



*Christ Community Church of Blackstone  
Proclaiming Hope through the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1822*

## *March 2024 Newsletter*



### *A Message from Pastor Joe*



*1 Peter 1:3-6a*

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.*

March is a month that I look forward to each year. There are a couple of things about March that I appreciate. It's a month of transition from the harsh cold weather of the winter months to the hope of warmer days ahead. It's the time of the year that we will change our clocks ahead one hour for daylight savings time (March 10th). And March 19th is the first day of spring this year.

With the time change, days begin to get a little longer, which means more daylight and more sun. That is always a welcome site for me.

Spring is also a welcomed time of the year because we start to see some changes in nature with birds arriving from their southern winter homes, we begin to see buds on trees and various plants begin to grow. Here in New England, we may not be "out of the woods" yet with cold weather, but March does give us hope of warmer weather to come.

This year we will celebrate Palm Sunday (March 24<sup>th</sup>), Maundy Thursday (March 28<sup>th</sup>), Good Friday (March 29<sup>th</sup>), and Easter Sunday (March 31<sup>st</sup>.) These are very special days for those of us who are believers. We look forward to the celebration of these days because they are at the core of what we believe. From the events of these days, we learn of Jesus death and resurrection and through Jesus have a living hope in our salvation, sanctification, a resurrected body and eternal life with Him.

As we approach these days of celebration, let's rejoice like never before, for what Jesus did to save us from our sins and redeem us to a right relationship with God, our heavenly Father.

God Bless you all. Amen  
Pastor Joe



**Please pray for:**

**Those who are mourning;** the Hoyle family, the Bois family and the Lenahan family

**Those with cancer:** Barbara, Bob, Norma's sister Susan, Kit, and Susan Donahue

**Those in need of healing:**

Jeff, headaches and ear infection

Andrea, seizures

Jackie & Ron, elderly couple with many issues

Ray, eye infection

Mike, slipped discs

Michelle, back injury

Nancy, fell at home

Mary Frances, experiencing fainting spells

Young David B., continued healing and praise for the amazing progress so far

Aubrey - Missing teenager – bring her home safely.

**Children with long-term health issues & their Caregivers:**

Aubrielle, Kayden, Bella

Baby Stein in NICU

Those with anxiety or addictions;

Our **Unsaved** Loved Ones;

**Pray for our church**, that God may make us a lighthouse for those who need to know Him and to make us ready for the coming challenges.

**Pray for Pastor Joe** as he shepherds this community and Coleen as she supports him in his vocation.

**Our Country;** Wisdom for our **Leaders;** *Revival* in this country.

**Bible Study  
Tuesday Mornings @ 10am  
via Zoom.com**

Come join us as we study the "The Jesus that Paul Knew," by James W. Reapsome. There are ten chapters in this study and we plan to cover one chapter per week.



**All are welcomed**

Please contact Lynne @ [LynnePJ36@aol.com](mailto:LynnePJ36@aol.com) for a link to the Zoom Meeting.



**PRAYER MEETING**

**March 6  
at 7pm via Zoom.com**

Through our prayers, especially with one another, we are demonstrating and validating the faith we have in Jesus Christ. It is through the discipline of prayer with one another that we develop a growing intimacy with God and create a spiritual bond with one another.

**ALL ARE INVITED!**

Please contact Lynne @ [LynnePJ36@aol.com](mailto:LynnePJ36@aol.com) for a link to the Zoom Meeting

**Received as Members  
Anniversary**

Nancy Mandeville – 03/26/1964

Joyce St. Jean – 03/26/1964

Lynne Cignarella – 03/29/2015

Beth Hoyle – 03/29/2015

**March Birthdays**

Jim Hagan – 03/5

Sheila Robeau – 03/17



*Happy Birthday!*



**Marriage Anniversary**

Marc & Amanda  
Guilbeault  
March 26, 2012

**All-Church  
Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>  
at 7pm via Zoom.com**

Please contact Lynne @ [LynnePJ36@aol.com](mailto:LynnePJ36@aol.com) for a link to the Zoom Meeting



### Seder Meal

March 22, 2024 @ 5:30 pm

Betty's Restaurant

Pastor Marc and Barbara have offered to serve a Seder Meal on Friday March 22, 2024. If you would like to attend the meal, please give them your name **as soon as possible**. More information to come. The Seder is the traditional Passover meal and is celebrated by Jews all over the world to commemorate the Exodus Anniversary when God delivered them from Egyptian slavery more than 3,000 years ago.



### IT'S STILL THE CROSS

by Steve Amerson

It's not conservative or liberal  
However they're defined;  
It's not about interpretation  
Or the judgment of the mind;  
It's the opposite of politics  
Power or prestige'  
It's about a simple message  
And whether we believe

We can water down theology  
And preach a word to suit our needs  
We can justify sweet subtle lies  
That are wrapped in noble deeds  
We can alter our convictions  
To adapt to social whims  
But we cannot change the Gospel  
And the truth contained within

It's still the cross  
It's still the blood of Calvary  
That cleanses sin  
And sets the captives free  
It's still the name  
The name of Jesus  
That has power to save the lost

**It's still the cross!**

### IT'S NOT WHAT YOU KNOW BUT WHO YOU KNOW

taken from Turning Points Magazine & Devotional March 2024

If the Rapture occurred at the very moment a church was conducting Sunday morning worship, those watching on live stream would see most of the congregation suddenly vanish, but a few people would be left behind. Those remaining would look around trying to make sense of what just happened. Where did everyone go?

We must never assume everyone who goes to church really knows Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord. Many are cultural Christians; they have Christian habits, perhaps had a Christian upbringing, and even a lot of biblical knowledge, but they do not really know Christ.

Today, we tend to believe that knowledge is most important, not relationships. With technology, we can find almost any fact on line. Concerning the Bible, study resources are more abundant and available than ever. We are apt to forget that it's not *what we know* that is most important; it's *who we know*.

Jesus warns us, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you.'" (Matthew 7:21-23)

This is frightening. Jesus will say, in effect, "we did not have a personal relationship. You may have been very busy doing religious things, but you never received Me as your personal Savior."

1 John 5:11-12 says, "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

You and I must make sure we know Jesus Christ personally through salvation. We must make Him known to others by sharing our faith. It's a simple theme, but more important than we can imagine - **to know Him and to make Him known!** Our entire Christian experience is summed up in those words!





**Daylight Savings Time  
begins Tuesday  
March 19<sup>th</sup>**

**1 Peter 3:13-18**

*Christ also suffered once for sin, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.*

How has Christ's substitutionary death changed your life? What does it mean for you to have access to God and eternal life because of His death on the cross?

**At our church**  
*Palm*  
**SUNDAY**

*March 24, 2024 at 9:30 am*



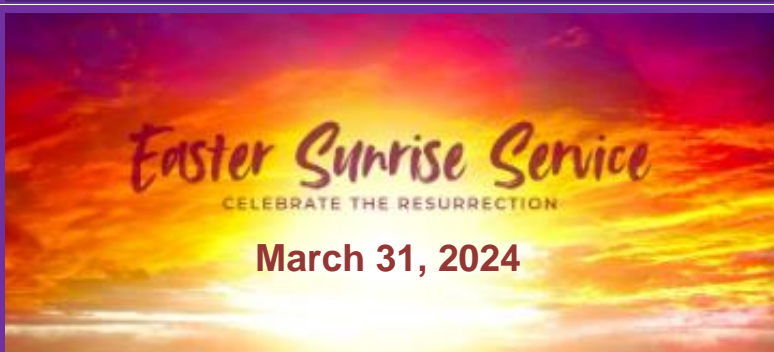
**Tenebrae**

Grieving Over Darkness.  
Reflecting on Redemption.

**Thursday, March 28 at 7pm  
at the church**



We have been invited to join the  
New Hope Baptist Church of Millville  
63 Central St., Millville, MA  
Friday, March 29, 2024 @ 6:30 pm  
for a Good Friday service



**March 31, 2024**

We have also been invited to join the  
New Hope Baptist Church of Millville  
Easter Sunrise Service at 7am  
The Old Quaker Cemetery in Uxbridge  
Please contact New Hope for directions,  
401.524.4166

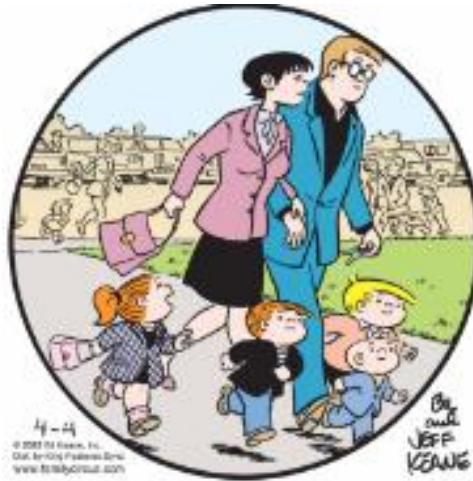


***Easter Celebration  
- March 31<sup>st</sup> -  
at 9:30 am***

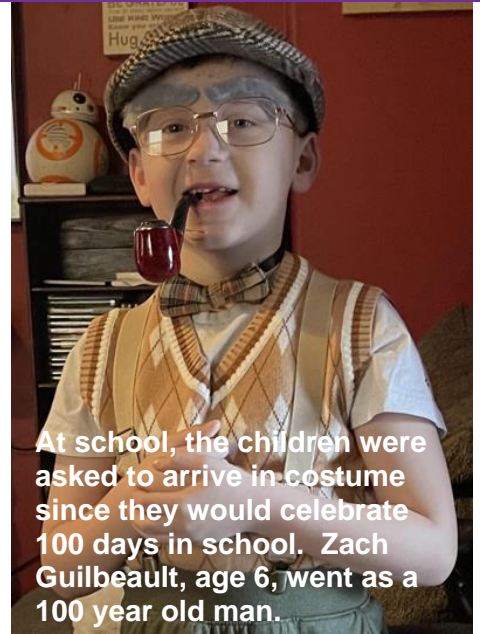
*Join us on Easter morning at 9:30 am at the  
church to celebrate the most important day  
on the Christian calendar!*

*The Resurrection of  
Our Lord Jesus Christ*

# He is Risen



"I like it when everyone in church sings about that Ollie Louya guy."



At school, the children were asked to arrive in costume since they would celebrate 100 days in school. Zach Guilbeault, age 6, went as a 100 year old man.

## **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT PRAYER**

In our February Newsletter, we began a study on prayer based on an article, "Answers to Questions About Prayer" by David Jeremiah.

Last month we looked at prayer being a powerful tool that provides an immediate connection to our heavenly Father. However, it is often misused or misunderstood. This month we look at...

### **What is the Correct Way to Pray to God?**

That may seem like a simple question, but even the apostles asked Jesus how to pray. Prayer is a conversation that becomes easier with frequency, just as a conversation with a new friend becomes easier over time. But Jesus did illustrate that we are to pray to the Father, not to the Son.

The Father is the ultimate Authority, while Jesus is our Mediator. Jesus always encourages us to go to the Father, submit our will to Him, and approach Him with reverence and awe. The ultimate example is the "Lord's Prayer" or "Disciples Prayer" found in Matthew 6.

We often forget about the importance of simplicity in our prayers. We don't need to use grand figures of speech to express ourselves, for Christ tells us the Lord already knows what we need before we ask (Matthew 6:8.) This promise is His comfort to us.

**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.

**Pastor:** Rev. Joe Overly.

**Assistant Pastor:** Rev. Marc Greenwald

**Zoom.com Meetings:** contact Lynne Cignarella at [LynnePJ36@aol.com](mailto:LynnePJ36@aol.com) for a link.

**Be sure to visit our website at [www.cccob.org](http://www.cccob.org) to listen to our sermons and to find out more about us. You can also visit our Facebook page at Christ Community Church of Blackstone.**



~ March 2024 ~  
Christ Community Church of Blackstone  
(508) 883-7885



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

2

3

**Sunday Service**  
@ 9:30 am  
Sunday School  
during the service

4

**Tres Dias Reunion**  
Group @ 7pm

5

**Virtual Bible Study @**  
10 am

6

**7pm Prayer Mtg**  
via Zoom

7

8

9

**10 Sunday Service**  
@ 9:30  
  
Daylight Savings Time  
Set your clocks ahead

11

**12 Virtual Bible Study @**  
10 am

13

14

15

16

17

**Sunday Service**  
@ 9:30 am  
Sunday School  
during the service

18

**19 Virtual Bible**  
Study @ 10 am  
*First Day  
of Spring*

20

21

22

23

**24 PALM SUNDAY**  
**Sunday Service**  
@ 9:30 am  
Sunday School  
during the service

25

**26 All-Church Meeting**  
@7pm on Zoom

27

28

**Maundy Thurs.**  
**Tenebrae Service**  
7pm at the church

29

**Good Friday**  
**Service @**  
**New Hope Bapt**  
**Church Millville**  
6:30 pm

30

**31**  
*Jesus is*  
*Risen!*  
*Happy Easter*  
9:30 am