



THE STEEPLE BELL

MARCH - 2017

Dennis Union Church Dennis, Massachusetts

**WITH JESUS AS OUR ANCHOR AND COMPASS,
GOD BIDS US TO BE A BLESSING IN THE WORLD**

The Dennis Union

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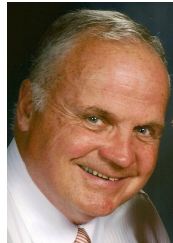
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FORTY DAYS OF PURPOSE

Ash Wednesday, March 1st, marks the beginning of Lent.

Lent may best be described as a journey to the cross. The cross is central to our lives as Christians. The Lenten journey is a journey of faith.

“Evangelical pastor Rick Warren has had great success lately inviting individuals and congregations into forty days of purpose. During these forty days people are invited to reflect upon God’s story and God’s call to them and the meaning of their lives. Lent, however, is the original forty days of purpose. For most of its history, the church understood Lent to be the time when people were called to do just that, reflect on the purpose of their lives in Christ....” (1)

The Gospels tell the story of Jesus going into the wilderness for forty days and nights where he was tempted or tested by the devil (Matthew 4:1-11.) For Jesus, the days spent in the wilderness were not without purpose. Jesus used these days of prayer and fasting to determine how best to lead God’s people back to God. He ruled out turning stones into bread in order to feed them. He ruled out throwing himself down off the highest pinnacle of the temple in order to dazzle them. He ruled out worshipping Satan in order to overwhelm them with his power. He finally determined that the best way, the only way, to lead people to God was simply to love them.

How might you best use the forty days of Lent to add meaning and purpose to your life? How might you best use the forty days of Lent to grow in faith? How might you use the forty days of Lent as a time of reflection, renewal, penitence, and preparation for Easter? How might you best use these forty days of Lent to bring God’s love to someone else?

May God bless you always, but especially during this season of Lent. Do not waste these days. Fill them with purpose.

Blessings,
Terry

(1) Lenten Services – Lucy Lind Hogan – Abingdon Press, 2009

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 1 (Ash Wednesday) @ 7:00 P.M.

Interactive worship service with ashes, anointing, and communion

March 5 @ 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Sermon: *This Is My Son, Listen To Him*

Text: Luke 9:28-35

New members will be received (9:00 A.M.)

March 12 @ 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Sermon: *A Trusted Mentor*

Text: Psalm 139

March 19 @ 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Sermon: *Pray Like This*

Text: Luke 11:1-10

March 26 @ 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Sermon: *Everyone Needs Help*

Text: Romans 8:26-28

NOTES: The sermons during Lent are part of a series titled – *Listen: Praying in a Noisy World*. The book with the same title was written by Bishop Rueben P. Job.



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

A creative, contemplative worship service is planned for Ash Wednesday, March 1st, at 7:00 P.M. The service will include communion and the imposition of ashes.

QUIET MEDITATION

During Wednesdays in Lent, the church sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

PASTORAL VISITS, ETC.

If you would like our interim pastor, Terry Martinson, to visit with you or bring communion to you, please call the church office. Pastoral visits are made by request.

Nursing home visits are made almost weekly.

Hospital visits are made whenever we are made aware that one of our members or friends have been admitted.

If you need to contact Terry when he is "off Cape," the deacons and the officers of the church have his cell phone number. Please do not hesitate to call if there is a pastoral emergency.

E-MAIL LIST

Are you on the church email list? If not, please sign up for emails on our church website (duchurch.org) Each Friday the latest church news is sent by email.



- March 5 Given by Ethel MacQuarrie
"In loving memory of my parents,
Charles and Ethel Shiverick
Foley,
and my sister, Irene."
- March 12 Given by Sue Day
"In loving memory of Don and
Peter."
- March 19 Given by Phyllis Horton
"In loving memory of Joshua
Crowell."
- March 26 Given by Cal and Karen Mutti
"In loving memory of our parents,
Cal's sister, Pauline, and her
husband, Bill, and in honor
of our grandchildren."



CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

March 12, please read chapters 38 and 39

March 26, we prepare for our worship service on
April 2

GREETERS AND USHERS

We are always in need of greeters and ushers for our Sunday morning services. If you are willing to help us perhaps once each month, please speak to one of the deacons or call the church office.

CPR COURSE

If there is enough interest, we want to offer a CPR course for church members, friends, and staff this spring. If you are interested, please call the church office.



Our monthly targeted donations continue to be very successful. In January we exceeded our goal of 300 cans of soup. Our February collection was beans – all sorts of beans. In March we will be collecting individual servings of healthy snacks (granola bars, single serve cereal, single serve mac 'n cheese, etc.) Everything collected will be donated to **The Dolphin Fund at D-Y High School**. The snacks are distributed by the guidance counselors to students in need who might otherwise have very little to eat on weekends.



FAITH JOURNEY LUNCHEONS

You are invited to join us at noon on Wednesdays during Lent for soup and dialogue. Our conversations will focus on our personal faith journeys. These lunches were well received last year. The 2017 dates are: March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5. The time is noon. Previous notices had the time listed incorrectly. Our time together will end at 1:00 P.M. The sanctuary will be available at 1:00 for prayer and meditation.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

The 2017 Lenten Devotional (daily readings) prepared by the U.C.C. Writers' Group is available outside the church office. A donation of \$5.00 would be appreciated to help cover our costs.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Don't forget...Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12th! We all have to set our clocks **AHEAD** one hour when we go to bed on Saturday night!



We are very proud to announce that at our annual meeting, the congregation voted to be an Open and Affirming Church. Our Open and Affirming Covenant of Welcome is printed in the church bulletin. *All* are, indeed, welcome at DUC!

Usher's Ministry

MARCH USHERS

	<u>9:00</u>	<u>11:00</u>
March 5	Howard & Judy Chesley Elsa Erickson	Wil & Adele Diaz Sue Day
March 12	Nancy Aceti Priscilla Hutchinson	Jane B. Wilson Bobbie Trepte
March 19	Francis Sellers Barbara Lussier Gary Forrister	Bob & Doris David
March 26	Alan & Darlene Fisk Linda Gillespie	Sandy Wiper Jan Gardner Elmer Eschenburg

USHERS

Are you willing to usher occasionally for Sunday morning worship? Please be in touch with Earl Springer or Cheryl Cerbone to volunteer.

MEAL MINISTRY

At times of illness or other stressful situations, some church members and friends would benefit from having a meal brought in. We are developing a list of folks who might be willing to make and deliver an occasional meal when called upon. If you are willing to have your name placed on the list, please call the church office.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's World Day of Prayer will be on March 3rd. It will be held at the First Congregational Church of Yarmouth at 2:00 p.m. If anyone needs a ride, please contact Kathy Furey at 718-938-4540

ESTATE PLANNING

Have you included DUC in your estate planning? If you would like to know how to do this, please speak with your attorney. Also, please remember that gifts in memory of a loved one may be given to the church.



Coffee Fellowship

We are now asking committees to host the coffee hour for just one week at a time. We will do this on a trial basis through March. Please let the Deacons know how you like this system. Please call Nancy Berquist at 508-398-4915 if you have any questions.

March 5	Trustees
March 12	Property
March 19	Missions
March 26	Finance
April 2	Flower Comm.
April 9	Christian Ed.
April 16	Stewardship
April 23	Soc. Conc.
April 30	Music Comm.
May 7	Trustees
May 14	Property
May 21	Missions
May 28	Finance
June 4	Flower Comm.
June 11	Christian Ed

If anyone wants to reserve a Sunday for a special birthday, anniversary or other occasion, let us know as soon as possible.

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship applications are available in the church office and can also be found on the table in the hallway across from the office. Scholarship awards will be given to students graduating from high school this year and going on to higher education, based on financial need, academic achievement, and character. Applications *must be returned to the Memorial Committee mail box by April 1*. You can also return them to Nancy in the church office. Thank you!



EVENTIDE PRESENTS

Starting on Thursday, February 23 and running through Sunday, March 19th, Eventide will present "Fools" by Neil Simon. This comedy should be tons of fun and a perfect antidote for February blahs! Thursday & Friday @ 7:00 pm, Saturday & Sunday matinees @ 2:30pm. Information and tickets are at www.EventideArts.org or call the Box Office at (508) 398-8588.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Pastoral Search Committee is meeting regularly to review profiles and to conduct interviews when warranted. To date we have received over 60 profiles. We are intent on finding the right match for our congregation. Please be reminded, the work of the Search Committee is confidential. Search Committee Members: Sam Crowell, Lyle Ashby, Carole Bohn, Judy November, Sarah Carpenter, Jean Tripp, Luke Furey, Patti Goyette - Chairperson

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

DUC folks have been asking "When are we going to have another Nine-to-Dine night?" Well, your Activities Committee has planned such an event, but we are now calling it "Dine Around". It will be held on Friday, April 7th. What is Dine Around? Hosts or Guests sign up during Sunday coffee hours on March 12, 19, or 26. HOSTS open their homes to GUESTS, who bring part of the meal as arranged with the host. This is a fun way to get to know DUC friends and have a lovely evening out! We would like to have at least 7 hosts to graciously host this event. Be sure to watch for the sign-up table during coffee hours, or call Bette Boothe at 774-330-2191.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

John Schofield	March 3
Lyle Ashby	March 4
Elmer Eschenburg	March 8
Jean Tripp	March 9
Carol MacPherson	March 9
Marjorie Kummer	March 10
Bruce MacPherson	March 11
Marilyn Nichols	March 11
Peter Berrien	March 15
Nancy Aceti	March 17
Glenna Cappola	March 18
Bob Stout	March 19
Gail Knell	March 23
Jane Bacon	March 24
Jim Van Baalen	March 25
George Buffington	March 25
Dorothy Sturges	March 29
Skip Walsh	March 29
Gerri Noble	March 30
Howard Chesley	March 30
Willa Crowell	March 31
Eric Peterson	March 31

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Peter & Elaine Simoneau	March 2
Bill & Jane Bacon	March 3



The Colombia mission team is pleased to announce our upcoming "Wedding Traditions" tea. Weddings have so many traditions! The how's and why's of wedding celebrations from the Victorian era to modern days will be explained by Donna and Ron Lasko... remember them from the 150th anniversary tea? Mark your calendar for our celebration tea complete with period wedding gowns on Saturday, April 29, from 2:00 to 4:00 in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$20.00 with proceeds benefitting the library project in Ararca, Colombia. Wedding hats optional!

UPDATE ON THE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Producing a new membership directory is a project with many moving parts. We are happy to report that all the work on our end is completed, and is now in the hands of the people at Lifetouch Directories, in Galion, Ohio. We anticipate the arrival of our published directories in late March-early April. Distribution will begin during fellowship hour as soon as we have them in hand. Notice will be given in the Friday e-mail edition of "This Sunday at DUC", and announced on Sunday morning. Interestingly, the Church Council approved the project on April 12, 2016.

While we have served as coordinators of the project, many, many people have given significant talent and time to this effort. It simply could not have been done without the support and cooperation of every person in the congregation. Thanks to each of you!
~ Karen and Cal Mutti

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Faith Family Meal at Faith Assembly of God Church, Hyannis - On the first Friday of each month, we continue to serve our neighbors-in-need at Faith Assembly. We would LOVE new participation in this mission. We no longer cook the meal. Instead, volunteers greet guests, set up dining tables, help serve the meal, and assist in cleaning up afterwards. The comradery of the volunteers and the smiles on the guests' faces make this a wonderful way to spend an hour or two on a Friday afternoon. Please let Sarah Carpenter or Cindy Fiscus, know if you are interested in helping.

Sarah: scarpentervascik@gmail.com

Cindy: cindyfiscus@hotmail.com

CPR

If there is sufficient interest, we would like to offer a CPR course for our staff and for interested church members this spring. If you would be interested in receiving or renewing your CPR Certification, please be in touch with the church office.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The minister, officers and congregation of Dennis Union Church offer their sincere sympathy to the family and friends of: Kent Whitcomb who died on January 8, and Richard Norton who died on January 10.



THE AUCTION PICK UP CREW

We will meet for coffee, at the church, on March 7 and 14. Join us at 8:30 a.m. on the lower level!

CHURCH SCHOOL

Are you willing to volunteer to help Cindy Fiscus on an occasional basis in our lively Sunday School? Please be in touch with Cindy Fiscus or Edie Graf to volunteer.



DAY OF HOSPITALITY

Day of Hospitality - March 26, 12:30-2:00 p.m. - We need volunteers to drive our guests from Salvation Army to church and BACK again to Hyannis. Drivers meet our guests in the parking lot of Salvation Army after their worship service at 12:10pm. When our lunch concludes at church at 2:00pm, drivers take guests back to the same parking lot. ALSO, we invite you to help host the lunch; sit down with the guests and share a meal, or volunteer for set-up or clean-up. It has been a while since we have hosted a meal for the public, and we are SO EXCITED to be using our new kitchen. I've seen a few of our "regulars" while in Hyannis, and I'm always asked when we will be up and running again. It's both flattering and sweet that people enjoy their time with our wonderful DRIVERS and HOSTS. Please let Cindy Fiscus know if you can drive and/or help with the lunch.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH SCHEDULE

March 19 – Youth Worship Service, 9:00 a.m.
Children and youth will lead us in word and music. We welcome the leadership of the youth four times a year: on Rally Day, for a Christmas Service, one during Lent, and an early summer service. We will prepare for our service on the first two Sundays of March!

Youth Overnight

Saturday, March 4, begins at 6:00 p.m.

Confirmation Classes

March 12, please read chapters 38 and 39
March 26, we prepare for our worship service on April 2.

UCC Confirmation Retreat

at Craigville Conference Center - Friday March 24, 6:30 p.m. arrival – Saturday, March 25, concludes at 4:30 p.m.

