

Dear Church Family, for the week of March 1<sup>st</sup>

### First Sunday of Lent

Sunday morning worship is at 10:00 a.m.

**Pastor Jeff** tells us: It is tradition that the first Sunday of Lent folks deal with the temptations of Christ. This year, we have been given the narrative found in Matthew 4:1-11.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

At first blush it may appear that the temptations Jesus faced have little in common with the temptations awaiting us. I suppose that is true in a literal sense, but these temptations point to three areas that we share with Jesus. The first is elemental. We all have to eat, and while I cannot make stones into bread, I can forfeit my calling to follow God's will if by so doing it would make life's struggles easier. The second is spiritual and one that we face regularly. How often has church tempted God? It is easy to see ourselves aligned with God's purpose and to forget that God's ways are not our ways. The final temptation is one that we, too, have known. The evil we perceive in the world needs to be overcome by the goodness of God and we often think that if we could just bring our brand of justice to bear, harmony would descend. We place our vision and agenda above the vision and agenda of God.

So, what may appear arcane is germane and when we meet on Sunday we will attempt to unfold how one might overcome temptation.

Organist **John Atwood** tells us: This week marks the beginning of Lent with music strongly contrasted to last week's bright and loud postlude! The piano music for the Gathering was composed by Franz Liszt based on (Ave Maria) by Jacob Arcadelt later to be sung by the choir. The offertory and postlude are chorale preludes respectively by J. S. Bach and Johann Schneider based on the hymn, "Our Father in Heaven" by Martin Luther (1538).

Gathering Music: "Ave Maria" (Hear my Prayer, O God)	arr. for piano by Franz Liszt
Prelude: Ricercare in F-sharp minor	Johann Pachebel
Offertory: "Our Father in Heaven"	J. S. Bach
Postlude: "Our Father in Heaven"	Johann Schneider
Introit: "Again We Keep This Solemn Fast"	NCH #187
Anthem: "Hear my prayer, O God"	Jacob Arcadelt
Hymns: "Forty Days and Forty Nights"	NCH #205

"Just as I am"

NCH #207

**Lectionary readings** for this coming week: (Year A) March 1-7  
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 (when humans begin to focus on themselves)  
Romans 5:12-19 (in Christ we are set free)  
Matthew 4:1-11 (Jesus repudiates temptations)  
Psalm 32

theme hymn: Forty Days and Forty Nights

**Youth Group:** the Youth Group meets every Sunday for Bible Study and discussion after Children's Time. On Communion Sundays, they meet at 9:00, then participate in the whole service. They also get together for a fun activity most months, and this weekend they'll be going to the movies! Contact Patrick Peters with any questions: [ppeters881@gmail.com](mailto:ppeters881@gmail.com)

**Reflection Time** takes place each Sunday at 11:30 a. m. until 12:30 p.m. alongside the coffee hour following church. It is a time to share our reflections about the service that Sunday. It is very informal and open to anyone who wants to discuss the sermon or elements of the service that moved them. The sessions are facilitated by the pastor and is sponsored by the Board of Deacons.

Click **Steinway Fund** to find the funding page for our beautiful Steinway's restoration by Steinway's American headquarters. This grand piano is one of the very few in the United States that was made in Hamburg, Germany.

**Pastoral Concerns:** Pastor Jeff Long-Middleton **978-273-6399**

[pastorjeffucbradford@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjeffucbradford@gmail.com)

**Emergency Assistance:** Care Coordinator Carole Taylor **802-222-4590**

**Pastor Jeff's office hours**

Sunday afternoons and all day Mondays

**978-273-6399** is his recommended number to use at any time; calls to 802-222-4610 are only answered when he is in the parsonage, but you may leave a message

SCHEDULE of LENTEN Services (7pm)  
sponsored by the Inter Church Council

<b>March 1</b>	<b>Pastor Jeff</b>	<b>at Grace United Methodist Church</b>
<b>March 8</b>	<b>Amy Sawtelle</b>	<b>at Piermont Congregational Church</b>
<b>March 13</b>	<b>David Pruitt</b>	<b>at Bradford Congregational Church UCC</b>
<b>March 22</b>	<b>Father Andrew</b>	<b>at West Newbury Congregational Church</b>
<b>March 29</b>	<b>Mal Kircher</b>	<b>at Our Lady of Perpetual Help</b>

The Palm Sunday Choir Festival will be at 6:30 pm

Daylight Savings will be March 8  
**upcoming at Bradford Congregational**

**MARCH** will present us with the One Great Hour of Sharing (**OGHS**) donation opportunity on the 8<sup>th</sup> and an ongoing opportunity to put together Church World Service (**CWS**) school and health kits. See the Mission board's poster in the vestry. Stay tuned!

**MAR 8** at 2pm an (Grafton Orange Sullivan) Association Ecclesiastical Council, Spring Meeting, and worship in our church, followed by refreshments.

**Missions Book Group** selection is Reverend Jim Antal's Climate Church, Climate World: How People of Faith Must Work for Change. To order the soft cover copy at a reduced rate (\$18.50) contact Ginny Moore. Prepayment will be appreciated. [VirginiaMJMoore@gmail.com](mailto:VirginiaMJMoore@gmail.com) or 222-9675

**APR 5** is Palm Sunday and the 6:30pm choir festival planning is underway. Bookmark our website's **Palm Sunday Festival** page to learn more and stay up to date on what's in store for this year's worship in music.

**APR 10 deadline** to register to attend the VT Conference annual meeting in Fairlee April 24-25 at the Lake Morey Resort. Join Bridget Peters as one of our delegates! [register here](#)

**CAMP ...** stay tuned for info on Youth camp at Conference Summer Camp, "UCC at the Lake", at Rock Point Camp in Burlington the week of July 26th-31st. The camp is open to all middlers.

**and ... Around Town:**

**Needed:** at the Bradford Food Shelf: (Please no perishables). Toothpaste and toothbrushes are always in demand. Toilet paper and sanitary products are always in short supply. Coffee, tea, flour, sugar are the most current need.

Do you have a **Senior in your extended family** graduating from high school this year? Does that student have a family connection with a person who attended Bradford Academy, Bradford, VT, prior to 1971. This includes those BA students who went on to Oxbow High. Perhaps this was a grandparent, great aunt etc. If so, that student can apply for one of the BA Alumni Scholarships to be given this spring. Note: this student does not have to live locally and does not have to be going on to a 2-4 year college. We have given scholarships for technical training programs. Deadline is Saturday, May 2. Contact Larry Coffin at [lccoffin@charter.net](mailto:lccoffin@charter.net) for a simple application.

The **Bradford Playgroup** is held every Monday from 9:30-11 a.m. at The Grace United Methodist Church in Bradford. Ages birth to five. Free to the community. Snack and story is provided. Sponsored by The Orange County Parent Child Center. For more information call 685-2264.

The **Bradford Historical Society** is looking to borrow a few vintage kitchen utensils for a display. We would need them for until next December. We are looking for items that are 1950 and before. Let me know if you have items we may borrow. Larry Coffin 802-222-4423 or [lccoffin@charter.net](mailto:lccoffin@charter.net)

**MAR 2** 6:30 pm at Colatina Exit Upstairs Bradford Conservation Commission Presents: "ELON

MUSK - THE REAL-LIFE IRON MAN" Come early if you wish to order food or drink to enjoy with the movie. Donations Welcomed, but totally optional. Discover the meteoric rise of Elon Musk, the man who is transforming the way we think about travel technology through electric cars, the Hyperloop, and revolutionary ideas on how we live through artificial intelligence and colonizing Mars.

**MAR 29** at the BA auditorium, 3pm: "Vermont Women and the Civil War" presentation by 7<sup>th</sup> generation Vermont historian and author Howard Coffin. Free and open to the public. The stories are told in the women's words from letters and diaries. Hear them speak from 1861-1865, these predecessors of Rosie the Riveter! (Sponsored by the Bradford and Topsham Historical Societies)

Links to just some of the other Bradford Congregational Church pages:

<http://bradforducc.org/> is our website

<http://bradforducc.org/category/sermon/> is where you can read past sermons

<http://bradforducc.org/newsletter/> is where you can read our monthly e-magazine: The Epistle

<http://bradforducc.org/calendar-page/wild-game-supper/> is for Game Supper updates

<http://bradforducc.org/adult-christian-education/> is for adult ed series

<http://bradforducc.org/music/> is the start of the Programs: Music section

<http://bradforducc.org/calendar-page/annual-report/> is to access the Annual Report

<http://bradforducc.org/welcome/pastors-welcome-message/> is Pastor Jeff's welcoming message