

**March Gleam, 2011**

**From the Pastor:**

As we begin our Lenten journey together, may we come to church with our hearts and minds singularly focused on our quest for renewal in the grace of God's unconditional invitation and unqualified welcome. Responding to God's invitation to come, listen, see, forsake old destructive patterns, and return to the right path, we encounter a God who holds us in kindness and gives us the fresh water of understanding and comfort. Water and seeds, bread and wine, serve as symbols of God's generous and unconditional nurturing that causes us to grow.

We are going to try something new this year through the entire Lenten season. We have decided to offer the Sacrament of Holy Communion every Sunday in both Chapel (9:00) and Sanctuary (10:30) Services. Our worship will be Services of Word and Table. The liturgy for Communion will be minimal, and we will offer individual servings of bread and wine. Individuals will be invited to kneel at the Communion rail for prayer, and stay as long as they like.

May we strive together to provide spiritual nourishment that will deeply satisfy the deeper yearnings of our souls. For God's call is always to come -- without qualifiers or prerequisites -- to experience the gifts of God's generous heart. God desires nothing more than that we come to the waters and drink. God offers us, without price, the bread of life and the sweet wine of salvation, even during those times when we are looking for food and drink that simply cannot satisfy.

Throughout this season, the goodness of God will continue to invite all to a feast of grace, where mercy, forgiveness, and compassion are offered as the main course! The goodness of God bids all to receive love, gift-wrapped in relationship. The goodness of God opens hearts to receive reconciliation. Together, let us seek healing. The goodness of God brings second chances. Together, may we turn to the One in whom we find our deep belonging.

My prayers for our Lenten journey together is that we will all share in newer, deeper, richer ways such a trust that willingly embraces God's grace, and finds itself lived out in the actions of our lives. May we all -- always -- remember that it is God who makes the first move. The invitation to table, to journey, and to trust is offered freely, with no strings attached.

God bless each one of us as we continue to journey side by side, hand in hand, heart to heart.

With faith, hope, and love,  
Chuck Hartman, Pastor



#### **AMONG OUR PEOPLE**

##### **Baptism**

Anneliese Marie Banghart  
D.O.B. ~ 2/4/10

##### **Deaths**

Emily Montgomery ~ 2/5/11  
Mary Stahle ~ 2/9/11

##### **New Address**

Rachel Dunn  
49 Melrose St., U&H  
Melrose, MA 02176

Office	781-662-7060
Fax	781-662-7060
Parsonage	781-662-8408
E-Mail:	fumc@fumcmelrose.org

Rev. Charles G. Hartman	Pastor
Saeah Lee	Interim Organist & Choir Director
Anne Hillman	Director of Christian Education
Moonkyum Kim	Coordinator of Youth Ministries
Beth Murphy	Office Administrator
Joseph Canova	Custodian

**Church Office Hours are from 9 a.m. to  
1 p.m. Monday through Friday.**

## A Message from our Christian Education Director

Dear Church Family,

Happy March! I don't know about you, but I am very glad February has ended. Here's hoping that March provides much warmer weather and a whole lot less snow.

The Sunday School program is moving along through the Live B.I.G. curriculum. It is great to see our children learning about God, Jesus, and their lives as young Christians. They continually amaze me with their wonderful questions and great openness to God's love. March will be a fairly normal month for our Sunday School programs, but those children who have not yet been able to add their square to the Children's Message quilt will have the opportunity over the next few weeks.

Thank you for those who were able to attend the **Youth Program Planning Meeting** on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. We were able to present information about the **Youth Mission Trip** and discuss plans for the youth program this spring. Packets of information were sent out to the youth who were unable to attend the meeting. Please don't hesitate to contact Moon or myself with any questions about the mission trip as decisions are made about participating. I would love to see all of our youth take advantage of this great opportunity to put their faith into action. A quick reminder: the deadline for registering for the mission trip is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The youth will also be involved in providing music for three upcoming church services on March 20, April 24, and June 12. Moon will coordinate with the youth on the music they will offer.

Mark your calendars for some upcoming fellowship events. The first is the **All-Church Pancake Dinner** on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. to start off our Lenten Season. Following that is **Church Family Bowling** on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm. We will be returning to Ryan Family Amusements where we had so much fun this past fall. Then will be the **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. I hope you take advantage of these opportunities to get to know your church family even better.

Both the Intro Bible Study and Interreligious Encounters classes are continuing this month and new members are more than welcome. The Interreligious Encounters class will be switching gears from how Christians theologically account for other religions into basic introductions to major world religions, so this is a perfect time to join. As well, Moon will be starting his **Adult Bible Study** course this month.

One last note: if your child is considering attending a church camp this summer, scholarships are available through Church Trustees to help off-set the cost. Your child will need to write a note to Trustees explaining their intention to attend church camp and asking for their support. Information about the summer camps recognized by the New England Annual conference can be found at their website (<http://www.neumc.org/pages/detail/104>).

Dates to remember:

March 8<sup>th</sup> – All-Church Pancake Dinner – 6pm  
March 20<sup>th</sup> – Youth Providing Music for Service – 10:30am  
April 1<sup>st</sup> – Registration Deadline for Youth Mission Trip  
April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Church Family Bowling – 3pm, Ryan Family Amusements  
April 24<sup>th</sup> – Youth Providing Music for Service – 10:30am  
April 16<sup>th</sup> – Easter Egg Hunt – 1pm

Blessings,  
Anne



***From your Ministry Teams . . .***

**Coming to Our Church: Church Family Sunday Luncheons**  
**March and April are *Bring-A-Friend-to-Church on Sunday months!!!***

Beginning in March, we are planning to host once-a-month after church Fellowship Luncheons (with the exception of April). The meals will be “light fare,” consisting of sandwiches and salads. A free-will offering basket will be placed near the serving tables to help defray the cost. The meals will be served after the 10:30 Sanctuary services on the following Sundays: **March 6** (to celebrate Transfiguration Sunday!), **May 1** (did you know that May 6 is *May Friendship Day?*), and **June 12** (to celebrate Pentecost!). (Because of the Church Family Bowling Party at Ryan’s Bowling on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, there will be no luncheon in April).

Everyone in our church is challenged to **invite** and **bring** a friend, neighbor to church each Sunday through the months of March and April. During parish notices time . . . the pastor will be asking if anyone has a friend or neighbor they would like to introduce!! This is a wonderful way to encourage our church’s growth. Take the challenge. Join the fun. Receive a blessing!

Dear Youth Group Families,

It seems that we are getting towards the end of this winter as we see melting snow and feel warmer sunshine. Since we are planning various activities in spring, it is exciting to see this good sign that winter is almost over.

To start off, I am very thrilled to share that our summer trip to Michigan in August is now official and we are finally in the process of preparation for that. Since we want to fill some portions of budget by our own hands, we will plan to do some activities for fundraising purpose. These will include car washes and auction. I would like to ask you for your support by any means as we prepare for our missions trip. You could let us wash your car or donate items for auction when we need them. And of course, you could support us with the most important and effective means: your prayers. Thank you for all of your supports in advance!

As I mentioned in the previous news letter, I have been communicating with the Youth Director at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Malden, and something productive between two youth groups is finally about to come to us. We have thought about some activities that the two youth groups can do together. We might be able to make this happen soon, possibly by March. I would really appreciate your support by your prayers.

For all reasons I mentioned above, I cannot wait for spring to come. I hope you are with me.

Blessings,  
Moonkyum Kim  
Youth Ministry Coordinator



*From your Ministry Teams . . .*

**Coming to Our Church: Shrove Tuesday – The Pancake Fest!**

*It's time to "pig out" on pancakes!  
But first, let's fill up on facts and history!*



Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of "shriving," when the faithful confessed their sins to the local priest and received forgiveness before the Lenten season began. As far back as 1000 AD, "to shrive" meant to hear confessions. (Trivia note: the term survives today in the expression "short shrift" or giving little attention to anyone's explanations or excuses).

Historically, Shrove Tuesday also marked the beginning of the 40-day Lenten fasting period when the faithful were forbidden by the church to consume meat, butter, eggs or milk. However, if a family had a store of these foods they all would go bad by the time the fast ended on Easter Sunday. What to do?

Solution: use up the milk, butter and eggs no later than Shrove Tuesday. And so, with the addition of a little flour, the solution quickly presented itself in... pancakes. And lots of 'em.

Today, the Shrove Tuesday pancake tradition lives on throughout Western Europe, the United States, Canada and Australia, but is most associated with the UK where it is simply known as Pancake Day with a traditional recipe, although these can be as varied in the UK as there are British households. In France, (as well as here in the US or more famously in New Orleans) it's known as Fat Tuesday which kicks off the **Mardi Gras** festival with wild celebrations just before the austere Lenten season.

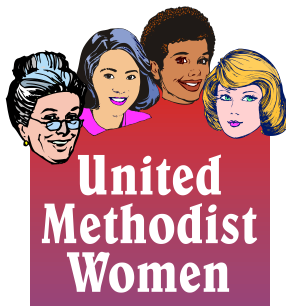
Enjoy the feasting, fun and fellowship with your church family as we celebrate our **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Fest** on **March 8**, beginning at **6:00 p.m.** Because our wonderful cooks will need to know the number of hungry mouths to feed, we will place a signup sheet in the hallway. Please add your name and the number of persons – family members and friends! – who will be joining you. If you forget to sign up in the hallway, please call the church office to give your name to Beth; or leave a message on the voice mail. The **deadline** for signing up will be one week before the event, **Tuesday, March 1.** While there is no "charge" for this fellowship supper, there will be a basket placed near the serving table for those who wish to offer a contribution.

## UMW Board Meeting

There will be a UMW Board meeting on Wednesday, March 9th, 2011, at 2 P.M. in the Church Library. If you cannot attend, please notify the Church Office.

Thanks!

Nancy



## PAST UMW GROUPS

I have been asked to do a little research on groups that once existed in the United Methodist Women's Organization here at FUMC. The list of circles that we are lacking information on are the following:

French, Bellevue, Burnside, Homebuilders, Jeffras, Ivey, Shedd, Emig, Mary Hearne, Alexis, Peabody, Wyoming, Joy, Naomi & Ruth, Rebecca, Layton, Friendship, Hohareca, and Fletcher.

If you can provide any information on these groups, I'd sincerely appreciate it. Please get in touch with me or the Church Office.

Nancy Jackson  
Co-President, UMW



## **Save the Date... UMW Indoor Yard Sale Saturday, April 30th 9 am to 3 pm**

Contracts are available from the church office call 781-662-7060.



## WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS

It has come to my attention that there are some widows and widowers who would like to start a support group. If you are interested in just getting together to chat about life without our spouses, please let me know or call Beth at the Church Office.

Nancy Jackson



## Senior Saints Events

**Tuesday, March 15th at Noon**  
Planning Session

***All are welcome!***

## Great Decisions

The Great Decisions Discussions Group will be meeting at the home of George & Lorna Philley on the following Sunday evenings during March:

March 6 - *Horn of Africa*

March 13 - *Financial Crisis*

March 20 - *German ascendant*

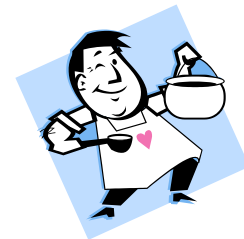
March 27 - *Crisis in the Caucasus*



Dear Reverend Chuck and  
FUMC Congregation,

We cannot thank you enough for the warm welcome we and Anneliese have experienced at the FUMC. Anneliese's baptism means so much to us and will live on in our hearts and memories forever. We feel like we've found a true family here. Thank you as well for the beautiful baptism blanket. Anneliese will cherish it for many years to come.

Thank you again,  
Charlotte, Dug and Anneliese Banghart



**Feeding Ministry**  
**Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
St. Paul's Church  
26 Washington St., Malden

Please sign up to donate desserts, helping hands or cash. Any questions, please contact Kelly Ilebode at 781-397-7813.

## March Worship, 2011

**March 6, 2011**      **The Last Sunday after the Epiphany  
– TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY  
A Service of Word & Table  
Bert Whittier, Guest Preacher!**

**Old Testament**      *Exodus 24: 12-18*  
**Epistle**              *2 Peter 1: 16-21*  
**Gospel**                *Matthew 17: 1-9*  
**Sermon**                **by Bert Whittier**

---

**March 13, 2011**      **The First Sunday in Lent  
– A Service of Word & Table**

**Old Testament**      *Genesis 2: 15-17*  
**Epistle**                *Romans 5: 12-19*  
**Gospel**                *Matthew 4: 1-11*  
**Sermon**                *A Stimulus Package for the Heart*

---

**March 20, 2011**      **The Second Sunday in Lent  
– A Service of Word & Table**

**Old Testament**      *Genesis 12: 1-4a*  
**Epistle**                *Romans 4: 1-5, `3-17*  
**Gospel**                *John 3: 1-17*  
**Sermon**                *In the Dark*

---

**March 27, 2011**      **The Third Sunday in Lent  
– A Service of Word & Table**

**Old Testament**      *Exodus 17: 1-7*  
**Epistle**                *Romans 5: 1-11*  
**Gospel**                *John 4: 5-42*



## Upcoming Events

All-Church Pancake Dinner	March 8
Ash Wednesday	March 9
Daylight Savings Time	March 13
Senior Saints Planning	March 15
Lenten Bible Study Begins	March 15
Feeding Ministry	March 22
Church Council	March 23
Family Bowling	April 3

## TV Ministry

Telecasting of the Sunday morning 10:30 worship services are on MMTV (**Melrose Cable Channel 3 & Verizon Cable Channel 39**) at the following times:

Sunday at 9:00 A.M. & 5:30 P.M. and  
Monday at 8:00 P.M.



**First United Methodist Church**  
645 Main Street  
Melrose, MA 02176  
(781) 662-7060

**FIRST CLASS**  
**POSTAGE**

This material was mailed March 1.

**April GLEAM Deadline**  
Will be on Monday, March 21st.