



A publication of the East Woodstock Congregational Church, 220 Woodstock Road, East Woodstock, CT 06244
Pastor: Rev. Susan J. Foster Director of Christian Education: Emily Murphy Director of Youth Ministries: Debby Kirk
Director of Music: Kristen Wedegis Organist: Nancy Glinsky Secretary: Heidi Tucker
Office: 860-928-7449 Residence: 860-928-7145 email address: econgregtnl@snet.net
secretary's email: ewccsec@yahoo.com Sunday School: 10:00 am Sunday Worship: 10:00 am



Thinking about "The Final Journey"

Do you have a moment for a conversation? Shall we talk about death? No, you say? Too depressing? Too scary or disturbing?

I just completed a 15 week course entitled Pastoral Care for the Grieving, Mourning and Dying. It met every Monday evening for three hours. It included two field trips – one to Connecticut Hospice in Branford and one to a large funeral home in Windsor. You might think that 45 hours of discussion and study on grieving and dying would be depressing or disturbing but in fact the opposite was true. It gave me hope. It forced me (or gave me the opportunity) to spend some time thinking about people who I have said good-bye to and allowed me to once again reflect on the influence that they had had in my life.

Part of the requirement of the course was to give a 10 minute presentation on our personal theology of death and resurrection. We were to explain why people die and then what happens to them. The course was filled with students from a wide variety of backgrounds – there were Muslims, Jews, Buddhist, Greek Orthodox, Unitarians, Catholics, and Protestants. The beliefs and thoughts about death and what follows death were quite varied. One statement that a fellow student gave stayed with me; she said, "I don't know exactly what will happen when I die, but I

know enough about God to trust God even beyond the life I know now."

What would you say? This is the central question for our Lenten series this year. Since none of us are experts, all of us will have a chance to say what we believe while we listen and learn from others.

It is appropriate that we talk about this topic during the season of Lent. During these weeks that lead up to Easter, we remember that Jesus died on the Cross. Our celebration is that death did not have the final word. Jesus lived beyond death. This is where our hope comes from. Our fear of death is lessened because Christ has gone before us. The same Jesus who loves us and leads us in this life will guide us and protect us through death and whatever it is that comes next. Our Christian faith tells us that there is more to our human story than simply the end of life – we have reason to hope.

What do you think happens after death? How do you want people to remember you or say good-bye to you? How do we care for people who are dying? How do we help people who are mourning?

These are just some of the questions that we will be discussing on Wednesday evenings during Lent. I promise – it will not be depressing or scary. I expect it will be much like my seminary class – filled with good discussion, interesting ideas, and even much humor. I hope you will join us.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Susan J. Foster

The following are the scriptures for the month of February:

You are invited to read them as part of your daily devotions and as preparation for worship.

February 5

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 12

2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45



February 19

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 26

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Worship News

We hope that you can join every Sunday for worship and fellowship – and bring a friend!

February 5 – Communion Sunday; Souper Bowl of Caring; Cub Scout Sunday. Local Cub Scouts will be joining us to learn more about worship.

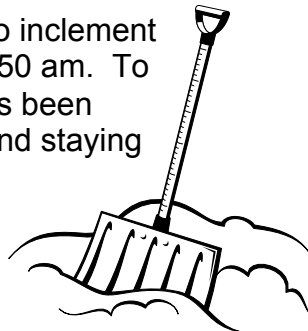
February 12 – Prayer Shawl Sunday

February 19 – Jazz Sunday

February 26 – Prayer Project Kick-off

Weather or Not?

Notice of cancellation of worship service due to inclement weather will be announced on WINY Radio 1350 am. To confirm whether worship or another activity has been canceled, or to let us know that you are safe and staying home, please any Deacon.



Study ^{the} Bible
with us



A mid-week opportunity for conversation, coffee, learning, and laughter.

Give yourself the gift of time...

**Wednesday morning study group
10:00 a.m.**

Everyone is welcome!

Preparing for the final journey: Conversations about death and resurrection

This Lenten series is for you if you:

- *Ever have been to a funeral that you actually enjoyed*
- *Have ever helped care for a loved one or friend during an illness*
- *Want your family to know how you want to be cared for if you get sick*
- *Want to think about your own memorial service and what is meaningful to you*
- *Want to celebrate the Good News of resurrection and new life offered by Jesus*

***Join us on Wednesday evenings, 6:00- 8:00 p.m.
Good food, good conversation, and a chance to learn.***

February 29 (Hill Church): Planning ahead: *Five Wishes* and advanced directives
Speaker: Jonathan Scott

Food for thought for caregivers and anyone who might die some day:

- *What kind of medical treatment do I want?*
- *Who can make decisions for me if I can't?*
- *What do I want my loved ones to know?*

March 7 (Hill Church): Hospice: What's it all about?
Speakers: Carol Emmerthal and Jan Perry

What services does Hospice offer? How can they help?

March 14 (EWCC): What's the best funeral you've ever been to?

What is your idea of a meaningful memorial service?

March 21 (EWCC): Grieving: What helps?

We will brainstorm using our collective wisdom – what has been helpful to you in difficult times? How can we support and encourage one another?

March 28 (EWCC): What does heaven look like?

*Hollywood on death: film clips of heaven
What do you think heaven is like?*



An Invitation

The Deacons would like to invite all of our new(er) members and friends of the church to a social gathering.

Where: EWCC Fellowship Hall
When: Sunday, February 26, 2012
3:00 – 5:00 pm

Please plan to join us for an afternoon of food, fun and frivolity and an opportunity to better know each other!

We look forward to seeing you!

Dawn Adiletta, Drew Dearborn, RoJeanne Doege-Floyd, Nancy Gale, Judy Schumacher, Andy Tomkins, Angel Vernon, Chuck Warinsky and Chally Wootton.

Please RSVP by February 19th to Judy Schumacher @ 860-928-9113 or judithschumacher@aol.com

*Christ has no body on
earth but yours,
No hands but yours,
no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes
through which Christ's
compassion is to look
out to the world.
Yours are the feet
with which Christ is to
go about doing good.
Yours are the hands
with which Christ is to
bless all people now.*

~Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.

~Alice Walker, 20th century

News from the Pews

Feel free to share your news with us. Just email Heidi at ewccsec@yahoo.com or call the church office at 928-7449.

Emma Marie Fischkelta was baptized on January 29th. She is the daughter of Anna Pingitore and Chris Fischkelta. We give thanks for the gift that she is to all of us.

Doctor of Ministry Update

My first semester ended with a flurry of papers and reflections. I successfully completed two courses – Colleague Seminar to study congregations and Pastoral Care for the grieving and dying. Both classes were very interesting and have been helpful in enriching my ministry. This semester I am taking a class on Leadership in the Congregation. This is especially interesting since the students are from such diverse backgrounds and serve in congregations of every shape and size.

If you would like to receive copies of my reflection papers, please let me know. Thank you for your continued support of my education!

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Share Your Talent!

Do you have an instrumental or vocal talent you would like to share with the congregation on a Sunday morning? We would love to have you share your gifts with us! Contact Kristen Wedegis and let her know! You can speak with Kristen after church, e-mail her at dom@ewcchurch.org, or call her at church 928-7449.

Calling all men!

Do you remember singing “The Palms” by Jean Baptiste Fauré in the Men’s Choir on Palm Sunday? Would you be interested in returning to sing this year or coming for the first time? There will be three short rehearsals to prepare for Palm Sunday! Anyone interested in participating should speak with Kristen Wedegis after church, e-mail her at dom@ewcchurch.org, or call her at church 928-7449.

“Lenten and Eastertide” Choir

Do you like to sing? Do you not have enough time to commit to the Sanctuary Singers for the year? Do you enjoy the special music presented during Lent and Easter? Then the “Lenten and Eastertide” Choir may be for you!

The Sanctuary Singers are beginning to prepare music for Lent and Eastertide. There are a wide variety of musical selections planned for the upcoming season! The choir will be singing during:

- Ash Wednesday (February 22)
- Lent (February 26-March 25) – *The Te Dingum Ringers play 2 of these Sundays*
- Palm Sunday (April 1) Service & Concert
- Maundy Thursday (April 5)
- Easter Sunday (April 8)

The Sanctuary Singers rehearse Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm. Anyone interested in participating should speak with Kristen Wedegis after church, e-mail her at dom@ewcchurch.org, or call her at church 928-7449.

The Gift of Music

The Music Ministry is continuing “The Gift of Music” program. During the year, our ensembles provide music that enhances worship during Sunday mornings as well as special services. The choirs enjoy the challenge of learning new repertoire.

Unfortunately, music has become increasingly expensive. It is difficult to purchase new music with our limited music materials budget. “The Gift of Music” program is a way to provide new music for our Sanctuary Singers, Te Dingum Ringers and Joyful Noise.

A donation given in memory of a loved one or for celebrations such an anniversary or birthday is “the gift of music”. The selections purchased as a “gift” are stamped and marked stating who it was purchased for and given by. They are also stated in the bulletin the day it is presented.

This is a wonderful way to remember our loved ones and support the Music Ministry. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office or speak to Kristen Wedegis if you are interested.

The Gift of Music

I would like to make a “Gift of Music” donation

Given by _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____ Number of Anthems _____ at \$45 per Anthem

YOUTH GROUP FEBRUARY 2012

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 SOUPER BOWL of CARING

It's easy! Just bring \$1 and come to your home church for morning worship. We need a few folks to help with our announcement and collection. Call or text Lisa Arsenault at (508) 335-5614 if you can help out. This effort will support the Daily Bread Food Pantry which serves the hungry in Northeastern CT. Our efforts make a difference! Youth Group has collected close to \$6000 in the last 10 years.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11 GIV² @ TEEG (Tentative Date)

For youth in grades 7-12.

Meet at the HILL CHURCH at noon to carpool to this event. We will be painting the new building in Thompson so wear work clothes and bring a brush or roller. Look for details online.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 BREAKFAST CLUB

For youth in grades 9-12

9:45 am at EAST WOODSTOCK CHURCH. Come a little early to serve as greeters before the service. Then join us for conversation over a cup of hot cocoa. We will meet in Fellowship Hall when the children leave for church school.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 ITALIAN DINNER

5:30 TO 7:00 PM at the HILL CHURCH.

Invite your family and neighbors for a delicious meal. We need *everyone* to help to make this a success. Get creative and make up a raffle basket, sell tickets, set up tables, decorate, prep food, serve, or clean up. [FYI—SYG workers get a free meal and Yes, you can ask a friend to work with you!] Money raised will help cover the 2012 church budget.



Questions?? Call or text Debby Kirk at 860-377-2675 (cell)
or email ddkirk@snet.net

Look for Youth Group Updates on the church website or
Join our facebook group: *Youth Group 11-12*



SOUPER BOWL RETURNS ON FEBRUARY 5

It started as a response to prayer at a Youth Group meeting in 1990: “Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl Football game, help us to be mindful of those who are without even a of soup to eat.”

Since then, the *Souper Bowl of Caring* has grown to include over 13,000 churches and has generated more than \$71 million to help the hungry. You can find out more at www.souperbowl.org.

The Senior High Youth Group will be participating in this national event for the 11th straight year. It’s easy—just put a dollar (or more!) in the soup kettles that are placed at church on February 5. Our gifts will help be sent to the Daily Bread Food Pantry in Putnam to help hungry families in Northeastern, CT. Thank you for your support!

SYG ITALIAN DINNER AT THE HILL CHURCH

Saturday, February 25



Continuous seating from 5:30 to 7:00PM at the HILL CHURCH

Our Senior High Youth Group will be preparing a meal on Saturday, February 25. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children between 6 and 12. See Anne Sorensen, one of our high school youth, or call the office at the Hill Church (860) 928-7405 to reserve tickets. Gather a group and reserve a table for eight! This is a great way to share an evening of fellowship with church friends. Come and enjoy a delicious meal while supporting the 2012 church budget.

SUMMER 2012

*grow your spirit /put faith in action /change the world/travel/
learn/have fun with friends/make a difference/open your eyes/*



NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT-- JULY 10-14

Get on the bus for PURDUE UNIVERSITY!

The National Youth Event, a UCC gathering held every four years, provides an opportunity for 2000+ youth to gather for four days of worship, workshops, faith, fun and fellowship. NYE is for youth ages 13-18. Cost is \$425 per person. Our youth group is raising funds to cover all transportation costs. Fill out your registration forms (available on line) and turn in your deposit to reserve your spot. For more info, speak to Rachel Solomon, NYE YOUTH STEWARD.

COMPASSION CAMP-- JULY 23-27

All students who are currently in grades 6-9 are invited to join us for a week of fun, friends, and service learning. This is a day program (9:00 am to 3:00 PM) for youth who want to help neighbors in need. We will use the Hill Church as a home base and take a different field trip each day to put faith in action.

Download your registration form from the church website and mark your calendar. Those who register by March 1 and receive an **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT!**

We will be gathering a staff of volunteers, including CITs and counselors so contact Debby at 860-377-2675 if you can help out. **APPLICATIONS** for youth staff positions are posted online.

SILVER LAKE --Over 37 week-long Conferences to choose from!

For youth in grades 4 and up

Volleyball, Footprints, Sing Praise, and Hammer and Nail—these are a few of the great Conference titles for summer 2012. Brochures are available at the church and online registration is now open at www.silverlakect.org. Silver Lake has all kinds of fun camp stuff like swimming, basketball, singing, hikes, campfires, as well as a low and high ropes course. Sign up early to get your first choice of programs at OUR beautiful Conference Center at Sharon, CT!



Watch for our **CHOCOLATE EASTER EGG** fundraiser to benefit our *Summer Scholarship Program*. Contact Debby Kirk at ddkirk@snet.net for information about scholarships or details about any of these programs.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR COMPASSION CAMP 2012
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 AT THE HILL CHURCH at 11:30 am**

Want to find out more about our summer outreach program? Come to a brief meeting after church and see how you can help youth put faith in action. This meeting is for high school teens who want to be counselors, parents of youth in grades 6-10 and other interested adults.

TAKE NOTE!

**BENEFIT CONCERT FOR HEIFER INTERNATIONAL
SUNDAY, MARCH 11 – 3:00 pm at EWCC**



The acclaimed a cappella vocal ensemble, Take Note! will be performing in concert on Sunday, March 11th at 3PM at East Woodstock Congregational Church. The concert is a fundraiser for Heifer International.

Take Note! is a 24-voice group, under the direction of Linda Tracy, and comprised of select, talented local singers from diverse backgrounds. A nonprofit organization based in Mansfield, the group performs without charge for the benefit of other local nonprofit organizations. The Take Note! mission statement speaks to the spirit of the group: *“Through performances in support of charitable endeavors, we are raising voices, raising spirits, raising hope.”*

Heifer International has been helping people worldwide for over 65 years. Heifer’s mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. There will be a free will offering at the door and a reception following the concert. Speak to Barbara Bocchino or any member of the Missions Committee for more information.

Stewardship Message

Stewards of Our Relationship with One Another

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself. – Luke 10:27

We belong to God; we belong to one another. In his book, *Reaching Out*, Henri Nouwen tells of a reunion with a former student, an experience that revealed to him the meaning of community: “It is the Christ in you, who recognizes the Christ in me... From now on, wherever you go, or wherever I go, all the ground between us will be holy ground.”

During February, let us walk on holy ground, practicing the radical hospitality Jesus modeled. Starting with our most personal and intimate relationships and moving through expanding circles – of friends, relations, church family, co-workers, and others with whom we come in contact – we tend to the quality of our interaction in these relationships using spiritual practices of forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, openness, honesty, hospitality, shaping communities. We widen our circle, reaching out to unknown neighbors through local and ecumenical service organizations and UCC programs and networks. We participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing special mission offering, typically promoted in churches during February and received the first Sunday in March. As centers of hope and transformation, local churches guide people onto holy ground.

A message from Stewards in the Household of God: a Resource for Holistic Year-round Stewardship available from United Church of Christ Resources.

February 2012

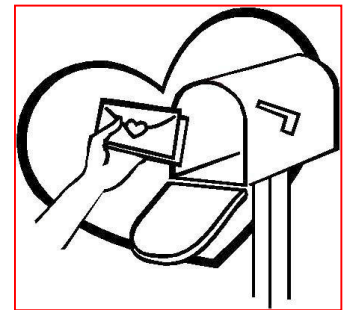
God is still speaking,



This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

Secret Pen Pal Update!

The Secret Pen Pal program has been changed to the month of March. It will run for the entire month, ending with a pot-luck breakfast where the pen pals will be revealed and have an opportunity to get to know each other better. There will be a theme this year - to be determined. Watch for further updates! Please contact Emily Murphy if you (or your children) would like to sign up. This is a wonderful opportunity for some multi-generational bonding and a chance for the kids to feel more connected to their church family!!



Please join us. . .

for a St. Patrick's Day Dinner

When: **Saturday, March 17, 2012**

Time: **6:30 p.m.**

Where: **East Woodstock Congregational Church
Fellowship Hall**

Ticket Price: Adults - \$12
Children - \$6



*Enjoy a traditional St. Patrick's Day meal, along
with music and fellowship!*

Tickets are available by calling the church office: 928-7449

Thank you!!!

Our church is blessed by the work of many volunteers. Every bit of effort and caring helps the church live out its calling to be the Body of Christ. This month we especially would like to thank...

Rick & Mary Place and the members of **Society** for putting on a very successful Ham and Bean Supper! It was a wonderful evening of good food and good fellowship, as well as providing a much needed boost to our General Fund.

Jazz Sunday!

On **Sunday, February 19th** we will once again enjoy Jazz Sunday. Before we begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, we will have the opportunity to enjoy the music of a group of talented jazz musicians.

We will take a special offering that day to benefit the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. The Back Bay Mission is a program of the United Church of Christ, ministering to the “poorest of the poor.” Six of their seven buildings were destroyed during Hurricane Katrina. You can find out more about Back Bay Mission at www.backbaymission.com.



Children's Page

Color the picture



February 2012
Faith Adventure Children's Program News!

SECRET PEN PALS!

Once again we will pair children with adults and have them correspond with each other. This year we have made some changes to the program. Participation will be for children in grades 3 and up, and we ask that parents approve their child's participation. We are also going to have a theme for correspondance. We hope that these changes will ensure that no Pen Pal will have an empty mailbox week after week! Sign-ups will be in February and the program will run for the month of March, ending with a Pot Luck Breakfast where the Pen Pals will meet.

Faith Adventure and Future Rotations

We continue our quest to find teachers and shepherds for the final 3 rotations. Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour each week. Please check your schedules and sign-up for 4 weeks of working with our children in the Faith Adventure program. We have had several new faces in the classrooms this year, and all have enjoyed their experiences. Many thanks to those who have already volunteered their time and creativity: *Carol Cruttenden, Jill Relahan, Rhonda Chenail, Sharon Seabold, Susan Powers, Christine Armstrong, Rojeanne Floyd, Taryn Tomkins, Gretchen Pohlman, Louise Labbe-Fahy, Michael Lefevre, Julie & David Drouin, Sara Relahan, Michelle Peterson, Jennifer Dutson, Jaime Paris Boisvert, Maura Robie and Kathy O'Dea!* It surely does take a village....

COMMUNION SUNDAYS

A reminder that the Faith Adventure Children's Program will be offered to **ALL AGES** on Communion Sundays, however, it is up to the individual family as to whether your child will stay in worship to receive communion. Communion is also offered to teachers and children at 11:30 on Communion Sundays, upstairs in the Narthex.

Safe Church Policies

In reviewing our Safe Church Policies, we are adding a new policy. If you need to leave church for any reason during worship, while your child is in Sunday School, please leave your cell phone number with your child's teacher before you leave. Also, let the teacher know who will be picking up the child and at what time. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

CALLING ALL WOMEN!

If you haven't attended one of our Women's Retreats, this is the year to begin! Located in a peaceful and beautiful surrounding, far away from the demands of our busy lives, women gather and share fellowship. This year's theme is "Finding Our Voice," which is one I am most looking forward to exploring. Come for all or part of this retreat. Details and registration forms are in the bulletin each week. There is financial aid available if you need help to cover the costs. I encourage you to take this time for yourself and meet new friends. Thanks to my attending several of these retreats I have made connections with many women from our church I might not otherwise have ever shared meaningful time with. Give yourself this gift of time – you won't regret it!

As always, thank you for sharing your children with us! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at mkemmers@charter.net or call me at 860-963-7384.

Emily Murphy
Director of Christian Education
East Woodstock Congregational Church

Prayer Project

The Season of Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter) is an opportunity for us to deepen our relationship with God. When we pray, we come into God’s presence to listen and to express what is in our heart and mind.

During Lent this year, everyone in the congregation is invited to take part in our **Prayer Project**.

During worship we often ask for prayers, either for ourselves or for someone we love. During the season of Lent, we will be inviting people to be “**prayer partners.**”

Here’s how it works:

If you would like to have and be a prayer partner, please write your name on a card. You can place the card in a box that will be available in the fellowship hall. On **February 26th**, we will have a prayer project “kick off” event. We will draw pairs of names. People will have an opportunity to meet their prayer partner and the group will participate in some introductory games and exercises to prepare us for our prayer project. We’ll also hear from some of last year’s participants and hear about their experiences.

Once you know who your partner is, each partner will promise to hold one another in prayer throughout the Lenten season. The two of you can meet during coffee hour, during the week, talk on the phone or email with each other to get to know one another and share your joys and concerns.

In addition, we will be using a booklet entitled “**Journey into Light**” which has daily reflections for Lent. You can read each reflection and share your thoughts with your partner. The cost for the booklet is \$5.00.

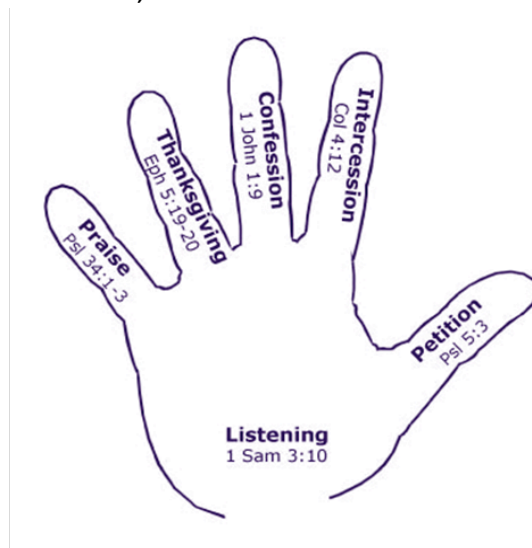
There will be three opportunities for the entire group to meet together. We will meet on March 4, March 18, and April 1. After some group discussion, the prayer partners will have some time to meet with one another.

After Easter, on April 15th, the entire group will gather once more to reflect back on this journey of prayer and caring.

If you are not able to get to church, but would still like to have and be a prayer partner, just call the church office or email Pastor Sue and we’ll include you on the list.

In addition, we will ask everyone to be intentional about keeping our church family and the work of the church in your prayers.

One of the best ways to encounter God is through prayer. Jesus promises that those who seek will find, those who ask will hear God’s answer, those who knock on God’s door will find it opened to them.



Missions Committee

New Members: Taryn Tomkins, Karen Ryker, Tina Trotta, Nancy Young, Maura Robie

- Welcomed and introduced the above new members.
- **Treasurer's Report** from Carrie Walker: Savings Balance = \$375.86; Scholarship Account = \$306.70; Checking account = \$2,224.59.
 - Total collected for Blanket+ cards = \$485 and we added \$115 for a total contribution of \$600; we received \$602 from the Lessons & Carols collection; and collection for Veterans of the Cross on Christmas Eve = \$203.50 to which we added \$96.50 for a total contribution of \$300
 - We sent contributions to the following:
 - Trudeau family who lost their home in a fire \$100
 - Jan Arcand Fundraiser \$100
 - Community Kitchen (Jan - April) = \$200
 - Somers Church to help with rebuilding following the fire = \$250
 - Day Kimball Hospital Building Fund to honor Jonathan Scott who was named December employee of the month = \$50
- **New Roxbury Village:** Kerstin reported that the Christmas luncheon held on December 17 was enjoyable even though there were only 4 residents who attended.
- **Covenant to Care for Children:** We provided 8 bags of groceries, a turkey and a ham to help families with Christmas vacation meals.
- **Daily Bread and EWCC Pantry:** Kathie brought a lot of canned and non-perishable food from our pantry. Both food pantries are in constant need of donations. We will be posting a monthly list of needs and truly appreciate your contributions of any kind. We brought some of the excess food which was donated in December to TEEG.
- **COAT DRIVE** is now over. The coats, shoes, mittens, hats and scarves donated during December will be brought to Cradles to Crayons by the SYG on MLK Service Day in Boston.
- We read several Thank You notes and these are posted on our bulletin board in Fellowship Hall - please be sure to check it out!
- Next Meeting will be February 6 at 7 p.m.

EWCC MISSIONS ON-GOING PROJECTS

- **Covenant to Care for Children** – Contact is Sara Haggerty
 - Food from pantry as needed
 - Children's clothing (closet upstairs)
 - Stuffed toys (there are a lot in closet)
 - Summer book collection
 - Back-to-School backpacks
 - Winter coats, hats, mittens, boots
 - Thanksgiving baskets
 - Christmas Gifts
- **Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS**
 - Jazz Sunday collection plus a donation from Missions

- **KIVA investment**
- **Homeless Shelter**
 - Clothing
 - Sheets, towels, blankets
 - Toiletries
- **Domestic Violence Shelter**
 - Clothing
 - Sheets, towels, blankets
 - Toiletries
 - Food gift certificates
- **New Roxbury Village**
 - Monthly event (luncheon, afternoon tea, light dinner)
- **Cards** to shut-ins, those who are ill, service men & women, anyone who needs to know that they're in our thoughts
- **Sponsor Luis Angel Gonzalez**, a young boy in Mexico through World Vision
- **Daily Bread** food pantry
- **TEEG**
 - Camperships for the summer
 - Backpacks/school supplies
 - \$\$\$ donation for fuel for Woodstock residents in need
- **Blanket + Cards at Christmas time**
- **Simply Smiles Coffee**
- **Scholarship**
 - Goes to a senior from EWCC who will be pursuing a career in social services/education/nursing
 - \$500

HOLY SMILES

GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms?"

A Women's Retreat

For all the women of the East Woodstock Congregational Church

Friday, March 30 and Saturday, March 31
at Camp Wightman, North Stonington, CT
(40 minutes from our church)

Finding Our Voice

"Lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid." ~ Isaiah 40:9

This retreat will include time for renewal and fellowship. The retreat will start at 3:00 pm on Friday and conclude at 4:00 pm on Saturday. You are welcome to come just for the day on Saturday if you are not interested in spending the night. There will be free time for knitting, scrapbooking, reading, quilting, or even just relaxing.

Come either overnight, or join us on Saturday. Please fill out the registration form and return it to Heidi Tucker as soon as possible.

The cost for both Friday and Saturday is \$80. This price includes dinner on Friday evening, lodging for Friday night, breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

The cost for just Saturday will be \$30. This price includes lunch on Saturday plus all activities. The start time on Saturday is 9:30 am and concludes at 4:00 pm.

Paid: Check # _____

Registration Form

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

In case of emergency, please contact:

Name _____ Phone number _____

I will be staying overnight on Friday, March 30. Cost is \$80. Dinner on Friday, breakfast and lunch on Saturday are included. Please check one:

- I will be there for dinner.
- I will **not** be there for dinner.

I will be coming just for the day on Saturday, March 31. Cost is \$30. Lunch is included.

Please return this registration form and your check to us by Sunday, March 18. Please make your check payable to EWCC, with the word "retreat" on the memo line. Financial assistance is available. If your plans change, please let us know before March 18. We cannot do refunds after that date. Thank you.

I need financial assistance. Please call me with more information.

| February 2012 | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | | 1 10:00 Study Group 7:30 pm Al-anon | 2 7:00 pm Sanctuary Singers | 3 4:00 pm Joyful Noise | 4 |
| 5 Souper Bowl of Caring | 6 7:00 pm Deacons 7:00 pm Missions 7:30 pm Dartball | 7 7:00 pm Bells | 8 10:00 Study Group 7:30 pm Giv ² Planning (Hill) 7:30 pm Al-anon | 9 7:00 pm Sanctuary Singers | 10 4:00 pm Joyful Noise | 11 |
| 12 Prayer Shawl Sunday 7:00 pm Crossroads | 13 7:30 pm Dartball | 14 Valentine's Day 7:00 pm Bells | 15 10:00 Study Group 7:30 pm Al-anon | 16 6:00 pm YMT Conference Call 7:00 pm Sanctuary Singers | 17 4:00 pm Joyful Noise 6:00 pm Girl Scouts | 18 |
| 19 Jazz Sunday Breakfast Club Historical Society | 20 President's Day 7:30 pm Dartball TRUMPET DEADLINE!! School Vacation → | 21 7:00 pm Bells | 22 Ash Wednesday 10:00 Study Group 7:00 pm Service at Good Shepherd 7:30 pm Al-anon | 23 7:00 pm Sanctuary Singers | 24 NO Joyful Noise 6:00 pm Scrapbooking | 25 5:30 – 7:00 pm Italian Dinner (Hill) 10 am – 10 pm Scrapbooking |
| 26 Prayer Project Kickoff 11:30 am Comp. Camp Meeting 3 – 5 pm Deacons Gathering | 27 | 28 7:00 pm Bells | 29 10:00 Study Group 7:30 pm Al-anon | | | |

Looking Ahead:

March 11: Take Note Concert for Heifer Project

March 17: St. Patrick's Dinner

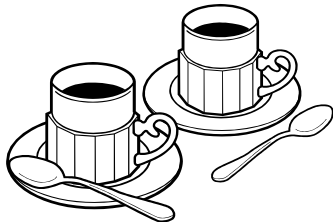
March 30-31: Women's Retreat



COFFEE HOUR

The coffee hour in February will be served courtesy of: **Deacons**

The coffee hour in March will be served courtesy of: **Teachers & CE**



February Birthdays:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Carleigh Boisvert | Feb 7 |
| Adelise Young | Feb 9 |
| Hanna Mueller | Feb 11 |
| Elaina Hessler | Feb 15 |
| Conor Stewart | Feb 19 |
| Ellie Sangree | Feb 20 |
| Noelia Reed | Feb 26 |
| Abigail Converse | Feb 27 |

Prayer Page

A Prayer for the World by Rabbi Harold Kushner

Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds
Held and nurtured over generations.
Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, of the neglect.
Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows.
Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken.
Let it burn away the fog so that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender or skin color.
Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness
So that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbors.
And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbors.
Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with beauty.
And let the mountains touch our hearts to reach upward to heaven.
Amen.

Benediction

Life is short and we do not have much time
To gladden the hearts of those who travel with us.
Therefore be swift to love and make haste to be kind.
May the God of love, peace, and justice be with you. Amen.



~Joan Walsh Anglund~

Oh, Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed. Then, in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at last.

~Book of Common Prayer, 1928