THE VISITOR

TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

At the Heart of the Community - With the Community in Our Hearts

April 2018

Volume 41 No. 4

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Visit our web page at www.tccucc.org

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 23 - NOON

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All Congregational Meeting April 29: TCC Needs YOU

Please read the article on change management written by our moderator, Lyn Bennett. We are seeking to expand our community service and mission and the best way to know what the community needs is to ask our congregation: what have you heard, seen, or observed? What could be our one big thing for our next ministry that is outward focused and serves Townsend?

Baptism Sunday

Join us April 29 for the baptisms of Owen Aidala (Burnham) and Grace Palange. These services are always so joyous as we celebrate new life in both our Congregation and in Christ. We will gather afterward with a celebration cake and goodies, and a time to get to know the newest members of the Church Universal.

New Member Sunday

Join us April 22 to welcome four new members to our congregation. If you are not a member and have been thinking of joining our community of faith, please contact Pastor Mark, Dr. Bradley Bauer, our Minister for Congregational Care, or John Mims in the Church office. We will have a special celebration after services to welcome our new members with a specially made yummy cake, coffee, and goodies!

ALLELUIA!
CHRIST IS ALIVE!

According to Mark

Easter is upon us! If you have not been to church in a while, come to Easter Sunday services, the most well-attended service of the church year when new friendships are made and old friendships are renewed. We will celebrate communion this day as it's the first Sunday of the month, and since it's April Fools' Day, a specially entertaining sermon will be offered!

But Easter isn't just about the details of a worship service. It's a time of understanding the meaning of the resurrection in our lives. For almost 4 years now we've made a commitment to making our church community more vibrant and outward focused. And we're succeeding.

We see it in our Youth Group where recently 11 kids went to a Youth Retreat focusing on the meaning of God's presence in our lives, and why we need the church to help us remember that God's grace is ever-present and ever-near. We see it in the Wednesday and Saturday suppers which attract over 250 people each month. And we see it in the folks who attend our Bible studies and wander into our services, seeking God's message, but in a way that is open and affirming to their lives, not passing judgment.

So we've undertaken forming a community outreach vehicle that will help us to make a greater and larger impact in Townsend. The Fund for Advancement and Community Enhancement in Townsend (FACET) is an ecumenical outreach that currently has over $52,000 in monies, and is eligible to receive grant requests for programs that have social purpose to benefit the people of Townsend. The Board is comprised of the pastors of the Catholic, Methodist, and UCC churches in Townsend and one member of the laity from each church, and they will discern grant requests for awards up to 10% of the Fund's assets (annually) to ensure the Fund's long-term viability.

Have an idea for something cool and useful that would benefit the seniors, school kids, the poor and underserved? Bring a proposal forward to any pastor and let's get it done with some seed money from FACET and funding from the people of Townsend. Together, we can make a difference and launch programs and ideas that no one church can do on their own, but with funding from interested citizens, it can happen.

Host after-school programs at TCC and/or St John's. Start a car pool for seniors getting to medical appointments. Seed a Boys/Girls club activity program for the summer. Begin a single mother's club that helps share the burdens of raising kids. Bring in experts and help the community understand the whys and wherefores of the new marijuana possession laws, and how we can keep Townsend residents and kids informed and safe. Whatever your imagination can come up with, let's get it out there and start getting grant funding so that we can take action.

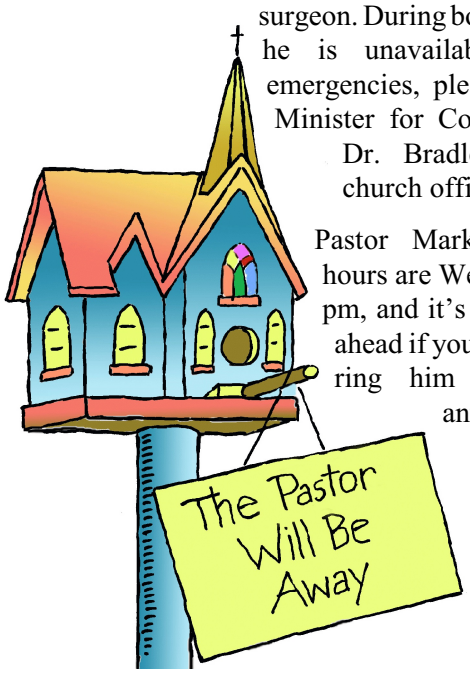
Townsend is a jewel; what FACET would you like to see?

Come to our congregational meeting on April 29 and find it.

Pastor Mark

Pastor Mark will be away . . .

Pastor Mark will be on gone from the pulpit and the office twice in the next 45 days. He and Kate will take their delayed annual holiday from April 2 to 17. He will undergo surgery on May 1 to get more function back in his right arm and will need two weeks of recovery until re-examined by his orthopedic surgeon. During both of these periods, he is unavailable. For pastoral emergencies, please contact TCC's Minister for Congregational Care, Dr. Bradley Bauer or the church office.



Pastor Mark's normal office hours are Wednesdays from 1-6 pm, and it's always best to call ahead if you need to see him, or ring him at 603-818-2328 anytime.

2018 TCC Auction

Mark your calendars for Saturday night, May 5 at 6 pm for the TCC Annual Auction! The Auction is a fun social occasion, with refreshments (food & beverages) served. Everyone has a great time!

We will also continue to have a challenge matching program to raise even more dollars for our Revitalization and ongoing support of TCC and its programs! This year, the challenge will be $2,500 - if we can raise $2,500 in cash donations, we have found donors to match that dollar for dollar, for a total of $5,000 towards our programs! All checks should be made payable to Townsend Congregational Church and have "Auction" in the memo.

We are accepting donations of goods & services now! We have storage for your items if you wish to donate before the auction date. Please text pictures of possible auction items to Jen Davidson at 978-732-9057. Make sure you include your name so she knows who is making the donation.

No electronics, appliances, dishes, cloth furniture or "yard sale" items, please.

Donations of services are strongly encouraged. Our congregation has historically been very creative with their service donations!

Donations that raise a reasonable amount include:

- Wood furniture in good condition, especially antiques
- Safes/file cabinets
- Vacation rentals
- Homemade meal coupons
- Sports tickets
- Power tools
- Paintings
- Hand-made blankets, quilts, wall hangings and tote bags
- Gift baskets
- Restaurant gift certificates
- Popular business gift certificates
- Vintage & collectible items like ornaments, tools or toys
- Service donations such as:
- Lobster dinner
- Homemade soups made to order
- Homemade cake
- Babysitting coupons
- Fresh herb basket
- Gift baskets
- Be creative!

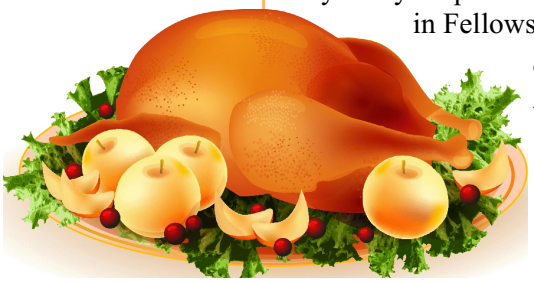
Wooden furniture in good shape is always welcome! As are services, gift cards to popular local businesses and many other items. **When in doubt, ask!** The auction could not be successful without donations from you!

Jennifer Davidson
jen@milestonefinancialplanning.com
978 732 9057

Wanda Wilson
wswilson7652@yahoo.com
978-597-6803

It's Turkey for the April 28 Supper!

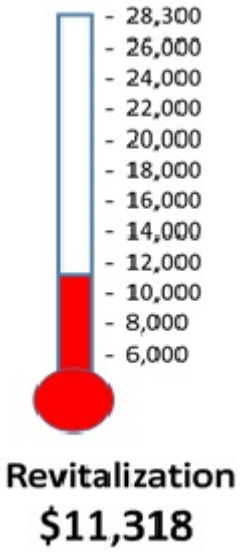
June Cloutier has stepped up to organize the April supper this year, and has the TCC Youth Group as her co-chairs. Keep your eyes open for the sign-up sheets that will be available in Fellowship Hall after worship some time soon.



These suppers work best when everyone works together to make them happen!

See you there!

Remember to check the members-only portion of the TCC website for updated reports.



Revitalization Update

by Jennifer Davidson

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Revitalization Fund so far! Year to date through March 18, 2018 we have collected $4,454 toward Revitalization.

We have committed to growing and expanding our programs for the congregation and the community. We need a total of $28,300 for 2018 (as approved in the 2018 budget). We started the year with $6,864 in our Revitalization account.

Please help us meet our goal. Please write "Revitalization" on your check, or contribute through our website and choose the fund "Revitalization". Please note this is in addition to your normal pledge, and is fully tax deductible if you itemize your taxes. Revitalization is so important to our church; I can't emphasize it enough. Help keep our exciting and vibrant church programs alive!!

Thank you!

News from the TCC Governance Council

By Lyn Bennett, Moderator

Last fall we hired Rick Black, who did a lot of board-level strategy and management consulting work prior to his getting into ministry, to help us more clearly define the responsibilities and accountability of the Council and the Pastor in decision making and implementation of those decisions in order to be more effective in ministering to the congregation, the community, and the world.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Rick met with the Council members and Pastor Mark individually and as a group to gain an understanding of the current operating models and to gather desired outcomes. In fact, Rick met with the Council right after Pastor Mark's accident when we were working to find coverage - so he got a good look at how we work together in a stressful time.

Using the information gained from the interviews, Rick put together the following executive summary and recommendations for developing a more effective operating model and more open communication, and offered suggested tasks and milestones for achieving both.

Executive Summary of Consult Regarding the Future of Townsend UCC from Rick Black

I. Small churches need to find new ways of "doing church" if they are to fulfill their mission to be the Body of Christ in this changing environment.

II. Townsend UCC has made a commitment to create a new and viable future by:

    1. Calling a pastor and asking him to be an agent of transformation

    2. Restructuring its organization and operating model

III. In order for the pastor to be most effective in his role, he requires a good deal of support and trust from the congregation. New initiatives can be difficult for an established congregation to adopt.

IV. The new structure minimizes standing committees in order to free lay people to engage in ministry and as with any new organizational structure there is a need to clarify roles and responsibilities "on the fly". Sometimes this can lead to a bit of "holy confusion".

V. In order to minimize confusion and maximize the joy of creating new possibilities for the church I would recommend the following:

    1. Ask ministry teams to work with emerging programs to help the new leadership be successful.

    2. Hold periodic meetings with pastor, council members, and small groups of laity to listen, explore new ministries, and create relationships.

    3. Identify and encourage enthusiastic members and friends of the church to be part of the "pastor's posse" who will work to bring the rest of the congregation along to the place where they will joyfully embrace the new way of "doing church".

    4. Communicate, communicate, communicate! Use all possible vehicles to engage folks in the new possibilities that lie ahead for this new church being birthed.

Call to Action! On April 29, after service, let's join together to review and discuss Rick's report and recommendations. Bring your questions, your ideas and your enthusiasm. Lunch will be served.

all children following worship

Friday April 6th - Kids Karaoke Night for all TCC Sunday school children grades, preschool through 8th grade, and they are invited to bring a friend along (older siblings are also welcome!). This will be an evening of food, fun and fellowship with our Sunday School Friends!!!

Saturday April 21st - Appreciation dinner for all TCC Sunday School teachers and shepherds. If you have volunteered to teach and/or shepherd in our Sunday school classroom this year then you will be receiving an invitation!

Sarah Goyette

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

There are lots of wonderful things SPRINGING up in Sunday school this month!!!

In addition to our regular Sunday classroom bible study... we will be starting on a Mission project to make pillows for cancer patients. We did a similar project several years ago and some of our older Sunday school children have requested doing this project again!!!

For this project we are seeking donations of fleece fabric. We need pieces of fabric that are a minimum size of 36"x36". Fabric can be left in the CE office or in the Church office (please label it for Sunday School).

Other fun dates to remember:

Sunday April 1st - Easter Egg hunt for

CROSS CRAFT

Make this special cross as a reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection.

What you need:

- Adult help
- Piece of wood
- 5 nails
- Hammer
- 2 balls of yarn (blue and yellow)

What you do:

1. Hammer the nails into the wood to form a cross shape (see example).
2. Tie the blue yarn to the bottom nail. Wrap it up and around the top nail and back down to the bottom nail. Then wrap it around the middle nail and around the side nails. Repeat until the yarn is wrapped about halfway up the exposed nails.
3. Repeat step two with the yellow yarn. Wrap it around the nails until only the heads are visible.

YOUTH NEWS & VIEWS

DESTINATION IMAGINATION

A group of my friends and I formed a Destination Imagination team, and the challenge that we chose was called Inside Impact. We needed to find a common problem in our community and figure out how to solve it. We chose the problem that there are so many children in the hospital who are sad and losing hope. So we put together a drive to collect craft materials and kits. We put out bins and hung up posters in the school, library and town churches so that people could donate items for our project. Then we got together as a group and we put together care packages for children according to age level. The total amount of items that we collected was 356, and we made 80 care packages filled with craft activities. Finally we delivered all 80 packages to UMASS Memorial Children's Medical Center in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Another part of our project was that we put together a skit where we came up with a story and characters and through the skit we explained the project that we did and how we did it. We had to make all of our props and we

were not allowed to have any adult help. The skit including set up time and had to be under 8 minutes. On the day of the competition we performed our skit in front of a panel of judges and we were scored on many different things. Afterwards they asked us questions about our project and info-graphics (posters stating the information that we collected). At the awards ceremony we found out that we won and that we were going on to States!!! Sadly we did not win states and go on to globals. But we had a lot of fun and we made a difference in our community.

Thank you to everyone at Townsend Congregational Church who helped us to make a difference by donating items!

Sincerely,

Lilly Goyette

The DI team delivering the activity packets to the UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center in February.

Below is a fun snapshot of our youth getting together to fill Easter eggs for the annual Easter egg hunt.

Village Common Children's Center

Hello TCC Friends!!
Happy April from VCCC!!

First off, my sincere apologies for missing my article submission last month, time seemed to have just gotten away from me at the end of February when it was due and I just realized I missed it, very sorry for that oopsie! So Mother Nature has continued to challenge our patience this winter with a very snowy month of March, reminding us all that in terms of weather, she's still the boss! But the children have definitely kept us all "warm and cozy" with their daily smiles and ongoing enthusiasm! Despite the cold temps and snow, our school year moves forward at an amazingly rapid pace! From our youngest infant to our school-age friends, the children continue on their wonderful journey through early childhood education, taking on new challenges and reaching new milestones, but most of all, having FUN!!! During the month of March our talented Infant/Toddler and Preschool/PreK teachers took the children on a magical "trip" into the wacky, wonderful world of Dr. Seuss! From art projects where they created "Cat in the Hat" hats and "Red Fish, Blue Fish", to cooking "Green Eggs and Ham" for snack time, to a variety of Dr. Seuss games; the children not only had the chance for lots of silly fun, they utilized their imaginations and creativity, enhanced language skills, learned about rhyming and about opposites, and they worked on improving both their fine and gross motor skills. They also had lots of St. Patrick's Day and Dinosaur fun throughout the month as well! April will find the Infant and Toddler classes focusing on Spring, Gardening and Farm Animals, as well as the author, Mercer Mayer. Our Preschool and PreK children will have a busy April as they concentrate on Easter, Spring, changes in the Weather, and Earth Day!

During February and the first week in March we had our registration for the 2018-2019 school year. Hard to believe that it was that time already! We then began registration for those on our waiting list and the general public. We are so VERY excited to say that our Infant and Toddler classes are now full for that new school year. Thank you all again for

allowing us the use of the room that is now our Infant classroom. While we had a slow start with it for this current school year because of timing issues, the word is obviously out there and that program will be full come Fall! Registration for our Preschool/PreK class has also gone well, we only have limited availability left in that class for the Fall, so if you know anyone with young children 2 years 9 months through 4 years old who may be looking for a preschool program, please have them call me at 978-597-0834 as soon as possible.

We've also begun registration for our upcoming Summer Program. While this program is a necessity for so many of our working parents, our enrollments do tend to drop a bit during the summer due to the fact that we have quite a few public school teacher children who do not need care during the summer months. A number of our other families also change to a more limited schedule due to their changed work schedules to accommodate older public school children being home. As we firmly believe that "word of mouth" is the best form of advertising, we would like to ask your help in getting the word out to those out in the community about the availability of our Summer Program for not only toddlers and preschoolers, but also for soon-to-be and just graduated kindergartners and first-graders. The staff and I are in the process of putting together plans for the Summer and will be including some fun "specials" such as a creative art program that will have the children using the formats of famous artists like Van Gogh, Monet, Matisse and Pollock, which will then result in an Art Show at the end of the summer! "Kids Can Cook" will have the children getting creative in another way as they mix, stir, cook and bake up some yummy fun, including some recipes from around the world! A "Little Scientists" program will allow the children to explore, investigate, and make discoveries about a variety of topics connected to the scientific world they live in. In addition, weather permitting, we will spend lots of time outside engaging in nature-based art activities, fun gross motor games and lots of water play-wading pools and sprinklers, water tables and water walls on the playground fence as well as our big blow-up slide pool that a generous family donated to us last summer!!

The month of April will also bring our yearly celebration of the "Week of the Young Child" (WOYC) which is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC is the largest early childhood education association in the world. The purpose of the WOYC is to bring public attention to the needs of young children and their families, and to recognize the early childhood programs and their staff who are meeting those needs every day. Again this year, there will be a different theme for each day of the week-long festivities! Monday's theme will be Music Monday! We will sing, dance, and learn through lots of fun musical activities that will allow the children to develop and enhance math, language, literacy and motor skills. Tasty Tuesday will let us connect math and science skills with a yummy cooking project! It will also let us once again reinforce healthy eating habits. Working Together Wednesday will not only focus on our engineering, architectural and building skills, it will reinforce our ongoing concepts of friendship and teamwork! Artsy Thursday will challenge imaginations and get those creative juices flowing through a variety of art processes! And on Family Friday we will celebrate the heart of who VCCC represents, all our wonderful families!

I would like to sincerely thank our TCC family for your ongoing support of VCCC; we always most appreciate your help and generosity. MANY thanks to all of you who supported our recent "Nature's Vision" fund-raiser. I always say, "every little bit helps" so we were very grateful for your contributions, they will definitely help us reach our goal. I also want to give a "shout out" to our community neighbor, Sophia's Pizzeria, who continues each month to donate pizza for our "Pizza Tuesdays" fund-raiser. The children most enjoy their special pizza lunch, and Sophia's always sends enough for the staff too! So if you're having a pizza craving one night, please do think about going to Sophia's!

From all the Staff, the VCCC Board of Directors and myself, we wish you all continued health and happiness!

HAPPY EASTER!!!

Carol Ciccolini, VCCC Director

The Birthday Fund

This is a fun way to contribute above and beyond your regular giving to the church to something above and beyond our normal operating budget. We appreciate those who have participated so far. Simply make a donation on (or around) your birthday in the amount of your age (Memo: Birthday Fund)! Participate and watch our gifts grow!

The all-church Spring Planning meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 20. Please save the date and plan to attend.

New addition to the music program!

During a recent visit to fix a broken key, our piano tuner discovered some age-related deterioration in the piano in the choir practice room. While this piano is once again in good playing condition, the problem is likely to return. As we discussed options, our tuner mentioned that he had a client who, because of a downsizing move, was looking for a home for his piano. The donor, a retired pastor, was thrilled with the idea of his piano going to a church, so he offered it to us for free! After a day of many calls and quick decision making, the council decided to accept the gift.

The new piano is a Kawai upright with a lovely sound, a wonderful touch, and a solid tuning history. It has been moved into room 3. The piano that was in that room is now in Fellowship Hall and the piano that was in the Hall has been adopted by a vocalist looking for a practice instrument. Thanks to Cathy Hill for finding it a good home.

We are truly blessed to have so many fine instruments that help us make a "joyful noise" to the Lord!

Renée Fossey
TCC Organist and Choir Director

2-Donald Hunt; 11-Pamela Allen; 13- Samantha Miller and Heather Mulrenan; 14-Nick Zielenkievicz; 15-Lucas Davidson and Mitzi Hebb; 18-Aidan Canfield and Dorothy DuBreuil; 20-Peter Hunt; 23-Olivia Rochette; 24-Dominic Capone; 25-Renee Fossey; 28-Karen Baer

Prayer Requests

OUR BLESSINGS:

We give huge, heart-felt thanks to Pastors Skip and Brad for jumping in when Pastor Mark was seriously injured in October last year; we are so very grateful for their ministry and for having Pastor Mark back with us. Pastor Mark shares in these thanks and additionally thanks his wife, Kate, for all the support he received from her during these past months of his recovery. Cheryl Borko gives thanks for the prayers for her aunt who is being treated for a rare skin cancer, she says that the treatments are going well so far. We join with Pam Snaith in praising the students participating in the March for Our Lives and starting the movement to reduce gun violence. We offer prayers of praise for our three young people whose Destination Imagination teams made it to state competition level. We give thanks for the opportunity of our confirmation class to visit a Greek Orthodox church and experience how other denominations worship our God. We give thanks that Dave Ryder is doing well at this time. Beth Klein gives thanks for her grandson, who recently celebrated his 7th birthday. We offer prayers of thanksgiving for the safe delivery of twin girls to Corey and Marcia Lowe; and congratulations to doting grandparents, Ken and Dianne. We give thanks that Brian Cormier's dad has come through his cancer-removal surgery, and pray that he is now cancer free. Tracy Winslow gives thanks for our prayers for her health and well-being; and also for the unknown person who cleared her car of snow after the 3/8 snow storm. We celebrate with Lee McTighe on her becoming an aunt to a new baby boy in her extended family. Kyra Genoter shared with us the news of some of her friends who have been recognized for their successes; we join with her in giving thanks for these blessings in her circle of friends. Kyra Genoter gives thanks for an amazing weekend retreat, and thanks for all the support given by the church people; Heather added her praise - there were about 65 young people at the retreat and the TCC youth were strong and confident. We give thanks that Rebecca Hersey is back on her feet after her recent surgery, and we pray her healing continues. There is rejoicing in the Duckett family: Kathy has entered into a new 6-month contract and Lee has been offered (and accepted) a job that starts in April. Prayers of love and joy for

Chris Clish's nephew Jesse Godin and his family as they celebrate the birth of their third child, Elijah Michael, who was born Feb. 22, 2018. We celebrate with Brad and Tina Bauer as they observe their 32nd wedding anniversary on March 31. Sami Miller gives thanks for the opportunity to compete in the MICCA (Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association) competitions. Kyra Genoter gives thanks for the opportunity she had being involved in two major events last weekend: MICCA, where our district earned some awards, and the DI state competition, where her team did not place, but they had a good experience overall. We join with John D'Angelillo in giving thanks for the wonderful roast pork dinner on the 24th, and for the many warm greetings offered to Dave Ryder who was able to join us for this dinner. Karen Bruns (Ken's mother) has a mixed prayer that starts with a prayer of concern for the condition of her flooded apartment and her belongings; but concluded with a prayer of thanksgiving for the help of Ken, Megan and Grant who worked hard cleaning so she could return to her home. We celebrate with Don and Beth Klein on the engagement of their son. Paul Martineau gives thanks for the quick and effective response of the EMTs and doctors when his brother-in-law had a heart attack; he also gives thanks for Meg and Heather including him in the recent youth retreat. We celebrate with Cathy Parsons on her much-anticipated move to a new apartment on 3/26. We celebrate with Megan Bruns' extended family on the birth of her cousin, Oscar. We all give thanks for the arrival of spring flowers in our gardens.

OUR CONCERNS:

We continue to pray for all the families who lost children in the school shooting in Florida; we pray for a safer society for all. We pray for Laura Gustafson's Bob, whose uncle is in the hospital and not expected to live for long. We offer prayers of consolation for the family and friends of Romeo Bernard who passed away on 2/25 after a battle with cancer. We pray for the many people at Dean Foods who have lost their jobs due to major downsizing. 2018 is the 100th anniversary of the greatest flu epidemic on record; we pray for the recovery of all who are dealing with the flu this year. We are approaching the end of the 100th anniversary of WWI, which was a time of desperation for so many people; we give thanks for the degree of peace that we have now and pray for much more love and peace in our world community. We pray for a friend of Sami Miller's who is dealing with a difficult family situation. We pray for Tad Rochette's aunt who has polyps of unknown malignancy. We keep Max Duckett in our prayers as he seeks full-time employment; and for all those who are unemployed or underemployed. We pray for the family of a friend of Jennifer Davidson whose 5 year-old child has been diagnosed with lymphoma. We pray for a friend of Lee McTighe whose son has prostate cancer. We offer prayers of consolation for those who lost loved ones in the Florida bridge collapse. As our political leaders consider arming teachers, we pray for more peaceful solutions. We keep the family of Kathy Thompson (VCCC bookkeeper) in our prayers as they deal with her husband's death. We pray for the Reeves family as they help a loved one recover from surgery. We grieve with Louise Coalter on the passing of her friend Sherrie; Louise is thankful that Sherrie found God before her passing. We keep Barbara Goodwin and her extended family in our prayers: her sister-in-law, Carol Clark, is in Apple Valley and not doing well, and Lloyd is struggling with this. We keep Cathy Hill's mother-in-law, June, in our prayers as she struggles with age-related health issues (she's 96 years old); we also keep her youngest son, Greg, in our prayers as he works very hard as her primary caregiver. We offer prayers of consolation for Lucas and Sydney who recently lost a beloved friend – their stepfamily's dog, Indy – who died unexpectedly at age 2 of cancer.

OUR HEALING PRAYERS:

We offer healing prayers for Pastor Mark who will going through at least one nerve transplant surgery on his right arm in an attempt to make it functional again; this will be quite a long-term treatment process; for Cheryl Borko's sister who is experiencing serious health issues that have not been diagnosed yet; for Meg Genoter who has been very ill this past week; for John Mims who has an undiagnosed illness; for John and Elaine's daughter, Heidi, who is dealing with undiagnosed health problems; for Cathy Parsons who is also dealing with undiagnosed health issues; for a friend of Megan Bruns who has pneumonia; for Dorothy DuBreuil who continues to struggle with ongoing ailments; for Chris Clish whose back pain has returned; for all those who struggle with mental anguish; for Paul Martineau's brother-in-law, Frank, who is recovering after a heart attack.

OUR CANCER FIGHTERS:

We offer prayers of healing and hope for all those in our immediate and extended families who are in the midst of battling cancer, and for all those who care for and support them. Dorothy DuBreuil, breast cancer; Bill, who is the husband of Heather's birth mother; Susan Riggins; Karen Baer's friend, Cathy; Lorraine M, cutaneous T cell lymphoma; Cathy Hill's sister, Morag, who has lymphoma; Lyn Bennett's mother, colon cancer; Mary Lou, a close friend

of Pastor Mark; Ashley Peroni (Karen Lee Peroni's sister-in-law), brain cancer; Carol Clark; Meg Genoter's friend, Heather; Kathy Duckett's friend, Caroline, jaw cancer; Paul Martineau's mother; Joe, a young friend of Carole Gustafson, skin cancer; Charlie Hersey's Dad, Fred; Steve Ciccolini (Carol's husband), liver cancer; Sarah (friend of Steve Cloutier), brain cancer; Cindy Miller's mother-in-law, breast cancer; Lyn Bennett's friend, Cookie Klahre, leukemia.

New prayers from the last month: Emily Bruns' dad, Jack Austin, who has been diagnosed with stage 2 esophageal cancer; friends of the D'Angelillo's, brother and sister - George and Nancy, who have both been diagnosed with cancer; Cheryl Borko's aunt, whose cancer has moved into her lymph nodes and will be starting radiation treatments very soon; Steve Cloutier's friend, Micah, who is only 41 years old and has been diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer; Debbie Cooper, a member of Cathy Hill's extended family, who is being treated for breast cancer and dealing with multiple autoimmune diseases; and Barbara Goodwin's step son, Tyler, who is in the midst of his third bout of cancer and his doctors are trying to find a new treatment.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dueling Pianos: Join us for a fabulous evening!

Friday, April 6, 2018

Devens Common Center, 31 Andrews Parkway, Devens, MA

Put two sharp-witted, incredibly talented musicians with two grand pianos on stage, then add a roomful of people. The result is an evening of fast, funny and unforgettable entertainment. The musical repertoire ranges from Classic Rock to Country; Hard Rock to R&B; Show Tunes to Top 40.

Total audience participation makes for one-of-a-kind evening – shout out requests, sing-along to favorites, banter with performers, and have the time of your life.

Dinner at 6 pm / Show from 7:30-10 pm; Includes Silent Auction and Cash Bar

Go to http://ncmhabitat.org/ (in the "About us" pull-down menu) to register.

All proceeds benefit Habitat NCM

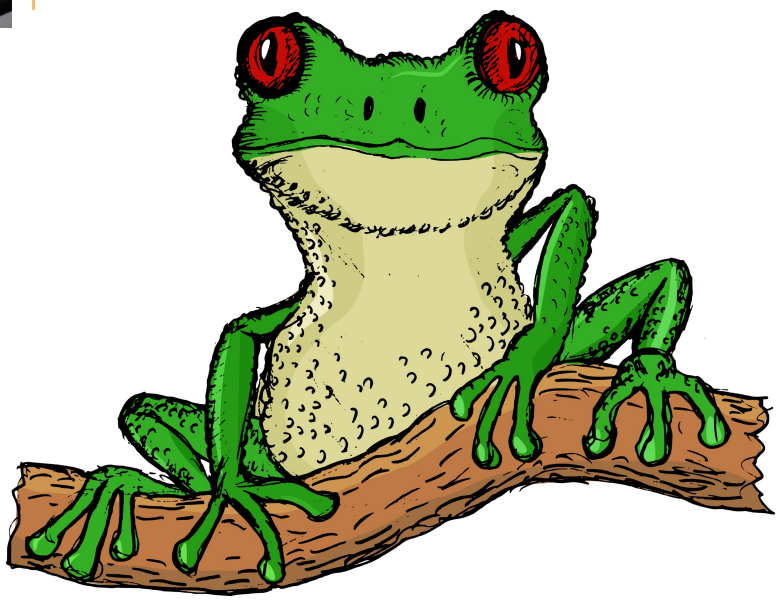
Take a look at what's happening at the Townsend Public Library in April:

Did you know that the library hosts support groups run by the Central Mass Lyme Foundation? The next meeting is on April 10 at 7pm. If you suffer from lyme disease symptoms or are close to someone who does, please come visit and converse with others who understand what you are experiencing.

Happy Tails - Read to Benjamin Franklin! Each child will have approximately 10-15 min to spend reading with Benjamin. Benjamin (and his human, Jennifer) are registered for the Pet Partners Read With Me program that encourages children to read in a stress-free, non-judgmental environment.

There are two reading sessions in April: Wednesday, 12th, 6-7 pm and Saturday, 28th, 10-11 am. Register online at the library's web site.

Rainforest Reptiles are coming to the library on Thursday, April 19 at 6:30 pm. Please register online at the library's website and come prepared to be amazed!



LECTIONARY, APRIL 2018

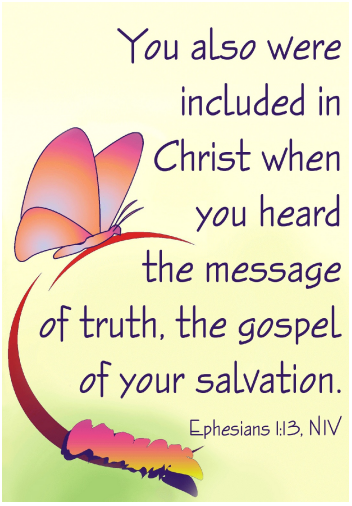
April 1, 2018 - *Easter Sunday*
First reading: Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Second reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43
Gospel: John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

April 8, 2018 - *Second Sunday of Easter*
First reading: Acts 4:32-35
Psalm: Psalm 133
Second reading: 1 John 1:1-2:2
Gospel: John 20:19-31

April 15, 2018 - *Third Sunday of Easter*
First reading: Acts 3:12-19
Psalm: Psalm 4
Second reading: 1 John 3:1-7
Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

April 22, 2018 - *Fourth Sunday of Easter*
First reading: Acts 4:5-12
Psalm: Psalm 23
Second reading: 1 John 3:16-24
Gospel: John 10:11-18

April 29, 2018
- *Fifth Sunday of Easter*
First reading: Acts 8:26-40
Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31
Second reading: 1 John 4:7-21
Gospel: John 15:1-8



April 2018

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship/SS ***EASTER SUNDAY & COMMUNION***	**2**	**3**	**4** 5:30pm Genesis Handbells 6:30pm Agapé Handbells 7:30pm Snr Choir	**5**	**6** 6:30 pm Sunday School Karaoke Night	**7** 8am Saturday work team Red Cross blood drive
8 Worship/SS	**9**	**10**	**11** 5:30pm Genesis Handbells 6:30pm Agapé Handbells 7:30pm Snr Choir	**12**	**13**	**14**
15 Worship/SS	**16**	**17**	**18** 5-6:30 pm Community Dinner 7:30pm Snr Choir	**19** 6:30pm Council	**20**	**21** Sunday School Appreciation Dinner
22 Worship/SS	**23** ***NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – NOON –***	**24**	**25** 5:30pm Genesis Handbells 6:30pm Agapé Handbells 7:30pm Snr Choir	**26**	**27**	**28** **TURKEY SUPPER 5-6:30 PM**
29 Worship/SS	**30**					

TO CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR, CATHY HILL:
email: chill01469@gmail.com
or call 978-337-0638

Please go to the online calendar at www.tccucc.org for up-to-date entries.

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

Sunday School at 9 am & Worship at 10:15 am

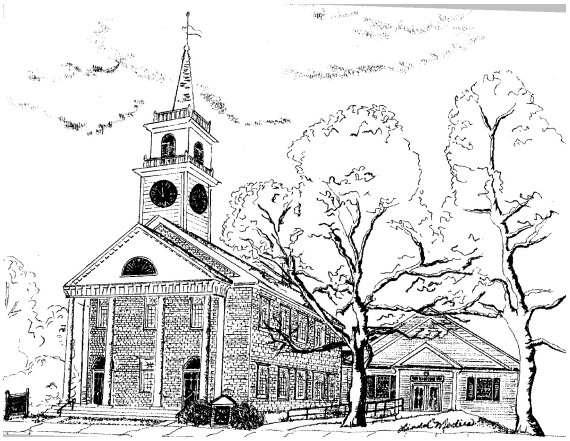
SHARING OUR SPACE WITH THE COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS

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 COMMON PURPOSE STATEMENT

Being in an intimate relationship with God in the present, we are an ever-learning, action-oriented, justice-seeking, community-caring church. Our purpose is to use our gifts to make God's love real and alive for everyone.

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)*