

February 2020

## *A Word from the Pastor...*

# The Messenger

February seems to be a blend of good news and bad news. It is a month celebrated for the young love or new love of Valentine's Day, or sometimes the old love of long-married couples such as my wife and myself (40 years on the sixteenth). It is a month when the days are getting a little lighter at night, and the sun is rising a little earlier in the morning. But darn, is it still cold, and the coldness of the day can find its way into our hearts when those of us who mourn for our lost partners, the widows and widowers among us, dwell on what was or what might have been if things were different. When we were among those celebrating the love in the middle of the month, we were happy, and not lonely. But there **is** still one to share your life with, and that is God. God has a heart for all, especially for the widow and the orphan, those who have been deprived, if you look at it that way, of what was once an anchor or a rock in life, your mate or your parents. God has compassion for all those who face life with loss, for Father God can identify with losing a child when his only child was hanging on a

cross taking all the sin of the world upon himself, separating from God in that moment of sacrifice and redemption for his people.

And February is when we begin to think about Easter, and enter into the season of Lent. Lent is that time when tradition says we give up something to get nearer to God as we sacrifice something that means so much to us that perhaps is coming between us and God. Some give up chocolate, some give up coffee, some give up a meal or more during the week or meat on Friday or such a thing as that. What is that all about, anyway? Is there not something that you can give up? Or should we be thinking along the lines of taking something on, like sacrificing time to pray more, or giving up some personal time to visit others that might not have someone in their lives. Bringing a meal to share with those who might not have one every day. Giving of ourselves to help someone else to show God's love to others. Maybe we should revisit the sacrifices that Pope Francis shared last year, still posted outside my office.

We will celebrate Ash Wednesday at the end of the month, when we remember the sacrifice of the Lord and begin the season of Lent. We receive the ashes on our forehead to remind us whose we are, and witness that to the world around us. After all, we are a set-apart people, children of the living God, living in Christ as he lives in us. Jesus says it best in his prayer for us from the Gospel of John. ***"I do not ask on behalf of these alone (his Apostles), but for those who believe in me through their word (us); that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me."*** (John 17:20-21 NASV). Let's grab hold of that thought of one-ness in God to sustain us through the dark and cold winter days of February. God bless you all.

*Blessings in Christ...*

*Pastor Dan*



## News & Notes

### February Birthdays...

Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>  
John Lemon

Feb 7<sup>th</sup>  
Zachary Wetherell

Feb 14<sup>th</sup>  
Jean Prickett

Feb 16<sup>th</sup>  
Arthur Knust Graichen Jr.

Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>  
John Beattie



## Inviting all women! *SEEKERS*

Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at  
7:15 PM

Seekers will Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at the home of Chris Beattie, 146 Hayward Street in Hopkinton, MA at 7:15 PM. We will finish reading our current book, Irena's Children by Tilar J. Mazzeo. All women are welcome! Please RSVP to Chris at 508-544-1556.

### February Meetings:

SPRC – Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> @ 2PM

Trustees – Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30PM

Church Council – Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 11:30AM



### A Service of Ashes

Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>

7PM

ASH  
WEDNESDAY

# Sunday School Happenings...

## Please Support Our Youth Sunday, February 2nd

Our youth will be collecting cans of soup, dry goods and cash donations to support the Milford Food Pantry.

The Sunday School will serve homemade soups, bread and other refreshments following Worship Service.

Thank you!



## Valentine's Day breakfast

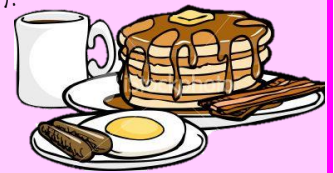
Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> 2020

9AM

Lowell's Restaurant, Mendon MA

Cost: \$19 per person. Includes Family Style breakfast, juice, coffee, tax and gratuity.

Please RSVP to Barbara Eltzroth at 508-883-4063 if you're able to participate in this fun (and popular!) tradition.



## Special Multi-Sensory Service

Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>  
6PM

Designed to include those with developmental challenges, their family, friends and caregivers.

What to expect: Lots of music, joyful singing, interactive style, short message & prayer, 45 minutes with a full meal. Dessert & fellowship to follow.

First United Methodist Church  
39 Exchange Street, Milford Fellowship Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Accessible to most wheelchairs



Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>  
Trinity Episcopal Church

Volunteers are needed for Food Prep (12:30 – 1pm), Servers (3 – 6pm) and **especially Clean Up** (5:30 – 7pm).

Sign Up in Fellowship Hall or speak to Jane Benson or if you are able to help out. Thank you!





# Thankyou!

**Thank you all for the 40 animals from our Christmas Tree that we donated to the Boston Children's Hospital. They greatly appreciated them as you can see from their "Thank You". ~ Cheryl Creber**



**Boston Children's Hospital**  
Child Life Services



**HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL**  
TEACHING HOSPITAL

To our Generous Donors,

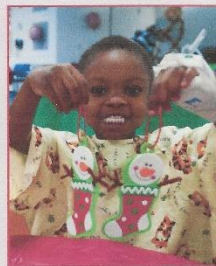
On behalf of all the families and staff here at Boston Children's Hospital, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation for your holiday donation. Your gifts provided hope and comfort for patients and families in need, highlighting the true meaning of the season.

During the week leading up to Christmas and Hanukkah, the Patient Entertainment Center is transformed from a performance space into a free holiday store with aisles and shelves. Your kindness fills our store with developmental toys for babies to learn, trucks to inspire imaginative play, nail polish to boost self esteem and so much more—for all ages and abilities. The store offers parents and caregivers an opportunity to shop for their children, normalizing the holiday experience, without having to leave the hospital. Families are able to choose just what they know will bring a smile to their child's face.

We are so very thankful you looked outside of your own celebrations and offered the spirit of giving to those who most deserve a little extra support. Your care was felt by so many patients and families who will be forever grateful. The store would truly not be possible without your generosity.

With gratitude,  
Child Life Services

"I would like to take this time to say thank you for the toy store. When I walked through the door, I was overwhelmed. I could not believe the set-up for families during their stay at Boston Children's Hospital. I felt like I was walking into Toys R Us, well actually much better, because of the staff and volunteers willing to go above and beyond to help everyone. The donors and their generosity left me speechless and in tears. My grandson has been here just short of a year and being 4 years old and away from your family is hard. How everyone has made him feel loved and done everything to make his Christmas great, I just wish I could thank everyone personally, but I can't, so please know I appreciate and truly thank you all from the bottom of my heart." —Grandmother on 6th floor



"After visiting the store, a mom ran into my arms sobbing. She was so grateful and appreciative to be able to shop for her children." — Child Life Specialist



## Higher Education Care Packages

Our Higher Education Committee is mailing care packages to our college students. You can help by donating items to be included in these packages!

**Suggested donations include:**

Hot cocoa packets, individual coffee & tea bags, sugar & creamer packets, instant oatmeal, pop tarts, small packages of raisins, nuts & trail mix, snack packs of pretzels, crackers & cookies, granola bars, power bars, beef jerky, microwave popcorn, Oriental noodles, microwave able pasta meals, Lifesavers, wrapped candy, packs of Gum, post-its, highlighters, pens, notes of encouragement, donations to help with the cost of mailing.

Please see Cyndee McGovern for more information...





# Good Times!















Everyone enjoyed themselves at our most recent Special Multi-Sensory Service which took place in January! Some of the festivities included...

1. Brian P. holding an LED candle for the song... "This Little Light of Mine".
2. Becky & Katie with Josie joining us for her last Multi-Sensory Service. Katie and her family have been helping to train Josie to be a companion dog on weekends. More information on this special program to come.
3. Everyone loved Pastor Dan's message in his cool hat!

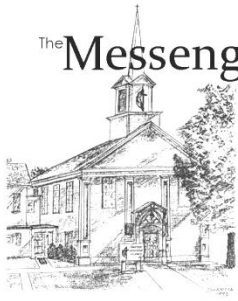


# February

## 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10a Worship Service Communion 11a Souper Bowl of Caring 	3 11a Bible Study 5p Water Bottle Ministry	4 11a Bible Study 5p Water Bottle Ministry	5 7P Bible Study 	6 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 	7 	8 <b>9a Valentine's Day Breakfast</b> 1pm Karen Mullin Memorial Service
9 10a Worship Service 11a Coffee & Fellowship 	10 7:15p Seekers	11 11a Bible Study 2p SPRC 5p Water Bottle Ministry 7:30p Trustees	12 7P Bible Study 	13 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 	14 	15 
16 10a Worship Service 11a Coffee & Fellowship 	17 	18 11a Bible Study 5p Water Bottle Ministry	19 7P Bible Study 	20 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 	21 	22 
23 10a Worship Service 11a Coffee & Fellowship 	24 	25 11a Bible Study 5p Water Bottle Ministry	26 <b>7P Ash Wednesday Service</b> 	27 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 	28 	29 





# The **Messenger**

First United Methodist Church  
39 Exchange Street  
Milford, MA 01757  
508-473-4252

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## USHERS

### **FEBRUARY**

- 2 Gio Cicconi, Malcolm Butters
- 9 Cyndee McGovern, Joe Salisbury
- 16 Teri Creber, John Lemon
- 23 David Probert, Karen Grand Pre

### **MARCH**

- 1 Larry & Betty Milo
- 8 Marsha Hastings, Dennis Kling
- 15 Paula Malnati, Darrell Bird
- 22 Scott & Kathy Vanseth
- 29 Arthur & Hollyanne Knust Graichen

### **APRIL**

- 5 Malcolm Butters, Bill Eltzroth
- 12 Gio Cicconi, Joe Salisbury
- 19 Teri Creber, Cyndee McGovern
- 26 John Lemon, David Probert

### ~~~ READERS ~~~

### **FEBRUARY**

- 2 Janet Stone
- 9 David Probert
- 16 Jeff Lovell
- 23 Brian Richter

### **MARCH**

- 1 Pam Rao
- 8 Cheryl Creber
- 15 Bill Eltzroth
- 22 John Lemon
- 29 Jeff Lovell

### **APRIL**

- 5 Gail Perry
- 12 Brian Richter
- 19 Janet Stone
- 26 Bill Eltzroth



*Thank you to our generous*  
**Coffee Hour Hosts**

**Feb – Stewardship**  
**Mar – Christian Ed**

**Apr – Outreach**  
**May – Finance**