

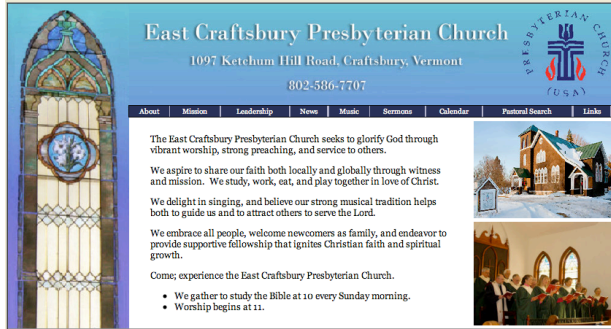


GOOD NEWS

East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church

Growing in Faith ~ Supporting Each Other ~ Serving Others ~ Guided by Christ

Visit Our Remodeled Website!



www.eastcraftsburypresbyterianchurch.org has a new look and new features!

The overhauled website displays photos of church life and accomplishes important tasks:

- ✘ Invites interested people to visit the church.
- ✘ Introduces the church to website visitors.
- ✘ Keeps you up-to-date through an interactive calendar of church events.
- ✘ Lets visitors listen to recordings of recent sermons.
- ✘ Provides information about the congregation and community for potential pastors.

Visit our website today!

From the PNC

Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is reviewing candidates' Personal Information Forms (PIFs).

If any of you know a pastor who might be interested in serving our congregation, please refer them to our website.

~ Kay Shields, Chair

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Meet Our 2011 Session

We practice representative government, in which the congregation selects *presbyters* (also known as elders) to lead (the name of our church means "ruled by elders.")

"Ruling Elders," lay people chosen by the congregation, meet in a council known as the "session." The session seeks to strengthen and nurture the faith life of the congregation.

Members of the 2011 Session are (by class):

Class of 2012: **Valerie Morrison, Fred Kinsey, Carole Young**

Class of 2013: **Joannie Schlitt, Jenny Stoner, John Weaver**

Class of 2014: **Margaret Ann Kerr, Natalie Kinsey-Warnock, Bruce Shields**

Keep these individuals in your prayers as they seek to discern God's will for the congregation.

Confirmation set for March 27

Nicole Kish and **Deanna Kish** are completing their preparation to become active members of the congregation.

Louise Kinsey and Victoria von Hessert have mentored them through the experience.

They have asked to be received on Sunday, March 27. You are invited to attend this joyous passage in the lives of these young women.

East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, PC(USA)
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Church office/Manse Phone
(802) 586-7707

Rev. Dennis Hett, Interim Pastor
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From Light to Light

The sun shines brilliantly this early February afternoon. Very few cars or trucks have driven past the manse ... it's the day after the big snowstorm that dumped more snow on Chicago than on Craftsbury.

In church, we're spending time listening to Matthew's Gospel and what it says about following Jesus, the Light of the World.

Matthew vividly connects Jesus with Moses:

- ✘ Powerful rulers felt threatened by the infants Moses and Jesus, and ordered the slaughter of innocent children in attempts to eliminate them.
- ✘ Both Moses and Jesus spent their early years in Egypt.
- ✘ Moses received the Torah ("Teaching") on Mount Sinai – Jesus, whose teaching is rooted in the Torah, delivered his teaching in the Sermon on the Mount.

As we experience the Sermon on the Mount this February, we also encounter the Torah and prophets (who memorably expressed the core values of the Torah.)

We began our encounter with the Sermon on the Mount Jan. 30 – hearing the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1–12) alongside the Lord's requirement to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:1–8.)

Feb. 6 – Jesus calls listeners "salt" and tells to let our light shine as we follow God's commandments (Matthew 5:13–20.) We also learn from Isaiah that the Lord rejects acts of righteous fasting and instead calls for acts of justice and mercy to display love for our neighbors (Isaiah 58:1–9a.)

Feb. 13 – Jesus reinterprets Jewish law and preaches on righteous living toward ones neighbor (Matthew 5:21–37.) God will reward those who walk in his way and obey his commandments, but those who turn away from God shall perish (Deuteronomy 30:15–20.)

Feb. 20 – Jesus instructs his listeners to love our neighbors (Matthew 5:38–48.) The Lord instructs Moses to teach laws about loving one's neighbor (Leviticus 19:1–2, 9–18.)

Feb. 27 – Jesus teaches that concern for basic needs (food, drink, clothing) should not trump service to God (Matthew 6:24–34.) Isaiah proclaims that, like a woman nursing a child, God has not abandoned Israel, but has insured its return and restoration (Isaiah 49:8–16a.)

On **March 6** we will follow Jesus to a mountain, where he will shine brighter than the sun on a clear winter day in Vermont after a snowstorm, and talk with Moses and the prophet Elijah.

As he comes down the mountain, he sets his course for the valley that we experience as Lent.

~ Pastor Dennis Hett

Birthdays!

February

3	-	Elsie Hurt
4	-	Carolyn Rowell
11	-	Valerie Morrison
20	-	Tom Warnock
21	-	Jan Maynard
24	-	Sandy Benson

March

3	-	Marvene Haines
4	-	Francis Whitcomb
13	-	Malda Horn
16	-	Anne Page
17	-	Georgette Rowell
19	-	Bruce Urie

April

5	-	Meg Urie
14	-	Mary Anthony Rowell
18	-	Nelson Maynard
22	-	Alex Hurt
27	-	John Weaver
30	-	Marianne Weaver

Please send additions and corrections to Malda Horn.

Presbyterian Women's Retreat

Please save Friday and Saturday of Mothers Day weekend, May 6 and 7, for the annual Northern New England Presbyterian Women's Retreat (most likely be held in New Hampshire.)

Lent at ECPC

Lent begins about as late as it can this year, so we can only share tentative plans right now. Watch for announcements in the Sunday bulletin, and on the church website calendar.

Ash Wednesday – March 9 ECPC hosts **Ash Wednesday Service** in partnership with the United Church of Craftsbury

First Sunday in Lent, March 13 – **Soup and Bread Fellowship Meal** after Worship

Wednesdays, Mar. 16 to April 13 – **Ecumenical Lenten Services** at ECPC, United Church of Craftsbury, Albany United Methodist Church, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, and St. John of the Cross Catholic Church. Watch for details!

Palm Sunday – April 17

Maundy Thursday – April 21

Easter Sunday – April 24: Sunrise Service – Breakfast – Worship

Lenten Soup and Study with Pastor Dennis

You are invited to ... Soup and Study on four Sunday evenings (March 20, 27, April 3 and 10) from 6 to 8 in the church basement.

Pastor Dennis will lead a study of *Thank God It's Friday: Encountering the Seven Last Words from the Cross* (by William Willimon).

Methodist Bishop William Willimon's reflections are solid works that encourage people to encounter Jesus Christ as he dies on the cross.

Though never graphic, the author helps us to understand that Jesus' death is central to his life, and that the way he entered into his crucifixion says so much about him.

Willimon does not focus as much on biblical scholarship or theological concepts as he does on personal experience. The reflections are full of wonderful examples of how the words can be applied to our own day and age.

Interested? Contact Pastor Dennis so he can order enough books (and so Audrey will know how much soup to prepare for the first session!)

The Bible "Behind" the King James Bible

King James Bible was published four hundred years ago, in 1611.

The Bible is named after James I of England, who authorized its translation and publication. His aim was to replace the **Geneva Bible**, the bestselling Bible of the time, which he disliked because its marginal notes inspired distrust of royal rule.

During the reign of Queen Mary I (1553 – 1558), a number of Protestant scholars fled from England to Geneva in Switzerland, where **John Calvin** and Scots Reformer **John Knox** provided spiritual and theological leadership.

These exiled scholars produced the first English version in which all of the Old Testament was translated directly from the Hebrew.

The 1560 Geneva Bible featured study aids, including illustrations, maps and indexes of names and topics, in addition to the marginal notes. (These often described kings as "tyrants" – no wonder James didn't like it!)

The translation was so good, however, that the King James translators incorporated much of its wording into their final draft.

The very first Bible printed in Presbyterian Scotland was a Geneva Bible, in 1579. The involvement of Knox and Calvin in the creation of the Geneva Bible made it especially appealing in Scotland, where a law was passed the same year requiring every household of sufficient means to buy a copy.

William Shakespeare, Oliver Cromwell, John Milton, John Donne, and John Bunyan, author of *Pilgrim's Progress*, all quoted the Geneva Bible. It was one of the Bibles taken to North America on the Mayflower. It's part of our Reformed heritage!

Women's Fellowship Events

Women of the church are invited to "Chase the Winter Blues" with some fellowship at the home of Barbara Ulman on Wed. **March 16** at 3 PM.

Tea at the home of Kay Shields – **April 12**, 2 PM
We will talk about scheduling our summer Bible Study.

Winter-into-Spring Calendar

- ✘ February 6 – Ordination and Installation of Elders
 - ✘ February 7 – Session, Manse, 7 PM
 - ✘ March 5 – Presbytery Assembly at Windham, NH
 - ✘ March 9 – Ash Wednesday
 - ✘ March 13 – Lenten “Soup and Bread” Lenten Fellowship Meal after Worship
 - ✘ March 14 – Session, Manse, 7 PM
 - ✘ March 16 – “Chase the Winter Blues” Women’s Social at Home of Barbara Ulman, 3 PM
 - ✘ March 16 – Ecumenical Community Lenten Service (Location TBA)
 - ✘ March 20 – Lenten “Soup and Study,” 6 PM
 - ✘ March 23 – Ecumenical Community Lenten Service (Location TBA)
 - ✘ March 27 – Confirmation Sunday – Lenten “Soup and Study,” 6 PM
 - ✘ March 28 – Mission and Care Committee, Manse, 7 PM
 - ✘ March 30 – Ecumenical Community Lenten Service (Location TBA)
 - ✘ April 3 – Lenten “Soup and Study,” 6 PM
 - ✘ April 4 – Session, Manse, 7 PM
 - ✘ April 6 – Ecumenical Community Lenten Service (Location TBA)
 - ✘ April 10 – Lenten “Soup and Study,” 6 PM
 - ✘ April 12 – Women’s Tea at Home of Kay Shields, 3 PM
 - ✘ April 13 – Ecumenical Community Lenten Service (Location TBA)
 - ✘ April 17 – Palm Sunday
 - ✘ April 21 – Maundy Thursday Service (TBA)
 - ✘ April 24 – Easter Day (Sunrise Service, Breakfast, Worship, One Great Hour of Sharing)
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