



# State of the Union



## The Monthly Newsletter of Union Congregational Church

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Pastor: Rev. John C. Swanson Secretary: Martha Swanson

February 2017

### *From the Pastor's Desk* **The Be Happy Attitudes**

*As we approach Valentines Day, a day of sharing love with others, let us remember that the greatest love of all was the sacrificial death on the terrible cross made by Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, for our sins. And, let us remember that trusting Jesus and following Him can bring our lives incredible joy. With this in mind, I share with you a quote from Charles Swindoll that Jack used in a recent sermon.*

*"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me, and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our Attitudes."*

*A good attitude, a happy attitude, is a beautiful gift, a welcome gift, a needed gift, we can give to our dear Lord and to all those around us each and every day. May we all give of a "be happy attitude", to one and all!*

*Till March, Martha Swanson for Pastor Jack*

### **SCRIPTURE**

#### **The Beatitudes, the Be Happy Attitudes**

<sup>5</sup> Seeing the crowds, (Jesus) went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons<sup>[a]</sup> of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."





### FRED MOUSE

For many decades good ole UCC has had a wonderful Christmas and Epiphany tradition of collecting white gifts; gifts of many kinds wrapped in white paper, and donating them to those in need. This sweet tradition has been a blessing to so many who have received our gifts and this year our recipient was Friends of the Unborn, an extraordinary house for unwed mothers and their babies, founded by our own Marilyn and Rod Birnie and located right here in Quincy. Well, this year, as we have for the last few years, we have collected white gifts beginning on Epiphany Sunday (the day of a WHITE snow storm, pretty funny, eh?) and as a special treat, we turned the sanctuary Christmas tree into a “cherub tree,” in honor of the mothers and babies who would receive these gifts, covering the tree with white paper cherubs in addition to the Christmas decorations and white lights. The white gifts were then placed under the cherub tree and it was a beautiful sight to behold! Well, now I am sitting under the cherub tree, snuggled among the gifts, enjoying the sparkling lights, the wonderful pine tree scent and saying my prayers and (as always I guess) I am thinking about life. An awful lot of tough things are going on in the world and all around us as we start this new year, an awful lot of struggles, losses, worries, in a world that is changing so quickly as to be almost unrecognizable in some ways. Some times things even seem so out of control that we don’t know where to turn. But, the beautiful news of the Gospel is that God loves us and He is in charge and He will make things all right, even if it is in a new and amazing way that we could never have imagined. Just like you folks lovingly gathering the white gifts and tucking them under the cherub tree so that struggling mothers and their brand new little cherubs could have hope and know that some one was out there, taking care of them, so we can always know, no matter what happens, God is there, taking care of us. I hope my thoughts make you feel good and God bless you all!!!! By the way have a happy Valentines Day and a great month. Until March, Fred Mouse



### 11 HAPPENINGS AT UNION CHURCH

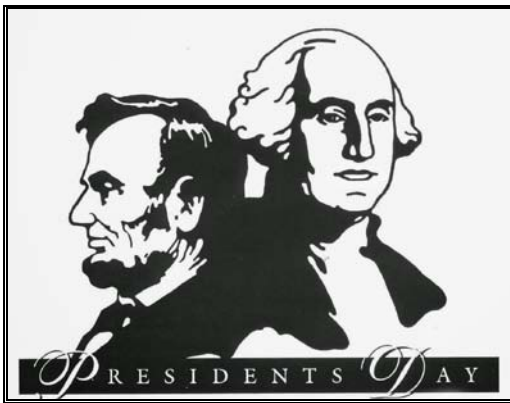
1. Many thanks are extended to all who donated white gifts to our cherub tree during our annual gathering of white gifts for The Friends of the Unborn.
2. The Friends of the Unborn is a beautiful organization that has done an amazing amount of good for many years; please always remember them in your thoughts and prayers.
3. The Annual Meeting of the church was held on January 22<sup>nd</sup>,
4. preceded by a delicious luncheon put on by the women of the church. Thanks are extended to everyone who brought food and who set up and cleaned up from this event.
5. A huge amount of work goes into preparing for the annual meeting and warmest thanks are especially extended to clerk/treasurer Peggy Ferris, moderator Art Ferris, Trustees Terri Bennett, Bob Blair and Carolyn Marks, and all Committee leaders.
6. A wonderful big happy birthday is extended to our own Lois Deware on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!
7. We will be holding a special birthday event for her shortly.
8. Mark Goodwin was in attendance as our own New England Patriots won the Conference Championship and earned a trip to the Super Bowl. Go Pats!
9. Cassie Swanson and Dylan White have been in Virginia and in New Orleans inventorying 4 ships that are preparing for sea. Cassie graduates from Massachusetts Maritime Academy this June, Dylan graduated last June.
10. The Sunday School class has continued to study the book of Acts, after studying the Christmas story during the Advent/Christmas season.
11. Clay Street Bible Study also continues to study this amazing book!





### SUPER BOWL PARTY

We hope you will join us for our annual Super Bowl Party Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., especially because our Patriots are playing in the game, and they are playing against former Boston College Quarterback Matt Ryan and the Atlanta Falcons. Please bring food to share if possible. Go Pats!



### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Our very special Ash Wednesday Worship Service, held the first day of Lent, will be held Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Lent is a beautiful and challenging time of penitence as we search our hearts and lives to see where we are falling down in our service to our Lord Jesus Christ. For more information please speak to Martha Swanson at church or call her at 617-894-2577.



**PRAYER CORNER** – *Please remember these folks in your prayers and please feel free to visit them or send them a card*

**Ruth Mathews**, 25 Cobb Street, Apartment L 232, Mansfield, MA 02048; 617-650-3487

**Rick Brady**, 28 Toms Way, Apt #209, Sandwich MA, 02563

**Otilie Scales**, Dwyer House, 25 Stonehaven Drive, Room #106, South Weymouth, MA 02190

**Barbara Fielding**, Southwood Nursing Center, 501 Cordwainer Drive, Norwell, MA 02061

**Betty Rideout**, Grove Manor Assisted Living, 160 Grove Street, Braintree, MA 02184

- \*Bay State Community Services, Quincy
- \*The Quincy Crisis Center, Quincy
- \*Interfaith Social Services, Quincy
- \*Friends of the Unborn, Quincy
- \*Boston Seafarer's Friend Society, Boston, Portsmouth, NH, Portland ME
- \*Pilgrim Church, Dorchester
- \*Christ Evangelical Church, South Shore
- \*Derek Chitwood and Rural Development Partners International, Kunming, China
- \*Eden Ministry, China
- \*Light of Christ Ministry, Kenya
- \*New Hope of the Plains, Kansas City MO
- \*Massasoit Community College
- \*For Our President and President Elect

**For All** Missionaries, Evangelists, Church Leaders and Workers and Others who seek to spread the blessed Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

**For Our Service Men and Women** Deployed Throughout the World

**For the Mentally Ill**, the Addicted, the Lost, the Homeless, the Unemployed or Under-Employed.

**For our nation and all nations & For Peace in the Middle East**

**For those whose lives** have been devastated by natural disasters, in locations around the world.

**For the persecuted Church** throughout the world

**And that we would all** put Christ first in our lives.





**MEN'S COLUMN**  
*Manly Men*  
**CYRUS OF PERSIA**

“Cyrus the Great (c. 600 or 576 – 530 BC) figures in the Hebrew Bible as the patron and deliverer of the Jews. He is mentioned 23 times by name and alluded to several times more.<sup>[1]</sup> From these statements it appears that Cyrus the Great, king of Persia, was the monarch under whom the Babylonian captivity ended, for according to the Bible, in the first year of his reign he was prompted by God to make a decree that the Temple in Jerusalem should be rebuilt and that such Jews as cared to might return to their land for this purpose. Moreover, he showed his interest in the project by sending back with them the sacred vessels which had been taken from the First Temple and a considerable sum of money with which to buy building materials.....”The Hebrew Bible states that Cyrus issued the decree of liberation to the Jews.<sup>[4]</sup> Cyrus's edict for the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem marked a great epoch in the history of the Jewish people. According to Ezra 4:1-6 "the enemies of Judah and Benjamin" asked to help build the temple, and when this was denied hired counselors to frustrate the people of Judah from completing the rebuilding throughout the reign of Cyrus, Xerxes ('Ahasuerus'), and Artaxerxes, until the reign of Darius II. The work recommenced under the exhortations of the prophets, and when the authorities asked the Jews what right they had to build a temple, they referred to the decree of Cyrus. Darius II, who was then reigning, caused a search for this alleged decree to be made, and it was found in the archives at Ecbatana,<sup>[5]</sup> whereupon Darius reaffirmed the decree and the work proceeded to its triumphant close.”  
Taken From Wikipedia



**February Birthdays – Happy Birthday!**  
16 – Terri Bennett

**February Anniversaries – Happy Anniversary!**  
19 – Barbara & Rick Culkin



**MARK'S MOVIES** by  
Mark Goodwin

This Month's movie is THE KARATE KID starring Ralph Macchio, Pat Morita, Elisabeth Shue, and Martin Kove. This movie is a 1984 classic. Teenager Daniel and his Mother move from New Jersey to California for her new job. Things don't start well for Daniel when he's bullied by a group of Karate Students taught by a bad Teacher. After being attacked by these Students, Daniel is rescued by his Apartment Building's Maintenance Man Mr. Miyagi who's a Karate expert. Mr. Miyagi agrees to teach Daniel Karate and face these students in an annual Karate Tournament. This movie was a Family Drama.



**BOOK REVIEW**  
“Average Joe”  
By Troy Meeder  
Submitted by Bob Blair

The course is before us. The storms of life are here.

The Bible is very clear about what belongs on the throne of our heart.

His Name is Jesus. We are created by Him, for Him.

Our life has been bought with a price.

We must get close to Him; once we choose to embrace the calling God has for us we can do nothing outside of the strength and power of Jesus Christ.

I found this to be a good read.

*We are eager to have a wide representation from the congregation in the Book Review column. Members are encouraged to submit reviews of books they have enjoyed. Please give them to Martha Swanson, who is coordinating this column, or email them to [uccwoll@verizon.net](mailto:uccwoll@verizon.net)*

*“Live in faith and hope, through it be in darkness, for in the darkness God protects the soul. Cast your cares upon God, for you are His and He will not forget you. Do not think that He is leaving you alone.” St. John of the Cross*

**EVENTS AT UNION  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH!**

**Worship at 10:00 a.m. with  
Coffee Hour Afterward**

**Sunday School During  
Worship**

**The Joy Club Senior  
Program Thursdays at  
11:30 p.m.**

**Prayer Group  
Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.**

***SPECIAL PROGRAMS  
THIS MONTH!***

***Super Bowl Party***  
*Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>*  
*at 6:00 p.m..*

***Spaghetti Supper***  
*Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at*  
*6:00 p.m. Cost is \$5.00 per*  
*person.*

**A.A. Groups Every  
Monday, Friday and  
Saturday at 6:30 p.m.**

**Hancock Park Worship  
Service on the Second  
Sunday at 12:15 p.m.**

Union Congregational Church  
136 Rawson Road  
Wollaston, MA 02170



**In God We Trust**



# February 2017

Jesus Is Lord!  
Praise His Name!  
Have a Blessed  
Month!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>At Union Church It's All About Belonging—To Jesus Christ and to One Another.</i>			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 11:00 a.m. Joy Club	<b>3</b> 6:30 p.m. A.A. Meeting	<b>4</b> 6:30 p.m. A.A. Meeting
<b>5</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/S School 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour / Meeting 6:00 p.m. Super Bowl Party	<b>6</b> 12:15 p.m. Clay Street Bible Study 6:30 p.m. A.A. Meeting	<b>7</b> 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Prayer	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 11:00 a.m. Joy Club	<b>10</b> 6:30 p.m. A.A. Meeting	<b>11</b> 6:00 p.m. Spaghetti Supper 6:30 p.m. A.A. Meeting
<b>12</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/S School 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Worship—Hancock Park	<b>13</b> 12:15 p.m. Clay Street Bible Study 6:30 p.m. A.A. Meeting	<b>14</b> HAPPY VALENTINES DAY! 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Prayer	<b>15</b> 7:30 P.M. Church Council	<b>16</b> 11:00 a.m. Joy Club	<b>17</b> 6:30 p.m. A.A. Meeting	<b>18</b> 6:30 p.m. A.A. Meeting
<b>19</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship - NO Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	<b>20</b> PRESIDENT'S DAY: OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 p.m. A.A. Meeting	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 11:00 a.m. Joy Club	<b>24</b> 6:30 p.m. A.A. Meeting	<b>25</b> 6:30 p.m. A.A. Meeting
<b>26</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/ NO S School 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	<b>27</b> 12:15 p.m. Clay Street Bible Study 6:30 p.m. A.A. Meeting	<b>28</b> 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Prayer	<b>Union Church Is Handicapped Accessible</b>			

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