

The Seekonk Congregational Church  
United Church Of Christ

The  
Caller

*Gathered 1885*



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> at 9:00AM & 10:30AM**

will include special music and palms. Cherub Choir sings at beginning. Children enter toward the end of the Service to lead the procession to the Hall where HOLY WEEK MARKETPLACE follows each service.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup> at 7:00PM** will begin with a light meal around the tables in candlelit Woodworth Hall...followed by the events of the Last Supper and the Garden of Gethsemane re-enacted by the disciples and Jesus. It is a very moving, memorable evening! *(Required attendance for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and families)* (Child Care for young children...**let us know if you need it ahead of time, please!**)

**GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> at 7:30PM** *(please note time difference between Thursday and Friday)* service will be held in the Church Sanctuary with the procession of the Cross and the crucified Christ followed by the Tenebrae Service of Darkness.

**EASTER VIGIL** will begin following the Good Friday Service and continue until Easter Dawn. **(There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hall.)** This has been an unforgettable experience for those who have participated - especially in the middle of the night!

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE** will be at 6 AM at the Grist Mill Pond.

**EASTER CELEBRATION SERVICES: MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> at 9:00AM and 10:30AM** Trumpet, Organ and Timpani play ten minutes before the services begin. Sacred Dance processional and Children's Choir sings. All children begin in church and pre-school through 5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited *(unless parents want them to remain in worship)* to move to the Hall for special event.

*Flowers in memory or honor of loved ones may be brought to the room behind the sanctuary. Please enter through the parking lot door entrance and use the carts and tables designated for flowers on the day before Easter (Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>)*

## *From the Senior Minister*



When you receive this March CALLER, we will be ½ way through the Lenten season 2016. And many of us grew up with the discipline of ‘giving up’ something for Lent ...like ‘fat food’ or other unhealthy habits... Then at some point in life it seemed immature to ‘give up’ something for 40 days and then repeat the pattern for 325 other days in the year... and this was really a medieval practice that has little to do with our real faith.

So for the rest of March let’s think about this season as a time to ‘GIVE UP’ so that we can ‘TAKE ON’

- ~ Can we ‘give up’ certain angers and ‘take on’ new ways of loving?
- ~ Can we ‘give up’ unhealthy food/drink habits and ‘take on’ the purchase of nutritious bars in coffee hour that will benefit orphans in Haiti?
- ~ Can we ‘give up’ complaining about ?? and ‘take on’ saying “How can I...?”

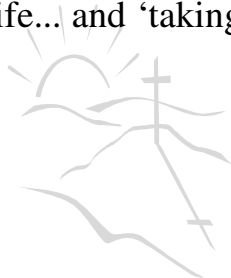
Lent is a time to ‘give up’ a portion of our time for the opportunities offered to “take on” new growth within ourselves... so~

- ~ Can we sign up to be present on the first three Thursdays in March for the light supper and Seminars?
- ~ Can we prayerfully pledge to the church offer hope through this faith community to all ages?
- ~ Can we be present for all the Holy Week Services and grow in faith?

Lent is a time to discipline ourselves to grow through the renewal of our bodies, minds and spirits.

May all of our days of this season be filled with ‘giving up’ all the denies or defeats life... and ‘taking on’ all that celebrates and creates life.

In faith and love, *Joy*



# CONFIRMATION

Lenten Series offered on 3 Thursdays in March...  
...3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> PARENTS WELCOME!

## MARCH SCHEDULE

**6** 9:00AM CLASS: LENT IV JESUS!!

The Yellow Booklet Continues

10:30AM WORSHIP:



**12<sup>th</sup>** Saturday Evening Corned Beef Supper Fund-raiser  
(CS HOURS)\*

**13** 9:00 AM CLASS: LENT V

Meet with Deacons and Mentors re/ questions/.

10:30AM WORSHIP *Daylight Savings Time Begins*  
*sign up for the Easter Vigil with mentor: one hour between end*  
*of Good Friday service and Easter dawn... in sanctuary (cs)\**

**20** 9:00AM PALM SUNDAY

10:30AM WORSHIP: *(worship at either 9 or 10:30am)*

*Be sure you are signed up with your mentor for Easter vigil*

## **HOLY WEEK**

**24** 7:00PM MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

IN HALL *(required)*

**25** 7:30PM GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE IN SANCTUARY

EASTER VIGIL BEGINS AFTER SERVICE

**26** Vigil Continues ... through Easter Dawn

**27** EASTER DAY

6:00AM (EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE) (CS)\*

*(optional – not a replacement for Easter Worship in the sanctuary)*

9:00AM OR 10:30AM EASTER:

WORSHIP AT EITHER HOUR *(required)*



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### MARCH SCHEDULE



6<sup>th</sup> Lent IV ~ Begin in church with family

13<sup>th</sup> Lent V~ Regular Classes –Prepare for Palm Sunday  
(*Daylight Savings Time Begins...“Spring Ahead” your clocks*)

20<sup>th</sup> PALM SUNDAY ~ Children begin in class – end in worship - Cherub Choir sings

**Holy Week Marketplace~ FOLLOWS WORSHIP SERVICES**

24<sup>th</sup> **Maundy Thursday** 7PM - Last Supper Service...  
*Communion Class requirement* *light supper provided*

27<sup>th</sup> **EASTER SUNDAY** Children begin in Church ~  
***Children’s Choir sings***  
(*Pre-school – 5<sup>th</sup> graders move to hall for special event –*  
*\*children receive communion*)

### SACRED DANCE PROCESSION for Easter (all ages)

**Rehearsal:**  
**Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup> ~ 5:30PM**

**QUESTIONS CALL KRISTIN #774-991-1555**

### SPONSORSHIP OF YOUTH FOR NYE (NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT)

We are very excited that there will be 15 youth and adults going to the National Youth Event this summer 2016. They will be organizing some Fundraisers and also welcome Sponsorships. Stay tuned for more information

# PEOPLE AND PASSAGES

## BIRTHS

**January 26, 2016**

*Melyssa Ann Scott Robbins  
Daughter of Ashley Ferris and Scott Robbins*



**February 22, 2016**

*Felix Leroy Demick  
Son of David and Audrey Demick  
Grandson of Claudia and James Demick*

## HOSPITALIZED

*Anne Burton, Thomas Thornton, Lori Engustian, Anne Burton*

## NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE...



**Set Clocks Ahead** – Don't forget Daylight savings time begins March 13<sup>th</sup>, so set your clocks Ahead on Saturday Night March 12<sup>th</sup> so you won't be late for Sunday Worship and Church School.



## OVERFLOWING THANKS!!! ~~~

~to Betty-Ann Brown, Elnor Conyers, Rosa Brown, Joyce Almeida, Joyce Greene, Cheryl Gherardini, Debbie Johnson and Keith Dube for collating the February caller.

~to Hazel Greene and Keith Dube for their help in the office

~Special Thanks to Neal Abelson for coming to the rescue and picking up Rev. Joy when a flat tire occurred on the -9 degree Sunday morning—and then heating a frozen water pipe in the Gardiner Building so Coffee Hour could take place, bathrooms could be utilized and coffee could be made!!

**Congratulations to** (deacon) Josh Wright who was given a Distinguished Visiting Professor award from Johnson & Wales University Josh is a deacon here at SCCUCC but also is a writer, educator and active hacker who exposes critical data vulnerabilities and helps corporations and organizations safeguard their information systems. If you want to read the whole article about Josh and this award go to:

<https://blogs.jwu.edu/news/joshua-wright-what-does-it-mean-to-be-an-ethical-hacker>

**Let us know of your joys and celebrations so we can include them in our People and Passages each month.**



## THE DEACONS BENCH

Just In!! Easter comes early this year...March 27! Are you ready? There will be Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise, and then two more Easter services!!

In March, we will again be sponsoring the Thursday Lenten dinners & seminars/presentations, which we started in 2009. They have been very well-attended over the years, and our biggest complaint has been that people are not able to be in two places at one time. As usual, these will be held the first three Thursday in March; 3, 10 & 17. There are a total of nine different topics from which you can choose (yes, this is always the hard part, but choices are a good thing)! Check your Sunday bulletin for specifics.

Did you know that the Seekonk Congregational Church has been selected to host the next Rhode Island Conference UCC Annual Meeting on April 30 this year? In addition to being a host to all of the conference delegates and ministers from the other RICUCC churches, as well as our Conference Minister, Barbara Libby, we will also be hosting the conference ministers from Massachusetts & Connecticut. Hold it, we're not done yet. The Rev. John C. Dorhauer, the national UCC president, will also be visiting us and will be the keynote speaker. This is quite the honor to be able to host this meeting.

This will be a great time for us to show off (humbly, of course) our church and its amazing church family. We have just begun the planning process, but we know that we will have a lot to do for this event, and will need many of you to help us pull this off. This includes setting up a Continental breakfast in the morning, and a lunch later on. We will need people to help set up tables and chairs, people to make goodies for the breakfast and possibly for the lunch. We will need people to help serve and clean up, to help people find out where to park, where to go to register, to find the Lower Hall for breakfast, or the sanctuary for the meeting, and then Woodworth Hall for lunch. But mostly, we need people who will demonstrate what an incredible church family we are.

And, just a reminder, if you really want to get the full SCC-UCC experience, consider volunteering for other events (hint: Corn Beef & Cabbage Dinner is coming up), or even joining a committee or board. The Nominating Committee will soon be looking for new people with new ideas to help our many groups. If you want to make our/your church even better, here is your opportunity! Your reward will not only consist of being a part of change, but also learning more about what makes this church run, making new friends, and becoming a fully participating member of our church family!

*Submitted by: David Graham, Deacon Emeritus*



*Louanne Jennings-Abelson - Co-Senior Deacon, Stephen Houle - Co-Senior Deacons, Ellen Hindle, Cindy Pearson, Kristin Putney, Jim Siegfried, Walter Stitt, Cathy Strycharz, Mark Strycharz, Pat Martin, Josh Wright, Randy Greene, Donna Euell (ad-hoc) Jonathan Ryder (ad-hoc)*

**DEACON'S FUND...** the envelopes for the first Sunday of each month go for special needs of folks in our faith community. We thank all who give faithfully and encourage others to consider a small gift for this fund each month. Please check to make sure that you are using the correct envelope.

**Disciples for Maundy Thursday...CALLING DISCIPLES!** Any willing men who have not yet had the sacred and special opportunity to be a disciple on Maundy Thursday ~~ Please sign up over in the Hall if you are able to be here on **Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>** by 6:30 to take part in the service-- there will be a 15 minute **rehearsal with Rev. Joy on Palm Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>** - in the hall at NOON.

Sometimes the pastor is the **LAST** to know if you are sick, injured, or hurting in any way ~ please remember to call Rev. Joy if you or your loved one is in the hospital and in order for her to keep you in her prayers or be remembered in the prayers of our faith community. There is great strength in knowing that you are not alone or that others are keeping you in their prayers!

## **THREE THURSDAYS IN MARCH ~ ~2016**

**6 PM – Communal Meal for all ages ~ \$1.00 per person**

*Come eat a simple meal in community together - sponsored and prepared by various committees or groups or individuals in the church to bring us together!*

**6:45 PM – Choose a Group (or just hang out!)**

**\*\*CHILD CARE FOR PRESCHOOLERS AFTER SUPPER  
AND**

**\*\* MOVIE OR ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN  
KINDERGARTEN AND UP.**

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF CHILD CARE IS NEEDED!  
(Most Groups will last 1 hour)**



**\*WEEK I~~~ MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup>**

***Supper sponsored by Special Friends***

**1) Our Children are the Future NOW!  
WHAT DO THEY REALLY NEED?**

*Leadership: (Facilitated by our Board of Christian Education)*

**Parents:** Why enroll your child in an amazing program proven to support children throughout their life!? **THIS WORKSHOP WILL DISCUSS THIS SUPPORTIVE PROGRAM** with eye-opening statistics and research! Discussion Topics and conversations will include: the various ages & stages of **OUR CHILDREN** - recognizing their needs, awareness of obstacles, lifting up their God given talent/skills as well as **LEARNING TO BE PROACTIVE AND NOT REACTIVE**

**2)Tasty Website ~ SCC Style**

*Leader: Christina and Randy Greene*



Have you ever seen the two minute fast forwarded "Tasty" recipes on Facebook? Christina and Randy Greene will show you how to cook quick, delicious and inexpensive weeknight recipes from the "Tasty" website.

**3) What Do I, As a Christian, Believe?**

*Leader Rev. Dr. H. Daehler Hayes*

A short Refresher Course in Church history:  
Christian Faith and Practice. Come-Learn-Share! No preparation required! Come as you are ~~





**\*WEEK II~ (MARCH 10)**  
***Supper at 6 pm***



**1) Muslim / Christian Dialogues**

*Rev. Daehler Hayes along with Imam Fahid Ansari  
(leader of the Dahwah Mosque in Providence will co-host a  
Muslim- Christian Conversation)*

This interfaith dialogue is designed for persons from the Dawah Muslim Center of Rhode Island and persons from the Seekonk Congregational Church.

No special preparation is expected of those who choose to attend... other interfaith gatherings / sharings may follow.



**WEEK III (March 17)**  
***Supper sponsored by special friends***



**VOLUNTEERING**

*Leader: Mark Johnson*

Did you know that there are varieties of organizations that do wonderful work and need volunteers. A great discussion on why it is good to volunteer and all of the opportunities available.

**Tasty Website ~ SCC Style**

*Leader: Christina and Randy Greene*

Have you ever seen the two minute fast forwarded "Tasty" recipes on Facebook? Christina and Randy Greene will show you how to cook quick, delicious and inexpensive weeknight recipes from the "Tasty" website.



**HOUSEHOLD SAFETY**

*Leader: Stephen Houle*

Home fire extinguisher, purchasing the correct extinguisher and proper storage and use. Carbon Monoxide, What is it? What are the dangers? And how do I protect myself and my family? Also... Health and Medical history forms.

Why everyone should have one and where you should store it.

**"GUIDED MEDITATION  
WITH MUSIC, MARKERS & PRAYER"**

*Facilitator: Kristin Putney*



We will begin with praying with colors, making a prayer stick.

Next, enjoy a guided meditation of entwined prayers and music with color symbolism for healing, strength, peace, wisdom, forgiveness, rebirth and love. Each person, using markers, will color a chosen image (*From Adult Coloring Books*) that has symbolic meaning.

**TROUBLED MINDS:**

**MENTAL ILLNESS AND THE CHURCH'S MISSION**

*Facilitator: Peggy Matteson, Conference Staff Person for Health Ministries*

Nearly 1 out of 5 in our congregation, adults, adolescents, and children will experience a mental health problem this year. Some will respond by becoming withdrawn, fearful. others will find out. But mental illness is nothing to be ashamed of! It is a medical condition, just like heart disease or diabetes. And just like physical illnesses, mental illnesses are treatable. People can and do recover. Learn more and explore how the church can help.



PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE WALL IN THE HALL OR  
CALL-508-336-9355



# COME CELEBRATE IN COMMUNITY WITH YOUR CREATOR!



**MAKE YOUR SUNDAYS MEANINGFUL WITH 4  
HOURS OF WORSHIP in Community and Service**

*(One hour each week to worship God...*

*...one hundred sixty seven hours to play, work, serve, etc.)*

## Some Facts About Lent

The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday. That day is so named because in the early church ashes were sprinkled on the heads of penitent Christians.

This custom remains today and is becoming more wide spread in the Protestant Churches. The sign of the cross on forehead or in the palm of the hand symbolizes our being open to God and offering ourselves with clean hearts before our God.

The color for Lent is purple, reminding us of Lent's penitential mood.

Lent lasts forty days, until Easter. but if you count the days from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday, you get 46. That's because Sundays are excluded from the count (and from Lent). They are designed as "feast days," commemorating the resurrection.

The origin of the word LENT is the Anglo-Saxon word, LENCTEN, meaning "spring", the time when the days lengthen.

In some families there is the tradition of "giving up" something for Lent. That evolved from the idea that Lent was a period of fasting in preparation for baptism which was observed on Easter Eve.

Thankfully, most of us have progressed from the idea of "giving up" (Self denial) to the idea of "taking on" for the good of others.

There are many ways Christians benefit from Lent today. The season encourages us to set aside time for quiet contemplation...to read, meditate, and pray; to reflect on the direction of our own personal lives and on the meaning of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

It reminds us that we are a part of a community of faith that makes a profound difference in our lives and in the way we reach out to those near at hand as well as those on the other side of the world.

***In short, Lent is a time to reflect on the relationship between our lives and our faith, between Jesus' journey and our own.***

**GOOD FRIDAY  
WALK FOR HUNGER  
MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> @ 8:30 AM**

START AT HAVEN METHODIST (Taunton Ave. EP)

JOIN OTHER WALKERS AND ARRIVE

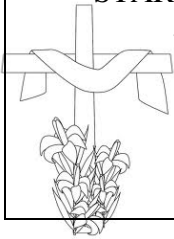
AT THE STATE HOUSE FROM

NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST AT 11AM.

*THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO*

*'LIVE THE WAY OF THE CROSS'*

GIVING FOR OTHERS!



**OUR PRAYER FOR LENT AND FOR ALL SEASONS:**

Many have commented that they pray the words of the *“World Peace Prayer”* that we often sing at the end of the service as our Song of Parting...and some even have this prayer taped near their work space. You may want to do the same!!

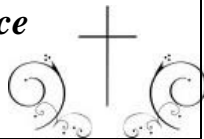
*Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,  
From despair to hope, from fear to trust!*

*Leads us from hate to love, from war to peace*

*Let peace fill our hearts,*

*Let peace fill our world,*

*Let peace fill our universe.*



**DO YOU OR A LOVED ONE SEEK PRAYERS?**

If you or a loved one wants to be included on the Prayer Circle list, it can be confidential and private (placed on the list with an \*\* sign), or it can be listed so Prayer Circle folks will feel comfortable asking you about your concern. Please be specific when you make your prayer request. Call Rev. Joy or Maria in the office to be placed on the list and again to have the name removed.

It is valuable to know if the person being included has requested prayers for courage, guidance for the doctors, or support for their family, etc.

If you are willing to pray for other, you can take a prayer list each Sunday morning.

*Please consider the ministry of Seekonk Congregational Church  
when updating your will –the generations to come will be grateful!*



# 17 ANNUAL CORNERED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

**SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016**



Serving from 5:00 - 7:00 PM  
Take out is available

**Tickets**

Adults \$12.00  
Children 5-12 \$4.00  
Children under 4 Free

## **Traditional Irish Dinner**

The Irish atmosphere will enhance the flavor of Corned beef, cabbage, onions, potatoes, carrots, chourico, rolls & butter and beverages. Dessert will be ice cream and homemade cookies. Tickets are \$12.00 for adults, \$4 for children 5-12.

Please join us for our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner.

**Reservations are suggested by calling the church office  
508-336-9355 or Donna Euell 508-336-5283**

**Sign-up sheets for food donations  
and assistance for the day of the dinner  
are available in the Hall.**



## EARNEST WORKERS

*Earnest Workers meet in Woodworth Hall*

### MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup>

**10:00AM** Business Meeting  
**10:30AM** Planning for Tea Party scheduled for Sunday,  
March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM (work on favors)  
**12:00PM** Lunch

### MARCH 16<sup>th</sup>

**10:00AM** Business Meeting  
**10:30AM** Guest Speaker: TBD from Seekonk Public Library

### APRIL 6<sup>th</sup>

**10:00AM** Business Meeting  
**10:30AM** Guest Speaker: Mark Searles, Chief  
Meteorologist WJAR-NBC 10

### Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> for the Earnest Workers March Hatters Tea

at 2:30PM in the Hall

Tickets: \$15 (limited tickets available)

Includes: Scones, savorys and sweets

*Funny Hat Contest for those who want to participate*



## COFFEE CONNECTION

The Coffee Connection meets  
every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each Month ~  
at 9:30AM at Vino's Restaurant Vino's on Rt. 44 in Rehoboth.

All are welcome to join for a  
great conversation and community.  
Any questions call Ralph Travers at 508-336-8338.

**ALL WELCOME**

# STEWARDSHIP

## OUR STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN FOR 2016/17 BEGINS!

### "Hope for the Future"

*TRUST in the PROMISE! "For surely I know the plans I have for you... to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11*

Our Seekonk Congregational Church, UCC certainly is a place of "Hope" and Caring for many people within our Church Family and beyond!

We care for our *children* with a wonderful Christian Education program and "hope" for their bright futures!

We provide wonderful programs and activities for our *members/friends* sharing care and "hope" for all!

We care for our *senior* members and share "hope" through our Caring Ministry and friendships for many who are able to join us and those who are homebound as well!

We share "hope" for those beyond our congregation through *mission and outreach* to many!

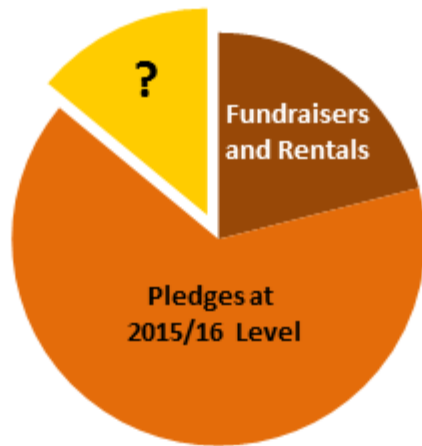
To do all of this we ask for your support as we plan for our next year's budget beginning July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

**Stewardship 2016/2017** - Our "Hope for the Future" depends upon:

- Receiving a 15% increase in income to pledges to provide for a balanced budget (new and increased pledges)
- Receiving all our pledges back by **Stewardship Dedication Sunday, April 10th** so that our Finance Committee and Trustees can prepare our budget for 2016/17.

**The "Missing Piece"**  
**15%**

**Fundraisers and Building**  
**Donations - 25%**



**Pledges at 2015/16 Level - 40%**

If you have not pledged previously we encourage you to prayerfully consider making a pledge for the coming year, even if it is a small amount per week. Also please consider pledging electronically because this ensures more consistent income year round.

You will receive a letter with a pledge card and information about this Stewardship Campaign. ***Please return your pledge by Pledge Dedication Sunday which is April 10, 2016. NOTE that this is earlier than in previous years.*** It is important that we receive your pledge by April 10th so we can complete our budget planning prior to our Annual Meeting in early June.

Thank you VERY much and please contact any of our Stewardship Committee members or Maria Tavares in our Church Office if you have questions.

*The members of your Stewardship Committee:  
Bill Barker, Tony DeJesus, Fred MacDonald, Mary Silvia,  
Cindy Parker, Co-Chair, Evelyn Watkins, Co-Chair*



## MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION



**Many thanks** for all those who served, made chili, cornbread and contributed bananas for our last Soup Kitchen on February 6<sup>th</sup>: *Mark Brown, Rosa Brown, Alisha Rebello, Ae Jee & Brenda Booth, Eric and Lindsay Euell, Donna Euell, Vivian Dionne, Elizabeth Barker, Germaine Olear, Lori Ferreira, Joyce Greene, Bonnie DeBlois and Tony and Yvette Sousa.*

**FOOD FOR ANYONE YOU KNOW WHO HAVE FINANCIAL CHALLENGES:** Canned goods and some staple food items. If ANYONE YOU KNOW is in need of expanding the weekly food budget to make ends meet, please take them some food. **Please continue to bring in food items for our pantry...**peanut butter, tuna fish, canned soups and stews, canned meats, peanut butter, pasta, sauce and vegetables are especially appreciated.

**The Two Degree Bars** on sale at coffee hour

**“PUT HAITI ON YOUR BUCKET LIST”** – We will be collecting money for the three orphanages again and the bucket will be available after each service. We hope to fill the bucket and all the money received will go to the orphanages.

**The Karen McHugh Spay and Neuter Fund** is sponsored by the Board of Mission and Social Action. It helps defray the cost of spaying and neutering your cat or dog for those who cannot afford the full cost. Anyone interested in this program can contact Sandy Lima who oversees the fund or Linda Sable for more information. Applicants will be required to fill out a form and payment will go directly to the vet of the applicants' choice. Information will also be given for low cost spay and neutering programs.

***We continue to collect*** Massachusetts deposit bottles and cans, and to use the funds for mission projects, such as the soup kitchen. \*Please do not crush the cans!! The recycle bins are located on the Fall River parking lot.

**GIFT CARDS...**The Board of Mission and Social Action now has three beautifully designed gift cards for all occasions for you to purchase. The cards are photos of children in Haiti and one card is artwork done by Haitian artists. The cards benefit a child in Haiti to attend a school; to purchase eggs, to feed an undernourished child in Haiti and another card purchased will help with the continued work in Haiti. Please see Linda Sable if you would like to see/purchase a card.

Called to be one body in Christ with love  
as our guide, we affirm each individual  
as a child of God and we live out our faith  
as a welcoming community open to all people  
regardless of race, color, creed, gender,  
sexual orientation, age or disability.

## "JOURNEY OF CHRIST"

*Shows Friday/Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>*



Can you guess what Tony Award winning musicals these songs are from? "Day By Day", "I Don't Know How To Love Him" and "By My Side"...Come enjoy these songs and many more from Broadway musicals performed by the Seekonk Shadowbox Players and Studio 34 dancers.

*Curtain 7pm; Tickets \$10 adults / \$ 7 Seniors & kids under 10  
Seekonk Congregational Church (Sanctuary)  
contact the church office: 508-336-9355 or  
Debbie Brzozowy: 401-253-0334*

Directed by Nancy-Lee Devane ~  
~ Choreography by Deb Brzozowy  
*Dessert will be served after the show in Woodworth Hall  
(behind church)*



## NAME TAGS

Your name tag is on the wall in the front entryway of the church.  
Please pick it up and wear it on Sunday morning.  
Place it in the basket next to the door in the hall before you leave.  
Other baskets are also provided.

# FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



## **SPRING CLEAN-UP** *Sunday, April 9 & 10* *(Rain date...April 16 & 17)*

Volunteers needed for cleanup of Church grounds following both services

**OUTSIDE WORK (RAKING, SWEEPING WALKS,  
Planting, Weeding, Trimming, Etc...)**

The Board of Trustees is responsible for maintenance of the Church and the grounds. If you see any maintenance related issues, please see a Trustee:, *Tom Heelan Co-Chair, Brian Burns, Co-Chair, John Hansen, Ron Rupert, Ruth Graham Ralph Travers, Susan Boucher, Mark Brown, Keith Dube, Steve Sluter, Pat Gilbert-Treasurer, Russ Hart (Ad-Hoc) Audio Visual, Bob Putney (Ad-Hoc)*

## **Thanks to all who contribute to the Mortgage Debt Reduction!**

**The Blue envelopes in your box help us meet the monthly expenses.**

## ***Is your Pledge up-to-date?***

*Please help us up-date our records. If you are attending another church or no longer wish to receive mailings, please call the office (508-336-9355) or send us a note. Thank you for your kind attention to this in order to help us with rising postage and accurate mailing lists.*



**CARING MINISTRY...**Visitations continue for the homebound by members of the Caring Committee.

Thank you to all who have helped host the Bingo activity at the Evergreen Nursing Home. Bingo at Evergreen is held every third Sunday at 6PM. Call the church office if you wish to help.

**KITCHEN MINISTRY...**The kitchen is monitored each week and cleaned. Please remember to wash and dry dishes and put things away after use. This makes light work for everyone that comes behind you. As usual, remember to put your name on the bottom of your plates so we can contact you if it is left behind.

*Betty-Ann Brown for the Kitchen Ministry*



## ***IT'S YOUR CORNERSTONE FUND!!***

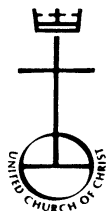
***By Reverend Dr. H.Daehler Hayes, Mission Interpreter***

***Over 20 years ago our wider church family, the United Church of Christ, created a new mission: an investment and loan fund to serve the churches and agencies of the United Church of Christ. Individual church members and churches themselves were invited to make an investment ... a Certificate of Deposit (CD) of any amount of money (\$500 – \$50,000 --Current rate 2%-3%) for a period of time (6 months to 5 years) and receive interest on their investment.***

***The investments from church members and churches are pooled and loaned at a reasonable rate to churches that seek to renovate or expand facilities or do new ministry with their loans. The Cornerstone Fund now totals 56M dollars in 205 loans (from \$20,000 – 5M dollars) and there are over 2700 investors at the present time. The Cornerstone Fund also helps churches refinance loans at lower rates saving the churches money.***

***Perhaps you might like to invest in the Cornerstone Fund. If interested, please speak to me at church or call me at 401-783-2438 and I'll get you an application and background information on this YOUR wonderful mission: the UCC Cornerstone Fund.***

***Sincerely, Daehler***



## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!**



**Thomas F. Thornton Jr.** recently celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and we sang to him as well as all those in their 90<sup>th</sup> year and over. Thomas is retired and lives in East Providence and was raised Roman Catholic.

**Bette Angell** is also retired but works part time at Epoch. She too lives in East Providence and was brought up in the Baptist tradition.

**Lisa Hopkins** is a resident of Seekonk, married to John and mother to Jacob and Abigail. She is a third grade teacher at Martin Elementary School and enjoys running, hiking and watching her children in their sporting events. She was raised in the Roman Catholic tradition as well.

**Liam Maloney** was active in the United Church of Christ growing up. He is married to Sarah Stevenson and they moved back to New England and bought a home in Seekonk to start a family. He is the manager of Bottles Fine Wine Store in Providence.

**Sarah Stevenson** is the spouse of Liam Maloney and together they have two daughters: Vera and Twyla. She is a Dialysis Social Worker at the VA Hospital and in spare time enjoys crochet, yoga, running, and mindfulness meditation. Sarah was brought up in the Lutheran Church.

**Beverly Martell** recently moved to this area from the Adirondacks area of New York State where she was very active in the Presbyterian Church. She now lives in Riverside RI and is the Mom of Lori Ferreira and is enjoying her great grandchildren who are actively involved in church school

**MAY GOD'S SPIRIT EMPOWER US WITH  
~ THE JOY OF GIVING  
~THE STRENGTH OF SERVING AND  
~THE COMMITMENT OF LOVING  
IN THE WAY OF JESUS CHRIST...**

## UCC CONFERENCE NEWS

*“Therefore be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the RI, MA and CT Conference UCC commits to joining with the other two UCC Conferences in Southern New England to issue a common invitation to the pastors, leaders and congregations of our three Conferences to use 2015-2016 program year as a ‘season of Discernment’ as we listen to how God may be calling our three Conferences over 2016-2017calendar yes to either federate or merge. We do this seeking to advance the mission of the UCC in Southern New England and beyond, and as a sign of faithfulness to God’s call.*

*In compliance with this charge the RI Conference has scheduled a series of regional meetings. On January 31<sup>st</sup> 2015 the East Bay congregations: Hope, Riverside, Newman, Seekonk and Sheldon Street) met at Hope Congregational Church UCC 40 persons attended this meeting, with Seekonk being very well represented.*

*The Rev. Dr. George Peters, RI Board of Directors President opened the meeting with prayer and went on to explain the intent of these regional meetings:*

*1) to reach out to the local membership of the churches in the RI Conference UCC*

*2) to listen to the questions, concerns and observations concerning the proposed possible merger of the 3 Conferences (RI, MA, CT)*

*3) to stress that these discussions were a ‘work in progress’. Nothing was ‘cast in stone’ at this juncture*

*4) recommended reading UCC General Minister and President Rev. John Dorhauer’s book “Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church meets the Postmodern World” (paperback/Amazon) discusses changes and challenges of today’s church.*

*The Rev. Barbara J. Libby, Interim Conference Minister opened up the meeting for questions and observations which she tabulated and which will be ‘pooled’ with those from other regional meetings.*

*At random, some of these questions:*

*1) Why / How? Some other UCC Conferences are collapsing their leadership due to decreasing revenues and need to reduce costs. General Synod did invite Conferences to consider re-thinking boundaries*

*2) how many Association Area Ministers are there currently in MA/ CT? CT has 4 and MA has 5. RI has 1 Conference Minister .*

*3) might sharing staff save all 3 Conference money?*

*4) The Rev. Dr. Daehler Hayes suggested years ago that 'Doing Together What We Cannot Do alone' and the question arose: Isn't this what is being proposed?*

*5) Several examples of successful collaboration between our Conferences already are:*

*\* for at least 5-6 years New England has focused together on the environment*

*\*RI, MA and CT Boards have met once and are scheduled to meet again this May 2016 – learning about one another and what is happening in the 3 Conferences*

*\* Better connectivity has already enhanced a number of training opportunities for pastors as well as 'Super Saturdays' which provides sharing resources for all three Conferences.*

*6) Other options as we move forwards include:*

*\*Combining Churches – closing some and re-purposing buildings*

*\*Interdenominational collaborations*

*7) Focus on 'Community Building' Some churches feel isolated*

*~~~Submitted by Elizabeth Barker*



## **SUPER SATURDAY REGISTRATION**

### **What is Super Saturday?**

**Super Saturday is an all-day learning event for clergy persons and lay leaders and is sponsored jointly by the CT, MA, and RI UCC Conferences. This year, the CT Conference is hosting and the event will be held at Killingly High School on Saturday, March 12.**

### **Watch a Video Promo!**

**The CT Conference Office has just released a brief video about Super Saturday and you can access it by clicking on this link: <http://www.ctucc.org/index.php>**

### **Our Keynote Speaker**

**Traci Blackmon has just emerged on the national UCC scene as a result of her recent appointment as acting executive of UCC Justice and Witness Ministries-- and we are looking forward, with much anticipation, to her presence and message. To read more about Traci Blackmon, click here: [http://www.ucc.org/news/traci\\_blackmon\\_to\\_lead\\_ucc\\_justice\\_and\\_witness\\_ministries\\_10212015](http://www.ucc.org/news/traci_blackmon_to_lead_ucc_justice_and_witness_ministries_10212015)**

## **THANK YOU NOTES**

Good Morning,

I would like to thank everyone for the generous donations made to support my Eagle Project. All of the donations I received will help support the Haven of Grace Women's shelter in Woonsocket. Because of your generosity, you have made my Eagle project a huge success. Thank you again for your generosity and support.

*Eagle Scout Candidate, Justin Houle*

Dear church family,

I would like to extend much appreciation to everyone. I so much appreciated the lovely visit with Rev. Joy. I love the Prayer Shawl she brought. So many lovely card were sent from so many people from the church. I would like to thank everyone so much for all the beautiful cards with beautiful short messages for my 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration.

*With great appreciation, Alice White*







## EASTER VIGIL

Will begin following the Good Friday Service  
and continue until Easter Dawn. (March 25 - March 27)  
(There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Hall.)

## EASTER FLOWERS

If you wish to have an Easter plant for Easter Sunday, please remember that our tradition here is to bring our choice of spring flower. Bring flowers to the room behind the sanctuary. Use the parking lot door entrance and use the carts and tables designated for flowers on the day before Easter (Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>). Put your name on the plant to avoid mix-ups. Feel free to take your plant after the 10:30 Easter service.

If your plant is in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill in the bottom of this form and place it in the offering plate or return to the church office.

**(Return forms or call the church by  
Palm Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>)**

I WILL BRING A \_\_\_\_\_ PLANT.

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

OR IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_ WILL

I \_\_\_\_\_ WILL NOT

*(Take it home after the 10:30AM Easter Service)*

**Seekonk Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
600 Fall River Avenue  
Seekonk, MA 02771  
508-336-9355 Fax: 508-336-3296  
Web Site: [www.scc-ucc.com](http://www.scc-ucc.com)  
E-Mail: [sccucc@verizon.net](mailto:sccucc@verizon.net)

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*A Special Thanks to Alice White for sponsoring this month's Caller*

*OR CURRENT RESIDENT*

**TO BELIEVE IS TO CARE-----**

**-----TO CARE IS TO DO !!!**

**2016**

Senior Minister: Rev. Joy C. Utter  
Associate Minister: Rev. Marilyn Ricci  
Director of Christian Education: Kristin Putney  
Director of Music: Susan Barrow  
Office Administrator: Maria Tavares  
Treasurer: Patricia Gilbert  
**The Congregation Ministers**

**MARCH**

Assistant for Operations: Louanne Jennings-Abelson  
Co-Senior Deacons: Louanne Jennings-Abelson and Stephen Houle  
Moderator: Greg Salgueiro  
Parish Nurse: Addie Heelan  
Co-Trustee Chairs: Tom Heelan and Brian Burns  
Conference Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. H. Daehler Hayes