



The Landmark

Volume 21, Issue 3 | March, 2022

A Letter From The Pastor

Dear Congregation,

As February ends and March begins, I have been “watching the mercury”. This morning, the temperature outside was 11 degrees Fahrenheit. Even so, last week saw temperatures in the high 40s. I am watching the mercury. And at this time of year, the mercury is all over the place.

This got me thinking about mercury. And, as it turns out, I am probably mistaken about “Watching the mercury.” In any case, there is some ambiguity here. Seems like “watching the mercury” could refer to either barometric pressure or temperature. To me, at least, ambiguity in language is fascinating. It is the source of humor, poetry, and metaphor. I love them all.

(By the way, while I enjoy the occasional pun, I sometimes think interspersing puns in serious discourse can be jarring and confusing, and tends to alter the way we hear language. At least, this is my observation for myself. But, thankfully, I do not always write serious discourse. And so, while I enjoy the occasional pun, I am not always a fan. Sometimes, I am an air-conditioner. ((See what I mean?!! Arghh!)) It is fun to write in many different forms. And since I have fallen, with mercury and barometers, toward the realm of incorrect usage bordering on mixed metaphor, and since I find mixed metaphors especially delightful, here are a couple of fun ones, gathered from newspapers by writer Richard Nordquist on the website ThoughtCo.com:

Four examples of mixed metaphors, just for fun:

"I don't think we should wait until the other shoe drops. History has already shown what is likely to happen. The ball has been down this court before and I can see already the light at the end of the tunnel."
(*Detroit News*, quoted in *The New Yorker*, November 26, 2012)

"[Chairman of the Federal Reserve Ben] Bernanke set the standard for muddled metaphors when he parried reporters' questions that day. Certain economic data, he said, 'are guideposts that tell you how we're going to be shifting the mix of our tools as we try to land this ship on a--in a smooth way onto the aircraft carrier.'"
(Nick Summers, "Lost in Translation." *Bloomberg Businessweek*, July 8-14, 2013)

"I conclude that the city's proposal to skim the frosting, pocket the cake, and avoid paying the fair, reasonable, and affordable value of the meal is a hound that will not hunt." (a labor arbitrator, quoted by the *Boston Globe*, May 8, 2010)

"'Obviously, it's been a very difficult two days for us,' Nelson said. 'We kind of saw the writing on the wall Friday night. It's just apples versus oranges, and it's not a level playing field by any means.'"
("Seabury's Football Team Done for the Season." *Lawrence Journal-World*, September 22, 2009)

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Enough of that. We are all watching the temperature as we move closer to spring. Ash Wednesday is March 2nd. Rev. Steven Alspach and the Sandy Point Congregational Church will be joining us for the Imposition of Ashes Service at 7:00pm.

I will be offering devotional readings on Zoom during Lent. We continue to pray for our church, community, and world. May you be happy, may you be peaceful, may you always meet with success.

*Grace and peace,
Rev. Ed Gabrielsen
"Pastor Ed"*

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

7-Mar	Sharon Larson
10-Mar	Shayla Marie Kimball
12-Mar	Debra-Jo Middleswart
14-Mar	Jiffy Kelley-Young
14-Mar	Gavin Adams
16-Mar	Daniel McKeon
18-Mar	Arthur Curtis
18-Mar	CJ Harvey
23-Mar	Barbara Burns
26-Mar	Linda Payson
31-Mar	Sue Nichols

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please change **Arlin Larson's** email listing in your directory to akslarson@outlook.com.



Dionne (pronounced Dee-on) **Haase** has been visiting us for several months, and is going to join our choir! She and her husband, Bart, recently moved to the area from Colorado. Her number is (303) 842-7804.

MISSION NEWS

By Nancy Hamilton, Chair

At their February 3 meeting, the Missions Committee discussed how we can help CourageLIVES' work with the survivors of sex trafficking. It was decided to help provide "housewarming" items for the next graduate of the CourageLIVES home, whenever the next woman is ready to leave and begin a new life in her own home or apartment.

After the meeting, the committee found that there was a need for funds for RSU 20 to help at-risk and homeless teens, so the group agreed via email to send \$300 to the RSU for that purpose.

Our next meeting is March 3, at 10:00 in Curtis Hall. Anyone interested in outreach to the community, the nation, and the world is welcome to come and bring suggestions for "...ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works," as it says in Hebrews 10:24.

The Angels in Action Easter shoes and socks project will be coming up soon. We'll have the names, ages, and sizes of the children of Waldo County prisoners in late March.

MUSIC NOTES

By Carolyn Maunz

As we enter the season of Lent, we are reminded by Wikipedia, that "Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through prayer, repentance of sins, almsgiving, simple living, and self-denial. Many Christians also add a Lenten spiritual discipline, such as reading a daily devotional or praying through a Lenten calendar, to draw themselves near to God".

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I can't count the number of times people have commented that Lenten hymns are dull, somber depressing. There are forty days of Lent before we reach the Palm Sunday triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the Risen Christ on Easter. As we enter Lenten practices, and draw nearer to God, we will find a place of quiet comfort to look within.

When I played at Catholic Church for a number of years, we were forbidden to sing, breathe or think Alleluia during Lent; it was reserved for Easter and the weeks beyond.

I am going to break that rule this year and say Alleluia and Hallelujah every week, as our music program begins a return to some normalcy! I have so missed the children, the choir, the bell ringers, and all of the singing during our car church times. Hallelujah, you are coming back!

We have had some interest by new folks in singing and ringing with us, which engenders even more excitement. And we have Ed's voice to add, another great blessing.

I want to thank all who helped with music since March of 2020. When we opened in July, we had solos and instrumentals, and when we opened again in November, we were fortunate to have more volunteers.

Thank you to Mike, Lee, Sue, Karen, Jiffy, Kyle, Nicole, Vance and Ed. And thank you to anyone I missed. It was a suddenly lonely place in church music after March of 2020, and I know the congregation missed you all as much as I did. Welcome back!

Things will be a little different and may seem awkward at first, but we will soon be back in our routine. Our first rehearsal will be Thursday, 2/24/22, at 2:30 in the Sanctuary.

We will discuss our Singer's Masks, robes, folders and other housekeeping details, as well as do some singing. Our choir rehearsals will begin at just one hour, until the Coronavirus subsides a bit more, and then we will likely expand as before.

Please consider joining us as a singer or a ringer. All are welcome.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

By Sue Nichols, Sunday School Chair

The Sunday School Committee will have their next meeting on Thursday, March 17th, at 6:30 pm via zoom. We will discuss reopening Sunday School on Palm Sunday, April 10th, and making teaching assignments through the end of the school year in early June. The zoom invitation will go out to the committee members. If any parents, grandparents, or even perspective teachers would like to join us, please let me know, and I'll send you an invite as well. Since some of our teachers are not ready to resume teaching in April, we will be looking for new staff. Won't you consider joining us?

DIRECT FROM THE DEACONS

By Mary Alden Deacon of the month

Hello friends and neighbors. I hope you are well, that you are able to get out (safely) a little bit more and that you are feeling the love of God in your life. I am treasuring my friends and family more and more, realizing that throughout this difficult time I must lean on them and my faith and remember that there is a great future out there!

The Deacons continue to meet each month to take care of the needs of the Congregation. We are here to support you all and Pastor Ed in this wonderful spiritual journey of ours. Speaking of Pastor Ed and Shari, too, welcome to your new church family! You both are a fresh breeze for this ole' church.

It is so interesting to be so relieved to hear about something 'falling sharply' but it is encouraging to know that the corona virus stats are falling sharply. Please know that out of an abundance of caution we will continue distancing and masking for a bit.

If anyone knows of someone in need, someone who needs a spiritual boost, a ride, an errand run, a visit, a card or call please let a Deacon know. Your Deacons are Karen Kelley, Mike Nahme, Priscilla King, Dorothy Alling, Me, Mary Alden, and Barb Burns (who loves to keep in touch from Florida.) We all want to be helpful to you.

Have a marvelous end to this long winter. You know there are many "things" to be grateful for in this life and two important ones are:

God is good...and...Spring always comes

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Phyllis Gaul, Co-President

The Women's Fellowship met on February 1st in Curtis Hall.

The meeting began with devotions and prayers led by Joan Andrews. Joan has led us in devotions and prayers for many years. What a wonderful start to our meetings.

Our virtual Chocolate Fest is now in full swing. Thank you to our many members and friends who have helped to make this fund raiser such a success. Your donations help warm many homes in our greater community.

Several members reported on visitations and/or other communications they had enjoyed with some of our friends who are no longer able to meet with us, once again reminding us of the importance of reaching out to each other.

The Women's Fellowship plans to send birthday cards to all members of our Church family. We are aware of the fact that there are those among us who do not wish to be reminded of the passing of another year. If you would prefer not to receive a card, please call me at 548-0232 and I will remove your name from our birthday list.

We will all soon be thinking SPRING CLEANING. Please save those gently used but unwanted items for the Women's Fellowship spring yard sale. More to come on this project as plans are finalized.

Our next meeting will be held on **March 1, 2022** at 10:00 AM in Curtis Hall. Masks will be required and social distancing will be observed. All are welcome.

Hope to see you all at this meeting.

FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By Bob Snowdale, Chair

This month has seen our elevator, security system, and fire suppression system tested and certified for another year.

The pastor and I were talking about helping our church community with digital literacy. Things like safe web browsing, email, social media, and games, and so on. The Trustees have found a source for free classes held in Searsport at the town hall. These classes include the basics like e-mail, finding and playing computer games for the over 50 crowd, and more. For information, contact the Digital Equity Center at

www.digitalequitycenter.org/classes/class_location/town-of-searsport/ or email searsport@digitalequitycenter.org

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

March 1, 10:00 AM, Women's Fellowship, Curtis Hall

March 2 8:00 AM, Men's Breakfast, Methodist Church

March 2, 10:00, Missions Committee, Curtis Hall

March 2, 7:00, Ash Wednesday Service

March 9, 7:00 PM, Trustees' Meeting, via Zoom

March 16, 8:00 AM, Men's Breakfast, Methodist Church

March 17, St. Patrick's Day

March 20, Deadline for Landmark articles

March 20, after church, Curtis Hall, Church Council meeting

March 24, 3:30, Deacons' Meeting, Curtis Hall



"Ash Wednesday is full of joy... The source of all sorrow is the illusion that of ourselves we are anything but dust."

Father Thomas Merton

A St. Patrick's Day Blessing

May the strength of God
pilot us,

May the wisdom of God
instruct us,

May the hand of God
protect us,

May the word of God
direct us.

Be always ours this day
and for evermore.

St. Patrick

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Pastor Ed Gabrielsen

Office hours: Tues. & Wed. 8-4 (or by appt.)

Email: edgabrielsen1114@gmail.com

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Bill Zito, Administrative Assistant

Office (and home) hours: Tues. and Thurs. 11AM-3PM

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Carolyn Maunz, Minister of Music

Office/prep hours: Tues. 8:30-10:30AM, Thurs. 1:00-2:00PM

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Suggestions for Lenten Fasting and Feasting:

Fast from discontent; feast on thankfulness.

Fast from worry; feast on trust.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.

Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.

Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayers.

Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.

Fast from discouragement, feast on hope.

Fast from media hype, feast on the honesty of the Bible.

Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that undergirds.

Anonymous