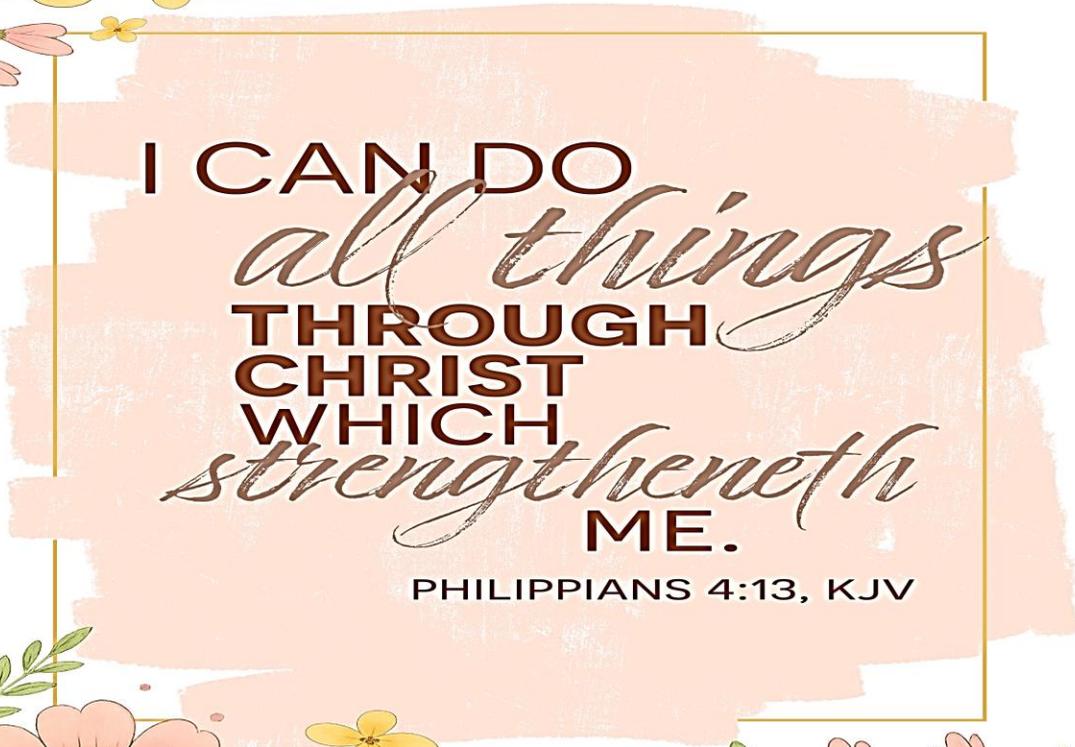
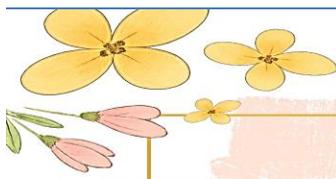


# The Word

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I CAN DO  
*all things*  
THROUGH  
CHRIST  
WHICH  
*strengtheneth*  
ME.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13, KJV



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*Celebrating 50 Years of Faith, Music, and Community*  
March 2026

## Ministers Musings

### *"Soul Intelligence in the Season of Lent"*

Dear Beloved in Christ,

March carries us through the sacred journey of Lent—a season of prayer, fasting, and self-examination. As the world marvels at Artificial Intelligence, Lent invites us to cultivate something far older and wiser: *Soul Intelligence*.

When Jesus entered the wilderness (Gospel of Matthew 4:1–11), He faced the devil's temptations not with spectacle, but with a rooted awareness of God's Word. In a world of shortcuts and instant answers, Jesus relied on deep communion with the Father. That is Soul Intelligence.

If Artificial Intelligence scans data, Soul Intelligence is the Spirit-led search engine of the heart. Guided by the Holy Spirit, it uncovers where our path has strayed from Christ. It reveals temptations disguised as opportunities, ego hidden as righteousness, and fear dressed up as prudence. The psalmist prays, "Search me, O God" (Psalms 139:23–24). Lent reflects this prayer, inviting God to examine our inner algorithms—our desires, habits, and assumptions. Soul Intelligence does not shame but clarifies. It is committed to facilitating renewal.

Some truths are not merely reasoned but directly apprehended. We sometimes *know* we must forgive before we can justify it. We *sense* a path is unfaithful, though it appears successful. This intuitive illumination is the Spirit guiding our free will. As Paul writes, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Epistle to the Romans 12:2). Renewal is not coercion; it is grace-enabled freedom.

Consider Jesus' nighttime dialogue with Nicodemus in the Gospel of John (John 3:1–8). Nicodemus, accomplished and learned, comes with theological credentials. One might imagine him asking, "Rabbi, what must I add to my résumé?" Jesus answers, "You must be born from above." Nicodemus protests, "Return to my mother?" Jesus gently, playfully lifts him beyond literalism: "The wind blows where it chooses..." Spiritual rebirth is not self-upgrade but surrender. We do not engineer salvation; we receive it. To be born again is to let God rewrite the operating system of our hearts.

Lent teaches that renewal happens not only through serious effort but also through joyful play and rest. Jesus withdrew to pray, participated in weddings, and blessed children. Rest signifies trust, and play embodies freedom from anxious self-

justification. During rest, we recall that our worth is given to us, not something we create ourselves.

How do we live meaningfully, accountably, joyfully, and lovingly during this season?

First, through honest self-examination. The wilderness temptations reveal hunger for power, recognition, and control. Soul Intelligence asks: Where am I turning stones into bread for myself? Where am I testing God? Where am I bowing to lesser kingdoms?

Second, through repentance and accountability. We need the community to see what we cannot see alone. Confession and prayer refine our inner discernment.

Third, through enacted love. “Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God” (Book of Micah 6:8). Renewal is not introspection alone; it is compassion embodied.

As we approach Palm Sunday and Passion, we see both praise and betrayal. The One who resisted temptation in the wilderness now endures retaliation on the cross. Jesus' journey—frequently misrepresented by triumphalism—is shown as a love expressed through suffering. Soul Intelligence understands that genuine kingship is rooted in self-sacrifice.

Yet Lent does not end at the tomb.

Easter affirms that new life is genuine. The Spirit that resurrected Christ injects renewal into exhausted souls. What once seemed empty can flourish; what was hidden can uplift. Being born from above means living in resurrection's light now—opting for forgiveness instead of resentment, generosity instead of scarcity, and trust instead of fear.

Beloved, may we cultivate Soul Intelligence through prayer, reflection, holy play, and restorative rest. May the Spirit search, cleanse, and renew us. And as we wave our palms and contemplate the Passion, may we prepare for Easter dawn—where every surrender becomes seed, and every ending in Christ becomes a new birth.

In the Lenten journey and Easter hope,

Premkumar Immanuel Clement

## February Parish Council Minutes

2/16/26 Parish Council meeting

Called to order by Carol Greene 6:35 PM

Present: Gideon Frisbee, Pastor Prem, Ruth V, Stephanie, Barb Jones, Carol Greene, Susan Frisbee, Eloise Henault, Joe Greenfield via zoom

Excused: Fred Onasch

Devotions: Carol passed around a sign up list for devotions for the rest of the year. She brought a devotion for the group tonight centered around the changing seasons. Embracing the dormant phase. Rest, restore and reset our internal compass. Stepping back can be a form of preservation. New life and growth is coming in the Spring of renewed purpose, even with the muddy in between times. God will guide us through.

Topic of the Month: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The letter is pretty much finalized now with minimal changes from last meeting. May 9<sup>th</sup> will be the architecture tour through the village including our Church building. No date yet for the summer music concert event. No date yet for the fall worship/celebration. The letter will go out by the end of February. The committee and others are hard at work bringing this all together!

Approval of Meeting minutes –January 19, 2026. Joe moved to approve, Susan 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Annual meeting minutes from February 1, 2026. Barb motion, Ruth 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried

Susan made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb, Motion carries unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The January financial report was presented. One minor correction was needed on the report (Pledged giving) which skews the report. The report will be re-done and approved in March.

Finance: Met February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Fran will manage a separate budget/fund for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Barb put together some notes about donations that should be included in the building use form. Hopes are that it will set the expectation better. Fran will look at

the use of building form itself. Follow up with her – simplify the form. Next meeting will be March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The check for the Food Pantry from the O'Connor Foundation was received.

Trustee's Report: Transferred \$20,000 for the budget this week from the money market account. Trustees received a request from Edie and the food pantry to re-locate the pantry to classroom 5/6. We would use the grant funding from the O'Connor Foundation to help with the move and expand shelf storage. Trustees approved this and will begin to work with Edie and others on plans. We welcomed Glenn Reynolds and Laura Mills to the board. Officer elections were held with the following officers approved. Gideon Frisbee – Chair, Jeff Ackerly- Vice Chair, Ruth Vredenburg – Secretary, Glenn Reynolds – Treasurer. The hot water heater at the church stopped working and was replaced with an electric unit by Kennedy's for \$1,550. Next meeting will be Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. The radon system should be installed in the parsonage by the end of the month.

SPR— SPR met on 1/27 but only had half of the committee and just had general discussions. Working on updating job descriptions. Discussed a potential book/bible study with Pastor Prem. Next meeting Tuesday February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor's Report: Deb will email the attendance numbers.

2/4 appeared before Board of Ordained Ministry - was not recommended to proceed for ordination at this point. Attending NYAC winter clergy gathering 2/19-21. Circulating the mic for joys and concerns has been well accepted. Made 2 pastoral visits. Planning to start a bible study in mid-March through mid-April. Prem would like to have a confirmation class and will announce this week upcoming. A suggestion was made to hold a once a month, potluck gathering for all families. Something to help bring the congregation together, outside of the groups that meet during the week (men's breakfast, casual café). Karen Monk suggested to Prem to hold a Lay Leader training. Prem may put it out in the newsletter and see if anyone is interested. We need to sign up for a safe sanctuary training, Prem will work with Pastor Christine and bring the necessary paperwork. The Delhi Clergy Association has 10 - \$500 grants available for utility and health related cost assistance. There will be a Shrove Tuesday pancake meal at St. Johns on Tuesday 2/17. Attendance for Communion 2/1- 39

served, 6 viewing live online. 2/8- 31 in person, 7 live viewing online. 2/15- 27 in person, 5 live viewing online.

Eloise – Playschool- nothing to report. Things are going fine. The Board is meeting next month.

Mission: There was a food give away on January 31.

Fred - Witness: No report

Other Business: Building Use Form- Meridale AA group, asked to hold their meeting on here on 2/11 because they didn't have heat at their normal location. Deb made sure this would work.

Lillian de Mauro – Hold a meeting – Delaware/Otsego County NY Health Act Hub. 3/28. Expecting 20-30 attendees. Informational, non-for-profit. Not political in any nature – just educational.

Barb made motion to approve both use requests, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe. Motions carries unanimously.

Presbytery is requesting that we host an Assembly meeting on September 12, 2026. Would need 10 people (volunteers) to help with the day. Provide lunch for 20-30 people. Food/water available. Reimbursement of \$10 for lunches. The timing of this is not good as our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration is happening very close to that.

Next meeting of Parish Council will be March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Gideon moves to adjourn, Carol seconds, motion carries.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Gideon Frisbee

## Annual Meeting/Charge Conference Minutes

2/1/26

Present:

District Superintendent Rev. Karen Monk, Gideon Frisbee, Liz Frisbee, Laura Mills, Ron and Susan Frisbee, Jim and Evelyn Jacksto, Pastor Premkumar Clement, Sujantha Pauline Clement, Ruth Vredenburgh, Ruth Kazmierski, Eloise Henault, Charle Cash, Pat Nabinger, Carol Greene, Ann Peet, Susan and Jeff Ackerly, Barbara Jones, Stephanie Trass, Delaney McCann, Chelsea Frisbee Johnson, Pamela Ferguson

Called to order at 12:48 by D.S Karen Monk

Gideon Frisbee to be recording secretary, the attendance affirmed unanimously – Carried

Rev. Monk shared introductory remarks. We are now part of a two point Annual Conference Charge, stretching from Delhi to Long Island and the majority of the New England states including Maine. Bishop Bickerton covers both. This is called the New Hope Episcopal Area. There are some church properties being sold, and more mergers of congregations, but churches are not dying! It is hard, to let go of these places, but we still have each other (people) after this and know that God has more for us. Will be looking for each church to have a Ministry Plan by this upcoming fall. What can we offer to meet people where they are on their own paths? There will be a transition of church properties of 30% across all denominations in the next 5 years, we will do that thoughtfully and gracefully in our Conference.

Business:

Thank you to all who took time to gather information and compile and bring together the Annual Report. Many thanks to Deb Kearney for her hard work!

Nominating Report: presented in the Annual Report Page 37

SPR: Barb Jones, Ron Frisbee – Class of 2028

Nominating Committee: Laura Mills and John Bramley Class of 2028. Ann Peet to serve as the Commissioner to Presbytery. Lay Member of Conference (UMC) –

Evelyn Jacksto. Move the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee. Carried unanimously.

Trustee Election Ballot: written ballot for class of 2028. 20 valid ballots cast. Unanimous vote for the 2 nominated Trustees ; Glenn Reynolds and Laura Mills. No write ins. Motion to destroy the written ballots was made by Charle Cash, motion carries

Karen spoke to the process of discernment for the Pastor assignment for us in the last 12 months and the path that brought Prem to Delhi.

A sharing of the Gifts of the Pastor:

Desire to connect and learn, his kindness, his open mind, his teaching, willingness to learn, his visitation, his singing voice, Sujantha's dedication and involvement is a blessing too! Our congregation plays a key role for Prem's success in this career. Currently on OPT Visa, has applied for R1-Ministry visa. Currently in process.

Adopting the compensation for Pastor. Page 31 of the Annual Report. Half-time. Salary: \$36,050. Professional Reimbursement: \$5,000. Also includes a pension contribution of 11.8% of salary- \$5,317. The compensation package was presented by the SPR. The floor was opened for discussion. Adopt package as presented. Motion Carried unanimously. No housing exclusion designated by the Pastor. A motion was made by Carol Greene to receive all of the reports presented in the Annual Report. Approved unanimously.

Budget:

Gideon reviewed highlighted changes to the 2026 budget compared to 2025. About a \$50,000 difference from 2025, realized mostly due to having a half time pastor compared to full time. Carol shared about our success in obtaining outside grant funding to support the budget. Budget approved unanimously.

Board of Trustee's

No bequests received in 2025.

Carol moved to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor, carried unanimously.

The meeting concluded in prayer led by Pastor Prem.

The meeting ended at 1:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Gideon Frisbee – recording secretary



*Pastor Prem and District Superintendent Rev. Karen Monk during worship before our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 1, 2026*

## Volunteers Needed

*Volunteer  
Opportunity!*



The church will offer coffee and hot chocolate on the Square during and after the St. Patrick's Parade on March 21. The more people we have, the more friends we can smile at and serve. Let Carol Greene know that you can be there to help.

## Bible Study

Join us for an enriching Bible Study as we grow deeper in faith and understanding of God's Word. The class will begin mid-March, and will be Thursdays, 5:00pm; please sign up with Deb in the church office if you are interested.

## Confirmation Class:

Youth who wish to explore their faith and prepare for church membership are invited to enroll in the upcoming Confirmation Class; please add your name to the sign-up sheet available with Deb, our Office Secretary. Class schedule TBD

## Women's Open Circle

The Women's Open Circle will meet Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in the Harder Room. Bring your own lunch; beverages and dessert will be provided!



## Daylight Savings Begins

Turn clocks ahead 1 hour before bed on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>! Daylight Savings time begins at 2 am on Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>.



## Food Mission

Since we started the food pantry it has been growing. Not only have we added monthly distributions to those being housed but Carol also does a senior giveaway every month to 6 weeks. Through the years we have added shelves to the pantry and had use of the store room for back up supplies. We are now in a position where we are crowded and in need of more space. It was brought to my attention that we might be able to move the pantry to room 5/6 which is under utilized. I wrote a proposal to trustees and they approved and support the move. There are things that will need to be done such as checking the electric is able to handle our appliances. Luckily we had received a grant of \$8,00.00 from the O'Connor Foundation to be used for the pantry so we will be able to cover any expenses involved in the move. The daunting task will be the actual move itself. Right now there are supplies in room 5/6 that need to find a new home and then there are all the items from the pantry. I have a committee that will design the layout of the new pantry and the trustees will contract for the electrical work to be done. As things progress we will be asking everyone who is willing and able as well as contacting the college for help from the students to complete the actual move. This will also make the room more handicap accessible as clients will use the elevator instead of struggling with the stairs.

Eddie

## Stewardship Note: Faith Giving

**Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** will be our first Faith Giving Sunday of this year. Special envelopes will be available and collected during worship. If you are unable to attend on that Sunday, you can still contribute before or after that date, but be sure to clearly mark "Faith Giving" with your contribution, or save for the next date (Last Sunday in June)!



Your anniversary committee has been busy at work firming up the plans for kicking off our celebration. We have adopted a slogan for our celebration that will begin to appear in many places around our church. Let's spread the word!!!

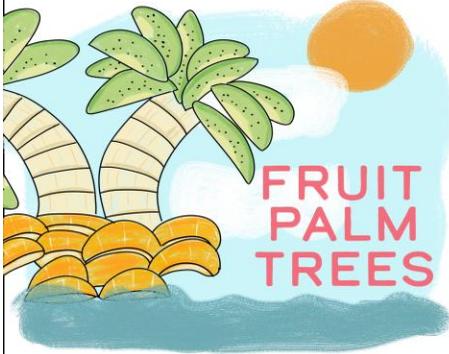
**The United Ministry**  
**Celebrating 50 years**  
**Of**  
**Faith, Music and Community**

We'd like you to be on the lookout for new bulletin boards that will be going up over the next few months. Ruth K. has been busy sorting and searching for pictures and articles about United Ministry throughout the last 50 years and will be creating boards that reflect our history. If you have any memorabilia you would like to share please see Ruth or any member of the committee.

Our first event will be on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Below is a summary of this first activity that we hope everyone will put on their calendar:

***Historical Walking Tour of Delhi* - Saturday, May 9th:** SUNY Delhi History of Architecture II students will lead a walking tour of historical architecture on Saturday, May 9th. We will begin at 10AM at 98 Main Street, and end by 11:30AM. Please join us (rain or shine) for some exercise, views of historical architecture, and insights into local history. The tour will feature the United Ministry on Church Street which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. The tour will feature and wrap up at the United Ministry where historical materials will be displayed and refreshments will be served. The walk is free and open to the public.

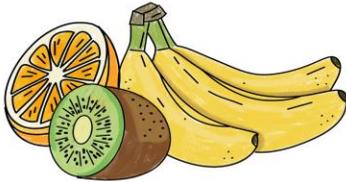
Be looking for our first mailing with all the details of our year-long celebration, it will be arriving real soon.



These cheerful "palm trees" make a bright reminder of the celebration that greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

**What you need:**

- Bananas (for the tree trunks)
- Kiwis or green grapes (for the palm leaves)
- Mandarin oranges (for the ground)



**What you do:**

1. Slice bananas in half lengthwise and place vertically on a plate.
2. Arrange kiwi slices or grapes at the top to form palm fronds.
3. Add oranges at the base.
4. Serve immediately or chill until ready to serve.

**Scripture Tie-In:**

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"  
—Matthew 21:9 (NIV)

# Puzzle!

## HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled:

**CODE:**

A=☺	D=☼	H=❄	M=☆	P=◆	T=■	W=☒
B=♠	E=✦	I=✳	N=↑	R=●	U=☐	Y=☂
C=☼	G=☼	L=★	O=↓	S=○	V=☒	Z=☂

Mt. Hermon ○ ↑ ↓ ☒

Jericho ❄ ↓ ■

Jerusalem ☆ ✳ ★ ❄

Dead Sea Area ■ ● ↓ ◆ ✳ ☼ ☺ ★ ❄ ✦ ☺ ■

Sea of Galilee ✳ ☐ ○ ■ ☂ ☒ ✳ ↑ ❄ ○

Mediterranean Coast ♠ ● ✦ ✦ ☂ ☂



Answers: snow, hot, mild, tropical heat, gusty winds, breezy

# my BIBLE CHALLENGE

"YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET." —PSALM 119:105 (NIV)



God's Word guides us and lights our way, helping us grow closer to him.

Use this page to track how you grow in God's Word all year long!

Each time you learn, pray or listen for God, color in one box. You can fill in one box each month—or any time you complete a challenge. When the year is over, write the Bible story you loved most.

Sing a song about God



Listen to a Bible story

Talk about God with family

Learn a new Bible verse



Help someone in need

Read the Bible at home



Say a memory verse



Ask a question about the Bible

Thank God in prayer

Listen during church



Pray for someone

Draw a picture from a Bible story



FAVORITE BIBLE STORY

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## Lenten Banner

**L**ent is the most solemn and penitent of the seasons. It is a time for soul searching, study, disciplined sacrifice and fasting; a time to focus on the events, experiences and suffering of our Lord's final earthly week, so that we may be cleansed and ready to share with Christ in His death and resurrection.

Although this season is filled with sorrow and suffering and culminates in the crucifixion of our Lord, transcending all is the Lord's total forgiveness and complete absolution to the repentant heart.

John 1:29 "Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

### **Symbolism:**

White circles (nimbus) represents holiness.

Figure kneeling represents Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane; symbolizes our need to search our souls, to watch and to pray.

Grapes and wheat represent Christ's blood shed and body broken on the cross for us; commemorates the Last Supper; symbolizes our need to fast and deny self during this season.



Sacrificial lamb represents the innocent Christ who died for us; symbolizes our need to sacrifice for others.

Shrouded Calvary cross with the three steps symbolize love, hope, and faith represent the crucifixion; symbolizes the supreme sacrifice – that of self.

Pitcher, basin, and towel represent Christ washing the feet of the disciples and His last commandment “. . . Love one another . . .”; symbolizes our need for humility and service.

Dove with olive branch represents forgiveness and Christ’s words upon the cross, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do”; symbolizes the Lord’s total forgiveness and complete absolution of sin to the contrite heart.

Palms quilted into the border commemorates Palm Sunday when Jesus revealed Himself as the Messiah; symbolizes our recognition of Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Nails quilted into the border represents the crucifixion of Christ and His suffering upon the cross; symbolizes Christ’s cruel sacrifice to assure our salvation.

**Symbolic colors:**

Purple = penitence Violet = sorrow

White = purity and holiness Black = sin and death

Green = growth; life giving Golden brown = earthly things

Ecu = linen color of the Last Supper

Blue = royalty and service of Christ on earth

Dedicated to the glory of God in loving memory of Blanche M. Clark.

Designed by Patsy R. Morris

Coordinated by Ruth Crouch and Marilyn Guy

Rendered by Barbara Davidson, Ethel Hall, Billie Sturdevant, Ilene DeSilva, Fran Fleming, Marjorie Trelease, and Glenna Whitenight.

Art form: quilt

# MARCH

*Birthdays*

Phil Jensen	3/6	Patti Kruppo	3/17	Laura Mills	3/27
Natalie Anderson	3/6	Bonnie Hamilton	3/18	Chuck Hill	3/28
Phoebe Fisher	3/7	Bob Russell	3/20	Cyndy Harder	3/28
John Sandman	3/14	Lynn Hoffman	3/23		
Nikki All	3/14	Rozlyn Burrows	3/24		



## Coffee Hour Hosts & Flowers for the Sanctuary



Have you signed up to host Coffee Hour yet? Coffee, tea, lemonade, and paper goods are supplied.

Cookies are optional. Sign

up on the sheet on the Bulletin Board or call the church office to pick your date.

Would you like to commemorate a loved one or special event in your life?

Garden and wild flowers are always welcome! If you are uncomfortable creating the arrangement, call the office and we can make the arrangement for you.



### **Coffee Hour**

- Mar 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Mar 8 \_\_\_\_\_
- Mar 15 \_\_\_\_\_
- Mar 22 \_\_\_\_\_
- Mar 29 \_\_\_\_\_

### **Flowers**

- Mar 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Mar 8 \_\_\_\_\_
- Mar 15 \_\_\_\_\_
- Mar 22 Tom Pandick
- Mar 29 \_\_\_\_\_

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office.

## Word and Worship

**Sunday, March 1**

*Second Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121;  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

**Sunday, March 8**

*Third Sunday in Lent*

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95;  
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

**Sunday, March 15**

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

**Sunday, March 22**

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Ezekial 37:1-14; Psalm 130;  
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

**Sunday, March 29**

*Palm Sunday*

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:14-29;  
Phillipians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11

## Lectors - March

Mar 1 *Liz Frisbee*

Mar 8 *Carol Greene*

Mar 15 *Gideon Frisbee*

Mar 22 *Patti Kruppo*

Mar 29 *Ruth Kazmierski*

## Acolytes - March

Mar 1 *Wyatt Frisbee*

Mar 8 *Olivia Kruppo*

Mar 15 *Virginia Mills*

Mar 22 *Cameron Mills*

Mar 29 *Wyatt Frisbee*

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