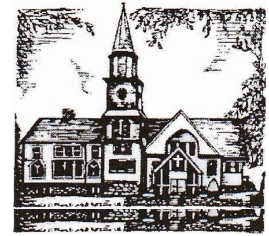


# ✠ FRIENDLY MESSENGER ✠

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March ✠ 2021



## **Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:**

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have gathered for our 2021 Annual Church Meeting. Some of you will have been physically present and others will have met with us virtually. Hopefully the budget will have been passed and our slate of officers will have been approved.

As we move forward, I would lift up the scripture lesson from Matthew 9:35-38. I would especially lift up verse 36 in light of the events of 2020-2021. "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." This is a pretty accurate description of the world in which we live. So many souls around us are, "harassed and helpless."

Jesus observes this and then tells His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful and the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field." In other words, there is a lot of ministry to be done and not many to do it. The Lord of the harvest is God and we are the workers. Pray that the Holy Spirit will touch hearts to go out to minister and say YES to God's calling. If we want to make an eternal difference in this world, this is the way to do it.

For example, consider those who are distributing food and clothing to the needy. Consider those who give to the mission of our church or contribute to our Deacons' Fund. I praise God for those of you who are working out in the field and doing ministry every day of your lives.

May we, as a church family, open our wallets and calendars to show Jesus-like compassion to the harassed and helpless all around us. Blessings come when we give and are good stewards of all God has given to us. Consider James 2:14-18. "Show me your faith without deeds and I will show you my faith by my deeds."

As we move out from our annual meeting, let us be committed to putting our time, talents and treasure to work in a world that needs the compassion of the followers of Jesus Christ more than ever.

See you in church.

Because He lives,

*Rev. Bob Jackson*



On March 12, we celebrate the birthday of the Girl Scouts. We have welcomed troops in the past to meet in our church. One of their special songs goes like this, "♪ Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver and the other gold ♪." I like that. It reminds me also about the friends, both old and new that gather together in our church. We should always be welcoming to new friends who join our church family, and we are thankful for our long term friends who continue to be part of our fellowship. Katy Chase was a new friend, who worked in our church office. She left at the end of 2020 for a full time position elsewhere. But, there is still work to be done in our church office. I want to say thank you to Bev Bean who has been taking care of the bookkeeping and also to Sue Anderson who makes sure our newsletter is published each month. If you read Rev. Bob's weekly message on our website, that is also done by Sue. (By the way, Sue is a March baby, so if you should see her, don't forget to say Happy Birthday!) I can't believe it has been a year since I have seen many of you in church. It has been a long and lonely year for me. But, I have hope that since many of you are getting your vaccine shots, one day we will be gathering together again! In the meantime, Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Spring! I keep you all in my daily prayers. You are more precious to me than silver or gold. If March should come in like a lion, I expect it to go out like a lamb!

I remain, your faithful friend,  
Nick, the church mouse 🍀



While we still are not able to hold Fellowship in the church, we can keep in touch by phone, internet or mail. Just think how isolated we would have been during the 1918 influenza pandemic. I know we've been inside for a long time and are pretty much isolated now but we have to be positive as we forge ahead. Massachusetts numbers are going down as the vaccine is being administered and it seems that progress is being made every day. so hang in there. We're back inside for church services once again and things are looking up. I have a feeling that we'll be back together soon. In the meantime, stay healthy, stay positive and stay in touch with one another. God bless each and every one of you!

## Happy National Girl Scout Day



Sally Day

March 12<sup>th</sup> is National Girl Scout Day. Longtime member of our church as well as longtime Girl Scout Sally Day, who will turn 96 on May 7<sup>th</sup>, joined Girl Scouts in our Tatnuck neighborhood when she was 10 years old.

Here she is, proudly sporting her alumnae adult troop badge and 75-year membership pin. For more than half a century, she has stayed in touch with several Girl Scouts whom she worked with or who were in her troop, including the Girl Scouts council board of directors president, who was in the troop she led.



Our prayers are with Hampton Bagdasarian, who also requests prayers for June Kemp; Sue Cardin requests prayers for David Siam; Connie MacInnes requests prayers for her niece, Linda; Heidi Hinson requests prayers for her mother's health; Judy Mitchell requests prayers for her granddaughter, Ellanora; The Deacons request prayers for Paul Scherdell, Sally Day, Marilyn Mildish, Melanie Anderson, Sue Anderson and for Ann Scherdell as she recovers from cataract surgery. Our prayers are also with George and Jane Boggs on the loss of George's sister, Priscilla Killian; Nancy Taylor requests prayers for her friend Ann, whose son Andrew passed away recently.

Please let us know of any changes in our prayer list. Should we add or remove anyone?



May God give you...  
 For every storm, a rainbow,  
 For every tear, a smile,  
 For every care, a promise,



And a blessing in each trial.  
 For every problem life sends,  
 A faithful friend  
 To share.



### ♣ ♣ March ♣ ♣

03	Norman Anderson	11	Melissa Castle
06	Charlotte Perry	18	Annalise McGrail
11	Susan Anderson	28	Ellen Dalbeck

### 🥚 🥚 April 🥚 🥚

10	Kristin Olson	22	Susan Cardin
16	Khyllie Richard	26	Judy Langlois
19	Marilyn Poske		



### 🥚 🥚 April 🥚 🥚

05 Dolores & Marie Trzcinski  
 18 Steve & Heidi Hinson





We know that the pandemic has wreaked havoc with all of us but hopefully, we'll soon be able to return to normal. We are still in need of a Church Clerk and a Deacon. We have started meeting inside the church, but we have the option to join the meeting by phone via conference call. We want to keep everyone safe and comfortable while we keep our church alive. If you can help us out, please speak with Matt Ahaesy. Your help is extremely important to us and is greatly appreciated.



- St. Patrick's Day is observed on March 17 because that is the feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. It is believed that he died on March 17 in the year 461 AD. It is also a worldwide celebration of Irish culture and history. St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday in Ireland, and a provincial holiday in the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- The actual color of St. Patrick is blue. Green became associated with St. Patrick's Day during the 19th century. Green, in Irish legends, was worn by fairies and immortals, and also by people to encourage their crops to grow.
- St. Patrick did not actually drive snakes out of Ireland; the snakes represent the pagans that he converted to Christianity.

- The very first St. Patrick's Day parade was not in Ireland. It was in Boston in 1737.
- The phrase, "Drowning The Shamrock" is from the custom of floating the shamrock on the top of whiskey before drinking it. The Irish believe that if you keep the custom, then you will have a prosperous year.
- One estimate suggests that there are about 10,000 regular three-leaf clovers for every lucky four-leaf clover.



### **Calendar of Events**

Since we are not quite back to "normal", we haven't had a calendar for quite a while. Being back inside the church is a wonderful new beginning so I'd like to let you know what our tentative plans are, besides Sunday Services at 10:00 am.

#### **MARCH**

- 7<sup>th</sup>** - The Search Committee will be meeting at 10:45 am
- 14<sup>th</sup>** - The Trustees are meeting at 10:45 am
- 21<sup>st</sup>** - The Deacons are meeting at 10:45 am
- 28<sup>th</sup>** - Council is meeting at 10:45 am

#### **The Beginning of APRIL**

- 1<sup>st</sup>** - Maundy Thursday - Service at 7:00 pm. We will use prepackaged communion. This will be a mini type service.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Good Friday - Service at 7:00 pm. Again, this will be a mini type service with no readers.
- 4<sup>th</sup>** - Easter Sunday - Service at 10:00 am. Prepackaged communion will again be used .





# *Easter Sunday Flowers*



*Our Sanctuary will be decorated with tulips and lilies on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. If you would like to help with the beautification and order tulips or lilies, please indicate your choice on the form below.*

*I would like to provide \_\_\_\_\_ tulip plant(s) at \$10.00 each*

*I would like to provide \_\_\_\_\_ lily plant(s) at \$10.00 each*

*In memory of \_\_\_\_\_*

\_\_\_\_\_

*In honor of \_\_\_\_\_*

\_\_\_\_\_

*In celebration of \_\_\_\_\_*

\_\_\_\_\_

*From \_\_\_\_\_*

**\*\*\*Recognition will be in the Easter Service Bulletin\*\*\***

***Please return this completed form along with cash or a check by Friday, March 26, 2021.***

*Name \_\_\_\_\_*

*Address \_\_\_\_\_*

*Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_*

***Please check one: \_\_\_\_\_ I will leave my plant for a someone else to enjoy.***

***\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant after the Easter Service.***