



The Courier

Charlotte Congregational Church, UCC • March 2015

Dear Friends,

The month of March begins on the Second Sunday of Lent and ends on Tuesday of Holy Week. In between is ample opportunity to delve more deeply into spiritual practices that center your life more fully in God or center God more fully in your life. The three Christian Lenten practices that have been engaged down through the ages are prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

ALMSGIVING: This month give something more, something extra, that stretches you beyond your comfort zone for the sake of a greater good in our community or world. We are fundraising for solar panels for the church, the Food Shelf is lower on funds than they have been in past years, and the LUND family Center continues to do remarkable things for the sake of young mothers and pregnant teens, to name just a few immediate opportunities.

FASTING: This month fast from food for a day to remember those who are hungry, fast from electronics and do something creative with the time, fast from any excessive habit and collect the money that you would normally have spent and practice almsgiving.

PRAYER: This month come to worship with us on Sunday mornings, carve out a little daily time for devotional reading and to pray for others, test the waters of Christian meditation or Centering Prayer, come have a drive-by prayer at the church with myself or Rev. Cooke Kittredge.

The first day of April will be Thursday of Holy Week, when we will hold our traditional Maundy Thursday service and begin our 19-hour Vigil in the sanctuary. Claim an hour for yourself to host, wait, and pray in the sanctuary and reflect upon where this Lent and your practices have brought you.

May God bless you in this Lenten journey so that you may be a blessing to others.

Rev. Will Burhans

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES WORKSHOP

On **THURSDAY MARCH 12TH AT 10 AM** in the Vestry, Cindy Bruzzese, Executive Director of the Vermont Ethics Network, will lead a workshop on preparing Advance Directives for Health Care. If you have not yet prepared your directives, this is an excellent opportunity to learn how to do so. Even if you already have directives, changes in laws and protocols and your own desires make it important to reexamine them every year. Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors; everyone is welcome. Cindy will bring all necessary forms with her but it would be very useful to look at them in advance. She will discuss the difference between the two forms and will also bring along

copies of the out-of-hospital DNR/COLST order for those who have questions about CPR and do-not-resuscitate orders.

Below are the links to the documents.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge: scookekitt@mac.com, 985-5617.

Short Form: www.vtethicsnetwork.org/forms/advance-directive-short-form.pdf
 Appointing an Agent: www.vtethicsnetwork.org/forms/appointing-a-health-care-agent-form-2014.pdf

Charlotte Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Embraced by the healing love of Jesus Christ and inspired by his teachings, we commit ourselves to prayerful, compassionate, and courageous action in the world.



Rev. Will Burhans, Senior Pastor

Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge, Associate Pastor

Julia Blocksma, Music Director

Kim Findlay, Communications/Administrative Support

Karen Speidel, Bookkeeper



The Courier is published monthly, except for the summer months when June, July, and August are combined into a Summer edition.

To subscribe by either email or snail mail, please contact us at charlotteucc@gmavt.net or call 802-425-3176.

The Episcopal Church in Vermont and The Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ invite you to:

RECALCULATING THE WAY II: RECALCULATING WORSHIP
 March 14th, 2015
 Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT
 Registration is now open! Visit tinyurl.com/recalc2

Keynote Speaker:
 The Rev. Michael Piazza, director for Congregational Vitality for The Center for Progressive Renewal

Featuring
 •Keynote presentations
 •TED Talks
 •Small group experimentation and experiences

Cost (including lunch & breakfast): \$20
 •Teams of 4-6 people from each church are encouraged to attend, and individuals also welcome!

Bring your creativity with you to a day geared toward experiencing, recalculating, and hearing about evolving ways to worship and expand participation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PASSION VIGIL

After the Tenebrae service on Holy Thursday we will begin a vigil in the sanctuary that will last until 3 pm on Friday afternoon, the time Jesus died.

You are invited to sign up for an hour—or more if you like. In this way we will, as a worshipping community, hold a vigil of presence and prayer through the long last night of Jesus’ life. We read in Matthew’s gospel that Jesus was “grieved and agitated,” saying to Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, “I am deeply grieved, even to death, remain here, and stay awake with me.” But we know what happened; the disciples got tired and fell asleep and finding them Jesus said, “Could you not stay awake with me one hour?” (Matt 26:38-40)

And so we hold this vigil to say, “Yes, we can stay awake with you one hour. It would be an honor.”

If you’d like to bring a friend with you, by all means do so. The church will be open to everyone throughout the 19 hour vigil for prayer and reflection. The sign-up sheet is in the sanctuary during worship and in the vestry during the week, right outside the office. You may call Kim in the office to sign up as well at 425-3176.

RECALCULATING THE WAY II

On **SATURDAY MARCH 14TH** the Vermont Conference, UCC is hosting a workshop at the Lake Morey Inn with Michael Piazza from The Center for Progressive Renewal. Since we are one of the churches in Vermont that has partnered with Michael to explore ways to enliven and grow our church, this event will be particularly relevant to us. Please consider joining us for the day. This workshop is filling up and registration is required. See below for more information or contact Rev. Susan: scookekitt@mac.com, 985-5617.

RAISE YOUR VOICE FOR EASTER!

The CCC choir invites you to join us for the special music we are planning for our Easter services. We would love to have a few more sopranos and tenors, but all vocal parts are most welcome. The choir rehearses every Thursday evening from 7-8 pm. You don't have to come to every rehearsal. Please consider sharing your talent this season. Contact Julia Blocksma, the choir director, at julia.blocksma@gmail.com, or (802) 989-8376.

Thank you!



WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION!



NOAH'S ARK

IS BOARDING

AGAIN IN APRIL!



Jake Louis McDonald



DON'T FORGET TO VISIT

OUR WEBSITE

WWW.CHARLOTTEUCC.ORG

FOR NEWS AS IT HAPPENS, SPECIAL

EVENTS, VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS,

AND ALL THINGS CCC!

CCC YOUTH GROUPS



MIDDLES YOUTH GROUP

Join us **SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH** for a visit with the Benedictine monks of the Weston Priory for the 11:30 Eucharist service.

Contact Elizabeth for details if you can join us for this day trip.



The Weston Priory



KIDS COOK!

We will not be meeting this month.



SENIOR YOUTH GROUP

We will meet on **SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH AT 3 PM** at Susan and Charlie's house. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me: scookekitt@mac.com, 985-5617. Rev. Susan

ON THE CALENDAR

FREE COMMUNITY SUPPER

Please join us for our monthly Community Free Supper on **WEDNESDAY MARCH 18TH AT 5 PM** in the Vestry. Bring your family and friends and step into the warmth and welcome of our church. If you would be willing to help cook and serve this supper please contact Rev. Susan: scookekitt@mac.com, 985-5617.



ANNUAL MEETING will be on **MARCH 8TH**, after church.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Brunch Bunch will meet on **SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST AT 11:45 AM** at the Dutch Mill in Shelburne. Please let Ann know if you would like to be included in the reservation (985-9884).

The Breakfast Bunch gathers **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH AT 9 AM** at the Trader Duke's in South Burlington.



CENTERING PRAYER

It's not too late to join our on-going centering prayer group practice on Tuesday evenings from 7:15-8:15 PM. We are currently reading out loud Cynthia Bourgeault's *Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening*, sharing about our individual daily practices, and praying together. Please see Rev. Will if you are interested and he (or someone else from the group) can share with you the particularities of this practice.

HOLY WEEK *and* EASTER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

***Palm/Passion Sunday Service* • 10:00 AM**

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

***Maundy Thursday Service* • 7:00 PM**

A contemplative communion service in the vestry to place our hearts and minds upon Jesus' last night with his disciples before his death.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

***19 Hour Vigil* • 8:00 PM to Friday, April 3, 3:00 PM**

Members of the congregation are invited to sign-up individually or in pairs to keep hour-long vigils throughout the night and day.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

***Easter Egg Hunt* • 1:00 PM**

Bring your children to hunt for Easter eggs at the church.

(Bring eggs to vestry by 11:00 AM.)

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5

***Easter Sunrise Service* • meet in the parking lot at 6:00 AM.**

We will walk through the cemetery to the top of the hill (bring mud boots!) to celebrate the resurrection of Christ and a new day.

***Early Easter Service* • 9:00 AM**

A joyous celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

(no church school today)

***Late Easter Service* • 11:00 AM**

The same joyous celebration.



MARCH 2015 CALENDAR

sunday 1

- WORSHIP, 10 AM
- COMMUNION
- BRUNCH BUNCH, 11:45 AM

monday 2

- DEACON'S MTG., 5:15 PM

tuesday 3

- CENTERING PRAYER, 7:15 PM

thursday 5

- BOOK GROUP, 10 AM
- CHOIR PRACTICE, 7-8 PM

sunday 8

- DAYLIGHT SAVINGS!
- WORSHIP, 10 AM
- MIDDLES YOUTH GROUP DAYTRIP
- ANNUAL MEETING

tuesday 10

- CASA MTG., 8:30 AM
- CENTERING PRAYER, 7:15 PM

wednesday 11

- CABINET MEETING, 6:30 PM

thursday 12

- BOOK GROUP, 10 AM
- CHOIR PRACTICE, 7-8 PM

sunday 15

- WORSHIP, 10 AM

tuesday 17

- CENTERING PRAYER, 7:15 PM

wednesday 18

- BREAKFAST BUNCH, 9 AM
- FREE COMMUNITY SUPPER, 5 PM

thursday 19

- BOOK GROUP, 10 AM
- CHOIR PRACTICE, 7-8 PM

sunday 22

- WORSHIP, 10 AM

tuesday 24

- CENTERING PRAYER, 7:15 PM

thursday 26

- BOOK GROUP, 10 AM
- CHOIR PRACTICE, 7 PM

sunday 29

- PALM/PASSION SUNDAY
- SENIOR YOUTH GROUP, 3 PM

monday 30

- DEACON'S MEETING, 5:15 PM

OTHER EVENTS

2015 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
 • LENTEN SOUP & SPEAKER SERIES •
 OPEN MY EYES, LORD

In this season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, let us strive to more deeply understand that the needs of all are the responsibility of all in the Body of Christ.

MARCH 9TH – Mary Beth Pinard, Executive Director of Catholic Charities, and Denise Payea, Controller and Director of Professional Services at Catholic Charities, will discuss the diverse services that their organizations provide to individuals and families in our communities.

MARCH 16TH – Mark Redmond, Executive Director of Spectrum Youth Services in Burlington, will speak about his experiences with young people in crisis.

MARCH 23RD – Becky Holt, Development & Communications Director at the Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS), will tell the stories of actual families and individuals, not just an anonymous “homeless population”.

An optional soup supper will be served at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall. Speakers at 7 PM. Please join us!

Please RSVP to marietcookson@aol.com if you plan to attend so we'll cook enough!

THE SILK ROAD

Journey to Iran and follow the Silk Road with Aileen and Bob Chutter as they present a slide show and talk. In November, they followed major trading routes from the 'stans to Tehran, traversing the country from East to West and South to North. Bob and Aileen learned that the local people share concern about what's ahead and feel they are at the mercy of the government.

March 4TH at 1 PM and 7 PM

CHARLOTTE SENIOR CENTER