



# THE CHIMES

THE NEWSLETTER 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

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March 2012

From the Pastor

Lately I have been thinking about prayer. You might ask, “Don’t you think about prayer all the time?” The answer to that would be that even though the Apostle Paul told us to pray constantly, very few of us (myself included) can live up to that standard. Rather, I find that I pray when I think of someone who stands in the need of prayer or I pray when I hear of an event I am concerned about or I pray when I am requested to do so. I pray whenever I see and hear an ambulance on the way to the hospital. I pray at some point during the day when I feel my strength, courage or joy ebbing. While all that is the case, I have been thinking about prayer lately as well as actually praying.

What is prayer? Prayer, I believe, is a conversation with God. A prayer can involve thanksgiving, praise, petition or a plea for God’s help. But prayer is a two-part process, so it is also important to be still and listen for God’s participation in the prayer. Prayer is gentle: it can calm a person in pain or bring peace at the time of death. Prayer is powerful: it can bring strength, courage in the face of danger or healing which needs to take place, even if the healing cannot be physical. In many ways, prayer is the lifeblood of our faith as it brings a valuable and conscious

connection with our God.

Many people tell me that they do not know how to pray. I ask them if they know how to carry on a conversation. If the answer is, “yes,” then I tell them that they can pray. Often times we do not know what to pray for and it is then that the Apostle Paul’s words again come back to us, reminding us that we can also pray with “sighs too deep for words.” When the need to pray is present, anyone can pray.

I have a formula for prayer, which I try to use if I am not in an emergency situation. First of all, I thank God for my life and for all the blessings God has given me. I praise God for His gracious works in the world. Then I pray for the people of whom I am aware that stand in the need of prayer. Then I pray for the world and the people of the world, most of whom I do not know. I always include a prayer for the men and women who serve our country around the world. Then I pray for myself, that I may have the grace to live a life of faith. My pattern varies from time to time, but for the most part this formula works for me. At the end of my prayer, I leave time for silence and consciously breathing in and out, awaiting God’s “answer,” which may or may not fulfill my expectations.

One of the things a church is called to do is to pray. I do not know what your private prayers contain, but I know that when we pray as a congregation during our worship service I feel a power among us, a spark of "faith electricity" that moves through the rows of pews and through the chancel. When we share our joys and concerns I can sense the real needs of our congregation that day. My pastoral prayer is always an attempt to address the needs that are raised in a way that everyone can respond and relate to. We have prayed for something as profound as comfort after the loss of a loved one and for something as seemingly simple as a family pet that is ill. All prayers count in the eyes of God. I am grateful that I serve a congregation that prays.

Several months ago a young lady in our congregation, Carolyn Graber, was moved to make a box that she hoped would contain prayer concerns of our congregation. She wanted to give us a place to put our joys and concerns. She decorated the box beautifully and included a slit in the top of the box where you can place the paper that contains your prayer concern. I am so grateful to her for understanding our need to pray both for ourselves and others. Every few days I check the box and, from time to time, I find a prayer concern. I then pause and pray for that person and include that person in my prayers for the next several days. If it is appropriate, I include the prayer concern in the Sunday prayers as well. Please use the box (which is on the table in the Narthex) for your joys and concerns if you are so moved. Also, please remember to share your needs for prayer during our worship services. It is that important to pray.

May God, who hears our prayers, give you joy and peace for the living of your lives.

Sandra M. Reed

## **Our Journey through the Days of Lent**

"We observe Lent because it causes us to STOP. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile." Lent says, "Stop doing wrong."

We observe Lent because it tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ with healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.

We observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words are important for our safety in travel, but they may also be helpful for our journey through the days of Lent."

Source: Newsletter Newsletter



## **One Great Hour of Sharing, Sharing Resources and Changing Lives**

Can you believe it? We are already on our way into the 3rd Trimester of Sunday School! Do you know what that means? We are that much closer to....SUMMER!!

This last month was full of great things in the Christian Education. Our youth participated in collecting cans and funds to donate to the local Bar Harbor Food Pantry for Souper Bowl Sunday. They did a wonderful job and many people will be blessed by the generous donations of over 50 pounds of food and \$113 from our awesome church family!

The very next weekend, our entire youth group spent time together creating Valentine's Day cards for the college kids and shut ins. Our kids spent time and effort making sure each card had a heartfelt message of love and caring for the recipient.

The last weekend of our trimester, we "marked" our last class together by distributing hymnal markers to fill all the hymnals in our pews. With smiles and fun, our kids helped "mark" the end of the 2nd trimester and soon we will be entering our 3rd!

Thank you for staying up with us and continuing to support our ever-growing Christian Education!

Happily,  
Amanda Ward  
Christian Education Coordinator

One Great Hour of Sharing provides support to health, education, refugee, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries, by working with local, national, and international partners. When you make a gift to the offering on Sunday, March 18, you become a partner in the refugee, disaster relief, and community development efforts of the United Church of Christ. For over 65 years, Christians in North America have changed lives with their gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. In 2010, the UCC received \$2,822,878 for this special mission.

Share the joy when your gift makes a difference in someone's day and changes their life. As the scriptures taught us, "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in very good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8)

We will distribute a Sharing Calendar and collection box to the children in order for them to learn about the conditions of the less fortunate and how their saved money will be used to help improve their lives.

OGHS offering envelopes will be received on March 18, but we will allow a few weeks before our church donation is sent to the mission headquarters. You may also make on-line contributions and acquire more information at [www.ucc.org/oghs](http://www.ucc.org/oghs).

Your Outreach Board

## Prayers for the Second through Fifth Week of Lent

### Second Sunday in Lent

"God so loved the world" that God gave us Jesus...the heart of God was moved by love to give us the greatest gift ever given. In response to that love, we bring our gifts this day as a sign of our gratitude for all that God has given us, and all that God is doing in this world that God continues to love so much.

### Third Sunday in Lent

A woman gave Jesus a cup of water at the well, and in return he opened her eyes and her heart to "the gifts of God." God surprises us, too, in so many ways, each day of our lives. Let our generosity this morning, in support of all that God is doing through the ministry of this church, be a blessing that goes out and transforms the world in surprising and unexpected ways.

### Fourth Sunday in Lent

**(One Great Hour of Sharing®)**

We come to church in this season of Lent with hope to see things, our lives, in a new light. We come to be transformed and to participate in the transformation of the world that God loves so much. Let's bring our gifts this morning in support of the ministry of [this] church, so we will be a shining of light of hope in this place. And let's also bring our generous gifts to One

Great Hour of Sharing® so we can, together, participate in changing lives around the world.

### Fifth Sunday in Lent

Living water, the ability to see, new life...the stories of Jesus in this Lenten season are all about giving, including the gift of Jesus himself. We hear the call this morning to respond to God's giving with our gifts, too, because God works through us to bring new life, new hope to the world.

Source: United Church of Christ

## Congratulations

Earl Brechlin and his team have done it once again. "The *Mount Desert Islander* was named the best weekly newspaper in New England in the Class 1 division at the annual meeting of the New England Newspaper and Press Association here Saturday.

The honor was among a total of 17 awards won by the paper for editorial, advertising, photographic and design excellence."

Source: *Mount Desert Islander*



Our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends on the loss of:

Jim MacLeod

and

Beatrice (BeaLou) Horner

# Spring HAS Sprung

Make this craft to capture the beauty of God's creation in springtime.

## What you need:

- White glue that dries clear
- White watercolor paper
- Black fine-point permanent marker
- Watercolors
- Paint brush
- Water bowl
- Paper towels



## What you do:

1. With glue, draw a picture on watercolor paper of flowers and other things in God's creation we see in spring. Keep lines fairly big and simple, without many small details.
2. After the glue dries, use a fine-point permanent marker to trace the glue lines.
3. Paint your picture with watercolors for a stained-glass effect.



## SIGNS OF *Rebirth*

Isaiah 35 describes the rebirth of a dry land when Jesus returns, as well as the signs of God's beautiful creation at springtime.

Directions: Solve each math problem. Then write the words in order, from smaller numbers to larger numbers, in the spaces below.

- |                         |                            |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| bloom $6+1=$ ____       | blossom $2 \times 2=$ ____ | rejoice $4 \times 2=$ ____ |
| burst $3+3=$ ____       | wilderness $2+1=$ ____     | joy $5+5=$ ____            |
| crocus $3+2=$ ____      | desert $1 \times 0=$ ____  | parched $0+1=$ ____        |
| glad $2 \times 1=$ ____ | shout $10-1=$ ____         |                            |



"The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ land will be \_\_\_\_\_; the \_\_\_\_\_ will rejoice and \_\_\_\_\_. Like the \_\_\_\_\_, it will \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_; it will \_\_\_\_\_ greatly and \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_."

*Isaiah 35:1-2, NIV*

Answers:  
 "The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and shout for joy.  
 Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy."

# March 2012

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mason Gurtler
- 1 Barbara Moulton
- 1 David Lind
- 2 Cas Dowden
- 3 Jill Pelletier
- 4 Maddie Langley
- 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
- 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

## March 11, 2012



## Sunday Worship Contributors

**Head Deacon –** Lindsay Shopland  
**Assistant Deacon –** Norma Spurling

### Liturgists-

- 4: Doug Lee
- 11:
- 18:
- 25:

### Flowers –

- 4: Lucille Campbell
- 11: Roxie & Earl Brechlin
- 18: Jan Varnum
- 25: George & Billie Mitchell

### Coffee Hosts -

- 4:
- 11:
- 18:
- 25:

### Home Bible Readings -

- 4 Genesis 17:1-7,15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 9:2-9
- 11 Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22
- 18 Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21
- 25 Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 119:9-16  
Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33

# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> <b>Bible Study</b> <b>10:00</b>  March on Mt.Desert 5:15  Adult Choir 7:00	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>Worship and</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>10:00 am</b>  Alleluia Choir 11:30	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Cub Scouts 4:30 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  <b>Bible Study</b> <b>10:00</b>  Adult Choir 7:00	<b>9</b>  C.E. Game Night Potluck 6:00	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>Worship and</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>10:00 am</b>  Alleluia Choir 11:30  Girl Scouts 2:00	<b>12</b>  Called To Care 7:00	<b>13</b>  Scouts Pack 6:00 pm  Outreach Board 7:00	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Bible Study</b> <b>10:00</b>  Trustees 5:30  Adult Choir 7:00	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>Worship and</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>One Great Hour of</b> <b>Sharing Offering</b>  Alleluia Choir 11:30	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Cub Scouts 4:30 pm	<b>21</b>  Chimes articles due  Deacons 7:00	<b>22</b>  <b>Bible Study</b> <b>10:00</b>  Adult Choir 7:00	<b>23</b>  <b>All Souls</b> <b>Retreat</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>All Souls</b> <b>Retreat</b>
<b>25</b>  <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 am</b>  Family Sunday	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Cub Scouts 4:30 pm	<b>28</b>  Church Council 7:00	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

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**Special Dates:**

- World Day of Prayer, March 2, 2012
- Second Sunday in Lent, March 4, 2012
- Third Sunday in Lent, March 11, 2012
- Daylight-Saving Time begins,  
March 11, 2012
- Girl Scout Sunday, March 11, 2012
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 18, 2012
- First Day of Spring, March 20, 2012
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 25, 2012

**I believe in the church**

I believe more profoundly in the church every hour that I live. We can make our money and our witness go further through the church than through any independent movement. We can do more constructive work through the church than any other way in the world. That is my deepest conviction. I have watched all kinds of independent movements, and my conviction steadily deepens that Christians are doing the wisest thing possible when we link our lives with the church.

—George W. Truett (1867-1944),  
Baptist pastor

**In gratitude of God's love**

Dear God,  
Jesus taught us the depth of your love, a love that he demonstrated:  
A love that accepts others, all others, not just some;  
A love that respects others, all others, not just some;  
A love that helps others, all others, not just some;  
A love that forgives others, not just some.

Thank you, God,  
For letting us see love in action,  
Feel the presence of love in the depths of our being,  
Experience love in real time,  
Hear love spoken in words that resonate sincerity  
And provide comfort, love being lived,  
Love at its lovingest, the Cross.

Thank you, God, for Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

—Dr. Mahlon Miller