

# THE VISITOR

TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



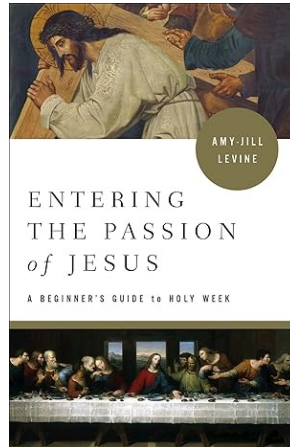
## MARCH

### In this edition . . .

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Remember to change  
your clocks on March 8



### Lenten Book Study Ongoing

Please consider joining us for a Lenten book study. The book being studied and discussed is "Entering the Passion of Jesus" by Amy-Jill Levine. The group will be meeting on Mondays, 5:30-6:30 pm, in Fellowship Hall and via the Zoom meeting portal, starting February 23. If you missed the first meeting, it's easy to catch up.



### Regifting Event

A huge thank-you to Heather R for bringing back and hosting our regifting event, featuring our hilariously unwanted gifts. We had a fun evening and look forward to doing it again next year!

### March 2026 Calendar

- 2 Lenten Book Study
- 9 Lenten Book Study
- 9 Council Meeting
- 16 Lenten Book Study
- 19 Free Community Dinner
- 23 Lenten Book Study
- 28 Roast Pork Supper
- 29 Palm Sunday
- 29 March Newsletter Deadline
- 30 Lenten Book Study

*Choir Practice every  
Wednesday at 7:30 pm*





## March 2026

Volume 49 No. 3

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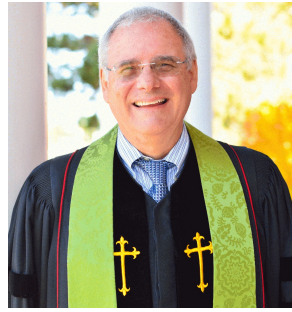
**Village Common Children's  
Center:** vccc@tccucc.org

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday-Friday: 9 am - 1 pm

**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, MARCH 29**



## Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

Lent has begun, and with it our time of spiritual introspection. Lent is the time in which we wander through the wilderness of faith, belief and trust in God and God's goodness. Certainly we, like Jesus before us, face temptation each and every day - many times a day. As we wrestle with falling prey to it, or having the strength to say "no," we should know that God is with us in the midst of our moral, physical and spiritual challenges.

During these forty days we remember Jesus wandering in the wilderness and facing temptations. Jesus wandered the same wilderness we do. As he wrestled with the temptations he also contemplated his relationship to and with God. What an amazing gift to know that God's grace, love and mercy is with us in the midst of our wilderness travels.

Ultimately, he chose NOT to opt for power and status. Instead, he chose humility to teach us how much he and God love us. As we continue our Lenten journey let us remember Jesus has shown us that, with our faith leading us forward, we too can resist the temptations set before us.

Furthermore, it should be of great comfort to us to know that God

knows us, God loves us and God sent His son to save us.

I invite you to be part of our book study during Lent. We will be reading "Entering the Passion of Jesus" by Amy-Jill Levine. We will meet in our fellowship hall and via Zoom on Mondays from 5:30-6:30 pm. Come, join the conversation, or just listen to it, either way you might learn something new.

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 29th. We will worship with our friends from New Beginnings in our sanctuary on that Sunday at our usual time of 10 am. I hope to see you there.

God is good!

Greg

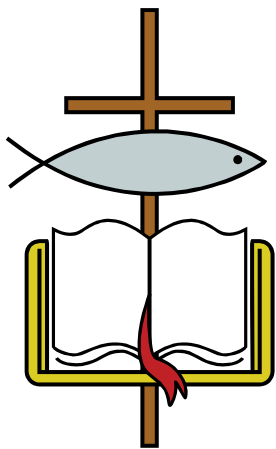


## One Great Hour of Sharing

UCC usually collects the offering for *One Great Hour of Sharing* on the fourth Sunday in Lent each year. We have chosen to collect that offering on March 1 and 8 this year.

**What is One Great Hour of Sharing?** The United Church of Christ responds to humanitarian and development needs in the world. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing carry God's message of love and hope to people in crisis.

Through UCC's work with local churches, conferences, international partners and organizations, One Great Hour of Sharing provides sources of clean water, food, education, health care, small business micro-credit loans, advocacy, resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, emergency relief and rehabilitation as well as disaster preparedness and response.



## March is Membership Month

What are member dues? This is the church's fee per member to the 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*

## Free Community Dinner

TCC's next community dinner will be held on Thursday, March 19th from 5-6 pm. The menu will include meatloaf, baked potatoes, vegetables, rolls and cookies for dessert. It is a take away dinner with a few tables available for those who would enjoy the company of others by eating in. Water will be available for a beverage.

Please contact Wanda Wilson or the church office if you would like to donate food and/or your time. Sign-up sheets for donations to the dinner will also be available after church on Sundays. It is a great way to meet new friends and catch up on news while offering patrons a meal and chance to visit with others.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

*Wanda*



## PORK SUPPER - MARCH 28!

Jody Burnham is once again running her famous roast pork supper that includes roast pork, sauerkraut, carrots, baked potato, home-made apple sauce - and Dessert! Keep your eyes open for her sign-up sheets, and for fliers to post around town.



## IT'S AUCTION TIME- SAVE THE DATE - MAY 9!

Wanda W and Carole G have teamed up to chair this year's Auction, once again. Daryl Pelletier from the Brookline Auction Gallery will again be keeping the bidding lively. Start searching the nooks and crannies in your homes for items you really don't need, but will benefit the church. Think about services you can give as well. Do you know a business owner that might consider donating an item? ... please let us know. Remember, this is not a yard sale. We are looking for items of interest to both males and females. If in doubt, please ask and send a picture if you can. Do you have friends, relatives or neighbors that are downsizing or clearing out their clutter - let them know about the Auction. We cannot accept TVs, electronics, upholstered or large pieces of furniture. Please do not bring anything to church at this time. We will let you know when we can start accepting items. Beverages and finger foods will be available once again. Help will be needed, especially at the end of the night!

*Carole and Wanda*



## The Village Common Children's Center

### Hello TCC Friends! Happy March from all of us at VCCC!

Well, unfortunately, Punxsutawney Phil let us down on an early Spring leaving us with six more weeks of winter, boo hoo : ( But hopefully we'll have some warmer temperatures allowing us to get the kids outside to play in the snow!!

February saw the older children of VCCC participating in many fun activities that complimented the learning themes of Winter & Artic Life, Shadows & Reflections, Caring & Sharing, and Musical Fun! Our younger friends explored the themes of Winter, Dinosaurs, and Valentine's Day, as well as the literary works of authors Jan Brett and Margaret Wise Brown! The children in all classrooms also enjoyed fun Valentine's Day celebrations! All of the activities that the teachers plan for the children each day are targeting different areas of their development-cognitive and language skills, fine and gross motor skills, and social/emotional skills. Many of the activities, especially in the Preschool/PreK classroom, have subtle academic components, especially in the areas of math, science and literacy.

Mid-year evaluations went home last month, giving parents the opportunity to see all the growth and development that has happened with their children since our school year began last September. This was then followed up with Parent/Teacher conferences which gave teachers the chance to show parents work samples and answer any questions they may have had regarding their child's ongoing progress.

In February, we began our registration process for the 2026-2027 school year (gosh that sounds so weird given I started with VCCC way back in 2016!!) for our families currently enrolled in our program. Beginning on February 17th, registration will open up to the TCC community and our waiting list, and then two weeks after that to the general public. If any of you are possibly looking for enrollment for September, or know someone who is, please call Carol Ciccolini, VCCC Director, at 978-597-0834 as soon as possible to set up a tour date, as our openings will be very limited.

February also gave an unannounced visit from our state licenser who came to do a yearly inspection. She had nothing but positive things to say about the staff's interactions with the children, the curriculum activities she observed, and the overall cleanliness of the school. As she was leaving, she again said, "I always enjoy coming to VCCC because I know that everyone is doing everything they are supposed to do!" YEAH US!!!

Even though Mother Nature has not been very kind to us this winter and we still have some winter to go, the first official day of Spring is Friday,

March 20th, and we are all looking forward to the new beginnings the season will eventually bring - warmer temperatures, the birth of new babies (human and animal), the return of beautiful colors in our gardens, and the promise of Summer to come!

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

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!



Jack Enright; Antonio Basso; Sasha Gay; Carrie Davidson; Haeley Rochette; Kathy Duckett; Donald Miller; Austin Swift; Lee Duckett; Christine Clish; Joy Stewart; Jody Burnham; Donald Klein; Paul Nixon; Lloyd Clark; Lilly Goyette; Susan Mills.



**OUR BLESSINGS:**

Melissa M shares her joy that she became an aunt again to a new niece.

Having our New Beginnings friends with us in worship continues to be a joy to us.

**OUR CONCERNS:**

We pray for Tad’s sister who is in hospice care. We also pray for her family and caregivers.

We keep Moe T in our prayers as he recovers from back surgery.

We pray for all those who are alone and lonely.

Prayers for Pat F and her family as Pat continues to recover. (NB)

Prayers for Krissy M and her family as Krissy continues to recover. (NB)

Prayers for Julie Z as she recovers from surgery.

Prayers for Beth K’s daughter-in-law, Jen, who is recovering from surgery.

Melissa M is asking for continuing prayers for her daughter’s Papa Joe who is terminally ill and is in the hospital.

Karen B is asking for prayers for her cousin, who is mourning the death of his wife.

**A Note from Moe T.**

*“I have a long way to go but I’m making progress.*

*It’s nice to have Facebook. I feel like I’m at the service. I want to thank everyone for their prayers and keep them coming for all who are undergoing procedures. The flowers are beautiful and cheerful.*

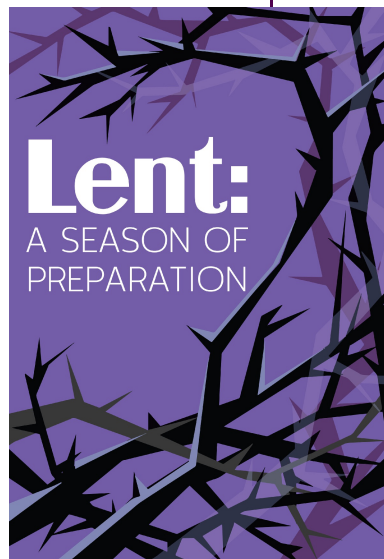
*Love, Moe”*

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.



**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**The Friends of the Library are holding a week-long home-goods rummage sale from March 14 through 21, during regular library hours.**



**LECTIONARY, MARCH 2026**

**March 1, 2026 -**

*Second Sunday in Lent*

First reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm: Psalm 121

Second reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Gospel: John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

**March 8, 2026 -**

*Third Sunday in Lent*

First reading: Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm: Psalm 95

Second reading: Romans 5:1-11

Gospel: John 4:5-42

**March 15, 2026 -**

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

First reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm: Psalm 23

Second reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41

**March 22, 2026 -**

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

First reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm: Psalm 130

Second reading: Romans 8:6-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

**March 29, 2026 -**

*Sixth Sunday in Lent*

First reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm: Psalm 31:9-16

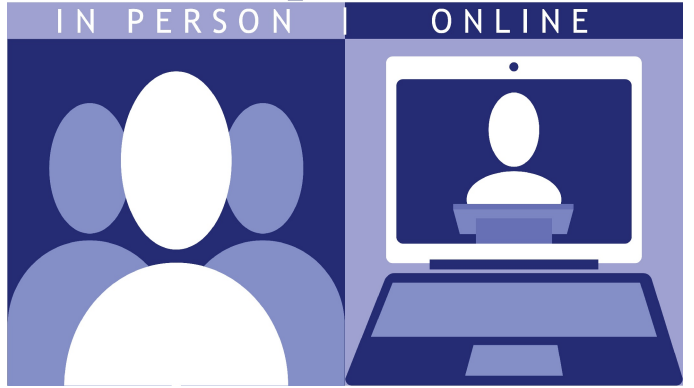
Second reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

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)*

