



STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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VOLUME 36: No. 3

MARCH 2012

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTCONGREGATIONALCHURCHOFWAKEFIELDUCC

THE PASTOR'S PAGE . . .

DEEP INSIDE

Lent is a beautiful season in the life of the church, and we are now well into it. We yearn for the sights, sounds, and smells of spring, yet the ground is still cold and the trees still bare. It may look as though the landscape is devoid of life, but nothing could be further from the truth. The winter “sleep” of bulbs, hibernating animals, and bare tree branches is an absolutely essential part of the cycle of life, and critical to the emergence of floral color, leafy green, and springtime animal activity that will soon be upon us. Because Lent coincides with those many days during which we find ourselves wishing that winter would hurry away, it is tempting for us to miss out on its spiritual riches, just as we sometimes fail to appreciate the stark beauty of the weather and the landscape at this time of year.

To have a real sense of the value of the weather we encounter in March, arguably one of the less popular months for us weather-wise, we need to look in unlikely places. If our tulip and crocus bulbs could talk, they could explain to us just exactly what intricate and necessary processes unfold in their life cycle at this time of year. To have spring, and the revival that goes with it, these deep internal natural processes must run their course. The riches of Lent are analogous to this: it’s a season we may think we’d rather avoid, but if we surrender to its purposes, our Easter experience will be all the more wonderful.

Lent begins with a smear of ashes on the forehead, given along with words that remind us of our mortality. At first glance, this emphasis on death right at the outset could seem a bit of a disincentive to give Lent any further thought. However, let’s look at it this way: what is a reminder of mortality but simply another way of being reminded of the very preciousness of each and every moment of life? Having set out on the Lenten path with that smudge of soot on the forehead, we have been told again that our mortality is a sort of a gift. Reminded of it in the context of God’s love, we are, in a sense, re-commissioned for our highest purposes as human beings: to love God, and to love and care properly for one another, for ourselves, and for the holy creation.

The call into Lent is a call to repentance, which you might think sounds like no fun at all, but, in truth, to repent is a very exhilarating adventure. In its simplest meaning, to repent is to turn to God. To turn to God is look into the face of the deepest, most ardent, most gracious, most affirming Love that is possible, and to bask in that love, and then to surrender to the ways in which it will transform us. In truly turning to God, asking for healing and asking to serve as a healer—each in ways according to our own spiritual gifts—we can do none other than to truly be born anew.

Easter will come. Will we, like the tulip and the crocus, have carried out the deep inner work that will allow us to fully blossom with Easter renewal? May this be an enriching Lent for all.

Blessings and peace,
Mary

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139: 14a

**PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW CHURCH SCHOOL
DIRECTOR, JOSIE PERKINS**



Josie Lynn Perkins is a resident of Wakefield, and holds a BA in Performance Arts from Point Park University. She has been working with kids of all ages for the past 15 years and has loved every moment of it. Josie became a proud member of the First Congregational Church of Wakefield on February 12th, 2012, and is excited (as well as thankful) about her new position as Church School Director. She

was the unanimous choice of our hiring team, which included Margie Galabrun as Christian Education Coordinator, George Ackerman as the Personnel Ministry representative, Judy Trepal as a Church School parent, and Pastor Mary. We are very fortunate to have her with us, both as a member of the church and as Church School Director!

A PRESENTATION ON INTERFAITH RELATIONS

All are invited on Friday evening, March 23, to the **First Parish Church in Dover** at 6 p.m. for a potluck supper and discussion of the relationships between Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. All the UCC churches in our area have been invited to take part, and many, like us, will have carried out a book study of the wonderful book *The Faith Club*.

The discussion will be led by Boston University Professor of Religion David Frankfurter. There is no doubt that the meal, the presentation, and the discussion will all be very well worth the trip! Please mark your calendar for this great event.

INSPIRED VOICES!

What does Lent mean to you? Would you be willing to share your thoughts on this? For each Sunday in Lent, the Diaconate and Mary are extending an invitation to a different speaker each week to share a brief reflection on the question of the meaning of Lent. This would not be a sermon length sharing, but simply two or three minutes of sharing from the heart on this question.

Are you called to share? Please think and pray about this, and let Mary know. Mary can offer assistance to you in giving voice to your thoughts, should you feel you'd like to share a "Lenten Moment." Thank you!



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The STEEPLE VIEWS is a monthly publication of the First Congregational Church of Wakefield, NH, United Church of Christ and is available by email. To be added to our email list, contact the editor, Carol Jeffery, at Steepleviews@gmail.com.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget (Non-restricted):
July 1, 2011 - January 31, 2012

Income:	\$82,939.74
Expenditures:	<u>\$79,547.87</u>
Net Income	\$ 3,391.87

Restricted Funds balance at 1/31/2012: \$6,223.83.

I hope you are excited as I am. We have ended January with operating income surpassing operating expenses for the current fiscal year. We will see if this wonderful trend can continue throughout the winter months to come. Thanks to all of you who so faithfully have checked the thermostats to make sure they are turned down before leaving the building. Using less oil this winter has helped the bottom line.

Have you ever wondered about the income line of our budget called Lyford Merrow Fund? Many years ago, with the foresight and generosity of Lyford Merrow, a trust administered by the NH Conference of the UCC was established. We are fortunate to be an annual beneficiary. Every autumn we submit a simple application and every January we receive a distribution from the Trust. This year we received \$1058 which is reflected in the income number above.

Also in January, we received \$1500 from the Parish Helpers. This represents one-half of their annual pledge and the special support they contribute towards the pastor's housing. As always we greatly appreciate the generosity of these lovely ladies.

Stay warm and blessings to all,

*Janice Brejwo, Treasurer
(jbrejwo@roadrunner.com)*

PARISH HELPERS

At the February meeting, the Parish Helpers enjoyed a presentation by Gafney Library Director, Beryl Donovan. She talked about recent popular books and even brought a selection with her that the ladies could check out!

Parish Helpers are going to help with Circle 226 by donating paper products for the church. An idea by Agnes Carlson was well received and it was agreed that we would individually bring a donated item to each meeting to help out the church.

At the March meeting, Reverend Mary will present a Lenten program. The Parish Helpers meet on the second Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. All women of the church and community are welcome to attend.

**COINS HAVE POWER –
UNLESS YOU HAVE NONE!**

Liberty Shanguro, our young orphan in Zimbabwe who is being supported through the POWER of CHANGE is so happy to be able to receive an education. Because of the Sunday School children and Congregation support of \$25/month, Liberty can go to school. Let's keep the Power of Change jar active, robust and jingly. The Power of Change has a dual purpose of also supporting the General Fund - \$300/yr for Liberty and \$300/yr for the General Fund. Bless you for dual support.

Carol Lundgren

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Did you know that One Great Hour of Sharing responds to disasters on average 2.5 days, while it changes lives 365 days each year? Your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing is hard at work in 138 countries, including the U.S. When you make a gift to the offering you become a partner in the refugee, disaster relief, and community development efforts of the United Church of Christ.

You know the joy of giving – the delight you share when your gift makes a difference in someone's day. Imagine the joy when your gift changes someone's life.

In church we talk about God providing us with blessings in abundance, yet every day we see people who live with far less. Millions of God's children in the world live on less than we spend on a cup of coffee. Hundreds of thousands live every day in the midst of violence and war. And countless families both here and abroad find themselves at the mercy of nature's fury with few resources to restore their homes and rebuild their lives.

Ever think God wants you to be a bearer of abundance – to be more than just a recipient of god's love and blessings? That you can be the channel through whom God satisfies the hungry, comforts the distressed, and brings hope to the hurting?

For over 65 years, Christians in North America have changed lives with their gifts to one Great Hour of Sharing. By sharing our resources, we share God's love and blessing, and bring joy to thousands of God's children who wait for their seed of hope to bloom.

Even when times are tough and the world around us seems uncertain, are we confident enough in God's blessings to share abundantly with those in need? Create more joy in the world with your generous gift to One Great hour of Sharing.

This offering will take place on the 4th Sunday in Lent, March 18th. Thank you for your offering to change the lives of many.

Donna V. Ackerman

THE FAITH CLUB DISCUSSION GROUP

Our discussion of this compelling book will take place on 3 consecutive Sunday mornings, from February 26th through March 11th, at 9 a.m. Our church library has three copies for loan, and the Gafney Library has ten copies available for loan. All you need is a library card for the Gafney Library, which is free to any Wakefield or Brookfield resident! We hope you will join us for this great series.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING SERVICE DAY OF LEARNING
SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH**

Youth and adults—are you ready for a day of
FAITH, FOOD, AND FUN?

UCC churches in the Carroll-Strafford Association are planning a day of service in the Dover/Somersworth/Rochester area. The MLK event will begin with a continental breakfast and a group gathering. Mixed groups of teens and adults will be sent off to various worksites where all will be involved in some type of service through a local non-profit organization -- painting, preparing meals for the homeless, working with Habitat for Humanity and more. Participants will return for a time of reflection and a special closing celebration. Students in grades 7-12, along with adults of any age, are invited to attend. The cost is \$10 per person and will include breakfast and lunch. Interested in hearing more? Please see Connie Littlefield or Donna Ackerman!

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Did you know that we recycle the bulletins? Each week after the service, bulletins left behind are collected and recycled. We also reuse the music that has been copied. It is filed to be used again. So if you don't need to take home that music to practice in your shower, the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog, please leave it in the basket at the back of the church so we can use it again.

Please submit all announcements to the office in writing by Thursday morning. As a courtesy, we ask that you submit the announcement just as you'd like it to be printed. If something urgent comes up at the last minute, please speak directly with Rev. Mary and she will make the announcement if appropriate. Please make them as brief as possible.

CALLING ALL MEN!

A men's group is being formed in our church! All men are invited to come to an organizational meeting on Friday evening, March 2, at 7 p.m. at the church. Any questions should be directed to Paul Carlson or the church office.

WELCOME JOSIE, LINDA AND RAENYA!

On February 12th, it was a delight and a privilege to welcome three new members into our midst, as they affirmed their baptismal vows in the company of their new church family.

Please be sure to welcome Josie Perkins, Linda Shepard, and Raenya Moran as new sisters in Christ! Ladies, your fellow church members are honored that you have chosen this church to be your congregation! We will hear more about them in the April Steeple Views.

A "CAPITAL" IDEA!

On Sunday, February 12, a Congregational Meeting was held after church to consider various options for carrying out a much-needed Capital Campaign. A great deal of work had been done to offer a thorough presentation describing three possible options, two of which would involve a Capital Campaign Consultant, and one of which would have been self-directed. Carol Lundgren, Stewardship Coordinator, and Pastor Mary described the various approaches and the pros and cons related to each one approach. The congregation voted unanimously to pursue a consultant-led campaign. We then considered two possible approaches that had been proposed by the consultant we will be working with, the very experienced and highly recommended Tim Scott of Country Consulting Group. Tim is a member of the Jackson, NH UCC congregation and has vast experience in leading capital campaigns with churches. After voting to choose one of Tim's proposals, the meeting adjourned to enjoy a delicious heart-healthy lunch prepared by some of our wonderful church members who have thrived after open heart surgery.

We are now joyfully putting together a Capital Campaign Team which will work with Tim's wonderful coaching to lead us through a successful capital campaign. If you feel called to take part in this great effort to strengthen our church, please let Pastor Mary know. We have a number of very capable and enthused church members already committed to help with this. We are looking for one or two more. Could it be you?

We are very excited about this new endeavor in our journey. Stay tuned for more information to come!

Rev. Mary

CIRCLE 225/226

Here we are fully into our 226th year as a settled church. Circle 226 is one small way we attend to those needs that make a positive change in church and community life. Check out the new tags in Fellowship Hall. Perhaps there is something you can do from time to time that will make a difference - like offering to drive for the Good Shepherd program, bringing in some paper towels or soap for the kitchen, donating bread for communion, supporting the Wakefield Food Pantry - there are so many ways open to us to do good works. Let's keep the vision of Circle 226 in focus!

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

On Sunday, February 19, our congregation celebrated Rev. Mary's 5th Anniversary as Pastor. A wonderful worship service was conducted by members of the church which included songs, stories, bells, and more! Following the service, cake and coffee were served while members and friends greeted Mary extending their congratulations and thanks for her service to our church and community.

ARE YOU CALLED TO SERVE AS A CARING VISITOR?

Our Caring Visitation Team will meet on Monday, March 12th at 4:00 in the Parish Helpers Room. This gathering is open to all church members who are interested in being part of a ministry of visitation with folks who are homebound (temporarily or permanently), in the hospital, or in rehabilitative or nursing home settings. The need for caring visitors is very great, and it is a very rewarding form of service.

The team will meet every few weeks to discuss the joys and challenges of visitation, and to receive support and guidance from Pastor Mary and one another. If several church members will make a commitment to carry out as little as one visit a month, this will be a very significant contribution.

GET READY! BE ON THE LOOKOUT!



A package is coming soon, right to your address. It's Intentional Giving time. The package will contain a new Intentional Giving promise card and the proposed 2012-13 budget and narrative. The Leadership Council

Coordinators have thoughtfully considered their visions for the new fiscal year. The results are bold, brave and exciting. Can we do it? Yes, with your prayerful consideration ... and God's amazing presence. Thanks to Judy Trepal for designing our new logo.

Carol Lundgren, Stewardship Coordinator

VISUAL AND DECORATIVE ARTS

The palm strips and palm fans have been ordered for Palm Sunday service. Easter is right around the corner and the order form for Easter lilies, daffodils, and tulips will be in the next Steeple Views. The Visual and Decorative Arts Ministry is preparing for spring. The winter wreaths have been removed and will soon be replaced by the forsythia wreaths created by Rachel White. Please remember that fresh flowers for the altar may be ordered at any time.

Arlene Leyare, Coordinator

MARCH 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Scrabble 10 a.m. Weight Watchers—5:30 String Band 6-Beg. 7-Int./ Adv	2 Men's Group Organizational Meeting 7 p.m.	3
4 Book Discussion-9 Worship and Holy Communion Church School—10 Church School Family Mtg.—11	5 Choir 6 p.m.	6 Bible Study 12 noon	7 Diaconate 5:30	8 Parish Helpers 1 p.m. Weight Watchers—5:30 String Band 6-Beg. 7-Int./ Adv.	9	10
11 Book Discussion 9 a.m. Worship and Church School—10 a.m. Coffee Hour	12 Visitation Team Mtg. 4 p.m. Choir 6 p.m.	13 Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 4:30 p.m.	14 Pairs and Spares 6 p.m.	15 Weight Watchers—5:30 String Band 6-Beg. 7-Int./ Adv.	16	17
18 Worship and Church School—10 a.m.	19 Choir 6 p.m.	20 Scrabble 10 a.m. Bible Study 12 noon First Day of Spring!	21	22 Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. Weight Watchers 5:30 String Band 6-Beg. Level 7-Mixed Level	23 Interfaith Pot Luck Supper and "Faith Club" Book Discussion Dover UCC 6 p.m.	24
25 Worship and Church School—10 a.m. Coffee Hour	26 Choir 6 p.m.	27 Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 4:30	28	29 Weight Watchers 5:30 String Band 6-Beg. Level 7-Mixed Level	30	31 

APRIL 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 PALM SUNDAY Worship and Holy Communion Church School—10 a.m.	2	3	4	5 Scrabble 10 a.m. Weight Watchers—5:30 Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae—7 p.m.	6 Good Friday	7
8 EASTER SUNDAY Worship 10 a.m., Coffee Hour	9 Choir 6 p.m.	10 Bible Study 12 noon	11 Pairs and Spares 6 p.m.	8 Parish Helpers 1 p.m. Weight Watchers—5:30 String Band 6-Beg. 7-Int./ Adv.	13	14 MLK Service Day
15 Worship and Church School—10 a.m.	16 Choir 6 p.m.	17 Scrabble 10 a.m. Bible Study 12 noon	18	19 Weight Watchers—5:30 String Band 6-Beg. 7-Int./ Adv.	20	21
22 Worship and Church School—10 a.m. Coffee Hour	23 Choir 6 p.m.	24 Bible Study 12 noon	25	26 Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. Weight Watchers 5:30 String Band 6-Beg. Level 7-Mixed Level	27	28
29 Worship and Church School—10 a.m.	30 Choir 6 p.m.					

Z TEAM NEWS

It was wonderful to celebrate 14 years of partnership in February and to see how our initial letter writing initiative has grown to include deep and meaningful relationships throughout Zimbabwe, the Rufumiso Church rebuilding, the support of Rufumiso area children through school fees, sponsorship of 31 children through Friends of Orphan Trust, the rebuilding of the Dzika Primary School, goat projects, chicken projects, carpentry projects, and the famous (Or should we say infamous?) shipping container which provides clothing, medical supplies, school supplies, tools and other needed items to churches throughout Zimbabwe. I think the children were as amazed as we were when we realized the 40' shipping container is the same width as our church.

For the many who asked how they could participate, a list of priority items is elsewhere in this newsletter and printed copies are available at the back of the church. And of course, we welcome folks of all ages to help us pack the container in June!

Connie Littlefield

Z-TEAM FUNDRAISING PROJECTS!

Thanks to all who supported our February Pancake Breakfast. We raised \$365.25 and appreciated the help of our newest Z Team member, Julia McCarthy, and the assistance of Maddie Cotreau. Julia and Maddie were an unexpected blessing with the dishes!

May will be a busy month. Mark the calendars for May 5 (Cinco de Mayo) as YOU have an opportunity to participate in a Dzika Decathlon at Spaulding High School. Teams of 10 people, pay (or get sponsored) for \$10.00 each and good naturedly compete in 10 events – sack race, basketball free throw, relay races, soccer shoot outs and more! Money raised will help renovate yet another classroom at Dzika! Would you like to form a team? See a member of the Z Team!

For those not into all that physical activity we have the Service Auction to be held on May 19th at 6:30 p.m. Z Team folks will be calling you in April to see if there is a special service you might like to donate. Past examples include a boat ride, a theme dinner for 4 or more people, the creation of a photo album, airport transportation, delicious baked goods, jobs around the house and yard, and more! We also need lots of interested people to bid on the wonderful items. Again, mark your calendars and bring a friend for a fun night of service and delicious desserts! All proceeds will benefit special Zim projects.

Connie Littlefield

“The quality of our lives is in the quality of our ties to one another.”

BLESSINGS



Every Member at the Table – an innovative pot luck dinner was attended by 36 folks who came together on Friday evening, February 17, to share an evening designed to deepen our faith by focusing on God's blessings.

After a delicious pot-luck meal, the group broke into small groups led by the evening's organizers: Ed and Florence Morrison, Rev. Mary, Jan Fairchild, Maureen Steer, and Carol Lundgren in discussion based on Psalm 103:1:2 -

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me,
Bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

It was a wonderfully fulfilling evening—yes, a blessing! to be together in spiritual conversation!

FOOT FAMILY UPDATES

Joseph recently passed on some updates about our FOOT children. We had been praying for Violet who was the victim of a violent assault as well as Sandra (Liberty's sister) who was hospitalized for anemia. He writes: “Priscillar passed five subjects at O level but without the major subjects English and Maths. Tracey could not make it as she got one subject Fashion and Fabrics. Priscillar wants to proceed to lower five as Tracey would like to repeat. (Lower five is comparable to US grade 12.)

Samantha Chikwakwanye did very, very well as she passed all seven subjects including English, Math and Science and is looking forward to proceed to lower five.

Violet is doing grade one at Matione Primary and the biggest problem is that the fees, food, uniforms all is centered on the 25 dollars. She paid 20 as part of the fees and remained with no food. So she went to my house to ask for the food to push her and the grandmother. She is the one with extreme difficulties. I have been able to overcome problems in many ways but Violet's have challenged me because the grandmother wants her to stay with her as it is just impossible but I cannot rule it out.

Sandra is got back to school a week ago. Sandra was charged two units of blood at the cost of USD160. I asked some of the FOOT kids to donate 2 dollars each to help her pay the bills and it worked out very well. They were happy to assist her and the guardian was very much appreciative.

My family is fine and Vimbai is in form one at Mt. Selinda. (Vimbai is Joseph's middle daughter, form one is equal to grade 8, and Mt. Selinda is a UCCZ boarding school). This is her first time to be away for a long time from the parents so once in a while she sends a message: call me back mum or dad.”

Connie

Priority items for 2012 Shipping Container to Zimbabwe

FOR THE HOSPITALS:

- Hearing aids with batteries
- Pain relievers - ibuprofen, aspirin
- gauze bandages
- antibiotic ointment
- anti diarrhea medication
- cough/cold medication, Vaporub
- vitamins (children and adult)
- infant formula (powdered)
- toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap
- sanitary pads
- petroleum jelly

FOR THE SCHOOLS:

- student notebooks
- library books
- textbooks (math, science, reading)
- paper for institutional use
- office supplies
- pencils, pens, erasers
- pencil sharpeners
- rulers
- chalk
- art supplies; musical instruments
- tote bags for teachers
- Playground toys: i.e., soccer balls, basketballs, jump ropes, volleyballs

TOOLS:

- saws (hand saws or electric)
- nails, any size or variety
- screws, any size or variety
- planes for carpentry
- sandpaper and blocks
- clamps
- basic tools (hammer, crowbar, screwdrivers, etc.)

- tools for electrical or plumbing

FOOD:

- Peanut Butter
- Shelf stable milk
- Protein and vitamin powder (mixes with water)

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Bedding (sheets & blankets)
- Reading glasses and sunglasses
- adult bicycles
- stationary, envelopes
- basic books for cooking and sewing
- basic portable sewing machine
- sewing supplies - fabric, zippers, buttons, thread, and sewing patterns for dresses, skirts (ladies, girls) and shorts (boys)
- adaptor plugs and voltage converters
- GENERATORS - HIGH DEMAND!

CLOTHING:

- Gently worn clothing for children and infants
- sneakers and shoes in great condition
- rain coats, windbreakers, fleece,
- medium weight jackets
- sweaters, jerseys
- socks for males, females, kids
- new underwear for children and adults
- bras, new or gently worn
- men's suits, shirts, ties

CLERGY

- clergy gowns and shirts
- Theological books
- Bible Commentaries

All items should be securely boxed and all boxes labeled.

CELEBRATIONS!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 John Shaffer	17 Jean-Michel Galabrun
3 Linda Currin	17 Jan Stanley
3 Connor McDougal	18 Kayla Leyare
4 Charlie Bowen	19 Vivian Chick
6 Angela Brown	20 Craig Heartquist
7 Peggy Leighton	20 Leona Vittum
8 Nathan Fogg	21 Laura Jacobson
8 Marlena Livingston	24 Michelle Garland
9 Richard Peckham	25 Alison McPherson
11 Andrew Hughes	29 Elizabeth MacRury
14 Penny Cotreau	29 Nathan Wilson
15 Gemma Golden	

ANNIVERSARIES



4 Stephen & Lauree Royle
25 Warren & Marjorie Berg

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Connie B.	Rick and Jennifer R.
Paul T.	Joe M.
David H.	Catherine D.
Dot R.	Tom T.
Andrew P.	Todd W.
Walter G.	Ginny S.
Maxine C.	George B.
Red C.	Sid S.
George H.	Curt C.
Jo W.	Art W.
Julia W.	Diane D.
Bob C.	

Our global neighbors in places in which there is great strife.
Our servicemen and women, especially those deployed in
Afghanistan and Iraq.

Our friends in Rufumiso, Zimbabwe
Residents of the Nursing Homes and Retirement
Communities in our area

CALLING ALL CHURCH SCHOOL FAMILIES!

On Sunday, March 4th, there will be a meeting for all Church School families to be held in Fellowship Hall directly following the service. This will be an opportunity for you to get to know the new Church School Director, as well as an opportunity to discuss the future of our church school. This will be a child friendly meeting and a light snack will be provided. Thank you!

Josie Perkins
Church School Director

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIBRARY?

New to our shelves is a wonderful book by Max Lucado titled *Cure for the Common Life: Living in your Sweet spot*. This book fits right into our drive to find your gift. The book description via Amazon sums it all up—

"Sweet spot." Golfers understand the term. So do tennis players. Ever swung a baseball bat or paddled a Ping-Pong ball? If so, you know the oh-so-nice feel of the sweet spot. Life in the sweet spot rolls like the downhill side of a downwind bike ride. But you don't have to swing a bat or a club to know this. What engineers give sports equipment, God gave you. A zone, a region, a life precinct in which you were made to dwell. He tailored the curves of your life to fit an empty space in his jigsaw puzzle. And life makes sweet sense when you find your spot.

But if you're like 87 percent of workers, you haven't found it. You don't find meaning in your work—or you're one of the 80 percent who don't believe their talents are used. What can you do? You're suffering from the common life, and you desperately need a cure.

Best-selling author Max Lucado has found it. In *Cure for the Common Life* he offers practical tools for exploring and identifying your own uniqueness, motivation to put your strengths to work, and the perfect prescription for finding and living in your sweet spot for the rest of your life.

Stop in today! We also have many Easter stories for children. To borrow: Sign/date card and leave in pencil box. To return books, please leave in any of our return book bins so the card can be replace before returning to shelf. Thank you.

Nancy Dee & Mary Beth Cook

ARE YOU IN THE KNOW?

Are you reading all of Steepleviews? It's a great way to keep on top of all the exciting things going on at FCCW! Somewhere in this issue we have put a nonsense sentence. Can you find it? When you do, call the office and leave a message with your name, phone number, and the location of where the sentence is. On March 15 all the names of the callers with the correct answer will be put into a drawing for a fun prize. Who will it be? Maybe you! Here is a hint: The sentence uses every letter of the alphabet!



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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MARCH LECTIONARY

March 4—Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38 *or* Mark 9:2-9



March 18—Fourth Sunday of Lent

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 11—Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
2 Corinthians 1:18-24
John 2:13-22

March 25—Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 *or* Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33