

Church Events for Lent & Easter 2018
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](https://www.facebook.com/HartlandCongregationalChurch)

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

Dear Members and Friends – Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb 14th) when we enter the 6 weeks of spiritual preparation for the Easter Celebration.

One of the Lenten Disciplines is study. You have three opportunities for group study this Lenten season.. On Wednesdays, we will gather around the table for food, fellowship, study and conversation. On Sunday mornings we will study the Passion story and then write personal responses to share at the Palm Sunday worship service. (more details in this newsletter) Plus the ongoing Monday Night Bible Study discussing the scripture in preparation for worship. I do hope that you will commit to one of these studies for the six weeks of Lent. Additionally, our worship services will feature Lenten hymns, psalms and holy stories. Perhaps your Lenten discipline will be to attend worship every Sunday?

While Lent is historically a somber time of preparation and reflection, we still have some fun and fellowship planned . . .for example there are two family game nights! At the February Game Night, we'll be learning dominoes - a great game for all ages and you are invited to play. Plus we will celebrate the sweet gifts of the maple season with a special maple themed coffee hour on March 11th. Try a new recipe! Bake an old favorite.

How will you recognize Lent this year?

Hope to See you in Church– Lucia

Worship & Church School for Lent & Easter

**Wed, Feb 14th 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, Feb 18th - 1st Sunday in Lent, Worship & Regular Church School
11:30 Passion Story Study*

**Sun, Feb 25th - 2nd Sunday in Lent, Worship & Regular Church School
11:30 Passion Story Study*

**Sun, March 4th - 3rd Sun in Lent, Worship with Communion
Regular Church School
11:30 Brunch to benefit the Youth Mission Trip (UU)
11:30 Passion Story Study*

**Sun, March 11th - 4th Sun in Lent, Worship & Regular Church School
*** Daylight Savings***
11:15 Celebration of Maple Season Coffee Hour – bake a batch of your favorite maple treats, or try a new recipe! Come to celebrate and enjoy the sweet treats of the season.
11:30 Passion Story Study*

**Sun, March 18th– 5th Sun in Lent, Worship & Regular Church School
11:30 Passion Story Study*

HOLY WEEK

**Sun, March 25th – Palm Sunday 6th Sun in Lent,
Worship: Passion Week Stories Regular Church School*

**Thur, March 29th 7:00 Maundy Thursday
Service of Tenebrae with Communion*

**Friday, March 30th – Good Friday Vigil 12:00 – 3:00, 6:00 – 7:00
Sanctuary open for quiet prayer, reflection & scripture*

**Sunday, April 1st –EASTER – He is Risen!
***6:00 Sunrise Service on Hammond's Hill behind
Mike's service station followed by breakfast at the church.
***10:00 Easter Service Celebrate the resurrection!
Easter activity for younger children.*

Christian Education News and Notes:

From the Director of Christian Education: We are well into another great Sunday School year! We have learned about being stewards of God's creation, and how to be stewards to each other. We followed Moses and the Israelites as they wandered in the desert. We have learned the 10 Commandments and the Lord's Prayer. We have shared the qualities of leadership with you, our church family. We celebrated Jesus' birth with a simple pageant, and connected multi-colored stick people to practice diversity and tolerance. We are being 'fishers of people' as we learn about ways we can all help spread God's Word!

A big Thank You to 2 new volunteers; Madison Bowers and Donna Bowers! I am very grateful for all who have helped support our children by giving their time. Over the summer I would like to increase the number of volunteers so that no one feels burned out. PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER JOINING US! The commitment is generally one Sunday every two months. The more help we have, the smaller the burden on each of you!

Sincerely, Mary Jo

FAMILY GAME NIGHTS!

An evening of fun for all ages!

Fridays 7:00 – 8:30 (unless the game isn't finished . . .)

Feb 23rd & March 23rd.

Board Games, Cards, Desserts and Fellowship.

Scout and Caroline are ready to play (and teach) a BIG game of Dominoes on Feb 23rd! *JOIN US.*

Do you have a favorite card game that you would like to teach?

Do you like to play trivia games?

If you have an idea or a game to share –
please contact Lucia.

Because really, who doesn't love a good game?

LENTEN STUDIES

"Around the Table"

Food, Faith & Fellowship – what better combination?
Wednesdays in Lent at 5:30. We will start with a time of study and conversation about our world, our faith, our time. Followed by a simple supper of soup (I'll make the first pot and hope others will sign up!) bread and salad.

Passion Story Study

Sundays after worship

We will study the Passion Story – Jesus's story from the Last Supper through Easter Morning. The Passion Story is foundational to our faith. It is a story of love and loyalty, betrayal and denial. A story of violence and sacrifice, confusion and clarity. A story of politics and power, servanthood and peace. After studying the story YOU will be invited to choose a character and write a monologue to share on Palm Sunday. Where do you see yourself in this story? What are you experiencing? How are you feeling? Join us Sundays after church to delve into this central faith story and then respond personally.

Monday Night Bible Study will continue as well –
5:00 every Monday to study the scripture for worship on Sunday! 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

Fridays at 5:00, Feb 23rd, March 2nd & 9th & 23rd

HOLY WEEK:

Palm Sunday, March 25th at 8:30 for 10:00 Worship followed by

11:00 Rehearsal for Maundy Thursday & Easter;

Maundy Thursday, March 29th 6:00 Rehearsal for 7:00 Worship Service;

Easter Sunday, April 1st -- 8:30 for 10:00 Worship Service.

Board of Missions & Outreach

HIXON HOUSE DATES for 2018: May 30th, Aug 29th & Oct 31st
To participate in this wonderful outreach ministry please sign up or speak with Carol Withington (295-9561) to volunteer as a team leader or to cook or to serve or to donate food!

GOOD NEWS from the Treasurer & Stewardship Committee

Once again your Stewardship Working Group is happy to report that we have committed pledges for 2018 of \$73,752, just short of our goal of \$80,000. Our thanks to all who responded in such a heartwarming manner again this year. With a little more help we can reach our targeted goal. Our budget of \$119,079 for 2018 was passed at the annual meeting, held on January 21st. Some items included in this budget reflected a 3% raise for the pastor's salary, the continued funding of the ever-growing Christian Ed program and a budget to establish an administrative position to assist the treasurer and pastor. Utilities and insurance are on the rise for 2018 and our budget had to absorb those costs.

Have questions? Feel free to reach out to members of the stewardship committee - Pat Richardson, Tom Ramsey or our Treasurer Linda Genovese – (Genovese2137@comcast.net).

I guess there is one thing we didn't accomplish this past year – and that is adding a new voice to our Stewardship team. It's fun, we don't meet very often, and it's a great way to help grow OUR church. Interested? Contact Lucia or let Tom know (bsa4usatom@gmail.com).

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AND an update about the Roast Beef Suppers – folks really enjoyed gathering in the sanctuary and listening to music for the first four suppers – be sure to bring your family and friends out to support the last two suppers on Feb 17th & 24th !!!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

ANNOUNCING: *Women's Fellowship* Renewal! YOU are invited to join us on Thursday, Feb 15th at 1:00 here at church to share ideas (craft projects? Quilting? Share your passion? Movies? Your ideas?) and to talk about schedules. Coffee, tea and cookies provided. IF you can not make the meeting, but are interested, please email Carol Williams or Lucia with thoughts, ideas, and preferred scheduling.

*The **UCC Women's Celebration is this April** and all women are invited. The Celebration happens every four years. It is a wonderful weekend of learning, worship, fellowship, and growth. I have already registered and hope that you will consider joining me! The UCC Women's Celebration is in Portland Maine April 6th – 8th. The early bird sign up is Feb 15th. Check it out on the website: <http://www.uccwomenscelebration.org>.*

We have a Prayer Shawl Ministry!! 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 Tues 5:00 – 6:00
Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr 18 & May 15 **JOIN US!**

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.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS! *Youth group happens at the First Universalist Society of Hartland (UU in 4 Corners) or at First Congregational Church of Hartland (UCC here) please note where the meetings are!*

JUNIOR HIGH (7th& 8th grade) & **SENIOR HIGH** (9TH- 12TH grade)
Regular Youth Group times: Jr Highs: 5:00 - 6:15 Sr Highs: 6:30 - 8:00

February 16—~~Friday~~—7-9 **Junior High Game Night!** (here)
Games, make your own sundaes, FUN!

February 25— Regular Youth Group at the UU Church

March 4—9:00 am—1:00 pm—Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch at the UU Church. **LAST ONE** - all mission trip youth needed.

March 11— Regular Youth Group at the UCC Church

March 25—Regular Youth Group at the UCC Church

April 8— Regular Youth Group at the UCC Church
Mission Trip commitment and \$100 due to Lucia!
Mission Trip paperwork will be available.

April 29— Regular Youth Group at the UCC Church

May 6— Regular Youth Group at the UU Church

May 20 5-6:00 Last Junior Youth at the UU Church
6:00 pm—at the UU Church Mission Trip Logistics
Meeting—All Paperwork Due!
6:30-8:00 pm—Last Senior Youth at the UU Church

***Mission Trip 2018 - July 22nd - 29th to New Haven, CT with
Worship on July 29th - a combined service celebration of the youth
mission trip at the First Universalist Society of Hartland (UU).*

All youth graduating 8th grade and older are invited on the youth mission trip - a wonderful week of sweat, hard work, service, fellowship, faith and fun.

The **HIGHLIGHT** of the youth group year.

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PO Box 454,
Hartland, Vermont 05048