



# State of the Union



## The Monthly Newsletter of Union Congregational Church

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

April 2017

*From the Pastor's Desk*

### APRIL SHOWERS

*If April showers bring May flowers,  
what do May flowers bring? PILGRIMS!*

*As April begins I couldn't help but  
report this old joke for you as we enter into  
the first real springtime month (though you  
sure wouldn't know it by yesterday's April  
1<sup>st</sup> nor'easter).*

*As the winter grayness fades before  
the bright warm of the spring sunshine, let  
us rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus and  
the Easter message of salvation. God's  
"Son" shine indeed has dispelled our  
darkness. The warmth of the love of Jesus  
has replaced the cold reality of the sure  
judgment for our sins with the blessed hope  
of heaven. Christ has risen! He has risen  
indeed!*

*Pastor Jack*

### SCRIPTURE

*Luke 24:1-12*

24 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

<sup>2</sup> And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

<sup>3</sup> And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

<sup>4</sup> And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

<sup>5</sup> And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

<sup>6</sup> He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

<sup>7</sup> Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

<sup>8</sup> And they remembered his words,

<sup>9</sup> And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

<sup>10</sup> It was Mary Magdalene and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.

<sup>11</sup> And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

<sup>12</sup> Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.





**11 HAPPENINGS AT UNION CHURCH**

1. Mauricio Victor Sanchez, son of Victor and Gail Sanchez, was baptized on the 26<sup>th</sup>. It was a beautiful service and many family members and friends were in attendance.
2. The Sanchez family put on a wonderful Baptism Reception after the service.
3. Congratulations Mauricio!
4. Sarah McKinney will receive her First Communion on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
5. She has been preparing for this special day through her Sunday School class, led by Martha Swanson.
6. Her brothers, Aiden and Jonathan, helped teach her during the classes.
7. Sarah is the daughter of organist Kristen McKinney. Congratulations to Sarah and the whole McKinney family!
8. We had the most delicious food prepared for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, which took place the day before Ash Wednesday, and it was all eaten up by a good sized crowd!
9. The Ash Wednesday Service was lovely and included the imposition of ashes, a sign of our mortality, for anyone who wished.
10. We had a wonderful Irish Tea after our annual Celtic Service and again the food was awesome and plentiful and the crowd was great!
11. In honor of Lent we have been celebrating Holy Communion each week.



***April Birthdays – Happy Birthday!***

- 10 – Aiden McKinney
- 20 – Amy Downey-Whalen
- 21 – Judy Blair
- 22 – Betty Rideout
- 23 – Bonnie Marcel
- 24 – Aaron Burgess
- 29 – Morgan Elizabeth Donahue
- 29 – Liam Norman Donahue



***April Anniversaries – Happy Anniversary!***

- 9 – Pat & Bob Maguire
- 28 – Karen & Matthew Whalen



**MARK'S MOVIES** by Mark Goodwin

This Month's movie is THE KARATE KID PART 3 starring Ralph Macchio, Pat Morita, Robyn Lively, and Thomas Ian Griffith. This movie is a 1989 classic. When Daniel and Mr. Miyagi return home from Okinawa, they find out the Apartment building where Daniel Lived and Mr. Miyagi worked at is being torn down after the Landlord sold it. As Daniel Stays with Mr. Miyagi while his Mom's out of town taking care of her sick Brother, he uses his College money to buy Mr. Miyagi a Bonsai Tree Shop. Mr. Miyagi accepts and Makes Daniel a partner. Meanwhile when Jon Kreese the bad Karate teacher from part 1 is broke from losing his Students after their defeat in the Tournament, his Vietnam Comrade Terri Silver who's a Toxic Waste Dumper helps seek revenge on Mr. Miyagi and Daniel for making John Suffer. Part of Terri's plan is hiring a young Karate expert with the title KARATE'S BAD BOY to challenge Daniel in the same tournament which will be a bigger challenge for Daniel than the first time. This movie was a Family Drama.







## FRED MOUSE



Hello everyone!  
As winter turns  
to spring I hope  
you are having a great

month and as we prepare for the giving of the greatest love the world has ever known, the death of the Son of God on the cross for our sins, then His resurrection from the dead, I hope you have a blessed and beautiful Holy Week and Easter!

I have some exciting news to announce – I am going on a sabbatical! I have been so inspired by good ole UCC that I decided to get a degree so I can preach and teach about Jesus too! (Thanks Pastor Jack!) I have enrolled in Grace University, formerly in Omaha and now moving to Blair, Nebraska. (Blair, just like good ole Bob and Judy! Hmmmm, maybe they should go with me!) Stephanie Swanson Burgess attended there. She doubled majored in Bible and communications, I am going to double major in music with my violin ( I hope you can read the word music in mouse language), and mouse musing, studying the great mouse writers in antiquity through modern times. Maybe I will even get a Mouseters degree sometime! I hope the text books aren't too heavy to carry and I hope my roommate likes to eat lots of cookies and crackers! I love to eat them and it will remind me of the great coffee hours and parties here! Speaking of parties, another great Irish Tea was held after our March 19<sup>th</sup> Celtic Worship Service, then a beautiful Baptism Reception was put on by Victor and Gail Sanchez after their son was baptized March 26<sup>th</sup>; and Kristen McKinney is planning a great coffee hour for Sarah McKinney's First Communion April 2<sup>nd</sup>, then it will be on to Palm Sunday and a brunch put on by the Saturday night AA group on April 9<sup>th</sup> and then it will be Easter! Wow! What a wonderful time we are having, as we always do. Well, with Love, and Blessings on all you do, now and always, see ya! Fred Mouse



## BOOK REVIEW "The Shack" by Wm. Paul Young

Recently my family and I saw an excellent movie in the theatres entitled "The Shack." It was an excellent movie that was based on this book, "The Shack" which was written in 2007 and which contains the subtitle "Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity." It is a very powerful book and movie which addresses the vital and profound question, "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?" (Quotation taken from the back of the book cover.) In a very powerful and tender way this book and movie confront this age-old question through a story about a young girl who is abducted on a family vacation and all signs indicate may have been brutally murdered. Four years later the father named Mack goes through a very deep and profound experience with God, which leads to the whole family experiencing peace in the face of the unspeakable. I purposely never read the book in 2007 because I was the mother of young girls but now I am so glad I watched the movie and I would recommend the book and movie to all who seek a deepening of their trust in Jesus and their faith in God.



*'Tis the spring of souls today;  
Christ hath burst his prison,  
And from three days' sleep in death  
As a sun hath risen:  
All the winter of our sins,  
Long and dark, is flying  
From his light, to whom we give  
Laud and praise undying.  
Neither might the gates of death,  
Nor the tomb's dark portal,  
Nor the watchers, nor the seal  
Hold thee as a mortal;  
But today amidst the twelve  
Thou didst stand, bestowing  
That thy peace which evermore  
Passeth human knowing.  
John of Damascus 696-754*

**EVENTS AT UNION  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH!**

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

**The Joy Club Senior  
Program Thursdays at  
11:00 a.m.**

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

**Choir Practice on Sundays  
After Church**

***SPECIAL PROGRAMS  
THIS MONTH!***

***Monthly Spaghetti Supper***  
*Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.*  
*\$5 per person*

***Holy Week Activities***  
*Please See Article Inside*  
*Newsletter and Also the*  
*Church Calendar*

**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**



# April 2017

Jesus Is Lord!  
Praise His Name!  
Have a blessed  
Easter!



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>GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES AT UNION CHURCH</b> 12:00 P.M. 3:00 P.M.	<b>WALK OF THE CROSS</b> 3:30 P.M.—6:00 P.M. FROM UNION CHURCH TO FIRST BAPTIST BRAINTREE	<b>DINNER AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 6:30 P.M. <b>WORSHIP AT 7:30 P.M.</b>	Union Church Is Handicapped Accessible	<b>I</b> 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting
<b>2</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. First Communion Reception	<b>3</b> 12:15 p.m. Clay Street Bible Study 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	<b>4</b> 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 1:00 p.m. JOY Club	<b>7</b> 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	<b>8</b> 6:00 p.m. Spaghetti Supper 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting
<b>9</b> PALM SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Brunch 11:30 a.m. Hancock Park Service	<b>10</b> 12:15 p.m. Clay Street Bible Study 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	<b>11</b> 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship 3:00 p.m. JOY Club	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30 P.M. Tenebrae Service	<b>14</b> GOOD FRIDAY SEE ABOVE FOR DETAILS 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	<b>15</b> HOLY SATURDAY 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting
<b>16</b> EASTER 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	<b>17</b> Patriots Day No Bible Study 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	<b>18</b> 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship	<b>19</b> 7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting	<b>20</b> 1:00 p.m. JOY Club	<b>21</b> 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	<b>22</b> 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting
<b>23</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 A.M. Coffee Hour	<b>24</b> 12:15 p.m. Clay Street Bible Study 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	<b>25</b> 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 1:00 p.m. JOY Club	<b>28</b> 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	<b>29</b> 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting
<b>30</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour						

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