



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

WEST PARISH CHURCH

United Church of Christ
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Sundays 10:00 AM
Worship & Sunday School

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OCTOBER WORSHIP

October 7 ~ 10:00 am
First Sunday Worship/Communion
Rev. Katrina preaching

October 14 ~ 10:00 am
Victoria Gaisford preaching

October 21 ~ 10:00 am
Rev. Katrina preaching

October 28 ~ 10:00 am
Rev. Katrina preaching

November 4 ~ 10:00 am
First Sunday Worship/Communion
Rev. Katrina preaching



ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYERS

*Reminders about worship: If you'd like an event announced, please get it to Katrina by 9 AM on Sunday. For joys and concerns, you may write your prayer in our Prayer Book, which will be available at the entrance to the sanctuary. Also, please be sensitive about sharing personal information about others in your prayers. Ideally, you should have their permission before naming them in our public worship. Thank you!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

October 3
Bible Study

October 7
Youth Group

October 10
Bible Study

October 13
Italian Buffet

October 14
Writing Workshop

October 16
Immigration Presentation

October 17
Bible Study

October 21
Walking Meditation
Youth Group

October 24
Bible Study

October 27
Halloween Party
Youth Group Halloween Lock-In

October 28
Feedback Circle

October 31
Bible Study

FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER



FROM THE DESK OF REV. KATRINA WUENSCH

Good people of West Parish,

What are we doing?! I mean, really: what are we doing here at church?

What is it all about? What's our goal? Sometimes it can feel like we are all so busy: painting the hallways, sorting the donations, organizing the receptions, making the coffee, planning the services... that it can feel like our goal is just to keep things running smoothly. And of course, we do want our church to run smoothly! We do want things to be orderly and clean. We do want tasks taken care of and jobs done. Our church couldn't run without ALL of you contributing your time and talents in countless ways. Really, you all are quite remarkable in the ways that you give.

But sometimes, we also need to stop doing tasks, and remember that the ultimate purpose of our church is not to get things done. It is not to complete tasks. It is not even to keep our church going. Our ultimate purpose is to grow closer to God. And to bring wholeness to the world. And to find healing and hope, and embody that in all that we do. It's to feed the hungry and visit the sick. It's to forgive 77 times and turn the other cheek. It's to place ourselves last instead of first.

Yes, there are many ways we could describe our purpose. How would you describe the purpose of West Parish? As Jerry, Art, Deb, Lisa and I wrestle through re-imagining our church's structure and by-laws, these questions have been on my mind. How we organize ourselves should propel us forward in living out our mission and purpose. I invite you to reflect on what YOU feel is the great calling of West Parish!

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.



CHURCH STRUCTURE REVIEW

A dedicated team of folks continues to meet to assess the church's organizational structure and by-laws. We hope to envision a way to organize ourselves that is both more simple and efficient, and also strengthens our current ministries. If you have any questions, suggestions or thoughts, feel free to speak with any member of the team: Jerry Greer, Lisa Doucette, Deb Schroeder, Art Clark or Katrina.



WELCOME MILA

We are pleased to announce that Mila Filatova will be serving as our Interim Music Director. She will be with us most Sundays for the next few months, while our Search Committee continues their work of finding a permanent music director.

Mila has been an award-winning pianist since the age of seventeen. She graduated with highest honors from the prestigious Sobinov Conservatory of Music in Saratov, Russia.

A highly distinguished concert pianist in both Russia and the United States, her credits include numerous performances on Russian television and radio, solo performances with Symphony Orchestras, and Concertmaster of the Saratov Drama Theater. Locally, she has participated in chamber music festivals with the Metropolitan Chamber Ensemble, Metropolitan Wind Ensemble, and as a featured artist at the Currier Museum of Art. She has also performed multiple piano duet concerts with the renowned American pianist Frank Glazer.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



VICTORIA GAISFORD
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

Welcome to a new year of Christian Education. We had a very special Sunday in September, when our Sunday School doubled in size! The children of South Church joined us because their building was off-limits after the gas fires of the previous week. After children's time, when several children described their feelings when being evacuated ("scared," "nervous," "frightened") the children from all classes came together in the music room and we prayed for each other. There were many prayers that people who had lost their homes would have a new one soon. There were prayers of thanks that most people had escaped. We also thanked God that West Parish Church and South Church could be together and help each other. It made me wish there were more chances for churches to do work together, so that we could regularly break down the boundaries of church membership into a sense of greater unity before God. It is wonderful and comforting to be part of a community where people are familiar, but there is also a deep joy in being in a room where total strangers are praying for each other with love.



HALLOWEEN PARTY
OCTOBER 27, 3:00—5:00 PM

Our big family event in October is the annual Halloween Party in Fellowship Hall. We always have Fellowship Hall decorated, games like Pumpkin Bowling and Pin-the-Bone-on-the-Skeleton, a craft table, and treats. Don't miss it, and there will be a prize for silliest, cleverest, and cutest costumes!



YOUTH MISSION TRIP
APRIL 15-20, 2019

All teens 6th grade up are encouraged to join us for a week with H.O.M.E. in Orland, Maine: they provide a soup kitchen, food pantry, day care, job training, home repair, etc. More info soon!

SUNDAY SCHOOL
OCTOBER 14, 21, & 28, 10 AM

We have begun Godly Play! Godly Play is a new curriculum for the older classroom this year, and it is giving me a chance to teach lessons I haven't taught in a long time! The lessons during the Fall in our younger classroom are the "core" lessons -- Creation, The Ark and the Flood, the Great Family (Abraham), the Exodus, the Ten Best Ways (the Ten Commandments), and so on. Because many of the older children have already heard the core stories, we are going deeper into the book of Genesis to hear stories of Sarah and Hagar, Jacob, and Joseph. The wonderful thing about these stories is that the central characters are so complex: they aren't good or bad people, they are very real people who sometimes make terrible mistakes. After hearing the story of Jacob, several children drew pictures of Jacob wrestling with the stranger (God? an Angel?) all night long. We all agreed it was a powerful image, because God isn't just a distant, gentle presence. We talked about how sometimes we will struggle in our life and even what we know is good might be really challenging. Adults are welcome to volunteer in Sunday School and take part in these meaningful discussions!



YOUTH GROUP

Youth in 6th through 12th grade are invited to join us. We now meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month!

We are teaming up with the Andover UU church to engage in some deep discussions sparked by religious and ethical questions that arise in episodes of *The Simpsons*. Sam Vano is our activity planner and resident chef extraordinaire, and will lead us in making dinner for ourselves this year!

HALLOWEEN LOCK-IN
OCTOBER 27TH, 7:00PM

Halloween Lock-In will have us sleeping over in the church and taking part in some spooky games! We'll go to church together in the morning.

WPC UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

The Bible can be read in many different ways, and each book of the Bible has its own literary form and intended audience. In this weekly study, Victoria Gaisford gives historical and cultural context as a foundation for study and interpretation of the Bible. We discuss the relevance and application of these ancient stories and wisdom to contemporary life. Before we close, we do Lectio Divina, a traditional practice of scripture reading, meditation and prayer. In This group will meet every Wednesday in the Smith Purdon Room.



MEDITATION WALK OCTOBER 21, 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Meditation and prayer can take many forms, and one of them is through movement – in particular, walking. Walking meditation or walking prayer is an ancient practice in both the Buddhist and Christian traditions. After a brief gathering and introduction, you will be invited to try a walking meditation at your own pace along the beautiful cemetery paths, during the glorious changes of fall. A gong will be rung to call us back together to reflect on our experience and to close out our time.

Walkers of all abilities, of all ages, and of all faiths or no faith are most welcome. (But please, no dogs!) Folks in wheelchairs or with mobility issues may remain on the upper sidewalk close to the arch, which is flat and level.

Led by Rev. Katrina Wuensch, we'll meet at the arch at the West Parish Garden Cemetery.



WOMEN'S EVENING CIRCLE ITALIAN BUFFET

OCTOBER 13, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM

Join us in Fellowship Hall for WEC's 17th Annual Italian Buffet. Adults: \$15.00, Children: \$5.00.

Dine on a feast of Italian deliciousness:

Eggplant
Lasagna (Meat and Vegetarian)
Chicken Broccoli Ziti Alfredo
Spaghetti and Meatballs
Garden Salad
Italian Bread
Cake
Coffee and Tea



IMMIGRANTS AND IMMIGRATION: NOW AND IN THE FUTURE OCTOBER 16, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Immigration issues are front and center in national politics, and will figure into the November midterm elections. Emotions surrounding the issue are intense, but what are the facts?

Immigration expert Marcia Hohn will present up-to-date facts about immigration.

- Who are immigrants and where do they live?
- What are the benefits and burdens of immigration for the nation and Massachusetts?
- What could immigration reform look like?

She will include a review of the McCain/Kennedy Immigration Reform Bill and current reform recommendations. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall.



All of our **Adult Educational Offerings** are now listed in the "Community Education at West Parish Church" catalogue. Pick up a copy at church or get the schedule online! Registration for all programs is encouraged by emailing or calling the church office.

WPC UPCOMING EVENTS

WRITING GROUP

OCTOBER 14 & NOVEMBER 18, 11:30 AM

Taking time in Life to stop to Reflect is crucial to Rediscovering your Inner Self and Balance. In this fast-paced world, we are either constantly moving in different directions or remaining stagnant in one place. Neither of the two is healthy nor gets us closer to becoming In Tune with our True Passions and Inner Being.

As a Writing Group, we will meet to share our life experiences/Spirit, enjoy our sense of community, and shed the Light on our journey to Wholeness through our writing. All are welcome to attend. Please see Jess Blas if you have any questions. We'll meet in Smith Purdon.



JERICO WALKS

OCTOBER 16 & NOVEMBER 20, 1:00 PM

Join other congregations for these peaceful, silent, prayer walks that stand against inhumane immigration practices. Each walk is at the District Ave, Burlington ICE office.



SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendar for these upcoming
West Parish Events

Ham and Bean Supper – November 3, 6:00 pm

Women's Evening Circle – November 8, 7:15 pm

Stewardship Lunch – November 11, 11:30 am

Stewardship Sunday – November 18

Be SMART Training (gun safety) – November 27

Permaculture Concert – December 1, 7:00 pm

Advent Workshop – December 2, 3:00 pm

Christmas Pageant – December 15, 5:00 pm

FEEDBACK CIRCLES

OCTOBER 28 AND NOVEMBER 4

We will be holding two more Feedback Circles this fall, in an effort to learn about our church, our staff, and how we can be ever more faithful and effective in our ministry. As you know, Feedback Circles are a process that encourages healthy, direct conversation, by gathering a small group to reflect on their experiences. Participants are asked to go deeper than, "I like this" or "I don't like that." Instead, we share our experience of a particular aspect of our life together. Questions usually include: What was that like? How did you experience that? How did you feel? What touched you?

So please join us if either of these circles are relevant for you!

***A Feedback Circle for Parents/Caregivers of younger kids** (babies through elementary school) will be October 28 at 8:45am. Childcare will be provided! Come and share your experiences of the nursery, Sunday School, family programs, etc.

***A Circle on Pastoral Care** will be on November 4 at 11:30am. Some of you may receive an invitation to attend this particular circle. If you have been through an experience recently during which you received care or support from church staff or members, we will invite you to be part of this circle. If you do not receive an invitation, you are still welcome to attend!

If you have any questions, just speak with Katrina or any Member of the Pastoral Relations Committee: Jill Sergeant, Jim Olson, Kathy Vigneault or Kate Margolese.



COFFEE HOUR

October after Worship fellowship hour is sponsored by Women's Evening Circle.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUPER SATURDAY OCTOBER 20

Gather with hundreds of other UCC folks to worship and learn for a whole day! This event on Saturday, October 20 at the Keefe Regional Technical High School in Framingham will offer almost 50 different workshops to choose from, including topics on worship, faith formation, justice, communication, prayer, capital campaigns, stewardship, safe church. See more details and register at www.macucc.org/ss-oct2018.



LIFT EVERY VOICE OCTOBER 21, 3:00 PM

South Church of Andover is hosting an Ecumenical Hymn Festival - Finding Community Through Song.

All are invited to join **them** for an afternoon of sharing in hymn singing and fellowship. **Reception to follows.** Come sing with guest choirs from Andover/the Merrimack Valley and hear the Bozeman Organ and the Steinway Concert Grand.

Admission is free. An offering will be taken to support those impacted by the gas fires through Essex County Community Foundation.

South Church, 41 Central Street, Andover, MA 01810



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the November Newsletter is **October 19**. Please email your articles or notices to westparishchurch@verizon.net.

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS MULTIPLE DATES 2018/2019

Our community conversations about race continue, thanks to our local group Courageous Conversations and the Memorial Hall Library. Mark your calendars for these upcoming events at Memorial Hall Library!

Tuesday, November 13 at 7:00 pm

“So You Want to Talk About Race” by Ijeoma Oluo
Facilitated book discussion

In this breakout book, Ijeoma Oluo explores the complex reality of today’s racial landscape – from white privilege and police brutality to systemic discrimination and the Black Lives Matter movement – offering straightforward clarity that readers need to contribute to the dismantling of the racial divide. Highly recommended as an accessible read. (We welcome all to attend whether or not you have had a chance to read the book.)

Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 7:00 pm

“Who is Dayani Cristal”

Film screening and discussion

This docu-drama tells the story of a migrant who found himself in the deadly stretch of the Sonora Desert known as the “corridor of death” and shows how one life becomes testimony to the tragic results of the U.S. war on immigration.

Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 7:00 pm

“Harvest of Empire”

Film screening and facilitated discussion by Robert Forrant, Professor of History at UMass Lowell

A powerful documentary, based on the book by Juan González, that exposes the direct connection between the long history of U.S. intervention in Latin America and the immigration crisis we face today.

Monday, March 25, 2019 at 7:00 pm

“Latino City: Immigration and Urban Crisis in Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1945-2000”

Evening with author Dr. Llana Barber

“Latino City” explores the transformation of Lawrence into NE’s first Latino-majority city. The arrival of thousands of Puerto Ricans and Dominicans in the late 20th century brought new life to the struggling city yet was fraught with challenges – hostility from neighbors, exclusion from local government, inadequate city services, and limited job prospects. This is the story of how Latinos fought and organized for the right to make a home in the city of Lawrence.

GOVERNING BOARD

Governing Board Chair	Pam Denny
Governing Board Vice Chair	Deb Schroeder
Acting Clerk	Deb Schroeder
Treasurer	Jerry Greer
Moderator	Blake Martin

MINISTRIES

Education	Yvonne Ratner
Fellowship	Steve Morrison
Outreach	Ed Pass
Stewardship	Chris Swain
Worship	Jill Sergeant

COMMISSIONS

Investments	David Bertetti
Operations	Blake Martin
Collector	Art Clark

COMMITTEES

Flowers	Abby Martin
Music	Melanie Muggia
Nominating	Heather Gaspar
Smith Purdon	Lisa Doucett
Women's Evening Circle	Jenn Harmoning & Kim Glesmann

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Minister	Rev. Katrina Wuensch
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

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