

Spirit & Sparks

God is still Speaking, We are Responding, Come Journey with Us

MAY 2017

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Grace to you, and peace from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ! By now, most if not all of you have heard the news that I will be leaving Weston at the end of this program year, with my last Sunday leading worship being June 18th. This has been a difficult decision to come to, but also offers opportunities for my family and me that begin to be exciting. Before now, concern for how the congregation would meet my announcement has been troubling me. I began to pray rather repetitively the brief passage of scripture from 1 John 4:18a: "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." Perfect love casts out fear. Perfect love casts out fear. I have breathed this in and breathed out concern for the past months as I took stock of personal difficulties in the past year and a half, and new possibilities for me and the girls unfolded.

While there is much about new beginnings that can cause concern, another phrase has persisted in my mind. My cousin John, at 70 years old still an active pastor in the UCC, reminded me when I told him I was considering leaving parish ministry that "Jesus doesn't leave Weston when I do." Of course we laughed together, but the certainty of this statement may offer each of you similar comfort. The breath of the Holy Spirit that blows so palpably through our worship, our fellowship and our service in Christ's name will continue to move this congregation. As we all continue in our discipleship to the one Christ, Jesus, we will continue to grow in faith—I serving as Chaplain and teacher to students at Blair Academy, and you with a new pastor.

A third repetitive line in my thoughts also comes from scripture, and arises when I think about what it is that sustains CCW and even singles it out in the

Weston community. In quoting Jesus in the first person, I don't by any means suggest that the love I offer even hints at the sacrificial love he gave us. Still, as he bade farewell to his disciples he shared with them words I would share with you: "Love each other as I have loved you." Any time someone has asked me what defines this church, I raise up the sense of community here; the uniting Spirit amongst us that compels us to serve others in Jesus' name. Although our time together has been shorter than any of us anticipated, we have loved each other, and I know you will continue to prosper through loving God and each other well in worship, fellowship and service in Christ's name. And we will continue to love each other, trusting that love transcends the boundaries of distance and time.

Ever yours in Christ,

Pastor Lisa



Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity has a Women's Build Day in Northborough on Wednesday, May 17th from 8:30 – 3:30 (You don't have to be there for the whole time!). Women in the church who are interested in being part of this event should contact Jess Schendel so that we can put a group together.
jschendel@comcast.net (508)397-3610

THE PASTOR'S CORNER:

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Our penultimate gathering will take place on Sunday, May 21st following worship. We will pull together much of our year's discussions as we craft a united statement of faith and also celebrate the differences among our individual statements. We will lift up the "saints of CCW" whom the students have interviewed regarding their faith journeys, and will celebrate the Spirit that unites us. On June 11th, these three students have the opportunity to join the church as official members, and we will rejoice in the rite of Confirmation with parents and mentors participating, as well. I hope that everyone who is able will be with us in worship as we welcome Jakob Bailey, Hannah Brown and Gillian Reeder into full membership. The younger children in our congregation will continue to lead us in worship that day as we lift up the next generation of active Christians on Children's Sunday.

BIBLE STUDY

Paul's letter to the Romans is considered one of the seminal works that guide Protestant Christianity. For the remainder of this program year we will engage the chief passages that detail an argument for "faith over works," even as we understand that a life of discipleship to Christ asks that we do for in response to what we believe. See you at 9:00 a.m. in the library where all are welcome, whether for one time or to join us in an ongoing way!

FAITH COMMUNITY NEWS

Birthdays

May 10	Brandon Tanny
May 18	Lisa von Lichtenberg
May 22	Faye Rogers Baron
May 24	Julia Brown

BOOK STUDY

The last pages of *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*, offer various contemplative practices and meditations on how we might infuse our lives with the kind of joy that the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu embody. As we conclude our reading of the book together, we will discuss together how adopting one of these practices may indeed have altered or has the potential to alter our worldview and the attitude with which we meet our days. All are welcome to join us on Wednesday, May 17th at 7:30 p.m. when we meet for the final time—in the Meditation Room at the back of the sanctuary.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

On June 2nd on Fitton Field at the Hanover Stadium of Holy Cross in Worcester, the Bravehearts will have their home opener against the Bristol Blues. This collegiate league team plays hard and the night offers a lot of family friendly treats. Games for kids between innings and a truly excellent firework display after the game are almost worth the price of admission themselves. Please tell Pastor Lisa if you would like to attend so that she can order tickets for those committed to the evening's fun. Tickets are around \$10 for box seats (price somehow not available online until they open them to the public on April 29th), and we can arrange to carpool from the church parking lot for a 7:05 starting time.



May 25	Catherine Liddell
May 27	Mary Cross
May 28	Michael Paquin

Anniversaries May 29
Len and Ruthanne Brown

Faith Discovery for Children



We are making HUGS again!

This is the best children-helping-children project EVER!! The blankets we tie up this time will be given to children who are part of the Heart Play program, the award-winning, free program offered by CareGroup Parmenter Home Care and Hospice that uses the creative arts to help children and teens cope with the illness or death of a loved one. We've got 5 to tie up now and there are more where they came from!

Why do we call them HUGS? Because the fleece is so soft, that when you wrap yourself in one of these blankets you feel hugged. And who doesn't like a hug when they're sad?

SPECIAL SUNDAYS IN MAY

May 7 is Communion Sunday. Class starts right at 10:30 so there will be enough time for class before going to the sanctuary to join their parents for Communion.

May 14 We will get a head start on preparations for Children's Sunday.

May 21 Continuing our preparations

May 29 is a One Room Sunday. We will continue preparations for Children's Sunday.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY is just around the corner, June 11!

Parents, please make a note of the dates and times below. We do have to contend with Memorial Day Weekend in here, as we do every year. Every effort that can be made to have high attendance on the other Sundays will help the children feel confident in leading worship on their Sunday. **If you know now that your child(ren) will not be able to participate in the service on June 11, let Catherine know as soon as possible.** If attendance is just too low over the three Sundays, I will have to insert a practice on Saturday morning June 10. We ALL hope that's not necessary!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY PREPARATION SCHEDULE:

This schedule gives us the maximum amount of time. If attendance is good and work proceeds at a quicker pace, we'll cut back on the time. (I'll let you know by email if there are any changes to this schedule.)

May 14 Preparation for Children's Sunday.

May 21 and 28 Preparation for Children's Sunday continues.

June 4 Hand out parts during class time. Read through service. Practice song. Walk through the service in the sanctuary after worship. A savory snack will be provided.

June 11 EVERYONE arrives at 9:30 AM to warm up the song and walk through the service again.

STEWARDSHIP AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN IN MAY

- Bring your offering to support Pets for Vets.
- Help make a HUG for children who have lost a loved one.
- Help on work day

<u>Date</u>	<u>Altar Flowers*</u>	<u>Greeters/Ushers#</u>	<u>Coffee Hour Host#</u>	<u>Choir</u>
5/7	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>	Full
5/14 Mothers' Day	Seddon	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>	Full
5/21	Kreft	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>	Full
5/28	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>	Full

* Altar Flower arrangements cost \$55

**Host needed to provide snacks only.
Hospitality provides the rest even set up.