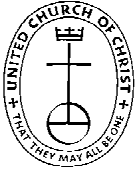


United Congregational Church, UCC  
6 Institute Road  
Worcester, MA 01609



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# UNITED VOICES

A Newsletter of the United Congregational Church, UCC  
6 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609

508-752-3785 [staff@ucc-worcester.org](mailto:staff@ucc-worcester.org) Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

VOLUME XXX  
NUMBER 4

MARCH 10, 2010

## Come and Pray

*“Catch me in my anxious scurrying, Lord, and hold me in this Lenten season: hold my feet to the fire of your grace and make me attentive to my mortality, that I may begin to die now to those things that keep me from living with you and with my neighbors on this earth; to grudges and indifference, to certainties that smother possibilities, to my fascination with false securities... to my arrogant insistence on how it has to be; to my corrosive fear of dying someday which eats away the wonder of living this day, and the adventure of losing my life in order to find it in you... And somehow during this season of sacrifice, enable me to sacrifice time and possessions and securities, to do something... something to turn the water of my words into the wine of will and risk, into the bread of blood and blisters, into the blessedness of deed, of a cross picked up, a savior followed...”*

*excerpts from a prayer for Lent by Ted Loder from his book, Guerillas of Grace (pp. 117, 118).*

This prayer speaks to the heart of each one of us as we attempt to let die those things that keep us apart from God. We pray that they may die so that each one of us will experience Christ rising in us – offering new life and freedom from grudges and indifference; freedom from certainty, arrogant insistence, and false security – so that we might not be afraid to be transformed; and so that we might have the courage to risk everything to transform the lives of others.

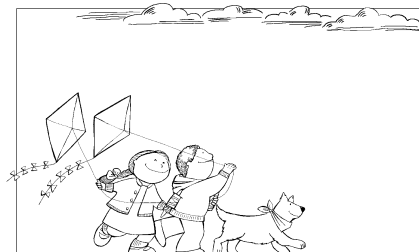
This prayer speaks to us as a congregation in a particular way this Lenten and Easter season. We together have taken steps to let go of certainties and false securities; to let go of our insistence on how it has to be (or how it has always been); to let go of our fear of dying as a congregation in order to find renewed life in and with God. We have, during this season of sacrifice, indeed, given up possessions and securities. Sacrifice is painful, difficult, and an unfamiliar concept in our time and culture. But together, as a people of faith, we have intentionally undertaken this holy action, and, in so doing, believe that the powerful Spirit of God will turn the “water of our words into the wine of will and risk, into the bread of blood and blisters, into the blessedness of a deed, of a cross picked up, a savior followed...”

I invite you to join with me in the sanctuary for whatever length of time you can manage on March 23 or 25 anytime between the hours of 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm. A Scripture passage or reading will be read every half hour. And we will sit in Christ’s presence in silence, praying for one another in this uncertain time, praying for this congregation as it sets forth on a new path of sacrifice and hope.

An Open and Affirming and  
Just Peace Congregation  
of the United Church of Christ

### Please be considerate...

Many of us are involved with projects, ministries and events sponsored by United, and it is tempting to just “ask a simple question” or “say a few words” pertaining to church business to others on Sunday mornings. It has been brought to our attention, however, that some feel interruptions of this nature before and/or during the worship service disrupt the flow of the service and their personal thoughts and prayers. Please be considerate of your fellow worshippers and speak to them at another time.



### PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

**Terry Fitzgerald** is usually at the church Tuesday through Friday. (508-752-3785 ext. 106) She is also available evenings and Saturdays for appointments as needed. Monday is her day off. Her home phone number is 508-753-5867, e-mail: [tfitz47@charter.net](mailto:tfitz47@charter.net).

**If you need to contact the church on Sunday morning**, you may now leave a message on the church answering machine. Follow the instructions contained in the greeting to leave a message. The Sunday Host, Ed Bourgault, will be checking for messages frequently on Sunday mornings.

**Please call the church office directly if you or a loved one is in the hospital.** We recently learned that we are not always informed when a church member is hospitalized. We need you to help us as we try to respond to the needs of our members and friends.

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We together will pray that we do not forget for one minute that God has led on us on this journey and fills us, individually and collectively, with the courage and power that each one of us needs to move forward. We pray that each one of us, and all of us, may trust that, with God's help, we will find exactly where we are called to be.

Come and pray for one another!  
Come and pray for yourselves! Come and pray!

*Terry*

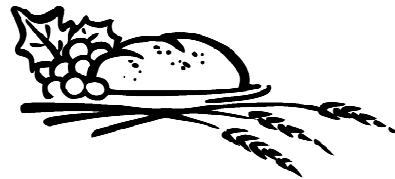


- Prayers of healing for Joan Kielinen, facing more medical tests.
- Prayers of comfort for Virginia, Connie's mother.

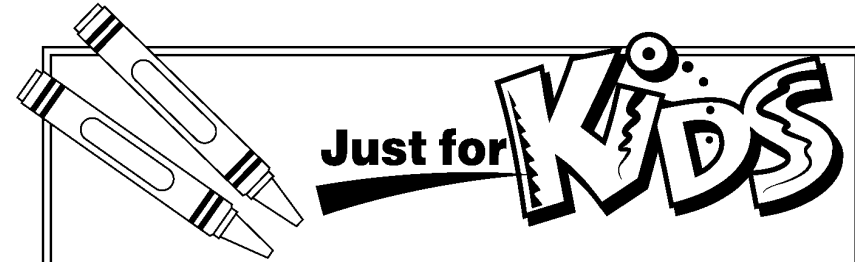
- Prayers of comfort for George Blanchard and his family on the death of Marion, George's sister.
- Prayers of healing for Minerva, friend of Itiel's family.
- Prayers of strength for Kacie's friend, Quinn.
- Prayers of comfort and strength for Curt Berggren on the death of Jeanne.
- Prayers of healing for Stan Porter.
- Prayers of healing for Marian Lord who was hospitalized.
- Prayers of healing for Nancy Schoonover.
- Prayers of continued healing for Susan Matusen.
- Prayers of comfort for those who mourn loved ones killed in inexplicable acts of violence.

- Prayers of strength for those affected by the earthquake in Chile.
- Prayers of continued strength and comfort for all those whose lives have been devastated by the death and destruction in the earthquake in Haiti.
- Prayers of hope and healing for those living with HIV/AIDS.
- Prayers of courage and strength for all men and women who are serving in our Armed Forces, especially in areas of conflict.
- Prayers of courage and peace for the families of soldiers who have died and have been injured.
- Prayers of peace and hope for the people of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, especially in the wake of increased violence.
- Prayers for the people of North and South Korea, the Congo, the Sudan, Iran, Kenya, Tibet, and for the people of the Middle East.
- Prayers of hope for all whose lives have been devastated in our struggling economy.
- Prayers of strength and clarity for this congregation in the midst of the discussions about our future.

### Women's Lenten Communion and Breakfast



All women of the church are invited to a Lenten Service of Holy Communion to be followed by a light breakfast on Friday, March 26 at 9:30 a.m.



## A FAMILY OF PRAYER

The book of Acts tells about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman centurion from Caesarea who worshiped God. Through his encounter with Cornelius, Peter learned that God accepts everyone who fears him and does what is right.

Use the code below to see the example set by Cornelius and his family. Solve the math problems by using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter that matches each answer. Write the letter on the blank.

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

KEY: a=7 e=8 i=10 o=9 u=11 y=6

"H e \_\_\_nd \_\_\_ll h\_\_\_s f\_\_\_m\_\_\_l\_\_\_  
A+C A+D A+D B+C A+D B+C A+B

w\_\_\_r\_\_\_ d\_\_\_v\_\_\_ \_\_\_t\_\_\_nd  
A+C A+C A+C B+D C+D A+D

G\_\_\_d-f\_\_\_ \_\_\_r\_\_\_ng; h\_\_\_ g\_\_\_v\_\_\_  
B+D A+C A+D B+C A+C A+D A+C

g\_\_\_n\_\_\_r\_\_\_ \_\_\_sl\_\_\_ t\_\_\_ th\_\_\_s\_\_\_ \_\_\_n  
A+C A+C B+D C+D A+B B+D B+D A+C B+C

n\_\_\_d\_\_\_nd pr\_\_\_ \_\_\_d\_\_\_ t\_\_\_ G\_\_\_d\_\_\_  
A+C A+C A+D A+D A+B A+C B+D B+D

r\_\_\_g\_\_\_l\_\_\_rl\_\_\_." \_\_\_cts 10:2, NIV  
A+C C+D A+D A+B A+D

Answers:  
"He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2, NIV