

The Union News

a publication of
Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
80 Main Street, P. O. Box 211
Maynard, Massachusetts 01754-0211
(978) 897-2522
email: maynarducc@verizon.net
website: www.maynarducc.org



January 31, 2012

In This Issue

	<u>Page</u>
Altar Flowers	5
Birthdays	7
Church Calendar	9
Church Leadership	6
Daily Lectionary	2
If you are sick	4
40	5
In Case of Closings	4
Interim Pastor	3
Just for Kids	8
Message/today	3
Newsletter Schedule	4
Ongoing at Union	6
Prayer C & C	7
Prayerful Decision	4
Refocus for Lent	5
Thank you	5
Thoughts for the Day	7
Volunteer Schedule	7
Walking with God	4

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

**Lent begins
on Ash Wednesday
February 22, 2012**

**We will gather at 7:00 PM
for worship**

Daily Lectionary

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.

Daily Lectionary Scripture References, February 2012 (Year B)

Wed., Feb. 1

Psalm 35:1-10 Jeremiah 29:1-14
Mark 5:1-20

Thurs., Feb. 2

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Proverbs 12:10-21; Galatians 5:2-15

Fri., Feb. 3

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Job 36:1-23; 1 Corinthians 9:1-16

Sat., Feb. 4

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Isaiah 46:1-13; Matthew 12:9-14

Sun., Feb. 5

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Mon., Feb. 6

Psalm 102:12-28
2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37 Acts 14:1-7

Tues., Feb. 7

Psalm 102:12-28
2 Kings 8:1-6; Acts 15:36-41

Wed., Feb. 8

Psalm 102:12-28
Job 6:1-13; Mark 3:7-12

Thurs., Feb. 9

Psalm 30
Leviticus 13:1-17; Hebrews 12:7-13

Fri., Feb. 10

Psalm 30
Leviticus 14:1-20; Acts 19:11-20

Sat., Feb. 11

Psalm 30
Leviticus 14:21-32; Matthew 26:6-13

Sun., Feb. 12

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45

Mon., Feb. 13

Psalm 6
2 Chronicles 26:1-21 Acts 3:1-10

Tues., Feb. 14

Psalm 6
2 Kings 7:3-10 1 Corinthians
10:14—11:1

Wed., Feb. 15

Psalm 6
Job 30:16-31 John 4:46-54

Thurs., Feb. 16

Psalm 41
2 Chronicles 7:12-22; 3 John 2-8

Fri., Feb. 17

Psalm 41; Isaiah 38:1-8
Hebrews 12:7-13

Sat., Feb. 18

Psalm 41
Isaiah 39:1-8; Luke 4:38-41

Sun., Feb. 19

Last Sunday after the Epiphany/Transfiguration
2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

Mon., Feb. 20

Psalm 38
Isaiah 30:18-26 Acts 14:8-18

Tues., Feb. 21

Psalm 38; Micah 4:1-7
2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Wed., Feb. 22

Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17 2
Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Thurs., Feb. 23

Psalm 103:1-13, 22
Ezekiel 16:1-14; Romans 3:1-8

Fri., Feb. 24

Psalm 103:1-13, 22
Ezekiel 16:44-52; 2 Peter 1:1-11

Sat., Feb. 25

Psalm 103:1-13, 22
Ezekiel 16:53-63; John 7:53—8:11

Sun., Feb. 26

First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15

Mon., Feb. 27

Psalm 45:6-17; Hosea 3:1-5
2 Corinthians 1:23—2:11

Tues., Feb. 28

Psalm 45:6-17
Hosea 14:1-9
2 Corinthians 11:1-15

Wed., Feb. 29

Psalm 45:6-17
Isaiah 62:1-5
John 3:22-36

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.

Pack well

During Lent, as we focus on Christ's journey to the cross, let's also examine the journey of our lives. The first task when leaving on any adventure is packing. What have you placed in your bag? Are you weighed down with temptations, self-doubt, money worries, relationship troubles? Have you overlooked any important items? Maybe your bag feels too empty for the challenges ahead. Remember to pack mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Thanks to Easter, we know that our journey in Christ continues, even when the road becomes difficult. So as you prepare for Lent, carry with you the hope made possible by Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

Based on the
"Journey to Hope"
sermon series

About 22 years ago I had to make a decision that some of you may have been forced to make. My mother had been hospitalized for a surgical procedure. The surgery was successful, but she had emerged lost in a coma, where she stayed for two months. Then, one day when I went to visit her, I discovered that she had awakened. We had a good week together, and began to plan what would happen when she was released from the hospital.

At the end of this week she suffered a catastrophic stroke from which there could be no recovery.

My sister and I had a decision to make.

First we consulted with the house physician who had been caring for her. He explained that our mother could not improve; her brain was too badly damaged. He then outlined the options, but strongly recommended that she continue on a ventilator to artificially prolong her life. He explained that he was personally opposed to hastening a human's death by any means, and he was uncertain whether he could give that order in these circumstances.

We agreed to talk and pray on this for a day, and then meet again.

My sister and I had no clear guidelines to go by. This was something about which I'd never spoken with my mother. We had no "living will" to go by. In some ways the decision was obvious. Our mother would have absolutely no "quality of life." At the same time, neither of us had ever taken on the responsibility for someone else's life.

In the end, I believe we made the right decision. We let her go gently into God's care and to a joyful reunion with our father. And I will always be grateful for the week in which she was awake before the stroke, and for the kindness of the house physician who ordered the ventilator removed in a decision that no doubt caused him great anguish.

I'm writing this because I recently read a short article on prayerful decision-making which would have been very helpful to us back then. (See the article on next page.) May it be helpful to you when and if you are faced with a heavy responsibility and must decide.

Peace and power,
Jim

**Deadline for the next
Union News is**

**February 19, 2012
for Issue: February 29, 2012**
(This issue will contain the calendar
and the volunteer schedules for
March.)

**Next Deadline
for newsletter: 3/18/12, Issue:
3/28/12** (This issue will contain the
calendar and the volunteer schedules
for April.)

**If you get sick – Please
Remember**

Would you or a family member or a friend or a medical professional (nurse, etc.), please let Pastor Jim or a Deacon or Ruth in the Church Office 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!

In case of closing



Winter is here and if the weather turns on us, we are again connected to WCVB, Channel 5. If a service or event needs to be cancelled because of weather, tune to Channel 5 for our cancellation listing.

Prayerful Decision Making

1. Repeat this phrase in a time of quiet prayer:
I am made in the image of God. God is at work in and through me and this decision.
2. Ask God to send the Spirit.
The Holy Spirit is both a companion and a guide.
3. Assemble the data.
What is the decision about? What are my gifts and graces? Who does the decision affect? When am I most truly alive?
4. Consider the negative.
Pick the least attractive choice and try living for several days as though you had made that decision. Listen to your feelings and your body as you imagine yourself making that decision. At the end of each day, record the nudges of God, the moods and feelings, the comments of others. After several days, offer this to God.
5. Take the positive side.
For the same period of time, live with and notice how you feel when you choose this alternative.
6. Make a tentative decision.
Look at the two records of your feelings and insights, weigh the information and make a choice. Again, pay attention to how you feel. Does a deep peace come to you? Offer this to God.
7. Make a decision.
If there is a sense of peace, thank God and move ahead with the decision.
8. Make an alternative choice.
If there is no peace and sense of rightness during the tentative stage, choose the alternative decision and notice your feelings and perceptions.
9. Decide even when there is no peace.
If neither decision feels right, can you postpone the decision? If you have to make a decision soon, decide on a way to choose, since either choice can work.

Walking with God (adapted)

The essence of the Christian life is knowing and walking with God. It's about sticking with God when the sky is blue and also when it's filled with clouds or choked with smoke. It's about walking with the Lord through thick and thin, and pressing on through every heartache and trial that happens to come our way.

-Greg Laurie

40

This number appears many times in Scripture, often indicating a time of trial or testing, or simply marking something significant. It rained 40 days and nights during the Great Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. Taking this symbolic number to heart, the Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).

Party Clothes are needed

The Life Care Center of Nashoba Valley is planning a spring prom. (This is where Ole C. is.)

What the center is looking for is:

Women – short dressy dresses, costume jewelry, white gloves, hats, dressy scarfs.

Men – white button collar shirts, ties, suspenders.

If you have any of these items sitting in your closets taking up space, would you donate them for the prom? See Lila C for more information or to donate.

Sign up for Altar Flowers



The new Flower Chart is up and waiting for you to sign up for altar flowers. There are many openings so you have the opportunity to pick your special day to honor your loved ones.

From the Staff



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the lovely poinsettias you gave us at Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated by all of us.

We also thank you for your generous gift to each of us. It was so unexpected and considerate. Even though it was given in appreciation for us, it was something you didn't have to do and it touched each of us deep within our hearts.

Grace and Peace,
Jim, Roy, Ruth and Paul

Refocus for Lent

- Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.
- Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.
- Give up worry — trust God to provide.
- Give up discouragement — be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred — return good for evil.
- Give up anger — be more patient.
- Give up pettiness — become mature.
- Give up jealousy — pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping — control your tongue.
- Give up sin — turn to virtue.
- Give up giving up — persevere.

-Author unknown

Ongoing at Union

To date we have not reach our goal in the Driveway Project. Though, we are *almost* there. We thank all those who have contributed to the driveway. But for those who have thought about contributing to the project and haven't done so yet – there is still time. The blue offering envelopes are on the table opposite the display cabinet or you can contact Ruth in the office and she will send you some.



We still need everyone's help in removing the trash and recycling from the church. It tends to be "feast or famine" with the trash and recycling. Would you consider bringing home a bag of trash and a bag of recycling to be put out with your household items to be picked up? If you check the area inside and outside the kitchen before you leave, you might see a bag you can take with you. Thanks go out to one and all who have helped!



We are still collecting the pop-tabs that come on the top of cans (soda, vegetables, soup, etc.). Would you continue to help out? Just bring to the church the pop-tabs on the top of any pop-top containers. These in turn will be given to

the Shriners who are collecting them. This is a campaign to provide beds for parents of burn victims. You can place your pop-tabs in the glass jar located in the Sanctuary. Thank you for all who have brought in the tabs.



With the many budget cuts we have had to make to close the gap between income and expenses, we will need to ask you for help in one of our 2012 expenses. Each year we pay fellowship dues to our denomination for each active member (currently \$18.60 per member). We are asking if you would consider paying separately for these dues? It is \$18.60 for each active member. If you can pay all or even part of the \$18.60, your contribution would be welcomed. Please write "fellowship dues" on the memo line of your check and please don't forget to put your name on the envelope (You may use the envelopes in the pews marked "Fellowship Dues). About half of our congregation has responded to this appeal and we thank those who have already contributed.



Church Leadership 2012

Robert M, Moderator
& Chair of Stewardship Committee

Allan L, Treasurer

James M, Financial Secretary

Kathi M, Clerk

Lila C & Diana E
Co-Chairs of Deacons

Lynne H, Chair of Trustees

Lila C, Chair of Mission Outreach

Chair of Christian Education
(open position)

Robert M, Chair of Investments

Diana E & Marge M
Members at Large

Marge M,
Prayer Chain Coordinator

Prayer Celebrations & Concerns

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

Albert (Ole) C.

Jane J.

Emily L.

Nancy S.

All those dealing with illness in their lives

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 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 and are still affected by hurricanes, storms (rain & snow), cyclones, tidal waves, earthquakes, fires, floods, mud slides, oppressive heat or cold, tornadoes, tsunamis and those who have been left homeless by one of these natural disasters or had loss of life.

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

Birthdays in February

Day Name

02 Kristin C

12 Emily L

16 Heather F



BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY

Volunteer Schedule

February 5, 2012

Flowers: Diana E

Altar:

Nursery: Shirley T

February 12, 2012

Flowers: Diana E

Altar:

Nursery: Sue W

February 19, 2012

Flowers: Diana E

Altar:

Nursery: Lynne H

February 26, 2012

Flowers: Diana E

Altar:

Nursery: Carol C

Staff

Ministers: The Entire Congregation

Interim Pastor:
Reverend Dr. James Bronwell
email: pastormaynarducc@verizon.net

Minister of Music Emeritus:
Roy Helander

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

Sexton: Paul Wojsznis

Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 AM
(nursery care provided)

Fellowship at 11:00 AM
Building is handicapped accessible

Websites
Union Congregational:
www.maynarducc.org

Mass Conference: www.macucc.org

United Church of Christ: www.ucc.org



Thoughts for the Day

As long as you have a window, life is exciting. – unknown

It's not possible for everyone to have great intellect, but it is possible to have a great heart and love. – unknown

I never think of the future – it comes soon enough. – Albert Einstein

Prioritize your priorities. – unknown

Faith is a knowledge within the heart, beyond the reach of proof. – Kahlil Gibran

To love another person is to see the face of God. – lyrics from *Les Misérables*, Claude-Michel Schönberg

NO-SEW FLEECE SCARF



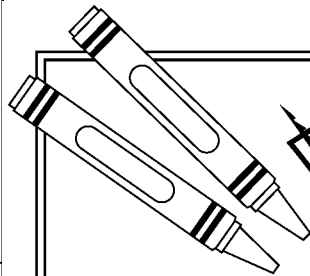
Winter is a difficult time for people in need, so make this scarf to help someone stay warm.

What you need:

- Medium-weight polar fleece, 60" standard width (a 9" portion will make one scarf)
- Scissors
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. Cut a piece of medium-weight polar fleece to the size of 60" x 9". Cut the fabric across its width so the material is stretchy.
2. Trim off the edge binding. To add "fringe" along each end, make a 6"-long cut every half inch.
3. For curly fringe, pull each strand and then let go sharply. Another attractive option is to tie an over-hand knot at the top of each strip.
4. Donate your scarf to a local group that helps people in need. For greater impact, encourage your Sunday school classmates or other friends to make scarves, too.
















PUZZLE

A caring disciple

In Acts 9, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

Instructions: Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

___ adcltne			
___ rohmtae			
___ srgbape			
___ rbieda			
___ pehtshred			
___ rdhaenlca			
___ fadoo			
Her name in Greek			
___ pdeesh			
___ dchilnero			
___ drove			
___ acehtr			
___ sarcos			
___ nusoaatim			

Answers: Tabitha, Dorcas

Church Calendar

Sunday Morning

- †Worship – 10:00 AM
- † Sunday School – after the stories of our faith message during worship
- †Sunday Café/Fellowship – 11:00 AM

Regular Meeting Schedule

- †CE – not on schedule
- †Church Management – meet as needed
- †Council – 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 PM
- †Deacons – 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM
- †Investments – meet as needed
- †Missions – meet as needed
- †Trustees – meet as needed



Regular Building Users

- †Boy Scouts – Tuesdays, 6:00-9:00 PM
- †Community School – Mon-Thurs, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM
- †Dance Class – Mondays, 7:00 PM
- †Senior Drop in Center – Tuesdays, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

FEBRUARY

Upcoming Dates

- † **Boy Scout Sunday** – February 5, 2012
- † **Happy Valentine's Day** – February 14, 2012
- † **Newsletter deadline** – February 19, 2012
- † **Ash Wednesday Worship Service** – February 22, 7:00 PM
- † **First Sunday in Lent** – February 26, 2012

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

