

THE CHIMES

THE NEWS LETTER OF THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

29 Mount Desert Street, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 – 3:00 PM; Friday 9:00 – 11:30 AM

Telephone: (207) 288-3280 E-mail: office@barharborucc.org

Web Site: www.barharborucc.org

March 2011

From the Pastor

We are rapidly moving toward Lent and the boxes containing our Christmas decorations are still sitting in the front hall of the parsonage, waiting for transit to the attic until next Christmas. It strikes me as odd how so much of our lives run together; how we are barely finished with one activity when the next one demands its time. That may be part of the reason why it is so difficult to live neatly, compartmentalizing the areas and activities of our lives. Perhaps we are not meant to do so, but it is supremely human, I think, to try.

This year, Lent will begin as always with Ash Wednesday on March 9. We will hold our annual Ash Wednesday service that evening at 7:00 PM. I hope as many of you as possible will attend in order to make a meaningful entrance into this holiest of seasons.

I believe we have a lot of difficulty with Lent. During this time (the six weeks leading up to Easter) we are called upon to be introspective and penitent. It is a time of self-examination and a time to set things right in our living, our relationships, and our faith. During these forty days we are called upon to increase our understanding of Christ's sacrifice and His resurrection. This year's Easter service will include a renewal of our baptismal vows and a recommitment to the Christian life. I pray that this time of repentance and renewal will be a powerful one for all of us.

How can this happen for us? Here are a few suggestions:

1. Set aside this period of time to examine and evaluate your life as a Christian.

2. Move toward spiritual renewal, which is possible only if we are willing to repent for our sins and change our lives for God.

3. Try a new way of living during this time. You might want to consider fasting, doing good deeds, taking time for prayer and reflection, studying Scripture or increased worship attendance.

4. Make a special commitment to give up something for the greater good. For example, watch less television or forego some favorite sports events; give up some social events; eliminate weekend trips so that you can be present at worship with the gathered community. In place of the time you would spend doing these things, consider making time to read, study and think about your faith, talking with your family and/or friends about your thoughts. You might also consider helping others through church or charitable activities. The point is to change our priorities.

5. Make prayer a daily habit.

6. Read the Bible daily.

These suggestions may help you to delve deeper into your faith than you have ever been able to before. When we observe a Lent filled with meaning, our celebration of Easter, when all has been accomplished, can be a life changing event.

Please let me know how I can be of help to you on your journey. That's what pastors are for, after all. May God bless you along the way.

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24

Sandra M. Reed



Easter Flowers

Please contact Roxie Brechlin (288-4859) or the church office (288-3280) to order your Easter Flowers. We ask that everyone have their order in by April 1st. There will be lilies or tulips. The cost is \$15.00, payment can be given to Roxie, or the church office. Please make checks payable to Bar Harbor Congregational Church, UCC, with Easter Flowers in the memo portion.

Thank You!

The Flower Committee

Forgiveness Is Key

"If the wounds of millions are to be healed, what other way is there except through forgiveness? Jesus, at least, leaves us no alternative. The command is stern. The terms are set: 'But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive you trespasses.'"

—Catherine Marshall

One Great Hour of Sharing Sharing Brings Joy

"God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

(II Corinthians 9:8)

One Great hour of Sharing is one of the four special mission offerings of the UCC that makes real the love of Christ through mission activities that support health, education, refugee, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives in more than 80 countries throughout the world. For 60 years,

OGHS has shared our offering resources to help change, transform and make better the lives of people who need them most. More can be learned about these good works by visiting www.ucc.org/oghs. In turn, our lives are made more abundant by the joy that sharing brings to us, to others and God.

We invite all to join in giving to One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, April 3rd when we will collect OGHS envelopes and the children's boxes at the service.

Donations can also be made online or to the church office a few weeks before or after the offering date.

Your Outreach Board

Impressive

At the New England Newspaper and Press Association's annual better newspaper contest, the *Islander*, headed by Earl Brechlin, "won second place for general excellence for mid-sized weekly newspapers in New England."

"The paper covered all aspects with solid stories and telling pictures without going overboard,' the judge wrote."

"Readers in the *Mount Desert Islander* area are well served by their hometown newspaper,' he wrote."

"The paper also won first place in the special award category for presidential visit coverage that spanned three issues." "The *Mount Desert Islander* gets an A+ for pulling out the stops as a small weekly,' the judges wrote." "This is pure journalism. A nice mix of stories and pictures."

"Islander Editor Earl Brechlin won third place for spot news reporting...."



A WORD OR TWO FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Coming up in March from the Christian Education Board:

- Daylight Savings time is in March so be sure you spring ahead so you make it to church on time!

- Session 3 starts March 13th- we are still looking for 2 teachers, one for 6th grade and one in the 7th grade class. Anyone interested should contact Kathy MacCulloch or Kathy Woodside. What a great opportunity - there are only 9 classes to be taught! And we have great curriculum!
- Family Worship will be March 27th. I sure have enjoyed seeing all the young faces helping and participating in the service. I hope you have as well.
- We are currently looking to supplement the Christian Education Library. Kathy Woodside has found some fantastic books that would supplement what we already have on hand. The problem is we currently have only \$100 in our budget for books. Anyone wishing to donate to our book fund please see our librarian, Kathy Woodside.

Our average attendance has been about 32 kids. Many thanks to our church family, teachers, and helpers for all you do to support our Sunday School Program.

Kathy MacCulloch
C.E. Coordinator

PILGRIM LODGE ALERT!!

Believe it or not...summer is coming, which means it's time to start thinking about signing up for camp at Pilgrim Lodge. For those who have been to PL before you know what a special place it is and are looking forward to another camping experience with

anticipation. And for the newcomers...you might be a little bit nervous because you don't know what to expect. No worries! You will not be disappointed. PL has something for everyone! If you want to learn a little more about this special place...check out the Pilgrim Lodge website at <http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/>.

And don't forget our church has a special Pilgrim Lodge Scholarship Fund that will cover 1/3rd of the registration fee!! So take advantage of this amazing opportunity and spend some time at PL this summer! Just a warning though...if you go once you will want to go again...and again!! Check out the Pilgrim Lodge display in the Church Parlor; choose a camp and GO!! You will be glad you did!!

For those of you who register online, please let the church office know so we can be sure that the church pays 1/3 of your registration fee!!

Special Thanks!!

If you have not ventured downstairs lately....try to do so soon...you are in for a treat! You will see a lovely new "welcome" banner made for our Sunday School by our very own Barbara Hepburn! Thank you Barbara! We love it!

Help Wanted!!

The Christian Education Board has purchased a wireless light fixture for the stairwell to the Fellowship Hall and Sunday School area and needs someone to install it. Please see Kathy MacCulloch or Kathy Woodside if you are interested in taking on this task.

March on Mount Desert Street Progressive Dinner

On March 8th there will be a Progressive Dinner hosted by the non-profit organizations on Mount Desert Street. The festivities begin @ 5:00 with a play at the YWCA. Things then progress down the street to St. Saviour's for appetizers at 5:30. **At 6:00 folks will arrive at our church for salads.** The soup course will begin @6:30 at the Jesup Library and dessert will be at The Abbe Museum at 7:00. This is a great way to get out on a week night and it sure helps to beat cabin fever!

Help will be needed for:

- Setting up the fellowship hall (tables, chairs, silverware, napkins, plates)
- Salad makers
- Salad servers
- Clean-up

For additional information contact Kathy Woodside @ 288-5160 (H); 288-4245 (W); woodsidekat@gmail.com.

Opportunities to Grow Closer to God

The Guided Meditation gatherings meet Tuesday afternoons at 2:00 PM and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM (except on the fourth Wednesday of the month when we meet at 6:00 PM). Please let Sandra Reed know if you will be attending and which gathering you would like to attend.

Fasten your seat belts and join us for a study of Revelation, "a wonderfully Christ-centered book, full of worship and praise". What does it say about our future? Come and join us as we unwrap one last Christmas gift...the hope given in the Book of Revelation. **Meetings are on Thursdays at 10 AM.**

Forgiveness BRACELET

Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins, and he tells us to forgive other people, too. Make and wear this craft as a reminder that you are forgiven — and should be forgiving.

What you need:

- Clear plastic bottle (about 16 oz.)
- An adult to help
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Permanent black marker
- Glue or clear tape
- Thin ribbon or yarn
- Small hole punch

What you do:

1. Remove any label from the bottle. Have an adult help you cut the bottle in half, width-wise. At the middle, cut out two identical half-inch-wide strips.
2. Cut out paper the same size as the plastic strips.
3. On the paper, write “Forgive, and you will be forgiven” (Luke 6:37, NIV).
4. Place the paper between the two plastic strips.
5. Cut and glue the ribbon or yarn to run along the top and bottom of the verse, framing the words.
6. Punch a hole at each end, through all three layers.
7. Tie the bracelet to your wrist with ribbon or yarn.

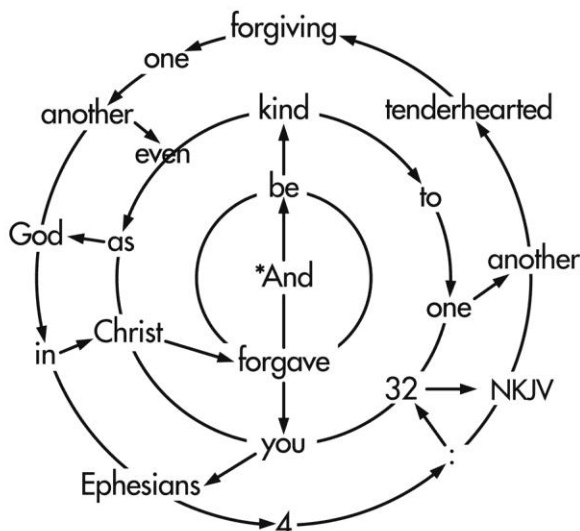


WHY FORGIVE?



This Bible verse teaches an important lesson about how we should treat others — and why.

Directions: Start with the asterisk in the center circle and follow the arrows. Write the words in order on the blanks below.



“And _____ ,
 _____ , _____
 _____ , _____
 _____ .”
 _____ , _____

Answers: And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NKJV

March 2011



- 1 Mason Gurtler
- 1 Barbara Moulton
- 1 David Lind
- 2 Cas Dowden
- 3 Jill Pelletier
- 4 Maddie Langley
- 5 Gloria Soule
- 6 Dana Reed
- 6 Kristin MacQuinn
- 6 Henry A. Brown
- 7 Laurie Riddell
- 8 Vickie Bence
- 9 Judy Fuller
- 9 Christopher Bence
- 13 Doug Lee
- 13 Estelle Megquier
- 14 Lucy Sprague
- 16 Lucille Campbell
- 17 Kincaid MacCulloch
- 18 Sharon Hobbs
- 20 Haleigh Smith
- 21 Brad Haskell
- 22 Samuel Owen Craighead
- 22 Pierce DiMauro
- 22 Bryce DiMauro
- 22 Kirstin DiMauro
- 22 Bill Skiff
- 24 Michael MacCulloch
- 26 Graham Langley
- 29 Penny Heiges
- 31 Shelley MacQuinn



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Laurie Wellman
Assistant Deacon – Bruce Blake

Liturgists-

6: Al Simons
13:
20:
27: Youth Sunday

Flowers –

6: Charles Marinke
13: Roxie and Earl Brechlin
20: Sandra and Wally Reed
27: George and Billie Mitchell

Coffee Hosts -

6: Gurtler Family
13: Lou Ingrisano
20: Craighead Family
27:

Home Bible Readings -

- 6 Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
II Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9
- 13 Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11
- 20 Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17
- 27 Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

March

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| | | | | | | |
| | | 1 Guided Meditation 2:00 <i>Cub Scout Pack Meeting 5-8</i> Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM | 2 Cub Scouts 3:30 pm Guided Meditation 7:00 pm | 3 Bible Study 10:00 AM Adult Choir 7:00 PM | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am <i>Alleluia Choir 11:30</i> | 7 Cancer Support Group 5-6:30 PM | 8 Guided Meditation 2:00 <i>March on Mt. Desert St.</i> Outreach 7:00 PM | 9 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> Cub Scouts 3:30 pm Worship Service 7:00 | 10 Bible Study 10:00 AM Adult Choir 7:00 PM | 11 | 12 |
| 13 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am <i>Alleluia Choir 11:30</i> <i>Girl Scouts 2:00</i> | 14 | 15 Guided Meditation 2:00 Community Supper Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM | 16 Cub Scouts 3:30 pm <i>Lenten Supper 5:30 PM</i> Guided Meditation 7:00 | 17 Bible Study 10:00 AM Trustees 5:30 Adult Choir 7:00 PM | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am <i>Deacons 11:30 AM</i> <i>Alleluia Choir 11:30</i> | 21 | 22 Guided Meditation 2:00 | 23 Cub Scouts 3:30 pm <i>Lenten Supper 5:30 PM</i> Guided Meditation 7:00 | 24 Bible Study 10:00 AM Adult Choir 7:00 PM | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Family Worship 10:00 am – no Sunday School <i>Alleluia Choir 11:30</i> <i>Girl Scouts 2:00</i> | 28 | 29 Guided Meditation 2:00 | 30 Cub Scouts 3:30 pm <i>Lenten Supper 5:30 PM</i> Guided Meditation 7:00 | 31 Bible Study 10:00 AM Adult Choir 7:00 PM | | |

**Bar Harbor Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
29 Mount Desert Street
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609**

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Permit Number 32**

Special Dates

- World Day of Prayer, March 4, 2011
- Transfiguration of the Lord, March 6, 2011
- Ash Wednesday, March 9, 2011
- First Sunday in Lent, March 13, 2011
- **Daylight-Saving Time begins, March 13, 2011**
- Second Sunday in Lent, March 20, 2011
- First Day of Spring, March 20, 2011
- Third Sunday in Lent, March 27, 2011

The Significance of Lent

Lent is the fourth season of the Christian year. Its length is the 40 days preceding Easter Day, not counting Sundays. This means Lent always begins on a Wednesday, known as Ash Wednesday.

Lent commemorates Jesus' fast and temptation in the wilderness of Judea Province, which, according to the Gospel, lasted 40 days. Just as Jesus confronted his temptations during these 40 days, Lent helps Christians focus on our most basic need as sinners: forgiveness.

The only way our Lord's forgiving power can become effective in our lives is by our taking the initiative to confront our sins, confess them and repent of them. In short, Lent is a season of penitence.

Some Christians fast during Lent. This denial of bodily comforts can help encourage self-reflection about the need for Jesus' forgiveness.

Articles this page: Newsletter Newsletter

Repent - a Worthy Word for Lent

What pops into your mind when you hear the word "repent"? Is it a dark and somber word for you, perhaps reminding you of John the Baptist's shouting for people to repent and be baptized?

What does the word "repent" mean anyway? Literally, it means to stop the way one is going, turn around, and then walk in the opposite direction. It refers to turning away from sin and shallow living and to begin walking through life following God's direction.

Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 9, 2011, is an opportunity to check our spiritual condition, to repent (if needed) and to walk more faithfully with our Lord.

If we take Lent seriously, we can begin to discover a new vision for life – a more joyous way to live. Lent can enable us to discover the immeasurable benefits of living the Christian life passionately.