

# THE VISITOR

TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



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Daylight Savings time begins  
on March 10



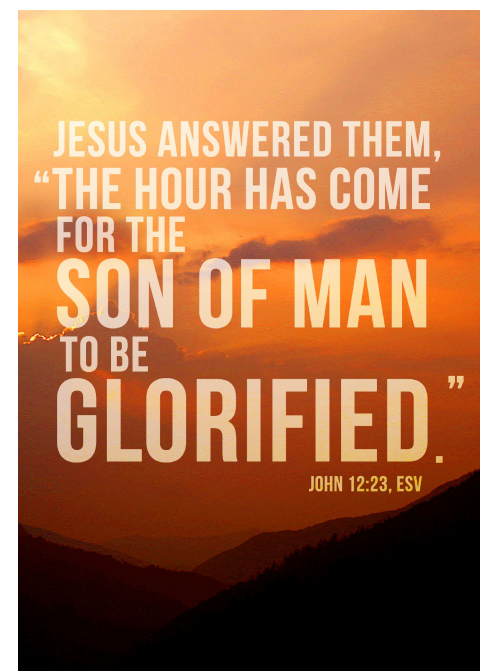
The UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When disaster strikes or people are displaced by violence or poverty, you are part of the response and recovery. Your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief and recovery of the most vulnerable, meeting needs and addressing the underlying causes that create those needs.

*Article copied from the North Central Region ENews - February 2024 email.*

## March Calendar

- 11 Council Meeting
  - 21 Free Community Dinner
  - 23 Roast Pork Supper
  - 24 April Newsletter Deadline
- Handbell Practice every  
Wednesday at 6:30 pm
- Choir Practice every Wednesday at  
7:30 pm

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





## March 2023

Volume 47 No. 3

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

**TCC Administrative Asst.:**  
Judy Karkane  
**Office Line:** 978-597-8925

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

**Editor:** Cathy 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:

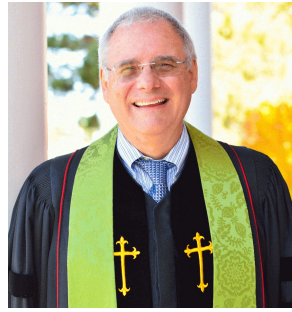
Monday-Friday: 8 am - 1 pm

### PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Wed 9-1, or by  
appointment.

**Visit our web page at  
[www.tccucc.org](http://www.tccucc.org) and visit  
us on Facebook**

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:  
SUNDAY, MARCH 24**



## Pastor's Letter

As I write this, having just led worship for the first Sunday of Lent, I am mindful of how much longer our Lenten Journey has but also how quickly the time will pass. I am pretty sure that was not the case for Jesus while he wandered in his wilderness alone.

While Jesus spent his time alone in the harsh desert wondering where and when his next meal would come from and when he might have it, we move through our Lent with all the usual people and things around us. While Jesus had his life upended, we simply go on with our days as we did before, save for maybe giving something up that we feel might help us get thinner or wealthier.

Jesus had no idea how long his time in the wilderness would last, how many more nights he would have to sleep with one eye open mindful of the wild animals around him also looking for their next meal. We have a weekly countdown calendar to remind us how much longer to the end and the joy of our Easter celebration.

This is just a reminder of how significant our Lenten wilderness can be and how seriously we should be taking it. Jesus wrestled with his faith every day in those 40 days. It tested him every hour of every day. While we can't be expected to

mine the depth of the challenge Jesus faced, we can do our best to make our Lenten experience a meaningful spiritual endeavor and hope to truly grow in our faith, or in our commitment to our faith.

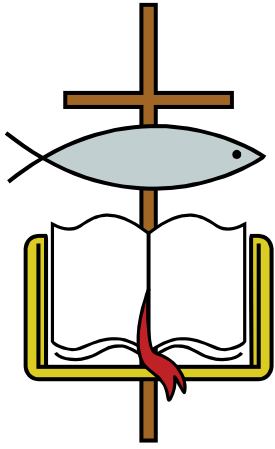
Having said that, let me jump ahead and tell you that our Holy Week services begin on Palm Sunday, March 24th, at 10 am in our sanctuary. We will remember Jesus' Last Supper at our Maundy Thursday Service on March 28th at 7 pm in our sanctuary. Good Friday we are all invited to participate in the Stations of the Cross at New Beginnings Methodist Church from 12 - 3 pm. Finally, we will celebrate the Resurrection on Sunday, March 31st at 10 am.

May your Lent be filled with wonder and surprise and renewal. See you in church.

Faithfully,

Greg





## March is Membership Month

What are member dues? This is the church's fee per member to Southern New England UCC Conference that provides us with many forms of support throughout the year.

With the budget so tight, the church is asking each member who can, to contribute \$20 to help cover this membership fee. If you are able to contribute, a check should be made out to TCC with "member dues" written on the memo line.

Please be assured that inability to participate in this small fund-raiser in *no way* affects your membership status with TCC.

*Jody Burnham*



## Our Father's Table



## Supporting Local Charities

Our Outreach ministry for March will be monetary support to Our Father's Table in Fitchburg that offers free community dinners two times a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This all-volunteer organization just celebrated their 41st anniversary on February 21. Pam Snaith has been a volunteer there for many years and I'm sure she'd be happy to speak with you about the program and the rewards of volunteering. There will be envelopes in the pews during March for you to put your donation in or you may send in a donation to the church office. Thank you in advance for your support in alleviating food insecurity in our communities.

Carole Gustafson

Moderator



## Community Meal

Our free community dinner for March will be held on Thursday, March 21st, from 5 to 6 pm. All are invited to enjoy a take-away or eat-in meatloaf meal including meatloaf, baked potatoes, green

beans, rolls and dessert. Water will be available for a beverage. Sign-up sheets will be available during coffee hour for those who would like to donate food or their time to the dinner. Those who would like to donate, but will not be at church, may contact Wanda Wilson at [wswilson7652@yahoo.com](mailto:wswilson7652@yahoo.com).

Thank you for your time,

Wanda Wilson and June Cloutier,  
Chairpeople



## PORK SUPPER - MARCH 23!

Jody Burnham is once again running her famous Roast Pork Supper to celebrate the beginning of Spring! Keep your eyes open for her sign-up sheets, and for fliers to post around town!

## We are in Hot Water!

A huge thank you goes to John D'Angelillo and David Wilson for solving our hot water problem in the kitchen! We were ready to install a new water heater when David checked the water in the playschool bathrooms. He found that they were as lukewarm as the kitchen water when the heater was turned to high, canceling the theory

that it was the distance between the kitchen and water heater that was lowering our water temps. John and David investigated the issue and found a water mixing valve that was frozen. Mike Sodano (a local plumber) replaced the valve, saving the church over \$3,000 for a new heater, and HOORAY, we now have hot water in the kitchen and cooler water in the playschool as it should be! Thanks friends! you are the best!

**Please be aware that we no longer have to adjust the heat level on the water heater for kitchen use events! The thermostat is set and should not be changed.**

*Wanda Wilson,  
Minister for Property*



## **SAVE THE DATE for TCC's 15th Annual Auction!!**

TCC's Annual Live Auction is scheduled for Saturday, May 11 and preparations have begun. Preview begins at 5 pm and live bidding begins at 6 pm with our returning Auctioneer, Daryl Pelletier from the Brookline Auction Gallery. This is a major fund-raiser for the church, so start cleaning out your house for items to donate - and ask your friends too! We cannot accept stuffed or very large pieces of furniture or

tv's/computers. When in doubt, just contact us. Cash donations are always greatly appreciated. See Wanda Wilson's article for ideas of services you can offer. If you have any leads for vendors please let us know. Keep your eyes open for free items on the side of the road - we have found some wonderful treasures that way. Once again there will be light finger foods (free) and beverages (\$\$) available. This is a fun night out even if you don't bid! We are looking for help (especially at the end of the night), so please contact Carole Gustafson or Beth Klein so we can add you to the list of helpers.

Your Auction Committee,

**Carole Gustafson** 978-597-6364  
carolegus@gmail.com

**Beth Klein** 978-597-8517  
donald.klein2@verizon.net

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

### ***From Wanda Wilson - Co Chair for vendors and services***

To all those generous donors who gave services to the auction last year, thank you!...it's that time again! Our auction this year will be May 11th, and plans are beginning to come together for the big day. Sooo, if you donated a service last year and/or would like to this year, please let Wanda Wilson know so we can add you to our list of members and friends who will give their time for the good of our church! Last year we had decorated cupcakes, car detailing, desserts, vacation options to name just a few. What talent or service could you share?

*Thank you in advance!*



## **Update on Nancy Clough**

Nancy has moved from Life Care Center Leominster to Benchmark Senior Living at Leominster Crossing on Rt. 13, on the way to the Mall at Whitney Field. It is on the right side of the road, between the old Whalom Park and Our Lady of the Lake Church. I'm sure Nancy would love to hear from you through cards or a visit. She misses being at church and seeing everyone. You can send cards to her at the following address - her current room number is 129 if you wish to visit, but may have changed by the time you read this.

Mrs. Nancy Clough  
c/o Benchmark Senior Living at  
Leominster Crossing  
1160 Main St  
Leominster MA 01453



## **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!



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

### Reach out to:

6-Jack Enright; 12-Antonio Basso and Sasha Gay; 13-John D'Angelillo; 14-Carrie Davidson; 15-Haeley Rochette; 17-Jonathan Borko, Jr. and Ally Urato-Partridge; 18-Kathy Duckett; 20-Donald Miller and Austin Swift; 21-Jonathan Borko, Sr.; 23-Lee Duckett; 26-Christine Clish and Joy Stewart; 27-Jody Burnham, Donald Klein and Paul Nixon; 28-Lloyd Clark and Lilly Goyette; 31-Susan Mills.



### OUR BLESSINGS:

Carol Swenor shares her joy that her grandson's major abdominal surgery at the beginning of February was a success; we pray that his recovery and healing from the surgery will be complete.

John and Elaine D'Angelillo share their joy of having a wonderful visit with Dave Ryder to celebrate Dave's birthday.

### OUR CONCERNS:

Beth Klein is asking for prayers for her friend, Janice, whose husband passed away in February.

We pray for an end to violence and conflict around the world. We pray for those who have been affected by war, terrorism, and natural disasters. We also pray for healing and unity in our own communities.

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.



## LECTIONARY, MARCH 2024

### March 3, 2024 -

*Third Sunday in Lent*

First reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm: Psalm 19

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Gospel: John 2:13-22

### March 10, 2024 -

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

First reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Second reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

Gospel: John 3:14-21

### March 17, 2024 -

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

First reading:

Psalm: Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16

Second reading: Hebrews 5:5-10  
Gospel: John 12:20-33

### March 24, 2024 -

*Sixth Sunday in Lent*

First reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm: Psalm 31:9-16

Second reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

### March 31, 2024 -

*Easter Day*

First reading: Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

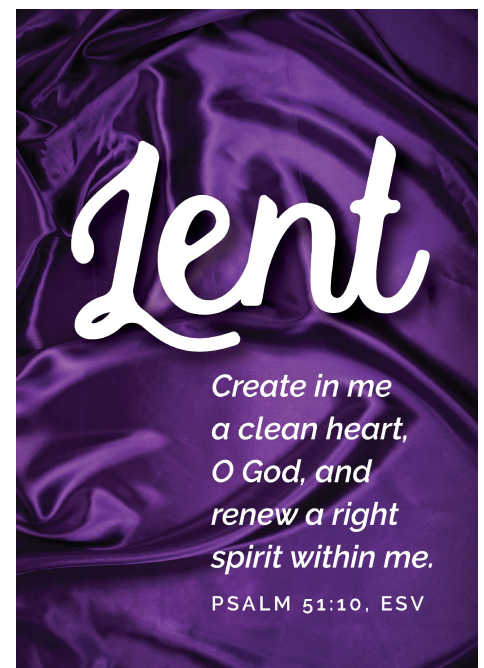
Second reading: Acts 10:34-43

Gospel: John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Mini Golf at the Library 2024

Friday, March 1 from 5 to 9 pm;  
Saturday, March 2 from 10 am to 4 pm.



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

*Worship/Sunday School at 10 am*

# Worship With Us



## 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)*

