



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

Sundays 9:00 AM
Adult Education

Sundays 10:00 AM
Worship & Sunday School

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**MARCH HI-LIGHTS
WORSHIP**

March 4 ~ 10:00 am
First Sunday Worship, Communion
Third Sunday in Lent

March 11 ~ 10:00 am
Fourth Sunday in Lent, Baptism

March 18 ~ 10:00 am
Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 25 ~ 10:00 am
Palm Sunday

March 28 ~ 12:00 Noon
Communities Together
Lenten Worship

March 29 ~ 7:00 pm
Maundy Thursday in the Chapel

April 1 ~ 7:00 am
Easter Sunrise Service in Cemetery

April 1 ~ 10:00 am
Easter Worship

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on March 25, and concludes with the celebrations of Easter morning. Between those two Sundays you are invited to travel the road to Jerusalem, remember the Last Supper, and lament the crucifixion. Holy Week is one of the most powerful times of the church year.

So join us March 28, **Wednesday of Holy Week**, as we host the final Communities Together Lenten Service. It will be in our sanctuary at noon, followed by a simple lunch in Fellowship Hall. Katrina will be leading the service, with special guest preacher Rev. Dom Barbieri, Chaplain at Holy Family Hospital.

Then on **Thursday**, gather in the West Parish Cemetery Chapel at 7:00 pm for our Maundy Thursday Service. This reflective service remembers the Last Supper, and the events leading up the crucifixion as candles are gradually extinguished.

And on **Sunday**, Easter morning join us at 7:00 am for a Sunrise Service – we will be on the hillside just past the cemetery gates. We’ll enjoy hot cross buns together after celebrating the new day! And our traditional Easter Worship will be at 10:00 am.

Join us!



FROM THE DESK OF REV. KATRINA WUENSCH

Good people of West Parish,

As I stood at the bus stop the other day, the warm sun hitting my face, the recent snowfall completely melted – I had the odd realization that I wasn't done with winter. I realized that I want more weeks of cold. I want more snow. I want more days of bundling up to walk the dog. I want more days of cozing up in front of the fire. I'm not done with winter! And I realized that perhaps this feeling is tied to our liturgical calendar.

This Sunday is only the third Sunday of Lent. We have weeks still to go before Easter – the day when I want it to be suddenly warm and sunny, the daffodils having popped! But before that? Before Easter, I am content to let it be cold and gray. I am content with the freezing temperatures and bare trees. Because then it feels as though creation is mirroring our journey of reflection, our journey into the wilderness, where things may not always be flowery and bright. Things in the wilderness might be desolate and cold.

But the winter reminds us that this is a natural state. That things die off, and then they are reborn. That the freeze comes, and then it thaws. As the world around us cycles through the seasons, so too, do our lives have seasons. Seasons that feel bare or empty, and seasons that feel full of life and growth. Seasons that feel cold with loss, and seasons that are bright with love. And our church calendar invites us to explore these places deeply.

So even though I will enjoy tomorrow's 60° weather, I do hope we get another snowstorm! I do hope my kids get to build another snowman. I do hope that the clear blue winter sky stays above us a bit longer – until all of creation explodes with joy on April 1!

Wherever you are, and whatever season of your life, may God grant you courage and patience on your way. None of us are ever alone, whatever we may face. Blessings to you all in this season of Lent.

-Katrina

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.



FEEDBACK CIRCLES

APRIL 29, MAY 6 & 20, 11:30 AM

Next month, we will begin our Feedback Circles! 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! Circles are scheduled for Sundays after church on April 29, May 6 and May 20.

Please chose one to attend.



EASTER CARD MAKING

MARCH 4, 11, & 18 11:00 AM

Calling all children and the young at heart! During coffee hour we'll make Ester cards for our elder church members. We have lots of cars to make so we hope you can join us.! Bev Smith will be at the table near the stage with supplies.



VICTORIA GAISFORD DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

On the first Sunday of school vacation weeks and on holiday weekends, we have a One Room Schoolhouse in the Sunday School. There are children from preschool to 6th grade in the classroom on such days, and it is a special time. The younger children are often shy at first, but they are also somewhat fascinated by the older children. The older children are often distracted from silliness by the serious way the younger children approach a story or lesson. Last month, we were learning about inclusion, and practiced working together in a game of living sculptures. The kids of all ages became more comfortable together as they worked in teams to form their bodies into boats, refrigerators, and a fountain. Outside of family life, it is not that common for children of different ages to work, learn, and play together as they can in Sunday School. Sports, schooling, and extracurriculars are often segregated by age. In the One Room Schoolhouse, younger children participate equally, older children have the opportunity to guide and welcome the younger ones, and relationships of care and respect are forged. I love those days.

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

March 11, 18 and 25

A Lenten Journey with Stained Glass Art

In every culture and time period, people have made religious art: to tell stories, as an act of devotion, and to feel the flow of creativity that is a kind of connection to God. Join us for a Lenten practice of contemplative art by making a stained glass mosaic. We will look at some stained glass art together for inspiration, plan out our works, cut the glass, assemble the mosaics, grout them, and display them in church on Easter morning.

Please RSVP to Victoria by Wednesday, March 7. If you'd like to contribute to cover the cost of supplies, \$25 is suggested. Childcare available upon request. Please notify us by Friday before the class.

YOUTH GROUP MARCH 4, 4:30 PM

For our next meeting where we'll be going on a competitive Scavenger Hunt. Run around the church in teams and be the first to get pictures of everything on the list. Learn about the church at the same time. Parents are encouraged to come back and get their youth at 5:45 and join us for a discussion about the schedule for next year.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR MARCH 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! The children's bell choir will share their music in worship on March 11.



PARENTING CIRCLE MARCH 18, 11:30 AM

This circle is open to all parents and caregivers, and is a time for us to support each other and share.

The Family Craft and Parenting Circle is an opportunity to be creative as a family. Past projects have included a hand-made book of prayers and a big collage of words describing a family's values. After this collaborative art project, children will play in the playground with a youth attendant while parents gather in the parlor to for a discussion. We talk about our current questions, struggles, and successes in parenting. Food will be provided.



WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH OUTREACH MISSION

Communities Together

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. Following are summaries of two of its important programs:

The Manos Felices or “Happy Hands” program is an after-school and summer program that serves the children in the Hancock Court housing project. It is run out of one of the project’s residential units and is named for the colorful hand-prints on the entrance door. Manos Felices serves 35-40 children in preschool to fifth grade during the school year, with attendance increasing in the summer. The program emphasizes homework, academics and a period of independent reading, however, arts, crafts and the occasional field trip, are also included. The reading requirement continues through the summer school vacation period. Project Bread and the Lawrence School Meals Program provide nutritious snacks.

Communities Together also provides Protestant Chaplain services at Holy Family Hospital and Latino ministry at Lawrence General and Holy Family hospitals. This ministry is funded, in part, by grants from each hospital, with Communities Together responsible for raising the additional funds necessary to sustain these ministries. Communities Together also has clergy available to provide pastoral care to area nursing homes and elderly residences.



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.

UNDIES SUNDAYS

Ends March 25

This Lenten Season will be the 21st 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. Bring your donations to the collection boxes in the church Narthex or across from the Nursery or leave them in the church office during regular office hours. Monetary donations are welcomed and can be made out to Communities Together, entering “underwear drive” on the memo line. Mail checks to: Communities Together, P.O. Box 428, Lawrence, MA 01842.



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.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour is a Christian effort to empower, provide water, supply food, and give relief from disasters. This annual collection will take place in worship on March 11. Special envelopes will be in the bulletin. Please consider donating.

WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



COFFEE HOUR

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

Coffee Hour volunteers are needed every month but especially in April as the committee responsible only has 2-3 members. 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: <https://tinyurl.com/coffeehour>.

BY-LAW AND STRUCTURE REVIEW

Many of us are familiar with our church by-laws, the document that outlines our structure, governance and procedures. Essential things for any organization! Our current by-laws were written many decades ago, when our congregation, the nature of church, and the world were very different! A few years ago, a team began to review our by-laws and imagine a new structure that would better serve us in the 21st century – we have picked this work up again now that Katrina is settled. If you are interested in joining a small team working on this issue, please contact Jerry Greer or Katrina.



EASTER PLANT ORDERS

Due Sunday, March 18

Easter is April 1st, just a few weeks away. It's time to order Easter plants that will be used to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter, and to remember loved ones. Plant orders forms are at the end of this newsletter and outside the office. Return the order form to the church office, flower committee mailbox or place in the collection plate during worship.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the April Newsletter is **March 19th**. Please email your articles or notices to: westparishchurch@verizon.net.

WPC UPCOMING EVENTS

WEST PARISH CHURCH FUNDRAISERS TO BENEFIT

THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF LAWRENCE

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.

- Individual: \$20
- Couple: \$30

CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE SUPPER MARCH 17, 5:00 PM

Come and enjoy this annual dinner featuring Thwaites corned beef, traditional sides, drinks and dessert. For more information please contact Jon Glesmann at: 978-470-2998.

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

For more information on these events, please contact Kim and Jon Glesmann at 978-470-2998.



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 and the registration deadline is March 3! For more information, a list of workshops and to sign up, go to: www.macucc.org/

WOMEN'S EVENING CIRCLE MARCH 8, 7:15 PM

Join us for Bunco night! We'll be playing a version which does NOT include gambling—no ante and no cash payout. Don't worry if you have never played. It's not hard to learn and is a very sociable game. There will be refreshments!

All women who are members or friends of West Parish are encouraged to attend! To RSVP or for more information, please contact Pam Denny at: andbfo.denny@gmail.com.



CRUCIFIXION & RESURRECTION DISCUSSION MARCH 18, 11:30AM

Join Rev. Ned Martin, Helen Martin and Katrina for a timely discussion about the crucifixion of Jesus, and the resurrection. What do we believe about these events? Did they actually happen? What do we understand about them 2,000 years later? Let's discuss what we know and believe. Ned will fill us in on the historical themes while we seek to understand their meaning.



REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT APRIL 15, 11:30 AM

West Parish Church will welcome Cheryl Hamilton, Coordinator of Community Partnerships for the Lowell office of the International Institute of New England. Cheryl will join us for an information session on how we can support the work of the Institute. This is the follow-up to Marcia Hohn's presentations. A quote from the Institute's website: "We build vibrant, inclusive communities in New England by welcoming refugees and immigrants and providing them education and guided pathways to careers and citizenship." (<https://iine.org/>)

WPC UPCOMING EVENTS

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEW ENGLAND WOMEN'S CELEBRATION APRIL 6-8, 2018

The New England Women's Celebration takes place every 4 years and 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 can 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's organized by women from UCC congregations across New England, however women from all denominations and religious traditions are welcome.

This year's event is at Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, Maine. Five women from WPC are already signed up. Join them! For more information contact Kathy Vano at: kvano@verizon.net.



END OF LIFE CARE MERRIMACK VALLEY HOSPICE MARCH 12—APRIL 9, 2018

Learn to make a profound difference in someone's life! Using lecture, real life stories and small group exercises you will learn how to provide practical help and emotional support to those with life limiting illness and their loved ones. At the end of this in 5 week training, you will receive a certificate and become part of a very special group—ordinary people making an extraordinary difference! Class includes 5 live classes and 5.5 hours of online study. There is a special need for veterans to support other veterans, bilingual (Spanish) volunteers and licensed massage therapists. Merrimack Valley Hospice House at 360 North Ave, Haverhill, MA. 5:30—7:30 PM, 5 weeks, 3/12-4/9, Free.

Contact: Andrea Kwiatkowski at 978-552-4522 or akwiatkowski@homehealthfoundation.org.

Bev Smith and Sue Lynehan attended this training and are happy to speak about their experiences—please reach out if you have any questions.

BECOMING A WEST PARISH MEMBER JUNE 3, 10:00 AM

Save the date! We will be receiving new members into the West Parish community during worship on Sunday, June 3! If you are interested in joining, or have questions about it means, just speak with Katrina.



OPEN AND AFFIRMING 15th ANNIVERSARY JUNE 3, 2018

It was in June of 2003 that West Parish voted to become an "Open and Affirming" congregation, a UCC designation that means we officially proclaim a welcome to ALL people. On Sunday, June 3, we will celebrate our 15th anniversary of this important vote! And to make sure we are doing our best to be welcoming to all, we'll also take a look at our Welcome Statement. Is it up to date? Is it all that it should be for 2018? (You can see the original version on the back of our bulletin every Sunday!) Here it is with some small changes. Let Katrina know what you think or if you have any suggestions or ideas!

We welcome all people of faith or in search of faith, of every age, marital status, race, national origin, gender, economic condition, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. We invite all people to share in the worship, sacraments, membership, leadership and employment opportunities of our church. We commit ourselves to the ongoing work of creating a welcoming and just world, grounded in God's radical love.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RACIAL JUSTICE TRAINING MARCH 3, 8:30 AM

Have you wondered how to respond to Charlottesville, or what racism has to do with your life? Then join us for "From Tolerance to Unity", a workshop offered by the MA Conference of the United Church of Christ. Here we'll seek to create a common language about racism, to unmask racism in our lives, and encourage long-term engagement in racial justice. MACUCC facilitators run the training using audiovisuals, discussion, small group and one-on-one exercises. We'll begin with bagels at 8:00 am. Please bring your own lunch (drinks, fruit, cookies provided). To sign up, contact Meredith Moody at: 978-807-4251.



NEW ENGLAND YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUMMIT

APRIL 7, 8:30 AM-4:00 PM IN MANCHESTER, NH

Sponsored by the Environmental Stewardship Mission Group and the Christian Formation Ministry of the New Hampshire Conference, UCC., the Summit is open to all middle school, high school and college students; as well as teachers, mentors, pastors, lay leaders and advisors: and anyone interested in acquiring tools for facing the pressing moral issue of climate change.

The fee is \$20 and includes breakfast pastries and lunch. Learn more at: www.cvent.com/events.



AN EVENING WITH AUTHOR DEBBY IRVING APRIL 26, 7:00 PM AT SOUTH CHURCH

We are invited to South Church in Andover for an evening with Debby Irving, author of *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, on Thursday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. This evening is hosted by South Church in partnership with the Andover group, Courageous Conversations. The program is called "I'm a Good Person! Isn't that Enough?" Everyone welcome!

JOURNEY INTO LENT MARCH 28 AND APRIL 4

Rev. Cindy Maybeck is leading three retreats using biblical storytelling to deepen our experience of Lent. To learn more, an event flyer is posted outside the Parlor or visit: www.rollingridge.com> EVENTS.

- Communion - Holy Week - March 28
- Celebration - Eastertide - April 4



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. Each service begins at noon.

March 7

Trinitarian Congregational Church, Andover

March 14

South Church, Andover

March 21

Forest Street Union Church, Methuen

March 28

West Parish Church, Andover

EASTER PLANT ORDERS

EASTER PLANT ORDERS

Due No later than Sunday, March 18th

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

Easter is April 1st, 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: \$15.00 Choose from:

- White
- Farolito (light pink)

Tulips: \$12.00 (colors subject to availability)

Please complete this form, and return it to the church office, the flower committee mailbox or place in the collection plate during worship.

EASTER PLANT ORDER FORM

Return by **Sunday, March 18th**

With check payable to "*West Parish Church*"

Given By: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving of: _____

Number of Lilies (@ \$15.00 each) _____

Lily choice: _____ White _____ Farolito (light pink)

Number of Tulips (@ \$12.00 each) _____

TOTAL: \$_____

_____ I will take my plant(s) home after the Easter Service on April 1, (one service at 10:00AM)

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

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

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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