

**WELCOME TO MEMORIAL
UNITED CHURCH
February 26, 2023
First Sunday of Lent**

Upcoming dates

* please stand as able

Prelude		
Welcome		
Lighting of Christ Candle	MaryLou & Errol MacLure	
Life & Work of the Community		
*Hymn Come and Find the Quiet Center		374VU
Call to Worship		
Lenten Prayer Litany		
Introit Lord Prepare me to be a Sanctuary (2x)		18MV
Minute for Mission	Minnie Carver	
*Hymn This is God's Wondrous World		296VU
Scripture Readings	Wendy Siebrands	
	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	
	Psalm 32	
	Matthew 4:1-11	
Sermon	"The Voices We Listen to"	
*Hymn	Jesus, Tempted in the Desert	115VU
Offering		
Anthem		
Offertory Prayer		
Prayer of the People & Lord's Prayer		
*Hymn	Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah	651VU
Commissioning and Benediction		
*Sending Forth	May God's Sheltering Wings	214MV

Feb. 26 - 10:30 - First Sunday in Lent - Debbie Aitken
 March 1st - Wednesday - 10:00 - 11:00 - Lenten Study Group -
 "SEEKING: Honest questions for Deeper Faith"
 March 5 - 10:30 - 2nd Sunday in Lent - Debbie Aitken
 March 8th - Wednesday - 10:00 - 11:00 - Lenten Study Group -
 "SEEKING: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith"
 March 12- 3rd Sunday in Lent - Debbie Aitken
 - Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following
 worship
 March 15 - Wednesday - 10:00 - 11:00 - Lenten Study Group -
 "SEEKING: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith"
 March 19 - 10:30 Worship - 10:30 - 4th Sunday in Lent - Mark Tiller

Today's bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of mother and grandmother, Marion White, by Junior, Donna, Marci, Mindy and families.

LENTEN STUDY GROUP - The Lenten scripture readings for this year offer us many stories of Jesus encountering people who are SEEKING: Nicodemus comes to him in the night, a Samaritan woman at a well, he heals a man born without sight... Each person is seeking a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. These stories invite us to engage in the spiritual practice of seeking as we explore questions that invite us to be curious, open and nimble. All are welcome. Coffee will be served!

Please remember the Breakfast program. They require;
 Juice boxes - Orange or apple
 Granola bars - plain or cinnamon
 Jam
 Cheese Whiz
 Pancake mix

We have returned to collecting our offerings in the traditional manner. Please keep your offering until it is collected during the choir anthem.

Montague Food Bank Items need on a regular basis: canned meats and fish, soup, cereal, side and main dishes, pasta sauce, canned fruit and vegetables, crackers, condiments, unscented toiletries and pet food, feminine hygiene products, monetary donations to purchase fresh food.

PAR, or Pre-Authorized Remittance, is a direct debit program that allows people to support their church through an automatic monthly withdrawal from their bank account. Contact Maureen MacLeod if you are interested in contributing to our church through our PAR. Sure makes giving easier!

At the Start

Is this the fast I choose?
Will I wake with the sun each morning?
Will I start with thank you?
Will I peel back the cage around my frame to let you in or will I get too busy? Will my bible collect dust on the shelf along with my journal, along with my sense of self, or will I roll back the stone and wade in?

Every new season beckons something of us -
attention, beauty, the chance to create.
This season is no different.
So, like moths to the light, will we find our way toward God, or will we hover, circling fake suns?

I am seeking something deeper.
I am kicking off my shoes.
I am starting this season on holy ground.

*Poem by
The Rev. Sarah Speed.*

*Worship words for this day are adapted from Words for Worship
written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed, as part of Lenten Resources for A
Sanctified Art LLC.*

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First Sunday of Lent

www.memorialunitedchurch.com

E-mail: office@memorialunitedchurch.com

Church Office: 902-962-2421

Office Hours: Wed. & Fri., 9am-12pm

Minister: Rev. Debbie Aitken

Office Manager: Mark Tiller Music Director: *Karen Burhoe*

