

THE GOOD NEWS

Newsletter Christ Church Federated, Kennebunk Maine

From Your Pastor's Pen



Springtime. What a glorious sounding thing. I can't wait can you? Lent. What a glorious sounding thing. I'm so glad it is here aren't you? I'm also ever-grateful that two of my favorite things overlap—underscoring all of God's perennial gifts as they do, foremost among them new life, blossoming, sprouting, bursting forth. Can you tell Lent is my favorite Church season?

The following quotes are excerpts from this year's Stewardship Sunday Sermon, which was also the First Sunday of Lent. And FYI, on the off chance that you received this but not words that my weekly sermons are now posted on Christ Church's website for your reflective, prayerful, viewing pleasure—they are indeed!

A favorite preacher, teacher, author of mine, Barbara Brown Taylor, shares a wonderful description of how Lent came to be. She writes, "Many years after Jesus had not returned as quickly as expected the followers of Jesus had learned to accommodate their lives to the surrounding culture, finding no contradiction between being comfortable and being Christian." Far from being bold wit-

nesses challenging the powers that be on behalf of the least of these, Taylor says, "our ancestors in faith decided to be nice instead of holy and God moaned out loud" (from a sermon titled "Lenten Discipline").

So she explains, in response to this woeful state of affairs, the church looked deeply within itself and "created Lent as a 'springtime of the soul,'" a time of new spiritual life and new spiritual beginnings. Much as we recognize the need for spring cleaning, the early Church initiated a period for *spiritual* spring cleaning, as Taylor explains, the Church offered "forty days to cleanse the system and open the eyes to what remains when all comfort is gone, to live by the grace of God alone and not by what we can supply ourselves."

I dare say only someone emotionally challenged fails to engage in spring cleaning. I think they have a name for such people—"hoarder." To be buried in things that either no longer serve a purpose or that have proven inadequate or that merely distract and clutter life, is something God and the Church have long sought to liberate us from. And yes,

there are names for that as well, i.e., "born again" "abundant life" "absolution" "redemption" yes "eternal life" or even just "entering into the joy of the Lord." They all work for me and therefore obviously explain my love of this holy season. Are you feeling it too?

Friends, let's truly seize more than the day—let's go for the season of vitality and life! And you know where it can be found, where it's happening, where your friends are happening, where I'm happening. See you there this Sunday, every Sunday, as together we receive God's gift of life and new beginnings!

Always, most affectionately
yours, Pastor Mark



LENTEN WORSHIP

A Message from the Cabinet Chair

Greetings Everyone,

I pray this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits. It has been a strong winter and it has not moved out yet. Spring is in the air and good weather will come. And before you know it, we will switch from complaining it is too cold to it is too hot.

We are always here for your needs. Please reach out to Christ Church if you have a need or a prayer request (this can be done confidentially). And if we cannot help you we can help find someone who can. Your needs are important to us at Christ Church.

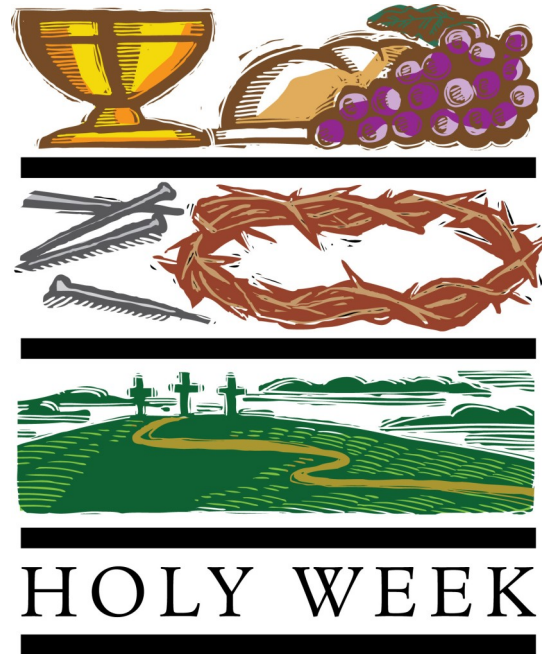
We have a lot of activities going on at Christ Church. Pastor Mark, committee members, volunteers and Cabinet members have been working hard to bring you many fulfilling resources, education, concerts, refugee help and other opportunities. I wish to extend a big thank you to all who have donated time and energy to keep this wonderful Church going. It is much appreciated.

If you have any concerns or comments feel free to reach out to myself or a Cabinet member. We are here to support Christ Church and our community.

God Bless you all.

Daniel Moisan

Cabinet Chair



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Held Daily

Kennebunk Baptist Church

AT 12 NOON 2017

April 10 - 14th

THEME

“Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death”

Monday - A Step Into the Valley of Death with Jesus
Rev. James M. King

Tuesday - Losing a Friend
Rev. Tom White

Wednesday - The Agonizing Journey
Deacon Darrell Blackwell

Thursday - The Trial
Rev. Joe Everett

Friday - The Final Steps
Rev. Dan Moore



CHRIST CHURCH PINE CONE SILENT AUCTION

PLEASE SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING MERCHANTS WHO GENEROUSLY DONATED TO OUR SILENT AUCTION. WHILE VISITING REMEMBER TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

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|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| WE CARE CLEANERS | BEST NAILS |
| MAINE MURDERS BOOKSTORE | LAFAYETTE BARBER SHOP |
| TOPPINGS PIZZA | THE LANDING STORE |
| PERFECTO'S | ASHBY DELI |
| MAIN STREET BARBER SHOP | DOWN EAST FLOWERS |
| GOLDDUST & ROUGE JEWELERS | CAMP WOOL |
| CUMMINGS MARKET | HANNAFORD |
| ANIMAL INSTINCT (Ogunquit) | MORPH GALLERY |
| BLOOMS & HEIRLOOMS FLORIST | PORT HARDWARE |
| NEW MORNING NATURE STORE | NEEDLE POINT |
| KNIT & LIT | NAPA AUTO |
| KENNEBUNK ACE HARDWARE | CLOTH INTERIORS |
| CUMMINGS MARKET | ANTIQUES ON NINE |
| MARLOWS GIFT STORE | DEERING LUMBER |
| KEYS TO THE KITCHEN | DUFFY'S |
| HEARTH & SOUL | |

A special thanks to the Silent Auction team of Christ Church members for their participation: Judy Cadmus, Carol Holmberg, Gail Preble, Helen Newton, Marcia Carter, Liz Roper, Beverly Heald, Sally Valdetta, Brenda Kanbar.



UNITED METHODIST & CHURCH OF CHRIST PARISH

Christ Church Federated

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We're on the Web!

www.christchurchkennebunk.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Christ Church is a Federated Church affiliated with the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church. We welcome all people from every denominational background. We worship God and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ through worship, education, fellowship and service. Our goal is to grow in our personal faith while serving people around us and in the world beyond us. Our vision is a practical Christianity that applies the historic faith to the needs of people in today's world. Our hearts are open and our hands are extended in faith, love and friendship.



“WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CHURCH ”



**Join us for Worship!
Sundays at
10:00 a.m.
All are welcome!**

Rev. Mark .L. Arbisi, Pastor
pmchristchurch@gwi.net

Office Administrator
Sandra Farrar

Music Director
Warren King

Sexton
Dan Stone

Cabinet Chair
Dan Moisan

Clerk
Beverly Heald

