



Dennis Union Church

Steeple Bell

February 2020

Dear Dennis Union Church Family and Friends,

As I write this newsletter article, our Annual meeting report is being prepared for printing. We expect to have it available for everyone well in advance of our February 8th meeting. On this 154th Annual meeting of the Dennis Union Church we have so much to be thankful for and to celebrate as a congregation. It has been a full and rich year moving at a clip with worship, music and special concerts, children and youth classes and activities, adult learning opportunities, shared meals, welcoming new members, and fellowship opportunities. In addition to those programs we love our community events, the two biggest ones being the auction and the apple festival. The energy and enthusiasm that rise up from these events reach many people who might not attend worship but become acquainted with DUC through these missions.

This year at Annual Meeting we will also celebrate our 3rd Anniversary of becoming an Open and Affirming congregation. Taking that vote and making a statement to the world was and continues to be an important way for us to bear witness to the extravagant love and grace of God. It is a statement of welcome and an invitation to all those who may have been displaced or hurt by organized religion in the past. Our rainbow flag (which was just replaced with a beautiful new one) proclaims the Gospel message of God's love as well.

What a joy it is to be here with you and to grow in faith and community. Gratitude abounds and joy rises up every day!

See you on Sunday and on Saturday Feb. 8th for Annual Meeting.

May the love and grace of God be with you all,

Nancy



Reminder: Lent is Coming!

Lent begins on February 26th with Ash Wednesday. Please mark your calendars for our annual service at 7 pm. This is a powerful service of reflection that enables us to shift gears and move into a more penitential season as we walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem.

Dennis Union Church

508-385-3543
www.duchurch.org

Rev. Nancy McHugh, Pastor
seniorpastor@duchurch.org

Margaret Bossi, Organist and Choir Director
bossimargaret@gmail.com

Rev. Bette Anne Crowell
Associate Organist and Director of DUC Singers and
Women's Song
bacrowell@comcast.net

Cindy Fiscus, Church School and Youth Fellowship
Coordinator
cindyfiscus@hotmail.com

Jane B. Wilson, Office Administrator
office@duchurch.org

Peter Berrien and Gordon Bellemer
Finance Officers
finance@duchurch.org

Dave Crocker, Sexton

February Worship Notes

February 16

Our Sunday worship service will include
sign language interpretation
by Dennis Krukowski.

February 23 - Bluegrass Sunday

Our 10 a.m. worship will be especially
lively with music by Dick Fiscus and
friends

February 26 - Ash Wednesday

7:00 pm service of reflection and
remembering with distribution of ashes

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

February 1 - Youth Overnight at 6:00 pm

We are going to Heatherwood with treats in hand to visit Dennis Union members. Before heading back to church, we will have dinner at Yarmouth Pizza by Evan. At church, we will continue our evening with worship, activities, and our midnight movie!

February 16 - Youth Group meeting in the Loft from 12:00-2:00 pm

Even though it is a vacation week, I will be excited to welcome any students that are remaining "on Cape" for a youth meeting. As always, lunch is included.

February 23 - Pancake Sunday!! (a.k.a. Bluegrass Sunday)

It is our annual "last hurrah" before the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26th. ALL YOUTH are needed to assist with set-up and cooking of the pancakes. The younger children in grades PreK through Grade 4 will remain in worship to enjoy the service.

There is no Sunday School that day.



SOCIAL CONCERNS

February 7: Faith Family Meal at Faith Assembly of God Church in Hyannis

Please contact Cindy Fiscus, 774-487-8005, if you would like more information about this outreach in Hyannis.

DUC MEMORIAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Dennis Union Church Memorial Scholarship Fund offers awards to high school graduates who are affiliated with DUC and intend to further their education at college or other appropriate institution of higher learning.

These gifts will be awarded on the basis of participation/attendance and contribution to the Dennis Union Church, high school transcripts, and letters of recommendations.

Applications are available in the church office and must be received by the Memorial Committee by March 1, 2020.

SUPER SATURDAY MARCH 14, 2020

Join Rev. McHugh, Cindy Fiscus and others from the DUC community in attending Super Saturday, a full day of worship, workshops and networking sponsored by the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The conference will be held at Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham from 9-4. We will carpool from Dennis that day. Information available at the church office or the SNEUCC website www.sneucc.org.

Register now for best rates and choices of workshops.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

A group of ladies meet in the church parlor on the 2nd Thursday each month to knit prayer shawls. These shawls are then given to church members who are experiencing stress in their lives. All knitters are welcome but you can also knit a prayer shawl at home. Thank you for supporting this caring program.

Call Betty Boothe 774-330-2192 for directions.

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020

10:00 A.M.

According to the by-Laws of Dennis Union Church, the 154th Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary for the following purposes:

1. To receive annual reports of officers, boards and committees;
2. To adopt a budget for 2020;
3. To elect officers, board and committee members;
4. To make changes to the Dennis Union Church bylaws
5. To transact any and all other business that would normally be considered.

Carlene Brown, Clerk of Council

Please note the following:

- The retiring chair of each board or committee is asked to convene a brief meeting of the new committee immediately following the Annual Meeting for the purpose of electing a new chair and setting the time and day for their meetings.
- The retiring chair of each board or committee is also asked to return his/her key to the office in accordance with the church key policy. New chairs and committee heads must sign a key out in the church office.
- Each board and committee should designate two members to be authorized to approved the payment of bills and vouchers on behalf of their board/committee. **New forms must be signed by March 9, 2020.**

The proposed revisions of the Dennis Union Church bylaws and the report of the Nominating Committee are posted on the hallway bulletin board for review.

Come to Camp!

2020 SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION

Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, Connecticut is the year-round outdoor ministry site of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The Summer 2020 schedule of sessions for Grades 4 through high school grads is available now. Rev. McHugh will be the camp chaplain for the week of July 12-18, but there are seven sessions running from June 28 through August 15. Coupons for a \$50 savings with early sign-up are available in the church office.

Questions? Recent new members Aimee Giles and Joe Hesse (joe@visionstudio.com) are Silver Lake alumni and would be glad to share info about the camp experience. For more info about the camp and the summer programs, visit www.silverlakeect.org.



FEBRUARY TARGETED DONATION * SOCKS *

During February, Social Concerns is collecting SOCKS for the guests of St. Joseph House Shelter in Hyannis.

While surprisingly simple, new socks are gold to homeless people because they feel good and help defend against health problems. They are the #1 requested item for homeless people as they can also be used as hand coverings.



CELEBRATE ANNA HOWARD SHAW DAY ON FEBRUARY 14!

Dennis Union Church is proud of our historic connection to Reverend Doctor Anna Howard Shaw, American suffragist, renowned orator, doctor, and the one of the first women to be ordained as a Methodist minister in the United States.

Born in England and brought up on a farm in Michigan, and mostly self-taught, Anna became active in the Methodist church, attended Albion College and graduated from divinity school at Boston University and was called as pastor at Dennis Union Church from 1879 to 1884. In addition to her duties as pastor, she studied medicine and earned her medical degree in 1886.

She spent the rest of her life working to improve society through the temperance and suffrage movements, finally campaigning for the League of Nations to promote world peace.

Anna Howard Shaw Day became a pop culture reference when being mentioned on a television comedy show "30 Rock". One of the show's characters, tired of the usual Valentine's Day, announces she will use the day to honor Anna Howard Shaw. Here at DUC we are pleased to honor Anna Howard Shaw all the time.

Rev. Connie Bickford will speak on Anna Howard Shaw at the Dennis Memorial Library at 2 p.m. on April 25, 2020. Admission to the talk, sponsored by the Dennis Historical Society, is \$5.

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

Board of Deacons

The biblical role of deacons is to serve and take care of the physical and logistical needs of the church. In our church the role is to be responsible for the sanctuary, aid the minister in worship, and act as a liaison between the members and pastor.

On any Sunday morning you will see the deacons unlocking the doors, turning on the lights and lighting candles, checking in with the ushers to make sure there is coverage at all the doors. We assist with the serving of communion monthly. We assist the pastor in welcoming new members, assisting in funerals and any special services such as Maundy Thursday.

We have several sub-committees within the board with a deacon representative attending their meetings. They are: Memorial Committee, Flower Committee, Music Committee, and Welcome Committee. A Deacon is also responsible for the hospitality schedule and supplies for Fellowship Hour after worship.

We welcome input from the members. Being a deacon is a privilege serving and learning about the whole life of our parish.

Our current deacons are: Lyle Ashby, Cheryl Cerbone, Darlene Fisk, Luke Furey, Midge Kuntz, Peggy McAloon, Bob Michel, Ann Prall, Sue Schofield, Elaine Simoneau, Ann Swaim and Skip Walsh.

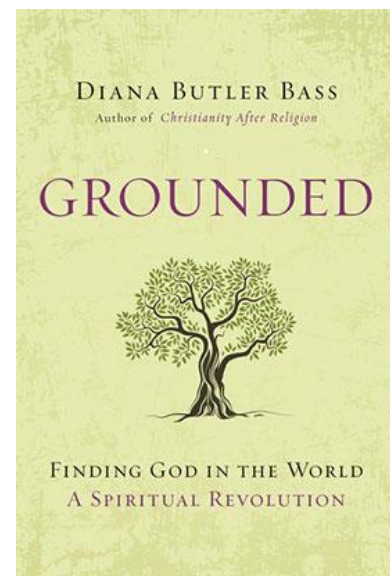
Members of Dennis Union Church exercise the right of control in church affairs through church meetings and through delegation to elected officers, boards and committees.

In the next few editions of the Steeple Bell, we will highlight these committees and how their work impacts the larger community.

LENTEN BOOK GROUP

For the Lenten season Revs. Connie Bickford and Nancy McHugh will be offering a lunchtime book group. We will meet on three Tuesdays – March 3, 17 and 31 from 12:00 – 1:30 pm. Bring a brown bag lunch (coffee and tea provided) and join us in the Multipurpose Room.

The book, ***Grounded***, *Finding God in the World*, by Diana Butler Bass is an award-winning book that includes daily devotions for the 40 days of Lent as well as chapters that speak to the various ways we encounter God.



To begin with we will start just with the Introduction, then we will split of portions of the book to share when we return on the proceeding Tuesdays. Hope you will join us

**The next "Let's Do Dinner"
event will be
Friday, April 17, 2020**



Deacons, Ushers and Greeters for

February 2020

February 2

Deacon Cheryl Cerbone
Ushers Barbara Lussier
Lyle & Joanne Ashby
Greeter Peggy McAloon

February 9

Deacon Sue Schofield
Ushers Abby and Rick Bishop
Mary Ann Agresti
Greeters Gordon Bellemer

February 16

Deacon Ann Prall
Ushers Peggy McAloon
Allan & Darlene Fisk
Greeters Paula & Simon Bookout

February 23

Deacon Luke Furey
Ushers Louise Armstrong,
Earl Springer & Lois André
Greeters Peggy McAloon



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Susie Remillard Feb. 4
Jerry Brines Feb. 5
Sam Crowell Feb. 7
Doris David Feb. 7
Jan Smith Feb. 8
Lois André Feb. 12
Eleanor Howland Feb. 12
Betsy Crowell Feb. 14
Clara Beth Van de Water Feb. 15
Joan Buffington Feb. 17
Bevin Munez Feb. 19
Andrea Vandersall Feb. 20
Simon Bookout Feb. 22
Sally Berquist Feb. 24
Kim Futej Feb. 24
Sue Martin Feb. 25
Kim Crowell Feb. 26
Dennis Goyette Feb. 28
Bill Black Feb. 28

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Skip & Nancy Walsh Feb. 1
Linda & Peter Phillips Feb. 18
George & Betty Bartlett Feb. 28

February Altar Flowers

February 2

“Given with love in memory of Bruce & Carol MacPherson”

February 9

Willis & Betty Boothe
“In loving memory of our parents”

February 16

Skip & Nancy Walsh
“In loving memory of their parents Charles & Margaret Walsh and Earl & Katherine Grant”

February 23

Richard & Nancy Howes
“In loving memory of Esther and Anson Howes”