

EPISTLE

February, 2019



Photo courtesy: Sunday School

Bradford Congregational Church – UCC
An Open & Affirming Congregation!
Bradford, VT (802) 222-4034

Our website: <http://bradforducc.org>
email us at: bradfordvtucc@gmail.com
see us on Facebook: **Bradford Congregational Church**

Pastor Jeff is away until the weekend of Feb. 10th due to a family emergency. Please keep him and his family in your prayers in this difficult time.

February is most often the month when the Lenten period begins. 2019 is one of the years when it starts in March, giving us a bit of breathing room, liturgically speaking.

In the past our church has hosted or scheduled or presented Lenten programs, Bible Studies, and events. Are there any you recall and would like us to repeat when **Lent begins on March 6th**? Some things we've done in the past include a Fat Tuesday pancake supper, a Good Friday prayer vigil, and a Passover Seder. Do you recall something you liked, perhaps at another church? If you do, please contact Pastor Jeff or the Diaconate at the email address listed above.

February is the month we as a church distribute the **Sunshine Bags** into the community to those who have suffered a loss, those who have been in poor health, those who are economically distressed, and those elder members who have been a

vital and active member of the church. The Diaconate assembles and distributes these, usually the Sunday nearest Valentines Day.

A wonderful mission of the Sunday School in recent years has been to make Valentine's cards to include in the bags! (In other years, Ginny Moore's elementary school class has also made absolutely lovely and loving cards!) This year the bags will be dedicated on **Sunday, Feb. 10** and distributed that afternoon. If you can help deliver one or more of the bags, please come forward after worship on the 10th and speak to Kathy Munson (or contact her ahead of time to volunteer).



Many folks in the pews on Sunday morning have been, or are related to those who have been Deacons and therefore know the purpose of the Deacon's Fund. For those who are new, yet notice that the little envelopes for this purpose are now placed in the pew-back racks for use anytime, every penny you donate goes to local emergency relief. If you know of someone in need, please do not hesitate to **alert a Deacon or our Care Coordinator Carole Taylor.**

How much and to whom we offer this

support is held in the strictest confidence and the name of the recipient is never recorded in Diaconate minutes.

Use of the sanctuary: just as a general rule, any use of the sanctuary is to be arranged with Pastor Jeff first. This is simply traditional protocol so that he always knows for what purpose the worship center is being used and when. He will work with the Trustees on the scheduling. So, if you have a wedding or funeral or concert or speaker requiring the sanctuary, contact Pastor Jeff.

Although we seem to ricochet between rain and snow on a weekly basis, we trust you are all noticing the ever lengthening daylight hours, and ever shortening

noontime shadows. Your houseplants are noticing, and slowly requiring a bit more water! Please take note of morning and afternoon school bus stops. When the snow piles are mountainous we need to keep a sharp eye out for a child who might not be watchful and cautious.

Please take a look at the Lectionary selections listed for this month. You'll never regret forming the habit of daily scripture readings!

The Deacons are in contact with our new Conference Associate Minister to arrange a Sunday when he will come preach in worship and join with us after, hopefully over a relaxed all-family lunch. Keep watching your Weekly email and Epistle for updates.

Blessings to you all, from your Board of Deacons.



Community Supper February 28th

**Reminder: The Community Suppers are the
4th THURSDAY of each month**

We have made this change back to the original schedule of years ago in order for our own Pastor Jeff to join us! The sign for the supper will be placed out front several days ahead as a reminder to everyone.



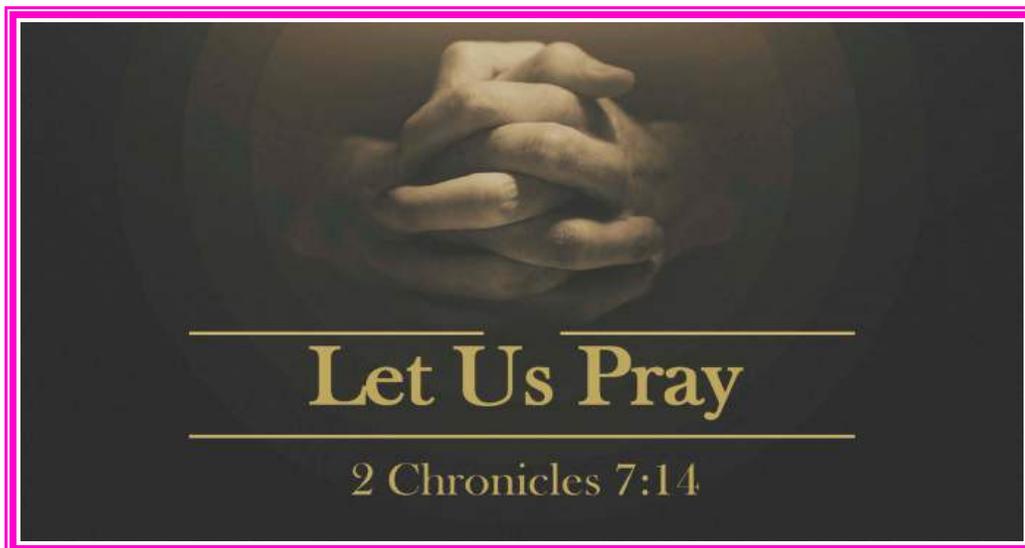
Always plenty for everyone at Community Supper

Prayer requests may be emailed to
[our prayer group](#) or [here](#)



It is our privilege to pray for you and those you care about.

**We pray for each other,
without ceasing
and your prayer requests
are held in strict confidence.**



Lectionary Readings FEBRUARY (Year C)



February 3

Jeremiah 1:4-10 (“Fear not ... I am With You”)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (the many meanings of Love)

Luke 4:21-30 (admiration turns to rejection)

Psalm 71:1-6

theme hymn: [Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak](#)

February 10

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13) (“Here am I; send me!”)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (Christ died for our sins)

Luke 5:1-11 (you will be fishers of men)

Psalm 138

theme hymn: [Here I Am, Lord](#)

February 17

Jeremiah 17:5-10 (trust in the Lord, not earthly institutions)

1 Corinthians 15:12-20 (Christ HAS been raised from the dead)

Luke 6:17-26 (blessings ... and woes)

Psalm 1

theme hymn: *O for a World*

February 24

Genesis 45: 3-11,15 (God works for life in the midst of leanness)

1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50 (we SHALL be changed)

Luke 6:27-38 (retaliation: NO! Love and service: YES!)

Psalm 37:1-11,39-40

theme hymn: *Take My Life*

March 3: Transfiguration

Exodus 34:29-35 (Moses' radiance is due to being in God's presence)

2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2 (the Holy Spirit frees us to turn towards God)

Luke 9:28-36 (Jesus is transfigured. "This is my son ...")

Psalm 99

theme hymn: *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine*

SEASON of LENT

March 6 - Ash Wednesday

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17 (turn back with all your heart)

2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6:10 (accept God's offered reconciliation)

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21 (you devote energy to what you truly value)

Psalm 51: 1-17 (create in me a clean heart)

theme hymn: *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

Through the Bible in 35 weeks:
another way to read through the Bible

CREATION STORIES

Week 1 Genesis 1-4, 6-9

Week 2 Genesis 11-12, 15-19

PATRIARCHS & MATRIARCHS

Week 3 Gen 21-22, 24, 27-28, 32-33

IN & OUT OF EGYPT

Week 4 Genesis 37-41, 45, 49-50

Week 5 Exodus 1-3, 10-12, 14, 16

THE LAW

Week 6 Exodus 19-20, 24, 32-33, 40

DESERT JOURNEY

Week 7 Leviticus 16, 25-26
Numbers 11, 14, 22, 27

PROMISED LAND

Week 8 Deuteronomy 4,6,8,29,34
Joshua 1-3

NEW NATION

Week 9 Joshua 5-7,10,23-24

Week 10 Judges 4,6-7,16
Ruth 1
1 Samuel 3

MONARCHY

Week 11 1 Samuel 8-10,16
Psalm 23
1 Samuel 17-18,
Psalm 19

Week 12 1 Samuel 20,30-31
Psalm 27
2 Samuel 5-6
1 Chronicles 17

Week 13 Psalm 103
2 Samuel 11-12
Psalm 51,139
1 Kings 2-3

Week 14 1 Kings 8,11
Psalm 84
Proverbs 4,10,31
Ecclesiastes 3

NORTHERN KINGDOM

Week 15 Song of Solomon 1-2
1 Kings 17-18
2 Kings 5
Joel 2
Amos 4

Week 16 Jonah 1-4
Hosea 1,3,11

SOUTHERN KINGDOM

Week 17 2 Kings 17
Micah 6
2 Chronicles 30
Isaiah 6-7,9,11

Week 18 2 Chronicles 32
Nahum 1
Isaiah 25
Zephaniah 3
2 Kings 22-23,25

Week 19 Jeremiah 2,15,29,31,38
Habakkuk 1
Lamentations 3

EXILE

Week 20 Obadiah
Ezekiel 1-4,37
Zechariah 8

Week 21 Daniel 1,3,5,6
Ezra 3
Haggai 1
Nehemiah 2,8

Week 22 Esther 1-8

CRIES

Week 23 Malachi 3
Job 1-2, 29-30,38,42

COMING SALVATION

Week 24 Isaiah 40,42-43,52-53,55

DIFFERENT MESSIAH

Week 25 Luke 1-2
Mark 1-2
John 3
Mark 3-5

Week 26 Matthew 5-6,13
Mark 6
Luke 12,15-16,18

Week 27 John 6
Mark 7-10
Matthew 18
John 10
Luke 10

END & BEGINNING

Week 28 Mark 11-14
John 14-17

Week 29 Matthew 26-27
Mark 1
Matthew 28
John 20
Luke 24
Acts 1-2

GOSPEL

Week 30 Acts 5,9-10
Galatians 3
Acts 16
Philippians 2
Acts 17

Week 31 1 Thessalonians 3-4
2 Thessalonians 2
1 Corinthians 13,15
2 Corinthians 4,12

PAUL

Week 32 Romans 3,7-8,12
Acts 26-28

Week 33 Ephesians 2-3
Colossians 1
Philemon
Titus 2
1 Timothy 1
2 Timothy 2

FINAL LETTERS & NEW EDEN

Week 34 Hebrews 2,11-12
James 1
1 Peter 1
2 Peters 1
Jude

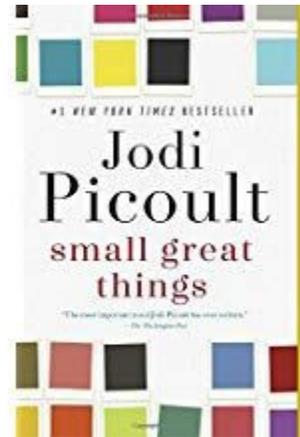
Week 35 1 John 3
2 John
3 John
Revelation 1,5,21-22

Print off these two pages and place in your Bible ... you can check them off as you go. These are more of a travel through the Bible from start to finish.

The lectionary, on the other hand, is a 3-year journey through the Bible, with the Gospel books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John respectively as the focal point. Each week the Gospel reading is paired with an Old Testament reading, a Psalm and a New Testament letter.

Board of Mission & Social Action

The next BMSA book group will be on March 10th. Once again it will be a pot luck brunch and discussion of the book **SMALL GREAT THINGS** by Jodi Picoult. The books are all nout being read but you can arrange for a copy through your local library. Please let Ginny or Holly know if you if you will be joining the brunch!
Thanks so much



From the VT Conference Office

Dear Conference,

Thank you all for your warm welcome so far, as I continue to meet people from across the conference! I would love to get together with you or your clergy group for coffee, lunch, etc., so please reach out to me and let me know. I would also love to come preach at your church, and share a Sunday with your people with a message of encouragement.



You can continue to reach me at sangrepucc@gmail.com.

Another place I would love to see you is our upcoming conference vitality event on Saturday, Feb. 9th from 9AM-4 PM called "How to Reach New People"! The event will be at the First Congregational Church in Springfield, VT, which is at 77 Main St. Paul Nickerson is our leader, and I have known him for many years. In all my time in ministry in the United Church of Christ, I have not found another person who is a better coach and leader in this changing landscape of ministry. He will be talking to us about different ways that your

church can reach people in your community by meeting their needs, as Jesus did. I promise you that it will be a day that will have an impact on your church's future.

Now this is really important. Your church should bring a team of your pastor (or pastors) and at least 3 lay people. Paul asks you to do this because he knows that helping your church think differently about reaching new people requires a group of both clergy and lay leaders. The cost will be \$100 for your church team, however many there are, and everyone should bring a bag lunch. Please register with the Vermont conference office. I look forward to seeing you there!

Joyfully yours,
Paul

This Epistle is a monthly publication of the Bradford Congregational Church. It is uploaded just before the 1st of each month. Anyone wishing to receive the email notification of it may request it by emailing the church email below.

Some helpful links:

- our website is <http://bradforducc.org/>
- our church's email is bradfordvtucc@gmail.com
- Click on [EPISTLE](#) to read back issue of this newsletter
- our Sunday School, Music and Missions are at [Programs](#)
- Past Sermons can be accessed at [News & Sermons](#).
- our congregation's activities are listed on our [online calendar](#)
- our Facebook page link is [Bradford Congregational Church](#)