



February 2021

Volume 44 No. 2

Pastor: Rev. Gregory Schmidt
Pastor's Line at TCC:
978-597-0157

TCC Administrative Asst.:
Karen Hopkins
Office Line: 978-597-8925

**Village Common Children's
Center Line:** 978-597-0834

Editor: Catherine Hill

TOWNSEND
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH, UCC
PO BOX 487
TOWNSEND MA 01469

E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

Pastor:
schmidtg1021@gmail.com

Church Secretary:
secretary@tccucc.org

Newsletter:
newsletter@tccucc.org

**Village Common Children's
Center:** vccc@tccucc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday
10:00am - 1:00pm

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Wed 9-1, or by
appointment.

**Visit our web page at
www.tccucc.org and
visit us on Facebook**

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

THE VISITOR

TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



In this edition . . .

- ✿ Pastor's Monthly Column
- ✿ Sunday School News
- ✿ Lent 2021 Book Study Starting February 24
- ✿ Zoom Link for Sunday Worship
- ✿ Easter Flowers
- ✿ No Offering Envelopes This Year
- ✿ Birthday Fund
- ✿ Our Birthdays
- ✿ Poetry Corner
- ✿ UCC News
- ✿ Our Prayers
- ✿ Community News: TEO; Townsend Public Library Events
- ✿ Monthly Lectionary



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

A Vital Church!

While we are certainly in strange times during this pandemic, we know that this will pass and our Christian ministries will resume, or expand. The TCC Governance Council has two vital positions open that are calling out to be filled:

Minister for Outreach - and -

Minister for Christian Education.

What is our purpose in being a Christian church if we are not reaching out to those in need and are not being serious about growing spiritually through ongoing education?

I know these two positions are broader than what I just stated, but it's a place to start. Please take time to pray and take an honest look at what role you wish to play in the future of TCC. Our church is nothing without you and all the people who support this house of God.

*Submitted by Cathy Hill
on behalf of the TCC Council*

Be of
good courage
and he shall
strengthen
your heart.
Psalm 27:14



Pastor's Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Usually at this point in an interim process, that being a month in, the congregation would begin doing the hard work of beginning the search process. That does not necessarily mean interviewing candidates. No, there are a few steps that need to be done before that happens.

First we do some soul searching. We have some interesting, sometimes frank and candid discussions about the history of the congregation. We look at everything from its founding (I'm guessing none of you were around in 1734 to give us the firsthand insights which are so valuable); the pastors you have had along the way; what has worked and what has not (and why); the mission of the church and its place in the Townsend community; what you value and what isn't so important to you; and, most importantly, how you envision yourselves as a congregation, a Christian community of faith, going forward?

Normally I would be holding gatherings in evenings and after worship on Sundays inviting you to gather and share your insights and stories, your hopes and dreams, and even your fears. We know that change is hard for most people. Some of you like the church the way it is. Others wish it could be something else, maybe something more or something different. Most church people will say "I wish we had more members". Then when new members come and begin to get involved those who wished for more people suddenly become possessive of the old ways and resentful of the new people "trying to take over". The bottom line is that if the church is going to grow it is going to have to change in some way.

My role is to help you begin to negotiate some change. To help you come to terms with who you were, who you are and who you are going to be. It is to prepare the way for the next pastor to come and thrive as your leader.

How we do that during a pandemic is a good question. It seems that we are going to have to put off some of the work until it warms up and we can gather outside safely. I am not comfortable inviting you into a confined space for any length of time. So maybe next month there will be a better plan.

While we might be on hold regarding the beginning of the search process, the season of Lent cannot wait. It looks like Lent in 2021 is going to be much like Lent of 2020 - mostly socially distanced. Ash Wednesday is February 17th and we will have a worship service that night. Probably a mix of live and online. We will celebrate communion so if you plan on

attending in person you should bring your own juice and bread as we will not be allowed to offer them to you.

Again, the details are still in the works so you will hear more about it in the near future. In the mean time I hope you stay home when you can, stay healthy and stay faithful. God is good - all the time. With God's grace, mercy and guidance we are going to endure this pandemic and find ourselves filled with joy and gratitude when it is over.

See you on Sunday.

Yours In Christ,

Greg



Children's Ministry News

Come join the journey !

The faith journey!

Find your way with us as we picture the Bible!

Sunday mornings at 9 am

All are welcome :)

Editor's note - Amanda is inviting the whole congregation to take part in this virtual ministry – whatever your age. The Zoom link is the same as the one used for worship and can be found on page 4 of this newsletter and in the weekly *Spirit*.



Lent 2021 Book Study Starting February 24

Dear friends,

Ash Wednesday (February 17th) marks the beginning of the season of Lent, the season of introspection, and lasts for 40 days (not including Sundays) ending on Easter Sunday (April 4th).

Lent is the time of the year in which we actively remember Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. Lent is a time for us to reevaluate our faith. It is a time for us to deepen our faith. It is a time to better understand the role our faith plays in our lives. It is a time to try to live, even for only a short time, as Jesus did.

Traditionally, during Lent, many Christians practice fasting and/or "giving something up for Lent." The giving up certain luxuries in our lives is meant to help us replicate the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus during his 40 days in the wilderness. Of course for most people the Lenten sacrifice takes the form of giving up chocolate, coffee, alcohol, or something else we desire.

While that does not quite qualify as being equivalent to Jesus' sacrifice in the desert, it is a sacrifice none the less.

HOWEVER, we have already sacrificed so much in the past year that anything we give up for Lent would be almost inconsequential. Thanks to COVID-19 we have all had to give

up gathering together for worship, birthdays, and sporting events, to name a few. For a few weeks we had to give up going to the grocery store, the doctor and the gym. Our ability to travel without risk has dropped to almost zero and many of us have not left our homes let alone our communities.

What things have you had to give up that you miss the most? Naturally these losses were due to a societal necessity rather than a Lenten sacrifice, but they are things we have had to give up.

So this year for Lent, instead of inviting you to give something up I encourage you to do the opposite and instead add a spiritual discipline to your Lent as a way to draw closer to God.

Maybe that means reading a daily devotional (you can find a wealth of them on line with a search for "Lenten Bible readings"). Maybe you will commit to saying a prayer each day, be it grace at a meal or as you awaken or before you go to bed. Maybe you can send a card or email to someone telling them you are thinking of them. The possibilities are limitless.

Here is something you can take on - join the BOOK STUDY and deepen your faith and understanding of Lent. Starting on Wednesday, February 24th, I will be leading a discussion on the book *24 Hours that Changed the World* by Adam Hamilton. This discussion will be on Zoom so you don't even have to leave your house. We will begin at 7 pm and be done by 8 pm. The book is not expensive at all. I see them used for as little as 99 cents, and new they are only \$5.99. If anyone has an issue paying for one, or even getting one, please let me know and I will buy it or get it for you.

In conclusion, I know there are a lot of words here. Please send me the list of things you have missed or lost or had to begrudgingly give up due to COVID-19 AND the list of things you are going to take on for Lent 2021. I will find a way to weave these lists into worship.

Order the book *24 Hours that Changed the World* and join the book study. It is one more way for us to be together in faith and spirit.

Faithfully yours,

Greg



Zooming on Sunday!

We have a new Zoom link for our Sunday worship service. This is included in the weekly Spirit, but it doesn't hurt to include here as an additional reference. Sunday Services on Zoom start at 10 am or shortly after with a selection of hymns played on the organ by Renée Fossey; once the service is over, the Zoom session continues with a virtual "coffee hour" that runs until 12 pm.

Here is the link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96280207284?pwd=SDBYK2hBVjIWOGJvQjRIdVYvbkhUT09>

If that is not working, the meeting ID is **962 8020 7284** and the pass-code is **174445**

And lastly, to dial in (where you will then need to enter the meeting ID and Pass-code on your phone), the number to call is **1-646-876-9923**.

Thanks to the Worship Team for setting up this entire thing!



EASTER FLOWERS

For the Church Altar

Preparing for Easter

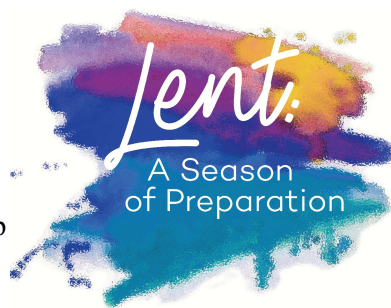
We don't know if the pandemic will be over by April 4, but Michelle has the right idea! A glorious array of colorful flowering plants on our church altar will look just as glorious if you attend Easter Sunday via Zoom. I have no doubt that our Worship Task Team will do their best to arrange any floral offerings in such a way as to make them visible for the camera. So, don't be shy, order your Easter flowers, and hopefully we will get to see them in person this year!

LILLIES

6" (1 plant in pot) \$ 10.00

8" (2 plants in pot) \$20.00

10" (3 plants in pot) \$30.00



7" DAHLIA - \$10.00

Colors: Pink, Red, Rose, Orange, or Yellow

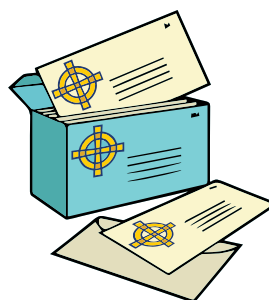
8" HYDRANGEA - \$25.00

Colors: Pink, White, Blue

Choose the color of your pot cover; either green or gold

Orders must be in by February 28

If interested, contact Michelle Enright:
michelleenright25@comcast.net



No Offering Envelopes This Year

Since it is unknown as to when we will return to worship services where everyone may attend safely, Jody chose not to order offering envelopes.

Next year, hopefully, we can resume this tradition. Please remember that you may continue contributing to TCC's missions via mailed-in checks, or various online options, including through the TCC web page using a credit card, or setting up your bill pay program to include regular payments to TCC.

Thanks for keeping us in your hearts and minds.

Those who wait
for the Lord
shall renew
their strength,
they shall
mount up
with wings
like eagles.



Isaiah 40:31, NRSV

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!



FEBRUARY



10-David Ryder, 11-Paul Martineau, 13-Tad Rochette, 14-Isabella Culotta and Olivia Hunt, 15-Rachel Vincent, 19-Heather Nixon, 20-Alice Struthers, 25-Charlie Hersey, Linda Ireland and Cindy Miller

Poetry Corner



WHAT IS LOVE?

Love is quiet and tender
warm and comfortable.
Love, is silent or deafening;
strong when necessary,
and weak when allowed.
Love is gentle and caring, and sometimes
harsh and scolding.

Love is... how you touch life,
and how you let life touch you.
Love is... what you think it is...
and, what you think it is not.
Love is a myriad of perceptions
reflected in the faces of the young,
the growing, even... the so called
u-n-l-o-v-a-b-l-e.

It's in the faces of the richest of the rich,
and the poorest of the poor;
in the faces of confusion and
determination.

In the faces of maturity and
insecurity.

In the face of a babe, new from the womb,
and of the old... seconds away from the
other side.

Love, is a soft, huggable teddy bear
carried upside-down by its' young owner;
or a slippery, icky frog tucked inside
the pocket of its' little capturer.

Love is...

a new kitten or an old dog,
grandma's shawl or a toddlers' blankie.

Love is...

felt by the heart,
and seen by the soul.

It cannot be seized and locked in a
"safe" place
yet spread around for all those who will
accept it.

Love is not to be taken lightly.
but savored and treasured by
all who experience it.

What is love?

Love is a gift from God!

Christine Clish

*From the cloud came a
voice,*



*"This is my Son,
the Beloved;
listen to him!"*

MARK 9:7, NRSV



From the North Central Region ENews - January 21, 2021

Coronavirus information:

Phasing Forward: How does the vaccine, the new Covid-19 variant and our growing weariness impact our Phasing Forward plans and how can we best care for ourselves and each other? SNE Conference Faith Community Nurse Debbie Ringen reflects on these questions and shares important resources in this blog article:

<https://www.sneucc.org/blogdetail/14958698>



*Please let me inherit
a double share of
your spirit.*

2 Kings 2:9, NRSV



OUR BLESSINGS:

We give thanks that Kristin and Adam Eisner's healthy baby, Addison Kayla Eisner, was born on Dec 30 in Valencia CA; Grandparents Bill and Helen are hopeful COVID-19 abates soon so they visit their grandbaby.

We give thanks that the fire at Nancy Clough's house was just a badly burned pot; we pray that Nancy remains safe in her home.

The Cloutier family gives thanks for the safe delivery of Jade Pauline Cloutier; born to Joseph and Tara on 12/19/20, 6 lbs 2 oz.

OUR CONCERNS:

We continue to pray for all those that have fallen ill due to the COVID-19 virus, and for all those who are caregivers and frontline workers. We pray for those who are essential workers and pray for those who are struggling with the restrictions and the isolation.

We offer prayers of consolation for the family and friends of Judith Baer who passed away on January 21; Judy was Karen Baer's sister-in-law.

We keep the Caprigno family in our prayers.

We offer prayers of consolation for all who knew and loved Esme Boris who passed away on December 30.

We pray for Priscilla Buck who is recovering from a serious car accident. We also keep her sister, Glenda Profit, in our prayers as she recovers from a not-too-serious fall.

Kim Emerson's very dear friend, Maureen, who we have been praying for because of brain cancer, passed away on Jan. 11; she was a wonderful, sweet woman who fought hard for 2 1/2 years; we offer prayers of consolation for all those who miss having Maureen in their lives.

We offer prayers for healing and comfort for Art Daly, who is the Wilson's daughter-in-law's father; he has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and is in the hospital.

Sandy LaPointe's sister's (Linda) husband (Chris) has been receiving chemo for at least 5 years; the treatment has caused an enlarged pancreas and his cancer seems to be still growing, and so he is about to start radiation treatment. This is all very frightening for Chris and all who love him. We pray for this family as they struggle with the fear and uncertainty.

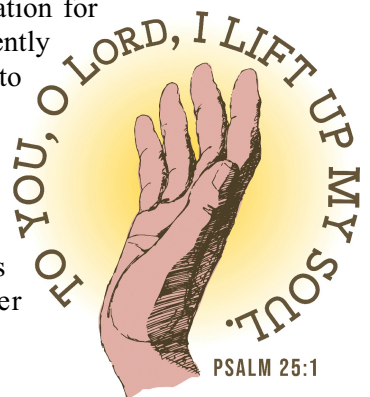
We pray for Heather Nixon's stepson who is recovering from cancer surgery and having a difficult time.

We pray that the COVID-19 vaccine is effective.

Carol Ciccolini's extended family has been dealing with COVID-19 illness; her husband is doing okay, although recovering from shingles. We pray for Carol and offer healing prayers for all her extended family who are ill.

We offer prayers of consolation for Carole Gustafson who recently lost a school classmate to cancer.

We pray for Grant and Carol Swenor as Grant (who has Parkinson's Disease) is doing very poorly and is currently at Leominster Hospital.



We keep Kathy Perkins and Tracy Winslow in our prayers.

We offer prayers of consolation for Jody Burnham and her family on the passing of her mother, Mitzi Hebb, on January 19. When out caroling each year, Mitzi was always one of our favorite stops; she will be greatly missed by many.

We offer prayers of consolation for Kathy Duckett as she deals with the loss of her cousin, Buddy.

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; Lorraine M, cutaneous T cell lymphoma; Cathy Hill's sister, Morag Graham, and Barbara Goodwin's step son, Tyler who both have Non-Hodgkins lymphoma; Meg Genoter's friend, Heather; Kathy Duckett's friend, Caroline, jaw cancer; Charlie Hersey's Dad, Fred; John Ciccolini (Carol's husband), liver cancer; Cindy Miller's mother-in-law, Lynne Donnelly, breast cancer; Tricia (friend of Paul Martineau), breast cancer/brain cancer; Bill Jordan (Carole's brother), chronic lymphocytic leukemia; Kerry Thrasher; Tracy Winslow's Aunt Sylvia, breast cancer; Kathy Perkins' friend, Jerry Quince, brain cancer; Bob (friend of the D'Angelillo family); and Ken (friends of Lee McTighe); Cheryl Borko's dad, throat cancer; Nattie (friend of Moe Tremblay), multiple myeloma; Moe Tremblay's oldest brother, Ray, prostate cancer.



When the bow
is in the clouds,
I will see it and
remember the
everlasting covenant
between God and
every living creature ...

Genesis 9:16, NRSV



COMMUNITY NEWS



TOWNSEND
Ecumenical
Outreach

Please Help Us Help Others!

From the TEO web site, 1/24/21

We expect to continue to receive an increased number of requests for support over the next several weeks. As such we are asking the community to please consider making a monetary donation to our GoFundMe at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/teo-needs-your-help>

You can also purchase off our wish lists using the following links. The available stock changes frequently so be sure to check back often!

<https://bit.ly/TEOpets>

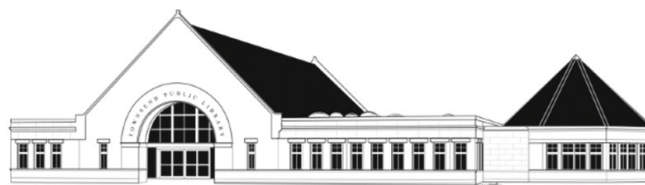
<https://bit.ly/TEOkids>



We are preparing food banks and boxes daily for our elderly, veterans, children, and families in need. Though delivery may be held up a week or so, we will still be able to distribute the food to someone in need.

Hours of operation are by appointment only. Please call or email and a TEO representative will get back to you.

82 Bayberry Hill Road, West Townsend, MA 01474,
978-877-6002; info@teo-ma.org



Townsend Public Library: Are you looking for things to do for yourself or your kids? The Townsend Public Library has all kinds of programs being offered via the Zoom online platform. Following are some of the programs - go to www.townsendlibrary.org and click on the events link to see all the programs.

Registration is absolutely required for all these events so that the Zoom link can be sent to you.

For adults:

On Mondays at 5:30pm - Yoga

On Wednesdays at 7:30pm - Yoga

Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 7pm - Passionate dishes for your Valentine

Thursday, Feb. 11 at 8pm - Virtual Movie Club with Adam and Nicole, featuring the classic: *Casablanca*.

For children:

On Mondays (except public holidays) at 10am - Storytime and craft with Miss Jessie.

On Tuesdays at 10am - ABC Storytime

On Wednesdays at 4pm - Brick Buddies (Lego club)

Sunday, Feb. 14 at 2pm - Kids Cupcake Class with Sandhya's Kitchen

Sunday, Feb. 28 at 2pm - Science with Kosmic Kelly

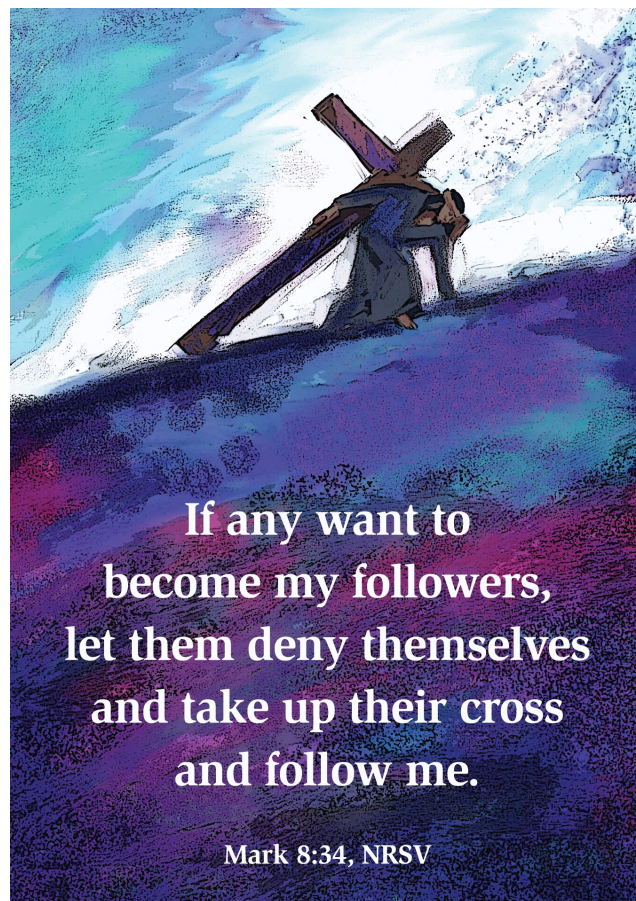
For the whole family:

Sunday, Feb. 21 at 7pm - Virtual Family Trivia - Animal Edition

Monday, Feb. 27 at 7pm - Pet Party

Also - it's not too late to sign up for their Winter Reading Program for kids, teens and adults! Program ends on March 8.

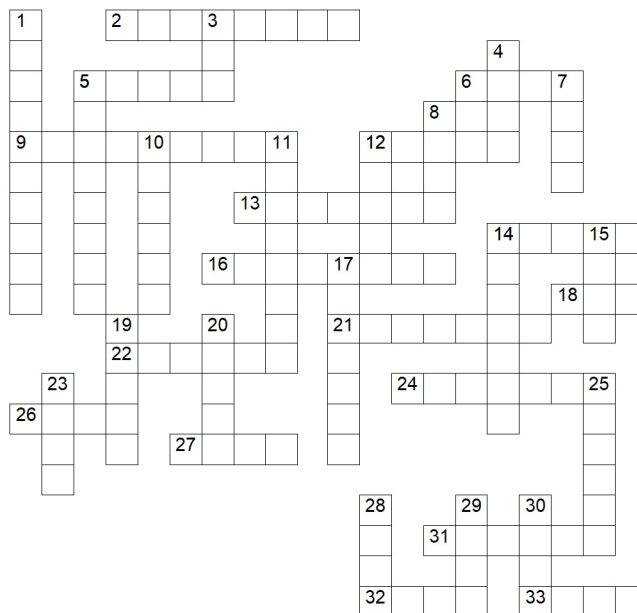
Still offering in-library browsing Tuesday-Saturday, with advance registration on their events page; and curbside pick up Monday-Saturday.



Matthew, Chapter 27, Puzzle 1

Across

2. The Place of the Skull
5. red body fluid
6. ridicule, deride
9. horrified, petrified
12. used for crucifixion
13. death on a cross
14. rod used for walking
16. blameless
18. male heir
21. thief, criminal
22. prickly part of a plant
24. acetic acid solution
26. currency, penny
27. jealousy, resentment
31. firmly fixed
32. Master
33. went somewhere else



Down

1. governor's house
3. Supreme Being
4. use of objects to make a choice
5. released instead of Jesus
7. monarch
8. set apart for God
10. invective, verbal abuse
11. absence of light
12. felony, misdemeanor
14. red
15. to beat with a whip or rod
17. part of tabernacle that was torn
19. rock
20. ornamental circlet or head covering
23. final resting place
25. liberate, set free
28. bitter tasting liquid
29. uppermost part of the body
30. to utter vehemently

WORD LIST

Barabbas
blood
coin
crime
cross
crown

crucify
curtain
darkness
envy
flog
gall

God
Golgotha
head
holy
hurl
innocent

insult
king
left
Lord
lots
mock

Praetorium
rescue
robbers
scarlet
secure
son

staff
stone
terrified
thorns
tomb
vinegar

LECTIONARY, FEBRUARY 2021

February 7, 2021 - *Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany*

First reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

February 14, 2021 - *Transfiguration Sunday*

First reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm: Psalm 50:1-6

Second reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

February 21, 2021 - *First Sunday in Lent*

First reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

Second reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

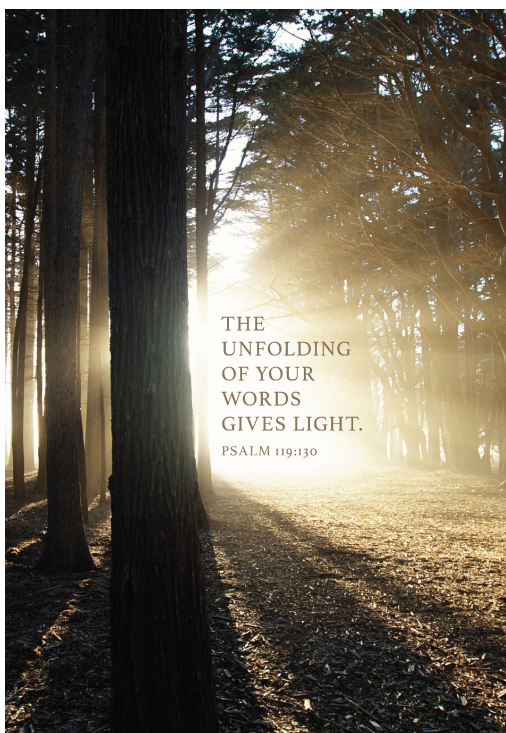
February 28, 2021 - *Second Sunday in Lent*

First reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm: Psalm 22:23-31

Second reading: Romans 4:13-25

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9



Puzzle!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

crown donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins
colt crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer
confess death Gethsemane lots repent thorns
cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil

E	N	A	M	E	S	H	T	E	G	R	L	W	Y
C	L	E	U	X	B	M	T	H	B	U	C	W	B
N	R	I	K	Y	P	A	T	E	T	I	Y	X	Y
A	V	J	G	A	L	B	R	E	Y	A	R	P	B
N	G	N	L	I	S	N	L	A	I	N	E	D	X
E	W	M	P	R	V	R	D	H	B	N	R	D	F
P	S	O	G	O	L	G	O	T	H	A	B	S	C
D	L	N	R	O	C	O	N	F	E	S	S	I	K
O	T	H	T	C	P	E	K	W	U	O	U	N	D
M	N	S	H	N	P	W	E	D	R	H	F	S	K
U	N	F	O	E	T	K	Y	C	S	G	F	O	E
H	E	C	R	E	V	L	I	S	W	Q	E	C	M
H	V	H	N	C	X	S	O	C	C	J	R	L	O
F	Q	E	S	U	D	S	H	C	A	A	Y	M	C
C	R	U	C	I	F	I	X	I	O	N	S	R	V

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

