



**EASTER**

# The Tidings

*A Publication of Tabernacle  
Congregational Church, UCC  
April 2011*



**April**

Dear Members and Friends,

The first year of my ministry with Tabernacle Church included introducing my children to the community. They were 11, 13 and 15 years old at the time. In an effort to acclimate them to the rituals of this church, I tried to include them in fellowship events and in worship. They came to most of our Sunday services and on Ash Wednesday during that year, I made sure that all three of them joined me for dinner and for the Ritual of Ashes.

As you know, this ritual is serious. We begin Lent in this serious way because this is the most serious season in our Christian Calendar. Each year on Ash Wednesday, we sing songs without accompaniment so we can hear the sound of each other's voices. And we sit in silence as we ponder the words of scripture and relate ourselves to the humanity of Jesus. *From ashes we have come and to ashes we will return.*

There are some people who get uncomfortable with public displays of silence. My children belong in that category of people. So, while I was leading this serious Ash Wednesday worship service with my new parishioners, **my children got the giggles.**

I remember the moment like it was yesterday. I looked up from my serious prayer and all three of them were bright red and their shoulders were shaking. They bowed their heads as soon as they saw me look up and covered their mouths with their hands. I was mortified. I knew that it was a matter of seconds before one of them burst out laughing.

*Continued on page 2*

## **April Worship Themes**

**April 3: Communion**

Sermon: ***Shadow Emotions that Blind Us***

Scripture: John 9:1-41

*The question raised today is whether humans cause their own ailments without blaming the victim. It is a question worth pondering. Too often we allow unaddressed emotions to hold us back and we become blinded by them. Healing through our shadow emotions is a way of opening our eyes to God's light and seeing hope and possibility. Jesus spits on the ground and with mud and saliva, heals a blind beggar.*

**April 10:**

Sermon: ***Lazarus Rising Today  
2 Baptisms!***

Scripture: John 11:1-45

*There are many current events that remind us of God's power to resurrect us from the dead. We die inside when someone we love dies; when we go through a separation; when a child is disappointed; when we recognize our imperfections; when insecurity gets a grip. There are movies and books that tell the tale of Lazarus in our midst. "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out of the tomb and Jesus said, "Unbind him and let him go."*

**April 17: Palm Sunday**

Sermon: ***Betrayal in the Shadows***

Scripture Lessons: Psalm 31:9-16

Matthew 26:14-25

*Judas Iscariot bargained with the life of Jesus. Once paid, he looked for an "opportunity" to betray him. Everyone has the capacity to betray someone. Many of us have been betrayed. Taking time at the beginning of Holy Week to examine both the betrayer and betrayed in ourselves, is a Lenten invitation. Healing through betrayal is a form of resurrection.*

*April worship themes continued on page 3*

God works in mysterious ways.

Instead of one of them bursting out in a fit of laughter, **I did**. I couldn't stop myself. I stood in front of you, on this most serious occasion, and I laughed, uncontrollably. You might remember the moment. I blamed my children of course, but I was seriously laughing.

I am sorry if I offended anyone that night. But mostly, I love that most of us realized how human it is to get the giggles at inappropriate times. And I think, that one of the lessons we are to learn from the Wilderness is how connected we are to each other's humanity.

After this serious walk with Jesus through Lent, we come to the cross where his humanity is lifted up before us. And miraculously, from the cross, he forgives everyone. And his forgiveness sets us all free. By the time the sun rises on Easter, we like the first disciples, feel the freedom and the light heartedness of his forgiveness.

Easter comes at the end of April this year. Let's come to worship both at sunrise and at 10:00 am, and discover God's spirit of love, laughter and freedom alive in our celebration of resurrection where the ashes of the cross are transformed into colorful flowers.

In the Spirit of Lenten humanity and the laughter of Easter freedom,  
Rev. Laura



## Holy Week Worship Services

### **Palm Sunday April 17 at 10:00am**

The congregation will gather in the Bigelow Room and enter the Sanctuary around the outside of the church waving their palms. Come hear traditional music and hymns and revisit the story of Jesus coming to Jerusalem for the Passion.

### **Maundy Thursday ~ April 21 Tenebrae Service**

**Soup at 6:00pm  
Tenebrae Service in the  
Sanctuary at 7:00pm**

We will begin with soup made by the youth of the church then the Deacons will lead a dramatic re-telling of the events leading to Good Friday in an original script title "Before the Cross."

### **Good Friday ~ April 22**

Join Rev. Biddle and the Savoy String Quartet for Joseph Haydn's "Seven Last Words of Christ" at 12:00pm in our sanctuary, see flyer enclosed.

### **Easter Sunrise Service April 24**

Join us at the Salem Willows (park in the public lot) on Easter morning for a sunrise service. We will meet at the gazebo near the pier. Plan to arrive about 10 minutes before sunrise which is at **5:49am**.

### **Easter Worship Service April 24 at 10:00am**

Come celebrate Christ's resurrection at Tabernacle Church for a traditional Easter Service featuring inspiring Easter music, decorating the cross with colorful flowers and a spirit filled time of worship.



## April Worship Themes Continued

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April 21: **MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**Dinner at 6:00pm**  
**Tenebrae Service to follow**  
Scripture: John 13:1-7; 31b-35  
Foot washing in the Towne Room

April 24: **Easter Sunday**  
**with Communion**  
Sunrise Service at 5:49am at  
Salem Willows...

**Sermon: Tears to Triumph**  
Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
John 20: 1-18  
**Flower Cross**



**2011/2012**  
**All Church**  
**Planning**  
**Meeting**  
**May 10, 2010**

We ask that **ALL** Chairs of Action Groups (or a representative) attend the **MAY Council Meeting on Tuesday, MAY 10 from 7:00pm-8:00pm for the 2011/2012 All Action Group Planning Meeting, with Liz Nelson** in the Bigelow Room. Please bring with you your Action Group dates of monthly meetings, dates of special events, dates of fund raisers and holiday happenings. We want to make sure these dates get put on the "official church calendar!" Please plan to attend this very important meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Liz in the office.



### "Recorders" Needed

Church members Kim and Bridget Ayers will be traveling to Russia this summer and they are collecting "Recorders" the musical ones!!

Here is a link that you can copy & paste to your browser.....if you are interested in learning more about Bridget's endeavor (and mine too).

<http://saalem.patch.com/articles/bridget-ayers-quiet-confidence-and-lots-of-compassion>

As part of her fundraising efforts, she is making sock animals. We all have "orphaned" socks around our house. Bridget is putting them to good use.....for \$5 and the donation of your own orphaned sock, she will turn it into a cute litter critter. You can bring the sock animal home, or she will bring it to the orphanage. I also hope to bring a bit of music and joy to the orphans.

I am collecting "recorders". Most public school children receive one in 3rd grade as an introduction to musical instruments. Many families may have old recorders hanging around the house, unused. If anyone has one (or more) to donate, they can leave them in the box outside Liz's office.

Bridget and I are looking forward to the first of many trips to Siberia. A friend and I are moving forward with plans to develop a safe haven for the children who, at age 16, are "aged out" of the system and are put on the streets. These teens have no future, and desperately need faith, hope, love and protection from what is in store for them.

Thank you!  
Kim Ayers



## From Our Christian Ed. Director

Greetings!  
I know spring is coming, but the forecast says snow for

April 1. ☹ But on the other hand, the days are longer; have you noticed that there is light until almost 7 PM?!

The children and youth are into full Lenten study. Each week when we leave the sanctuary we gather at the Lenten Altar in the Bigelow Room and say the Lord's Prayer together. Then we go to our classes for stories about Jesus' healing ministry.

Our plan for Palm Sunday is to parade with the palms and then to enter the "Upper Room" that will be set up in the round in the basement (ironic). The children will participate in a Seder meal led by Betsey, Sunday school teachers and youth. The Seder will end with a communion of bread and juice. If you would like to participate in the Seder please let Betsey know so we can have enough seats for every one.

On Maundy Thursday the youth will be at church most of the afternoon, setting up and cooking for the meal. They will then attend the Maundy Thursdays worship as a group. This worship is appropriate for grades 5 and up. All are welcome to attend the meal.

On Good Friday we will be decorating and coloring eggs. Everyone is welcome to join us for this event. Just bring your own hard-boiled eggs. See the separate announcement for details.

Easter Sunday families will worship together. There is no Sunday school. I you're your Lenten time has been reflective and full of healings and miracles as we journey together with Jesus to Jerusalem.

Shalom, Betsey

## Youth Group Calendar

**April 3:** 12 – 2 pm,  
pizza and hiking altar

**April 17:** 9 – 12pm,  
Sunday school Seder

**April 21:** Thursday, 3PM  
Prepare soups and set up for  
Maundy Thursday me  
Attend Maundy Thursday  
worship as a group

**April 25:** Monday, 4PM at  
Lifebridge (formerly Salem  
Mission) to cook and serve  
dinner. Pick up at 7 PM

**May 1:** Walk for HAWC after church. We will  
meet at the church after the walk  
Pick up at 3 PM.



### Color Eggs on Good Friday, April 22, 2011

Join us in the Bigelow  
Room on April 22  
from 3:30-5:00.

Bring your hard  
boiled eggs in boxes  
and color them with

our varied vibrant colors. Plan to leave some  
at the church to decorate the sanctuary. This  
event is open to all. Bring your friend with  
their eggs! We will learn the history of egg  
decorating from a storyteller.

### CEAG Meeting

CEAG meeting is Thursday, April 7, 7 PM.

### Teacher Dinner...

Teacher Dinner and Gathering at Betsey's on  
Tuesday, April 26, 6 PM. This will include  
discussion for our Children's Day theme.



**“Peace Pipes”  
Concert to  
benefit HAWC,  
Saturday  
April 30,  
7:30 pm at  
Tabernacle**

Make it an “all-HAWC weekend” by coming to our HAWC bagpipe benefit concert the night before the Walk! There will be a mixture of pipe band, solo bagpipe, smallpipes, Scottish Highland Dancing and a few surprises as well. Featuring Peabody’s own North Shore Pipe Band. The Missions Action Group invites you experience a little Highland culture with all proceeds to benefit HAWC.

**From Our Missions Action Group**

Missions Committee announces **April is pasta and sauce month.** The food pantry is in need of many non perishable items so whatever you can contribute will be put to good use. Please leave the food in the Narthax.

Tabernacle congregation is generously stepping up to the plate to fill the plates of the hungry in our community. Missions Group has been able to deliver bags of food to the Pantry weekly and our goal is to continue....make it a habit to just add one extra item to your shopping list. Pasta and sauce is this month's suggestion, but anything of your choice is more than welcomed, including toiletries and household cleaning products..and even cat food! Simply leave your donations in the basket in the Narthex and we'll see to it that it gets to those in need.

**HAWC Walk ~ May 1, 2011**



**HAWC Walk**

Go Team Tabernacle!!!! Please join Team Tabernacle for the 19th Annual HAWC walk on Sunday May 1, 2011.

HAWC (Healing Abuse Working for Change, formerly known as Help for Abused Women and their Children) is the oldest and the most comprehensive domestic violence agency on the Massachusetts' North Shore. Let's show our support for this wonderful agency. Donation forms coming soon. Please email the team leader, Allison Kilcoyne at [allisonkilcoyne@comcast.net](mailto:allisonkilcoyne@comcast.net) if you are interested in helping.

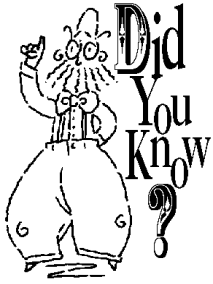
**Harvest of Hope**

Harvest of Hope Food pantry continues to benefit from its challenge grant from Alan Feinstein to add to any donations rec'd in April..so this would be a good time to donate money for the Food Pantry, not just food. Add your monetary donations to the offering plate and mark them for **FOOD PANTRY** and we can make our money worth more for the Harvest of Hope this month.

**Come and Celebrate  
Habitat House!**

Come celebrate on Sunday, April 3rd at 1 p.m. the dedication of the Habitat house at 5 Park Street, Peabody where you can meet the families and rejoice in their new home life.





## Did You Know?

### Taking Down the First Tabernacle

Around 1852 the members of the First Tabernacle decided that it was necessary to build a new church, because the old one was no longer large enough to hold the congregation. The new church would be built on the same spot so the old tabernacle would be taken down piece by piece. This description was taken from Dr. Samuel M. Worcester's book *Memorial of the Old and New Tabernacle*.

You will find an engraving of the First Tabernacle on the wall in the Bigelow and a photograph of the Second Tabernacle there also. Note the height of the steeple, over 200 feet, which is featured in the following story.

*Kay Piemonte*

...On the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, the work of demolishing the old house began at the top of the tower. There was much fear of some disaster. The attempt being made to remove the tower, below the bell-deck, in one body, the whole fell in an oblique direction; but did no injury except that of crushing a large elm tree. The raising of the new building commenced on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May. The frame was of great magnitude and admirably prepared. The operation of elevating the different sections, and especially the tower and spire, was, for successive days, an object of mingled admiration and anxiety. By a slight mistake in adjusting the ropes, the spire, when suspended at the highest point, appeared for a few seconds, as if it might be precipitated, either upon the roof of the building, or that of a neighboring house. The effect, at the instant, surpasses all description.

Three days before the Dedication, Mr. John Conant, a mason, went upon the roof of the "apsis," or recess, to remove the cap of the south chimney.

When about to return to the window of the "attic" his ladder slipped. Providentially, he so gave a direction to his fall, as first to strike the roof of the vestry, which is but a few feet west of the recess, and was taken up from the steps, leading to the Minister's Room, having broken a leg, but otherwise receiving no material harm. Great was the joy and gratitude for his signal deliverance from an untimely death!"

Samuel M. Worcester



## 1812 Commissioning Celebration

**February 5, 2012**

Plans are underway for our Celebration! Hope you will be a part of the planning!

### CAN YOU FIND.....

Where in our Church is the picture of the beautiful stained glass window

showing the sailing of the *Caravan*? See if you can find it!!!!



## April Altar Flowers



April 3: In loving memory of **Jane Harrison** by Ron Harrison.

April 10: In loving memory of **Pamela Hough and Stephen DeSantis** from Pat Morrow and Pat DeSantis.

April 17: In loving memory of **Carolyn & Eugene Mailman and Richard and Gertrude Huntby** by Anne and Stephen Bogan.

April 24: **Easter Sunday!**



## April Birthdays

The following members and friends are celebrating birthdays this month.

- 1 Kyle Reardon
- 3 Liz Nelson
- 3 Lindsay Levenson
- 5 Kay Piemonte
- 8 Anastasia Patch
- 8 Sophie Parr
- 9 Audrey DeLoffi
- 9 Jim Kilcoyne
- 10 Anne Bogan
- 10 Abby Burnham
- 12 Alicia Chevoor
- 14 Joshua Cabral
- 21 Jack Duda
- 25 Philip Lutts
- 26 Christopher Lutts
- 26 Beth Currier
- 27 Kim Ayers
- 28 Ross Peterson
- 29 Ian MacLean
- 29 Mary Jo Bennett



## April Steeple Lighting

The church steeple is lighted for the month of April in loving memory of **Lucy & Walter Lewis, Linda Lewis and Barbara Hamilton Newell** by Brenda Lewis.

## T.W.A.

Our April meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>** at 10:30 in the Bigelow Room with Barbara Bowman will be the hostess for our April Meeting. We have a wonderful time every month especially when Betsey Bennett involves us in "Godly Play". New members are always welcome. Bring a sandwich and dessert will be provided by the hostess.

## Heifer Project/TWA

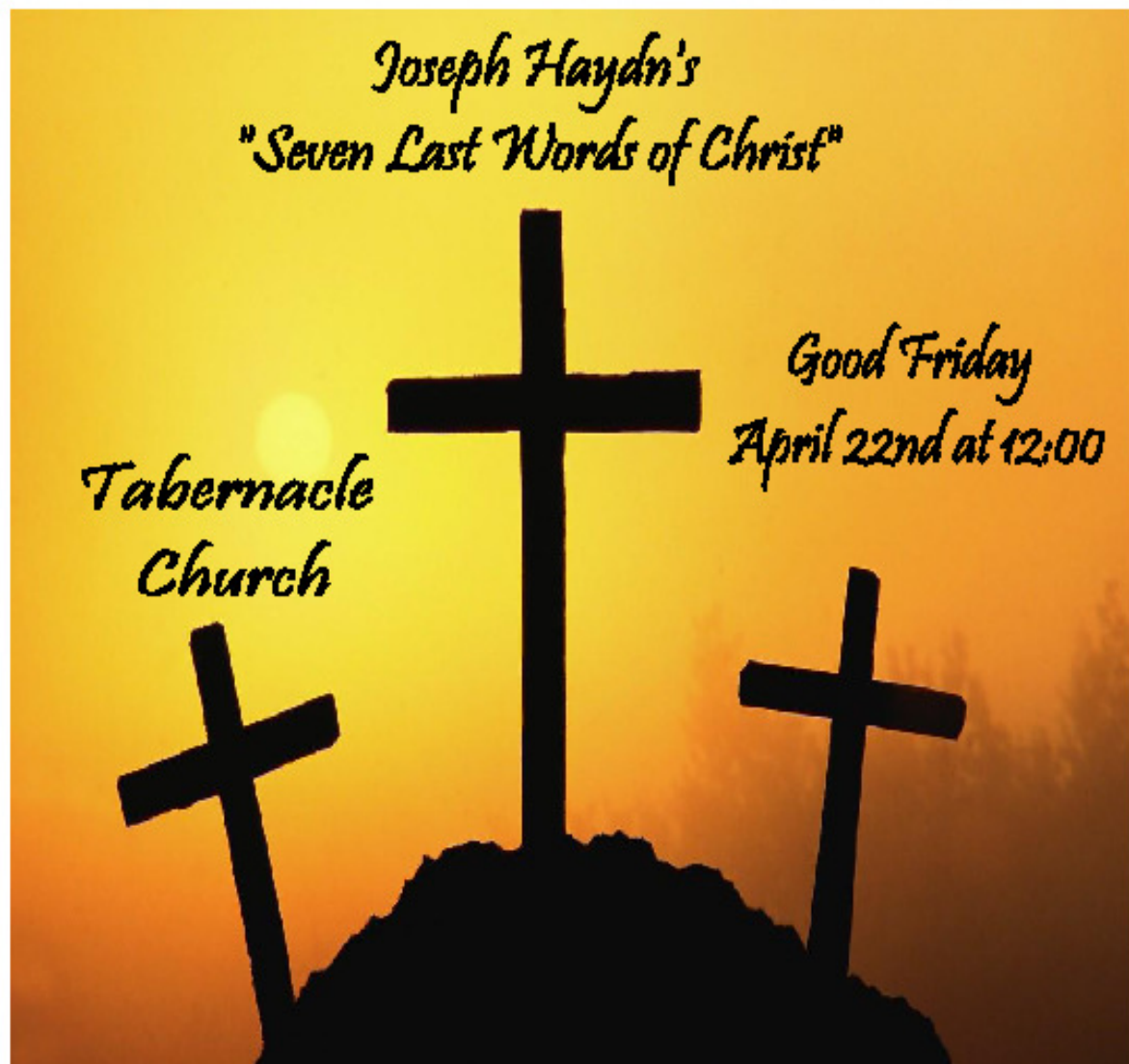
The TWA will be holding our annual collection on April 17, Palm Sunday. There will be envelopes in the pews designated for Heifer International and the loose plate collection on that day will be designated for that charity. We are combining our efforts again this year with the Sunday School. Your loose change is accepted at any time during the year, however this is the time you need to give what you have saved to any member of the TWA. Let's try to help the children raise money for the animals of their choice.

## GEMS

### (Gourmet Eating Men's Society)

GEMS will meet on Wednesday, April 20 at 12:00pm at the Witches Brew.

# Join Reverend Laura Biddle and the Savoy String Quartet



"WRITTEN FOR STRING QUARTET, "THE SEVEN LAST WORDS" COMPRISES AN INTRODUCTION, SEVEN SLOW MOVEMENTS CORRESPONDING TO THE "SEVEN LAST WORDS", AND A MUSICAL DEPICTION OF THE EARTHQUAKE FOLLOWING THE CRUCIFIXION. THE PIECE EXPLORES AND REVEALS THE EMOTIONAL RESONANCES INHERENT IN THE STORY OF THE CRUCIFIXION. IT IS A DARK AND DEEPLY MOVING WORK. THE MUSIC IS OFTEN STARK, BARREN AND PAINFUL, BUT ALWAYS OVERWHELMINGLY HUMAN. STRENGTH AND FRAILTY, GRIEF AND ACCEPTANCE, BEWILDERMENT AND UNDERSTANDING- THE WORK SERVES AS A MEDITATION ON THE GRAVITY OF TRAGEDY, AS WELL AS ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF HOPE AND REDEMPTION."