

THE MESSENGER

PAYSON PARK CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

365 BELMONT STREET, BELMONT, MA 02478

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MARCH 2011

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*We believe God is calling us to walk in the ways of Jesus Christ
and to bear witness to the Gospel through worship and service, empowered by the Holy Spirit.*

There's something I love about the passing of a holiday: it's the bargains you can find. Whether it's the Fourth of July or Halloween, Christmas or Valentine's Day, the deals in the seasonal section can be tremendous, giving bargain hunters like me the chance to stock up on supplies for the coming year's festivities or simply to buy some half-price treats for the day.

But recently I have to admit my excitement was tempered. When I walked into my neighborhood drugstore on February 15 in search of 50% off Valentine's goodies, I was stunned to find aisles already filled with Easter items, from chocolate and jelly bean eggs to pastel colored baskets and stuffed animals. "Don't they realize Easter's *really* late this year?" I wondered. "Don't they know it's on April 24th – over two months away?" Of course "they" know. Yet the wheels of commerce spin on.

Here in the life of this congregation, it's our task to slow down, to move mindfully through the year even as the rest of the world speeds ahead. With Ash Wednesday arriving on March 9 we begin Lent, the six week season rich with opportunities to reflect upon our hunger for meaning and love as we prepare for the glory of the resurrection as well as the horror of Good Friday. Are you ready? Can you commit to "walking in the ways of Jesus" as our Mission Statement proclaims?

Beginning this journey together, I want to make a pact with you: when I walk into stores crowded with Easter items in the coming weeks, I'm going to say a silent, simple prayer. It'll go something like this: *Thank you for the miracle of Easter, O God. Thank you for love that never ends. May the people who buy and receive these treats be opened to the sweetness of your presence just as you have opened me...*

Yes, these are days in which we can slow down and remember what really matters. May we do so with joy, together.

With gratitude and love from, The Reverend Lael Atkinson



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Worship Schedule	2
Worship & Administrative News	3
Sharing & Caring	4
Mission & Outreach News	5
Education & Fellowship Events	6
March Calendar	7
Vacation Bible School	8

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

10:30 AM

**Transfiguration Sunday
Communion Sunday
Food Pantry Collection Drive
The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching**

Sermon: *Forgive Us Our Trespasses*

The acolytes are Elizabeth Connell and Audrey & Jack Hayes. The altar flowers are given by Charles, Elaine Giles and family in memory of Lloyd and Julia Giles. Serving communion are Lorraine Clifford, Nancy & Paul Fergus, Marty Gledhill, Carl Miller and Winnie Snow. The deacon serving today is Lorraine Clifford. The fellowship hour is given by the Christian Education Committee. Reading scripture is Gretchen Dunoyer. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Cynthia Lasker. The food pantry collection drive will go to the Water-town Food Pantry this month.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

7:00 PM

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

The deacon service this evening is Nancy Fergus. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Susan Clark.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

10:30 AM

First Sunday in Lent

One Great Hour of Sharing

Daylight Savings Time Begins

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

Sermon: *Lead Us Not Into Temptation*

The acolytes are Elizabeth Connell and Audrey & Jack Hayes. The altar flowers are given by Joan Blackman in memory of loved ones. The deacon serving today is Merry Ray. The fellowship hour is given by the Finance Committee. Reading scripture is Carl Miller. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Winnie Snow.



SUNDAY, MARCH 20

10:30 AM

**Second Sunday in Lent
Sandwich Making: Bristol Lodge
First Day of Spring!
The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching**

Sermon: *For Thine Is the Kingdom*

The acolytes are Elizabeth Connell and Audrey & Jack Hayes. The altar flowers are given by Emily Dallman in loving memory of her brother, Jim. The deacon serving today is Nancy Fergus. The fellowship hour is given by the Endowment Trustees. Reading scripture is open, please sign up with the office. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Gretchen Dunoyer.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

10:30 AM

**Third Sunday in Lent
Mission Sunday: Guest Preacher;
The Reverend Lael Atkinson presiding**

The acolytes are Elizabeth Connell and Audrey & Jack Hayes. No one has signed up for the altar flowers. The deacon serving today is Pat Cappadona. The fellowship hour is given by the Diaconate Committee. Reading scripture is Nancy Slavinsky. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Gretchen Dunoyer.



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

With so much snow accumulating through the month of February, road and sidewalk travel were treacherous. While our worship services did not have to be cancelled, attendance, quite understandably, was effected. Nevertheless, our services were filled with the Spirit's love!

February 6	69
February 13	83
February 20	70
February 27	To Be Determined (post publication)

WORSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE:

MARCH 9, 7:00 PM

Join us as we begin the season of Lent with a service of prayer, song, and reflection. This time of worship helps us to enter the forty day journey to Easter in the spirit of mindfulness and humility. Please call the Church Office (617/484-1542) if you need a ride. Also, mark your calendars for special Holy Week services as we plan to gather at 7:00 on Maundy Thursday (April 21) and Good Friday (April 22) to reflect upon the stories that describe the final days of Jesus' life.

WINTER WEATHER:

WHEN STORMS COME CALL THE CHURCH

As we continue with the winter season, the Diaconate reminds you that Sunday morning worship services will be cancelled when a parking ban is in effect in Belmont. To confirm such a cancellation, please call the Church after 8:00 a.m. on the Sunday in question. The recorded message will provide information about the morning service. If you call the church and do not hear the recording, please call again. The line may be busy with another caller. Thank you!

PAYSON PARK NURSERY SCHOOL:

FALL ENROLLMENT BEGINS

Are you looking for a nursery school program for your child? Do you have neighbors or friends who are making plans for their young children for the fall? The Payson Park Church Nursery School is currently accepting applications for enrolment for the coming school year beginning in September. Scheduling is flexible, and tuition discounts are available for members of Payson Park. Please call or email Janet Coleman, Nursery School Director, for more information (617/489-4824). nurserydirector@paysonpark.org

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL:

WE ARE BUILDING!

As the stewardship appeal winds up for the 2011 budget year at Payson Park Church, we are happy to report that our numbers are increasing! Thank you for committing your financial support to the church and to the modern mission of Jesus' ministry and love. We have currently received nearly 60 pledges for a total of just over \$123,000. If you have not yet made a pledge and would like to do so, please contact the church office soon. We are building – this church and God's realm – together with joy!



DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS:

PART OF THE GREATER WHOLE

The offices of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, located in Framingham, provide a host of classes and workshops that are available to lay and clergy members alike. Events are regularly posted on our bulletin boards, or you may log on to the denomination's website: macucc.org. A special event to note is the upcoming Spring Meeting of the Metropolitan Boston Association of the UCC to be held Sunday, May 15 at 2:00 pm at First Church in Cambridge. Please consider attending this meaningful event as we celebrate the fact that we are a single church part of a much greater whole!

SCRIPTURE READERS WELCOMED!

Would you like to read Scripture on Sunday? Please call the Church Office or speak with Lael. We would love to have you lead us in worship!

DO YOU NEED TO REACH THE PASTOR

The Reverend Lael Atkinson can be reached through the Church Office or at home (617) 464-4990.

SHARING & CARING

CHURCH WORK DAY:

WE NEED ELBOW GREASE!

With the hope of spring truly arriving, we open our church doors to old friends and new visitors each week with joy and gladness. Please help us make our church home sparkle this season as we gather Saturday, March 19 from 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for cleaning and other special projects. As specific efforts need to be coordinated, we ask that you let the Church Office know by Thursday, March 17 if you will be coming. We offer a special thanks to Hank Thidemann and Cindy Lou Benson for organizing this effort.

A WORD OF THANKS

FROM OUR PASTOR EMERITUS

It is with great joy we hear from The Reverend Terry Willis and his wife Vera Willis that they are home from their stays in the hospital, their healing processes continuing. They thank everyone for their cards and prayers, grateful for the care that is still extended by the Payson Park community.



Special Olympics

FEBRUARY FUNDRAISER:

THANK YOU!

Allen Buttimer says “Thank You!” to all those who contributed to the Special Olympics by sponsoring his annual plunge into the Boston Harbor. These offerings help to strengthen a program that gives purpose and joy to so many lives. Thank you for supporting the Special Olympics!

MEETING & GREETING ON SUNDAYS:

PLEASE WEAR A NAME TAGS

Help us grow as faithful and loving community! Wearing a name tag on Sunday mornings helps visitors and new friends get to know YOU. It also demonstrates our desire to be a friendly and welcoming church. New and old name tags can be found in the Narthex area. Please speak with an usher if you need assistance.



NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED

INTO THE LIFE OF PAYSON PARK CHURCH

Are you looking for a church to call “home” at this time in your life? Would you like to explore what it means to be a member of Payson Park Church and the United Church of Christ? New members will be received into the life of this congregation on Sunday, April 10, with a Curiosity Class held the week before. Please speak with Lael if you have questions about these opportunities to grow in faith and community.

ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?

CHURCH LOST & FOUND

Did you leave a mitten or an umbrella at church one Sunday? Are you missing a button or ball? If you get home and find something is lost, please call the Church Office during the week. It’s there we have a Lost & Found box and we will be happy to help you locate your missing item if it has been turned in.



ALTAR FLOWERS:

HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Would you like to honor someone in your life? Each Sunday our altar flowers are given in honor or remembrance of those we hold dear. Coordinated in the winter months for the calendar year by Cindy Lou Benson, our Administrative Coordinator, this program also offers us a chance to reach out to those in our congregation who cannot attend worship, as the flowers are regularly delivered by our pastor or others to those hospitalized or homebound. Please call the Church Office at 617/484-1542 to participate.

MISSION & OUTREACH NEWS



SANDWICH MAKING WORKSHOP:

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Welcome Spring at the Sandwich Making Workshop and produce tasty tidbits for the Bristol Lodge Food Kitchen!

Participants are asked to bring a loaf of sandwich bread and enough sliced cheese, plus ham or turkey to provide the fillings.

Come and bring your own sandwich for lunch after working. Desserts and beverages will be provided. Sign up on the bulletin board outside of the fellowship hall by March 13th please.

The Mission and Outreach Committee

A COMMUNITY IN ACTION:

OUR ACTIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Please bring in new canned goods and dry food items on Sunday, March 6, to continue with the mission project for our two local food pantries in Belmont and Watertown! Your contributions have been well received. Both pantries have specific needs. These lists are posted on the M & O board.



BRISTOL LODGE FOOD KITCHEN HELPING THE HUNGRY NEAR HOME

Next Date: Thursday, March 31
Deliver : 3-5 p.m.; Serve: 5-5:45 p.m.
Menu: Mission Soup, salad, rolls

Please sign up on the bulletin board sign-up sheet, take a recipe or get one on-line (via C. Lasker). Thank you!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

SHARING BRINGS JOY:

TO US. TO OTHERS. TO GOD.

Giving changes many things for the receivers and the givers. By sharing our resources, combined with those from thousands of other churches in eight denominations across the United States in One Great Hour of Sharing, we become active partners in helping people in need around the world and areas impacted by disasters in America.

Our gifts are used to:

- build homes, schools, medical clinics, and clean water and sewage facilities in villages devastated by earthquakes, floods, and poverty
- provide safety, shelter, and food to refugees after often violent circumstances make their communities uninhabitable
- nurture stronger futures and self sufficiency through health care, education, and tools for livelihoods.

These bring survival, new beginnings, hope and the knowledge that we care for others. We are blessed that God is able to provide when and where help is needed through our giving. (*2 Corinthians 9:8-15*) Please support this work with your generous gifts to the United Church of Christ One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten Offering.

The Mission and Outreach Committee

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

“LET THEM BE HEARD”

PEACE CONCERT

On Saturday, March 12, City Mission Society is co-hosting a concert to promote peace in the inner city with performances by a variety of different gospel and ethnic choirs. This will be a truly unique and inspiring concert, and YOU are invited to attend! Starting at 3 p.m. at Tremont Temple in downtown Boston, the goal of this gathering is to create an opportunity for people and congregations of all ages, cultures and backgrounds to join together to share our vision of a just society for all. If you would like to attend (free of charge), please speak with Lael, as this might be a great occasion for a Payson Park Group Outing!



A NIGHT OF SONG:

SPECIAL MUSIC CLASS IN MARCH

On Tuesday, March 22, we will have another delightful evening of singing from 7-8:30. This evening we will focus the art of singing rounds. There are so many wonderful tunes to share. Round singing is a tradition that spans many cultures and time periods. No singing experience is necessary to come and enjoy an evening of beautiful song sharing. We will meet in the choir room. Come one, come all!

LECTURE SERIES

Mark your spring calendars. Expanding from the faith-oriented topics usually offered for our Christian Education programs, we venture into a March through May monthly presentation on other topics of compelling interest to our community. The series will be held at noon on the first Sunday of the month, beginning March 6th with the focus on issues facing the blind and deaf, we'll then explore autism on April 3rd. Please join for one or all, as we continue building our community of faith together.

FAITHFUL REFLECTIONS:

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION

Are you looking for a way to think about your faith and how it applies to your most practical decisions? Would you like a chance to talk about your spirituality with other people? *Faithful Reflections* is a class that provides just such opportunities as Lael leads us in a time of meditation and conversation about the coming week's scripture passage. With the sermon series on The Lord's Prayer during February, these classes will be especially thought provoking. Join us for one class or each week, Thursdays from 6:30 – 8:00 pm as we gather in the Parlor for light supper and great sharing. [Note: in case of snow, please call the Church Office to find out if this class has been cancelled.]

FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE FELLOWSHIP:

TUESDAYS IN MARCH, 2:00 - 4:00 P.M.

The group would like to invite you to join them whether you knit or not. They meet on these Tuesdays: 1, 8, 15, and 22 weather permitting (please check the church voice mail to find out if the gathering is cancelled, as the message will be updated on Tuesdays.) Inspired by the knitting of prayer shawls, this is a time of “sharing and caring” in the spirit of faith, hope, and love. Please consider coming once or every week to get together with new and old-time friends of the church.

THE GOOD AFTERNOONS:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

At last month's meeting we discussed the importance of being pro-active in taking care of our blood pressure, appreciating the benefits of exercise and good nutrition. This month we'll continue talking about ways we can take charge of our well-being in addition to learning about Alzheimer's disease. We'll gather in the parlor, where delicious and nutritious refreshments will be provided by participants. All ages are welcome as we give thanks for God's creation in this unique and human way. [Note: in case of snow, please call the Church Office to find out if this event has been postponed.]

MARCH 2011

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love
7:00 PM Church Council

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

6:30 PM Faithful Reflections Bible Study

SUNDAY, MARCH 6 10:30 AM

Transfiguration Sunday

Communion Sunday

Food Pantry Collection Drive:

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:30 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Nursery Care
10:30 AM Worship & Church School
10:45 AM Nursery Music Time
11:15 AM Cherub Choir Rehearsal
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
11:40 AM Alleluia Choir Rehearsal
12:00 PM Lecture Series: Part 1

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

9:00AM Food Pantry Drop off /Watertown
2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love
7:00 PM Property Committee

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

6:30 PM Faithful Reflections Bible Study

SATURDAY, MARCH 12 CMS Peace Concert

SUNDAY, MARCH 13 10:30 AM

One Great Hour of Sharing

First Sunday in Lent

Daylight Savings Time Begins

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:30 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Nursery Care
10:30 AM Worship & Church School
11:15 AM Cherub Choir Rehearsal
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
11:40 AM Alleluia Choir Rehearsal

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16 *Messenger Deadline*

THURSDAY, MARCH 17 *St Patrick's Day*

6:30 PM Faithful Reflections Bible Study

SATURDAY, MARCH 19 *Church Work Day*

SUNDAY, MARCH 20 10:30 AM

Second Sunday in Lent First Day of Spring

Sandwich Making: Bristol Lodge

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:30 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Nursery Care
10:30 AM Worship & Church School
11:15 AM Cherub Choir Rehearsal
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour & Sandwich Making
11:40 AM Alleluia Choir Rehearsal
12:00 PM Christian Education Committee

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love
7:00 PM A Night of Song

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23 *Messenger Deadline*

2:00 PM The Good Afternoons

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

6:30 PM Faithful Reflections Bible Study

SUNDAY, MARCH 27 10:30 AM

Third Sunday in Lent

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:30 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Nursery Care
10:30 AM Worship & Church School
11:15 AM Cherub Choir Rehearsal
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
11:40 AM Alleluia Choir Rehearsal

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

9:00 AM Messenger Committee

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

5:00 PM Bristol Lodge Meal: Serving
6:30 PM Faithful Reflections Bible Study



THE MESSENGER

PAYSON PARK CHURCH
365 BELMONT STREET
BELMONT MA 02478-3438

COMING SOON, VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2011:

“PANDA MANIA, WHERE GOD IS WILD ABOUT YOU”



We are creating homemade decorations and need your help! We are looking for long paper tubes (similar to and including wrapping paper tubes), thin pvc pipes (any lengths over 3 feet), Chinese lanterns, hula hoops, green crepe paper and panda stuffed toys. Please share these items with the decoration committee and watch as you see the results begin to decorate the halls, tables and perhaps even the Sanctuary—very soon as spring is in the air and our summer program is coming right behind spring.

Vacation Bible School is traditionally the last week of June. Registration information and confirmed dates will be available later this month of March, weather permitting!

PLEASE, mark your calendar for Saturday, April 16, from 9:00 to noon. Hospitality helpers are needed to volunteer as we will be hosting Group Publishing for our third year of VBS U. This is YOUR chance to get connected with other VBSers. Sign up today with an email to Cindy Lou and speak with her on Sunday...

cedirector@paysonpark.org