

The Union News

a publication of
Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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February 26, 2009

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Rainbows of Prayer Meets Mondays Nights in March at 6:30 PM

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Kids Klub Will Meet at 3 PM

On March 1st

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Mom's Group Will Meet at 10 AM

On March 7th

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Daily Lectionary

March 2009

*These lectionary readings are from A Daily Lectionary-Scripture readings for Every Day based on the New Common Lectionary. *The readings listed for Sundays are from the UCC Desk Calendar and are not part of the daily lectionary cycle.*

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Epistle</u>
*Sun	Mar 1	Gen 9:8-17	Mark 1:9-15	1 Peter 3:18-22
Mon	Mar 2	Neh 4:1-23	Luke 4:9-15	1 Pet 2:20-25
Tues	Mar 3	Neh 5:1-19	Luke 4:16-21	Rom 5:1-8
Wed	Mar 4	Neh 6:1-19	Luke 4:22-30	Gal 3:2-9
Thurs	Mar 5	Neh 8:1-18	Matt 5:17-26	Gal 3:10-18
Fri	Mar 6	Neh 9:1-15	Matt 5:27-37	Rom 4:1-8
Sat	Mar 7	Neh 9:16-25	Mark 8:22-30	Rom 4:9-15
*Sun	Mar 8	Gen 17:1-7,15-16	Mark 8:31-38 or 9:2-9	Rom 4:13-25
Mon	Mar 9	Neh 9:26-38	Matt 5:38-48	Rom 4:26-31
Tues	Mar 10	Neh 12:27-30,43-47	Matt 6:1-6	Heb 11:8-12
Wed	Mar 11	Neh 13:4-22	Matt 6:7-15	Heb 11:13-19
Thurs	Mar 12	Jer 22:13-22	Matt 21:12-22	1 Cor 2:1-9
Fri	Mar 13	Jer 23:1-8	Matt 21:33-43	1 Cor 2:10-16
Sat	Mar 14	Jer 23:9-15	Mark 11:15-19	2 Cor 13:2-9
*Sun	Mar 15	Ex 20:1-17	John 2:13-22	1 Cor 1:18-25
Mon	Mar 16	Jer 23:16-24	Mark 12:38-44	Rom 8:18-25
Tues	Mar 17	Jer 23:25-32	Luke 12:1-10	Rom 8:31-39
Wed	Mar 18	Jer 24:1-10	Luke 12:11-21	Col 3:1-17
Thurs	Mar 19	Jer 25:8-17	Luke 12:22-31	1 Pet 2:4-10
Fri	Mar 20	Jer 25:30-38	Luke 12:32-40	1 Pet 2:11-17
Sat	Mar 21	Jer 26:1-16	Luke 12:57-13:5	Eph 1:16-2:3
*Sun	Mar 22	Num 21:4-9	John 3:14-21	Eph 2:1-10
Mon	Mar 23	Lam 1:1-13	John 8:21-30	Col 2:8-15
Tues	Mar 24	Lam 1:14-22	John 8:31-38	1 Pet 3:8-12
Wed	Mar 25	Lam 2:1-6	John 9:1-7	1 Pet 3:13-22
Thurs	Mar 26	Lam 2:7-16	John 10:1-6	1 Pet 4:1-6
Fri	Mar 27	Lam 2:17-22	John 11:55-12:8	Heb 2:10-18
Sat	Mar 28	Lam 3:1-18	John 12:9-19	Heb 5:1-6
*Sun	Mar 29	Jer 31:31-34	John 12:20-33	Heb 5:5-10
Mon	Mar 30	Lam 3:19-39	John 12:32-40	1 Pet 1:13-21
Tues	Mar 31	Lam 3:40-54	John 12:41-48	1 Pet 1:22-2:3

Provided by The Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ ...nurturing local church vitality and the covenant among our churches. Made possible by your contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support and Fellowship Dues.

Thoughts to inspire*

Wisdom is the quality that keeps you from getting into situations where you need it.

God has a history of using the insignificant to accomplish the impossible.

Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal.

The past should be a springboard, not a hammock.

A good thing to remember, a better thing to do – work with the construction crew, not with the wrecking crew. (“...when you meet together, each one has a hymn, a teaching, a disclosure of special knowledge or information, an utterance in a [strange] tongue, or an interpretation of it. [But] let everything be constructive and edifying and for the good of all.” *Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians, 14:26 AMP*)

God never asks about our ability or our inability – just our availability.

*from *God’s Little Instruction Book II*

On the Occasion of an Installation...

At this important time in our congregation’s ongoing story, we could compare our present state of being to a number of different stories and poetic images – for example, a plane lifting off the ground, rising high above the clouds and sooty particulate matter, to uncover a new world of beauty, filled with moon, and stars, and a mysterious, beckoning glow on the distant horizon.

Or, there’s the story of a journalist and a church consultant having a conversation on the struggles between different factions in the global church. “Isn’t this one more reason the mainline church is in decline?” the journalist asks. “Mainline decline?” responds the church consultant with a chuckle. “I’m working on a study right now of mainline Protestant vitality, focusing on 50 of the most interesting, energetic, creative, and lively congregations I’ve ever had the privilege of knowing. They don’t fit the usual categories; they are the cutting edge of mainline life; and, because of them, a lot of people are beginning to move away from the notion of ‘mainline decline.’”

Or, there’s the picture of a pilgrim (modern or ancient!), coming home very different from when they first set out. The pilgrim arrives back where they started, and in the words of T.S. Eliot, “knows the place for the first time.” Or, as G.K. Chesterton once said of his own conversion to Christianity, “I discovered England.” *

Together, in this unique, special place called Maynard, Massachusetts, we are all fellow pilgrims, sharing stories like these, as well as telling our own tales, serving as witnesses to others of our own faith journeys – some more recent, and some tracing back to long ago... the 1990s, the 1970s, or even the 1950s.

As author Diana Butler Bass points out, the congregations of the 1950s “were not bad places – they were vibrant, successful, growing congregations that met the needs of the people at a particular moment in American history....because of their very success, however, they lost the capacity to imagine church being different than how they experienced it. And, essentially, they froze tradition in its tracks.”

To some extent, that’s where we are today – in that strange time between winter and spring, waiting for the ice to thaw, the bulbs to blossom, the traditions and visions to being re-shaping, re-forming, and re-inspiring our faith journeys for a new, precedent-setting generation and an exciting new era.

Stay tuned as together, we imagine a new future ahead for Union Congregational Church of Maynard. The process may seem mysterious, but the way there is fairly usual, typical, commonplace, and shockingly familiar – because it has

Continued on page 4

*credit goes to Diana Butler Bass, author of “The Practicing Congregation,” for inspiring this pastors’ note.

Continued from page 3
been done many times before, in our own lives, both in this church and others, in various places, both near and far. What makes this particular one special is the unique assortment of fellow pilgrims and travelers who find themselves sharing this experience at Maynard UCC, as well as the presence of God (of course!) who is helping to guide us, equip us, and energize us for the new sense of identity, vocation, and mission that we are all trying on, like a new set of clothes.

These new “pilgrim” clothes, like the vacationer’s uniform of shorts, tropical shirt, and sunglasses, are meant to ready us for the invigorating, Spirit-filled itinerary ahead...which will surely give us plenty of new travelers’ tales, sightseers’ stories, and eyewitness accounts to share with others as we all continue to spread the Good News.

Pastors Hannelore and Tom

You are needed!



Please take a moment to sign up for Sunday Café. (previously known as the “Coffee Hour”)

We ***continue*** to need more people to help with this essential part of our fellowship time after worship. All you need to do is bring goodies to share, set up the area for coffee and juice (coffee, cream and the juice are provided), and clean up afterwards. If everyone just signed up once or twice a year, no one would be overburdened with this very important task. How about signing up with a church buddy? The sign up sheet is on the board outside the kitchen.

Shaw’s Supermarket Receipts Drive Brings in Donations to Open Table

Open table is still collecting Shaw’s Supermarket receipts. This has already been paying off in a big way! Jane Lifton of Open Table reported that in the first three months of this program, the Shaw’s chain has donated over \$300 back to the Open Table organization. A big, big thank you goes to the members of Union Congregational Church for their part in this successful fundraising drive, because a majority of the receipts collected came from our church members!

The program continues in force in 2009, so keep collecting those receipts throughout the year. If we did that well in just three months, imagine what’s possible over the course of a whole year!

Prayer Group Meets Mondays in March

“Rainbows of Prayer” group began on February 9th - open to all interested in weekly get-together.

Doing anything on Monday nights at 6:30 PM? Want to learn how to fold paper cranes as a faith discipline, or find out about other avenues of non-verbal prayer?

Pastor Hannelore is leading a new church group, open to all (members and visitors alike), designed to broaden our experiences and expressions of Christian devotion. The group meets upstairs in the church, Monday evenings at 6:30 PM. Since this will take place during the dinner hour, participants are invited to bring a light meal or beverage for themselves, to have before the group meets.

The Japanese art of Origami, including folding paper cranes, will be one of the faith practices introduced. This comes out of the Japanese tradition of folding thousands of cranes for the cause of peace and for healing. It is our hope that as the group continues other devotional practices might also be explored.



Soup's On!



Soup Sale!! – On **March 15, 2009**, immediately after worship, you have the opportunity of purchasing home made soups. Stock up for those days when a bowl of soup is just right! Take the day off from cooking and have a delicious bowl of nourishing soup instead! Whatever your reason or need – Soup's On!

Staff

Ministers: The Entire Congregation

Co-Pastors: Rev. Tom Nalesnik
& Rev. Hannelore Nalesnik
email: pastormaynarducc@verizon.net

Minister of Music: Roy Helander

Church Administrator: Ruth Carney
email: maynarducc@verizon.net
ruthcmaynarducc@verizon.net

Sexton: Nyomi Corriveau

Nursery: Laura Doucette

**Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 AM,
(nursery care provided)
Fellowship at 11:00 AM
Church School during Worship
Building is handicapped accessible**

Websites

Union Cong: www.maynarducc.org
Mass Conference: www.macucc.org
United Church of Christ: www.ucc.org

Kids Klub



What is Kids Klub? It's a meeting of the children of the church (ages 5-10). Come on out and make friends and have fun – Sunday, March 1st at 3:00 PM at the church. For more information, please speak to Pastor Hannelore.

Church Family Meetings

The Next **Church Family Meeting** is scheduled for **March 29, 2009** after worship. Plan to stay for refreshments, sharing with one another and to hear any updates. The following meeting is scheduled for **April 26, 2009**.

Mission Outreach



One Great Hour of Sharing

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing through the United Church of Christ, you participate in a world wide ministry of helping people change their lives. This is a ministry that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries. This is a ministry of caring by and for God's treasured people. Working with international partners, the United Church of Christ provides sources of clean water and food, education and health care, micro-credit loans, emergency relief, advocacy and resettlement for refugees. In addition, they work to help people just like you prepare for disasters before they arise, and to rebuild following the devastating effects of disasters. One Great Hour of Sharing has an amazing history. Be part of it! For sixty years a number of Christian denominations and Church World Service have worked together through this offering, to be the church God calls us to be, the church working as one to share resources and change lives. In the month of March, the Mission Outreach Committee will be accepting donations by putting envelopes in the Sunday bulletins. Please make checks out to Union Congregational Church, and put OGHs in the memo section. If you are giving cash, please put your name on the envelope so our Financial Secretary can add it to your end of year "giving statement." Thank you for your help.

**Deadline for the next
Union News is**

**March 15, 2009
for Issue: March 26, 2009**

(This issue will contain the calendar and the volunteer schedules for April.)

Next Deadline

for newsletter: 4/19/09, Issue: 4/30/09

(This issue will contain the calendar and the volunteer schedule for May.)

Winter Storm? How to Get News of Church Closings

We are still in the season of unexpected snow emergencies. There continues to be a chance that Sunday services will need to be cancelled at the last minute, because of treacherous road conditions or concerns about the church's accessibility, especially for older members, or those coming from long distances.

The church leaders will always try to give as much advance notice as possible, when the weather forecast is certain or conclusive enough to make an early decision, sometimes the night before. Sometimes, however, as with the most recent storm in early January, the majority of the snowfall occurred in the early morning hours (while the night before was relatively clear). In those cases, a decision was postponed until morning, in the event the precipitation wasn't as severe as predicted.

Here's What to Do:

Watch WCVB-TV (Channel 5).

If you want to know whether Sunday service is on or not, the best way to find out is to watch WCVB-TV (Channel 5); their on-screen listings will include our church's info whenever a cancellation is issued. If you haven't seen a cancellation note there by 8:30 am Sunday morning, we can safely say that church will be held. Because of the large number of other closings, though, it may be some time before Maynard UCC comes up in the rotation of announcements....so patience may be required.

Check your email.

Secondly, we will send out a church-wide message by email to those members who have Internet access. Recently, we've noticed that some of our emails get returned because certain anti-spamming programs may automatically decide to screen out the church's snow cancellation message, simply because we're sending out the e-mail to a large group of people. If you haven't received a snow cancellation message by email, you may wish to check your spam settings, and/or be sure to add these addresses to your computer's email directory: pastormaynarducc@verizon.net and pastormaynarducc@yahoo.com

And, if you're not on our e-mail list, please call the church office to give us your most recent, updated email address information.

Phone calls.

We are also currently in the process of fine-tuning our process of making phone calls on snow cancellation days. Right now, our list of callers and callees still needs some work; if we don't have your current phone number, you may wish to call the church office to update our directory. We can also use more volunteers to make the calls, especially when there is a last minute decision.

Signs on the church doors.

As a last resort, for those who do show up at church, having missed the cancellation announcements, we will post signs on the front and side doors letting people know that services are cancelled.

Alternative services to be offered.

Church leaders are also discussing the possibility of offering a postponed or later service, such as on Sunday afternoon or evening, if conditions improve and the roads and/or parking lots are able to be cleared sufficiently. Whenever we decide to offer that option, announcements will be made through the same channels mentioned above.

If you get sick – Please Remember

Would you or a family member or a friend or a medical professional (nurse, etc.), please let Pastor Hannelore and/or Pastor Tom know what is happening? You can call the church office at anytime at 978-897-2522. If no one is in, please leave a message. We will keep any information you give us confidential unless you instruct us it is OK to share it. Thank you!

Don't forget to...

Daylight Savings
Time begins on
March 8, 2009.
Don't forget to turn
your clocks ahead
one hour before
going to bed on
March 7th!



Upcoming Dates

It seems way too early to start thinking about Holy Week, but it is coming up very soon. Right now you can put on your calendar:

Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2009 –
service at 7:00 PM

Good Friday, April 10, 2009

Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009

6:30 AM Sunrise Service at
Glenwood Cemetery followed by
breakfast at the church.

10:00 AM Festival of Easter
Worship in the Sanctuary.

Church Leadership

Hannelore & Tom N, Co-Pastors

Robert M, Moderator & Chair of Stewardship Committee

Fred L, Treasurer

James M, Financial Secretary

Donna A, Clerk

Diana E, Chair of Deacons

Lynne H, Chair of Trustees

Lila C, Chair of Mission Outreach

Nanda L & Kathy H, Co-Superintendents of Sunday School

Kathi M, Chair of Christian Education

Phil B, Chair of Investments

Diana E & Marge M, Members at Large

Beth P, Chair of Altar & Usher Committees

Marge M, Prayer Chain Coordinator

Mom's Group

We are beginning a new Mom's Group that is open to all mothers and their infants and toddlers (infant thru age 3). Come for fellowship with other moms and let your children play. Our first meeting will be in the Nursery on Saturday, March 7th at 10:00 AM.



Life's Wonders

Crowfoot, a chief of the Siksika First Nation, was a prominent Native American in the late 1800s. The brave warrior offered the following insight into the brevity and wonder of life:

“What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime. It is the little shadow, which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset.”

Crowfoot's observations reflect the theme of Psalm 90. Verse 4 reads: “For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.” The prayer in verse 12 is that we would keep our earthly life in proper perspective: “Teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.”

Prayer Celebrations & Concerns

Parishioners (and loved ones) in our prayers who have health issues:

Edith B.
 Albert (Ole) C.
 Anne G.
 Jane J.
 Jim O.
 Anne R.
 Nancy S.
 David W.
 Thelma W.

Please keep in your prayers:

All those now serving or about to serve in the US Armed Forces.
 All those affected by the conflicts in the Middle East.

Our new President and all government leaders. May we find an equitable peace for all.

Peace and understanding in the world and in our personal lives.

For those who have been affected by hurricanes, storms (rain & snow), cyclones, tidal waves, earthquakes, fires, floods, oppressive heat or cold and tornadoes.

For those who live in conditions so bad that we cannot comprehend.



Birthdays

In March

Day	Name
02	Lila Carlson
04	Jarrold M. Hatch
06	Christopher Schurman
07	Carol Jensen
07	Gwen Anderson
20	Beth Plutchak
24	Alice Weaver
25	Hazel Pratt
29	Ruth Alving
30	David Westlake
31	Margaret Mallinson (Marge)
31	Paula O'Loughlin

Volunteer Schedule

March 1, 2009

Flowers: Diana E
Altar: Nancy Y
Ushers: Wil H, Beth P, Suzanne W & Fred W
Coffee: Donna & Beth
Nursery: Laura Doucette & volunteers

March 8, 2009

Flowers: Diana E
Altar: Nancy Y
Ushers: Phil B, Kristin C, Steve M & Robert M
Nursery: Laura Doucette & volunteers

March 15, 2009

Flowers: Diana E
Altar: Nancy Y
Ushers: Ruth A, Raoul P, Charlie Y & George Y
Nursery: Laura Doucette & volunteers

March 22, 2009

Flowers: Diana E
Altar: Nancy Y
Ushers: Wil H, Beth P, Suzanne W & Fred W
Nursery: Laura Doucette & volunteers

March 29, 2009

Flowers: Diana E
Altar: Nancy Y
Ushers: Phil B, Kristin C, Steve M & Robert M
Nursery: Laura Doucette & volunteers

Thoughts for the Day

The average pencil is seven inches long, with just a half-inch eraser. Remember that in case you thought optimism was dead. – Robert Brault

Do not let Sunday be taken from you. If your soul has no Sunday, it becomes an orphan. – A. Schweitzer

The good news about computers is that they do what you tell them to do. The bad news is that they do what you tell them to do. – T. Nelson

The honorary duty of a human being is to love. – M Angelou

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. – Jesus (Matthew 5: 9 NRSV)

An Irish Blessing

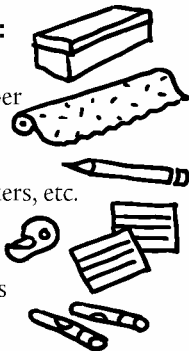
May you have
 walls to keep out the wind,
 a roof to keep out the rain,
 warm drinks by the fire,
 laughter to cheer you,
 those you love near you,
 and all that your heart may desire,
 including the love of God within.

PRAYER BOX

Family prayer time is a good habit. Make it fun with this activity for all family members. They can use this special box whenever they have a prayer request.

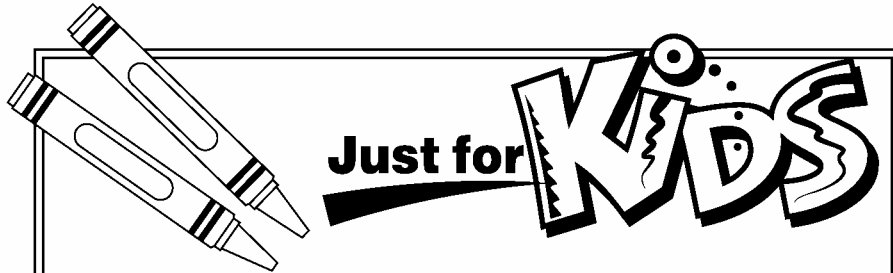
What you need:

- Shoebox
- Wrapping paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Stickers, markers, etc. (optional)
- Index cards
- Pencils or pens



What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a present. Be sure to wrap the lid separately so it can be removed.
2. Let the whole family help decorate the box. You can write Bible verses about prayer, draw pictures, glue on pictures or add stickers. Be creative!
3. Put the box in a prominent location of your house. Keep a pile of index cards and pencils or pens near the box.
4. Whenever a family member has a prayer request, he or she can write or draw it on a card and put it inside the box.
5. Family members can share the cards in a prayer circle, or people can take turns praying for all the requests. Throughout the week, family members can check the box for new prayer needs.



A FAMILY OF PRAYER

The book of Acts tells about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman centurion from Caesarea who worshiped God. Through his encounter with Cornelius, Peter learned that God accepts everyone who fears him and does what is right.

Use the code below to see the example set by Cornelius and his family. Solve the math problems by using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter that matches each answer. Write the letter on the blank.

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

KEY: a=7 e=8 i=10 o=9 u=11 y=6

"H e ___nd ___ll h___s f___m___l___
A+C A+D A+D B+C A+D B+C A+B

w___r___ d___v___ ___t___nd
A+C A+C A+C B+D C+D A+D

G___d-f___ ___r___ng; h___ g___v___
B+D A+C A+D B+C A+C A+D A+C

g___n___r___ ___sl___ t___ th___s___ ___n
A+C A+C B+D C+D A+B B+D B+D A+C B+C

n___ ___d ___nd pr___ ___ ___d t___ G___d
A+C A+C A+D A+D A+B A+C B+D B+D

r___g___l___r|___." ___cts 10:2, NIV
A+C C+D A+D A+B A+D

Answers: "He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2, NIV

Church Calendar

Sunday Morning

- †Choir Rehearsal – 9:15 AM
- †Worship – 10:00 AM
- †Sunday School – after the children's message during worship
- †Sunday Café/Fellowship – 11:00 AM

Regular Meeting Schedule

- †CE – 3rd Tue. of the month, 6:00 PM
- †Choir Rehearsal – Thursdays, 7:00 PM
- †Church Management – (as needed)
- †Council – 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 PM
- †Deacons – 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM
- †Caring & Sharing Support Group – not currently scheduled
- †Investments – meet as needed
- †Missions – meet as needed
- †Pastor Parish Relations Committee – (not meeting)
- †Trustees – 1st Wednesday, 7:00 PM



Regular Building Users

- †Boy Scouts – Tuesdays, 6:00-9:00 PM
- †Community School – Weekdays, 7:30 AM-5:30 PM
- †Depression Anonymous – Wednesdays, 6:30 PM
- †Open Table – Mondays, 4-7:00 PM,
- †Senior Drop in Center – Tuesdays, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM



Upcoming Dates

- † Rainbows of Prayer Group – All Mondays in March, 6:30 PM
- † Kids Klub – March 1, 2009, 3:00 PM
- † Mom's Group – March 7, 2009, 10:00 AM
- † Turn Clocks ahead one hour before going to bed – March 7, 2009
- † Daylights Savings time begins – March 8, 2009
- † Service Committee – March 12, 2009, 7:00 PM
- † Girl Scout Sunday – March 15, 2009
- † Soup Sale – March 15, 2009
- † Newsletter deadline – March 15, 2009
- † First Day of Spring – March 20, 2009
- † Church Family Meeting – March 29, 2009, after worship
- † Palm Sunday – April 5, 2009
- † Easter Sunday – April 12, 2009

Any changes or updates to the calendar will be announced in worship.

