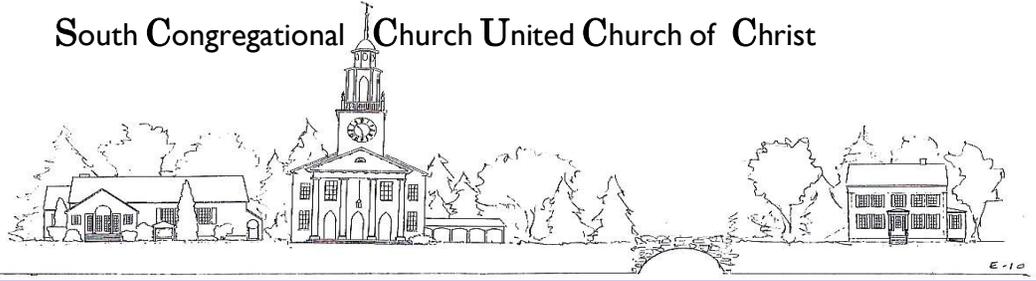


South Congregational Church United Church of Christ



March 2016

Words from our Minister



Does it feel as if Lent has been a LONG time? These forty days of spiritual reflection and preparation leading us to Easter began with Ash Wednesday early last month. It is intentional that this season be lengthy such that newly adapted spiritual disciplines have time to take root and gain traction.

A second reason is that we can be a stubborn people (yes, we do confess such), slow to turn from our often self-serving ways. God invites us to remove the worn out garments in which we clothe (and shield) ourselves.

Simultaneously, God invites us to be robed in the dazzling, awe inspiring and life changing garb of compassion and empathy, to be transformed by our days of darkness and rise above earthly confines. New and broader horizons await us through the resurrection of Christ.

Charles

"Remember that Lent and Ash Wednesday is not just about putting away the bad things. It is about creating good things and helping the poor and the needy, being kind to people and much more." Jacob Winters



Last summer, Rev. Charles approached Central Board along with Personnel Committee and members of the church staff seeking support for a six week period of study and service at Back Bay in Biloxi MS. With unanimous support, he was encouraged to actively pursue this endeavor. Rev. Charles will be a Long Term Volunteer through our United Church of Christ and will be gone for six Sundays beginning the week after Easter and returning mid May. During one of these weeks, the South Church group of 15 will be at Back Bay Mission - our eighth year of service in housing renovation and service support following Hurricane Katrina.

We are pleased that the Rev. Pat Smith will be leading us in worship during this time. She recently completed her ministry at the York Beach Union Church and is no stranger to our pulpit as Pat has been here on previous occasions when Charles has been vacation. We are pleased that she'll be with us on March 13 to be re-introduced. During the weekdays, arrangements have been made with the Rev. Dr. Burt Howe to be on call for any pastoral needs or emergencies. Burt and family have been worshipping with us this past year and attended seminary with our pastor. Also on call will be Rev. Mark Arbisi of Christ Church, Kennebunk.

Our Mission is to be an inclusive community of faith that preaches the word of God, teaches the love of Jesus Christ and reaches out to all through the Holy Spirit.

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Inside this issue:

Words from Rev. Whiston

Lent and Easter

Christian Education

Easter Flowers

You Should Know

Sunday Worship 10:30 am
(Nursery Care provided)

Sunday School 10:30 am
Classes

Church School Happenings

Dear Families,

The Season of Lent is 40 days long (not counting the Sundays, which are all considered “little Easters”) and it is a time to recall the stories of our faith. During this season the children will be exploring readings from both the Hebrew scriptures (also known as the Old Testament) and the New Testament. They will learn about a ritual of thanksgiving, about God’s covenant with Abraham and Sarah, and a song of joy in the Psalms. They will also hear two stories about extravagant love.

Youth Group will meet on Sunday March 20th. We will have a lesson, do an outreach project and go ice-skating! Please let Beth know if you are coming at bgimme@hotmail.com.

Sunday School Children: We will have our **Easter Egg Hunt** on Easter Sunday, March 28 at 10:00am. Please bring a basket to collect your eggs in!



Lent and Easter Offerings



Palm Sunday, March 20, 10:30am Worship, South Congregational Church

Holy Week - 12 noon Monday through Friday at Kennebunk Baptist Church

Maundy Thursday remembering the Last Supper - March 24, 7:00pm,
Community Worship at Village Baptist Church, Kennebunkport

Good Friday remembering the crucifixion of Christ - March 25, 7:00pm,
Community Worship Church on the Cape, Cape Porpoise

Easter Sunrise Community Service - March 28, 6:30am, at Kennebunk Beach

Easter Sunday Worship 10:30am at South Congregational Church (Nursery Care Only)

Pilgrim Lodge Lake Cobbosseecontee in West Gardiner

It's not too early for summer camp plans at **Pilgrim Lodge**. A great program of our Maine Conference UCC, one week camps for all ages.

Take a look at www.pilgrimlodge.org.
Financial support from our Women's Association is available. Rev. Charles has more information.





EASTER FLOWERS
Deadline to order flowers March 18



Easter is just around the corner and in preparation, we will be decorating the sanctuary again this year with lilies and tulips. You are invited to purchase a plant in honor or memory of someone(s) special, or make a donation to the Pilgrim Lodge summer camp scholarships, also in honor or memory of someone(s) special.

Should any funds remain from the purchase of the plants, the monies will be used for Pilgrim Lodge camp scholarships.

Please include your memorial message whether you are purchasing a plant or making a donation.

Please indicate your preference: I wish to purchase a plant(s) at **\$11.00** lily
\$10.00 tulip

I will take my plant home I will leave my plant for a homebound

I wish to make a memorial gift to Pilgrim Lodge in lieu of flowers

Message for bulletin: _____

Please make your checks payable to: South Congregational Church UCC
 PO Box 414 Kennebunkport, ME 04046

If you have any questions, please call Sarah at the Church office at 967-2793

 **Lift Every voice and sing** 

Ever wondered / considered singing in the choir but not able to commit to every Thursday evening rehearsal for the year? How about joining for these weeks of Lent as we move towards Easter Sunday. David would welcome you on Thursdays for the 7:15pm rehearsal - then singing on Sunday mornings. Consider this your invitation to leave the pew for several weeks and join the choir.

~ Life Journeys ~		
Baptisms	February 28	Lucas Patrick Stack
Deaths	January 24	Cindy Elaine Donovan
	January 25	Regina Geary Merry
	February 5	June Morton Ficker
	February 9	George Rowland Williams
	February 12	Perry Parsons Craver

**Y
O
U
S
h
o
u
l
d
K
N
O
W**

South Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
PO Box 414
Kennebunkport, ME 04046
Phone: 207/967-2793
Fax: 207/967-5672

We are on the web
www.southchurchucc.org

The deadline for submitting
newsletter articles is the 15th of
each month by emailing to:
sarah@southchurchucc.org.



Aerial photo of South Church. Check out the video for an aerial view of Kennebunkport including South Church. <https://vimeo.com/154429305>
Courtesy of Bill Lord

South Congregational Church UCC
PO Box 414
Kennebunkport, ME 04046

Forwarding Service Requested