

Church Events for Lent & Easter 2016
First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
at 10 Station Rd in Hartland, Vermont 05048

Rev. Lucia Anne Jackson, Pastor

website: www.hartlandcongregationalchurch.org

Facebook: HartlandCongregationalChurch

Church Telephone: (802)436-2224 or via email at RevLucia13@gmail.com

Dear Members and Friends –

We enter the time of Lent – a time of spiritual preparation, a time to assess our daily lives. A season for letting go of that which clutters our lives and interferes with our sense of peace & life of faith. So, too, Lent is a good time to evaluate our life together as a church, as a faith community. What is working well and what needs to be let go? Where are there areas in the church and our ministries that are ripe for renewal or transformation or ready to flourish? What needs to be reappraised and changed?

As I suggested on Annual Meeting Sunday, one area of our life together that needs re-evaluating is Church School. Our Board of Christian Education and church school volunteers have worked conscientiously to provide high quality, engaging church school classes. But, our church school attendance has declined and the pool of church school volunteers has dwindled. Our current model for Sunday Morning Church School is not working as it once did work. How do we imagine our Christian education ministry for children? Do we change Sunday morning worship service to be inclusive of all ages and not offer church school? Do we hire a Christian Educator to organize, recruit and teach our children? What does “church school” look like in the 21st century? Apparently not what it looked like in the 20th century! Some of us are gathering together to prayerfully consider the future of Church School. If you have ideas, insights, inspiration, questions, please do speak with me or with Daun Smith. In faith we can grow into a new way of being that honors the past and lives into the future.

May your Lent be blessed with spiritual renewal as our community life together is blessed as well. See you in Church – peace – Lucia

Worship & Church School for Lent & Easter

*Wed, Feb 10th 6:00 - *Ash Wednesday Service – a simple, reflective service with imposition of Ashes, prayer, scripture & silence*
followed by Soup & Bread supper hosted by the Deacons – please bring your own bowl or mug for soup!

*Sun, February 14th - 1st Sunday in Lent *Worship*
Regular Church School – Habitat for Humanity Project
11:30 Bible Study on the Letter to the Romans

*Sun, February 21st - 2nd Sunday in Lent
Regular Church School – Habitat for Humanity Project
11:30 Bible Study on the Letter to the Romans

*Sun, February 28th - 3rd Sunday in Lent
Regular Church School – Habitat for Humanity Project
11:15 Brunch to benefit the Youth Mission Trip (here)

*Sun, March 6th - 4th Sun in Lent *Worship with Communion*
Regular Church School – The Last Supper
11:30 Bible Study on the Letter to the Romans

*Sun, March 13th – 5th Sunday in Lent *** *Daylight Savings*****
Regular Church School – The Last Supper
11:30 Bible Study on the Letter to the Romans

HOLY WEEK

*Sun, March 20th – *Palm Sunday Processional* 6th Sun in Lent,
Worship & Regular Church School – The Last Supper
11:15 Brunch to benefit the Youth Mission Trip (at the UU)

*Thur, March 24th 7:00 Maundy Thursday, Service of Tenebrae
with Communion

*Friday, March 25th – Good Friday Vigil 12:00 – 3:00, 6:00 – 7:00
Sanctuary open for quiet prayer, reflection & scripture

*Sunday, March 27th – **EASTER – He is Risen!**
***6:00 Sunrise Service on Hammond’s Hill behind Mike’s
Followed by breakfast at the church.
***10:00 Easter Service Celebrate the resurrection!

Board of Christian Education News and Notes:

Now you too can volunteer - a vital Sunday School is essential to a vital church! Volunteer to be a workshop leader (one week) or a shepherd (3-4 weeks) You'll be glad that you did!!!!
New Units: The Last Supper and Parables (April-May)

Still Needed: "On Call" nursery volunteers- to be ready to welcome a young family to our church by volunteering in the church nursery IF needed. Speak with Lucia or Daun Smith.

Session 5 – Habitat for Humanity

Sunday, February 7th – Communion, Regular Church School
Sunday, February 14th - *First Sunday in Lent*, Regular Church School,
Sunday, February 21st – *2nd Sun in Lent*, Regular Church school
Sunday, February 28th - *3rd Sun in Lent*, Regular Church School

Session 6 Holy Week – The Last Supper Luke 22:7-23 Mark 14:12-26

"Jesus took a cup of wine in his hands and gave thanks to God. Then he told the apostles, 'Take this wine and share it with each other. I tell you that I will not drink any more wine until God's kingdom comes.' Jesus took some bread in his hands and gave thanks for it. He broke the bread and handed it to his apostles. Then he said, 'This is my body which is given for you. Eat this as a way of remembering me!'" (CEV)- Luke 22:17-19,

Sunday, March 6th - Regular Church School
Sunday, March 13th – Regular Church School
Sunday, March 20th – *Palm Sunday*
Sunday, March 27th – *Easter! Sunrise Service! Special Event for Children!*
Wednesday, March 30th – 7:30 CE BOARD MEETING
Sunday, April 3rd – Communion, *Family Sunday*

Session 7 – Lost & Found Parables Luke 15:3-33

"Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." - Luke 15:10

Sunday, April 10th – Regular Church School
Sunday, April 17th — Regular Church School
Sunday, April 24th - Regular Church School
Wednesday, April 27th – CE BOARD MEETING 7:30
May 1st – Communion, Regular Church School
Sunday, May 8th – Last Regular Church School
Sunday, May 15th – Confirmation

We have a Prayer Shawl Ministry!! We have blessed and delivered several shawls in the past few months – what a gift for someone living with illness, or grieving a loss, or homebound, or new grandparents or for a wedding!! All levels of knitters & crocheters welcome! (anyone doing handwork is invited – quilters??) We have lots of donated yarn, a variety of patterns and willing teachers if you need supplies or help.

We gather on Tuesdays 5:00 – 6:00
Feb 16, Mar 22, Apr 26 & May 24 **JOIN US!**

Choir NEWS

*Please consider joining the choir for this Sacred Season!
Your voice is needed – share your gift of music.*

Rehearsals: Every Sunday at 8:30 plus

Friday, Feb 26th 5:30

Thursday, March 10th, 7:00

Friday, March 18th 5:30 – 6:30

HOLY WEEK:

Palm Sunday, March 20th 8:30 for 10:00 Worship followed by

11:00 Rehearsal for Maundy Thursday & Easter;

Maundy Thursday, 6:00 Rehearsal for 7:00 Worship Service;
Easter Sunday, March 27th -- 8:30 for 10:00 Worship Service.

Altar Committee Notice -

If you would like to make a donation toward Easter flowers for the sanctuary, envelopes will be available in the pews later in Lent or by notifying Lucia, Martha McGlinn, Emily Silver or Linda Genovese

with your information to

include the donor's name, "in memory of" and your contribution.

Requests must be in by Palm Sunday.

Board of Missions & Outreach

Hartland Local Food Shelf – non perishables can be dropped off here anytime.

HIXON HOUSE DATES for 2016: March 29th, May 31st, Aug 30th & Nov 29th *To participate in this wonderful outreach ministry please speak with Vicki Lawrence to volunteer as a team leader or to cook or to serve or to donate food!*

Habitat for Humanity work week -*** *SAVE THE DATES****
July 11th – 15th 2016. We will work everyday with Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Valley - you can volunteer for a day or 2 or 5! Those of us who have worked with Habitat past summers find it a rewarding, joyful, invigorating week. Hope that you'll be a part of it this summer.

Note from the Treasurer – We had a very favorable response to our Fall Stewardship Campaign. We are within \$5,000 of our target of \$78,000. Thank you to all who pledged or contributed for the 2016 budget. Our budget for 2016 of \$113,871 was passed at the annual meeting held on January 24th. We were happy to extend a long overdue 4% increase in the salary package to our pastor. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact our Treasurer, Linda Genovese.

Genovese2137@comcast.net.

From the Trustees: We have embarked on a church painting project to spruce up the building in time for Easter – the sanctuary is already brighter from the new coat of paint. Next: the dining room floor and the whole kitchen!
AND an update about the Roast Beef Suppers – the first three suppers had *the best attendance* of the last couple of years – be sure to bring your family and friends out to support the next three suppers on Feb 13th, 20th & 27th !!

YOUTH HAPPENINGS! *Youth group happens at the FUSH (UU in 4 Corners) or at FCCH (UCC in 3 Corners) please note where the meetings are!*

JUNIOR HIGH (7th& 8th grade) & **SENIOR HIGH** (9th- 12th grade)

*February 14th – Jr High Youth – deliver Valentine's packages time; tbd
SR HIGH OWL 6:30 – 8:00 followed by
GAME NITE 8:00 – 10:00

*February 21st – **Jr High** 5:00 – 6:15(UCC), & **SR HIGH OWL** 6:30 – 8:30

*February 28th – 9:00 – 1:00 – **Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch** here – *all Mission Trip 2016 participants expected to help! Parental support needed!*
SR HIGH OWL 6:30 – 8:30

*March 6th – **Jr High Youth** 5:00 – 6:15 (UCC) & **SR High OWL** 6:30 – 8:30

*March 13th – **SR HIGH OWL** 6:30 – 8:30

*March 20th – **Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch** (UU) *ALL Mission Trip 2016 participants expected to help! Parental support needed!*
Jr High Youth 5:00 – 6:15 (UCC) & **SR HIGH OWL** snow day/make up

*April 3rd – **Jr High Youth** 5:00–6:15(UU) & **Sr High Youth** 6:30–8:00 (UU)
Mission Trip Sign up (\$100 due) & Forms handed out

*April 17th – **Jr High Youth** 5:00–6:15(UU) & **Sr High Youth** 6:30–8:00 (UU)

*May 1st – **Jr High Youth** 5:00–6:15(UU) & **Sr High Youth** 6:30–8:00 (UU)

May 15th – **Last Regular Youth Group Meetings** (UU)

Jr High 5:00 – 6:00

Mission Trip Logistics 6:00 – 6:30

Sr High 6:30 – 8:00

****Mission Trip 2016 – July 24th – 31st to New Haven, CT with Worship on July 31st – a combined service celebration of the youth mission trip at the First Universalist Society of Hartland.**

First Congregational Church of Hartland, UCC
PO Box 454,
Hartland, Vermont 05048

What is Lent?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent – a season of self-examination, prayer, fasting and works of love. In many churches, ashes are placed on the forehead as a reminder of mortality.

The word "Lent" is from the Middle English verb meaning "to lengthen." In the Northern Hemisphere, the season corresponds with the lengthening of days during late winter and early spring.

During Lent, Christians prepare themselves spiritually for the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. The season spans 40 days: the number 40 symbolizes spiritual journeys home, corresponding to the 40 days Jesus fasted in the desert in preparation for his ministry and the 40 years Israel journeyed through the wilderness towards the promised land. The traditional color of Lent is purple.

During Holy Week, red is sometimes worn to symbolize the blood shed by Jesus for the salvation of humanity. In some traditions, following Maundy Thursday's service, the sanctuary is stripped of color and ornament as a gesture which may suggest keeping vigil with Christ on the cross and in the tomb.