



THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Hopedale Unitarian Parish's
Monthly Newsletter

February 2016

Vol. I, No. 7

From the Minister

The Many Faces and Facets of Love

There is a famous and often quoted passage (usually at weddings) from the Christian scriptures. It's from the 13th chapter of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

I can't say this isn't truth, but love is also more complex than this utopian portrayal. Love is also silent and loud, and particular, and difficult.

Sometimes we have no other way to say "I love you" than our silence. There really are no words of comfort for life's great losses, especially the loss of love and the loss of life. At times of trauma and loss and grief, quite often the most loving thing we can offer is a silent presence. It's been said that there can only be great pain where there is great love. And in these time of great pain born of love, we find that quite often the loving response is to bear silent witness to it. And to be there when the time for silence ends - a time for talking and crying and wailing and telling love's stories.

Sometimes love is loud. Sometimes love causes us to cry and wail. Sometimes love requires us to hold difficult boundaries and exercise restraint. This is



Hopedale Unitarian Parish
Come as you are - All are welcome

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Parish Minister: Rev. Tony Lorenzen

Congregational Administrator: Valerie Clement

Director of Religious Education: Kelly Sarazen

Music Ministry: Carol Devendorf, Organist and Choir Director

Junior Choir Director: Deanna Mustachio

Treasurer: Frederick Oldfield III

Collector: Kathleen Schleper

Sexton: Al Gross

Bell Ringer: Frederick Oldfield III

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particularly difficult when someone has harmed us or hurt us and all we want to do is rail against the hurt in an unloving a way as is possible. Sometimes love causes to raise our voice in opposition and resistance. Sometimes this love needs to be silent to be loud, such as standing in vigil and silent protest against the death penalty or in silent witness in support of Black Lives Matter, or in silent solidarity at an interfaith gathering in support of our Muslim neighbors.

English is often a very precise language. There are concepts, however, where English doesn't get specific enough. Love is such a concept. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the many preachers, pastors, and theologians who have pointed out to us the three words used for "love" in the Greek text of the Christian scriptures. Philos is the love of family and friends. Eros is romantic, erotic, sexual, intimate love. Agape is the all-encompassing love. When we stand on the side of love we stand in agape, as agape is the idea behind universalism itself - that no one needs to be special or perfect to be loved and all deserve love and respect.

During the month of February we will explore the theme of love, we will explore philos by looking at what we mean when we say "love is the spirit of this church." If love is the spirit of this church, how do we show that love to each other and the world around us? We will talk about eros and why human sexuality and science-based human sexuality education needs to be part of the

religious education offerings for children, youth, and adults in a Welcoming Congregation. We will talk about agape and how to be loving towards those who are difficult to love, be they family and friends, co-workers, or those who see the world in vastly different political, cultural, and religious lenses than we do. We will also have a little fun with love and celebrate a chocolate communion on Feb. 14.

I look forward to this month of exploring love and its expressions with you. See you in church.

with love,

Rev. Tony

February Worship at Hopedale Unitarian Parish

Feb. 7 - Guest Minister

Feb. 14 - "Love is the Spirit of this Church"

Rev. Tony Lorenzen reflects on what love looks like lived out in community. What do we mean when we say love is the covenant of this church? How do we demonstrate our love and our covenant with each other? We'll also celebrate Chocolate Communion (bring an individually wrapped chocolate to share) and have "Sundae" Sunday (make your own ice cream Sundae bar) at coffee hour following the service.

Feb. 21 - "You Can't Talk About that in Church!"

Rev. Tony Lorenzen shares thoughts about making church a safe place to talk about love and sex and sexuality.

Feb. 28 - "Tough Love" - Rev. Tony shares thoughts about how we handle situations where loving someone is difficult. Those who need love most sometimes seem to deserve it least...what we can do when someone is difficult to love?

Food for Thought Returns



Food for Thought is back! Rev. Tony will begin a monthly Food for Thought gathering at noon on the first Wednesday of each month. We will provide soup and tea and water. Feel free to bring a sandwich or something else to eat. Each month there will be a discussion topic. Our topic for Feb. 3 will be mass incarceration of people of color. RSVP's are not required, but encouraged so we can make sure to have enough food or any other material we have give out for discussion purposes. RSVP by calling the church or emailing Rev. Tony at revtonyuu@gmail.com



We have had a great start to the year in RE. We have been getting back into the classrooms and into the kitchen. In January we explored the varies aspects of Justice and what justice means to us and how we can work together to "be the change you wish to see in the world". We had a mock protest where we wanted things like 'More Dessert', 'No more grown up rules', 'No shooting people', 'Equality for people and animals', and 'Clean drinking water for everyone'. We spent some time talking about the book Stone Soup and what it would take to get a town to work together for a common cause like that, we then rewrote the book talking about all the great things that we bring to our congregation, families, school that help make it better than it would have been on its own.

As we look forward to February we will be exploring the theme of Love and all that it encompasses. What does it mean to love someone or something? What are the different kinds of love? What do we do when it is hard to love someone? What can we do to share our love with others? These are just some of the questions that we will be trying to answer in the next month.

Some important dates to remember:

Jan 31 – COA - 1 – 2:30pm - if you need a ride please be at HUP by 12:30pm

Feb 7 - COA - 1 – 2:30pm - if you need a ride please be at HUP by 12:30pm

Feb 14 – Secret Valentine exchange during coffee hour

Feb 28 – COA - 1 – 2:30pm - if you need a ride please be at HUP by 12:30pm

In the next week I will be sending out a meeting doodle to all RE parents so we can schedule a meeting with all of you , Rev Tony, and myself so we can talk about the future of the RE program here at HUP. Please be on the lookout for this and please try to come to the meeting, the more input we get the better the meeting and therefore the better the RE program will become. In the meantime if you know that weekend, weeknight, or after church meeting times are better for you, please let me know so I can factor that in when I create the doodle. I will also have child care available to make it easier for everyone to attend.

Joyfully yours

Kelly



FLOWERS & USHERS

February 4

Flowers: Given in loving memory of Helen B. and Freeman L. Hammond by her family

Ushers: Tina Mustachio and Alice Jacobson

February 14

Flowers: Given by the Choir in honor of past of present members

Ushers: Peg Theriault and Alice Jacobson

February 21

Flowers: Given by Susie and Rob Biggs in loving memory of their parents, Jean & Woody Biggs

Ushers: Fred Oldfield and Dona Neely

February 28

Flowers: Given by Marjorie Horton in loving memory of her son, James M. Lovejoy and his father, Millard A. Lovejoy

Greeter: Marjorie Horton

Ushers: Steve and Staci Luca

Please contact Marge Horton 508-473-3074 if you would like to give flowers at a service.

Feedback on Good Shepherd Monthly -

At this point you should have all received a letter from Rev. Tony (either via email or US mail) asking for feedback on Good Shepherd Monthly Newsletter. To those who have taken the time to respond - THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT.

If you have not yet had an opportunity to reply, please do so, as your feedback is important as we work to streamline our communications with the congregation. Please feel free to send comments via email at hopedaleunitarian@verizon.net or call us at 508-473-0745. We look forward to hearing from you.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit all items for the March newsletter to Valerie in the church office by **Monday, February 22**



Little Red Wagon Collection:

The Social Action Committee will be collecting items for the Daily Bread Food Pantry **Sunday, February 28**. Donations of non-perishable food, toiletries, or baby items are welcome. Thank you!



Game Night!

Friday, Feb. 26 @ 7 pm

Come play fantasy games such as Magic the Gathering and Dungeons & Dragons. **All are welcome!** Children under 12 must bring an adult with them. Please contact Tony Alves tonyhopedale@gmail.com with any questions.



FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

February 2016

February 4 Host : Kate Correa
Kitchen Support - Chris Grilly

February 14 Host: Alice Jacobson
Kitchen Support - Alice & Tom

February 21 Host: Alice Jacobson
Kitchen Support Alice & Tom Jacobson

February 28 Host: Michele Alves
Kitchen Support - Tony & Michele Alves



WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Upcoming Calendar of Events

February 5 & 6- Book Club discussion of Queer History of the US. Parish Hall @ 10 am, led by Alice Jacobson

February 7 @ noon (following the service)

Welcoming Congregation Workshop - Gender Socialization of Homophobia

Please join us for our next workshop to learn about homophobia, heterosexism and gender socialization as we work on our skills in becoming a welcoming congregation.

ALL are welcome and encouraged to join us for some lunch, learning and discussion of these very relevant topics in our world today. Michele and Tony Alves will lead the workshop. We hope to see you there.



Share the Plate

February's "Share the Plate" recipient is **"Laundry Love"**.

Any non-pledge, undesignated funds collected in the offering for the month of February will go to Laundry Love, a ministry coordinated by Trinity Episcopal Church in Milford that provides free use of a Laundromat to all patrons two evenings a month. For our neighbors that struggle to make it financially, this service saves money that can be used for rent and food and other basic necessities. Follow this link [Laundry Love](#) to find out more about this national organization.

All are welcome join us this month. Dates follow:

Thursday, Feb 4 from 5-9 @ the Double Bubble Laundromat (91 Medway Road, Milford)

Wednesday, Feb 17 from 5-9 @ the EZ Laundromat

16 School St., Milford, MA

Come see this ministry in action!



HOPEDALE UNITARIAN PARISH

Parish Board: Kern Buck, Chair, Judy Oldfield, Kate Correa, Mark Dewolf, Patrick Giles, Tina Mustachio, Maryhelen Hibben

Ministry of:

Finance & Investments: Kathleen Schleper, chair
Tony Alves, Marge Horton, Fred Oldfield, Tina Mustachio, Renee DeWolf

Nominating: Tony Alves, Chair, Rita Earl, Fred Oldfield

Outreach & Engagement: Jody Buck, Chair, Tony Alves, Renee Dewolf, Alice Jacobson, Ben Spear

Partnership: Ann Gary, Chair, Tony Alves, Carol Devendorf

Visiting: Sharyn Johnson, Peg Theriault, Tina Perry

Religious Education: John Martin, Chair, Kate Correa, Renee Dewolf, Rita Earl

Worship: Jody Buck, Karen Gehm, Chris Hunt, Fred Oldfield, Rita Earl, Tina Mustachio

Building & Facilities: Marcia Matthews, Michele Alves, Tony Alves, Randy Carbo

Gardens & Grounds: Marcia Matthews, Michele Alves, Maryhelen Hibben, Chris Grilly, Patrick Giles

Caring Connection: Alice Jacobson, Mona Gross, Laura Aldrich

Music: Carol Devendorf, Glen Flodin, Peg Theriault, Karen Gehm, Maryhelen Hibben

Scholarship: Bill Gannett, Kathy Haynes, Mark Dewolf, Pat Giles

Historical: Fred Oldfield, Janet Grant, Sandy Farrer

Social Action: Becky Chan, Michele Alves, Kathleen Schleper, Dona Neely, Carol Devendorf, Staci Luca

Kitchen/Hospitality: Tony Alves, Tom Jacobson, Michele Alves, Alice Jacobson, Christopher Grilly

Our minister is an ex-officio member of all committees

Alliance (members at large): Marjorie Horton, Betty Flodin, Paula Touhey

Choir: Rob Burke, Glen Flodin, Karen Gehm, Janet Grant, Kirsten McCandless, Judy Michna, Judith Oldfield, Deanna Mustachio, Betty Flodin, Hannah McCandless, Maggie Gehm, Devon Grilly, Robert Gehm, Kathryn Gehm