



First Congregational Church  
of  
Spencer, U.C.C.  
207 Main Street  
PO Box 187  
Spencer, Massachusetts 01562  
[www.spencerchurch.org](http://www.spencerchurch.org)

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Rev. William R. Wildman, Jr.  
Pastor

[wwildmanjr@verizon.net](mailto:wwildmanjr@verizon.net)  
Direct 508-885-5098

For emergencies after office hours  
please call 508-885-5863

The Tie  
March 2010

Church Office  
8:00 a.m. to noon  
[fccspencer@verizon.net](mailto:fccspencer@verizon.net)  
508-885-2149

### **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Time sure flies in the ministry of Jesus Christ. It is appropriate that we are beginning Lent, a season of reflection based on the 40 days and nights that Jesus spent in the desert. Lent is an excellent opportunity to reflect on our own lives, as we remember the events of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. We can reflect upon what is happening, both good and not so good, and seek just what God is asking us to do as we go forward in our ministry. It is a time to ask for forgiveness for things from the past, learn from the lessons in our present, and seek the chance to start anew for our future. Jesus' time in the desert was a time of preparation for his ministry, Lent can be the same for our own.

As I reflect upon my life and ministry, I have two happy events that are coming to mind that I would like to thank God for this year so far. The first is that Christi and I celebrated our 6<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on February 14<sup>th</sup>! We had a wonderful day and I feel very blessed to be married to such an amazing person. Thank you God for such a wonderful wife and partner. Second, March 1<sup>st</sup> marks my 2nd anniversary as your pastor here at the First Congregational Church of Spencer, UCC! I am having a great time here in Spencer with all of you, and look forward to what God has in store for us as 2010 continues. Thank you for your continuing support and partnership in the ministry of Jesus Christ we share.

The month of March also brings the festivities of Saint Patrick's Day. A lot of celebration happens in honor of this missionary to Ireland from the 5<sup>th</sup> Century, a man who brought the Good News of Jesus Christ to an entire nation within his lifetime. His method of teaching the people of Ireland about the concept of the Trinity, using a shamrock leaf to explain about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is still remembered today. It has become a powerful symbol for both God and an entire nation. Saint

Patrick's example, using what you know to teach about the unknown, is a great way of talking about our faith in Jesus Christ. We all have experiences and insights that God gives us. When we use them as a way to share our blessings from faith, we bless others and help to strengthen their faith as well.

As always, I am here for you when you need me. If you would like a visit, or to get together for a cup of coffee, or have some other way that I can be of help to you, please let me know. Feel free to call me at 508-885-2149, stop by the office, or e-mail me at [revwilliamwildman@yahoo.com](mailto:revwilliamwildman@yahoo.com) to set up a time to get together. I hope you all a happy and blessed beginning of Spring! May God bless you now and always!

In Christ,

*Pastor Bill*

### **Bible Trivia Contest for March 2010!!!**

Would you like to win free coffee and pastry with Pastor Bill at Five Loaves Bakery this month? It's easy: just answer the following Bible trivia question:

***"What does God say when Moses asks God 'what is your name' in Exodus chapter 3?"***

The first person to get the answer to Pastor Bill (either in person, by e-mail or phone) will win the contest for March. So get your thinking caps on and let this month's contest begin... Good Luck!

### **Make a difference in someone's life... be a Parish Visitor!!!**

Have some time and want to make a difference in someone's life? Become a parish visitor! A Parish Visitation Ministry is now forming at the church. There will be an organizational meeting after church on Sunday, April 25, 2010 at 11 AM. All that is required is a few hours a month and a compassionate heart. Please see Pastor Bill for more information.

### **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Just a reminder for all committees, we are starting a new year so all budgets need to be watched very carefully. We did a great job last year staying within our budgets, let's repeat for 2010.

Steve Howe has been elected Chairman of the Administration Committee for 2010. For any business or concerns please contact Steve.

**REMINDER** to all who use the church building, whether it be the sanctuary, the hall or the classrooms please make sure the lights are off and the heat is turned down in your area before you leave the building.

Please remember to donate for oil in the collection cans in the upper Narthex.

Steve Howe, Chair

**COLLECTOR'S POSITION OPENING** As of April 11, 2010, Louise Perreira will be retiring from the Collector's position, which she has held for many years.

We are looking for a volunteer to take over this position. If you are interested please notify the Administration Committee. Please address your letter to the attention of Steve Howe, Chairperson. Please see below the job description.

**CHURCH COLLECTOR:** The Church Collector shall be elected at each Annual Meeting, shall be sworn by a Notary or the Church Clerk, shall serve for one year and may be re-elected.

- DUTIES:** (1) To receive all payments on pledges and gifts, which will be properly credited to income.  
(2) To take charge of all offerings and special collections.  
(3) To keep accurate account with each subscriber and furnish statements quarterly.  
(4) To deposit all money in a bank designated by the Treasurer and furnish the Treasurer a statement for the same.

### **ADMINISTRATION/ NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER**

As your new Treasure, I will be picking up any bills, checks, correspondence, etc. on Monday morning. If you have any question, please call me at 508-885-5664 or e-mail me at [panderson8@verizon.net](mailto:panderson8@verizon.net)

Thanks,  
Pat

### **CHURCH AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

At the meeting held on February 14, 2010 Hazel Ahlquist was nominated as the Chairperson of the Church and Community Committee for 2010.

### **SPENCER PRIDE DAY**

The annual Spencer Pride Day will be held **rain or shine** this year on April 17, 2010. from 9 am to noon. All those interested in participating may call Hazel Ahlquist at 508-885-0068 or the church office at 508-885-2149.

All volunteers will register at 9:00 AM, in the church hall. They will be given trash bags , gloves and T-shirts. The volunteers will be given streets or they can tell the organizers the name of the streets they wish to clean.

At noon a lunch will be provided for all those who participated in the Town Wide Cleanup. The lunch will consist of hot dogs, chips, drink and dessert. Anyone wishing to donate items for the volunteers lunch may do so. There is a sign-up sheet under the clock in the Mary Porter Hall or you can contact Hazel Ahlquist 508-885-0068 or call the church office, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 12 noon, 508-885-2149.

### **CHURCH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

We met on Sunday January 10, 2010 and on Sunday February 21, 2010. The Children's Christmas pageant was held on Sunday January 17<sup>th</sup> and the children did a fantastic job. Church School is going great with good attendance each week. The children are enjoying the Godly Play lessons and using what they learn on the creative days. Lisa Brown and the committee are working on a Storm/Weather Policy for canceling Church School due to inclement weather. We will vote on the policy at our March meeting. We are looking ahead to Palm Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup> for the Bible presentations to our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students and any other older children that have not received one.

We would like to say a special thank you to Liz and Roger Foss for their generous donation to Godly Play. We appreciate their support of our Church School program.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday March 14, 2010.

LouAnn V. Bean, Chairperson 2010

### **DIACONATE**

Diaconate meeting for March is March 14<sup>th</sup> following the Worship Service.

Deacon of the month for March is Louise Perreira

Election of officers for the year 2010 was voted at the All Committee Night meeting.

Chair of Diaconate --- Ken Landine

Chair Church Council – Bob Ahlquist

Secretary of Diaconate – Judy Chicoine

Our next **Healing Service** will be held March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

The Lenten season has started with Ash Wednesday on Feb 17<sup>th</sup>. The following events will be taking place starting the end of March.

Holy Week Meditation Services March 29<sup>th</sup> thru April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6:30 am. If anyone is interested in leading one of the services please contact Ken Landine 508-867-6979 or Pastor Bill.

Maundy Thursday Service April 1<sup>st</sup> 7:00pm

Easter Eve Service April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm

Easter Sunrise Service April 4<sup>th</sup> 6:30am at Howe Park (followed by Easter Breakfast at the Church)

Easter Worship Service April 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00am

Looking forward to greeting and meeting you on Sunday mornings.

Ken Landine

Chairperson

### **ECONOMY SHOP**

**NEED HELP** – The Economy Shop is reopening for Spring on March 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>. We need help to get ready on **March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>**. Things to do: empty boxes and hang items on racks. Make your own hours. We'll be here 8 A.M. to 3 P.M. on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there.

### **FLOWER COMMITTEE**

Flowers for Easter Sunday will go on sale Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup> through March 21<sup>st</sup>. Someone will be in the lower Narthex before and after worship service or you may call Claire Harding at 508-885-5441.

The price for each is as follows lilies a single \$9.50, double \$17.50, tulips 6" \$7.50., 8" \$12.00 you have a choice of red, pink, purple, or yellow.

Hazel Ahlquist, Claire Harding & Joyce Landine/Chairperson

### **MEN'S LEAGUE**

On February 9, 2010 Mary Ingalls and her faithful ladies served the Father and Son Banquet a delicious Turkey dinner with all the fixings. Many thanks to Mary and all the Ladies that helped. There were 98 tickets sold and I think just about everyone was there. Good job all the people involved. We had an animal show with different animals from the Southwick Animal Farm in Mendon, MA, thanks in part to David Durgin who helped with arrangements.

Our next meeting will be on March 16, 2010 with a roast beef dinner served by Ken Landine and Bob Vandale and their crew. The price for the dinner is \$7.00 plus whatever else is needed to cover the cost of the meat/ We need to discuss the Calendar and our annual elections. Hope to see you there.

Sincerely,  
Al Orne

### **MILITARY WHIST PARTY & PENNY SALE**

Will be held on  
March 12, 2010  
Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Refreshments will be served  
Donation \$3.00

Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship. If you have items for the penny table or would like to bake for the refreshments, please call Mary Ingalls at the church 508-885-2149.

### **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Stewardship committee elected Bev Wentworth and Phil Harding as co-chairpersons for 2010.

We are planning our Stewardship Activities for 2010. Any ideas or improvements would be welcome. You can contact Bev Wentworth 508-885-2992 or Phil Harding 508-885-5441.

Thank you or your pledges for 2009. If you've forgotten to send your pledge for 2009 it's never too late.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING & CHURCH GROWTH PROJECT TEAM**

An extensive inventory has been completed. We now have a better idea of what we have for resources and what may be needed. We are sponsoring a Pot Luck Supper on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. Please come for the great food and fellowship.

### **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

**Executive Board:** meeting Monday, March 1, 2010

**Sunlighters** – Tuesday, March 2, 2010



The Church has been given a grant by the Massachusetts Cultural Council through the Town of Spencer for a performance of:

“Women of the Bible”  
When: April 17, 2010 at 7 P.M.  
Where: Here at the Church  
Performer – Linda Gray Kelly

We will also have a food concession and will take up a free will offering for the performance. All Grant Money goes to the performer. All other donations will be given to the “Haiti Relief Disaster Fund”.

Please plan to come to help this cause – Open to the public – All are welcome.

Sincerely,  
Pat Stark

### **WOMEN'S EVENING FELLOWSHIP**

The Evening Women's Fellowship will meet at Bev Wentworth's home for a pot luck supper and meeting. On Tuesday, March 2, 2010 time 6 P.M. All the women of the church are invited to attend our meeting.

### **FYI**

***Our Next Service of Physical, Mental & Spiritual Healing will be on  
Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 7:00 PM***

Our next **Service of Physical, Mental and Spiritual Healing** will be on **Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 7:00 PM**. All are invited to attend and experience the gift of our congregation's healing ministry. The service will feature worship, prayer, a litany of forgiveness, musical & guided meditations, and scripture. There will also be a variety of "healing stations" where ministries such as anointing, symbolic washing & renewal, and one-on-one prayer will be offered. The service will conclude with Holy Communion, which is open to all who attend.

Please contact Pastor Bill Wildman for more information or with any questions.

Thank you and may God bless you!

### **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

One Great Hour of Sharing, the United Church of Christ offers hope and well-being to people around the world. By giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, we join with communities struggling to overcome poverty, illiteracy, illness and the dangers of wars and disaster.

Enclosed is the envelope which is to be returned on or by Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **EASTER DONATIONS**

It is the time of year when we traditionally give donations to various funds of the church. Donations will be accepted at any time during the year, but to have your name included in the Easter Sunday bulletin please submit yours to the office by Friday, March 26, 2010.

Donations to the Easter Scholarships go to the Scholarship Aid Fund unless otherwise directed and donations to the Easter Memorial go to the Memorial Fund. You may make donations to any fund of your choice just let the office know. For a list of funds contact the office at 508-885-2149 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to noon.

### **Know Somebody in the Hospital? Please let us know...**

Do you know of someone from the church who is in the hospital or some other health care facility? Please let us know at the church office so Pastor Bill can pay them a visit. Due to the Federal Health Insurance Privacy Protection Act (HIPPA), hospitals and health care facilities can no longer tell us if anyone from the church is there, even if they have made their church membership known to them. In other words, we have no other way of knowing if someone is in the hospital other than word of mouth. Please let us know the full name that they were admitted by, what the facility name is, and if possible, what their room number is. Thank you so much for your help with the visitation ministry of the church!

## **ATTENTION ALL CHURCH MEMBERS!!!**

This is the time of year when some of our church members go south for the winter months, **PLEASE** notify the office of any **changes** to your **mailing information and phone numbers**. It is important for us to keep an accurate mailing list. So please make an effort to contact the office with any **changes**, either **temporary** or **permanent**.

## **THANK YOU NOTE**

To the People of the First Congregational Church of Spencer,

I want to let you all know how much we all appreciate the love, prayers, visits and flowers sent during my father's Robert Russell illness, you will never really know how much it meant to me and especially my Dad. It really made a difference for him through that very difficult time. He spoke about the cards, flowers and visits a lot.

Thank you!  
Susanne Durant

## **YOUTH GROUP**

Youth Group will be meeting on Sunday, March 28, 2010 from 2 PM to 3:30 PM. The meeting will be in the Youth Lounge at the church. Please see Christilynn Wildman or Pastor Bill with any questions.

## **CALENDAR**

- Mar. 1<sup>st</sup> – 31 Office hours are 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.
- Mar.. 1<sup>st</sup> **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP EXECUTIVE BOARD** meeting 9 A.M.
- Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup> **WOMEN'S EVENING FELLOWSHIP** Pot Luck supper meeting 6:30 P.M.  
At Bev Wentworth's home.
- Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> **POT LUCK SUPPER** 6:30 P.M.
- Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> **CHURCH COUNCIL** meeting 7:00 P.M.
- Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> **MILITARY WHIST PARTY & PENNY SALE** 7:00 P.M.
- Mar. 14<sup>th</sup> **CHURCH AND EDUCATION** meeting following worship service  
**DIACONATE** will meet following worship service.
- Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> **STRATEGIC PLANNING & CHURCH GROWTH COMMITTEE** meeting 6:30 P.M.
- Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> **MEN'S LEAGUE** Roast Beef supper meeting 6:30 P.M.
- Mar. 17<sup>th</sup> **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE** meeting 7:00 P.M.
- Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> **TIE NOTICES** due for April Tie.
- Mar. 24<sup>th</sup> **HEALING SERVICE** 7:00 P.M.
- Mar.28<sup>th</sup> **YOUTH GROUP** 2 PM to 3:30 PM.
- Mar. 29<sup>th</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup> **HOLY WEEK** morning services 6:30 A.M.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>        **MAUNDY THURSDAY** service 7:00 P.M.

Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup>        **EASTER EVE SERVICE** 7:00 P.M.

Apr. 4<sup>th</sup>        **EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE** 6:30 A.M.

**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE** 10:00 a.m.

Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>        **MILITARY WHIST PARTY**

Apr.17        **SPENCER PRIDE DAY** – Town wide cleanup 9 A.M. – 12 Noon

**"WOMEN OF THE BIBLE"** program for the entire family 7:00 P.M.

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HELD AT THE CHURCH

Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Al-A-Teen meeting every Monday at 6:30 p.m.

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Deacon of the month for March is Louise Perreira.