMMUNITIES TOGETHER
LENTEN SERVICES AND LUNCHEON

Communities Together is again hosting their annual Lenten Services and Luncheons in connection with local houses of worship. West Parish Church will host the service and luncheon on March 28.

February 14

St. Andrew's Church
90 Broadway, Methuen

February 21

Grace Episcopal Church
35 Jackson Street, Lawrence

February 28

Ballard Vale United Church
23 Clark Road, Andover

March 7

Trinitarian Congregational Church
72 Elm Street, Andover

March 14

South Church
41 Central Street, Andover

March 21

Forest Street Union Church
15 Forest Street, Methuen

March 28

West Parish Church
129 Reservation Road, Andover

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUSTAINABLE HOUSES OF WORSHIP**FEBRUARY 17, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

By reducing the carbon footprints at our houses of worship we also lower energy bills and free up funds needed for other important purposes.

Participants will learn about: Electricity, Solar Power, Heat & Air Conditioning, Building Envelope, and Behavior. The **SHOW** workshop is sponsored by the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC. All faiths are welcome

The event will be held at The Plymouth Church, 87 Edgell Road, Framingham, MA.

Register today at <http://conta.cc/2mtpxCO>

**RACIAL JUSTICE TRAINING****MARCH 3, 8:30 AM**

Have you wondered how to respond to Charlottesville? Wondered what racism has to do with your life? There's a place for you at "From Tolerance to Unity", a workshop presented by the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ.

This workshop seeks to create a common language about racism, to unmask racism in our lives, and encourage long-term engagement in racial justice ministry. MACUCC facilitators will run the Racial Justice Training using audiovisuals, speech, discussion, small group and one-on-one exercises.

We'll begin with bagels at 8:00 am. Please bring your own lunch; drinks, fruit, and cookies will be provided. To sign up or for more information, call Meredith Moody at [\(978\) 807-4251](tel:978-807-4251).

The event will be held at South Church, 41 Central Street, Andover.

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

Our community conversations on race continue! And there are three exciting events coming up in February that are free and open to everyone. Courageous Conversations and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) have partnered to put together these community forums. (All events are at the Memorial Hall Library in Andover.) Please mark your calendars for these events:

EXAMINING WHITENESS WORKSHOP

Thursday, February 1, 2018, 6:30-8:30 pm

Recent events from Charlottesville to the NFL to the White House have raised awareness about white supremacy and how it operates in today's society. It has raised an opportunity to examine what it means to be white, and to participate in a system that supports white supremacy. This workshop will explore the history and construction of whiteness, what it means to be white in today's world, and how people who are white can disrupt racism and whiteness personally, interpersonally, and systemically.

**FILM SCREENING OF
ALICE'S ORDINARY PEOPLE**

Thursday, February 8, 2018, 7:00 pm

Alice's Ordinary People is a documentary by filmmaker Craig Dudnick who will lead a discussion after the screening. The film is about Alice Tregay, an unsung heroine of the Civil Rights Movement. Her remarkable story spans the marches of Dr. King to the election of Barack Obama. Her great contribution in the field of politics is the thread which connects the two.

**PANEL DISCUSSION OF
BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME
BY TA-NEHISI COATES**

Thursday, February 8, 2018, 7:00 pm

Panelists will be: Michael Eatmen, Director of Community Life at Pike School), Linda Carter Griffith (Phillips Academy, Assistant Head of School for Equity, Inclusion and Wellness), Shaunielle McDonald (Brooks School, Director of Diversity Initiatives), and Martin Henson (Black Lives Matter, Boston).

2017/2018 CHAIRPERSONS/OFFICERS

GOVERNING BOARD

Governing Board Chair	John Pearson
Governing Board Vice Chair	Deb Schroeder
Acting Clerk	Deb Schroeder
Treasurer	Jerry Greer
Moderator	Blake Martin

MINISTRIES

Education	Fitz Granger
Fellowship	Ed Pass
Outreach	Pat Greer
Stewardship	Chris Swain
Worship	Jill Sergeant

COMMISSIONS

Investments	David Bertetti
Operations	Blake Martin
Collector	Art Clark

COMMITTEES

Flowers	Abby Martin
Music	Ed Pass
Nominating	Heather Gaspar
Planned Giving	Frank Hopkins
Smith Purdon	Lisa Doucett
Women's Evening Circle	Pam Denny & Pat Greer

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Minister	Rev. Katrina Wuensch
Director of Music	Yoo-Kyung Kim
Church Administrator	Larisa Henderson
Dir. of Christian Ed.	Victoria Gaisford
Sunday School Teacher	Susan Berube
Sexton	Ed Pass
Wedding Coordinator	Kathy Vano
Cemetery Superintendent	Mark Atwood

WEST PARISH CHURCH, U.C.C.

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Andover, MASS 01810-3430

Address service requested