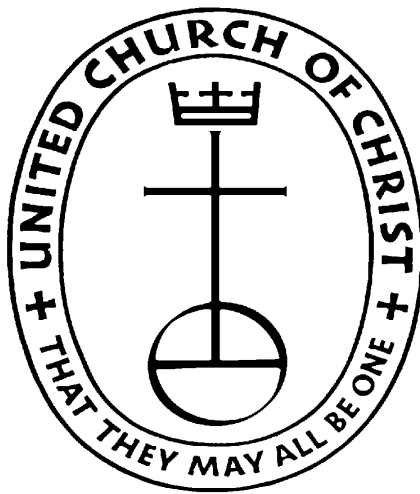


Rindge UCC Deaconer

March, 2009



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(Pastoral Letter will be emailed separately within the week)

Worship Schedule for March 2009

March 1 Communion Sunday – First Sunday of Lent

Greeters: Nada Foster and Phyllis Groezinger
Ushers: Rick and Janet Kohlmorgen

Scripture Readings: Mark 1:9-15 1 Peter 3: 13-22
Lay reader: Janet Goodrich

Sermon: *The Body of Christ*

March 8 Second Sunday of Lent

Greeters: Betty Chenausky and Bernice Martin
Ushers: Sue Casey and Jane Hannon

Scripture Readings Genesis 17:1-9, 15-16 Mark 8:27-38
Lay reader: Steve Henrikson

Sermon: *The Cross of Christ*

March 15 Third Sunday of Lent

Greeters: Stephen and Penny Chace
Ushers: Bob and Cynthia Childs

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-25
Lay Reader: Carleen Eicher

Sermon: *The Mind of Christ*

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

Greeters: Burt and Janet Goodrich
Ushers: Lois and Norm May

Scripture Readings Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21
Lay reader: Janet Kohlmorgen

Sermon: *The Love of Christ*

March 29 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Greeters: Ken and Sandy Harding

Ushers: Steve Henrikson and Nancy Bogar

Scripture Readings Jeremiah 31:31-34 John 12:20-33

Lay Reader: Bernice Martin

Sermon: *The Heart of Christ*

Upcoming - Services for Holy Week

April 5 – Palm Sunday

April 9 – Maundy Thursday Seder Meal 6:30 pm

April 10 – Good Friday – church will be open from 1 to 3 pm for prayer and reflection

April 12 – Easter Sunday

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

CLEANING DAY AT THE CHURCH-March 28, 2009

Please join the Deacons on March 28,2009 at 9 a.m.. We need many hands to replace light bulbs, wash wood work ,vacuum blinds, wash windows,etc. The Deacons will supply the materials but we need the manpower to make this work go easier.

Mission Ministries is hosting a Chili/Soup supper on Friday, March 27 at 6pm. A short program will follow and a free will offering will be asked to be donated to the program. We will be needing your help and a sign up sheet will be placed downstairs at the church. Thank you.

Mission Ministries is participating in the OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing) with the UCC Churches. "Where is your treasure?" Your help can change lives by providing clean water, food, education and health care throughout the world. Please be generous as most of our immediate needs are satisfied. Thank you.

A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN

Do you like to read, discuss, and socialize? If so, please consider joining other folks in our church at **Marie and Dave Marr's home at 7:00 PM** on April 7 for a lively dialogue about **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn**.

Thanks to our town library, copies will be available at coffee hour. To help with planning, please be sure to sign-up and take a discussion guide at after church. Happy reading!!

March Meetings [that I'm aware of]:

Trustees: Tuesday, March 10th @ 7:00 pm

Membership & Evangelism: Thursday, March 5th @ 7:00 pm

Beginnings - Session 1: Thursday, March 26th @ 5:30 pm

New Church Sexton - The Trustees are pleased to announce that Jean Raymond has accepted the position of church sexton. We extend our appreciation to Lorri Bond who handled that role over the last year. As you know Lorri also holds a full time job at a day care center, is a wife and mother, in addition to being our music director, choir director and organist, and church secretary, so something had to go! Thank you, to both Lorri and Jean!

Membership Database - As you may know, the Membership & Evangelism committee maintains a database of our church family's names, addresses, phone numbers, birthdays, wedding anniversaries and email addresses, which allows us to keep in touch with everyone. To that end, it is important that our data be accurate and up-to-date. So, please let us know if or when your information changes or you notice an omission or inaccuracy. Email updates to Marcie Miller at Quiltmm@gmail.com, or leave a note in the Membership committee's mailbox at church.

- Also, did your **email change from Verizon to Fairpoint**? Please notify us of you new email address!
- Do you have children at college who have email? Let us know their email and we'll include them on the church email list.

Beginnings – The Membership and Evangelism Committee, responsible for the organizing the first round of “Beginnings” last fall, is running the program again and expanding our outreach to the community at large. Sessions are scheduled to run **Thursdays from March 26 until June 4**. We will publicize and advertise to get the message out to as many people as possible through a mass mailing to Rindge residents and press releases to the local papers.

The program is designed and intended for those who were new to the faith, those who have fallen or been pushed away from the Christian story, and those who may be seeking something more meaningful. It is a program of outreach that tells the story in a fresh way and introduces Jesus to a world desperately in need of the comfort and hope that he alone can bring. However, those who participated from within the church found it a very powerful program that can deepen and enhance our spiritual lives regardless of where we find ourselves on our spiritual journey. So, **we invite you to attend, and consider bringing a friend!**

This is truly exciting...a concentrated, intentional attempt at evangelism that will involve our entire church! Please help spread the Good News by supporting the program in any way you can, We need group leaders, group helpers, meal preparation, set-up and clean-up support Please contact Jim (899-2268) or Marcie Miller (899-5419) to discuss ways to help!

ITS ALMOST TAX TIME! - Got you attention?

In 2006 the IRS amended the Tax Code to require all individual cash contributions be documented in writing by the recipient. You can no longer rely on your own records except those substantiated by a bank record or a canceled check. Your personally-maintained records are no longer accepted by the IRS when it comes to donations.

In addition you can no longer take a tax deduction for any cash or property contributions of \$250 or more unless you receive a written acknowledgment from the church that meets various requirements.

The church collectors mail a quarterly statement that documents your pledge or cash contributions which satisfies the cash contribution aspect of this ruling.

So, what about property or materials donated to the church? In 2008 several substantial donations were made including the paint and ceiling tiles for the Sunday school room, The church treasurer will provide the necessary written acknowledgment on behalf of the church, if you document the dates, costs and have the receipts. Please contact Marcie Miller @ 899-5419 to discuss this further. Even if you make donations of flowers or other materials that total less than the \$250 level but you have the necessary receipts and would like a letter, let me know.

So even if you can't take advantage of this benefit this year, be sure to keep those donation receipts for next year's taxes!

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

February 19, 2009

Present: Mary Jane Sawyer, Phyllis Groezinger, Jeanne Norwood, Janet Goodrich, Pastor Jim Melhorn, Una Bigelow, Marcie Miller, Tony D'Ambrosio, Margaret Morabito

Leaders Gathering in the Presence of God

Worship/Prayer/Scripture/Sharing:

Pastor Jim read from the Book of Matthew, Sermon on the Mount. We then shared how God's love is being worked out in someone we know, followed with the opening prayer by Pastor Jim.

Old Business:

- January minutes were approved.
- To-Do List: We will discuss this with the new Council at the next meeting.
- Bulletin Board: We need to keep it updated with current committee minutes.
- Retreat Planning: There will be a meeting on Sunday, March 8, after church.
- Annual Meeting: Sunday, March 1. We need a quorum of at least 29 members.

Listening for God's Word to the Church

Guided Discussion:

Pastor Jim led a discussion to help guide us in planning for the future and reducing conflict, based on the book "Discerning Your Congregation's Future". We learned about Polarity Theory in which we graphed the pros and cons of selected topics for the purpose of helping to non-judgmentally describe ourselves as a church. We will follow up with a congregational health survey at the next meeting.

The Church Responding in Faith

Constitution: We will discuss this after the Annual Meeting has been held.

Report of Nominating Committee: We need volunteers to serve as Trustees and on the Mission Ministries and Christian Education Committees.

Deacons: They are seeking help from the congregation for Cleaning Day on Saturday, March 28, when we will clean the sanctuary and stairwells.

All-Committee Planning Meeting: We will discuss its future and determine a date later.

Safe Church Policy: We discussed implementation ideas, including phasing in training; reference checks; insurance policy; and storage of confidential information. We are in the process of developing an implementation plan.

Leaders Going out to share the Good News

- *LVA:* They hosted refreshments for the St. Pierre service on January 20.
- *Deaconer:* 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 Tony.

Next Meeting: March 19

In God we trust,

Margaret Morabito, Council Clerk

<u>March Birthdays</u>	Day
Heather Wunschel	1
Michael Picinisco	2
Brian Kohlmorgen	5
Elise Perry	6
Adam Sesia	8
Janet Goodrich	9
Philip Casey	10
Arthur Fitzwater	11
Katrina Fleming	13
Hayden Skelton	15
Carter Jack Cormier	16
Peter Wells	16
Lisa Galante	21
Dale Pyer	21
Michele Perry	23
Jon Cormier	24
Evan Popp	24
Maria Dauphinais	25
James Melhorn	25
Marti Gagnon	26
Marie Marr	27
Perry Thomas	28
Katherine Fitzwater	31

[No Wedding Anniversaries in March]