



# First Church of Christ, Congregational United Church of Christ

## February 2018 Newsletter



### Pastor's Message

February 14<sup>th</sup> (yes - Valentine's day!) marks the beginning of Lent, a forty-day season of preparation for Holy Week. Like the past two years, we are marking the day not with the imposition of ashes, but with water, reminding us all of our baptism.

We remember how Jesus was baptized by the John the Baptist, with the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove and a voice from heaven declaring "this is my Son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased." That same Spirit then led Jesus into the desert for forty days, being tempted by the devil.

Life in the desert can be cruel. All the safety nets and comforts of the world are stripped away, and you are left facing your humanity. Jesus did not eat or drink for forty days, and in doing so, he experienced the hunger and thirst that could have led eventually to death.

Remembering Jesus' 40-day desert journey, we are called to confront our own human limitations during Lent. We come face to face with our mortality, our brokenness and our sin. With this in

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### Sunday Worship 10:00 am

**Church Office Phone:** 781-275-7951

**Church Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 9:00 am-3:00 pm

**Church Office Email:** fchurchb2@verizon.net

**Website:** www.firstchurchbedford.org

**Senior Pastor:** *The Reverend John Castricum*  
cell phone: 857-939-0711

**Director of Christian Nurture:** *Kate Byers*

**Music Director:** *Susan Capestro*

**Church Administrator:** *Suzie Barry*



### Christian Nurture

The sacred and the secular are often bumping into one another. This Lent, the secular calendar and the church calendar collide in interesting ways. Ash Wednesday is Valentine's Day and Easter is April Fool's Day. The romantic focus of Valentine's Day doesn't seem like a natural fit with Ash Wednesday and no one wants Easter to be an April Fool's joke. So what do we do when the sacred and the secular just don't seem to line up well? There are many options. We could try to adjust one calendar to fit better or we could completely ignore the sacred happily just following along with secular society. This Lent I encourage you to practice leaning into the sacred. While the world, is a glow in pink hearts, sharing mussy greeting cards step away from the chocolate and come to church. Come experience the sacred moments of Ash Wednesday. Come feel the power of living counter culturally. Perhaps it will be the most powerful Ash Wednesday yet because it will be the service you chose to attend even though the world is telling you to do something different.

*~ Kate Byers*

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### Beginning of Lent: "Water" Wednesday

Join us on **Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**, as we begin the Lenten season. We will begin at 6 p.m. with a simple soup and bread dinner in Upper Fellowship Hall, followed by a service at 7:15 p.m. in the Koebele Music Chapel.

As in the past two years, instead of the imposition of ashes, we will be marking people with the water of their baptism. Join us for fellowship and an important service to mark the beginning of this holy season.

continued from front page:

mind, I have chosen to do a different type of Lenten sermon series that I am calling “Three Hard Words.” Each Sunday, I will choose a three-word phrase that so many find it difficult to impossible to say: “I don’t know,” “I was wrong,” “I am sorry,” “I love you,” and “I forgive you.”

Behind each of these simple phrases lies an aspect of our human brokenness. Somehow, our inability to say these things with ease and honesty reveals how hard it is to admit our weakness, our vulnerability, our sin. With each of these phrases, Jesus confronts us, convicts us and offers us forgiveness, healing and new life. Our path of spiritual growth leads us to places where these words no longer seem to be hard to say. We can embrace our humanity, with all its brokenness and limitations, just like Jesus embraced his humanity in the desert.

These hard words by no means complete the list. I’m sure everyone of you might be thinking of “three hard words.” I’d love to hear from you about them. Text me, email me and mention them to me over Lent. I would be really curious to see what comes up.

In the meantime, I wish you blessings and faith as we once again journey through Lent.

~ **Pastor John**

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### **Bible and Bagels**

Pastor John continues his “Bible and Bagels” bible study on **Thursdays mornings, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** at Bruegger’s Bagels in Bedford. As always, this is a drop-in bible study: show up anytime you’re free to go over a Bible passage with John. No prior knowledge of the Bible is necessary. This is an introductory session aimed at those who don’t know much about the Bible, but are curious to learn more. Join us and get your day started right, with breakfast and a good dose of inspiration. And bring a friend, too!

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### **Coffee and Conversation at Bruegger’s**

Pastor John will be continuing his “Coffee and Conversation” in February. He will be at Bruegger’s Bagels on Great Road on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Drop by to talk about anything you want: faith, the Patriots, weather or anything else on your mind.

### **There is still time to register for the All Church Retreat!**

Join us at beautiful St. Thecla’s Retreat House, just down the road in Billerica! We’ll be reflecting together on how to create a welcoming space where we can all share our stories and grow in faith, exploring our differences as a source of enrichment. We’ll enjoy indoor and outdoor fun as the weather permits.

The retreat begins on **Friday, February 9th with dinner at 6:00 pm and program at 7:00 pm, and we’ll wrap up by 2:00 pm on Sunday.** Join us for the entire weekend or come when you are able. **Please see the enclosed registration form for more details** or register at <https://goo.gl/3hrfU5>.

### **Wonderful Wednesday**

Join us on **Wednesday February 21 at 6pm** for dinner and conversation about the Beloved Community. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr talked a lot about Beloved Community, at the family retreat, we talked about Sacred Community, during worship we have been talking about church community. What are all of these things, how are they related to one another, and how do they have anything to do with life here in the community of Bedford. Come for an evening of conversation as we figure out together what it means to be a church community that Welcomes All.

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### **February Deacons Collection on Sunday, February 4, 2018 is for House of Hope**

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### **Sometimes small things matter**

The Deacons have been talking about some of the details about our worship service. Staring on Sunday February 8, we’re going to try using offering plates instead of the baskets on a pole to collect the offering. In the same way that we pass the communion trays, plates will be offered to the person on the end of the row. The plate will passed to the center and passed back to the deacon at the end of the row. We’re hoping this will be a little more personal. Give it a try and then give us your feedback. Thanks.

# West Virginia Mission Festival

A Fun-Filled Event for the Entire Family

First Church will be holding its 2<sup>nd</sup> **Annual West Virginia Mission Festival on Saturday, March 10, 2018.** This fun evening benefit will feature Appalachian music and storytelling, a Southern-inspired buffet dinner, cake walk, an update on our WV partners' progress and a wide variety of children's activities.

## **Appalachian Music & Storytelling:**

One of the premier highlights of the First Church Mission Festival will be live Appalachian music and storytelling about West Virginia culture and the challenging economic environment citizens are facing today.

This year's Mission Festival will feature Michael and Carrie Kline. These two musicians and storytellers have a long history and love of social activism, folk life documentation and old-time singing. We are so excited to hear them share some of their perspectives on life and music in Appalachia.

## **Schedule of Events**

- 5:00 pm, Doors Open and Dinner Service begins
- 5:15 - 6:15 pm, The Klines, Musical/Storytelling Set #1
- 6:20 - 6:40 pm, Cake Walk
- 6:40 - 7:00 pm, Update on West Virginia Partners to Review Accomplishments from Past Year
- 7:00 - 8:00 pm, The Klines, Musical/Storytelling Set #2
- 8:00 pm, Last call for coffee and deserts
- 8:30 pm, Program concludes

*Children's Activities will be scheduled in Lower Fellowship Hall throughout the evening to entertain and delight your young ones.*

## **Event Fees:**

- A free-will donation will be collected at the door with a suggested minimum of \$10 per person or \$20 per family.
- **Goods and Service Auction:** A silent auction with many items/services donated by First Church parishioners will open at the Mission Festival.
- In addition, we will once again feature **"The Giving Wall."** This is an integral part of our Mission Work that highlights key home improvement projects that are typically undertaken by The Appalachian Folklife Center. Projects available for you to fund will range from \$25 (for a bucket of nails) to \$500 (buy lumber to build a deck). Personal Checks and Credit Cards will be accepted. Receipts will be provided for tax filing purposes.

## **Event Proceeds:**

All proceeds from the West Virginia Mission Festival will fund First Church's humanitarian mission work in West Virginia. This work has been going on for four years, and supports the work of a growing list of inspiring nonprofit partner organizations in West Virginia, including: Appalachian South Folklife Center, The Wade Center for Children, RiffRaff Arts Collective, Stages Music School for Children. The goal of the Mission Festival is to raise money to help these organizations fight poverty through a wide variety of strategies, including home repairs and improvements, after-school education programs, and art and music programs to inspire young minds.

## **Bring a Friend!**

Last year, many of the people that attended this wonderful program were faithful parishioners of our congregation. Our goal is to "take it up a notch" this year. Please consider inviting a friend or relative to join you at this year's event. It will be a unique, inspirational and fun-filled event that you will remember for a long time.

## Faith at Home

During February we are focused on community and the ways we connect with other people. Community depends on relationships. You can't be in community by yourself, you need other people. Like it or not we all need other people. We all need community. To get that much needed community, we need to intentionally engage with other people. We need to have conversations that allow us to get to know people. This month while we are talking about community and thinking about our relationships, lets also practice building community. The next time you are in church, look around you. Are there new faces, people you don't know or even recognize? Are there people you recognize but don't really know? Are there people you have known for a while but never really talk to? I am sure there are many people in the third category and probably even some in the second category. Pick one of these people or families and invite them to do something with you. Spend some time together getting to know one another.

~ Kate Byers

## Women's Fellowship/Soul Sisters 'Bad Women of the Bible'

Please join the First Church Women's Fellowship/Soul Sisters (WFSS) for "**Bad Women of the Bible**" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 27, in the Vestry.

The Bible is full of complex and conflicted female characters: A prostitute who saves Israel; the wife of an early church leader who colludes in his corruption; and queens who use their power in unexpected ways.

Our own Phyllis Cooke and Sarah Castricum will lead a lively discussion as we explore the stories of some Bible Soul Sisters and consider what they have to tell us today.

All church women are welcome. Bring a friend!

**Allyson Printz** ([allyson@printzfamily.us](mailto:allyson@printzfamily.us))  
**Kathy Register** ([registerk11@gmail.com](mailto:registerk11@gmail.com))

## Church School for 2017-2018

### Nursery:

Children zero through five years old are welcome to the nursery at the beginning of worship. They are also welcome to start worship with their family and go to the nursery following Children's time or to remain in worship for the entire service. Parents, you know your kids best. Please do whatever work best for your family and let us know how we can support you in caring for your children.

### Elementary School:

In February, the Elementary School ease into Lent. The month begins in the middle of our unit on "Love is..." We take a week away from Sunday School to go on a family retreat where we will talk about sacred community. Following the retreat the children will spend a week talking about prayers of confession or oops prayers before we focus on the story of Holy Week.

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## Youth Forum

During February youth will wrap up our unit on what does it mean to be church and we will start a Lenten unit on Hard Words. This unit pairs with the weekly worship service themes and will allow youth to practice saying things like "I don't know," "I was wrong," and "I am sorry." Ultimately the unit will help us think through what it means to be in relationship with God and with people. It will allow youth time to wrestle with what forgiveness really means.

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## Youth Group

**Skating:** Due to OWL conflicts, the family retreat, and school vacation, the youth skating trip to Edge is being postponed. Look for March event information in mid-February.

### Draft Youth Group Calendar (Changes are in **Bold**)

March 10<sup>th</sup> – Helping with the Mission Fest  
April 1<sup>st</sup> – Egg Hunt  
May 5<sup>th</sup> – Helping with the Rummage Sale  
May 19<sup>th</sup> – Fun event chosen by youth  
June 9<sup>th</sup> – Marching in Boston Pride



## Music Notes

For the Adult Choir, February is a time for comfy, familiar anthems. In rehearsals, we delve deeply into more challenging anthems planned for springtime months, when traveling is easier, shivering is less common and encountering slippery drifts is less likely!

The Children’s Choir has another opportunity to sing with the Combined Choir for the worship service on February 4. On that day, the run-through is at 9:30 am. A rehearsal is also scheduled for the end of the month, 11:30 am on February 25.

17th century innovations in English tower bells brought about an antique art known as “change ringing.” Bells create a texture of sound that’s determined by memorized numeric patterns in lieu of actual notated music. The ringers effectively practice a form of combinatorial math that you can hear. “Method ringing” is a form of “change ringing.” Its basic building block, “Plain Hunt,” is what Jubilee Ringers played for postlude this past Christmas Eve, a “peal,” rather than a piece. It was fun; we’ll definitely play another!

*“Music is liquid architecture; Architecture is frozen music.”*  
~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

*“Without music to decorate it, time is just a bunch of boring production deadlines or dates by which bills must be paid.”*  
~ Frank Zappa

*“Music is therapy. Music moves people. It connects people in ways that no other medium can. It pulls heart strings. It acts as medicine.”*

~ Macklemore

### February Music Rehearsals:

- Thursday, February 1: Adult Choir 7:30 pm
- Sunday, February 4: Adult Choir 9 am
- Sunday, February 4: Children’s (Combined) Choir run-through 9:30 am
- Monday, February 5: Jubilee Ringers 7 pm
- Thursday, February 8: Adult Choir, 7:30 pm
- Sunday, February 11: Adult Choir 9 am
- Monday, February 12: Jubilee Ringers 7 pm
- Thursday, February 15: Adult Choir, 7:30 pm
- Sunday, February 18: Adult Choir 9 am
- Monday, February 19: Jubilee Ringers no rehearsal (President’s Day)
- Thursday, February 22: Adult Choir, no rehearsal (Wonderful Wednesday Week)
- Sunday, February 25: Adult Choir 8:30 am
- Sunday, February 25: Children’s Choir 11:30 am
- Monday, February 26: Jubilee Ringers 7 pm

~ Susan Capestro, Director of Music

## Outreach Board Notes

**2018 West Virginia Mission Trip:** We are pleased to announce the **2018 Mission Trip to West Virginia, April 14-21, 2018.** For the third year we will be working with the Appalachian South Folklife Center, the Wade Center for Children and other organizations in the area. Registration form and \$50 per person deposit is requested by February 15, 2018. Please contact Pastor John, Rick Burke, Allyson Printz or Mary Criscione for more information on the mission trip.

**Mitten Tree:** All donations to the Mitten Tree have been sent to the Wade Center for Disadvantaged Children in West Virginia. The Wade Center is very happy to receive these items and distribute to children who do not have the hats, mittens, scarfs and gloves needed for cold weather.

**Super Bowl Sunday Food Sale, Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup> during Coffee Hour:** The Outreach and Nurture Boards will be sponsoring a food sale on **Super Bowl Sunday, February 4, 2018.** We are looking for all kinds of sweet and savory items such as cookies, bars, brownies, breads, soups, stews, dips, chips, appetizers and snacks. Please bring items to Upper Fellowship Hall before worship on Sunday morning, February 4. Thank you for your support in contributing and/or purchasing food to support our Nurture and Outreach activities. Questions? Contact Allyson Printz or Kate Byers.

### Upcoming Outreach Dates:

- **Sunday, February 4, 2018:**  
Super Bowl Sunday food sale
- **Saturday, March 10, 2018:**  
West Virginia Mission Festival
- **Saturday, March 17, 2018:**  
Cradles to Crayons volunteer event in Brighton 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
- **Saturday April 14-Saturday, April 21, 2018:**  
West Virginia Mission Trip

**Mission Festival after Church Planning Meetings:**  
Come help us plan the 2nd Annual Mission Festival

- **Sunday, February 18, 2018, 11:30 am**  
in Upper Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday, March 4, 2018, 11:30 am**  
in Upper Fellowship Hall

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References February 2018 (Year B)

**Thurs., Feb. 1**

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

**Fri., Feb. 2**

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

**Sat., Feb. 3**

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

**Sun., Feb. 4**

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

**Mon., Feb. 5**

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

**Tues., Feb. 6**

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

**Wed., Feb. 7**

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

**Thurs., Feb. 8**

Psalm 50:1-6  
1 Kings 11:26-40  
2 Corinthians 2:12-17

**Fri., Feb. 9**

Psalm 50:1-6  
1 Kings 14:1-18  
1 Timothy 1:12-20

**Sat., Feb. 10**

Psalm 50:1-6  
1 Kings 16:1-7  
Luke 19:41-44

**Sun., Feb. 11**

*Sixth 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. 12**

Psalm 110:1-4  
Exodus 19:7-25  
Hebrews 2:1-4

**Tues., Feb. 13**

Psalm 110:1-4  
Job 19:23-27  
1 Timothy 3:14-16

**Wed., Feb. 14**

*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. 15**

Psalm 25:1-10  
Daniel 9:1-14  
1 John 1:3-10

**Fri., Feb. 16**

Psalm 25:1-10  
Daniel 9:15-25a  
2 Timothy 4:1-5

**Sat., Feb. 17**

Psalm 25:1-10  
Psalm 32  
Matthew 9:2-13

**Sun., Feb. 18**

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

**Mon., Feb. 19**

Psalm 77  
Job 4:1-21  
Ephesians 2:1-10

**Tues., Feb. 20**

Psalm 77  
Job 5:8-27  
1 Peter 3:8-18a

**Wed., Feb. 21**

Psalm 77  
Proverbs 30:1-9  
Matthew 4:1-11

**Thurs., Feb. 22**

Psalm 22:23-31  
Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18  
Romans 3:21-31

**Fri., Feb. 23**

Psalm 22:23-31  
Genesis 16:1-6  
Romans 4:1-12

**Sat., Feb. 24**

Psalm 22:23-31  
Genesis 16:7-15  
Mark 8:27-30

**Sun., Feb. 25**

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

**Mon., Feb. 26**

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45  
Genesis 21:1-7  
Hebrews 1:8-12

**Tues., Feb. 27**

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45  
Genesis 22:1-19  
Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19

**Wed., Feb. 28**

Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45  
Jeremiah 30:12-22  
John 12:36-43



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~ February 2018 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 6a AA (UFH) 8a Bible & Bagels (Bruegger's) 9a Coffee & Conversation (Bruegger's) 7:30p AA (UFH) 7:30p Adult Choir (MR)	<b>2</b> Groundhog Day Pastor John Day Off 6a AA (UFH) 6p AA (UFH)	<b>3</b> 6a AA (UFH)
<b>4</b> Super Bowl COMMUNION 6a AA (UFH) 8:15a 8:15 Discussion Group (V) 10a Worship (S) 11:30a Deacons Meeting (P) 11:30a Super Bowl Food Sale (UFH) 6:30p Prayer Group (P)	<b>5</b> March 2018 Newsletter Deadline 6a AA (UFH) 7p Jubilee Bells (Music Room)	<b>6</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7:30a Violence Prevention Committee (V) 9a Coffee & Conversation (Bruegger's) 6:45p AA (Room 5) 7p Outreach Board (V)	<b>7</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7a Men's Group (V)	<b>8</b> 6a AA (UFH) 8a Bible & Bagels (Bruegger's) 9a Coffee & Conversation (Bruegger's) 7p Nurture Board (V) 7:30p AA (UFH) 7:30p Adult Choir (MR)	<b>9</b> All Church Retreat 6a AA (UFH) 6p AA (UFH)	<b>10</b> All Church Retreat 6a AA (UFH)
<b>11</b> 6a AA (UFH) 8:15a 8:15 Discussion Group (V) 10a Worship (S) 6:30p Confirmation (V) 6:30p Prayer Group (P)	<b>12</b> 6a AA (UFH) 10a La Leche League (V) 7p Jubilee Bells (Music Room)	<b>13</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7:30a Women's Fellowship Breakfast (Riverview-Billerica) 9a Coffee & Conversation (Bruegger's) 6:45p AA (Room 5) 7p Cabinet (V)	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day ASH WEDNESDAY 6a AA (UFH) 7a Men's Group (Vestry) 6p Simple Supper (UFH) 7:15p Ash Wednesday Service (Music Chapel)	<b>15</b> 6a AA (UFH) 8a Bible & Bagels (Bruegger's) 9a Coffee & Conversation (Bruegger's) 7:30p AA (UFH) 7:30p Adult Choir (MR)	<b>16</b> Pastor John Day Off 6a AA (UFH) 6p AA (UFH)	<b>17</b> 6a AA (UFH)
<b>18</b> 1st Sunday in Lent 6a AA (UFH) 8:15a 8:15 Discussion Group (V) 10a Worship (S) 11:30a West Virginia Mission Festival Planning Meeting (UFH) 6:30p Prayer Group (P)	<b>19</b> Presidents' Day Office Closed 6a AA (UFH)	<b>20</b> 6a AA (UFH) 9a Coffee & Conversation (Bruegger's) 6:45p AA (Room 5)	<b>21</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7a Men's Group (V) 10a Newsletter Folding (MR) 6p Wonderful Wednesday (UFH/K/V)	<b>22</b> 6a AA (UFH) 8a Bible & Bagels (Bruegger's) 9a Coffee & Conversation (Bruegger's) 7:30p AA (UFH)	<b>23</b> Pastor John Day Off 6a AA (UFH) 6p AA (Beginner Mtg) (UFH)	<b>24</b> 6a AA (UFH)
<b>25</b> 2nd Sunday in Lent 6a AA (UFH) 8:15a 8:15 Discussion Group (V) 10a Worship (S) 6:30p Confirmation (V) 6:30p Prayer Group (P)	<b>26</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7p Jubilee Bells (Music Room)	<b>27</b> 6a AA (UFH) 9a Coffee & Conversation (Bruegger's) 6:45p AA (Room 5) 7p Women's Fellowship (V) 7:30p NAMI (Room 4)	<b>28</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7a Men's Group (V)			

### In Sympathy

Carla Brown and Family  
on the death of Carla's Mother, Mafalda Paredes  
on December 14, 2017 in Chelmsford, MA



### Memorial Poinsettias

Jane Wheaton in memory of Bob Wheaton

### General Memorial Fund Gifts

In Memory of Mike Gural  
Charlotte Christen

~~~~~  
In Memory of Al Hurd  
Charlotte Christen

### Flowers for Sunday Worship

Enjoy the beauty of your and others' donations each week as a beautiful part of our worship together. Flowers may be donated in memory of a loved one or just because the Spirit moves you! We will order flowers for you unless you prefer to do it yourself. The cost varies depending on choices but runs \$30-50. There is a signup sheet in the Vestry on the bulletin board, or you may contact Betsy Cogliano at 781-275-9462 or at [laxmom5@aol.com](mailto:laxmom5@aol.com) or signup online at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20foe49aaab22a6f49-flowers>





~ February Worship ~



|                               |          |                                                                                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| February 4, 2018<br>Communion | 10:00 am | <i>“Being the Church: Called to Love”</i><br>Rev. John Castricum, Sr. Pastor                  | 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13  |
| February 11, 2018             | 10:00 am | <i>“Being the Church: Called to Believe”</i><br>Rev. John Castricum, Sr. Pastor               | 1 Corinthians 15: 12-19 |
| February 18, 2018             | 10:00 am | <i>“Three Hard Words: I Don’t Know”</i><br>Rev. John Castricum, Sr. Pastor                    | Matthew 22: 34-46       |
| February 25, 2018             | 10:00 am | <i>“Three Hard Words: I Was Wrong”</i><br>Rev. John Castricum, Sr. Pastor & Ms. Terry Gerrish | John 9: 13-41           |

Thank you for your help in publishing our newsletter on time. Our next Newsletter deadline is **February 5, 2018** Our next mailing is **February 21, 2018**. Please send you email articles to: [fchurchb2@verizon.net](mailto:fchurchb2@verizon.net). Thank you.

Please let us know if you change your address.  If you do not want to receive newsletters, check this box and mail this page to us at the above address or email the office at [fchurchb2@verizon.net](mailto:fchurchb2@verizon.net).



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# Fourth Annual Appalachia Mission Trip

## April 14-21, 2018

***“This is the most important thing I’ve ever done in my life.”***

Is God calling you to a deeper level of faith? Are you seeking transformation in your life? Then consider this year’s Mission Trip to the Appalachian South Folklife Center in Pipestem, West Virginia.

### **Who Can Come?**

All members and friends of the congregation are welcome – ages 13 and above.

### **What Will We Be Doing?**

There are two options:

- Rehabilitating run-down homes, buildings – even churches. No special skills or abilities are required. Work will be given based on your physical ability and comfort level.
- Working at the Wade Center, an after-school program for disadvantaged youth.

### **How Will We Get There?**

Once again, you have two options:

- Driving down on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. This is a 12-hour trip, split into two days, with a stop-over in Pennsylvania on Saturday night.
- Flying to either Charleston, West Virginia or Charlotte, North Carolina on Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, then driving 2-3 hours.

### **What Are the Accommodations?**

The Folklife Center has comfortable accommodations, with separate dorm-style rooms that sleep 2-4 people. There is also a Common Room. We will be purchasing food at local supermarkets and cooking our own food. The Center has a fully-equipped kitchen plus a grill and fire pit.

### **What Does the Trip Cost?**

Total cost is \$230 per adult, \$115 per youth (18 and under) A \$50 deposit per person is required by February 15<sup>th</sup>. A balance of \$180 for adults and \$65 for youth is due by April 1<sup>st</sup>. All other costs will be covered by the Outreach Board, with the exception of plane fare if you choose to fly. If you have trouble paying for the trip, please talk to Pastor John. ***No one should decide not to attend due to cost.***

### **Who Do I Go To With Any Questions?**

Feel free to contact Pastor John with any questions. His cell phone is 857-939-0711. His email is: pastorjohn28@gmail.com. You may also contact Rick Burke at 617-633-9015, email: rickburkejr@gmail.com or Mary Criscione at 781-275-1471, email: maryc@progress.com