



APRIL 2011

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CONGREGATIONAL
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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday - Friday
9:00am - 12:00pm.

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:

Wed. 10am-noon; Thurs.
4-6pm; or by appointment

**Visit our web page at
www.tccucc.org**

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
MONDAY, APRIL 25 - NOON**

THE VISITOR

TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

275 Years at the Heart of the Community - With the Community in Our Hearts

Sunday School Easter News

There will be no Sunday School classes on Easter morning; the children will stay with their families during worship. We hope to see the children in Sunday School as often as possible during the Lenten season!

The traditional Easter Egg hunt will be held on Easter morning right after worship. All the children in the church are welcome to attend.



Linda Ireland, Minister for Education



EASTER FLOWERS

Help adorn our sanctuary with beautiful spring flowers for our Easter celebration! When the service is over you can take your flowers home – they make very pretty hostess gifts if you are having Easter dinner away from home.

The prices for these flowers are as follows:

Easter Lilies: 6.5" - \$11.98 ; 8" double - \$27.98 ; 10" triple - \$32.98

Daffodils: 4" - \$5.98 ; 6" - \$8.98

Tulips: 6" - \$8.98 ; 8" - \$16.98

A sign up sheet will be available in Fellowship Hall after worship services and orders can be placed through April 10. See

Judy Russell or contact the church office. Please leave your name, address, phone number, selection and color.

Judy Russell

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Townsend Congregational Church is seeking a part time administrator for approximately 12 – 15 hrs per week.

If you know someone who may be interested (non-member of TCC), please pass on the following link to the complete job posting on Craigslist at:
<http://boston.craigslist.org/nwb/ofc/2246884950.html>

HOLY WEEK



Holy Week takes

place during the week of April 18. This year our Methodist brothers and sisters will be offering the Maundy Thursday Service and we will be offering the Good Friday service. I will need some readers for a modified 'Stations of the Cross' service and would **REALLY** like to have some young people assist ... tweens and teens especially but younger children who are strong readers are also encouraged to get involved. (Perhaps they would get involved if their parents would! Think about it!!!) Please email or call Pastor Shayna if you can help out.



"Be not afraid" ... by Pastor Shayna

"Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.'" (Isaiah 35:4)

"Do not fear, for I am with you." (Isaiah 43:5)

"Do not be afraid...for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." (Jeremiah 1:8)

". . . Over the past 20 years, membership in the [Massachusetts] Conference has decreased 35%, the number of churches in the Conference has gone down 16%, and the Conference portion of your giving to Basic Support and Conference Dues has gone down 18% (in inflation adjusted dollars). These trends have forced the Conference - over the past five years - to reduce the staff funded by the operating budget as follows: our executive staff by 20%, our mid-level managers by 39%, and our support staff by 30%. Our five regional Associate Conference Ministers are working at the upper limit. These reductions have piled additional responsibilities onto our remaining mid-level-managers. And many of our remaining support staff serve 2 or 3 Associate Conference Ministers." (Jim Antal, Massachusetts Conference Minister, United Church of Christ)

If you have attended worship recently, an annual meeting, or read one of the church's newsletters you are no doubt aware of the fact that we at the Townsend Congregational Church are experiencing our fair share of economic challenges. But then, who isn't? In a recent e-mail to ministers within the Massachusetts Conference, Conference Minister Jim Antal outlined a picture of the challenges currently being faced at the Conference level (see above) and, not surprisingly, the picture he painted has a familiar feel to it!

At the last meeting of the congregation, TCC's leadership team was charged with putting the current deficit being forecasted by our Mission Spending Plan (MSP, or budget) before the larger congregation. Since fully one third of our congregation does not yet pledge, and only about one third of the congregation attends church meetings as a rule, and since many, many people have not yet discovered their call to give of their time and talent here, the thinking was that perhaps things were not as dire as they initially appeared! In other words, perhaps the deficit is less about a scarcity of resources and more about participation.

In light of the many things we have accomplished together and with the help of God, I am confident that *we will overcome*. What's more, I believe that the struggles before us could actually make us stronger both as a community of faith and as

individuals. All that's needed is for those who are not currently involved to get involved! Please, please, please ... if you are not yet a pledging partner of TCC please speak with Andy Gustafson, our Minister for Income. If you have not yet found a place to plug in your time and talent, please speak either with myself, one of the moderators (Jim Clish or Chris St. Jean), or one of our other ministers (Kathy Duckett, Gifts - Carole Gustafson, Outreach - Paul Martineau, Property - Linda Ireland, Christian Ed. - Carrie Davidson, Finance - Michelle Enright, Worship).

There is nothing in the overall picture we currently face at TCC that could not be eliminated with an increase in participation. Those already participating fully have demonstrated to us all already what a small group is capable of accomplishing. So, *Be not afraid* . . . but get thee involved!

Blessings & Shalom- Pastor Shayna



MINISTERS AT TOWNSEND UCC

(You may contact a minister if you would like to volunteer to help with the ministry or if you have questions.)

Income - Andy Gustafson (978) 597-6364
gustafsona@macucc.org

Finance - Carrie Davidson (978) 758-1961
carrie@davidsonanddavidson.com

Outreach - Carole Gustafson (978) 597-6364
carolegus@gmail.com

Christian Education - Linda Ireland (978) 870-7730
lindai2263@yahoo.com

Property - Paul Martineau (978) 300-5048
pjmcjm@comcast.net

Worship - Michelle Enright (978) 597-8012
miche@net1plus.com

Gifts - Kathy Duckett (978) 597-0028
llduckett@comcast.net



Celebrating a
APRIL: 2-Donald Hunt;
11-Pamela Allen; 12-Heather
MacNeil; 17-Glen MacNeil;
19-Mark Seifried; 20-Jennifer
Stadler; 25-Marcia Foote, Renée
Fossey and Jane Jackson; 28-Karen Baer



Family Work Camp at Oceanwood

Family Camping with a Mission!

July 24-30, 2011

Dear Family Campers:

Two campers who had never worked together before sang opera together in a tiny bathroom while painting the floor.....One crew, while laying a new floor composed a song to the tune of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean" that started out "My body lies over the toilet, there's glue on the sole of my shoe...".....One person learned that she could become the "world's living expert" at replacing screening with a pair of elementary school scissors.....The teenagers put on a "soap opera" at which the "bride" wore a veil of plastic soda can holders.....Fried dough became known as a gourmet specialty.....Twenty people listened with rapt attention to the annual retelling of the story of the "Wide Mouthed Frog."

Sound like fun? These are some memories from the thirty-two years of Family Work Camp at Oceanwood. However, Family Work Camp is more than happy family vacation memories, it's also:

- Enjoying the fellowship of an extended family of Christians
- Learning new skills and sharing a sense of accomplishment at the completion of a task
- Helping youth to learn to become "servant volunteers"
- Feeling a sense of ownership of a continuing Christian outreach to youth, families and people with special needs.

If this sounds like a special kind of vacation, then you should consider joining with us for Family Work Camp at ***Oceanwood*** this summer. Work Camp provides a unique opportunity for families to work together to create something to share with others -- to build or restore a part of ***Oceanwood*** in furtherance of the Camp's ministry. Work Camp is also a time for fellowship and fun for the entire family.

Projects

At this date, we have not set this year's project schedule; however, in the past our projects have included painting, roofing, electrical work, planting, raking, brush cutting, decorating, rough and finish carpentry. Sometimes projects present themselves the day we do them and sometimes we invent projects for a rainy day. We have big projects and plenty of "short jobs" which provide variety and a sense of accomplishment.

The Daily Schedule...

To be more specific about the program, the daily schedule of Family Work Camp consists of three and one-half hours (8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.) of project time and the rest of the day and evening for family fun, be it enjoying the seven miles of Old Orchard Beach, crafts, shopping at the area's flea markets and outlets, a trip to a water park, or any of the other opportunities for family fun in the Old Orchard Beach area. We try to include as many of the Camp's resources as our schedule permits. These "in-camp" programs have included nightly campfires, staff musical programs, family games, horseback riding, and the ever-popular *Oceanwood* swimming pool. Our Camp Pastor will lead campfire vespers each evening.... *bring your instruments and voices!*

We also have our own traditions, which include do-it-yourself cooking during the evening campfires and board games in the evenings. At Family Work Camp, we try to provide campers with the maximum amount of flexibility in their free time while providing opportunities for fellowship which are unlike many other programs.

The Site....

Family Work Campers reside in the Family Colony area of *Oceanwood*, which provides a secluded wooded setting for our twelve rustic cabins and central service building. We can accommodate a limited number of trailers, tents or RV's with water and electrical hook-ups. All campers take their meals at the R. A. Dining Hall. Evening child care is available to parents of young children.

Finally, we must add that the Camp expresses its gratitude for the work performed by offering the Family Work Camps at a reduced weekly camping rate.

To Register for Family Work Camp..

You need only fill out your application form (attached to the *Oceanwood* Family Camping program brochure) and send it to the address provided on the application along with the indicated registration fee. While Work Camp officially ends after the breakfast meal on Saturday, Family Work Camp participants are invited to stay overnight in their assigned cabins/campsites until Sunday morning. Meals after Saturday breakfast are part of the Midsummer Festival program and are charged accordingly.

Sincerely,

Karen and George Bruns

Kissy Schreiber

Kex Bruns

Family Work Camp Directors

The cost for the camp is \$250.00 per adult per week, and \$150.00 per child per week. There is no minimum age limit as programs are available during the morning work hours for small children. Older youth can choose between working or participating in programming.

IF YOU ARE AT ALL INTERESTED PLEASE E-MAIL PASTOR SHAYNA AT:

KShaynaAppel@gmail.com

NEW MEMBER CLASSES NOW AVAILABLE!

We will be offering new member classes regularly on the second Sunday of the month following worship. The next class is April 10, 2011. A light lunch will be provided and childcare can also be provided upon request. The closing date for registration is one week prior to the class. (In other words, the Sunday prior!) New member classes are for anyone wishing to join Townsend Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, or for anyone who has been a member for a while but is still unclear about how TCC's governance structure works, wants to know more about the history of the UCC or of TCC in particular!

Please contact Pastor Shayna (978-597-0157 or kshaynaappel@gmail.com) or Kathy Duckett, Minister for Gifts (duckettk@cs.com) or the church secretary (978-597-8925 or secretary@tccucc.org) to register! Sign-ups will also be available at worship.



HAS TCC GOT AUCTION FEVER? YOU BET!

TCC'S FOURTH ANNUAL AUCTION TO BE HELD SATURDAY MAY 7, 10:30 AM - PREVIEW 9 AM - IN FELLOWSHIP HALL. Once again Townsend Congregational Church will be looking for support from their members, friends and local businesses to donate goods and/or services as part of the church's annual fund-raising activities. All proceeds from the auction will go to support the continuing missions of Townsend Congregational Church.

Ron Pelletier of Brookline Auction Gallery will once again be our professional auctioneer for this event. Drop off for donations will be in Fellowship Hall the week prior to the auction, Sun. May 1 through Fri. May 6. Just to get you inspired, here's a suggested list of the items we accept: household goods and furniture, children's toys, indoor and outdoor games, bicycles, lawn and garden items, artwork, arts and crafts and hobby items are all welcome. So now's the time to think about getting some spring cleaning done around your house and donating all your unused items towards our annual auction!

Please note that we are not able to accept clothing (except vintage), upholstered furniture, and electronic items including computers.

Haven't got any "stuff" to donate? Well, how about donating a talent or service! Perhaps you are a talented cook and could donate a dinner party for six! Maybe you have sporting event

tickets you could give. Vacation home stays are especially popular! Perhaps you are talented at woodworking or quilting or card making. Donations of craft items or craft lessons are much appreciated. We are also accepting donations from our local businesses often in the form of gift certificates.

Help will be needed setting up for the auction the week prior and the day of the auction, auction runners and kitchen help to serve a light lunch from the church kitchen. If you have any questions about donations or are willing to help with the auction, please see Gretchen Churchville call home 978-597-5696, cell 978-877-1493 or email gchurchville@comcast.net



OUTREACH MINISTRY

One Great Hour of Sharing

One of the offerings we support through the outreach fund is One Great Hour of Sharing. OGHs provides for disaster relief, development assistance and refugee resettlement in 80 countries around the world. When an earthquake or other disaster strikes we can respond immediately through funds from OGHs. We continue working in areas long after the news cameras have moved on. We invite you to add to what our church already gives to OGHs by contributing generously to this offering on April 3rd. Your gifts will give you joy, others joy, and God joy.

Carole Gustafson, Minister for Outreach

Townsend Ecumenical Outreach

"Share your bread with the hungry and shelter the homeless poor . . . then will your light shine like dawn." We are collecting non-perishable food items, toiletries and household paper goods in the basket beneath the Communion table to help Townsend Ecumenical Outreach provide for those who are in need. There is always need for paper goods like towels, and toilet tissue, canned goods, and meal packages. There is an additional collection barrel at the rear of the sanctuary for your convenience.

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE: One of the largest earthquakes ever recorded hit Japan at 2:46 pm local time on March 11, triggering a massive 23-foot tsunami. The 9.0 magnitude offshore quake, the largest in Japan's history, was followed by hundreds of aftershocks. Japanese officials say more than 3,300 people have died in the disaster. The death toll is likely to continue climbing given the scale of the devastation; extensive search and rescue efforts are still underway. You can read about the work of the UCC personnel and the ministry partners in Japan by going to www.ucc.org

and following the links connected to the story on the Japanese earthquake.



VILLAGE COMMON CHILDREN'S CENTER

NEWS

We have been quite busy here at VCCC as we anxiously await spring! The month of March had us talking about “Healthy Bodies” and the positive choices that we can make to promote good health. Our curriculum included good nutrition practices, the importance of daily exercise and proper care of our teeth. To help us reinforce these concepts, we invited guests into the classroom, such as a hygienist from Dr. Rosebush’s office and Tim Mahoney from Tokyo Joe’s (for Karate).

April will have us focusing on weather as we hope to be welcoming spring. We will also be celebrating the Week of the Young Child. Please see below for more information on this special celebration:

Every spring, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrates the Week of the Young Child. This year, the Week of the Young Child will be celebrated on April 10th through 16th. The theme for this week is Early Years Are Learning Years. The Week of the Young Child is a chance for early childhood educators to highlight the importance of quality education and care for young children. This week is an opportunity to reach out and emphasize the impact that adults play in giving children the foundation they need to succeed in school and beyond. Today we know more than ever before about the importance of children's earliest years in shaping their learning and development. Yet, never before have the needs of young children and their families been more pressing.

The Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize that children’s opportunities are our responsibilities, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of early environment – at home, at child care, at school, and in the community – that will promote their early learning.

To show our commitment towards this effort, we traditionally like to make this a special week for the children and families at VCCC. We distribute buttons to families, plan special themed days as well as provide more opportunities for families to come and be a part of our classrooms. As a special addition this year, we would like to extend a special invitation

to people in our Congregation so they may be a part of this wonderful celebration. Therefore, we are inviting anyone who has an interest in coming in to spend time with us by either reading a book, joining us for snack, participating in activities or even sharing a special talent. Please feel free to contact Melissa Gruber with any questions or interest at 978-597-0834 or email us at vccc@tccucc.org.



OUR BLESSINGS: Cathy Hill’s daughter Kim is expecting her third child in October. Lindsey Klein recently gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Mason John Perry, 9lbs 4oz, mother and son are doing great.

Kathy Duckett’s brother Paul is once again employed, and Ward has found a new calling. Connie Giles gives thanks for all the gifts and prayers she received while in recovery. Carole Gustafson is thankful for the opportunity of attending the Super Saturday events recently. Prayers of joy and thanksgiving that Michelle Enright is officially cancer free, and that Alice Kay is completely healed! We share in the joy of the Nicoll family as they welcome their fourth grandchild into the world. Thanksgiving for the blessings of extended family gatherings.

CONCERNS: Prayers for all those who are unemployed or underemployed. Prayers of strength for the Dutton family as they mourn the loss of the third person in their family from ALS. Prayers for a daughter who is dealing with domestic strife. Prayers that people in conflict around the world may find peaceful resolution. Prayers for the victims of the earthquake in New Zealand. Prayers for Max Duckett who is experiencing some particular challenges right now. Prayers for all those who are homeless. Prayers of comfort to the Ford Family on the death of their son, and hope in dealing with dad's heart troubles. Skip and Mary Bataitis. Prayers for the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan and all the people who are helping with this disaster. Prayers of comfort to Lee McTighe and her extended family as they mourn the loss of two members, Janice Young and Myrtle Pozzato. Prayers of comfort also to Donna Capone and her extended family as she grieves the loss of her aunt. Prayers for the people of Libya who are caught up in further warfare. Prayers for Jim Clish’s cousin Ted Cole, who is now brain-damaged due to complications with anesthesia during surgery. Prayers for Kathy Duckett and her medical care-givers as she undergoes surgery on March 28. Prayers for Cameron and his family. Prayers for the comfort of Melanie Ouellette’s mother, Caroline, as she receives hospice care. Prayers for all parents who are struggling with their children. Prayers for healing for Kristina Wilson who is still struggling with an unknown illness; for Emily Brun’s mother who is recovering from hip surgery; for Mike who was critically injured in a snow mobile accident; for Jimmy Misner who is recovering from surgery;

for Fred Spring; for Steve St Jean who is recovering from injuries; for Shirley Kao; for Meg Genoter's sister who is struggling with cancer; for a 16 year old who is in the psych ward; for Wendy Roy who is receiving care at Emerson; for Garrett Cavanaugh who is being treated for necrosis in one of his ankle bones; for Aunt Rachel who is recovering from a stroke, and for Aunt Jackie who's cancer has returned; and for Aunt Margo who recently had a heart attack.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Don't forget to order your plants to spruce up your garden and support the Friends of the Townsend Public Library. Simply go to the web site:

http://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/campaign?campaign_id=5069 and see what it's all about - just remember those few selections on the home page are just a sampling, click on "shop now" to see the full catalog. The Friends will receive 50% of whatever you spend! This fund raiser ends on 4/23/2011.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h2 style="color: gold;">APRIL 2011</h2>					1	2 7am Saturday at Seven team 9a Lenten Retreat
3 Worship/SS COMMUNION 8:45a Lenten Study TCC Special Meeting	4	5 7p Lenten Study	6 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Snr Choir	7 7pm - Council, room 4	8	9
10 Worship/SS 8:45a Lenten Study Robin Lunn preaching New members class	11 6:30pm Open Sew	12 6:15 VCCC 7p Lenten Study	13 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Snr Choir	14 7:30pm Music Team - quiet Rm	15	16
17 Worship/SS 8:45a Lenten Study	18	19	20 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Snr Choir	21 MAUNDY THURSDAY  7pm at TUMC	22  GOOD FRIDAY 7pm at TCC	23
24 Worship/SS  EASTER SUNDAY!	25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - NOON -	26 6:15 VCCC, rm 4	27 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Snr Choir	28	29	30 Church Supper 5-6:30pm
 BEHOLD, CHRIST HAS RISEN!			GOD IS STILL SPEAKING 		E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR NEWSLETTER EDITOR, CATHY HILL: newsletter@tccucc.org Questions? Call 978-337-0638	

Townsend Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
3 Brookline St., PO Box 487
Townsend MA 01469-0487

Worship, Sunday School & Nursery at 9:50am



SHARING OUR SPACE WITH THE COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS

Weddings, Child Dedications, Holiday Parties, Baby and Wedding Showers, Family Reunions, Organization Meetings



We are blessed with a beautiful sanctuary and great space within our building for use that we are able to share with others. If you or someone you know is looking for a location for an event, contact our church secretary at 978-597-8925. This use of our building helps support the maintenance of our facility.



OUR OPEN & AFFIRMING STATEMENT

Townsend Congregational Church, UCC is an Open And Affirming congregation. God loves you. Christ invites you. We embrace you. People of all sexual orientations and gender identities are unconditionally welcomed into the full life and ministry of our congregation.

We are committed to ministering through the use of our gifts, learning to live the Christian way of life, and being together in Christ by seeking to fulfill these three commandments of Christ:

To love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30)

To love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31)

To love one another as Christ has loved us (John 13:34)

