

The Seekonk Congregational Church
United Church Of Christ

The
Gathered 1885
Caller



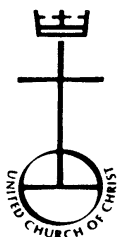
We are a welcoming community of faith that will not discriminate against any person regardless of race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability.

Prayer for Thought!

“God grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, the courage to change the one I can, and the wisdom to know it's me”.



No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.



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

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.sec-ucc.com

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PROVIDENCE, RI
PERMIT NO 1162

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

TO BELIEVE IS TO CARE-----

MARCH & APRIL 2024

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

Kindness
is
Magic

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

From the Senior Minister



A MESSAGE FROM REV. JOY

In the message for the first Sunday in the Lenten season,
I shared these thoughts in the message (*author unknown*)
and several asked for a copy of this prayer.

May it be ours for reflection during these 40 days of Lent toward the Easter dawn.

FAST from judging others; FEAST on Christ dwelling in them
FAST from emphasis on differences; FEAST on the unity of all life
FAST from apparent darkness; FEAST on the reality of all light
FAST from thoughts of illness FEAST on the healing power of God
FAST from words that pollute FEAST on phrases that purify
FAST from discontent FEAST on gratitude
FAST from anger FEAST on patience
FAST from pessimism FEAST on optimism
FAST from bitterness FEAST on forgiveness
FAST from self-concern FEAST on compassion for others
FAST from discouragement FEAST on hope
FAST from lethargy FEAST on enthusiasm
FAST from suspicion; FEAST on truth
FAST from thoughts that weaken FEAST on promises that inspire
FAST from shadows of sorrow; FEAST on the sunlight of serenity
FAST from idle gossip FEAST on purposeful silence
FAST from problems that overwhelm FEAST on prayer that sustains



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



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.)*

**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...**



DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Confirmation Schedule:

MARCH

Mar 1 5-8PM Confirmands & Mentors Spiritual Practices event in big hall (Labyrinth & prayer beads)

Mar 3 9:00 worship

March 10 9:00 worship & class 10:30-1PM lower hall

March 15 6:30-9PM Friday- begin faith story

March 17 either worship SIGN UP for required VIGIL

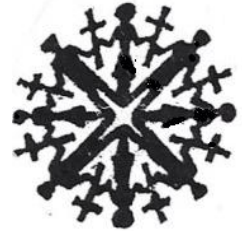
March Mon 18 or 19 Mentor & Confirmand ZOOM chat 7:30-8:45PM

March 24 9AM **Palm Sunday** worship REQUIRED and in hall

March 28 7PM **Maundy Thursday** REQUIRED (Mentor invited)

March 29 7:30PM **Good Friday** worship REQUIRED (Mentor invited)...
Vigil hour begins in sanctuary required

March 31 **EASTER** either worship REQUIRED



APRIL

Apr 7 no required worship

Apr 8 & 9 Mon or Tue, Mentor & Confirmand zoom chat 7:30-8:45Pm

Apr 14 no required worship school vacation

Apr 21 9:00 worship & Class 10:30-1:00 lower hall

Apr 26 Fri- 6-8:30 finish faith stories Mentors needed

April 28 9:00 worship 10:15 -11:30 UCC Questions, **23 Psalm versions** lower hall

YOUTH GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Friday, March 8th ~ 6:30-8:30PM in big hall
5th – 8th grade youth group (Labyrinth Adventure & Games!)

Sunday, March 17th ~ 10AM – 1PM in big hall
3rd – 8th grade youth group, following church school (Easter Fun Food and Games)



CPR Class (receive 2 year certificate from Certified Rescue Courses)
Sunday, April 21, 2024
10:15 - 11:45 PM (in Hall following coffee hour)~~~**Fee \$45 per person**
ALL ARE WELCOME
including high school youth
RSVP Kristin 774-991-1555

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM CALENDAR

MARCH 2024 ~

3rd Lent 3 ~ K- 8th grade BEGIN (with family) IN CHURCH then *gather in lower hall to meet a special guest who will "Share their Gifts" (Hope ~ One Egg Haiti)*

10th Lent 4 ~ Regular Classes
(Daylight Savings time - Spring ahead all clocks)

17th Lent 5 ~ Regular Classes (Prepare for Palm Sunday)

24th Lent 6 ~ Regular Classes

PALM SUNDAY MARKET PLACE in hall

Cherub Choir sing (Preschool-K-1st) at beginning of worship

K - 8th GRADE begin in class – end in worship

28th **Maundy Thursday 7PM** - Last Supper Service...in hall
light supper provided

Communion Class requirement

29th **Good Friday Service 7:30 PM** in sanctuary

31st **EASTER SUNDAY** Children begin in Church ~ **Children's Choir sings**
Pre-school – 5th graders move to hall for special event

APRIL 2024~

7th K- 8th grade BEGIN (with family) IN CHURCH then *gather in lower hall to meet a special guest who will "Share their Gifts" (Laughter & Jokes)*

14th Regular Classes

21st Regular Classes EARTH DAY

28th Regular Classes



RYE 2024

Regional Youth Event ~~~July 28-31 ~~Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center, Sharon, CT

SAVE THE DATE for the 2024 Regional Youth Event!

theme: "LOVE IS GREATER THAN FEAR"

Sunday July 28 through Wednesday, July 31 Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT

All youth are welcome to attend!

This program is for youth who are currently in grades 6-12 as of January 2024.

RYE is a place to grow your spirits and connect with teens from all over New England.

There will be time for swimming and service work, reflection and recreation, worship and workshops. Our beautiful outdoor ministry site has waterfront activities and a challenge course for team- building.

**CONTACT Kristin Putney
for more info 774-991-1555**

A parent -youth informational meeting coming soon.

Fee is around \$345

Kristin will be organizing car pooling

Youth will do fundraising and scholarship funds available.

Registration opens mid January with early bird discount \$50 off

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Music & Arts Committee presents OPEN MIC NIGHT

FRIDAY APRIL 5, 2024
from 6:30 to 9 PM in the hall



It's time to share your talents, some singing, musical instruments, comedy, dance - all talent is needed. All ages are invited.

Sign up sheets are in the hall or call the office to let us know you will be part of the entertainment. A fun night for everyone.

Any questions, see Craig Grant or
Director of Music, Susan Barrow



~~ON APRIL 28, 2024~~

THE MUSIC AND ARTS COMMITTEE IS HAVING AN ART SHOW

Come share your artistic talents with us and show us some of your crafts and Artwork
i.e. - Painting, woodworking, sewing, quilting, jewelry etc.

If interested or need more info please see Craig Grant or Susan Barrow



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 28th** by 6:30 to take part in the service-- there will be a 15 minute **rehearsal with Rev. Joy on Palm Sunday, March 24th** - in the hall at NOON.

BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday...March 19 from
4-7 PM in the Hall

make your appointment at donate.ribc.org

There are Many Reasons to Give Blood

Future Blood Drives 4-7pm in the Hall

Monday June 10th
Monday Sept 9th
Monday Dec 9th



PEOPLE AND PASSAGES

BAPTISM

February 4, 2024
Aliana Moghaddasnia
Daughter of Stacey Baptiste



NEW MEMBERS

February 18, 2024
Jill and Jay Flaxington, Stacey Baptiste



Set Clocks Ahead – Don't forget Daylight savings time begins March 10th, so set your clocks Ahead on Saturday Night March 9TH 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 the family and friends of Kenneth Wallace Del Rosso who passed away on 1/24/24. He is survived by his wife Beverly, and children Mike & Melissa.

~ We grieve with the family and friends of Helen Joy Irons Millard who passed away on 2/5/24. She is survived by her beloved sister-in-love Carol W. Irons and her three sons, Theodore "TR" and his wife Elaine Millard, Stephen Millard and his wife Jarrett and Paul D. Millard and his wife Joann, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren and their families.

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.

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.



THE DEACONS BENCH

Are you ready for it? The last day of March (31st) is Easter Sunday. Yes, if you have younger children, this is also the morning you put out goodies, claiming it was the Easter Bunny!

As most of you know, Easter is not just one day, but rather a season, beginning with Ash Wednesday and the start of the Easter and Lenten season. And of interest this year is that we got to celebrate both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day on the same day!

We all know we have a very busy church, but the Easter season bumps it up a notch or two. Leading up to Easter, after Ash Wednesday we have Palm Sunday (3/24), Maundy Thursday (3/28), and Good Friday (3/29).

Having nothing to do with the Easter season, but of interest to most of us, the first day of spring is March 19! Oh! But before that, on March 10 remember to turn your clocks back for Daylight Savings! So, now that you have the Easter season schedule, note these days on your calendar, not only for the purpose of attending, but also for opportunities for volunteering. There will be plenty of activities for which we will need volunteers. Prior to the Easter items, we are having our Italian Nite buffet on March 16, and we will need help setting up tables and chairs in the Hall, servers & wait staff and kitchen & Hall cleanup.

DEACONS:

Evelyn Watkins & Tony DeJesus (Co-Senior Deacons)

Jim Siegfried	Dawn Houle	Bonnie DeBlois	Russ Noble	Cindy Pearson
Mark Johnson	Lori Ferreira	Ann Varna-Garis	David Supinski	Lesley Daigle
Louanne Jennings-Abelson (Deacon Emerita)		Ruth Graham (ad hoc)	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!

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 Tuesday, March 5 from 6pm-7pm in the Sanctuary...every first Tuesday of each month. If you have any questions, please email Sarah Stevenson at mamastaloney@gmail.com

***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.***



~LENTEN SEMINARS ~2024~



All will gather together in the hall at 6:15PM before going to the individual Thursday Lenten Seminar rooms at 6:30 on March 7 & 14. We will offer dessert and drinks, say hello to one another and Joy will offer a prayer. Then everyone will go to their designated spaces. Sign Up Sheets are in the hall.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

**“Minimizing Burnout and Becoming More Resilient” 6:30-7:30PM Room #1
Presenter: Liz Smith**

Do you always feel burned out? In this seminar, you will learn to recognize when you may be burning out and discover ways to minimize burnout. In addition, you will learn ways to build your resiliency to strengthen your inner self.

- *Elizabeth Smith, EdD, MBA is a Primary Care - Population Medicine Program & Assistant Director for The Office of Medical Education at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.*

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

**“Let’s Bake Carrots & Eggs for Easter!” 6:30-8:00PM (limited to 10 people) HALL
Instructor: Beth Galligan**

Enjoy an evening of baking two Easter desserts: Carrot Cake Cupcakes with Cream Cheese Frosting and Chocolate Peanut Butter Eggs. Participants will work in pairs using recipes and supplies provided and will also have the opportunity to create special finishing touches with icing/frosting designs. Participants will take home 5-6 of each item to share with others.

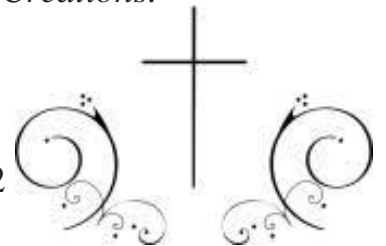
Note: Supply Fee \$15 per person

(cash/checks made to SCC-UCC, questions - contact Kristin Putney)

- *Bethany Wald Galligan is a married homemaker with two small children and has had a successful business in Photography and Wedding Cake & Dessert Creations.*

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

**“The Purple Booklet” 6:30-7:30PM Room #2
Presenter: Rev. Joy Utter**



“If I die tomorrow... Would my family or friends know what I wanted them to do?”

The Purple Book holds the answers... but first we need to deal with the question?

QUESTION: What IS the “Purple Booklet”??

ANSWER: A guide to planning your funeral so your relatives won’t have to do it in the midst of grief. This is an information booklet developed by Rev. Joy and the Deacons for you to make your wishes known as a gift to your family. Choices: hymns, readings, type of service, participants...etc. You have the power to decide! They will be MOST grateful! Rev. Joy will share pertinent information regarding arrangements, readings, worship, and respond to questions, choices, arrangements in this seminar.

- *Rev. Joy Utter is the Senior Pastor and has been sharing her guidance and leadership in her ministry at SCC-UCC for 38 years.*

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

“Controlling Pests Around Your Home without Using Chemicals”

6:30-7:30PM Room #1

Presenter: Tony DeJesus

Do you have unwanted bugs and creatures in and around your home? This seminar will talk about natural products to use and things to do around the house to reduce pests. There will also be time for questions and answers and individual problems can be addressed.

- *Tony DeJesus was the Vice President of Big Blue Bug Solutions and worked in the pest management industry for 45 years. He is also the recognizable voice on The Big Blue Bug Show on News Radio 630-WPRO on Saturday mornings.*



THURSDAY, MARCH 14

Art Adventure for Any Age! 6:30 - 8:00PM in Lower Hall below the sanctuary
Instructors: Sophia Rustemeyer & Kristin Putney

Enjoy an evening of learning how to paint a variety of spring flowers using various techniques with acrylic paints using paint brushes, toothpicks, q-tips and more! Participants will explore techniques on sample paper and then will choose to make one final project on canvas: a garden landscape or a bouquet of flowers or an abstract floral expression.

Note: Supply Fee \$5 per person

(pay at event: cash/checks made to SCC-UCC, questions-see Kristin Putney)

- *Sophia Rustemeyer is the 8th grade Art Teacher and High School Art History Teacher at TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School of Walpole, MA.*
- *Kristin Putney has been engaging her creative talent and playful imagination for over 35 years in a double career as a Mural Artist - Painter and Faith Formation Leader for Youth and Families.*

THURSDAY, MARCH 14



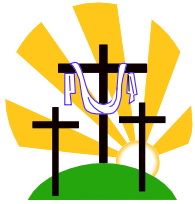
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HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH at 9:00AM & 10:30AM will include special music and palms. Cherub Choir sings at beginning. Market Place in hall follows Worship Services.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH 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, MARCH 29TH 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 CELEBRATION SERVICES: MARCH 31ST 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 5th 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 30th)



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 Memorial Room (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 24th). Put your name on the plant to avoid mix-ups. Feel free to take your plant after the 10:30AM 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 24th)

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)



FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Weather has inhibited progress on assessing reported roof leaks that occurred during a January storm. You may recall from our last report that leaks were noticed above the Memorial Room in the church and outside of Room 3 in the Gardiner Building. We also have a damaged exterior light on the Gardiner Building. It was damaged when a tree fell on the building earlier in the season.

In addition to keeping you apprised of our campus status, we intend to share our financial status.

At the end of December, our year-to-date budget deficit was -\$6845.00. In January our income diminished, and we had some big expenses. Our current budget deficit is -\$20936.00. Part of the reason for this amount is due to periodic payments (ie. insurance, workers compensation, snow removal).

As of this writing we experienced another storm which required snow removal. We estimate that we have exceeded our snow-removal budget by about \$2000.00+.

There were also some utility increases. An avoidable increase is that of needless heating. We try to ensure that the Church and Gardiner Building are comfortable during times when the buildings are in use. Thermostats have been programmed to heat the buildings during times of occupancy.

Very recently, a thermostat in the hall was found set at 68 degrees over many unoccupied time periods. Although we would prefer thermostats not to be changed, we understand that there may be times when the heat needs to be temporarily adjusted. The key to temporary adjustments is to avoid placing the adjustment on HOLD. Temporary adjustments maintain temperature settings for an hour or so and then allow the thermostat to return to its schedule. Placing a thermostat on HOLD causes the system to maintain the chosen temperature until it is placed back on schedule. We cannot account for why programming would be changed on a thermostat as previously described but we do know it is expensive.

If you have any questions or recognize a problem on our campus, please contact a Trustee. Messages to us could also be relayed via Maria Tavares in the office.

Yours in faith and service,
Board of Trustees

Neal Abelson, Susan Boucher, Brian Burns, Ray Deslauriers, Donna Euell, Kim Johnson, Jason Langille, Craig Mace (Co-Chair), and Linda Sable (Co-Chair), Tony Sousa

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

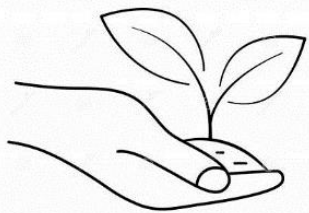
The Blue envelopes in your box help us meet the monthly expenses.



COLUMBARIUM NEWS...The Columbarium is available to all church members and their families. Use of the Columbarium Includes the inurnment spot, the container, the plaque, and the actual inurnment. Funeral and cremation costs are not included. We encourage anyone who would like more information on the Column to contact Shelley Alves or Linda Sable

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

OUR STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN FOR 2024-2025 BEGINS!



"ROOTED in LOVE!" - STEWARDSHIP 2024/2025

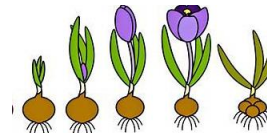
This year our Stewardship Campaign for 2024/2025 begins on Sunday, March 3rd and will go until Sunday, April 7th. Our Stewardship Pledge Campaign supports the work of our Seekonk Congregational Church, UCC for our next financial year starting July 2024 through June 2025.

It is very easy to pledge - you can:

1. Call our Church office at 508-336-9355

2. Mail in your pledge card

3. Fill out a pledge card in Church on Sundays from March 3rd until April 7th and drop it into the offering plate.



We thank you all VERY MUCH for all of your gifts of time, talent and treasure and for all you do for our Seekonk Congregational Church, UCC Church Family. During our Stewardship Campaign we can all look ahead and think about what gifts we can share for the coming year!

Your Seekonk Congregational Church, UCC Stewardship Committee



ITALIAN NIGHT DINNER

Saturday, March 16th ~~~ 5:00-7:00PM

Please invite your Family and Friends!

We will serve two main courses: 'Spaghetti & Meatballs' and 'Viti with Broccoli and chicken' along with salad and Italian bread. Vegetarian Options will be Available. For dessert we will be serving Ice Cream Sundaes with a variety of toppings.

Dinners will be available to eat in the Hall or available for "take out".

Tickets will be on sale after Church at Coffee Hour on Sunday, February 25th, Sunday, March 3rd and Sunday, March 10th. You can also call Maria at our Church Office at seekonkucc@gmail.com (508-336-9355) or contact Kristen Pion at pionfamily@hotmail.com or 774-991-1836 to reserve your tickets.

Ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5 to 12. Children under age 5 are free. The prices for take out meals are the same. Please let Maria or Kristen know if you are ordering a take out meal.

We will also have opportunities to volunteer to help with this event. Sign up sheets will be available to help serve at the dinner and also to help clean up after the dinner. Sign up sheets for donations of food items for the dinner. Thank you to everyone who helps with our Church Events - we appreciate your help so very much! We hope to see you at this fun Church Event!

BOARD OF MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION



Mission and Social Action fed the homeless in Pawtucket on February 4. We hope to be able to provide another meal on April 7.

Mission will sponsor a Movies that Matter night on April 5. The movie is "Bank of Dave". This is a very entertaining and light British comedy about Dave, a successful British van salesman who decides to open a bank that uses local money to fund local enterprises. He soon fights an uphill battle as he tries to convince the elite London-based financial authorities to grant him a new bank license. This movie is based on a true story and is a good underdog story.

We are looking for donations for the Hayes/McKenrick scholarship fund. This money goes directly into providing scholarships for the children of Haiti to attend school. The children have to supply their own uniforms and supplies, and in most cases, they are unable to do so. It costs roughly \$150. per child. If you would like to sponsor a child (or any portion), please send a check to: Suzanne Swanson, 45 Peepoad Road, Seekonk, MA 02771

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 or Mission Committee 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**. 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 or Mission Committee know where the bags are and Mass DOT will pick them up.*

**Would you like to read the
Caller online or receive a hard copy in the mail.**

We are resuming mailing the Caller with this issue - March & April.



However we are also attempting to **GO GREEN**. If you are interested in reading the Caller online you can opt out of the mailing. There is always a link at the top of each email from Donna and a link on the church website for you to read the Caller online.

Not only are we trying to go green but we are always looking for ways to save money. By reading the Caller online this reduces paper, printing and postage.

Please contact Maria by email or phone if you wish to read the Caller online... seekonkucc@gmail.com or 508-336-9355. No need to respond if you wish to continue receiving the Caller in the mail.

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

EARNEST WORKERS



March 6th - Cookie Decorating with Katie Poland!

We will meet in the Hall of the Gardiner Building at 10:00 a.m. for our business meeting. Katie will join us at 10:30 a.m.. Katie is a member of our Church who provides Cookie Decorating events for members of our Church and others in our community. She has agreed to meet with us and teach us about cookie decorating. We might even be able to use a few of the cookies we make for our Earnest Worker March Hatters Tea which will be held on Sunday, March 10th - if there are any left over that is!

Please bring a bagged lunch and beverage to share lunch together after making the cookies. Coffee and dessert will be provided.

Please contact Evelyn Watkins at 401-680-2490 (cell phone) or evelynwtkns@gmail.com if you wish to sign up to attend this fun event!

We hope to see you there!



Earnest Workers March Hatters Tea – Sunday, March 10th at 2:00 PM in the Hall

Our annual March Hatters Tea will be held at 2 p.m.. The menu includes tea, scones, tea sandwiches, and cookies/desserts. We meet in the Hall of the Gardiner building to share this fun time together. Everyone is invited to wear a fancy and fun hat. Prizes will be given for some of the hats (funniest, prettiest and more).

Tickets for the Tea are \$20.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children 12 and younger. Tickets will go on sale beginning Sunday, February 11th and will be on sale each February 18th, February 25th and March 3rd after both the 9:00 and 10:30 Church Services in the Hall during Coffee Hours. You can also call Evelyn Watkins at 401-680-2490 to reserve tickets. We have seating for 75 people so please order your tickets soon!. It is fun to invite family and friends to share a table at this event.

Look for more information in our Church emails and announcements during Church as we get closer to this event!

April 3, 2024 - MAKING MAY BASKETS

We will meet in the Hall of the Gardiner Building at 10:00 a.m. for our business meeting. Following the meeting we will make our May Baskets. Please bring a bagged lunch and beverage. Decaf coffee and dessert will be provided.

April 27th - (Saturday) Fill May Baskets with homemade candy. More details to follow.

April 28th - (Sunday) Sell May Baskets after both the 9:00 and 10:30 Church Services during the Coffee Hours.. More details to follow.

MAY 1, 2024 - EARNEST WORKERS PLANNING FOR 2024/25.

Meet us in the Hall of the Gardiner Building at 10:00 a.m. and bring your ideas for *speakers/programs/activities/fundraising events* for the coming year. We will also have the nomination and election of officers. Please bring a bagged lunch and beverage. Dessert and decaf coffee will be served.

