



First Church of Christ, Congregational United Church of Christ

March 2018 Newsletter



Pastor's Message

One of the plenary talks I heard at the Worship Symposium that I attended in Grand Rapids last January was given by a Scottish theologian, John Swinton.

I'd like to share some of his thoughts with you, because they spoke to my heart. I am paraphrasing part of his talk. The whole talk can be found online. Let me know if you want to watch it.

Time is a strange thing. In one sense, time can be oppressive. Think about it: we are always following clocks and schedules. We have to get to work, appointments or school at a certain time. If we're running late, anxiety runs through us. We have time deadlines constantly looming over us (like the deadline to submit articles to a newsletter). Time can create a stress in our lives that can grind us down.

A study was done at Princeton Seminary by behavioral psychologists. All the students were given the task of preaching a sermon on the Good Samaritan. They had to walk across campus to do this at the chapel. Some were given just a little time to travel while others had plenty. The researchers placed an actor portraying an injured man on the route. Can you guess what happened?

continued on page 2



Christian Nurture

Advent and Lent are two of my favorite times of year. I enjoy having a set season to focus on a spiritual topic or a spiritual practice. I enjoy the challenge of slowing down as the world often seems to speed up. During Lent I like to think about my relationships with God and with other people. I like to find ways to be more intentional about nurturing these relationships. This intentionality means other stuff falls to the side or become slightly less important. I don't give things up in the traditional Lenten sense. I don't choose a thing to stop eating or doing for a period of time, but in order for there to be more time for relationships, there must be less time for something else. So different things are let go or given up. Some days I intentionally choose what not to do, other times the "sacrifices" are only realized after the fact. Either way my focus is not on what I have given up but rather on what I am adding in. I find this adding in of connection with God and community leaves me feeling spiritually full rather than deprived. I wonder if there is something you would like to add in this Lent.

~ Kate Byers

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

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**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



**West Virginia Mission Trip...  
How you can help**

Our Mission Trip is getting closer. We're excited that around 15 to 20 people are going to West Virginia. But even if you cannot come with us, you can be a valuable contributor! We're looking for:

- Lowe's Gift Cards to help buy supplies in WV
- Gas Cards to help defray the travel cost
- Work Gloves – for those on the Mission Team
- Casseroles and Desserts – that can be frozen and used for dinners. A sign-up genius is coming soon!

Thanks to everyone who contributes to the success of the trip!

~Pastor John

continued from front page:

The students with little time rushed by the “injured man,” without offering any help. The ones with more time stopped to see what they could do. Get the irony? One conclusion they made was that “time and speed kills love.”

Unfortunately, “busyness” has become a status symbol in our world. Most people encourage one another to keep their mind and body in constant motion. This is not just relegated to those of us who work or go to school. I can’t tell you how many times I ask recently retired people how their retirement is going, only to be told, “I am busier than ever!”. Busyness is clearly a mark with social success in our world. If you are not busy, there must be something wrong with you. This attitude has led to lifestyles filled with stress, anxiety, indifference and apathy.

Even worse, it has taken us away from God and from our spiritual growth and nurture. Many people (including myself) have told people to schedule time for prayer and reading the Bible. I recently thought, “there is something wrong about this.” Think about it: scheduling in the God who in all things, embracing our world and our lives for 20 minutes on Tuesday morning!

Time needs to be redeemed, transformed from this anxious, stressful, oppressive state into something that is healthy and nurturing and it’s up to us as a community of faith to do it. It might be the most subversive, counter-cultural thing we can do. What would this look like? Time needs to cease to be our enemy and become our friend. It needs to cease being the thing that alienates us from one another and become the thing that binds us together.

God’s time is different. It’s not chronological – not one thing happening after another. God’s time is mysterious and eternal. It is Sabbath time. One of the Ten Commandments is to keep the Sabbath holy. This means stop the scheduling and drop your watch. Fill that time with God and one another. Connect with your friends, family, community in a deep way. What would this be like if we take this seriously?

There are Christian traditions that celebrate the “sacrament of the present moment.” This is when you take space and time to recognize that

everything we have is a gift from God. Every breath you take is a gift. Every moment is an opportunity to encounter God who is present at all times and all places. These are all “Sabbath moments.” To have a Sabbath moment, you must slow down and take time for the things that the world considers trivial. If you do this, you see life where there isn’t. You see the opportunity to find love where you might have missed it if going faster.

A Christian writer once wrote a book called, “The Three Mile Per Hour God.” The point is that three miles per hour is the average speed that humans walk. Therefore, it probably was the speed that Jesus walked. Jesus, as God incarnate, as love incarnate, walked three miles per hour. Love has a speed! It is a speed that many are not accustomed to. If you are racing at nine miles per hour, how can you be expected to walk with, or even follow a God who walks three miles per hour?

*I think you get the picture. If you want a Lenten discipline this month, why don’t you try to redeem time? Find ways to slow down, drop the schedule and have more “Sabbath moments.” Our retreat last month was a perfect way to do this. But you don’t need a formal retreat, just a willing and intentional heart.*

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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 March. 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 Red Sox, weather or anything else on your mind.

# 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 Lent, we are thinking about words that are hard to say. These words are hard because they involve relationships and the ways we don't always live in perfect harmony with each other. It is hard to admit we have made mistakes. It is hard to own up to our faults, and it is hard to forgive other people. Doing these hard things, saying these hard words, takes practice. One way we can practice saying hard things is by writing them. Often it is easier to write something in a letter than it is to say something out loud. This lent I encourage you to practice saying the week's hard words by writing a letter every week. Think of someone you want to forgive or make amends with and write them a letter. Let them know how you feel, practice saying the hard words. If you are really brave you can send the letters but don't feel you have to send your letters. The act of writing the letter is often enough to shift your feelings and perspectives on a relationship. This also means you can write to people who can no longer receive letters. Perhaps there is someone who passed away before you could forgive them or there is a person you desire to make amends with but are no longer in contact with. This letter writing activity might seem fairly grown up, but it doesn't have to be. Young children need to practice saying hard things to. They might not write long eloquent letter full of complex sentences but they can write in their own way. Children can use pictures, simple sentences, and dictation to get their message across. It is not about the complexity of the writing it is about the honesty of the emotion. Perhaps even some of us adults could better communicate I am sorry through a drawing.

~ Kate Byers

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## Wonderful Wednesday

Join us on **Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm** for dinner and conversation. Our spring Wonderful Wednesdays will include a presentation from Household Goods, Sunday School for Grown Ups, a guest speaker on Sexual Harassment and the #metoo movement, and FCCC Jeopardy. Exactly what will happen when is still being determined and is based largely on the outside guest's schedules. In March, we will either be learning about Household Goods or we will be experiencing Sunday School for Grown Ups. Either way we will laugh, eat, and learn together. Come enjoy church!

### 2018 Wonderful Wednesday Dates:

April 4 & 18  
May 16

## Church School

**\*Pre-School\*:** During March, we are trying something new! Rather than choosing between the nursery and elementary school Sunday school, pre-schoolers will be offered their own Sunday school class. The class is targeted at our increasing number of 2-5 year olds and will be primarily lead by Kate Reynolds. Kate is a professional pre-school teacher with years of experience. She will be crafting the class using the Spark pre-school curriculum. Thematically, lessons will line up with the elementary class's lessons. During March the children will learn about Holy Week and Easter. Care will be taken to introduce these challenging topics in a pre-school friendly format.

**Elementary School:** In March, the Elementary School will focus on the story of Holy Week. Children will learn about Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday through art, music, drama, and games.

**Youth Forum:** During March youth will continue 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.

### Youth for 2017-2018

March is a busy month for the church. There are multiple events for youth to plug in and participate in the wider church. Youth are encouraged to participate in all church events. The following March events are particularly youth friendly.

- March 9<sup>th</sup> is a children's baking event at the Sackett House. Youth are invite to come help the younger kids figure out their way around a kitchen.
- March 10<sup>th</sup> is the Mission Festival. There will be lots of volunteer roles for church and lots of opportunities to learn more about our West Virginia Mission.
- March 17<sup>th</sup> is volunteering with Cradles to Crayons. Outreach is ruing this wonderful intergenerational afternoon of service. There is work for youth of all ages.
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> is the Variety Show. Youth are encouraged to share their talent and to cheer on others.
- March 25<sup>th</sup>-April 1<sup>st</sup> is Holy Week.
- April 1<sup>st</sup> is the Egg Hunt
- May 5<sup>th</sup> is helping with the Rummage Sale
- May 19<sup>th</sup> will be a fun event chosen by youth
- June 9<sup>th</sup> is marching in Boston Pride

## Lent and Holy Week 2018

First Church will be observing Holy Week during the month of March. We are pleased to offer everyone the following events. Come to any and all these offerings, and make sure to invite a friend or neighbor.

**Sundays in Lent:** Pastor John will be preaching a series of sermons titled “Three Hard Words.” Each Sunday, Pastor John will be reflecting on 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.” 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.

**Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday - 10:00 a.m. - Worship:** Join us for a service observing Jesus triumphal march into Jerusalem, marking the start of Holy Week. The service will include the Sunday School children marching in and distributing Palms to the congregation.

**Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> - Maundy Thursday - 6:00 p.m. - Simple Supper & 7:15 p.m. Service:** After a simple supper at 6:00 p.m. we will be having a 7:15 p.m. service. The first part of the service will remember Christ’s last supper with his disciples. The second part of the service will recount the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus, using eight symbols connected with his passion and death. The service will include the extinguishing of candles and the ringing of a bell 33 times, remembering the 33 years Jesus spent on earth.

**Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday - 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Thresholds of Good Friday:** For Good Friday, we again be offering the ‘Thresholds of Good Friday’ experience. This is an interactive experience for people of all ages - families are encouraged to come together. People can come any time between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. and stay as long as they want. During your time, you are invited to sit in the Garden of Gethsemane, sit in Pilot’s chair, feel the crown of thorns or taste the vinegar drink given to Jesus on the cross, as well as several other stations. For many, this is a way of experiencing Christ’s suffering and death in a fresh and powerful way. Please come and invite a friend to this sacred and important time.

**Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> - Easter Sunday :** We will begin our Easter celebration with an ecumenical Easter Service at 6:30 a.m. at Fawn Lake. Our traditional Easter Breakfast will be held at 7:15 a.m. in Upper Fellowship Hall, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt. Finally, come to our 10:00 a.m. service as we joyfully celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. We hope and pray that each of you will join us this year in our Lenten journey, as we commemorate and remember the events of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection.

### Easter Plants

Our joy in the Easter season is reflected in the holiday decorations in our church. Easter plants will not only brighten our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, but may be used to spread the blessings of this season throughout our church family to those who cannot attend Easter services.

Those wishing to purchase one or more plants may do so by returning this form to the church office with your check for \$12.00 each, made out to the “First Church of Christ, Congregational” with “Easter Plant” marked in the lower left-hand corner.

**The deadline for orders is: Friday, March 16, 2018**

Name(s) of donor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

In memory or honor of (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the number and kind of plant(s) you wish: Lily \_\_\_\_ Tulip \_\_\_\_ Daffodil \_\_\_\_ Hydrangea \_\_\_\_

Please check one:

I/We will leave the plant(s) to be distributed to a shut-in

I/We will take the plant(s) after the Easter Service.



## Music Notes

March's assortment of Lenten music includes First Church Women's Choir's *Jesus Paid It All*, to the Jubilee Ringers' nostalgic medley, *Portraits of the Cross*. In addition, the FC Hopeful Singers will rise again at the Variety Show.

BTW, if you like to sing, you're in luck! Often in churches, singing opportunities are limited to either choir or "just" the congregation. Here at First Church, a diverse collection of vocal groups reflect and reinforce our mission:

- **The Congregation:** Is really all of us, yet paradoxically, also thought of as anyone not in a singing group per se. In either case, not to be under-rated. Our congregation loves to sing. There are some lovely voices out there!
- **Adult Choir:** Comprised of regular members, at times joined by occasional singers (who may or may not sing as part of another group). Sings most often, on most Sundays.
- **Youth Choir:** Consists of former members of Children's Choir, now tweens and/or teens. Sometimes referred to as "Youth Choir Plus" when it includes our youngest vocalists.
- **Men's Gospel Choir:** You've heard them, they're awesome. Personnel varies. Music selections are heavily influenced by barbershop style.
- **Women's Choir:** Often a subset of Adult Choir, plus any number of others. Has also been formed ad hoc based on purpose, i.e., a special memorial service anthem.
- **Comfort Choir:** Presently learning about how to sing for shut-ins, convalescents, and even those who are possibly on the threshold of another stage of eternal life.
- **Hopeful Singers:** Ad hoc group serving the Variety Show in an especially joyful manner.
- **Combined Choirs:** A combo of any or all of the above singing together.

This list is by no means complete; it's often added to and/or modified. There's some overlap in personnel, however, we can have the right group for the right time. The flexibility of these convergent and welcoming groups gives us plenty of ways where music can help us live our mission.

## March Music Rehearsals

- Thursday, March 1 - Adult Choir 7:30 pm
- Sunday, March 4 - Adult Choir 9 am
- Sunday, March 4 - Children's (Combined) Choir run-through 9:30 am
- Monday, March 5 - Jubilee Ringers 7 pm
- Thursday, March 8 - Adult Choir, 7:30 pm
- Sunday, March 11 - Adult Choir 9 am
- Monday, March 12 - Jubilee Ringers 7 pm
- Thursday, March 15 - Adult Choir, 7:30 pm
- Sunday, March 18 - Adult Choir 9 am
- Monday, March 19 - Jubilee Ringers 7 pm
- Thursday, March 22 - Adult Choir, no rehearsal (Wonderful Wednesday Week)
- Sunday, March 25 (Palm Sunday) - Choir call times TBA
- Sunday, March 25 (Palm Sunday) - Children's Choir mini-rehearsal 11:30 am
- Monday, March 26 - Jubilee Ringers 7 pm
- Thursday, March 29 (Maundy Thursday) - choir call time approx. 6:30

~ Susan Capestro, Director of Music

**First Church Variety Show**  
**Friday, March 23, 2018 - 7:30 pm**

Mark your calendar for the 12th annual in-house, no-stress, family-fun First Church Variety Show in UFH at **7:30 pm on Friday, March 23, 2018**. There will be all sorts of polished and unpolished talent to entertain one and all. Share your talents with us! Contact Allyson Printz ([allyson@printzfamily.us](mailto:allyson@printzfamily.us)) to get on the program.

**March Deacons Collection**  
**on Sunday, March 4, 2018 is for**  
**Bedford Food Pantry**

## Outreach Board Notes

**2018 West Virginia Mission Trip:** We are pleased to announce the **2018 Mission Trip to West Virginia, April 14-21**. 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. There is still a chance to sign up. Please contact Pastor John, Rick Burke, Allyson Printz or Mary Criscione for more information on the mission trip. There will be an after church team meeting on March 11 for all mission trip attendees.

**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. Thanks to Allyson Printz for mailing our large box of items.

**Superbowl Sunday Food Sale :** The Outreach and Nurture Boards sponsored a food sale on Superbowl Sunday. \$677 was raised to support children's activities and our mission in West Virginia. Thank you for your support in contributing and/or purchasing food to support our Nurture and Outreach activities.

**Dinner for Bedford Community Table:** On Thursday, April 5, 2018, First Church will be providing dinner for the Bedford Community Table. Each Thursday, volunteers prepare a complimentary community dinner for all at the Bedford Town Center on Mudge Way. We will shop, cook, setup, and serve. Please let Pastor John, Allyson Printz, Nancy McKinney or Mary Criscione know if you would like to help.

**Flatbread Fundraiser – SAVE THE DATE -** We are planning a Mission Trip fundraiser at: Flatbread Pizza, 213 Burlington Road, Bedford, MA on **Tuesday May 15 from 5-9 pm**. Enjoy a great pizza and contribute toward Mission Trip expenses. We will receive \$3.50 from every large and \$1.75 from every small pizza, dine in or take out.

### Upcoming Outreach dates:

- 3/4 Mission Festival planning meeting
- 3/10 West Virginia Mission Festival
- 3/17 Cradles to Crayons volunteer event in Brighton 1:30 to 3:30 pm
- 3/11 After church mission trip team meeting for all mission trip attendees
- 4/5 First Church providing dinner for the Bedford Community Table
- 4/14 – 4/21 West Virginia Mission Trip
- 5/15 Flatbread Fundraiser

## Cradles to Crayons Volunteer Event:

**Saturday, March 17, 1:30-3:30pm,  
Cradles to Crayons Giving Factory, Brighton MA**

Join us for a fun and engaging two hour volunteer event at the Cradles to Crayons Giving Factory in Brighton. We will carpool from First Church at 1:00PM. There will be a sign up sheet in the vestry during March. This is a great family event for all ages. If you are interested in attending please contact Cheryl Pespisa, [cheryl.pespisa@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.pespisa@gmail.com) or Mary Criscione, [maryc@progress.com](mailto:maryc@progress.com).

## Calling All “Artistic” People!

Would you like to be part of the team that creates the banners and “installations” in our sanctuary? Do you have any ideas to add color and beauty to our worship space? Then join our visual choir! Pastor John has come back from his Worship Symposium with new ideas. We have plans to do new banners for next Advent and perhaps some new material for Easter or Pentecost. If you would like to join the team, just contact Pastor John and he would be happy to include you.

## Save the Date.....Annual Rummage Sale

**Saturday, April 28, 2018**

**9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Get started now cleaning out your closets, attic, basement, and garage! More information coming in the April Newsletter or contact:

**Allyson Printz** ([allyson@printzfamily.us](mailto:allyson@printzfamily.us))  
**Kathy Register** ([registerk11@gmail.com](mailto:registerk11@gmail.com)) or  
**Susan Wingfield** ([susanw1@verizon.net](mailto:susanw1@verizon.net))

## 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>





~ March Worship ~



|                               |          |                                                                                                 |                   |
|-------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| March 4, 2018<br>Communion    | 10:00 am | <i>“Three Hard Words: I Am Sorry”</i><br>Rev. John Castricum, Sr. Pastor                        | Luke 18: 9-14     |
| March 11, 2018                | 10:00 am | <i>“Three Hard Words: I Love You”</i><br>Rev. John Castricum, Sr. Pastor                        | 1 John 4: 7-12    |
| March 18, 2018                | 10:00 am | <i>“Three Hard Words: I Forgive You”</i><br>Rev. John Castricum, Sr. Pastor & Ms. Terry Gerrish | Matthew 18: 21-35 |
| March 25, 2018<br>Palm Sunday | 10:00 am | <i>“Donkey Duty”</i><br>Rev. John Castricum, Sr. Pastor                                         | Mark 11: 1-11     |

Thank you for your help in publishing our newsletter on time. Our next Newsletter deadline is **March 5, 2018** Our next mailing is **March 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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## Daily Lectionary Scripture References March 2018 (Year B)

**Thurs., Mar. 1**

Psalm 19  
Exodus 19:1-9a  
1 Peter 2:4-10

**Fri., Mar. 2**

Psalm 19  
Exodus 19:9b-15  
Acts 7:30-40

**Sat., Mar. 3**

Psalm 19  
Exodus 19:16-25  
Mark 9:2-8

**Sun., Mar. 4**

*Third Sunday in Lent*  
Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22

**Mon., Mar. 5**

Psalm 84  
1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22  
1 Corinthians 3:10-23

**Tues., Mar. 6**

Psalm 84  
2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19  
Hebrews 9:23-28

**Wed., Mar. 7**

Psalm 84; Ezra 6:1-16  
Mark 11:15-19

**Thurs., Mar. 8**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Genesis 9:8-17  
Ephesians 1:3-6

**Fri., Mar. 9**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Daniel 12:5-13  
Ephesians 1:7-14

**Sat., Mar. 10**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Numbers 20:22-29  
John 3:1-13

**Sun., Mar. 11**

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*  
Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

**Mon., Mar. 12**

Psalm 107:1-16  
Exodus 15:22-27  
Hebrews 3:1-6

**Tues., Mar. 13**

Psalm 107:1-16  
Numbers 20:1-13  
1 Corinthians 10:6-13

**Wed., Mar. 14**

Psalm 107:1-16  
Isaiah 60:15-22  
John 8:12-20

**Thurs., Mar. 15**

Psalm 51:1-12  
Isaiah 30:15-18  
Hebrews 4:1-13

**Fri., Mar. 16**

Psalm 51:1-12  
Exodus 30:1-10  
Hebrews 4:14—5:4

**Sat., Mar. 17**

Psalm 51:1-12  
Habakkuk 3:2-13  
John 12:1-11

**Sun., Mar. 18**

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

**Mon., Mar. 19**

Psalm 119:9-16  
Isaiah 43:8-13  
2 Corinthians 3:4-11

**Tues., Mar. 20**

Psalm 119:9-16  
Isaiah 44:1-8  
Acts 2:14-24

**Wed., Mar. 21**

Psalm 119:9-16  
Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23  
John 12:34-50

**Thurs., Mar. 22**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Deuteronomy 16:1-8  
Philippians 2:1-11

**Fri., Mar. 23**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Jeremiah 33:1-9  
Philippians 2:12-18

**Sat., Mar. 24**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Jeremiah 33:10-16  
Mark 10:32-34, 46-52

**Sun., Mar. 25**

*Passion Sunday or Palm  
Sunday*  
**Palms:** Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16  
**Passion:** Isaiah 50:4-9a;  
Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-  
11; Mark 14:1—15:47 or Mark  
15:1-39 [40-47]

**Mon., Mar. 26**

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11  
Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

**Tues., Mar. 27**

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14  
1 Corinthians 11:18-31  
John 12:20-36

**Wed., Mar. 28**

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70  
Hebrews 12:1-3  
John 13:21-32

**Thurs., Mar. 29**

*Maundy Thursday*  
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**Fri., Mar. 30**

*Good Friday*  
Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews  
4:14-16; John 18:1—19:42

**Sat., Mar. 31**

*Holy Saturday*  
Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations  
3:1-9, 19-24  
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16  
Psalm 148  
1 Peter 4:1-8  
Matthew 27:57-66 or John  
19:38-42



**UNITED CHURCH  
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~ March 2018 ~

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Mon                                                                                | Tue                                                                                                                                                                 | Wed                                                                                                               | Thu                                                                                                                                                                   | Fri                                                                                        | Sat                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                   | <b>1</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>8a Bible & Bagels (Bruegger's)<br>9a Coffee & Conversation(Bruegger's)<br>7:30p AA (UFH)<br>7:30p Adult Choir (MR)                         | <b>2</b><br>Pastor John Day Off<br>6a AA (UFH)<br>6p AA (UFH)                              | <b>3</b><br>6a AA (UFH)                                                           |
| <b>4</b><br>3rd Sunday in Lent<br>COMMUNION<br>6a AA (UFH)<br>8:15a 8:15 Group (V)<br>9a Adult Choir (S)<br>9:30a Children's Choir (S)<br>10a Worship (S)<br>11:30a Deacons Meeting (P)<br>11:30a West Virginia Mission Festival Planning Meeting (UFH)<br>6:30p Confirmation (V)<br>6:30p Prayer Group (P) | <b>5</b><br>April 2018 Newsletter Deadline<br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7p Jubilee Bells (MR) | <b>6</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>9a Coffee & Conversation(Bruegger's)<br>6:45p AA (Room 5)                                                                                | <b>7</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7a Men's Group (V)<br>7p Outreach Board (V)                                            | <b>8</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>8a Bible & Bagels (Bruegger's)<br>9a Coffee & Conversation(Bruegger's)<br>7p Nurture Board (V)<br>7:30p AA (UFH)<br>7:30p Adult Choir (MR) | <b>9</b><br>Pastor John Day Off<br>6a AA (UFH)<br>5p Youth Baking (Offsite)<br>6p AA (UFH) | <b>10</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>5p-8:30p Mission Festival (ALL)                       |
| <b>11</b><br>4th Sunday in Lent<br>6a AA (UFH)<br>8:15a 8:15 Group (V)<br>9a Adult Choir (MR)<br>10a Worship (S)<br>11:30a Mission Trip Attendees Meeting (UFH)<br>6:30p Prayer Group (P)                                                                                                                   | <b>12</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>10a La Leche League (V)<br>7p Jubilee Bells (MR)       | <b>13</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7:30a Women's Fellowship Breakfast (Riverview-Billerica)<br>9a Coffee & Conversation(Bruegger's)<br>6:45p AA (Room 5)<br>7p Cabinet (V) | <b>14</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7a Men's Group (V)                                                                    | <b>15</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>8a Bible & Bagels (Bruegger's)<br>9a Coffee & Conversation(Bruegger's)<br>7:30p AA (UFH)<br>7:30p Adult Choir (MR)                        | <b>16</b><br>Pastor John Day Off<br>6a AA (UFH)<br>6p AA (UFH)                             | <b>17 St. Patrick's Day</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>1:30p Cradles to Crayons (Brighton) |
| <b>18</b><br>5th Sunday in Lent<br>6a AA (UFH)<br>8:15a 8:15 Group (V)<br>9a Adult Choir (MR)<br>10a Worship (S)<br>6:30p Confirmation (V)<br>6:30p Prayer Group (P)                                                                                                                                        | <b>19</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7p Jubilee Bells (MR)                                  | <b>20</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>9a Coffee & Conversation(Bruegger's)<br>6:45p AA (Room 5)                                                                               | <b>21</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7a Men's Group (V)<br>10a Newsletter Folding (MR)<br>6p Wonderful Wednesday (UFH/K/V) | <b>22</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>8a Bible & Bagels (Bruegger's)<br>9a Coffee & Conversation(Bruegger's)<br>7:30p AA (UFH)                                                  | <b>23</b><br>Pastor John Day Off<br>6a AA (UFH)<br>6p AA (UFH)<br>7:30p Variety Show (UFH) | <b>24</b><br>6a AA (UFH)                                                          |
| <b>25 Palm/Passion Sunday</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>8:15a 8:15 Group (V)<br>10a Worship (S)<br>11:30a Children's Choir (MR)<br>6:30p Prayer Group (P)                                                                                                                                                           | <b>26</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7p Jubilee Bells (MR)                                  | <b>27</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>9a Coffee & Conversation(Bruegger's)<br>6:45p AA (Room 5)<br>7:30p NAMI (Room 4)                                                        | <b>28</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>7a Men's Group (V)                                                                    | <b>29 Maundy Thursday</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>6p Simple Supper (UFH)<br>6:30p Adult Choir (S)<br>7:15p Maundy Thursday Service (S)<br>7:30p AA (UFH)                    | <b>30 Good Friday</b><br>6a AA (UFH)<br>3p-8p Thresholds of Good Friday (S)<br>6p AA (UFH) | <b>31</b><br>6a AA (UFH)                                                          |