



The Lenten Season

FAT TUESDAY

Mardi Gras, or **Fat Tuesday** as it's also known, is the Christian feasting period before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Let us be the thrower of beads, ribbons, bling-bling face masks - any colorful "throws" as our symbol of extravagant feasting!



Come to the courtyard outside the Center Street entrance (by the Rutland Library) on Tuesday, February 16th, anytime with your colorful hanging offerings and throw them on the tree. See below for a photo of the small tree just awaiting your creativity! Check out upcoming Grace Good News for a before and after picture. Let's indulge ourselves IN THE SPIRIT OF Fat Tuesday!!!

Now!



Fat Tuesday?



Grace Church's ministry, Learning with Grace, has reached out to the faith community once again to create devotional readings for the Lenten Journey. **"Stir Up Good Trouble"** is the theme. In pastoral partnership, the fully-scripted liturgy series provided by Dr. Marcia McFee, creator of worshipdesignstudio.com, will be used to support this theme. Our worship theme from Ash Wednesday (February 17) to Easter (April 4) will be:

Stir Up Good Trouble!
Entering the Passion of Jesus:
Picturing Ourselves in the Story

Here is Dr. McFee's introduction to this series:

The events of Christ's Passion, which take place during the last week of Jesus' life, often don't receive enough time in our worship and study. These stories are important to our faith journey and our identity as followers of Jesus. And yet we often move too quickly from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday with little time to take in the dramatic story of that last week. Throughout the six weeks of Lent we will "freeze-frame" moments in Holy Week so we might put ourselves in the picture, thereby "Entering the Passion of Jesus." How might taking a closer look at the ancient story open us to deeper conviction for our role in its ongoing message?

This series is inspired by Amy-Jill Levine's book by the same name.

See Page 3 for more about our Lenten worship journey.

Learning with Grace invites you to "Stir up Good Trouble" for Lent 2021!

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17. The Learning with Grace Committee is collecting your reflections on stirring up "good trouble" for our 2nd Lenten Daily Devotional Booklet. Here is what the UCC says about the theme for Lent this year: *The late Representative John Lewis of Georgia talked about stirring up "good trouble" that leads to justice. Jesus stirs up a lot of good trouble in the Lenten Gospels.*

YOU are invited to submit your reflection on Stirring up Good Trouble, however that theme has touched your life and however you would like to share it (prose, poetry, artwork).

Your reflection must fit on a 4 ½ by 8 ½ space (half a sheet of paper), may include scripture (but not required), and **MUST** be received in the church office by Friday, February 12.

You may email to kit@gracechurchvt.org, eepgreen@hotmail.com, or mail to Grace Church.

If you would also like to read/show your reflection for a midweek or Sunday recording for Lent, please contact the Church Office at 775.4301. *Thank you for contributing to this Lenten Devotional Booklet. Your story is part of Grace's story! And even during a pandemic, our Lenten journey is a shared one!*



A Word from Our Pastor ...

Amy-Jill Levine is one of my “go-to” biblical scholars. Her book, *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginners Guide to Holy Week*, will be one of my main sources in preparation for reflection/sermons throughout our Lenten Journey. I invite you to check out this book and let us walk together to “Stir Up Good Trouble; Entering the Passion of Jesus: Picturing Ourselves in the Story.”

February 17—Ash Wednesday (taped only)

Preparing the Canvas

Scripture – Psalm 51: 10-12

See the folded insert in this STAR for an interactive bulletin for our Ash Wednesday service, available online Feb. 17. We will also have a joint Ash Wednesday outdoor service in partnership with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Rutland United Methodist Church. Details to follow.

February 21—First Sunday in Lent

The Parade: Risking Reputation

Scripture - Mathew 21: 7-9

February 28—Second Sunday in Lent

The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger

Scripture – Mark 11: 15-17

March 7—Third Sunday in Lent

The Teaching: Risking Challenge

Scripture – Matthew 22: 18-21

March 14—Fourth Sunday in Lent

The First Dinner: Risking Rejection

Scripture – Mark 14: 3-7

March 21—Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends

Scripture – John 13: 12-16

March 28—Palm Sunday

The Garden: Risking Temptation

Scripture – Mark 14: 32-36

April 1—Maundy Thursday – (taped only)

First Dinner Service: In Remembrance of ‘Her’
Gratitude for those who care for our community.

April 2—Good Friday

Last Supper Service: In Remembrance of Me

An outdoors “stational service” through the whole of the six scenarios we have visited during the six weeks of Lent: The Parade, The Temple, The Teachings, The First Supper, The Last Supper, and The Garden. Then we will move to The Cross to reside there, taking in the sorrows of this moment, our own sorrow, and the sorrows of the world.

April 4—Easter Sunday

The Easter Season begins with a series titled, “Heart of the Matter.” The title for Easter Sunday is “Love is MY Religion.” Plans are being made for a Sunrise Service at the farm of Mary Ashcroft. We are also exploring a range of options for our 10 AM service. Stay tuned!

Our journey as disciples is ongoing. That fact is comforting to me! God is still speaking and expects us to listen and respond. Let us hear anew from God to receive the joy and responsibilities of discipleship.

Pastor Alberta

Children and Youth

There will be a virtual Valentine card crafting time on **Wed, Feb. 3 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom**. The cards that are made will be given to our older folks in our community. Watch for the ZOOM link included in the Grace Good News email sent out the week before.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD.

Shetland Night

AND BAKED POTATO TAKE-OUT

FEBRUARY 14, 2021



This year, Shetland Night will be online!

Pick up your pre-ordered baked potato dinner from Grace Church between 5 and 5:30 pm. At 6:30 pm log onto ZOOM for an interactive presentation on the cultures and traditions of Shetland. You will even have the chance to try Shetland dancing from the comfort of your own living room! Baked potato dinner (potato and toppings) is \$5.00 - please pre-order dinner tickets from the church office.

Shetland Night: February 14 at 6:30 PM

Baked Potato Take-out (5-5:30 p.m.) and Virtual Shetland Night (6:30 p.m.) Enjoy a baked potato dinner take-out (tickets in advance from the church office - \$5 each) then sit back and enjoy a virtual tour of Shetland given by Alastair Stout via Zoom. Included will be videos demonstrating traditional Shetland dances! **Order tickets by February 10 please.**

Online Benefit Concert: Feb. 28, 4 PM

Grace Church musicians and friends will offer a virtual concert in aid of a local charity. The video premieres 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoon.

February Music for Sunday Worship

Feb. 7: Kristin Cimonetti

Feb. 14: John Kirk and Trish Miller

Feb. 21: Handbells

Feb 28: Grace Church Trio

News from the Pews

Congratulations! Kelsey Gale Sheehe, daughter of Monika and John Sheehe, a freshman majoring in applied mathematics and statistics, was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester at Clarkson University. Go Kelsey!

With thanks ... During the holiday season, the Visitation Ministry asked members to send cards to those who are living along during the pandemic. We had a wonderful response, and many warm greetings were exchanged. **Faye Moulton** and **Ruth Jones** called the office to express their deep appreciation. We are all grateful for the spirit of fellowship which thrives at Grace.

ON-GOING WEEKLY EVENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC PAUSE

SUNDAY

10:00 am Facebook Live Sanctuary service
11:30 am and 10:30 pm—PEGTV (1075) services

MONDAY

8:00 am AA
5:30 pm AA
6:30 pm Bells rehearsal

TUESDAY

12:00 pm Staff Meeting
7:00 pm AA Men's Group

WEDNESDAY

8:00 am Prayer Group
8:00 am AA
9:30 am Bible Study teleconference call

THURSDAY

7:00 pm AA Men's Group

FRIDAY

8:00 am AA

SATURDAY

7:00 pm AA Men's Group

FEBRUARY EVENTS & MEETINGS

Wed, Feb. 3, 9:30 AM—Bible Study (via phone)

Thurs, Feb. 4, 6:00 PM—Diaconate (zoom)

Wed, Feb. 10, 9:30 AM—Bible Study (via phone)

Sun. Feb. 14, 11:30 AM—Annual Finance Meeting
5:00 PM—Shetland Night Baked Potato pick up begins (video tour to follow at 6:30 PM)

Mon, Feb. 15 - Church Office closed

Wed, Feb. 17, 9:30 AM—Bible Study (via phone)
Ash Wednesday services

Wed, Feb. 24, 9:30 AM—Bible Study (via phone)

Thurs, Feb. 25, 6:00 PM—Church Council (zoom)

Sunday, Feb. 28, 4:00 PM—Online Benefit Concert



NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Immaculate Heart of Mary School (*IHM School*), across West Street from Grace Church, has been vacant and unused since 2018. Now, it is going to be reinvented as Lincoln Place, owned and operated by the *Housing Trust of Rutland County* and converted into 19 *affordable* residential apartments for individuals including those experiencing chronic homelessness. The Housing Trust is partnering with Rutland Mental Health and the Homeless Prevention Center to offer onsite services to renters, and the Rutland Housing Authority will be providing subsidies on all of the apartments.

Our own *Elisabeth Kulas* has been the Executive Director of the Housing Trust for 27 years, and has led this effort. Elisabeth retired from her post at the end of 2020, handing this exciting project off to her strong team. She is looking forward to writing her next chapter. We look forward with anticipation to our new neighbors, and wish Elisabeth all the best.



Red Cross Blood Drive at Trinity Church
85 West St: Friday, Feb. 5, noon—5 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: TRINITY to schedule an appointment.

All donors receive a \$5.00 Amazon gift card via email.

Grace Church in the Wider Community

WHITE GIFTS TO THE MANGER—SUCH GENEROSITY!

The Mission and Service and the Children and Youth Committees would like to thank everyone who dropped off traditional White Gifts for distribution to our Rutland Community. We unwrapped two large garbage bags full of donations this year. We contacted the directors of several of our regular charities, heard about their specific needs, and tailored the donations towards exactly what would be helpful. Grace Church was caring for the basic needs of others during the Christmas Season - thank you for your help!

The **Rutland Dismas House** gratefully accepted men's clothing and toiletry items. We provided new items for those recently discharged from incarceration and looking for a fresh start.

The **Easter Seals** organization downtown was able to make use of the donations geared towards younger children. This group hosts supervised Foster Care child visits in our area. Due to COVID, they needed to clear out their communal waiting room toys and supplies. The donations that Grace has provided will be given as a small gift to each child - so that they can play with the item during the visit and then take it with them, eliminating the risk of cross-contamination.

The **Rutland Boys and Girls Club** received donation of games, art supplies, and books targeted towards ages 6-12 to use in their after-school programming.

The **NewStory Center** welcomed socks, women's clothing, and toiletries aimed at women and families looking to escape the cycle of abuse.

VERMONT PRIDE THEATER OFFERS *RAGGEDY AND*



Vermont Pride Theater will present a benefit ZOOM'ed reading of David Valdes' timely play *Raggedy And* on Saturday, February 6th at 7:30 p.m., followed by a live talkback. The play will also be available on demand thru February 13th. In *Raggedy And*, a US president-elect invites an unknown poet to read at her inauguration. This throws the poet's family into a clash of both convictions and wit, when the "... LGBTQ characters tango over minority labels, gender politics, and the limits of privacy."

Director Joanne Greenberg plus playwright Valdes and the 4-person cast, all LGBTQ and/or Latinx, will participate in the live talkback, moderated by former gubernatorial candidate Christine Hallquist.

This is just the latest pride-theater event which the VT Conference UCC sponsors, to build bridges between Vermont's gay and straight communities. Proceeds of the benefit will go to GLAD's transgender projects, helping trans people young and old to challenge discrimination and obtain their rights. Tickets are \$12, for however many people you can fit around your viewing device. These are available at www.chandler-arts.org or 802.728.9878.

From the Finance Committee: Annual Finance Meeting

It's time for the Annual Financial Meeting... but things will be a little different this year. Living in the time of COVID means that in-person meetings are not safe right now - so this year's Annual Financial Meeting will be held via Zoom, on **Sunday, February 14, at 11:30 AM**. There will also be a Zoom Training Session on Sunday February 7th, one week before the Financial Annual Meeting; we will go over how to Zoom whether you are using a laptop, an iPad, a phone, Apple or Android, Mac or Windows. Please contact Beth (beth@gracechurchvt.org) for the Zoom links and instructions.

We have some ground rules for the meeting, to make it easier for everyone:

- ◆ Please join the meeting (whether by phone or video) **15 minutes early**; this will allow time to for the Clerk to take a rollcall, set up names for any phone numbers, and make sure we have a quorum.
- ◆ Please make sure to keep your mic and/or phone muted unless you have been recognized by the Moderator; background noises are very distracting to everyone and make it hard to follow the conversation.
- ◆ Please only use the Chat Function to ask a question, make a motion, or to be recognized by the Moderator.
- ◆ For the optimum experience with Zoom, please make sure you are using the strongest network in your home; directly wired would be best, but close to your router if you are working wirelessly.
- ◆ If you have any questions going into the meeting, please submit them in advance, by email, to our Financial Secretary Beth Wolven: beth@gracechurchvt.org. We will also take questions during the meeting, as always, but we believe the process will go more smoothly if we can answer some of your questions during the presentation or in advance of the meeting.
- ◆ Hard copies of the Annual Financial Report will be available beginning Sunday January 31st; you will find them on a table in-between the doors of the West St. covered entrance (where we received the White Gifts for Christmas). The report will also be posted to the church website in .pdf formatting, so that it can be downloaded and/or printed at home.





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Grace Church Memorials Sanctuary and Chapel Flower Memorials



Until Grace Church resumes in-person worship,
a beautiful silk flower arrangement will grace the altar in the
Sanctuary. This arrangement is given in memory of
Ted Mandeville by his loving wife Pat.

The Church Spire will be illuminated

February 7 to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my
mother, **Kathleen Stone**, by Cheryl Smith.

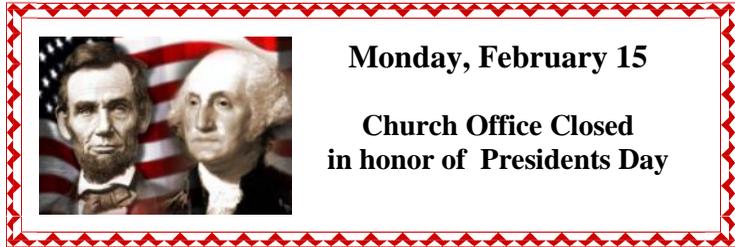
February 14 to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Walter S. Reuling by Marjorie Reuling.

February 21 to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Natalie McLeod by her children,
Sharon, Sandy, Dianne and families.

February 28 to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Ruth and Ira Glover and
Robert Walker Glover by Ruth Jones.

***If you would like to have the Church Spire lit in
celebration or in the memory of a loved one please contact the
Church Office (775.4301). The cost for this is \$20.

Please consider adding **\$5.00** to your next
Grace Church donation to cover the annual
cost of your subscription to the STAR. If you
would prefer to receive a digital version,
contact Kit Wallace (kit@gracechurchvt.org).



Monday, February 15

**Church Office Closed
in honor of Presidents Day**