



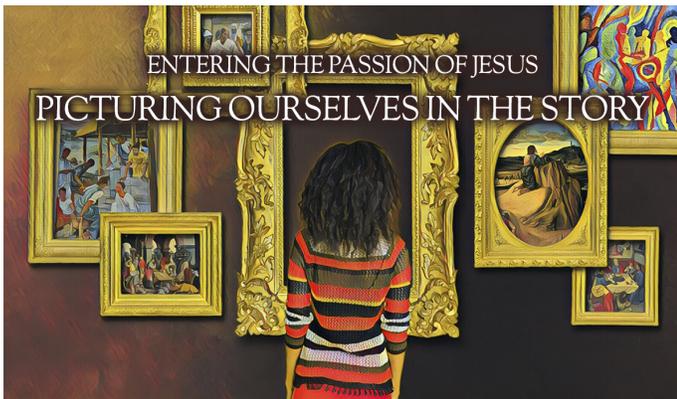
The Clapper



**SECOND CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
The Rev. Brad Hirst, Pastor**

March 2020
www.2ccucc.org
207.439.3903

Lenten Worship Series:



Here at Second Christian we are beginning another Sunday Lenten Worship Series. Many of us found great meaning in the worship series we enjoyed in the past: *Gifts of the Dark Wood* and *Listen (Lent)* and *God Bless Us, Every One (Advent)*, so we thought we'd stretch ourselves again. Author Marcia McFee describes *Entering the Passion of Jesus* this way:

"The events of Christ's Passion, which take place during the last week of Jesus' life, often don't receive enough time in our worship and study. These stories are important to our faith journey and our identity as followers of Jesus, and yet we often move too quickly from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday with little time to take in the dramatic story of that last week. Throughout the six weeks of Lent we will "freeze-frame" moments in Holy Week so we might put ourselves in the picture, thereby "Entering the Passion of Jesus." How might taking a closer look at the ancient story open us to deeper conviction for our role in its ongoing message? Inspired by Amy-Jill Levine's book by the same name." (A few copies are available to borrow)

Please plan to worship with us this Lent as we walk with Jesus through those final days in Jerusalem – and find our own place in the story. And, as always, invite a friend!

One Great Hour of Sharing

In the church, we often talk about the virtues of "servant leadership." That term describes church leaders who model their ministry after Jesus: who stooped to wash the feet of his disciples, who served them at the table, and who prayed for them faithfully even in his final hours.

God invites each one of us to lead by serving, to share freely of our gifts so that God may work through us.



In choosing to humbly give their gifts, "servant-leaders" become channels of God's healing love, so that all may enjoy the powerful experience of shared value, worth, and investment.

None of us can solve all the problems of the world alone, or even as individual churches. We are called to use the time, talent, and resources we have been given for the task before us. In so doing, we have the joyful opportunity to participate in the growth God is already providing in the world.

One Great Hour of Sharing works through a global network of partners, so that none of us has to work alone. Strong relationships are at the heart of this shared ministry, recognizing that true servant leadership empowers each person and community to use the gifts they've been given.

We will be receiving our offerings for One Great Hour of Sharing throughout the month of March. **Invest in futures!** Please give generously!

From the Pastor

Late Winter 2020

Dear Friends,

The season after Epiphany was *long* this year – not as long as it *could* have been,

but still a season of light that seemed to go on, and on, and on... So Lent has arrived a little later than usual because Easter arrives late. Well, at least it *seems* as though they arrive late. Easter is not a fixed date, as is Christmas, because it's determined not by *our* calendar but by the *lunar* calendar; not by *human* time but *creation's* time – the *Creator's* time.

So we are now in March, but are just now stepping into our Lenten journey. The month of March has always confounded me – particularly up here in Maine. The days are getting longer and the late winter sun is warm, but the nights can turn bitter cold. The snow persists, everything seems gray and dead. Limbs and twigs dropped over the winter are scattered around the yard. I'm ready for Spring, but must wait, and my patience is tested.

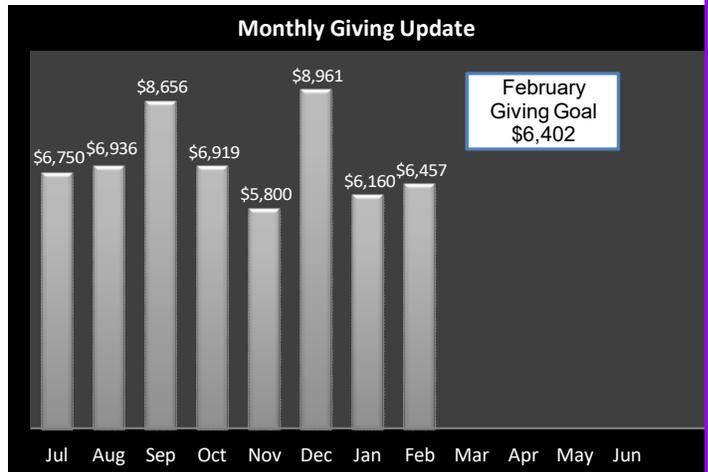
Lent is traditionally a time of testing, a time of reflection and renewal, self-examination and preparation. It's a time of wanting and waiting, a time of giving up and taking on; a time when we walk with Jesus as he confronts the powerful and gathers in the lost. In Lent – especially *this* Lent, we will walk with Jesus through the trials of Holy Week, a journey that invites us to see ourselves in the stories we know and love.

Our worship series this Lent asks us to see ourselves in the big Story we share – to risk putting ourselves alongside Jesus: to take a stand for justice; to speak truth to power; to welcome the outcast and oppressed. We are asked to put ourselves on the line to create the just world God has envisioned for all creation.

I urge you all – over these next weeks especially – to come worship with your church family. Take advantage of this season of preparation and do the risky work of renewal – for ourselves, for our church, for this community, and for our world. And, as always, this Sunday is a really good time to bring a friend!

See you in Church,

Brad



The vertical bars represent the actual offerings received each month, as of Feb. 23, 2020.

Spring is Coming!

March 8: *Spring Ahead!* Set your clocks **AHEAD ONE HOUR** before bed on Saturday March 7, so you don't miss worship on Sunday morning!

March 20: The First Day of Spring!

Going Out

Going Out: We donated \$60 for Footprints Food Pantry. Our Super Bowl Subs raised \$400 for Table of Plenty. Thank you to all who helped assemble them and the rest of the meals. We made 72 subs and meals in about an hour and had a great time. What a team!

Table of Plenty: Our team is scheduled for March 12. We meet downstairs at St. Raphael's Church about 3:30 and usually have finished preparing, serving, and cleaning up by 6:15 p.m. If you're interested in joining us, see Laurie Rowan.

Hearts & Crafts

Our crafting group gathers on the second Saturday every month, from 9-10:30. All disciplines and experience are welcome!

We hope to see you on March 14!

Book Club

As the Page Turns will meet Thursday March 19 at 6:30. We will be discussing *When the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens and look forward to having you join us! And remember to bring a friend!

Deacons Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2020

Present: Ernie and Sharon Wiswell, Sue Czarnionka, John and Diana Marzinzik, Brad Hirst, Linda Wentworth, and Laurie Rowan. January minutes were approved.

Visitations: It was recommended that we set up a schedule to check on shut-ins regularly and bring them meals from Table of Plenty. Diana has been helping a single mom.

Safety Plan: The new Knox Box for the Fire Department were installed at the church. AED training will be given at church by Stewart's Ambulance. Sue suggested we offer a CPR certification course.

Reaching New People: Our Super Bowl subs were delivered to Stewart's Ambulance Crew, the Police Department, and those on duty at the Shipyard Gate. A platter of heart-shaped cookies was left for the Seacoast Gay Men's meeting and Wednesday's AA meeting. Cookies will also be given to our House for Me residents. An Edible Arrangement will be given to Lil's to thank them for their donations to our Coffee Time.

Dawn Boyer will design a banner celebrating our ten years of Jazz Sundays for the side of the church so those driving by can see it.

Honoring Individuals: Diana suggested we honor the Hearts and Crafts Ladies.

Sabbatical Update: Brad will be on sabbatical from Sept 8 through Oct 8, with Maren Tirabassi as our pulpit supply minister. She will also preach on August 23.

Night Kitchen had a record number of attendees this month.

New Business: Diana invited St. Mark's Methodist Church to join us at Fort Foster on July 12. She will also contact Pastor Bill Humphrey. Diana suggested we have a supper meeting now and then. Brad suggested going to a local restaurant. Brad spoke about the Lenten Worship Series. We will need several readers and volunteers with a flair for art.

Upcoming events:

Palm Sunday, April 5

Maundy Thursday, April 9 – Communion

Good Friday, April 10

Easter, April 12

Respectfully submitted, Laurie Rowan

Church Council Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by President Tom Baran; prayer by Pastor Brad. Present: Brad Hirst, Alan Robinson, Charlie Donnell, Laurie Rowan, Ernie Wiswell, Don Tirabassi, John Marzinzik, Linda Baran, Tom Baran, Priscilla deRochemont, Kathy Runey. Absent were Dawn Boyer and Kathy Maloney. The minutes of January 23, 2020 were accepted as written. The Treasurers report was presented by Charlie Donnell with several clarifications. It was accepted for audit.

Unfinished Business: The safety team has been working on updating the locks. The Vitality Team has been busy reaching out to neighbors and friends. Alan has met with a contractor to review kitchen renovation. We will be meeting with him on March 3, 2020 at 2 PM to discuss his proposal.

Alan and Ernie are working on plans for the pastor's new study as well as reconfiguring the office area. They are also working on the space under the steeple for storage. It was voted to spend up to \$500.00 on the (closet) project for supplies.

New Business: The parking lot hang tags will be usable until June 30th and then registration plate numbers will be used to identify Church member's autos.

Team Updates: Deacons - Several Church members are helping our shut-ins. They are visiting and seeing that needs are being met. Good Friday service will be held at the First Parish Federated in So. Berwick. Trustees – Alan has prepared a work in progress report and projected projects to be done.

Welcoming - Linda continues to fill welcome bags. So far this year she and Cherie have fill 22 bags.

Communications – Kathy Maloney has asked for a leave of absence. It was granted with regret.

Learning – Don mentioned the wonderful write-up on Mike Effenberger in the newspaper "Edge". The book club is reading "*Where the Crawdads Sing*" by Delia Owens. They will meet on March 19th. He also mentioned the wonderful Lenten series.

Going Out – We raised \$60.00 in the souper bowl pot for Footprints and \$400.00 from the subs that went to Table of Plenty. March 12th is the next time that we serve at Table of Plenty. Several women from Church helped serve the Turkey Supper at the FPFC in support of the Women's Retreat. \$ 400. was raised.

Stewardship – John reminded us that the campaign will begin in late April to early May.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

M. Priscilla deRochemont, Scribe

Second Sunday Jazz

Our featured artist for March will be **Esperanza Spalding**, an American jazz bassist, singer, songwriter, and composer. Her accolades include four Grammy Awards, a Boston Music Award, and a Soul Train Music Award.

A native of Portland, Oregon, Spalding began playing music professionally in her childhood, performing as a violinist in the Chamber Music Society of Oregon at age five. She was later both self-taught and trained on a number of instruments, including guitar and bass. Her proficiency earned her academic scholarships to Portland State University and the Berklee College of Music.

In addition to writing and performing music, Spalding has also served as an instructor, first at the Berklee College of Music, her alma mater, beginning at age 20. In 2017, Spalding was appointed professor of the Practice of Music at Harvard University.

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Notes of Thanks...

Thank you so much – a very pleasant surprise and eagerly devoured! *Susan A secretary Wednesday Morning AA* (Valentine cookies delivered)

A special thank you to Paulette Beers for providing her homemade goodies for our Coffee Time from everyone at 2CCUCC. *Kitchen Staff*

Wow! 2CCUCC, Pastor Brad, John and Diana Marzinzik, and Deacons honored the Doorkeepers with a delicious lunch following our worship service. Beautiful flowers adorned the tables and corsages were given to us. Being a Doorkeeper for many years, I want to thank each and everyone that contributed to this recognition.

Wilma Wheeler

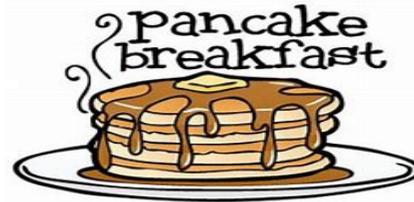
St. Patrick's Day Dinner

The Kittery Fire Department and Kittery Rotary After Hours is once again hosting a St. Patrick's Day traditional boiled dinner on Sunday March 15 at the Gorges Road Fire Station from 3:00-6:00pm. The cost is \$12.00 per person.

Night Kitchen 2.0

Please join us Sunday March 8 in the Parlor at 7:00 pm for another seeker-friendly discussion. For more info, or to suggest a topic for discussion, contact Linnea Schroder at linneadschroeder@gmail.com

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 The Kittery/York Lions Club is hosting a Pancake Breakfast with all the fixin's, and the proceeds will be going to "A House for ME"



**Saturday March 21
 7:30 AM – 11:00 AM**

Kittery Lions Club 117 State Rd.
 Adults \$7.00 Children \$3.00 includes pancakes, sausage, eggs, baked beans, toast, orange juice



and coffee, tea or hot chocolate.

**Kittery Rotary Club
Senior Dinner!**

Sunday March 29 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Spaghetti Pie Dinner at the Frisbee Common Kittery Community Center with entertainment by Alan Robinson.

RSVP 207 703 4312 or here at the church office or email at dbgkcg@aol.com

Free for all local seniors (and drivers where applicable.)

