

# The United Church of Strafford News

PO Box 124 · Strafford, VT · 05072 · 802-765-4585

Located on the Strafford Green, 230 Justin Morrill Hwy, Sunday services at 10 a.m.

**Lent/Easter 2016**

## Mark Your Calendar!

### Lent / Easter Events:

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**  
– Tuesday, February 9, 6-7 pm

**Ash Wednesday Meditation** –  
Wednesday February 10th 1:30 pm  
on, with a service at 6:00 pm

**Holy week** – Palm Sunday,  
March 20; Maundy Thursday the  
24<sup>th</sup> (possible meal/gathering);  
Good Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> – sanctuary  
open with prayer and contempla-  
tion throughout the day and 7pm  
service of prayer, scriptures, reflec-  
tion.

**Easter Sunday**, March 27 – we  
are hosting an ecumenical sunrise  
service at 6:00 am at Gove Hill Re-  
treat Center followed by a 7:00  
pancake breakfast at the church;  
choir practice; and 10 am service  
in the sanctuary.

**Pastor Lynn office hours:** (Subject  
to change)

### February:

Wed. the 10<sup>th</sup> – available during  
time of meditation 1:30-6pm

(Away Monday, February 15  
through Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> – for  
emergency pastoral care contact  
the deacons.)

Wed. the 24<sup>th</sup> – Windsor-Orange  
Assoc. clergy meeting noon – 2pm  
and office hours 3 – 6 pm.

Thurs. the 25<sup>th</sup> – Vermont Confer-  
ence UCC interim ministers meet-  
ing

### March:

Wed. the 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lenten  
study/discussion 1:30-2:30 – Luke  
15: 11-32 – prodigals;

Thurs. the 3<sup>rd</sup> - office hours 1-5pm

Wed. the 9<sup>th</sup> – office hours 2-5pm

Thurs. the 10<sup>th</sup> – Vermont Confer-  
ence UCC training on "Transitions  
and Social Media";

### Pastor Lynn's March office hours, continued:

Wed. the 16<sup>th</sup> – Lenten  
study/discussion 1:30 – 2:30 pm –  
Luke 19 – what do we expect in a  
messiah?

Thurs. the 17<sup>th</sup> – office hours 1-5pm

Just a reminder – if you desire a vis-  
it with Pastor Lynn or the deacons,  
please call the church or email us!

## On-Line...

[unitedchurchstr.wix.com/unitedchurchstr#](http://unitedchurchstr.wix.com/unitedchurchstr#)

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## Music Notes

**Easter Singing:** You're invited to sing  
"Alleluia" and a whole lot more with us  
this Easter at the United Church of Straf-  
ford. Under the **direction of Anna  
Alden** and with the **accompaniment of  
Annemieke Spoelstra McLane**, we will  
sing glorious music at our Easter service-  
the repertoire to be determined once we  
know roughly how many singers will par-  
ticipate.

Rehearsals are **Mondays, March 7, 14  
and 21, 7-8:30 pm**, and  
on **Easter Sunday, March 27, 8:30 am  
to 9:30 am**, with the **service at 10 am**.

Please let Becky Bailey know ASAP if  
you are interested, and remind her  
which vocal part you feel most com-  
fortable singing! ([rbailey@sover.net](mailto:rbailey@sover.net))

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## The Season of Lent

This season of Lent, the United Church  
of Strafford invites you to participate  
first with a pancake supper on Shrove  
Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 7 pm.  
The church will be open for special  
meditation the next day on Ash  
Wednesday from 1:30 on, with a simple  
service with ashes at 6:00 pm.

During the ensuing weeks leading up to  
Holy Week, we welcome independent  
reflection. A couple of reading re-  
sources: *Heart Speaks to Heart -  
Three Gospel Meditations on Jesus* by  
Henri J. M. Nouwen; United Church of  
Christ (UCC) 2016 Lent Devotion-  
al *Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength*. (The  
deacons have some copies available).  
Consider singing in the Easter choir  
(see above).

A focus scripture for prayer and  
meditation this season is Psalm  
51: 10-12: "*Create in me a clean  
heart, O God; and renew a right  
spirit within me. Cast me not  
away from thy presence; and take  
not thy holy spirit from me. Re-  
store unto me the joy of thy salva-  
tion; and uphold me with thy free  
spirit.*" (King James Version).\*

A brief history of the season of  
Lent and Ash Wednesday can be  
found on the United Church of  
Christ's website:

[http://www.ucc.org/worship\\_liturgies\\_liturgical-colors](http://www.ucc.org/worship_liturgies_liturgical-colors)

## FROM PASTOR LYNN

As we prepare to enter the Lenten season, may we reflect on the journey that we're continuing this liturgical year. In Advent we traversed a season of light and hope, seeking peace, and sharing in God's joy and steadfast love manifested in the birth of God's son, Jesus the Christ. We're traveling through Epiphany and epiphanies - manifestations of God's work through Jesus' life and in our lives, individually and collectively. We are called, formed, and transformed to be the body of Christ, sharing our lives with one another and reflecting the light of Christ to the world we live in. This is not always easy, we are not perfect, and it can feel that the world is out of step with the paths/ways of God we trod. So we approach this season of Lent - often seen as a time of giving up (chocolate... ) and when too difficult, giving up (period). God is calling to us - come to me you who are weary, burdened - find rest in me. Follow me, take my yoke - yes, there is still a burden but light and yoked with one another. Return to me and my ways of mercy, compassion, justice. Go forth knowing solace, forgiveness, steadfast love, and joy - proclaiming and living out this good news with one another and the needy world!

Shalom, Pastor Lynn

## Mission Report

The "Change for Change" Heifer Project fundraiser was successful, raising \$244.66 in loose change

during the Christmas season. The Mission Committee will buy two sheep, three rabbits and a flock of chickens. That will cost \$320 and the Mission Committee will cover the difference. Thank you all for donating your loose change!

### Pledges 2015 – 16: Success!

The Stewardship Committee is pleased to report that we have met our \$40,000 pledge goal for the year. Thanks to all who have responded so generously!

## Trustees Report

Our treasurer reports that we are on track financially. The trustees have been actively assuring that the buildings and grounds of the church are well maintained.

A Poem

by Mel Goertz

Coloring

Pictures and Words

Believe in yourself -

Go for it – Have courage –

Do what you love –

The best is yet to come!

Berlin Hospital, Vt.

## Imagine a Church

The Settled Pastor Search Committee is in the process of forming. We currently have five members, looking for another five to insure diversity in the committee. We expect to begin the committee work in early February with a review of relevant documents from the interim pastor search committee work and the more recent "Imagine a Church" questionnaire report.

One of the first tasks will be to review and update the "Church Profile" which describes our church and community as well as information on the type of settled pastor we are seeking. A settled pastor is a long term pastor as opposed to an interim pastor who might serve for one- two years while the settled pastor search proceeds.

- Bill Burden, Moderator

\* Resources for lenten study/reflection available at the church for people to use at home include the lectionary bookmark and the "At Home Leaflet" that are from "The Whole People of God" curriculum.

## CHURCH CONTACTS

**Moderator:** Bill Burden

**Pastor:** Interim Pastor Lynn Wickberg

**Music Director:** (seeking)

**Treasurer:** Kerry Claffey

**Clerk:** Dori Wolfe, dori.wolfe@gmail.com

**Deacons:** Rebecca Bailey (chair), Kim Arsenault, Greg Lewis, RJ Farley, Gretchen Hannon

**Trustees:** John Hawkins (chair), John Echeverria, Ned Coffin

### Committees:

**Pastoral Relations:** John Echeverria, Greg Lewis, Danette Harris

**Religious Education:** Kathy Robinson (co-chair), Dori Wolfe (co-chair),

**Stewardship:** Joey Hawkins (chair), June Solsaa

**Missions:** Danette Harris (chair), Bill and Dot Burden, Kim Arsenault

**Hospitality:** Kate Reimanis (chair), Laura Lewis

**Endowment:** Ken Bushnell (chair), John Hawkins, Kevin Plunkett

**Nominating:** RJ Farley (chair), Hazel Lewis