



*Christ Community Church of Blackstone  
Proclaiming Hope through the Good News of Jesus Christ*

# March 2022 Newsletter



### *A Message from Pastor Marc*

**“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.” Isaiah 65:17**



*Tuesday morning study at  
9:30 am via Zoom.com*

*If you are interested, contact  
[LynnePJ36@aol.com](mailto:LynnePJ36@aol.com) for a link*

I don't know about you, but I have just about had my fill of Winter. High utility bills, cold weather and clearing of snow on multiple occasions makes me yearn for Spring. Thank God March brings us Spring, Daylight Savings Time and the lengthening of our days. For me Spring speaks to us of God's love. He demonstrates his power and glory in the renewing of life, the budding of plants, the array of colorful flowers, and trees, the birth of new animals, Spring rains replenish our water supplies and warmer days helps our sources of food grow. What's not to love?

Isaiah 65:17 reminds us that there will come a time when God will make all things right once and for all. It is part of God's promise to those who believe in His Son. Spring gives us just a hint of what He is truly capable of. In a sense, Spring brings a renewal of life. But Spring also reminds us that Lent and Easter celebrations are not far away. As I contemplate the upcoming most holy season of the Church year, I recall just what it means to have Jesus in my life. I am continually amazed that while I was still a sinner, Christ died for me. Praise God He never gave up on me. No matter how far we may have strayed from Jesus, He is always willing to accept us when we repent of our sins, as He embraces us with open arms, just like the father in the parable of the Parodical son.

In the days of the early church, Lent and Easter were very special times for the emergent Church. Initiates into the church community could attend services but needed to leave when Communion was offered. This sacrament was reserved for those who were baptized and officially welcomed into the local community. During Lent the initiates were tutored on all aspects of being a Christian and following Christ. On Easter Sunday, they were baptized and welcomed into the local community of believers as full participants. In essence, there was a newness of life in Christ and a reminder to the community of their baptism and confession of Christ as Lord and Savior.

Our baptism should remind us of the God we serve and the wonderful relationship we have with Him; That He loves us so much that He died for us. While we may stumble in this lifelong commitment to our Savior, we can always return to Him. If God could forgive the thief on the cross and Peter when he betrayed his knowledge of our Lord, there is nothing that God cannot forgive us of. Scripture tells us that it is His desire that no one should perish but to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus. So, I ask that as you rejoice in the coming of Spring, never forget that it is our God that makes all things new and possible. Never forget that He is always with us and never forsakes us.

May God bless you all.  
-Pastor Marc



Wednesday, March 2



Sunday March 13



Jim Hagan - March 5  
Jennifer Watson - March 12  
Mark White - March 23  
Happy Birthday to All!



Do you want to unleash the power of prayer in your life? Ask God to open your eyes to any area of disobedience that may be hindering your efforts. Then, watch what He can do with the prayers of a righteous person.

*Please pray for*

- Bob - shingles*
- Joyce - pain in legs and hips*
- Andrea - seizures*
- Dawn H. - rehab after stroke*
- Pastoral Search Committee*
- Joanne, Sheila, Nancy, Bunny-ongoing issues*
- Dale G., Sharyn W. - illness*
- Mary S. - cancer, hospice care*
- Jeannie - ALS*
- Those who are mourning*
- Our Unsaved Loved Ones; our*
- Country; Wisdom for our*
- World Leaders; Issues in*
- Ukraine*
- Sale of Parish Hall*

**Not Where I Wanted to Be**

**By Adoniram Judson**

*The commander came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. Acts 21:33, NIV*

Tennis pro Stan Wawrinka has won more than \$34 million in prize money. Last year a foot injury caused him to miss the biggest tournaments, including the U.S. Open. On social media, he said, "Not where I wanted to be, but still a smile on my face."

One of the secrets of joy is learning to smile and trust God, even when we're not where we want to be. In Acts 21, Paul was finishing a visit to Jerusalem and packing for his planned missionary tour to Rome and Spain. Instead, he was arrested, bound with two chains, and tossed into a four-year legal battle in Caesarea and Rome. Yet he told the Philippians, "I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out.... And in this I rejoice" (Philippians 1:12, 18).

When we can't control our environment, we feel distressed. But God has His plans. His grace can bring smiles to our faces and joy to our hearts.

*The future is as bright as the promises of God.*



*Members' Anniversaries in March*

- Lynne Cignarella - March 29, 2015
- Leigh Gardner - March 29, 2015
- Nancy Mandeville - March 26, 1964
- Joyce St. Jean - March 26, 1964



**Southern Baptist Missionaries See Baptisms and Converts Surge With COVID-19**

During the COVID-19 pandemic's first year, the number of new believers harvested by the 3,552 missionaries serving with the convention's International Mission Board (IMB) increased 62 percent from the previous year. Baptisms were up 81 percent from 2019 to 2020 (the most recent year for which data is available), and salvation testimonies continue to pour in.

Source: GospelNewsNetwork.org

## CHURCH HISTORY PART 2 – CHURCH DIVISION

Last month I spoke on the formation of a new church and how a small group of people joined together to create the Mendon Free-Will Baptist Church of Christ. Over the next few years, the church grew and we read in Book 1 approximately 207 people joined this church and 137 were baptized over the next few years. It was a fast-growing church with great numbers!!

However, when we bring that many people together, there isn't always harmony and this church was no different. There were many problems to deal with...

*Record of a Church Meeting holden at*

***Blackstone on Monday Evening 7<sup>th</sup> of April 1823 - Church Division***

*Meeting opened by prayer to God by Brother D. Swett - Then proceeded to make inquiry into the state of the Church.*

*It was found that a division existed among them, attended with jealousy. The case of Isaac Westgate was named - He requested to be received under the Watch and Care of the Church.*

*We called the minds of the Church on receiving him - 15 voted for and 11 against his reception. We then proceeded to find cause for his rejection. It appeared that the 11 against him (3 of whom were officiating members) could not gain fellowship with him. Also that this, with other exogenesis of grief, has sadly divided the Church in fellowship so short a time previous!! After some talk upon hard sayings and unscriptural proceedings we dispensed with the above until another meeting.*

*Hiram N. Read rose and asked his dismissal from the Church - his father said no doubt he was sincere; and that he had thoughts of doing the same, were it not for some trials he thought the Church felt with him. This much grieves the weeping Church. We parted with sorrow not finding where this might end. Reuben Thayer, Church Clerk*

***April 8 AD 1823 - Church Division Resolved***

*Opened with prayer by Elder Z. Jordan - Proceeded in search of the causes of grief.*

*Hiram N. Read had concluded to remain as member until peace and harmony might return into the Church as by that time he might alter his mind - this gave us some relief on that point. We next took in search to remove grief that remained on other points.*

*Several of them confessed they had done wrong in having spoken hard things against members to others before they had scripturally told the fault first to the one with whom they had grief. They withal promised to be more cautious for times to come. Every member except Brother A. Read acknowledged a sweet union with all present. After due investigation and confession, Brother Read was fully united with each member in a heavenly union. The Holy Spirit came upon us where we were thus together with one accord in the Spirit. We parted with our souls wonderfully refreshed. - Let brotherly love continue, Amen! Glory to God, Amen! David Swett,*

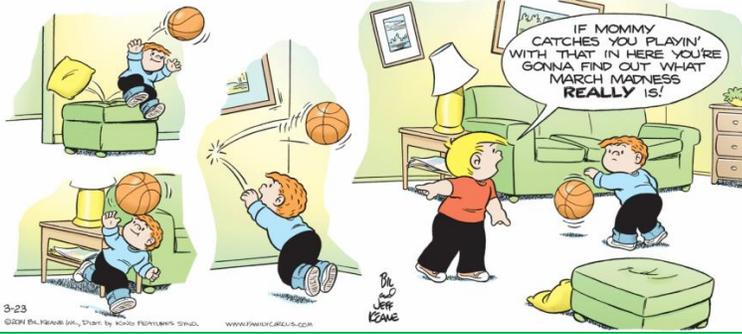
*Servant of all for the Lord's sake  
Reuben Thayer, Church Clerk*

*Names of Members present:*

*Ahab Read, Dea., Ariel Thayer  
Joseph Thayer, Andrew Tucker  
Hiram N. Read, Lebeus Tourtellot,  
Emery Arnold,  
Mary Tucker, Ruth Read  
Lavina Arnold  
Marilda Whiteman  
Nancy Place  
Anna Alger  
Hannah Gofs  
Lydia Wilber  
Joanna Cook  
Mary Carrol  
Martha Spalden  
Betsey Place  
Abigail Tucker  
Martia Greenman  
Mary Greenman*

*Harmony seemed to be once more restored - brotherly Love and Union prevailed - blefs the Lord, O! my soul. Meeting then closed with solemn Thanksgiving and Prayer.  
Reuben Thayer, Church Clerk*

Note: It's great to read that they resolved their issues in a loving Christian way through repentance, prayer and forgiveness. (The above information was transcribed exactly as written without editing in order to preserve the integrity of the original text.)



### “WORD-FOR-WORD BIBLE MOVIES NOW IN 1,000 LANGUAGES

Four groundbreaking Bible movies that include the unabridged text of Scripture for the script are now available in more than 1,000 languages.

The films – titled simply *The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John* – were released in English beginning in 2014 and then translated into other languages through a partnership between Bible Media Group – the distributor – and Faith Comes by Hearing. The films are the core element of what is called the LUMO Project.

Unlike most other Bible movies that use only selected text from Scripture, the four films use the unabridged, word-for-word text of Scripture for the dialogue and scripts. The films reached their 1,000th language translation with the language of Senga, which is spoken by people in Zambia and other locations.

English translations are available in the New International Version (NIV), the King James Version (KJV), and the English Standard Version (ESV).

The [LUMO Project](#) calls itself a "groundbreaking, multi-language biblical resource that was created to transform the way in which people engage, discover, and study the life of Jesus through the Gospels, and to resource ministries seeking to promote global biblical literacy. The four films are available for free on Prime Video's IMDb TV channel, with ads.

Tessie DeVore, president of Bible Media Group said, "It is through this amazing partnership that millions of people can engage with Scripture by watching God's Word unfold in their own language."

Written by Michael Foust. He has covered the intersection of faith and news for 20 years. His stories have appeared in Baptist Press, Christianity Today, The Christian Post, and many others.

## Fund Raisers

*Your giving makeS it possible to help others !*



AmazonSmile.com donates a percentage of your purchase to our church at no cost to you. Just go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>

As you shop on line, please select Christ Community Church of Blackstone as the non-profit to support. Every time you make a purchase using this link, Amazon will donate a percentage to our church at no additional cost to you.



Marketplace

, (formerly Junk in the Trunk) - a flea market website that we use to sell gently used items that you donate to us. There is a basket in the Narthex for your donated items.

**With these different options, we continue to raise funds at no additional cost to you!**

**About us:** We are a bible-based, Christ-centered Christian church, located on the corner of Church and School Streets in Blackstone, MA. We are affiliated with the 4Cs – Conservative Congregational Christian Conference.

**Assistant Pastor:** Marc Greenwald



**~ March 2022 ~**  
**Christ Community Church of Blackstone**  
**(508) 883-7885**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>“For I know the plans I have for you, “ declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11</p>		<p>1 Bible Study @ 9:30 am</p>	<p>2 Lent Begins Today 7pm Prayer Mtg via Zoom</p>			
<p>6 <b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Sunday Service @ 9:30 am</p>		<p>8 Bible Study @ 9:30 am</p>				
<p>13 Sunday Service @ 9:30 am</p>		<p>15 Bible Study @ 9:30 am</p>		<p>17 </p>		
<p>20 Sunday Service @ 9:30 am</p>		<p>22 Bible Study @ 9:30 am</p>				
<p>27 Sunday Service @ 9:30 am</p>		<p>29 Bible Study @ 9:30 am All-Church Meeting 7 pm via Zoom</p>		<p align="center">   <b>CLOVER LEGEND</b>            In the Holy Trinity, the clover represents the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and on four-leaf clovers the fourth is God's Grace.   </p>		