

The Seekonk Congregational Church
United Church Of Christ

The
Caller

Gathered 1885



Worship for MARCH

Sunday, March 5th... Lent II

2 Services: 9:30- 10:30AM and 11-11:40AM

Sunday, March 12th... Lent III

1 service: 9:30AM (Daylight Saving Time begins)

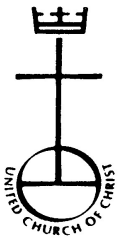
Sunday, March 19th

Lent IV...1 service: 9:30AM

Sunday, March 26th

Lent V...1 service: 9:30AM

Worship for APRIL



Sunday, April 2nd Palm Sunday

Services: 9:30AM and 11AM

Walk Through Holy Week

Sunday, April 9th Easter Sunday

Services: 9:30AM and 11AM

Sunday, April 16th ...1 service: 9:30AM

Pledge Dedication Sunday

Sunday, April 23rd ...1 service: 9:30AM

Sunday, April 30th ...1 service: 9:30AM

From the Senior Minister

As one of our church leaders and I recently discussed the many impacts of Covid on our own lives... as well as on the life of the church.... we reflected on the negatives of how life changed – patience thin – mistakes not forgiven – job descriptions threatened -- routines perplexed—feelings hurt-- Plans A or B or C fused into some form of all three or more together... the residue remains!!.

Hence the word for these days-- TOLERANCE – arose – and whether or not any of the above affected you... it seems fitting that we all might include in our prayers for this Lenten Season the hope for even more ‘tolerance’ (broadmindedness, open-mindedness, acceptance, lenience, patience, kindness) as we gather or plan or meet... and may we find patience to “tolerate” the changes and mistakes and forgive any words spoken that have hurt. We pray for Christ’s love to be even more alive in our families and in our church family in life-giving ways that will continue to strengthen and guide our hearts and minds with kindness and compassion and positivity and clarity --

-- in Jesus’ name!! Amen!

*As individuals and as a church family moving through Lent toward Easter and beyond, may we hold fast to Jesus’ words to: **LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU! FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER! LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!** May it be so for all of us!*

In faith, love, blessings, and peace.....Joy



DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Confirmation:

Mar 3 Fri 6:30-9:00 PM at church WRITE Faith Story,
Mentors help if available

Mar 5 9:30 worship



March 6 or 7 Mon or Tue, Mentor & Confirmand ZOOM chat
7:30-8:30PM

Mar 11 Sat Corned Beef Dinner (optional-community hours)

Mar 12 9:30 worship & Class 10:30-1:00 lower hall

Mar 19 9:30 worship

Mar 20 & 21 Mon or Tue, Mentor & Confirmand ZOOM
chat 7:30-8:30PM

Mar 26 9:30 worship SIGN UP for group VIGIL (required)
mentor can join

April 2 9:30 worship Palm Sunday

Apr 6 7 PM Maundy Thurs REQUIRED (Mentors invited)

Apr 7 7:30 Good Fri worship REQUIRED (Mentors invited)
Group: Vigil hour in sanctuary with mentors

Apr 9 EASTER 9:30 worship REQUIRED

Apr 10 & 11 Mon or Tue, Mentor & Confirmand zoom chat
7:30-8:30PM

Apr 16 no worship

Apr 23 9:30 worship & Class 10:30-1:00 lower hall

Apr 24 ZOOM Mon 7:30-8:30 Questions & Read 23 Psalm
versions

Apr 28 Fri- 6-8:30 finish faith stories Mentors needed
April 30 worship

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
MARCH 2023 ~9:30AM CHURCH SCHOOL

5th Lent 2 ~ K-8th GRADE begin in church with family
12th Lent 3 ~ Regular Classes
(Daylight Savings time - Spring ahead all clocks)
19th Lent 4 ~ Regular Classes
26th Lent 5 ~Regular Classes (Prepare for Palm Sunday)
Coffee Hour: One Egg Haiti "Many Hands Mission Project"

APRIL 2023~9:30AM CHURCH SCHOOL

2nd PALM SUNDAY(Lent 6) Cherub Choir
(Preschool-K-1st) sing at beginning of worship
K-8th GRADE begin in class – end in worship
Lenten Walk Through Holy Week during Coffee Hour
6th Maundy Thursday 7PM - Last Supper Service...in hall
Communion Class requirement light supper provided
7th Good Friday 7:30 PM in sanctuary
9th **EASTER SUNDAY** Children begin in Church
~ **Children's Choir sings**
Pre-school – 5th graders move to hall for special event with baby chicks and bunny
16th Regular Classes
23rd Regular Classes
30th Regular Classes



YOUTH GROUP DATES

Sunday Youth Group for 3rd grade -7th grade

March 5, 11-2 PM (new time!) in hall,
Games, Lunch, Crafts
March 26, 11-2 PM (new time!) in hall,
Games, Lunch, Crafts

Friday Night Youth Group 5th grade -8th grade

April 21, 6:00 - 8:30PM meet in lower hall
Games & Snacks (theme TBA)

ONE EGG HAITI

MANY HANDS Mission Project during Lent: ONE EGG HAITI

Church School Children are earning money at home from doing chores and giving their own funds to **One Egg Haiti** during the Lenten season.

The Congregation is also invited to bring donations to the ONE EGG HAITI table at coffee hour all through March, on Palm Sunday and on Easter. (make checks payable to SCC-UCC)

Your Funds Will: feed one child, one egg, for one day... Please help feed a child for many days!

CPR Class

(Receive certificate from Certified Rescue Courses)

Sunday, **April 16 ~ 11:00-12:30 PM**

(in hall following coffee hour)

Fee \$35, ALL ARE WELCOME

(including high school youth)

RSVP by 4/13 Kristin 774-991-1555



LOOKING AHEAD:

New Member Seminar

**Sunday, March 26 following Worship
at 10:40 in Room 1 of the Hall**

*All who wish to join as members of the Seekonk
Congregational Church UCC ---*

*OR want to know more about this faith community
are welcome to attend.*

Please sign up on your way into Worship...

PEOPLE AND PASSAGES

BAPTISM

February 19, 2023

Shaylin Madison Tessier

Daughter of Jenelle and Jeffry Tessier



Set Clocks Ahead – Don't forget Daylight savings time begins March 12th, so set your clocks Ahead on Saturday Night March 11th so you won't be late for Sunday Worship and Church School.

NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE...



Our thoughts, condolences and prayers:

~ We grieve with Russ Jennings at the recent passing of his sister Edith Jennings Miller.

~We grieve with and pray for the McKenrick Family at the passing of Christina McKenrick on Feb 14th, after a 12 year battle with breast cancer. Her Memorial Service will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday March 4, 2023 at 11 AM

~We grieve with Jan Burnett and her family at the passing of her daughter-in-law Susan Reid Burnett after a brief illness.

~Prayers for the family of Daniel Metzler who passed away. He was the son of former SCC Minister- Rev. David Metzler. He lived in Mount Crawford, VA

~We grieve with family and friends on the passing of Helen Crews, age 97, she was a long time member of our church and a friend to all. Her Memorial service will be held on Sunday 3/12/23 at 2PM in the sanctuary. A collation will follow in the hall.

~ We grieve with Nancy Poor on the passing of her sister Merrilee Poor

~ We grieve with the Bujold family on the passing of Edna's dad, David Belbin from Nashua, NH.

OVERFLOWING THANKS!!! ~~~

~Many...Many Thanks to Betty-Ann Brown, Muriel Woodcock, Diane Burbank, Pat Smith, Maarit Yando, Joyce Greene and Evelyn Watkins for collating the February caller.

Be a Well Being

The purpose of the **Be a Well Being** group is to provide a supportive and non-judgmental forum for exploring stress management strategies. Meditation, prayer, gentle movement, breath work and group discussion will be utilized. The group will be held on Thursday, March 9 and March 30 from 6pm-7pm in the Sanctuary...

If you have any questions, please email Sarah Stevenson at mamastaloney@gmail.com



THE DEACONS BENCH

Now that Valentine's Day is behind us, we have a few other important days coming up. Daylight Savings comes on Sunday, March 12, so make sure you note this on your calendar so you don't get confused on what time to go to church! Although we have already had a good number of spring-like days, Spring does not officially start until March 20 (have we even had winter yet??)! If you have any Muslim friends, Ramadan begins at sundown on March 22. If you are looking forward to Easter, sorry, but you have to wait until April 9.

Don't want to wait? Remember, every Sunday we have a great service with a great message delivered by a great Senior Minister, Rev. Joy C. Utter! Also, we have great music led by our Director of Music, Susan Barrow! So don't wait, just come to church every Sunday and enjoy!

A bit of trend information regarding churches that you might not have heard; attendance at churches of all denominations are in decline! The pandemic had an effect on all churches, and we were not an exception specific to that. However, the Seekonk Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, **IS** an exception to the general declining attendance trend. Why is that?

First of all, refer back to the 2nd sentence in the 2nd paragraph. Now, add to that the fact that we have a Director of Faith Formation, Kristin Putney, who brings in our children at a very early age, and manages to keep them engaged from grade school through to senior high school! And, Rev. Joy, Kristin and Susan are all forward-thinking leaders that are constantly looking to bring us something new.

But we can't overlook the fact that we are blessed with a very active and involved church family. We have people of all ages volunteering for weekly events, as well as special events, church school, Sunday services, caring for the church grounds, keeping in touch with those with illnesses or infirmities, and being involved with various church boards, committees and social groups.

Finally, check out Donna Euell's emails to see all of the great things happening at the Seekonk Congregational Church! Not only are there plenty of events you might want to go to, but some of these events might be ones that you might want to contribute your time to! If you want to get the full experience of being a part of our incredible church family, get involved!

DEACONS: Evelyn Watkins & Tony DeJesus (Co-Senior Deacons)
Jim Siegfried Dawn Houle Russ Noble Bonnie DeBlois
Ruth Graham Betty Graham Mark Johnson
Brian Burns Ann Varna-Garis David Supinski
Louanne Jennings-Abelson (Deacon Emerita)
Jonathan Ryder (ad hoc) Donna Euell (ad hoc)

Submitted By: David Graham (Deacon Emeritus)

The Deacon's Fund goes to help those in our faith community in need of emergency help or those who have special needs! For those who give via paper envelopes, the envelopes are GREEN and in the offering envelope box for the first Sunday of each month. OR if you give on-line, go to www.scc-ucc.com and click on the online giving button at the top right hand corner and fill out the online giving form.

We thank all who give faithfully and encourage others to consider a small gift for this fund each month.

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!

*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.*



HOLY WEEK SERVICES



PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2nd at 9:30AM & 11AM will include special music and palms. Cherub Choir sings at beginning. Walk Through Holy Week follows 9:30AM Worship Service.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 6th 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 2nd graders and families)* (Child Care for young children...**let us know if you need it ahead of time, please!**)

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7th 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 will be 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 CELEBRATION SERVICES: APRIL 9th at 9:30AM and 11AM Organ and Timpani. 9:30...Sacred Dance processional and Children's Choir sings. All children begin in church and pre-school through 5th graders are invited ***(unless parents want them to remain in worship)*** to move to the Hall for special event with baby chicks and bunny.

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, April 8th)



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Newest Members who joined our Seekonk Congregational Church UCC in February

***Susan McGinley** comes to us from the Congregational Church in Norton. She was raised in the Congregational tradition since birth, has been married for 43 years and has 3 grandchildren. Sue lives in Attleboro Ma., is a nurse in the Mansfield Public Schools and will be retiring in June. Her interests include gardening, yoga, hiking, and reading.*

***Steven and Diane Findley** live in Attleboro and together have 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren. Both are retired and in their free time they enjoy 'grandchildren activities, reading, music, sports, and bicycle riding.*

***Kimberly Keane** lives in Attleboro and is spouse of Jeffrey, daughter of Diane and Steven Findley, and mother of Benjamin and Emma... She is employed by Russell Morin Catering and Events in Sales.*

***Alyson Ferney** is a resident of Seekonk with her spouse Richard and daughter Gracyn. She is a teacher of Multilingual Learners grades K-4. Alyson grew up in the Roman Catholic tradition and in her spare time appreciates hiking, reading, cooking, travel, helping the community via various drives, etc. mainly for immigrants and their families.*

Please greet and get to know these, our newest members of Seekonk Congregational Church UCC!!!



~ LENTEN SEMINAR ~



March 23 at 6PM

Sponsored by the Mission and Social Action

Light supper at 6PM

followed by Paul Dale's presentation at 6:45

The SNEUCC Ministries has issued a Green Congregation Challenge

We are a church that has been working for years to become a "Green" church and we have done quite well. We have eliminated Styrofoam and we re-cycle our cans and bottles just to name a few.

Paul Dale, from our conference, is coming to our church to speak during a He will instruct us on the four components of the Green Challenge:

1. Getting started
2. Creating a plan specific to the needs of our congregation
3. Building momentum for bigger goals and greater involvement
4. Expanding input to leverage changes needed to slow climate crisis

Please take the time to come to this event.

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...



“PRISM OF PRAISE CONCERT” **MARCH 4, 2023 AT 7PM**

Prism of Praise Community Gospel Choir is a multiracial, ethnically diverse Christian choir.

Through both song and witness, its mission is to:

- communicate and spread the good news, Christ's inclusive message of salvation;
- recognize and support the work of the Holy Spirit in the world today through outreach efforts;

- inspire and encourage all individuals on their personal journey toward God.

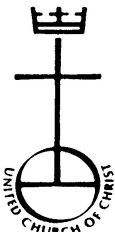
Love Offering will benefit Church Youth Ministry and Community Outreach Ministry to benefit the homeless

A reception will follow the concert
Sponsored by the Music and Arts Committee

The Seekonk Congregational Church

United Church Of Christ

SEEKS TO BE



A Community Of God's People

Spiritually Alive

Radically Inclusive

Faithfully committed to love and justice

Continuing In Today's World

The Gospel Movement

Begun By Jesus Christ

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

During our February meeting, the Trustees were apprised that donations to the Save Our Sanctuary (SOS) campaign are still being received. The SOS donations received so far have offset the cost of the roof replacement on the sanctuary. We are very appreciative of the generosity to date and would like you to know it is never too late to contribute.

We are still striving toward finding a contractor to repair and replace rotted wood on the sanctuary. Thereafter, the building will have to be painted and a new side door installed. We are hoping to accomplish these projects in the spring. Another project that needs attention is to seal cracks in the Fall River Avenue parking lot and patch the County Street lot. Your SOS donations will help offset the costs of these projects, as well.

The Trustee of the Month for March is Neal Abelson. Craig Mace is on call for April. If a concern arises concerning the buildings, kindly contact the Trustee of the Month directly or through the office. The Trustee of the Month is also posted on the office door.

Thank you for your support as we endeavor to fulfill our responsibilities as your Trustees.

*Yours in faith & service,
Board of Trustees*

Neal Abelson, Joyce Almeida, Susan Boucher, Ray Deslauriers, Donna Euell, Jon Gherardini, Ed Hindle, Jason Langille, Craig Mace (Co-Chair), Linda Sable (Co-Chair), and Ann Serio

**Thanks to all who contribute to the
Mortgage Debt Reduction!**
The Blue envelopes in your box help us meet the
monthly expenses.



STEWARDSHIP NEWS

OUR STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

FOR 2023-2024 BEGINS!

Sunday, April 16th is our Pledge Dedication Sunday!
Please send it your pledge if you have not already done so.

It is very easy to pledge - you can:

1. Call our Church office at 508-336-9355
2. Mail in your pledge card, or
3. Fill out a pledge card in Church on Sundays, March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 16 and drop it into the offering plate.

*Thank you very much from your Seekonk Congregational Church,
UCC Stewardship Committee,*

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGING

For more information regarding Electronic Giving (*forms*) and Pledge Cards or if you need envelopes, call Maria in the office 508-336-9355 or check out our website: www.scc-ucc.com and click on Online Giving.

~ OUR OFFERINGS ~ DIFFERENT WAYS OF GIVING

Have you ever noticed that some people don't put anything in the offering plate during worship!!?? Not that its anyone's business...but some folks would like it known that they give with a check each month or every two months while still others give electronically and have it taken out of their checking and sent to the church directly...and of course there are those who give faithfully into that plate every week! So...there are different ways of giving and we give thanks for the variety.



We are asking those who purchased Christmas Wreaths and/or Centerpieces to return their decorations so that we can use them again next year.

They can bring them to Church or drop them off outside the Church Office.

BOARD OF MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION



Mission and Social Action will be reading “Braiding Sweetgrass” by Robin Wall Kimmerer. (Non-fiction) Robin is a botanist and a member of the Potawatomi Nation. She embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us lessons, even if we have forgotten how to hear their voices. In reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgement and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. We will be meeting on Thursday, April 20, to discuss. Please contact Betty Graham if you are interested in joining this discussion: bettygraham5@yahoo.com

We are a church that has been working for years to become a “Green” church and we have done quite well. We have eliminated Styrofoam and we re-cycle our cans and bottles just to name a few. Recently the SNEUCC Ministries has issued a Green Congregation Challenge, building on prior green programs from our historic past. There are over 70 congregations that have been recognized for achieving green Congregational status. Mission and Social Action would like our church to be included in this group.

To help us understand and get started with this program, Paul Dale, from our conference, is coming to our church to speak during a Lenten supper that Mission and Social Action will be sponsoring on March 23 at 6 pm. We will have a light supper at 6 pm, followed by Paul Dale’s presentation at 6:45. He will instruct us on the four components of the Green Challenge:

5. Getting started
6. Creating a plan specific to the needs of our congregation
7. Building momentum for bigger goals and greater involvement
8. Expanding input to leverage changes needed to slow climate crisis

I hope many will take the time to come to this event.

MISSION CONCERNS

- **CANS & BOTTLES MA Deposit Only:**

Care for the earth and save the environment!!

Bring donations to the green bins - lift lid - drop in clean bottles and cans. Cans are sorted and brought to a recycling center.

Money goes for hunger/shelter/mission concerns

- **FOOD CERTIFICATES NEEDED...** We need Gift certificates in \$5 or \$10 amounts from area stores to ease the way for those in need who stop in seeking help. Please give to Rev. Joy or leave in office any time. (*Area Grocery stores, Dunkin', Panera Bread, Wendy's, Honey Dew etc...*)

- **FOOD PANTRY** (in Porch Area) is for anyone you know who has financial challenges Needed: canned meats, tuna, stew, peanut butter, paper goods, cereals



Our *****ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY** project will once again begin in April!

Please check in with office if you are willing to help out with the "highway" clean-up. We have all the supplies. You can do it on your own time - just let the office know you are going out, **you need to fill out a mandatory release form for Mass DOT**. We will let you know what areas need work. Thanks! This can be a fun family activity for adults and children over 10! Our route is 114A, from the church, across route 44, to the state line at the bus turn-around (the end of Ledge Road). *Please leave filled bags on the route, just let the church know where the bags are and Mass DOT will pick them up.*

Please wear your **name tags** every Sunday, if you need one, just let me know. As you leave each Sunday please place them back on the rack as you walk up the ramp.

Sponsor the Caller... \$85 for one month. Please call the church office 508-336-9355. All donations are appreciated!

Caller Collators ... Please call Maria at the church office 508-336-9355 if you would like to collate the Caller one morning per month... Many hands make light work. It is also a nice way to meet people.

Flower Committee... Reminds everyone there is a sign-up sheet in Gardiner Building for flowers to be given in memory or in honor of a loved one.



CORNERED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023
Buffet Serving 5 to 6:45PM

Eat In or Take Out (*online order ahead*)

Tickets: Adults \$16 ~ Children (5-12) \$6

*Tickets will be sold on Sunday at Coffee Hour or
online –
Link in church emails & Facebook or call the
church office 508-336-9355*

Reservations are suggested ~
Walk Ins Welcome
TELL YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

Sign up sheets are in the Hall for volunteers who wish to donate veggies (carrots, onions, cabbage, potatoes). Veggies need to be delivered to the Church by Thursday evening, March 9th.

There are also sign up sheets for volunteers to help with peeling vegetables, setting up, working in the kitchen/serving and clean-up.

EARNEST WORKERS MARCH HATTERS TEA – March 19, 2023... 2PM



Join us on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 in the Hall of the Gardiner Building.

The Earnest Workers will prepare a High Tea and will serve Tea, Scones, Sandwiches and desserts. Everyone is encouraged to wear a fun; pretty or fancy Hat as there will be prizes to share.

Tickets will go on sale starting on Sunday, February 26th in the Hall during Coffee Hour after the Church Service.

Note: We have a limit of 75 tickets available.

Please contact Evelyn Watkins at telephone number 401-680-2490 if you have questions. **NOTE: Tickets will be \$20.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children ages 12 and younger.**



YARD SALE

April 22, 2023~~~8:30AM – 2PM
Rent a table and sell your treasures!

This is an excellent opportunity to sell items you may have been cleaning out of closets, attics, basements and garages during COVID and from your Spring Cleaning 2023!

Rent a table for \$35.00 (6 foot table) or \$40.00 (8 foot table) and come on Friday evening, April 21st to set up your table for the sale. We will probably have about 20 tables for the sale so you can contact Maria Tavares in our Church Office (508-336-9355) to reserve a table for this event.

We will have coffee and items for sale in the Kitchen for breakfast and lunch.

If you have any questions, please call Maria Tavares at the Church office 508-336-9355 or send an email to seekonkucc@gmail.com



EARNEST WORKERS

Our Earnest Worker Meeting Schedule includes the following guest speakers and activities.

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 - Guest Speaker - Elizabeth Barker: Childhood in England and More...

We will meet in the Hall of the Gardiner Building at 10:00 am, have our Earnest Workers Meeting and then share time listening to Elizabeth's stories. Note: you may wish to read a book about Blecheley Park in England during World War II called The Rose Code by Kate Quinn. It is a novel that tells the story of 3 women in England at the time of the War who worked a Blecheley Park. This is a good read for the winter months... Please bring a bagged lunch and dessert will be provided.

March 19, 2023 - EARNEST WORKERS MARCH HATTERS TEA -

Join us on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 in the Hall of the Gardiner Building. The Earnest Workers will prepare a High Tea and will serve Tea, Scones, Sandwiches and desserts.

Everyone is encouraged to wear a fun; pretty or fancy Hat as there will be prizes to share. Tickets will go on sale starting on Sunday, February 26th in the Hall during Coffee Hour after the Church Service. Note: We have a limit of 75 tickets available. Please contact Evelyn Watkins at telephone number 401-680-2490 if you have questions. **NOTE: Tickets will be \$20.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children ages 12 and younger.**

April 5, 2023 - Making May Baskets - We will meet in the Hall of the Gardiner Building and start with our Earnest Workers Meeting. Following the meeting we will make our traditional May Baskets and have sign up sheets for those who are able to make candies for the May Baskets. Please bring a bagged lunch. Dessert will be provided. **April 29th we will assemble May Baskets and on Sunday, May 30th we will sell the May Baskets after Church.** More Details to follow.

May 3, 2023 - Guest Speaker Gloria Stewart and Planning for Earnest Workers 2023/2024 year.

We will meet in the Hall of the Gardiner Building for our May meeting.

Gloria will speak about adapting to Limited Vision - especially in today's technology world.

Planning - Please bring your ideas for suggestions for meeting for next year - September 2023 to June 2024. Please bring a bagged lunch and dessert will be provided.

June 7, 2023 - End of the Year Luncheon!

Save the date!

More details to follow.

NOTE: We have adopted a new program encouraging each Earnest Worker, member to bring a canned good or non-perishable item to donate to the Church's Food Pantry located in the porch near the County Street parking lot.

Please feel free to invite guests to join us for events and even to join the Earnest Workers!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Evelyn Watkins at 401-680-2490.

MAY BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 29th - 8:30 to 10:30 am.

This will be a new event for our Seekonk Congregational Church, UCC.

Please share this date with friends and family and place the date on your calendar.

More details to follow.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Evelyn Watkins at 401-680-2490.



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.***



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, April 8th). Put your name on the plant to avoid mix-ups. Feel free to take your plant after the 11AM 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, April 2nd)**

I WILL BRING A _____ PLANT.

IN MEMORY OF _____

OR IN HONOR OF _____

GIVEN BY _____

I _____ WILL

I _____ WILL NOT

(Take it home after the 11AM Easter Service)

**Seekonk Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

600 Fall River Avenue

Seekonk, MA 02771

508-336-9355 Fax: 508-336-3296

Church Office Email: seekonkucc@gmail.com

Rev. Joy Email: revjoyucc@gmail.com

Web Site: www.scc-ucc.com

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

TO BELIEVE IS TO CARE-----

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

MARCH & APRIL 2023

Senior Minister: Rev. Joy C. Utter
Director of Faith Formation: Kristin Putney
Director of Music: Susan Barrow
Office Administrator: Maria Tavares
Treasurer: Donna Euell

Assistant for Operations: Louanne Jennings-Abelson
Co-Senior Deacons: Evelyn Watkins & Tony DeJesus
Moderator: Stacy Inman
Parish Nurse: Addie Heelan
Co-Trustee Chairs: Craig Mace & Linda Sable
The Congregation Ministers