

MARCH 2024

# ON THE COMMON

Newsletter of Slatersville Congregational Church

## We're All In This Together...

BY MICHELL ESKELLI

Hello All,

I address you today as Head Deacon, Council Member, Search Squad Member and your Friend. I know there is a lot of confusion and stress these days. I am hoping to help with some of that.

There is good news. It's almost Spring and Easter is right around the corner. We have Reverend Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin to lead us through Holy Week. Since Rev. Karen is a pulpit supply Minister, if you have a pastoral need, call me and you will be put in touch with the help you seek. Donna is also transitioning to working afternoon hours.

Your Church leaders are hard at work behind the scenes. We have been making great progress in preparing our church for success when a new minister is called.

Your search squad is still hard at work to find the right fit for our church and what we want for the future.

At some point when a candidate is identified, we will announce a "candidate weekend". We will release a name and a date for the minister to come and give a sermon. This event

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## 2023 OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Gretchen Westhoven, Moderator  
Ruth Mills, Clerk  
Jean Meo, Financial Clerk  
Margaret Hanoian, Treasurer

## CHURCH STAFF

John Staples, Director of Music  
Jill Boday, Handbell Choir  
Administrator, Donna Myers  
Hope Paul, Nursery Attendant  
Romeo Mendes, Sexton

## 2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Ruth Mills, Caring  
Michell Eskeli, Diaconate  
Jim Robshaw, Hospitality  
Bob Meo, Stewardship  
Martha Hunt, Music  
Rick Stelle, Property  
Terri DeBoise, Missions  
George Briggs, Christian Ed  
Bob Meo, Fundraising  
Bob Meo, Projects

## DIACONATE

Michell Eskeli, Chairperson  
Christine Bonas  
Marilyn Briggs  
Marsha Brodeur  
Richard Brodeur  
Sandy Gamache  
Martha Hunt  
Darlene Magaw  
April McAllister  
Stephen Wowk



## We're All In This Together... (Cont.)

will be made very public, YOU WILL NOT MISS IT! We will not sneak it in. We need you to hear the candidate, to meet them and to form an opinion. The Congregation will then vote on accepting that person as our new Spiritual leader.

That day is well in the future. So, keep praying, keep having faith in the search squad and in the Church council and other leaders.

In these days of adjustment, we have lots of experience to reflect on. We have learned that we are more capable than even we knew.

I know it seems like we have been in the desert for a very long time. We are not lost, we are searching. We are not waiting, we are reaching. We are not alone, we are in this together. You can always reach out to church leaders, we are here.

I wish you all peace and joy.

- Michell

## NS Food Pantry - March

The NS Food Pantry hours for March are:

Tuesday Mar 19th @ 5:30pm  
Saturday Mar 23rd @ 10:00am  
Tuesday Mar 26th @ 5:30pm  
Saturday Mar 30th @ 10:00am

In March the Food Pantry is asking for Tuna, Baked Beans and Canned Pasta.



## Holy Week at SCC...

**Palm Sunday, March 24th** Palm Sunday gets started with a Delicious Breakfast at 8:30am in Globe Hall followed by our Worship Service at 10am. (Be sure to sign up for the Breakfast!)

**Maundy Thursday, March 28th** This poignant experience begins with a Simple Supper at 6:30pm in Globe Hall, followed by a Tenebrae Service at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. (There is also a Sign-Up Sheet available for the Simple Supper)

**Easter Memorial Plants** need to be delivered to the church by March 30th between 10am-11am. Deadline for submission forms for this year's Easter Memorial Page is Thursday, March 28th.

**Easter Morning, March 31st** An early morning Sunrise Service begins at 6:30 am at Eagle Point (Behind the Slatersville Library).  
Easter Sunday Worship begins at 10am, and will be led by our Visiting Minister, Reverend Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin.

We're looking forward to lots of special music throughout the services during Holy Week. Be sure to invite your family and friends!

[WWW.UCC.ORG/INTO-THE-MYSTIC-HOLY-WEEK/](http://WWW.UCC.ORG/INTO-THE-MYSTIC-HOLY-WEEK/)

BY JOHN DORHAUER

During Holy Week, we embark on a sacred journey that encompasses both sorrow and hope. Let's pause and reflect on the snapshots that set this week apart:

1. Palm Sunday: Children waving palms as the congregation sings "All Glory, Laud, and Honor."
2. The Triumphal Entry: Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, greeted with cheers of "Hosanna in the Highest!"
3. Turning Tables: The temple incident where Jesus overturns tables.
4. The Last Supper: A table set for a final meal, where betrayer and denier share bread and cup.
5. Gethsemane: Jesus praying while disciples fall asleep, followed by his arrest.
6. Trial and Crucifixion: From "Hosannas" to "crucify him" in a heartbreaking turn.
7. The Cross: The crown of thorns, the nails, and the darkness.
8. Resurrection: The empty tomb, the Angel, and the dawning awareness of hope against hope.

In the midst of grief, disappointment, and disbelief, we find joy once again. He lives, and so shall we...



## Our Thoughts and Prayers

...are with Diana Jackson as she has been dealing with heart issues.

...are with John Gregory and his family. His son's home in Maine was destroyed by fire. . Thankfully, no one was injured.

...are with Jeanne Laliberte, recovering from reconstructive surgery after having melanoma removed from her face.

...are with Phil's friend Cheryl as she recovers from a stroke. She is looking for a rehab facility.

...are with Ruth's cousin Joanna, and her cousin Carol's son Joel, as both are being treated for leukemia.

...are with Rick's brother-in-law, who had his last treatment for bladder cancer. It appears to have been eradicated. He is grateful for our prayers.

...are with Marcia's sister-in-law Pat, whose lung cancer has worsened. She may have only a few more weeks.

...with joy for Pat as her daughter Alison is going back to work after having emergency gall bladder surgery a month ago. Alison's husband Bill is heading back to work after having brain surgery in December.

...with joy that Sharon Emerick is home. Please continue Prayers for her recovery.

## A Warm Welcome...

### To Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin!

We are delighted to have Reverend Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin with us through this Easter Season!

The Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin is an ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ, a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School, and was ordained in the Old Colony Association of the historic Massachusetts conference. Karen has served as a church pastor and as a healthcare chaplain in both hospital and hospice settings for almost forty years in the Midwest and Massachusetts.

She grew up in New England and has a deep love of the seasons. Karen enjoys creating liturgy, preaching, liturgical art, and exploring the sacred themes of each liturgical season. She appreciates the poetry of Mary Oliver and the spirituality that permeates the writing and art of Jan Richardson. Karen brings a spiritual curiosity to reflecting on Scripture and preaching.

She and her late husband, Bob had been married for forty years prior to his death almost four years ago. They shared a love of fishing, Cape Cod National Seashore, the kettle ponds of Nickerson State Park, the Red Sox, and their dogs Kinsey and Lily who were both full of love and mischief!

Karen enjoys exploring New England farms, trying out new recipes, walks along Cape Cod Canal, and the best coffee on the Cape at one of her favorite places. She looks forward to continuing the journey through Lent, holy week, to the joyous celebration of Christ's resurrection with the congregation.



## Fundraising News

BY JEAN MEO

### UPCOMING:

Palm Sunday Breakfast, Sunday, March 24th, 8:30 – 9:45 AM.

Come and enjoy breakfast and fellowship! Goodwill Offering.

Trivia Pub Night will be take place on April 27 beginning with a “Thanksgiving Themed” Dinner at 6pm!m Dinner, competition and lots of fun!

Spring Yard and Flower Sale will be May 11th, in time for Mother’s Day.

Please start saving your Attic and Spring Cleaning treasures!

Thanks to all for purchasing Super Bowl Grinders. Your generosity enabled us to donate 100 grinders to three different shelters in Woonsocket. A special thank you to our teenagers and recent confirmands who assembled the sandwiches, to Sandy Gamache for baking treats for the shelters, and to the Broaster House Restaurant in Woonsocket for preparing the ingredients for the grinders!

All of our efforts made a lot of people happy on Super Bowl Sunday!

Join us to have FUN as we FUNdraise!!

## Missions Moment - Feb 2024

BY ALISON PEIRCE

As is our tradition during the month of February, in honor of Black History Month, the Missions Committee chooses an organization that has an impact on the Black community. This year, we voted to give \$500 to Learning for Justice. As an initiative of the Southern Poverty Law Center, Learning for Justice works with educators, students, caregivers, and communities to provide free educational resources and professional development in the areas of Race and Ethnicity, Ability, Gender and Sexual Identity, Bullying and Bias, and other topics. These resources - such as articles, guides, lessons, films, webinars, and more - help foster shared learning and reflection in the hopes of building and maintaining meaningful relationships within communities to create justice for all.

In addition, our church continues to support the Men’s Shelter at Harvest Community Church in Woonsocket by providing a hot meal on the first Saturday of each month with the help of the Broaster House. We donated 25 meals along with home-baked treats from Sandy Gamache. This taste of home is truly appreciated by the men who visit the shelter. Also, thank you to all who donated new white t-shirts, which will be given to the approximately 22-24 men who frequent the shelter. Over 100 t-shirts were donated! What a generous congregation we have!