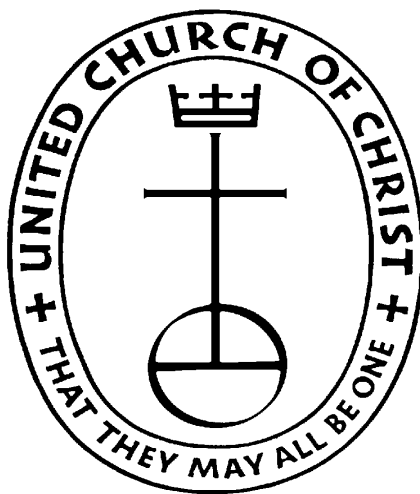


Rindge UCC Deaconer

January, 2009



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Worship Schedule for February 2009

Feb 1 Communion Sunday

Greeters: Joyce and Larry Kabat
Ushers: Stephen and Penny Chace

Scripture Readings: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Lay reader: Tony D'Ambrosio

Sermon: *Holey Jeans*

Feb 8

Greeters: Mary Jane Sawyer
Ushers: Maura Keegan and Nancy Bogar

Scripture Readings Isaiah 40:21-31 Mark 1:29-39
Lay reader: Bernice Ferwerda

Sermon: *The Cave*

Feb 15

Greeters: Bob and Cynthia Childs
Ushers: Burt and Janet Goodrich

Scripture Reading 2 Kings 5:1-14
Lay Reader: Burt Goodrich

Sermon: *Just add water*

Feb 22 We'll be joined by musical guests 'The Right Path' gospel bluegrass band

Greeters: Marcie Miller
Ushers: Sue Chatwin and Sue Campbell

Scripture Readings 2 Corinthians 1:3-24
Lay reader: Phyllis Groezinger

Sermon: Yes, but...

Feb 25 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service

We'll prepare our hearts and minds for the Lenten Season in a brief service of prayer and meditation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Common Grounds Coffeehouse

presents

Amy Gallatin and

Stillwaters

Friday, February 13, 8 pm

*One of New England's premier country and western-swing bands,
featuring the world-class Dobro guitarist Roger Williams*

\$8 (\$4 with valid student ID) tickets available at the door

located at the Rindge NH Meeting House

6 Payson Hill Road, Rindge, NH

Sponsored by First Congregational Church UCC, Rindge

(603)-899-2268

www.rindgeucc.org

Do you like to clean?? We are looking for someone to clean the church sanctuary, vestry and Sunday school room on a weekly basis. Please contact Dave Marr or Marcie Miller for further information.

Please note that the following **meetings** are scheduled:

Tuesday, February 10 – Trustees at 7pm

Thursday, February 19 – Church Council at 7pm

Thursday, February 26 – Membership and Evangelism at 7pm

Reminder that the church's **annual meeting** is scheduled for **Sunday, March 1st** after the morning church service. Please attend as key decisions about the church's financial direction and other critical issues are discussed and votes are taken. Warrant items currently identified include review of the 2008 year end reports, approval of the annual church budget, appointment of committee members and other items as identified. Your participation is important!

Is your birthday, wedding anniversary, mailing address, email address or phone number wrong, missing or changing? If so, please send the correct information to the Membership Committee in care of the church, leave a note in their church mailbox or email it to Marcie Miller at Quiltmm@gmail.com. Thanks!

Church Council Minutes

January 15, 2009

Present: Mary Jane Sawyer, Marcie Miller, Pastor Jim Melhorn, Janet Goodrich, Jeanne Norwood, David Marr, Sue Campbell, Tony D'Ambrosio, Margaret Morabito

Leaders Gathering in the Presence of God

Worship/Prayer/Scripture/Sharing:

- We did a thinking and visualization exercise: "observe us as God does." Psalm 139. This was followed up later in the meeting.

Old Business:

- November minutes will be approved later. We had no meeting in December.
- Retreat planning: for later discussion
- Church Activities: The 2009 Meeting House Calendar for coordination with Town Hall. If you have updates/changes, contact Janet.
- Budget: in process. For any outstanding bills, please contact Marcie.

Listening for God's Word to the Church

Guided Discussion:

Distance is needed to see the big picture. We need the ability to step outside ourselves to objectively analyze challenges and goals. We did small group discussions followed by an entire group discussion, led by Pastor Jim. Discussion questions were based on Acts 2:42-47 in which we were comparing and contrasting the fellowship of believers and the description of early church life with our own church life today.

The Church Responding in Faith

Warrant Articles: Includes the Safe Church Policy. We need to prepare for the Annual Report.

Committee Reports: Due by Feb. 1 for the Annual Report. E-mail to Lorri.

Workshops: The Trustees are forming a committee to plan for workshops on financial planning and estate planning. Rick Kohlmorgen will head the committee. There will be speakers and the community will be invited to attend.

2009 Review of Constitution: All of us will participate in reviewing our church Constitution. Please read the relevant sections and if there are changes to be made, speak up. A team of Sue, Jim, and Jan is ready to oversee this task.

Church "To Do List": We have been discussing ways to get more people involved in taking ownership of certain tasks that need to be done for the church. Sue suggested coming up with a "to-do list" that would be posted in a prominent location, on which we could easily see what needs to be done, who has claimed ownership of the task, and when it has been accomplished. We basically need a process that includes a quick reference visual aid. We all can and should contribute to these little tasks, such as closing the storm windows in winter.

Action Items (Decision-Making):

2009 Budget: Dave and Marcie discussed the 2009 budget and expectations. Expenses will be up in 2009 over 2008; there is an anticipation of less income. However, they expect that we can cover things with existing and expected funds. Motion to support the budget; seconded; no further discussion; approved. Ask Marcie if you have questions.

Leaders Going out to share the Good News

Common Grounds Coffee House: February 13

Snowflake Fair: We did well. Made \$4,500. Good job, everyone!

Budget Investments: 2009 looks better for investments.

Membership Committee: Will hold the "Beginnings" program in March through May on Thursdays. This is open to the entire Rindge community.

Deaconer: Reminder to inform Lorri of items by 23rd of each month.

Committee Reports: Written reports are posted on the bulletin board.

Closing Worship/Prayer: Closing prayer by Janet.

Next Meeting: February 19

In God we trust,

Margaret Morabito, Council Clerk

February Birthdays

Eileen Abbey	1
Kyle O'Day	1
Nada Foster	4
Nancy Bogar	8
Laura Shirley	10
Mary Jane Sawyer	13
Julie Popp	14
Burton Goodrich	16
Emily Thomas	17
Ella Dale	18
Spencer L'Heureux	20
Elaine Pratt	20
Jordan Melhorn	21
Jacob Berardi	22
Mary Lu Mathis	22
Jean Benson	23
Robert Popple	23
Maurice Sesia	26
Helen Unger-Clark	26

*The First Congregational Church and Society
(United Church of Christ)*



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Annual Meeting, 2009

WARRANT

To the members of the First Congregational Church and Society of the United Church of Christ in Rindge, New Hampshire qualified to vote in Church affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet in the Sanctuary on Sunday, March 1, 2009 at 11:30 AM to hear and transact the following business:

- Article I** To hear and act upon all reports of Officers and Committees
- Article II** To choose all necessary Officers and Committee Members for their delegated terms.
- Article III** To adopt the budget for the Fiscal Year 2009
- Article IV** To amend the Trustees section of the By-Laws to read as follows: "The Board shall ~~raise funds~~ **work with council** to meet the financial needs of the Church and to support its mission."

"The Finance Committee shall ~~provide~~ **work with Council** for raising funds for the support of the operating budget...."
- Article VI** To adopt the Policy for Maintaining a Safe Church Environment as approved by Council.
- Article VII** To act upon any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Given this 15th day of February, in the year of our Lord 2009.

Margaret Moribito, Clerk

Pastoral Letter

Outrage! That's a word I can't seem to get away from these days. The media is all abuzz with it, and seems to enjoy with great relish each event and decision and the particular group expressing outrage. During the recent inauguration, we heard of the outrage among gay rights groups at the invitation of Rick Warren, pastor of the Saddleback Church, author of The Purpose-Driven Life, and strong supporter of the California proposition to ban gay marriage, to deliver the inaugural prayer of invocation. There was more outrage surrounding the kick-off concert before the inauguration. Rev. Eugene Robinson, openly-gay Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire, was invited to deliver a prayer. Those objecting to his appointment were outraged at his inclusion, while his supporters were outraged that his prayer was inadvertently not broadcast by HBO as part of the concert telecast. There's reports of outrage on Wall Street over reports of a former Merrill-Lynch CEO spending millions in office upgrades and employee bonuses while his company suffered record losses. And perhaps most sadly, outrage by fans of Heath Ledger over the lack of his inclusion in a video tribute to deceased actors at the recent Screen Actors Guild award ceremony.

Is this the best we can do with our outrage? Why are we not outraged that thousands of innocent Palestinians in Gaza have been killed by an Israeli invasion that neither made Israel more safe nor dismantled Hamas' infrastructure? Why are we not outraged that a government like Hamas would knowingly put innocents in harm's way to garner international sympathy? Why are we not outraged that our government cloaks its events with Christian prayers and yet so often and for so long acts in a decidedly un-Christian-like manner? Why are we not outraged that our schools are failing, our health care system is designed to prevent those who most need it from using it, and there are children starving in a world where obesity-related disease will soon become the number one cause of death?

My fear is not that there is too much outrage, but too little, and that our outrage is misplaced and misguided. As followers of Jesus, we must strive to love, to care, and to heal as he does. We must share his outrage at the status quo, at those who say one thing and do another, at the world's lack of justice, righteousness, and peace, and at ourselves when we fail to be all God wants us to be. Dedicating ourselves fully to love and serve God? Now that's outrageous!