

EAST CHURCH



Open & Affirming

“We are the body of Christ”

MESSENGER



Valentine's Day

51 Mountain Road, East Concord, NH 03301-6905

February 2012

East Congregational Church, UCC News
Published 11 times a year
for members and friends
(603) 224-9242

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship -- 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hour follows Worship
Holy Communion Sunday is celebrated
on the first Sunday of each month.

All are welcome!



Handicap
Accessible

Sole Head of This Church
Jesus Christ

Ministers
The People of the Church

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Louise Bastille

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Pastoral Relations

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Deb Monson

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New Hampshire Conference
of United Church of Christ

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From Louise's Desk...

The scriptures read in worship in January and February include the gospels telling of Jesus' ministry. These are powerful stories. Through them we hear of how lives were changed and transformed. Courage is given. Compassion is called forth. The catalyst is Jesus who again and again reads hearts and offers a path to wholeness.

I love the song, You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore. The true title is *Tu' has venido a la orilla*. It was written by Cesareo Gabarain. The first verse he writes:

“You have come down to the lakeshore seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy, But only asking for me to follow. O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes: kindly smiling, you’ve called out my name. On the sand I have abandoned my small boat: now with you I will seek other seas.”

Not all of us are asked to give up our occupations to follow Jesus. Indeed, most of us won't be asked that. All, however, are asked to follow Jesus in our work places, in our homes, in our schools, in our neighborhoods. What does that mean? Each day will answer that.

It all begins by knowing we are loved and known by God. We are created and wonderful with gifts and graces; all of us! I invite us to read the gospels during this time. Take in the stories of healing. Listen to the wisdom that Jesus offers the religious leaders. As the end of the month comes we will gather with others for Ash Wednesday. This marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a time, 40 days, set aside to prepare for Holy Week when we follow Jesus into Jerusalem and remember both his tragic death and then amazing resurrection!

While Epiphany asked us to look up at the stars and the light, Lent asks us to look within in let the warmth of the relationship with Jesus fill us.

Blessings and Christ's Love,
Rev. Louise

East Congregational UCC
Annual Meeting will take place
following worship on
February 5.

Please stay for this important meeting.



Annual Meeting

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Visit us on the web at
www.eastchurchucc.org

prepared to serve *february 25, 2012*

Bringing Life and Vitality to Your Parish

This year's event offers a well-balanced workshop track, including Christian Education, Church Leadership, Caring Ministries and Service and Global Missions. With over 80 workshops to choose from, there's sure to be something for all church members in the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ.

Pre-Registration Deadline: February 10, 2012

Registration Fee: \$32 per person includes lunch.

Please take home a brochure with a description of all the workshops. A registration form can be found on the back of the brochure. We're fortunate that this event takes place right in our backyard at Pembroke Academy.

"Count your blessings!" is our Stewardship theme for 2012! This is an exciting time at East Church with the anticipation of a new pastor and continued growing Sunday School, Choir and Congregation! Your gifts and promised pledges help us to share Christ's gospel and live out His Love. There are Stewardship cards in the pews for those who would like to pledge for the 2012 church year. Many of you have already pledged and we thank you! --Your Stewardship Committee

Raising the Roof!

At an annual meeting on September 11th we voted to begin a capital campaign to raise monies to replace the church roof. We are halfway to our goal! The roof is done and we've also replaced the back door. To learn more please see Jere Smith or any of our Trustees.

Food Pantry, Friendly Kitchen, & the Love Offering are just some of the ways we reach out in loving faith to our community.

**For more information,
contact Pastor Louise
call (603) 556-1343 or
(603) 293-0182.**

elrevs@earthlink.net

website www.eastchurchucc.org

DATES TO NOTE

Souper Bowl Day of Caring ---After the annual meeting enjoy a soup lunch. Proceeds go to help our ministry with The Friendly Kitchen!

"Peace Begins When the Hungry are Fed"—Dorothy Day

East Church will offer

**Communion in the Havenwood Chapel on
February 7th 10:30 a.m.**

All are welcome!

Centering Prayer

Through readings, scriptures, music, times of silence, and sharing we'll listen for the movement of the spirit within. Join Rev. Louise and others on

Thursday, February 9th for Centering Prayer.

Ash Wednesday February 22

Begin Lent with Ash Wednesday worship.

Watch the bulletin for time and location.

Dear Pastor Bastille & the Parishioners of East Congregational Church,

On behalf of the families and staff of Dame School, we would like to thank you for your kindness and generosity in supporting our families with four very large Thanksgiving baskets—enough food for several meals! Concord is indeed lucky to have churches and organizations looking out for Concord families.

Sincerely Yours, Cheryl Halley,
Principal, Dame School



To the Congregation:

Thank you so much for the wonderful Bonnie Mohr Painting of the tree with her Living Life quote. I love it and the back is even more special with your notes and signatures. I also very much appreciated the gift cards that were tucked in the bag. That was a surprise to me on Christmas Eve. Thank you everyone! --Pastor Louise

JOYFUL NEWS!

With great joy, Kathy and Deb share the results of our Alternative Giving Fair held during the holiday season. So many took part in manning the tables, baking, or purchasing gifts via Church World Service and Heifer International! Special thanks go to our young Christians who enthusiastically raised funds selling sweets at their table (and for the Heifer Project drawing depicting what we were able to purchase.) The overall result was a wonderful \$1,058.10 raised to spread joy and give a helping hand to people in need all over the world!

Small crafts were sold with the money going to people in various countries who are dealing with AIDS crises, the aftermath of years of civil unrest and war, or in need of clean, accessible water.

From the Church World Service Best Gift Catalog we were able to send:

5 mosquito nets

Educational toys

10 jerry cans

Vitalita Sachets

(a 1 year vitamin/mineral supply for 10 kids)

Plumpy' nut packets

(200 peanut butter protein bars)



Thanks to all for your wonderful support of this vital Mission Outreach!!

Open My Eyes That I May See – Chalice Hymnal #586

The January calendar gets short shrift from me. The joy and the true meaning of the holidays stay in my heart, but I yearn for respite from all the planning, events, and hubbub that seem so prevalent in that season as well. I find myself, therefore, in a more reactive rather than active mode starting off the New Year. Just barely remembering appointments, last minute arrivals at events, and often late in sending birthday cards. Not for my twin granddaughters' birthday on January 24th, however. This is rightfully a huge day in their lives and, blessedly living just down the road, we get excited visits and phone calls from Cammi and Emma. Often with words tumbling and spilling over one another, they share their hopes, wishes and anticipation!

A couple of Januaries ago, one of my sisters temporarily joined my habitual, mini-calendar rebellion by sending the twins' cards belatedly. February had already slid in over the ice. With the birthday excitement dissipated and being too early for Valentine's Day, it was anything but clear to the girls why they would be getting mail. Cammi, however, reacted with that time-worn response of so many of us in our youth. She eagerly opened her mail and, seeing a card enclosed, shook it vigorously to see if any money would fall out! Not so Emma who, several minutes later, was found standing apart with a quiet, unfathomable look on her face at her envelope. "Mommy", she finally whispered, "I got mail from God. GOD sent this to me!" My sister had used left over Christmas stamps depicting the Nativity, and 6 year old Emma with wide-open eyes had spotted that and felt the wonder of God reaching out to her!

Oh, to see God in the everyday world around us! It's an unparalleled gift and we've all been given it. We just need to open our eyes, ears, and heart and be on the lookout. It's not too late to make a New Year's resolution. I am determined to spend less time mired in my 'head' and embrace each calendar day by being fully present and more open – and may I look upon God's wonder everywhere as through the eyes of a child. "Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!"

-Deb Monson

Choir!

Choir rehearsals are Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m.

To learn more talk to
Susan Goulet
our Organist/Choir
Director.





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United Church of Christ
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COLD WEATHER FAMILY SHELTER

For the fourth year in a row, Concord will have a shelter for families experiencing homelessness during the winter season. This year, Granite United Way is administering the shelter, at a location being finalized, with David Keller directing the program, assisted by Jennifer Wozmak. The program depends heavily on volunteers, serving in four shifts: morning, afternoon, evening, and overnight. People interested in volunteering should send an email to concordfamilyshelter@gmail.com. We will reply with an application form. The program also needs financial contributions, which can be sent to Granite United Way, 46 South Main St, Concord. Donations of supplies and food are also appreciated.



Sunday School at East Church! Sundays after the children's time our teachers guide the way to Sunday School. We are using the Gather 'Round curriculum. Children of all ages are also welcome to remain in the worship service. The Deacons provide bags of small toys and coloring pages for

the East Church children. The bags, located in the rear of the sanctuary, help keep children occupied during the service. If your infant or toddler mouths some of the toys, simply leave the toys in the kitchen sink at the end of service and the deacons will wash the toys before returning them to the toy bag.



February:

- 3 Jean Richards
- 3 Rachel Aznive
- 7 Jennifer LaBrie
- 12 Thom Donnelly
- 14 Willa Talbot
- 14 Jennifer Lind
- 16 Richard Auren
- 24 Elizabeth Barrell
- 26 Patricia DuBois