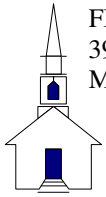
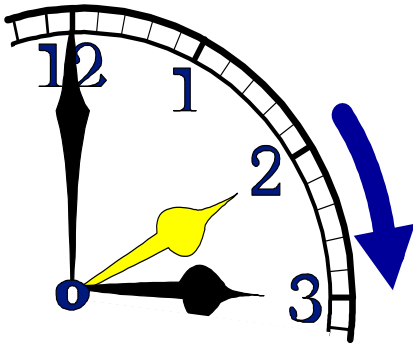


The Messenger-March 2008



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
39 Exchange St  
Milford, MA. 01757



# THE MESSENGER

## March 2008



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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Milford, Massachusetts 01757  
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## March 2008

# The Messenger

### A Word from the Pastor

Jesus Christ is Risen- Hallelujah;  
“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!”

Luke 24:5-6 (parts)

Winter is giving way to spring. The lights of dawn peek through the darkness much earlier in the day. It is fascinating to watch the shadows of the night disappear as the light of day grows brighter each morning.

On the first day of the week, the women who followed Jesus from Galilee went to the tomb very early in the morning. It was dark, for their Lord had been crucified. They found the stone rolled away, but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. It was still dark, until suddenly two men in gleaming lights stood beside them. The women were frightened and bowed down with their faces to the ground. “He has risen”, the men in gleaming lights declared, and a bright new world opened up to the followers of Jesus.

Like the Galilean women, we sometimes look for the living among the dead, surrounded by darkness. May the gleaming lights of the risen Christ flood our hearts, minds, homes, church and world with the resounding words, *He is risen!* Jesus the light of the world, shine in us (John 8:12) *He is risen*, Jesus the light of the world, empower us to spread the light. *He is risen*, the world needs God’s light, love and warmth.

Kurt Kaiser captures those sentiments with the words,

“It only takes a spark to get a fire going,  
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.

That’s how it is with God’s love, once you’ve experienced it;

you spread his love to everyone; you want to pass it on”. UMH 572

I wish you a blessed Easter.

*Pastor Dorothy*

### Joint Maundy Thursday Worship Milford FUMC & Franklin UMC

**Where:** Milford FUMC

**When:** Thursday March 20 at 7:30pm.

### Hosanna on the Green- Draper Park

Sister and brother Churches in Milford participating.

**When:** March 16, 9:30am

#### Readers for March

March 2	Donna Kling
March 9	Scott Vanseth
March 16	Bryant Hopkins
March 23	MaryLou Boucher
March 30	Dick LeBlanc

#### Ushers for March

March 2	Dick and Jennie LeBlanc
March 9	Fred Sprague, Karen Grand Pre`
March 16	Cyndee McGovern, Bill Eltzroth
March 23	Scott and Kathy Vanseth
March 30	Dennis Kling, Arthur Knust-Graichen

#### Acolytes for March

March 2	Kelsey Tardif, Jessica Waldron
March 9	Brittany Miner, Megan Stewardson
March 16	Brittany Miner, Kelsey Tardif
March 23	Jesse Fischer, Megan Stewardson
March 30	Brittany Miner, Skylar Suffletto

#### Greeter/Coffee Hour Host

Charlotte Kensil



## March Birthdays

If your or your child's birthday is not listed, please call the office so that we can update our list. Thanks!

March 2	Jennie LeBlanc
March 4	Harro Weise
March 5	Dennis Kling
March 11	Ray Terrell
March 12	Barbara Aiken Meghan Stewardson
March 16	Joanne Conklin
March 17	Betsy Moyer
March 20	Shirley White Russell Quinn
March 25	Jessica Waldron
March 26	Gregory Lewis Arthur White
March 28	Christopher Nicholas Richard Larson, Sr.
March 30	Gail Bernheart Jeanne Perkins
March 31	James Hastings Sarah Lane

### Pastor Away

Pastor Dorothy and some of her family will be traveling to Ghana for a family reunion from March 23 through April 15. Please keep her and Seth and their family in your prayers for travel safety and a wonderful time to re-connect with family.

While she is away Rev. Abraham Waya from the Franklin UMC will be providing pastoral coverage as needed. If you have need of pastoral care please contact our church office (508-473-4252) or a member of the SPRC for Pastor Waya's phone number.

During that time, Sunday services will be covered as follows:

- March 30 – Donna Kling
- April 6 – Roland French (retired pastor)
- April 13 – Brian Richter

### SPRC

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is available to assist both our pastor and congregation with issues that involve our employees. If you have any questions or concerns that are related to any of our paid staff, please feel free to talk with any SPRC member:

Donna Kling – chairperson  
Gail Perry  
Fran Hollister  
Teri Creber  
Brain Richter  
Denise Kennedy  
Paula Malnati  
Cameron Hopkins

### Church Office

For approximately 3 months our church secretary has found the church office to be in various states of disarray when she arrives. There have been crayon markings on the counter, computer monitor and files, as well as crayons in the pencil sharpener, paper clips in the door lock, and the copy machine used inappropriately.

To make sure that our equipment is protected and, more importantly, to make sure that children are safe, we are asking that everyone using the church make sure that when a child is in the church office, an adult is **always** present to supervise that child.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this new policy, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Donna Kling  
Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chairperson

**Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.**

## ***Pastor's Office Hours***

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A reminder from the SPRC that our pastor is available in the church office Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10:00am to 2:00pm and by appointment. Pastor Dorothy is always eager to spend time with each of you. If the regular office hours are not convenient, please contact Pastor Dorothy at the church (508-473-4252) to arrange a time to meet.

Please remember that on Sunday mornings our pastor is preparing herself to conduct our worship service and should not be concerned with non-emergency church business. If you need to discuss church business on a Sunday, please feel free to speak with any member of our SPRC committee.

### **Homework Haven**

Our Homework club has been evolving over the past 3 years to become a wonderful collaboration between Woodland Elementary School, teachers, families, high school honor students, and our church.

On Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm you will see families arriving to drop off their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade children. Pam Larkin, a Woodland School teacher and the coordinator of Homework Haven, greets the children and makes sure they are signed in. The children then have a light meal prepared by various volunteers.

At 6pm you will see groups of high school students arriving to help tutor the younger students. They greet each other with "high fives" and questions about how their week went and then the homework comes out of the backpacks and the work begins. Each 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade student has his or her own high school tutor. Supplies such as paper, pencils, markers, scissors and resource books are available.

The fellowship hall is filled with murmurs between the students and you see heads bowed together over math problems and spelling words. By 7:00pm the hall is cleaned up and families arrive to pick up their child.

As a church we should be proud to be a part of this incredible collaboration.

So you ask, "What can I do to help?" You can donate money to help purchase the food for the light meal, or come by and offer a hand to help set up, prepare food or clean-up. If you would like to be a part of this either through donations or time, please see Pastor Dorothy or Donna Kling.

### **A UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S GROUP**

Seekers is a group for women of all ages, who are present for each other - caring, sharing, and loving. The group uses literature, study, and prayer to grow spiritually. The group is bonded together by a belief in Jesus Christ and the power of prayer. Seekers meet monthly. Come join us! For more information please call:  
Fran Hollister 478-8048  
Donna Kling 478-4088

Seekers will be discussing the book, *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert. If you would like to join our group the next meeting will be on March 3rd. We will be discussing Part one - Italy. Call Donna or Fran for more details.

### Higher Education and Campus Ministries

Time does fly! Can you believe that it will soon be the end of another semester for our college students? Starting this month, the donation box for our college students will be in the Fellowship Hall. Here is a list of items that the students can use.

#### College Care Packages

**We would greatly appreciate any donations of the following items in time for packaging in late March and mailing to our college students:**

- Single coffee bags
- Single hot cocoa packages
- Cup-of-soup
- Small boxers of raisins
- Small bags of munchies
- Oriental noodles
- Multi-packs of gum
- Wrapped candy
- Microwave popcorn
- Lifesavers
- Tea bags
- Sugar packets
- Small microwaveable pasta meals
- Cremora packets
- Small packets of crackers
- Instant oatmeal
- Postems
- Highlighters
- Whiteout
- Strong shoe boxes for packaging and paper bags
- Donations to help with the cost of mailing

Thank you for your support

Members of the Higher Education Committee

### **“GUESS WHO’S COMING TO DINNER”**

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#### **SATURDAY, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

It’s coming soon – so decide now whether you’d like to host 4, 5, or 6 other folk for dinner (they bring the dinner). Or, if you prefer, be a guest and bring either a main course, salad, vegetable dish, or dessert to someone else’s house.

The committee assigns you to a home and tells you what to bring – and it’s all a deep, dark secret as to whom you’ll meet when you cross the threshold that evening. Participants in our last dinner found it to be great fun and a nifty way to get better acquainted. So sign up below to help the planners begin. Drop this notice in the collection plate or church office. (If you prefer, call the church office to sign up). 473-4252.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Host \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Number of us \_\_\_\_\_

or

Number we can entertain \_\_\_\_\_