

THE BEACON

**First
United Methodist Church**
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Website:
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Worship with us:

Sunday Service
8:30AM & 10:30AM

Sunday School
9:00AM

Intercultural Worship
12:30PM



Luke 4:1, Jesus being full of the Holy Spirit returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

I hope you've had the opportunity to see and feel the captivating desert scene which decorates the altar in our sanctuary. It is a poignant representation of this season of Lent and our time in the wilderness. Luke chapter 4:2-13 goes on to recount Jesus' forty days in the wilderness where he was tempted by the devil. Jesus' power to resist the devil's temptation was the scriptures as He declares to Satan and puts forth almost as a shield, "it is written...". Luke 4:14 tells us that Jesus returned from the wilderness in the power of the Holy Spirit. The time that Jesus spent in the wilderness was so important to his ministry coming after his wilderness experience. Like Jesus, our journey through the wilderness will be our strength and power as we continue our individual and corporate ministries.

Our journey, as the seasons, continues to change whether we are prepared or not. Winter will soon be over and we will emerge from our protective cocoons of hibernation. I pray that we will all be spiritually well rested and well nourished coming out of this Lent season and as we move into springtime, the time of resurrection. Lent is our time in the desert and our opportunity to be filled with the Spirit and renewed by the Holy Spirit. Take this opportunity to fast, to reflect and to sacrifice, knowing that we are in God's hands and God is our ultimate provider and protector.

We are not out of the desert yet! But we are confident that we, like Jesus, will return from our desert experience full of the power of the Holy Spirit. Yet, as we are being prepared for resurrection temptations will come. It happened to Jesus and we should be ready for the same. We should know that we will be tempted with all kinds of false securities. Some will be tempted through forms of power, others with control or money, still others with physical temptations. Through it all, know the power of the Word of God, remember Jesus' response to Satan, "get behind me Satan for it is written".

Rest assured that as you go through your desert the Holy Spirit will be with you.

Pastor Ben

In this issue...

Pastors Message	Pg 1
Christian Education	Pg 2
Lenten Services	Pg 3
Undies Drive	Pg 3
Message for the Lay Leader	Pg 3
Den Rock Hike	Pg 3
Newsletter Deadline	Pg 3
Church Activity Calendar	Pg 4
Building Use Calendar	Pg 5
Mission Statement	Cover

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

FEBRUARY MISSION PROJECT UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards our health kit collection for UMCOR. Thanks to your generous donations we were able to ship 108 kits to UMCOR. Special thanks to Paul Carlotta for delivering the kits to the drop off location in Acton, MA.



LENTEN MISSION PROJECT

Beginning March 1 and continuing thru April, the Sunday School will be collecting items for Layette Kits for UMCOR. As the continuing needs of Haiti are being assessed, it has become evident that Layette Kits, which provide blankets, diapers and clothing for new babies, are in desperate need. Infants are being born in incredible circumstances. We hope you will help. Items to be included in the Layette Kit include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 6 cloth diapers | 2 shirts or 2 one-piece body suits |
| 2 baby washcloths | 2 gowns or sleepers |
| 2 diaper pins | 1 sweater (open in the front) |
| 2 receiving blankets | Sewing patterns are available for the gowns |

To help raise funds to support this project, each Sunday School class will be selling baked goods during each of the coffee hour times in March. Check the weekly bulletin for more details. And remember, together, even the smallest donations can make a difference!

PALM SUNDAY INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITY

Come and join us on Sunday morning, March 28 for a special Palm Sunday program for all ages. We'll have a story and crafts to work on and even share a snack. We'll gather in Wesley Hall at 9:00 am. This activity will replace regular classes for children that day.

FROM THE LAY LEADER

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the special offering in February to support UMCOR relief efforts in Haiti. Thanks to your generosity we will be sending \$2549 to UMCOR.

Now you have the chance to help again. On Sunday, March 14 we will participate with other United Methodist churches worldwide in One Great Hour of Sharing. This special offering supports the work of UMCOR on behalf of all of us as United Methodists. It is directly through this offering that many of the administrative costs associated with UMCOR are paid. Special envelopes will be in the bulletins on March 14. Won't you please consider helping once again to ensure that the important work of UMCOR is allowed to continue in Haiti and in the places around the world where poverty and oppression are dealt with daily.

EASTER SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

We look forward to celebrating the resurrection with two annual events on Easter Sunday morning.

Family Breakfast at 9:15 a.m.

Join us for strata, cereal, muffins, fruit, coffee, tea, and juice as we celebrate together. Please be sure to let us know of food allergies so that we can make this a welcoming event for everyone!

Egg Hunt for Children at 9:45 a.m.

With Easter being so early this year, the chances of doing an outside Egg Hunt are even slimmer than usual. Luckily we have a building that allows us to still find plenty of places to hide eggs inside. Children up to those in 5th grade are invited to participate in this year's event. There will be plenty of eggs for everyone and a reminder that there is never candy in any of them! Come join us for this fun-filled annual event.

Both of these events take lots of preparation, set up and clean up. There are even some ways you can help at home! Here are some tasks that we need help with:

- ◆ Hiding eggs on either Saturday, April 3 or early (7:00 am—9:00 am) on Easter Sunday
- ◆ Preparation of strata, muffins and fruit for Easter breakfast, Saturday, April 3
- ◆ Set up of tables for breakfast
- ◆ Final set up on Easter Sunday morning (8:15 am—9:00 am)
- ◆ Clean up after breakfast (9:45 am until finished)
- ◆ Helping with the Egg Hunt. Volunteers are needed to supervise children during the hunt.

If you can help please contact Carol Rabs at 978-688-1114 or by email at carolrabs@verizon.net.

CHERUB CHOIR

Our wonderful cherub choir practices each Sunday morning from 10:05 to 10:20 in Room 401. This winter we've been having fun learning "Jesus Loves Me" even if we did have a hard time singing in worship! New voices are always welcome. Children ages 3 and up are welcome. Right now we're rehearsing special songs to sing at our worship services on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Parents—please let Carol know if you will not be at the 10:30 service on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK THROUGH HOLY WEEK

Children ages 3 and up are invited to join us on Friday morning, April 2 from 9:30 am—Noon for our annual "Walk through Holy Week". We'll do an interactive activity around the events of this important week and we'll have lots of crafts to work on. Of course there will be story time and snacks too. Come Join Us!!

Volunteers are needed to help! Contact Carol Rabs if you can assist.

NEWS & NOTABLES FROM THE CHURCH



Communities Together Noon Time Services During Lent 2010

Communities together is once again organizing Lenten Services each Wednesday. All services begin at 12 Noon and are followed by a light lunch. A free will offering will be collected at each location. The community is welcome. The schedule for the remainder of Lent is as follows:

- 3/03 - Rolling Ridge Conference Center,
660 Great Pond Road, North Andover
Homilist: Rev. James Todd
- 3/10 - First Baptist Church of Methuen
Park Street, Methuen
Homilist: Rev. Dr. A. S. Daley
- 3/17 - Lawrence General Hospital,
Kurth Auditorium, Lawrence
Homilist: Hospital Staff
- 3/24- South Church Andover
41 Central Street, Andover,
Homilist: Father William Waters, OSA

COMMUNITIES TOGETHER UNDIES DRIVE

Each Lenten season our church participates in the Communities Together "Undies Drive". This collection supports families in the greater Lawrence area who struggle with providing everyday needs for their families. Here is how you can help:

1. Donate new children's underwear (up to size 16), diapers, pull-ups, footed pajamas, stretch suits and socks - OR - new adult size diapers
2. If you prefer you can donate money. Make checks payable to Communities Together or FUMC.
3. Cut out coupons for diapers and pull ups and donate them

Just one pair or package will make a difference to a youngster who goes without. The articles will be distributed to the children of Lawrence through a number of community organizations including Lazarus House, Neighbors in Need, Bread and Roses, and Women's Resource Center.

SPRING ARRIVES ON 20 MARCH!!!

LET'S CELEBRATE

You are invited to come for a 1 hour trail hike after the service on Sunday (well, after coffee!) on March 21st. The hike will take place at the Den Rock Park (only ¾ away). Everyone is welcome! Please let us know if you are interested.

Bob Banks (603) 893 8046 or
Jeff Kress (978) 686 1303

"All nature sings and round rings
the music of the spheres".

FROM NEIGHBORS IN NEED

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to you and the members of the United Methodist Church for your generous gift of \$110 to Neighbors In Need. You and your church members make all the difference in our ability to feed the families who are desperately in need.

These are extraordinary times, which require extraordinary efforts to feed the families that arrive at our doors every day. It has been an amazing year at Neighbors In Need. Current economic conditions continue to have a devastating impact on the families that we serve and we are experiencing unprecedented increases in need for food from hungry families in our community! And the community has responded with food, Holiday Meals, clothing, financial support and their valuable time and energy.

We have been blessed by your extraordinary generosity. You make it possible for us to continue to serve the poor and hungry families of Greater Lawrence. Thank you and many blessings.
Linda

Newsletter DEADLINE

Deadline for the April 2010 issue of the Beacon is
Sunday, March 21st

MARCH 2010

CHURCH ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2 6:30PM WH Christian Exercise Class & Health Ministry	3 10AM WH Church Fellowship Program 12 Noon Lenten Service Rolling Ridge 7:30PM 401 Staff Parish	4 6:30PM WH Christian Exercise Class & Health Ministry 7:00PM 402 Choir Practice	5	6
7 6:00PM 500 UMYF 6:00 Elementary Fellowship Bowling Night	8 7:30PM 401 Missions Committee	9 6:30PM WH Christian Exercise Class & Health Ministry	10 12 Noon Lent Service First Baptist	11 6:30PM WH Christian Exercise Class & Health Ministry 7:00PM 402 Choir Practice	12	13
14	15	16 6:30PM WH Christian Exercise Class & Health Ministry	17 12 Noon Lent Service Lawrence General	18 6:30PM WH Christian Exercise Class & Health Ministry 7:00PM 402 Choir Practice	19	20
21 Beacon Deadline 12 Noon Den Rock Hike 6:00PM 500 UMYF 6:00PM 500 Elementary	22	23 6:30PM WH Christian Exercise Class & Health Ministry	24 12 Noon Lent Service South Church, Andover	25 6:30PM WH Christian Exercise Class & Health Ministry 7:00PM 402 Choir Practice	26	27
28 9:00AM WH Palm Sunday Intergenerational Activity	29	30 6:30PM WH Christian Exercise Class & Health Ministry	31			

CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MARCH 2010

BUILDING USE CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 4PM Aerobics WH 6PM O.A. 500 7:30PM A.A. 500 (Men's Group)	2 9AM O.A. 500 9:30 Bridge 200 4:30PM O.A. 500 7:00PM G.A. 500 7:30PM 401 Gam-non	3 4PM Aerobics WH	4 4PM - 9PM WH Meritor Academy Potluck/Dance 4:30PM O.A. 500 7:00PM F.A. 400 7:30PM A.A. 102 (Ladies Group)	5 7:30PM A.A. 102	6 8:00AM O.A. 500
7 6:00PM 400& 401 Boy Scouts Ceremony Team	8 4PM Aerobics WH 6PM O.A. 500 7:30PM A.A. 500 (Men's Group)	9 9AM O.A. 500 9:30 Bridge 200 4:30PM O.A. 500 7:00PM G.A. 500 7:30PM 401 Gam-non	10 4PM Aerobics WH	11 4:30PM O.A. 500 7:00PM F.A. 400 7:30PM A.A. 102 (Ladies Group)	12 7:30PM A.A. 102	13 8:00AM O.A. 500
14	15 4PM Aerobics WH 6PM O.A. 500 7:30PM A.A. 500 (Men's Group)	16 9AM O.A. 500 9:30 Bridge 200 4:30PM O.A. 500 7:00PM G.A. 500 7:30PM 401 Gam-non	17 4PM Aerobics WH	18 4:30PM O.A. 500 7:00PM F.A. 400 7:30PM A.A. 102 (Ladies Group)	19 7:30PM A.A. 102	20 8:00AM O.A. 500
21 6:00PM 400& 401 Boy Scouts Ceremony Team	22 4PM Aerobics WH 6PM O.A. 500 7:30PM A.A. 500 (Men's Group)	23 9AM O.A. 500 9:30 Bridge 200 4:30PM O.A. 500 7:00PM G.A. 500 7:30PM 401 Gam-non	24 4PM Aerobics WH 6PM 400 Girl Scout Leadership Training	25 10:00AM 401 Retired Pastors 4:30PM O.A. 500 7:00PM F.A. 400 7:30PM A.A. 102 (Ladies Group)	26 7:30PM A.A. 102	27 8:00AM O.A. 500 9:00 WH Boy Scout Blue and Gold Banquet
28	29 4PM Aerobics WH 6PM O.A. 500 7:30PM A.A. 500 (Men's Group)	30 9AM O.A. 500 9:30 Bridge 200 4:30PM O.A. 500 7:00PM G.A. 500 7:30PM 401 Gam-non	31 4PM Aerobics WH			

CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE

*We are Christians committed to live our
faith by practicing love, embodying hope
and doing justice. Our mission is to invite
all to join us and to serve actively in our
local and global communities*

Mission Statement

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2010

CHURCH TELEPHONE

978-682-5305

CHURCH E-MAIL

firstunitedmethodist@comcast.net

WEB SITE

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OFFICE HOURS:

Tues., Thurs., Fri.
8:30AM—11:30AM