



*From the Pastor:*

**CHURCH AHEAD –**

“God’s Green World”

Spring is in the air. Lent is a season of simplicity and fasting, a season of letting go of what gets in the way of our relationship with God and one another. It is also a season of growth and rejoicing. The word Lent has its origins in the “lengthening of days” and the hope for springtime after a long, cold winter. One of my favorite scriptures comes from the Song of Songs. It is great love poetry that I have often read at weddings.

“Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away;  
for now the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.  
The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.  
Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away.  
O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,  
in the covert of the cliff,  
let me see your face,  
let me hear your voice;  
for your voice is sweet,  
and your face is lovely.”

Though we can still expect cold days and a great snow before the winter weathers come. We can also affirm that in every season of life, God is faithful. We can rejoice in snow and celebrate God’s green new deal of the coming spring.

We are learning these days that stewardship takes many forms. Being a good steward means supporting God’s vision in the church and the world with your time, talent, and treasure. Being a good steward means using your personal resources – your head, heart, and hands – to do something beautiful for God. Being a good steward means becoming a gardener of creation, caring for the earth and its creatures, and living more simply so that others can simply live. God has given us responsibility to care for one another and care for the earth. Let us make our lives a gift to God and one another. Let us speak for life and love as partners in God’s new creation.

Pastor Bruce



During Lent we seek to love God with our hearts, souls, and minds. We learn to love our neighbor as ourselves through opportunities for adult faith formation.

**Weekly Events:**

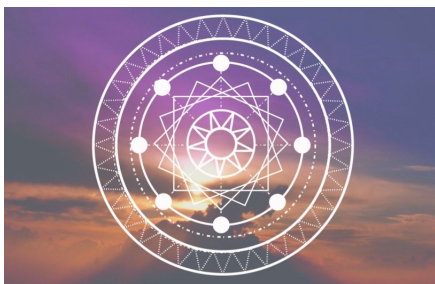
*Bible Study on John’s Gospel,* Mondays at noon. A journey through John, exploring the significance of Jesus’ first century ministry for our twenty-first century lives.

*The Ethics and Politics of Jesus*, Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. Our ongoing theological-spiritual seminar is considering what Jesus would do in our personal and political lives through a study of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). How do we understand Jesus' "upside down kingdom" and live God's vision "on earth as it is in heaven" in the challenges of our twenty-first century lives as citizens? How do we move from self-interest to world loyalty?

### **Special Events:**

*A Month with a Mystic: The Metaphysical Mysticism of Alfred North Whitehead*, Monday, March 2 at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. What does philosophy have to do with spirituality? In what ways does the vision of philosopher Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947) shape our spiritual and ethical lives in an ecological age?

*St. Patrick's Prayer and the Celtic Vision*, Monday, March 16, at 1:00 p.m. The life and prayers of St. Patrick and his Celtic companions can be resources for our personal journeys and ethical responsibility in an interdependent world.



### **SPRING EQUINOX SERVICE Thursday, March 19 at 6:00 p.m.**

The days are lengthening and spring is in the air. The seasons change and yet God's love is faithful. As the poet from Lamentations 3 proclaims:

The steadfast love of the LORD  
never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

Join us in the Sanctuary for a celebration of God's faithfulness in every season with poetry, prayer, and scripture.

### **NEWS FROM THE CONFERENCE SUPER SATURDAY March 14, 2020**

Each spring and fall, the Massachusetts, now Southern New England, Conference of the United Church of Christ holds a Super Saturday event - a full-day of skill building, networking and discussing best practices. Each event offers numerous workshops, a keynote address, worship, a marketplace of vendors and ideas and an opportunity for church leaders, both clergy and lay, to network with one another.

This year, the key note speaker is Rabbi Elan Babchuck, Founding Director of GLEAN Network, an incubator and network for faith leaders who seek to re-imagine the role of religion in an ever-changing world yearning for meaning, belonging, and justice. He serves as the Director of Innovation at CLAL,

a think-tank focused on the future of faith in America

There are nearly fifty seminars, related to themes such as church growth, stewardship and fundraising, justice and earth care, safe church, mission, and spirituality.

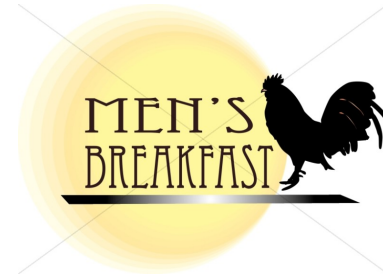
Pastors Bruce and Pam have led seminars and encourage you to consider attending. This spring, Pastor Bruce is leading a seminar on “Are You a Mystic? Spirituality and Social Activism.” For more information, take a look at <https://www.sneucc.org/supersaturday>

**BARNSTABLE ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING  
March 28  
at South Congregational Church**

Please join us on March 28 from 9:30 a.m. to noon as South Congregational Church hosts the Barnstable Association, UCC, Annual Meeting. We will have the opportunity to meet with folks from other congregations, share stories and faith, and affirm our unity in Christ.

The Association Meeting is a reminder that we are part of a community of communities seeking to do God’s will and support God’s vision of healing ourselves, communities, and the planet. As part of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, we join in our own unique way “to make disciples of Jesus, make God’s love and justice real, bring new life as

agents of change, and form covenant relationships to promote the greater good.”



**Next breakfast is Tuesday,  
March 3 at 8:00 a.m.  
Chefs Extraordinaire:  
Ted Merton & Dennis Smith  
Come Hungry!**

**THE THRIFTY  
NICHE**

*We get things done while  
having fun!!!*

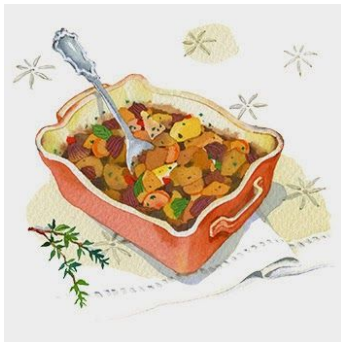


**Monday, Wednesday,  
Friday  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Saturday  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**



March Birthdays

- 4-Ruth French
- 6-John Bross, Zach Wannie
- 7-Chris Gately
- 10-Jen McLaughlin
- 11-Gloria Randall
- 15-Michael Crossen, Dan Crosby
- 16-Peg Belden
- 18-Frank Torbey
- 19-Ken Mills
- 25-Dave Lamson, Michael Black
- 27-Wendy Beaulieu
- 30-Doug Rockwell
- 31-David Edwards



**St. Joseph's House Casseroles**  
**Monday, March 23rd**

**Chefs**

**Nancy Maillette, Susan Smith,  
Kim Mee, Wendy Beaulieu,  
John O'Connor, Ruth French**

*We need more 2 volunteers or  
2 extra casseroles, please*

**Driver**  
**Dan Dray**



*Notes from your  
Church Secretary*

*Deadline for items in the  
April STEEPLE  
Wednesday, March 18th*

*Please do me a favor...  
so many people have access to  
the church that sometimes I do  
not know when there is anyone  
else in the building. Kindly  
stop in the office and say hello,  
just so I know you are here.  
Thank you.*



**MARCH 8TH**



## **GREEN SPIRITUALITY**

As we begin a new year, here are some statistics on the major trash found along American beaches and waterways in 2018. Let's do our part in the year 2020 to turn this problem around and keep Cape Cod trash free.

From January through April, discover new and somewhat interesting ways to do your part to prevent waste with an A to Z Waste Not Guide from REAL SIMPLE magazine.

### **M-Makeup**

Many makeup containers can't be recycled curbside, but check TerraCycle's free program and ask your retailer of the cosmetics company if it take empty containers. Kiehl', MAC, and Lush give you a reward for bringing back empties; Bond No. 9 accepts any empty fragrance container.

### **N-Newspapers & Magazines**

Use newspapers for streak-free window cleaning and place a sheet in the bottom of your compost bin for easier cleanup (soiled newspaper is compostable). Save pretty spreads for gift wrap and craft supplies and recycle the rest.

### **O-Oatmeal Canisters**

Remove any plastic parts and recycle. Or save for crafting and fort-building materials.

### **P-Paper Towels**

Save stained and damaged clothes to cut up and use as washable rags. Switch to cloth napkins and hang on to all those extra paper napkins that come with your takeout order for when you really need a disposable towel. If you do use a paper towel, toss it into the compost bin when you're done, unless you sprayed a chemical product on it.

### **Q-tips or Other Cotton Swabs**

You should never insert a Q-tip in your ear-break that habit to reduce your usage and protect your ear health. If you rely on cotton swabs for makeup touch-ups, try a clean pinkie finger instead or use reusable cotton rounds, like the ones from Wegreeco (\$11 for 16; amazon.com)

### **R-Razors**

Most razors you find in the drugstore are plastic-heavy and made with a combo of materials that render them un-recyclable curbside. Alternatives are on the pricey side but the investment comes up front. Laser hair removal can cost as much as \$500 per leg, but results are nearly permanent; a safety razor (like the gorgeous rose-gold version from Oui, \$75; ouishave.com uses replacement blades that are both inexpensive (about \$1 each) and recyclable.

### S-Sponges

**Try plastic-free sponges you can compost (\$6for 3; sqwishful.com). Or switch to dishcloths, which you can toss into the laundry and use over and over again.**

## **NEWS FROM YOUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR**



A reminder to help us update our library by making a cash donation to the church so that we can purchase age appropriate and theologically sound books for our Sunday School Lending Library. Just simply put a note in the memo portion of your check that says that it is for Church School Library.

Last month the children had a chance to name their gifts and then explore what they do with the gifts that they have. The month culminated in intergenerational worship that explored seeing, feeling, hearing and imagining Jesus' transformation and transfiguration. This month we will explore choices, chance meetings and the comforting presence of Jesus as we make our way through Lent and into Holy Week and finally Easter.

March 1: One Voice, One Choice: Wondering about making choices during wilderness times. Taught by Kate Epperly and Deb Weinstein

March 8: Blessed to be a Blessing: Nicodemus meets Jesus. Taught by Marcia Raftery and Ginger Mochen

March 15: Well of Living Water: Reaching out to the others. Taught by Marcia Raftery and Dan Packer

March 22: I am Because We are: A story of Healing. Intergenerational Worship

March 29: Conversations that Unbind us: Jesus comforts his friends: Service Sunday



The bell choir is ringing again and the choir is back to rehearsing on Wednesday nights. We are always open to new members. This month our musical offerings will include; Hope of the World, Love Divine, Amazing Grace my Chains are Gone and Hymn of Hope. On March 15 the Seaside Bells will offer How Great Thou Art and Children of the Heavenly Father.



## Outdoor Ministry

Our next Youth Street Reach breakfast is on Saturday January 29 from 7am to 10am. This ministry offers clothing, toiletries, and a hearty breakfast to about 150 people who struggle with food insecurity, extreme poverty and homelessness.

Our February Outdoor Service was lovely. We had a guest guitarist, several people stroll through, a few stayed. Many thanks to Deb Weinstein, and Nancy Callahan for their hospitality and for all who have attended these services and offered a compassionate presence to our brothers and sisters in Christ that are unhoused or at risk of homelessness.

More than snacks, more than socks, more than toiletries we need people to attend these worship services, to stand side by side with all who attend, to be willing to live in the discomfort of being in a place or with people that are different from what you are accustomed to. More than anything we need to demonstrate that we are willing, as people of faith, to be a bridge between the housed and unhoused community. If you cannot attend these services, **Please Pray For Us.**

## Please Pray For Us.

- Pray that our ministry leaders listen for God's inspirations
- Pray that we minister with and not at or to those whom we feel called to serve
- Pray for the homeless and at risk population, that they can find hope and peace and spiritual nourishment in our worship services.
- Pray that system of injustice and barriers to services be eliminated so that people who are poor, or abused or people living with mental illness or substance use disorders get the care that they deserve.

Please be a prayer warrior with me.

Over the long weekend, I had a chance to speak with the Rev. Clyde Kuemmerle, Director of Ecclesia ministries in New York. He affirmed that our outdoor ministry is moving ahead in an organized and positive way. They have weekly services and also serve a hearty lunch (tables set outdoors, full meal) after worship, and he said that they have anywhere between 2 and 100 people. (the 100 people were at a holiday service.) He noted that we need to go where the people are, not expect them to come to us. He also affirmed the notion that we need to be outside, always, despite weather conditions. It seems that we are on the right path. Please hold this ministry and all of its volunteers in your prayers.



## SWEET MOMENTS



To South Church, I wish to thank all who had a part in the lovely plate of Valentine's special treat that was delivered to my door by Jen. It was great seeing her. It was happily received. With love, Pearl Perry

Thank you for the plate of Valentine goodies. Every bite sweetened my day. Honest-Florence Brassard

Thanks to the ladies of the South Church for my delicious dish of cookies and candies-also for Elizabeth delivering them to my condo! Lil Vaccarello

Dear Friends at South Congregational Church,  
Thank you for the delicious Valentine treats. Barbara and I enjoyed them. With love,  
Betty Brosman

Thank you for your very kind Valentine's goodies. They didn't last long as I have a sweet tooth.  
Allen Morrisey

The above notes were among the many expressions of appreciation heard after several members and friends received plates of Valentine treats. Seven people, of all ages, baked and donated goodies and another eight happily helped with deliveries. Many thanks to all of our helpers and much love to all our recipients.



Look for the Easter Lily order form in the March 22 Bulletin.

Large Lilies \$25

Small Lilies \$15



***Miracle Kitchen Cooking***

***Tuesday, March 31st, 9:00 am.***

***Volunteers always welcome, the 5th Tuesday of the month. Lunches lovingly made in our church kitchen for the homeless and served at the Salvation Army in Hyannis.***



**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**