



by Jenny Lane

Second Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion
Payson Park Church

We are Growing with God, for the Good of the World.

Sunday, March 1, 2026 10:30am

Congregational - United Church of Christ
365 Belmont Street, Belmont, Massachusetts 02478
www.paysonpark.org 617/484-1542

Serving Watertown, Waltham, Belmont, Arlington, Cambridge, and beyond

Gathering for Worship

*We are a Community of
DOUBTERS, SEEKERS, & BELIEVERS
Pursuing HOPE in our world.*

Prepare for Worship

Zoom participants - as you check in, practice using your Mute Button, and finding your Chat Box.
Greeting you today: Emily Dallman & Hank Thidemann

Prelude

“Romance in D major”

by Florence Price

Greeting

Welcome to all listening in or watching, whether near or far away.

We are growing with God. **For the Good of the World.**
For the Good of the World. **We are growing with God.**

Hymn

They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love
Words & Music below

led by our choir

Centering Moment

Singapore

by Mary Oliver

Jenny Lane, Youth and Community Outreach Minister

Call to Worship

led by Grace Yuen

people: We come today, remembering that Jesus showed us how to love one another—with mercy, empathy and forgiveness.

leader: We praise the ways in which Jesus taught us through his disciples that genuine love looks like the humble, tangible, vulnerable service of feet washing. He said “Do as I have done for you.” We have come to learn how to serve like Jesus.

people: Jesus said love one another, God continues to send such reminders. Mary Oliver’s chance encounter in Singapore is a window into how our “light can shine out of life.”

leader: When we see the light in others, we come to see with God’s eyes. Through the words of Jesus, Mary Oliver, and Renee Good, God teaches us there is beauty everywhere. God reminds us of the power of our collective love. Many hands make light work, and together we shine God’s light into the world.

people: Let us serve humbly with joy, love and light. Let us sing! Let us breathe! Let us pray! Let us praise! Let us worship together!

Prayer of Confession

led by Kate Rodriguez-Clark

Almighty God, we come to you with open, often broken and vulnerable hearts. Be with us as we worship today alongside the familiar faces of those we love, but be with us also when we meet the stranger with a smile. Teach us to love like Jesus and to serve others with kindness, compassion and grace. Help us to see the beauty in small acts of care—a simple smile, a flipped perspective or a moment when we are offered our own mercy. Fill our hands with good works in your name and fill our hearts with peace, joy and tangible love. Amen.

Assurance of Grace & Invitation to Light Seekers

led by Zyan Kumar-Lane

Thank you, Jesus, for showing us how to love and serve others –reminding us that little moments create great love and care. Amen

Light Seekers is our Sunday school time that's just right for every age, from our littlest learners to our youth mentors! If you'd like to come, please meet us at the back of the church, and we'll head upstairs together for lots of learning and fun!

Receiving God's Word

Scripture

John 13:12-15; 31-35

read by Benjamin Pertler

Message

Stinky Feet and Steady Love

*given by Jenny Lane
Youth and Community Outreach Minister*

Prayers of the People

Fiona Rodriguez-Clark and Pastor Eric

*People will be invited to say a one sentence prayer if you desire.
If in-person, please raise your hand. If on Zoom, please raise your hand or type in the Chat box.*

Candles Prayer

People will be invited to come forward and light a candle, and speak a name, a prayer request, or be in silence. We will also light a candle for each prayer offered online.

Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also, with you.

Announcements

Responding to God's Grace

Call to Generosity & Prayer

- www.PaysonPark.org to support the ministry of Payson Park Church
- Deacon's Fund, an emergency fund to help those in need
- Belmont-Watertown Welcome Circle – help resettle Ukrainian refugees locally
- Monika Foundation - help resettle Haitian refugees
- UCC Global H.O.P.E. - (Disaster Response to Wildfires, Earthquake relief, & more)

Choir Anthem

“God So Loved the World”

arr. by Libby Larsen

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.**

Holy Communion

Invitation to join with Jesus in Communion

Iona

led by Pastor Eric

We are here because Jesus has called us –
strangers and friends, locals and visitors, believers and doubters, the certain and the curious.

It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers and invites to his table where, in bread and wine, he meets us and through him we, who are different, are joined to each other.

So come,

not because you understand, but because you are understood.

Come,

not because of how you feel, but because God has food for you.

Come,

not because you deserve a place, but because Jesus invites you,
just as you are.

Pastor God be with you.

People And also with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to God

Pastor Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might!

Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord! Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Lamb of God *(Agnus Dei)*

sung by the choir

Remembering Jesus in the Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

In-person: we will hand out communion packets. If Zoom: we will invite you to prepare your own Bread & Cup.

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

The blood of Christ, the cup of compassion for a broken world.

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving, after Communion

Written by Katherine Ballas & read every Sunday at The Outdoor Church

Lord God, we pray;

Where bread is broken, you are there.

Where tired bodies are nourished, you are there.

Where two or more are gathered, you are there.

Bless the hands that broke this bread.

Bless the bodies that partake in this feast.

And bless all who are gathered here today, in body and in spirit. Amen

Sending

Hymn

We Rise

led by our choir

Words & Music printed below

Benediction

Postlude

"I've Been in the Storm So Long"

arr. by Calvin Taylor

We are grateful for our flowers

provided today by You Got Flowers.

www.YouGotFlowers.org

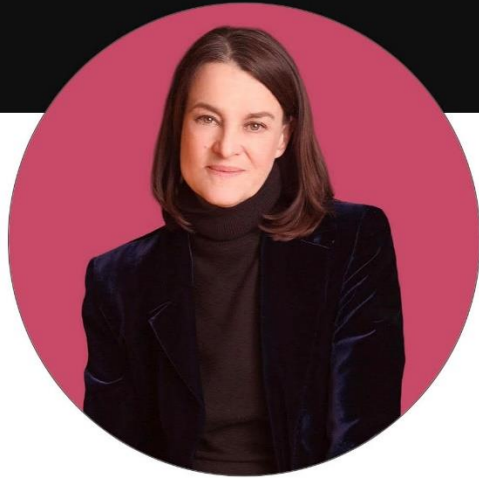


You Got Flowers

COMPOSER

Libby Larsen

libbylarsen.com



Libby Larsen (b. 1950, Wilmington DE) is one of America's most performed living composers. Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters (2024), she has composed over 500 works including orchestra, opera, vocal, and chamber music, symphonic winds, and band. Her work is widely recorded. An advocate for the music and musicians of our time, in 1973 Larsen co-founded the Minnesota Composers Forum, now the American Composer's Forum. GRAMMY® award winner and former holder of the Papamarkou Chair at John W. Kluge Center of the Library of Congress, Larsen has also held residencies with the Minnesota Orchestra, the Charlotte Symphony, and the Colorado Symphony. From 2014–2020, as Artistic Director of the John Duffy Institute for New Opera, she guided a faculty of practicing professional artists in nurturing and production of new opera by American Composers. Larsen's 2017 biography, *Libby Larsen: Composing an American Life*, by author Denise Von Glahn, is available from the University Illinois Press.



Fellowship after Worship

We are grateful for today's hosts.

Susan Harper and Rachel Steely

We thank! Please check the schedule posted in the Kitchen & outside the Office. Please look for your spot. Let Lynda know at Office@PaysonPark.org if you need to update your assigned Fellowship Hosting date. Thank you!

Upcoming Dates

- Fri-Sat Feb 27-28 Teens go to CityReach, common cathedral, our partnership with the unhoused.
Sat Feb 28 Every two weeks we make sandwiches for The Outdoor Church.
Please contact [Pam Curtis](mailto:pambcurtis@gmail.com) if you can help. pambcurtis@gmail.com
- Sun Mar 1 CityReach participants share in worship
Thu Mar 5 10am Weekly Zoom Bible Study
Fri Mar 6 6pm "First Fridays" worship – featuring the Children's Choir.
. . . . with 6:30pm Dinner for Families, provided by the church.
- Sun Mar 8 9am TLC Theology, Literature, & Coffee with Rev Bill, Ministerial Associate
Tue Mar 24 We prepare home-cooked meals for the hungry of Bristol Lodge, Waltham.
Please contact [Cynthia Lasker](mailto:laskercynthia@gmail.com) if you can help. laskercynthia@gmail.com
- Sun Mar 29 10:30am Palm Sunday
Thu Apr 2 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae.
We go to Plymouth UCC, 589 Pleasant St, Belmont, for combined worship.
- Fri Apr 3 6pm "First Fridays" worship – featuring the Children's Choir.
. . . . with 6:30pm Dinner for Families, provided by the church.
7pm Good Friday worship in the Chapel. Plymouth UCC joins us.
- Sun Apr 5 6:45am Sunrise Easter Worship, combined worship with Plymouth UCC,
At Highlands Meadow cemetery, 700 Concord Avenue, Belmont.
- Sun Apr 5 10:30am Festive Easter worship celebration. Trumpet and Choir.

If you or someone you know would like to use space(s) in the church for an event, please contact the Office Manager via email at office@paysonpark.org or via phone at 617-484-1542.

Payson Park Church – Congregational - United Church of Christ –

www.PaysonPark.org 365 Belmont Street Office@paysonpark.org

Leah Kosch, Music Director:

AMusicDirector@paysonpark.org

Pei-Chun Lin, Community Music Dir:

CommunityMusicDir@PaysonPark.org

Lynda Johnson, PPC Office Manager:

Office@paysonpark.org

Pam, Melissa, Kay, Assistant Treasurers:

AT@PaysonPark.org

Kumiko Jones, Preschool Director:

PreschoolDirector@paysonpark.org

Jenny Lane, YCOM:

YCOM@paysonpark.org

Rev. Bill Ragan, Ministerial Associate:

MinAssoc@paysonpark.org

Pastor Eric Wefald:

PastorEric@paysonpark.org



Run for Ukraine

Mariia Yelizarova gave thanks on Sunday, February 22, 2026 for the support of the people of Payson Park Church towards “Run for Ukraine” – sponsoring Mariia in the Boston Marathon this April 2026. She is raising money for hospital equipment to be sent to Lviv, Ukraine, to create prosthetic limbs for children and adults who lost their limbs in the war.

Olha Abakumova

sang in support of Run for Ukraine. She is a Ukrainian opera singer and music teacher who fled Ukraine with her daughter following the Russian invasion in 2022. She is an award-winning soprano who performed as a soloist with major European opera houses, including Mariinsky Theater and Lviv National Opera.

**Children’s
Choir**

First Friday
February 13, 2026



Payson Park Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Lenten Home Devotions 2026

40 Reflections for the 40 Days of Lent



Written by the people of Payson Park Church Community

365 Belmont Street, Belmont, MA 02478

617/484-1542 office@paysonpark.org www.paysonpark.org

Lent Home Devos 2026 Be Strong & Courageous Joshua 1:9

Written by the people of Payson Park Church

Pick up your copy today at church!
Also emailed to all homes.

Devotions for the 40 days of Lent.



Mardi Gras Pancakes & Ash Wednesday Service

February 18, 2026

Thank you pancake flippers!
Thank you Sylvia, Chesang, &
Chelimo!

Thank you to all who cleaned up.
What a lovely Ash Wednesday
mediation with our candle Labyrinth.





**CityReach
February 27-28, 2026**

We are grateful that YCOM Jenny Lane, with Grace Yuen and Kate Rodriguez-Clark, could lead teens at CityReach this weekend, with the community of common cathedral.

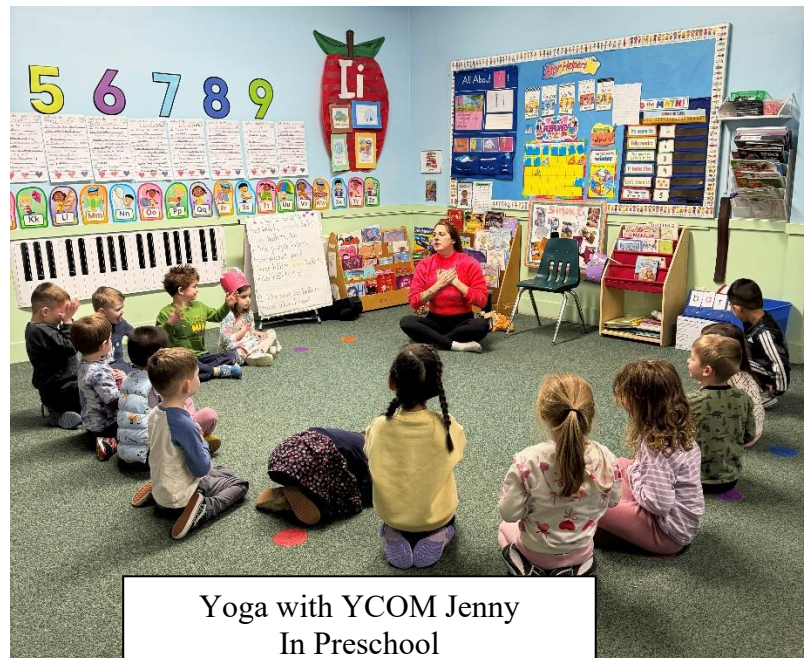
We thank our congregation for your donations of clothing, toiletries, & other needed items, in our partnership with the unhoused and homeless.



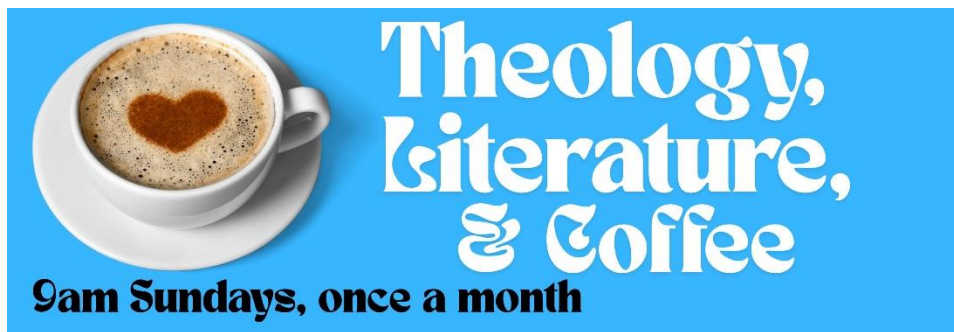
**Wedding
February 21, 2026
Andrew & Anna Hoyt.**
When Pastor Eric was serving at Good Shepherd in Westboro, Andrew was in the youth group.



**Pirates!
Lightseekers
Sunday, February 8, 2026**

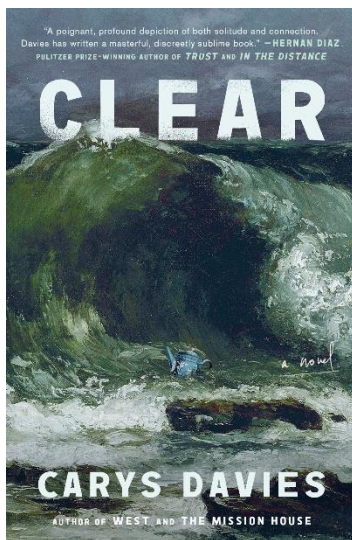


**Yoga with YCOM Jenny
In Preschool
February 2026**



Theology, Literature and Coffee (TLC) News

TLC concludes the discussion of *Clear* by Carys Davies and considers the next book on Sunday, March 8.



In this powerful, very short, well-researched historical fiction, Carys Davies relates a tense, intimate drama set in the midst of The Clearances - a series of forced evictions and land reorganization in the Scottish Highlands, beginning in the mid-to-late 18th century and continuing into the mid-19th century. An impoverished church minister, John Ferguson, in need of work, is hired to evict the sole occupant (Ivar) of a remote Scottish island to turn it into grazing land for sheep. Unaware of the stranger's intentions, Ivar takes him into his home, and in spite of the two men having no common language, a fragile bond begins to form between them. Meanwhile on the mainland, John's wife Mary anxiously awaits news of his mission.

Against the rugged backdrop of this faraway spot beyond Shetland, Carys Davies's intimate drama unfolds with tension and tenderness: a touching and crystalline study of people buffeted by history and a powerful exploration of theological and social conflict, and spiritual connection. Perfectly structured and surprising at every turn, *Clear* is a marvel of storytelling, an exquisite short novel by a master of the form.

It is not too late to get your copy of *Clear* by Carys Davies and join us for the last session and help choose our next book on Sunday, March 8 at 9:00 AM.

Please feel free to contact Bill Ragan at minassoc@paysonpark.org or on his cell: 484-860-4108 with any questions about this adult education opportunity.



Our wonderful Adult Choir
December 21, 2025



2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR



ENROLLMENT



Admission: 15 Months to 5 Years Old

PAYSON PARK PRESCHOOL

PROGRAM FEATURES :

- School Hours:
8:00 AM to 5:30 PM
- Child Care Vouchers Accepted
- Variety of Enrichment Programs
- Spacious Gym Area
- A Large Stage Designed for Performances
- Experienced and Talented Teachers
- Community Events



CONTACT NOW



 preschooldirector@paysonpark.org



They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

by Peter Scholtes

Guitar capo: 1; play Em

Unison Em

1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

Am Em

we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

Am Em

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain C G C G Em Am

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love,

Em Am Bm Em

yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

We Rise

Batya Levine

Verse 1
 ♩ = 70

Soprano: Ri -

Alto: *f* We ri - se humblyheart-ed ri - se won'tbe di-vid-ed Ri -

Tenor: Ri -

Baritone: [Empty staff]

Clap Kick: Everyone claps and steps on the floor

Refrain
 Fine

6

S: se Ri - se In hope we find our-selveshere

A: se withspirit toguideus Ri - se *mp* In hope we find our-selveshere

T: se Ri - se inprayer we find our-selveshere in

B: Ri - se inprayer we find our-selveshere in

C. K.: [Empty staff]

Verse 2

11

S
in prayer we are here in we are here. Ri - se all of the children

A
in prayer we are he - re in we are here. Ri - se all of the children

T
hope we are here we are here. Ri - se

B
hope we are here we are here. And we ri - se

C.
K.

16

S
Ri - se Ri - se an-ces-torssur-roundus Ri - se

A
Ri - se el-derswithwis-dom ri - se Ri - se

T
Ri - se Ri - se an-ces-torssur-roundus Ri - se

B
Ri - se el-derswithwis-dom ri - se Ri - se

C.
K.

Verse 3

22

S
ri - se up from the wreck-age Ri - se with tears and with courage Ri -

A
ri - se up from the wreck-age ri - se with tears and with courage ri -

T
Ri - se up from the wreck-age Ri - se tears and with courage Ri -

B
ri - se ri - se tears and with courage ri -

C.
K.

27

S
se fight-ing for life we Ri - se *fff*

A
se fight-ing for life we Ri - se *fff*

T
se fight-ing for life we Ri - se *ff*

B
se Ri - se *ff*

C.
K.