

# The BEACON



“As a beacon on the top of the mountain and an ensign on a hill.” ~Isaiah 30:17

## SUNDAY SERVICES

- 9:30 Sunday School
- 10:30 Worship Services
- 11:30 Coffee Hour

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## ST. PATRICK’S DAY

The Feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland is traditionally celebrated in the US on March 17. All card aisles in grocery stores are green for a month beforehand; McDonalds serves green shakes, bars serve green beer. Every restaurant serves corned beef and cabbage. From the 1840s on, droves of Irish immigrants came to these shores because of the potato famine, and stayed. Boston is now probably the most Irish city outside of Dublin. So whether you believe in St. Patrick, the saint who chased the snakes out of the emerald isle, or not, on St. Patrick’s Day everybody is Irish! So celebrate and make merry.

**Monday, March 16 is the deadline for the April Beacon.**

## IN THE INTERIM

We enter the season of Lent when for forty days we reflect on Christ, his attributes, others who followed him, and how we measure up. And we take some time to engage in Lenten practices—being silent, listening, praying, meditating, journaling, walking, swimming and going on retreats. We do such things to align ourselves with what we believe.

I know that some of us are not just giving up the traditional bad habits like swearing, consuming chocolates and drinking alcohol; or choosing positive ways such as offering service to non-profits and charities about which we care. Some (millennials and baby boomers) are forsaking carbon fuel by taking public transportation, by limiting hours on cell phones and by eating lower on the scale of replenishable foods. I am encouraged to learn that every generation reinterprets Lenten practice with what they believe Christ would say relates to them.

Recently, before the Oscars, Steve and I saw several films that had been nominated. Much to my surprise and disappointment, many of these films turned out to be harsh, depressing and violent. They did not offer much forgiveness, reconciliation or hope. (Either we live under such negative conditions and these films reflect our times, or it just happens that there is a run of negative and brutal movies. What do you think?)

However, one of the very few exceptions to all this was the gem, *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. Directed by Mariel Heller and acted by Tom Hanks and Matthew Rhys, it tells the story of an *Esquire* writer (Tom Junod, “Can You Say...Hero?”), who is assigned a short, uncomplicated article about famous Mr. Rogers in his hometown of Pitts-

burg -- but who finds that the “job” becomes far more complex and personally demanding than he ever expected. It is clearly a commentary on the way we rush around, think we are really living, but come to realize that we may be running away from what is important, need to slow down, and act on our beliefs.

After all, Mr. Rogers was a spiritual rock star, as he ministered to us at whatever age through his well-known children’s program, *Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood*. He was a believer, and actually practiced his Christian faith. He helped all kinds of people--- children who were somewhat more malleable but also tough adults like the writer. He taught them to express their genuine and sometimes difficult feelings in order to manage them in healthy and productive ways.

By the way, Mr. Rogers did maintain a number of regular spiritual practices, not just during Lent, like listening, speaking truth, praying, photographing people whom he was changed by (and perhaps changed), playing the piano, and swimming laps at a public pool. No wonder he became whom God called him to be, was loving and steadfast, and made a remarkable difference in our world.

According to Sara Stewart of the *New York Post*, the film is “a sort of debate between modern takedown culture and Rogers’ steadfast beliefs.” This perhaps explains why I disliked most of the other take down films that I saw, and why *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* stood out. And not just for Lent but for all days. See it!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Dianne

## INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

This spring the Interim Pastor and Diaconate intend to welcome new members into our congregation. In our reform, congregational and covenantal tradition, this act affirms that the parishioner agrees with our Church Covenant and wishes to join, worship, serve and be identified with this church, which is a part of the larger Body of Christ.

Our Covenant reads: *Bound together as a Christian Church, and depending upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us, we covenant together to work in all our ways, according to the rule of the Gospel, in mutual love and respect to one another, to strive to carry out the teachings of Jesus Christ and to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, and our neighbors as ourselves.*

If you are inclined to join our church, which was founded in 1747 and has been gathered to the present, please speak with Pastor Dianne. Your name will be taken to the following Cabinet meeting for acceptance and a Sunday worship will be set aside to welcome new members. We would enjoy receiving you!

~Pastor Dianne



## MISSION/ OUTREACH

In February your donations to DOLLAR SUNDAY resulted in \$133 including \$77 from the Food Campaign and 14 bags of food for the Hands of Hope Food Pantry. We thank you for your continued support of all of our Mission Board projects.



This month we, at First Church, have the opportunity, along with other churches in the United Church of Christ, to participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing.

Please read the enclosed pamphlet and be reminded that OGHS touches those in need of education; it empowers families; and aids us in providing disaster relief and refugee initiatives. Using the enclosed envelope, please make your donation on March 8 at the Worship service or by mail to the church. Make any check payable to First Congregational Church of Harwich with OGHS on the memo line.

## SEARCH COMMITTEE

Members of the Search Committee are hard at work preparing a congregational questionnaire to be sent to all church members. The results of the questionnaire will help us to update our church profile.

Blessings,  
John Bitzer, Bob Buchanan, Lynn Carver, Mary Ann Janick, Emily Kosoff, Emily Smith

## CABINET REPORT

February 11, 2020 5 pm

**January Cabinet Minutes** were approved.

**Christian Education**-The Spaghetti Supper with Archer the Magician program on Feb. 5th was a success. About 30 attended.

CE requested input from the Cabinet on the Easter Egg Hunt, which will be on Easter Sunday after church.

CE discussed the ongoing vigilance regarding security for our children.

**Deacons** -The private Interment for David Ruggles was officiated on Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> at the South Harwich Cemetery by Pastor Dianne.

The Funeral for police officer, Lee Culver, was officiated on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> at our church by Pastor Dianne.

An Ash Wednesday service will be held on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm and preceded by a soup supper at 6 pm.

Lenten Bible Study, led by Pastor Dianne will be held on Tuesdays in Mar. excepting the 24<sup>th</sup>, in the Parish House.

**Fellowship**-Fellowship is helping the Trustees with the Pancake Breakfast on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Fellowship and Deacons are preparing for the Soup Supper for Ash Wednesday.

Fellowship requested the Parish House kitchen have a thorough professional cleaning.

**Trustees**-The bell tower repair work put on hold temporarily pending permit approvals from the Town.

Following the Special Congregational meeting on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, the Treasurer and Trustees are working on more ideas to address the budget deficit.

**Treasurer** -The Treasurer's Report was approved.

**Interim Pastor** - Pastor Dianne met with a bride who will be married at our church on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

She attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast, sponsored by the Nauset Interfaith Association, at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Orleans.

The Moody Communion ware was rededicated on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, thanks to deacon, Dick Siegel.

She will meet with potential new members on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>.

Betty Trummel, a parishioner, will speak about the A-Z Literacy Project on Mar. 4th from 1-2:30 pm in our Parish House.

**Old Business** -At the Special Congregational Meeting on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, it was unanimously approved to withdraw additional funds towards the budget deficit.

**New Business** -Tom and Bob are working on a new reader friendly Income/Expense report.

From a list of six, three were elected to a new Pastor Parish Relations Comm.: Lynn Carver, MaryAnn Janick and Joyce Noyes.

The Cabinet unanimously voted to approve the renewal of Pastor Dianne's contract for another year, with the provision of two-month notices by either party.

Sincerely,  
Jeep Mashoke,  
Co-Moderator

**PRAYERS**

**Solace & Peace**

Family of Jeannette Hotchkiss

**Healing & Comfort**

Thomas L  
 Nancy's sister Lynn  
 Joanne  
 Edie  
 Sally  
 Richard N  
 Mary R's grandson in Iraq  
 Cousin Salley  
 Ed D  
 Kelly  
 Anne Marie  
 Wayne  
 Grandmother Esther  
 Jack  
 Brian  
 Edie's granddaughter Heidi,  
 Mark Curran  
 Bill  
 Char's son Jonathan  
 Peter  
 Cindy Swick  
 Betty Swick  
 Miles

**Godspeed**

John in Africa

**Joys & Celebrations**

Tom Jahnke appointed Interim Band Director for Harwich all who make children welcome in our church

**Community & World**

stability in our nation, healing after natural disasters, the hungry, the homeless, sick, those suffering from addictions, anxiety and depression, all servicemen and women, first responders, caregivers, missing children, family and friends of victims of White supremacist terrorism and gun violence, and for peace and justice in the U.S. and around the world.

**IN LOVING MEMORY**

**Jeanette Hotchkiss**

September 18, 1919-January 26, 2020

*May she rest in peace  
 and rise in glory.*

**SUNDAY LECTIONARY READINGS**

It is our tradition to use the Lectionary, with designated Hebrew Bible, Psalm, Epistle and New Testament readings, and the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible for our worship services, with exceptions. Listed below are our Sunday Lectionary readings for this month.

Parishioners and liturgists find it useful to read these designated Scripture in advance of our services in order to familiarize themselves with the texts and be more ready to hear our sermons and participate in our worship.

**Sunday, Mar. 1 First Sunday in Lent** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

**Sunday, Mar. 8 Second Sunday in Lent** Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

**Sunday, Mar. 15 Third Sunday in Lent** Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

**Sunday, Mar. 22 Fourth Sunday in Lent** 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41

**Sunday, Mar. 29 Fifth Sunday in Lent** Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

**THANK YOU**

I want to thank everyone for kind words, cards, rides, prayers, healing thoughts and everything else over the last few weeks. Thanks too to Pastor Dianne, her calls and visits were so appreciated. As I said before I am truly blessed. I am getting there, takes a while though! Will see you all soon.

~ With affection, Sally Rossetti

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES IN MARCH**

- 1st Lin Snow
- 5th Barbara Duke
- 6th Edie Ruggles
- 12th Judy Sullivan
- 15th Shirley Mashoke
- 17th Michael Kennedy
- 20th Ed Hanson  
Dorothy Parkhurst
- 21st Dave Damon
- 26th Richard Siegel
- 28th Anne Stewart
- 29th James Mashoke
- 30th Florence Lofberg

**THANK YOU**

Thank you for your love and concern shown to me when my beloved son, David, passed away. It was so unexpected as he had faced many serious health issues and came through with flying colors.

What does a person do, when faced with such tragedies if they don't have Faith, Family and Friends? I am blessed with all three and I still can't get my head wrapped around my loss.

Sincere thanks from my heart and hugs to you all.  
 ~Edie Ruggles

**FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE**

**MARCH**

**Board of Mission/Outreach & Memorial Garden**

What you have to provide: lemon, 2 bricks of cheese and milk when coffee is served. Some folks like to bring baked goods. During all months (except the summer) coffee, tea & crackers are in the kitchen or closet. Remember you can ask anyone to help out.

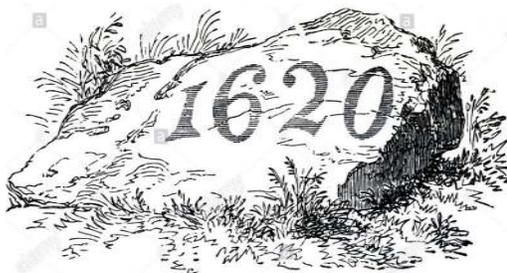
Call Nancy Segall at 508-896-9695.

## HISTORY CORNER 1620

On March 18th at 4 pm – March 19th from 10 am – 4 pm, the Congregational Library at 14 Beacon Street in Boston (across from the State House), will address About 1620: *New Perspectives on the Pilgrim Legacy*. On the 18th at 4 pm, Prof. Francis Bremer keynotes on “*Contested Memories: Reassessing the Cultures that Shaped Early New England*.”

On the 19th at 10 am Prof. John Tirmmer speaks about “*The Pilgrims, Plymouth Colony, and the Meaning of Liberty*,” Prof. Andrew Lipman “*The Other Survivors of Patuxet: Tisquantum, Kinship and the Founding of Plymouth*,” Prof. Adrian Weimar “*Plymouth in the Empire*,” and Prof. David Silverman “*Days of Mourning and Not Joy: Wampanoag Reflections on Plymouth and Colonialism across Four Centuries*.”

Due to a huge registration response, the Library is in the process of changing venues in Boston for these events. If interested, please check their website at Congregational Library & Archives of Boston. Pastor Dianne plans to attend, and understands that the Library & Archives hold materials about First Church. Margaret Bendroth, the executive director there for the past 16 years, will be retiring as Stephen Butler Murray assumes the position.



## OUR HISTORIC CHURCH

### Winslow & James Baker

Two brothers, Winslow and James Baker, were the sons of Eben and Oliver Baker. In the 1860 Census, they lived with their parents. James, 23, was a house carpenter and Winslow, 18, was a painter. Theirs was a family of modest means.

When President Lincoln sent out a call for troops in the spring of 1861, following the firing on Fort Sumter, many answered. In the fall of 1861, James signed on. As a carpenter, he was mustered into the Engineer Corps.

Winslow enlisted in the 43rd Regiment, Company E, and served from 1862 to 1863. In the early spring of 1864, a veteran regiment was formed, the Massachusetts 58th, Company H, which counted a large number of Harwich men. At that point in the war, bounties were being issued, which attracted many, including Winslow. Sidney Brooks, founder and Headmaster of Pine Grove Academy, later called Brooks Academy, was the enrolling officer.

At Poplar Grove Church, south of Petersburg, Virginia, on September 10, 1864 Winslow’s regiment was heavily

engaged. Two soldiers were killed, 10 wounded and 99 captured; among them Winslow. He was transported to Salisbury Prison, North Carolina, considered second only to Andersonville as the more horrific of the Confederate POW prisons.

Needless to say, Winslow died there of starvation, New Year’s Eve 1864, less than four months before the surrender at Appomattox.

Brother James survived the war, but not for long. In April 1865, James and fellow veteran James Robbin, decided to celebrate the fall of Richmond by firing off “Long Tom,” the big cannon which now stands in front of Brooks Academy Museum. They couldn’t get Tom to fire, so one of them fetched an iron poker. There was a spark. Both were killed.

All three young men are buried together in the extreme northwest corner of the First Congregational Church Cemetery; all three with veteran insignias and flags. The inscription on Winslow Baker’s tombstone: *Man’s inhumanity to man thousands mourn.*

~Brenda Collins

## OUR HISTORIC BELL TOWER

The church bell tower has been leaking and jeopardizing our historic organ. The Trustees at the recommendation of Cabinet decided to remove our bell to properly repair the leaking floor. This bell will be placed on the front lawn of the church for all to see. This project should start on March 2nd, weather permitting, and last for a week. Please speak with Trustees Chair, John Bitzer, if you have questions.



Baker Tombstone

**THE DEACONS' DOOR**

*The Deacons' Door . . .  
It's always open!*

DeeDee Dyer  
(508-432-0643)

[adelia.Dyer100@icloud.com](mailto:adelia.Dyer100@icloud.com)

**Avery-Dalzell**

Jane Dalzell  
(508-432-8540)

[jcdalzell@comcast.net](mailto:jcdalzell@comcast.net)

**Damon-Hindle**

Lynn Carver  
(508-717-1989)

[lynncarver49@hotmail.com](mailto:lynncarver49@hotmail.com)

**Hook-Leathers**

Murray Johnson  
(508-430-8433)

[mjohnson@capecod.net](mailto:mjohnson@capecod.net)

**Lofberg-Olsson**

Lynn Bitzer  
508-237-2216)

[capecasey@hotmail.com](mailto:capecasey@hotmail.com)

**Parkhurst-Smith, N.**

Richard Siegel  
(508-430-1997)

[risiegel12@comcast.net](mailto:risiegel12@comcast.net)

**Smith, K.-Wise**

**FLOWER ALLERGIES**

To inform the congregation that since a couple of members have indicated that they are allergic to Easter lilies, and so do not attend the Easter service in our sanctuary, the deacons decided this year to forgo this flower in decorating. They hope that this helps those with this allergy, and are sure that the congregation understands this change.

If there are any questions or other concerns of this nature, please speak to Lynn Bitzer or DeeDee Dyer.

**ALL GOD'S CHILDREN**

Among the blessings that were bestowed upon us in February (Lots of Love, Magic and expanding our knowledge of diverse creation stories), we were honored to host a beginning conversation on Autism. We wish to thank Emily Smith for inviting one of her son's doctors to come and talk with us about this challenging subject.

Dr. Carol Baumgupta is a developmental and behavioral pediatrician with the Tufts Floating Hospital for Children in Boston. Her presentation was an introduction for many of us into the world of Autism. For counselors; local teachers, parents, grandparents and advocates for Autism, it was a time to share challenges as well as joys.

Autism is as varied as each individual. Understandably, the whole family is in need of understanding and moreover, support. The community can help in simple, yet constructive ways. In many instances, a non-judgmental attitude towards a family trying to cope with a child (especially in distress) and educating ourselves better is all that is needed.

We hope to have another conversation in the future to address some basic behavioral and supportive measures that can be helpful. A couple of websites to peruse in the meantime are:

[www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org) and  
[www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)

~Shirley Mashoke

**MEMORIAL  
& LEGACY GIFTS**

Christian stewardship involves the faithful management of all gifts God has given to us including accumulated, inherited, and appreciated resources. Christians can give to the work of the church through designated Memorial gifts as well as bequests in wills, charitable remainder trusts or annuities, assignment of life insurance, and transfer of property (cash, stocks, bonds, real estate, etc.)

It is the desire of the congregation to encourage, receive and administer these gifts in a manner consistent with the loyalty and devotion to our Lord expressed by the grantors and in accord with the desires of this congregation. Please consider giving. Make an appointment to speak with Treasurer, Tom Jahnke, or Bob Buchanan.

~Board of Trustees

**LIBBY ARNOLD  
STEVENS CORNER  
THRIFT SHOP**

**MARCH MADNESS SALE  
March 18 to 21  
All merchandise  
will be 50% off**

Thanks to all volunteers and donors, \$42,000 has been transferred from the Thrift Shop to First Church for this 2019-2020 fiscal year.

The Thrift Shop is open Wed. thru Sat. from 10 to 2:30.

~Lynn Carver



## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

If you do not know much about the Bible, have never been a part of a Bible study group or, in contrast, have studied the Bible your whole (adult) life....The Interim Pastor and deacons are offering Lenten Bible Study during Lent on Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17 and 31, from 11:30 am – 1 pm in the Parish House.

Please bring a brown bag lunch – as well as a Bible of your choice. (If you are not able to bring a Bible an NRSV will be provided from the Sunday School.) If interested, please speak with our deacons and sign up in the office. This helps us plan.

## INTERIM FOCUS GROUP ON VISIONING

All members of the congregation, new and long-term, are invited to an Interim Focus Group on Visioning on **Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, from 3:30-5 pm** in the Parish House. It will be led by the Interim Pastor and supported by the Search Committee for a Settled Pastor.

This gathering will be an opportunity for us to discuss what we like about the church (what are our spiritual strengths) and what we wish could be improved (what are our spiritual weaknesses or blind-spots).

Thanks to all, who have attended our Interim Focus Groups, over the past year as they have provided opportunities for us to get better acquainted, express our individual and group needs, and show support for First Church as well as provided valuable information to our Interim Pastor and lay leaders. Please speak with the Interim Pastor or Chair of the Search, Lynn Carver, if you have questions about this gathering, and sign up in the office so we can plan.

## SPEAKER SERIES A-Z LITERACY MOVEMENT IN AFRICA

Betty Trummel, Teacher, will tell us about the A-Z Literacy Movement on **Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1-2:30 pm**. Learn more about her experience as a volunteer with the **A-Z Literacy Movement in Lusaka, Zambia**. The non-profit believes that children deserve the opportunity to fulfill their potential in life, and they achieve this by learning to read. A-Z tries to get books in the hands of readers, both locally and abroad! Betty is a veteran educator from Harwich, served as an adjunct professor for ten years, and volunteered in Zambia four times. Photos will be shown, and refreshments served. All are welcome.

## COMMUNITY VOCAL CONCERT

This concert is an opportunity for singers of all ages to come together in a concert setting and perform. The sanctuary of First Church is a great space for music. The performers will be young and old from the church, the Harwich Women's Chorus, local folk musicians, and others. Professional as well as amateur musicians will bring some of their favorite music. The magic is in the performers coming together with enthusiasm and a wide variety of styles. Music Director Marcia Hempel will accompany on piano, and some will accompany themselves on guitar. Reception to follow.

## SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

### BARNSTABLE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The spring meeting of the SNEC/Barnstable Association will be held on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, from 9 – 3, at the South Congregational Church UCC in Centerville, MA. "SoNew," a play on the tri-conference's new name is the theme. Our reps, Shirley Mashoke and Nancy Smith, and Interim Pastor Dianne plan to attend.

If you are interested in learning more about our new UCC conference, the revised *Manual on Ministry* that guides ministry in the UCC, and the subject of spiritual companionship, consider attending this nearby meeting. Speak with either Shirley, Nancy or Pastor Dianne.

## MUSICAL NOTES

**The choir needs you!** Especially altos and tenors. Let Marcia know, if you're interested in helping to bring the beauty of music to our worship experience. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 5:00.

### Upcoming events:

Sunday March 8, 3:00 PM

**April 5** Bell Choir in church

**April 9** Maundy Thursday service (choir sings)

**April 12** Easter service with choir and instruments.

~Marcia Hempel

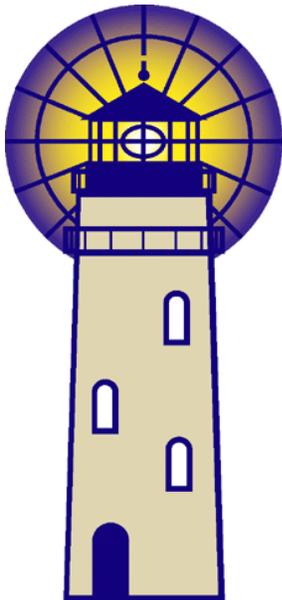
## ASHLEY'S MUSIKIDS

Another seven-week session of Ashley's Musikids at our Parish House will begin on Saturdays at 10-10:45 am on March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25 and May 2. These music and movement classes are designed for 4-month-olds to 4-year-olds with at least one parent present; cost is \$144.

They have been a great addition to our campus since January. If interested, email Carol Ann Ashley Birtwell at mamalushka@gmail.com for details.

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of Harwich



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## CHURCH MINISTERS

Rev. Dianne Arakawa,  
Interim Pastor  
Members of the Congregation,  
Ministers  
Marcia Hempel,  
Music Director & Organist  
Lynn Carver,  
Bell Choir Director  
Joanne Harrington,  
and  
Jeep Mashoke,  
Co-Moderators  
Tom Jahnke,  
Treasurer  
Lynn Bitzer,  
Chair of the Deacons  
DeeDee Dyer,  
Vice-Chair of the Deacons  
Gail Nickerson,  
Secretary  
Paul Frederickson,  
Sexton

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday March 8, so be sure to set your clocks one hour ahead on Saturday night so that you will be sure to come to church on time!

Benjamin Franklin originally suggested it in the 1780s to save on candle wax, but it was never implemented. It was again suggested by President Woodrow Wilson during World War I to conserve resources for the war effort. This time it was not ignored, and we have had daylight savings time ever since.



Time to  
Spring Ahead

## WHAT TO GIVE UP FOR LENT

**GIVE UP** grumbling. Constructive criticism is OK, but “moaning, groaning, and complaining” are not Christian disciplines.

**GIVE UP** 30 minutes in front of the television. Instead, use that time in prayer, Bible study and personal devotion.

**GIVE UP** looking at other people’s worst attributes. Instead concentrate on their best points.

**GIVE UP** speaking unkindly. Instead, let your speech be generous and understanding.

**GIVE UP** your hatred of anyone or anything! Instead, learn the discipline of love. “Love covers a multitude of sins.”

**GIVE UP** your worries and anxieties! Instead, trust God with them.

**GIVE UP** TV one evening a week! Instead, visit someone who’s lonely or sick. There are those who are isolated by illness or age. Give someone a precious gift: your time!

**GIVE UP** judging others. Instead, learn to give up yourself to God. There is only one who has the right to judge, Jesus Christ.

May Christ bless you with wisdom to choose the righteous way!  
~Craig Gates