

# THE SPIRE

March 2025

We seek to be a Christian community by worshipping God through prayer, music, and the proclaimed Word. Following Christ's example, we enthusiastically reach out to everyone with compassion, respect, and love so that we may grow in faith and commitment together.

*Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC*

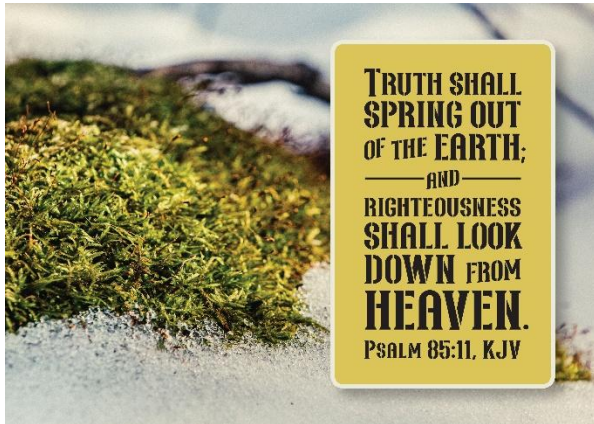
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**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

*Worship God, Serve our neighbors, Share God's love.*



Dear Friends,

As we step into the sacred season of Lent, we are reminded that this journey of reflection and preparation is not one we are called to walk alone. We are part of a beloved community—rooted in faith and strengthened by the grace and love we extend to one another. Together, we embark on this path, knowing that God is with us every step of the way.

Lent invites us to turn inward, to examine our hearts, our choices, and the direction of our spiritual lives. It is a time to pause and reflect, to acknowledge where we may have strayed and to seek God's guidance. Self-examination is not easy—it requires honesty, humility, and courage. But through this process, we open ourselves to renewal and transformation, drawing closer to God.

Lent is not only a time for personal reflection; it also calls us to look outward. It is an invitation to see the needs of those around us with fresh eyes—the struggles, hopes, and humanity of our neighbors, friends, and even strangers. From the people sitting beside us in the pews to the broader community we are a part of, we are called to demonstrate compassion, generosity, and service. Through acts of kindness and love, Lent reminds us that our faith is not only about personal devotion but is also expressed in how we care for and uplift others.

This sacred season is one of balance—a time to nurture both personal transformation and communal connection. It draws us deeper into the heart of our faith, reminding us of the call to love one another as Christ loves us. Through prayer, fasting, and acts of service, we create space for God to work within us and through us, making us instruments of God's love in the world.

As you read through this month's newsletter, you'll find many ways to engage with our church community during this season. I encourage you to take part in these offerings, as they not only enrich your personal journey

but also strengthen the bonds we share as a community.

May this season of Lent be one of growth, renewal, and connection for each of us. Let us lean into the practices that draw us closer to God and to one another. And let us remember, always, that we are not alone on this journey—we walk this path side by side, united in faith, hope, and love.

With blessings, gratitude, and prayers,

Pastor James



### Progressive Christian Book Club

Grab a coffee hour snack and meet us in the Parlor. Our next meeting will be on Sunday March 9th after worship. Please have chapters 2 & 3 read and ready to discuss.



Don't forget to change your clocks forward one hour on **Sunday, March 9th**



Monthly Sunday School Dates are now available!

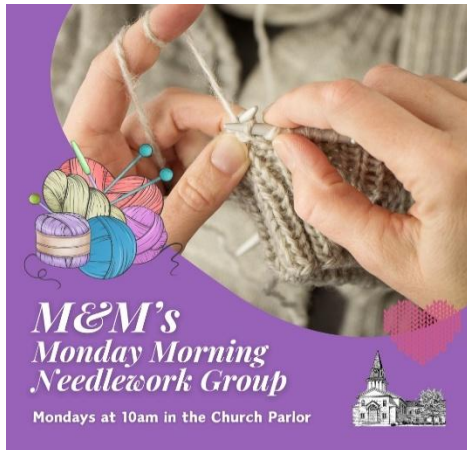
**March 23**

**April 27**

**June 1**

Sunday School takes place during our Sunday Worship and is taught by adult volunteers. All adult volunteers working with children are background checked.





M&Ms meet  
Mondays, 10-Noon in the Parlor.  
Bring your handcrafts, or just come to  
socialize. We'd love to have you join  
us!



The Community Garden is gearing up  
for the 2025 season, and we need  
your help! We're planning some  
community events, and we would  
love your feedback on the types of  
events you would like to see and  
attend in the Garden. Please fill out  
the following form, or contact Lauren  
Briggs for a physical copy of the  
survey:

<http://forms.gle/zhSrNT6FrsEX3V619>

Additionally, if you or someone you  
know would be interested in hosting

an event in the Garden, such as a  
presentation or an activity for  
children, please contact Lauren  
Briggs. This could be a great  
opportunity for a small business  
owner or organization leader to gain  
exposure for their business or  
organization.

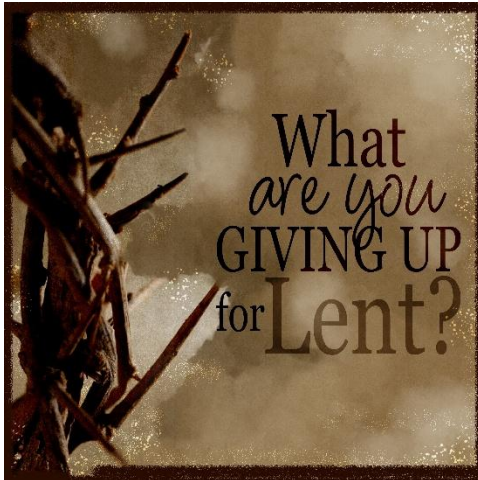


*If you would like to be added to the prayer  
chain, or if you or someone you know wants to  
receive prayers for a specific situation, please  
Contact Mary Jensen.*



My term as moderator has ended and  
I wish to thank all the council  
members, Rev. James, and  
church/friend members for your  
support and help these last 3 years. I  
know the council under new  
moderator Suzi Sennott and Rev.  
James will continue to lead the  
church forward.

Thank you all, Jan Krohn



### A Call to Action!

In a recent email from our Conference, via Tiffany Vail, “The Executive Team of the Southern New England Conference is encouraging everyone to observe Lent by participating in an economic boycott of those institutions that have cancelled their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives.”

The conference has been clear NOT to specify which businesses you should boycott, but encourages members to conduct their own research to identify companies that don’t align with the teachings of our faith. “We encourage you to fast this season of Lent from the places that have denied the basic human rights of our fellow siblings in Christ.”



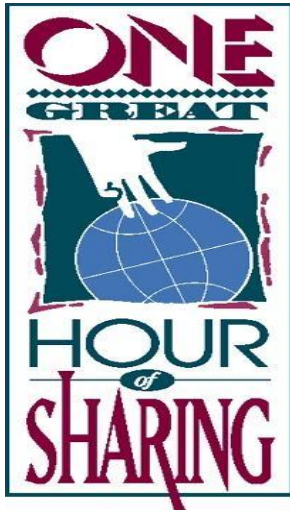
The first signs of Spring can be found along the side of our building, just to the left of the side stairs! Thanks Sue for the uplifting pic of our daffodills sprouting!



Thank you to our church family and friends for their prayers while we were “stranded” in France after Linda’s accident. We felt your love and support as we endured pain and uncertainty that seemed unending at times. Finally we are back in the U.S.A.! Linda is finally back home after a stay at Newton-Wellesley Hospital and then rehab in Milford.

There is still a long journey ahead with lots of physical therapy!

Merci Beaucoup!  
Linda & Rick Jones



Our missions collection for One Great Hour of Sharing will be on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.



We are looking for volunteers who can help with picking up food from Roche Bros. and bringing it back to the Food Pantry. The next month that we will need help is the month of June. Please contact Art or Jen if you are interested.



A special thanks to Steve and the crew of Millis FD Ladder 1 for disentangling our damaged flag from the top of the pole. The battered old flag was given to the American Legion across the street for honorable retirement/disposal. Thank you to Doug Briggs for our new flag so we can look our best!



Our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Chili Cook-off was a great success! We had 7 contestants in our cook-off covering a wide variety of this hearty comfort food. Prizes were awarded in categories: Meatiest Marvel, Most unique, Flavor Explosion, Firey Inferno, Veggie Supreme and Crowd Favorite. The Crowd Favorite award went to Jenn Cashmon. If you would like to

make the Millis UCC 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off Crowd Favorite Chili, you're in luck!

3lbs ground turkey  
 6 cloves garlic minced  
 1.5 C yellow onion diced  
 3 (15oz cans) tomato sauce  
 3 (7oz cans) diced green chilies  
 3(15 oz cans) kidney beans, rinsed and drained  
 3(15 oz cans) black beans, rinsed and drained  
 3-6 tbs chili powder  
 6 tsp cumin  
 1.5 tsp black pepper  
 1.5 tsp salt  
 3 tsp brown sugar

Optional toppings: sour cream, shredded cheese, green onion

1. Add turkey & onion to medium skillet and cook over medium heat until onion is soft and turkey is cooked through. Add garlic and cook an additional 30 seconds.
2. Remove from heat and add to crockpot.
3. Stir in all other ingredients and set crockpot to LOW for 4-6 hours.



Becki demonstrating the easy-carry method for handling multiple cups of chili. Take note for next year to bring your muffin pans!

Thank you to Pastor James for planning this event, and Doug Briggs for providing the family friendly movie for the evening's entertainment. We look forward to next year's cook-off!



**Be sure not to miss out on our upcoming events:**

See next page for details



### Instructions for Submitting An Event

- Please contact Rev. James if you have an idea for an event / church fundraiser.
- Laura will check the calendar to reserve your event.
- The event details must be sent to Rev. James and Laura no later than 4 weeks in advance for marketing.



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