

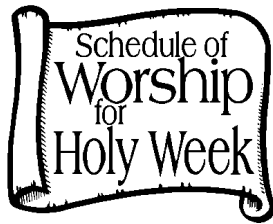
# THE FAMILY VISITOR



APRIL 2014, VOLUME 44 NO. 8

OLD SOUTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

READING, MASSACHUSETTS



## **The Palm Sunday / Holy Week Pilgrimage April 13th at 10am Gather outside in front of the chapel**

This year invites us all into a pilgrimage from Palm Sunday through Holy Week. The fourth century pilgrim, Egeria, is our guide and will share excerpts from the journal she wrote during her sojourn to the Holy Land so she could take it back home to Spain to share with her "sisters." Egeria's pilgrimage begins as she travels to God's holy mountain and moves through Palm Sunday and the beginning days of Holy Week. The story continues when we gather again on Thursday night to hear the rest of the story....

## **Maundy Thursday/Good Friday/Holy Saturday Thursday, April 17 Gather at 7:30pm at the Laurel Hill Cemetery**

Egeria greets us as we gather at the Laurel Hill Cemetery and follow candle bearers in silent procession into the vestry Upper Room for a hand washing ritual and Holy Communion. The pilgrimage continues as we travel with Egeria to the Garden of Gesthememe in the chapel and then into the city for Good Friday into Holy Saturday to renew our baptism and begin our Great Prayer Vigil until we meet again to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning.

### **The Great Prayer Vigil**

Sign up for an hour (or more) to keep vigil and pray following the Maundy Thursday service extending through to Easter morning.

## **Ecumenical Good Friday Service Friday, April 18th at 12:15pm at the Korean Church of the Nazarene**

## **Easter Service of Resurrection April 20th at 10am in the sanctuary**

Easter launches our Resurrection Stories series. Hear individuals share their stories of resurrection from various things that bound them throughout the Easter season. We begin celebrating God's astounding story of freedom from all that keeps us bound with special music by the brass, choir, and unlocking the Alleluia box Sacrament of Baptism "The Breakout!"

### ***Easter Memorial Flowers***

If you would like to order a memorial flower for Easter, please fill out this form and mail it (with your check) to the church office. Plants are \$9.00 each.

*The deadline to order is Sunday, Apr. 13th  
Please make checks payable to "Old South United Methodist Church"*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to have your plant, please pick it up after the Easter Sunday service.



## **We're Going Green!**

To help us become more earth friendly, the Family Visitor will no longer be sent out in bulk. This will reduce time, energy, production, and postage costs. The Family Visitor is linked to our website and is always available online by the first of each month. Just go to [oldsouthumc.org](http://oldsouthumc.org) and click on News & Events!

If you would like the Family Visitor emailed to you directly, please be sure that the church office has your current email address. Send your request to: [office@oldsouthumc.org](mailto:office@oldsouthumc.org)

For those without internet access, copies will always be available on Sunday mornings in the vestry or in the church office during the week. If you're not able to pick up a copy, please call the church office at 781-944-2636. Our homebound members will receive the Family Visitor by First Class mail.

## **Food Pantry News**

In April the food pantry is collecting school snacks such as 4/6-packs of fruit, granola bars, juice boxes, and hot cocoa. Also crackers (Ritz, Saltines, Club), cold cereals (Cheerios, Rice Krispies, Raisin Bran, Wheaties, and Shredded Wheat), Kleenex, and Juice. Monetary donations can be left in the church office marked "Reading Food Pantry." Thank You!

If you're on Facebook be sure to "Like" the Reading Food Pantry page at <https://www.facebook.com/ReadingFoodPantry>. We're sharing weekly wish lists, Food Pantry news and photos, and other community information. Please help us spread the word about the Food Pantry's mission and needs by liking and sharing our page! Thank you.

## **Easter Offerings**

During the Easter season, it is encouraging to see both new and familiar faces at our worship services. Throughout the year, many of you already support the congregation with your time, talent, and financial contributions, but greater participation is always welcome. We encourage you to look into our electronic giving program. It takes just a few minutes to set up a recurring giving plan. Contact Bruce Maxwell, Financial Secretary, at 781-944-7493 or email at [bpmxell@verizon.net](mailto:bpmxell@verizon.net) for more information and an authorization form.

### **Deadline for the May Family Visitor: April 10**

If possible, please send by e-mail to: [office@oldsouthumc.org](mailto:office@oldsouthumc.org) Thank you!

## **A Month of Sundays**

### **Apr. 6 - Lent 5.0- Living Simply: Letting Go of Busy**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion  
Lenten action: claim space on the calendar for some Sabbath time with God  
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130;  
Romans 8:6-11; John 11: 1-45

### **Apr. 13 - Palm Sunday/Holy Pilgrimage**

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21: 1-11;  
Matthew 24: 1 - 26:2  
"Journey With Egeria"

### **Apr. 20 - Easter Sunday: Resurrection**

The Sacrament of Baptism  
Acts 10: 34-43; Colossians 3: 1-4;  
John 20: 1-18  
"The Breakout"

### **Apr. 27 - Resurrection Stories: Liberation from the doors we lock ourselves in**

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32; Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1: 3-9; John 20:19-31  
"The Lock-In"  
Rev. Carol Van Buskirk preaching

## **Book Club**

On Thursday, April 24, we will meet at the home of Nancy White to discuss "Namesake." The meeting will start at 10:00. Refreshments and beverages will be served.

## **Hunger Weekend: May 16-17**

Youth in grades 6-12 will be taking part in a weekend experience to learn first-hand about hunger and raise money to make a difference. This year we are supporting Heifer International with the funds we raise. Please consider making a donation and supporting the youth with your prayers. If you're interested in participating or helping out, talk to Rev. Carol.

## **Camp Aldersgate Summer Programs**

Did you know there's a United Methodist camp within a 90 minute drive that offers a variety of summer programs? From teddy bear camp for 7 & 8 year-olds to a performing arts camp for ages 8-18, Camp Aldersgate offers quality programs for just about any kids/youth. They also have some of the best-trained staff of any camp in New England and a variety of pricing options to ensure anyone can attend. We also have scholarships available here at Old South. Contact Rev. Carol for more information or visit [campaldersgate.com](http://campaldersgate.com).



## **Resurrection Stories: Looking for the Signs**

Winter stubbornly clung to the Heifer Farm in Rutland, Massachusetts the day we arrived for the Global Gateway – an experience in which nothing – shelter, food, water or cooking fuel can be taken for granted. The sun warmed the ground just enough to melt the edges of the snow packed ground and to lure us into the false hope of an afternoon warm up. Instead, it just created a challenging mud path for our visit to a Peruvian home high in the Andes, on to Guatemala, and then to Tibet for lunch. The children and youth in our Old South “family” took turns grinding barley, boiling water, adding ingredients, and stirring the pot for a lunch of Zamba and green tea. After a hello to the yaks and alpacas, we continued the tour of international homesteads to an Appalachian Kentucky site, then on to Ghana, Poland, and Kenya. We said goodbye to the day trippers and prepared for our overnight stay in the global village.

We loaded up our gear and walked it to Poland. After settling into our quarters, our family headed to the global marketplace to purchase and barter food for supper and breakfast. The youth were assigned leadership/worker roles and were responsible for building the fire, preparing the simple meals, and working together to accomplish these challenging tasks.

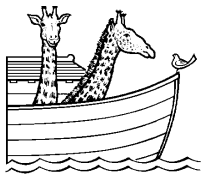
Temperatures plunged into the teens overnight coating the morning path in ice and making us grateful for every warm thing we brought with us. The farm appeared dead and frozen, the trees naked, bracing themselves against the biting wind. A sliver of gold peaked over the horizon painting a rose hued sunrise. And suddenly the rooster trumpeted the farm’s wake up call to life. A little brown lamb was born during the night, eggs were discovered in the chicken coop, and pails of milk came from milking the goats. The Heifer Farm offers a treasure trove of resurrection signs. Is it any wonder that Easter symbols include Jesus as the Lamb of God and children hunt Easter eggs? New life is visible everywhere. Resurrection stories abound. Hope is offered where there was no hope. Together we can eliminate hunger, poverty, and care for the earth. This Easter we look forward to raising enough money for a heifer (\$500) to bring hope and new life for a family in need. Please join us as we continue our Lenten journey of living simply so that others may simply live....and celebrate the resurrection together this Easter as we proclaim: “Christ the Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!”

Deep blessings,  
Janet Smith-Rushton

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## **Vacation Bible School is Coming!**

While you’re making your Summer plans be sure to carve out the first week of August (4th-8th) for Vacation Bible School at Old South. VBS is one of the best ways to connect kids with God’s love and this year’s theme, *Weird Animals*, is designed to do just that. Part of the curriculum includes videos of real kids sharing about overcoming challenges that might make them feel weird, such as autism, cancer, and bullying. Kids will learn that God made them special and loves them even when they feel different. Our program will be for children in preschool through 5th grade, and we will need plenty of helpers including youth and adults of all ages. The cost will be \$25 for the week with scholarships available. Visit our website for more info, but most of all, please save the dates and start to pray for the kids we might reach through this program.




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## **Christian Cooperative Preschool**

March was a very busy month at CCP. The parents of the 3 and 4 year old children had the opportunity to have conferences with their children’s teachers, we have had lots of tours, and we started our big ocean unit. In addition, we also had Ellen Goethel and her ‘Explore the Ocean World’ program come to visit, we celebrated Children’s Ministry Sunday, and we had our Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care licensing visit.

April will bring plenty of ocean activities and crafts. We will also be happy to celebrate signs of spring: we love to watch for the crocuses out front and sing our favorite crocus song. We are also looking forward to watching our gardens grow. CCP will be closed for April vacation from Friday, April 18 - Friday April 25.



Happy Easter from all of us at CCP!

Enrollment is ongoing - for more information, or to make an appointment for a tour, please call Gina @ 781-944-0612 or visit our website: [christiancooperativepreschool.org](http://christiancooperativepreschool.org)



## ***Music Ministry***

Now is the time! The choir will be singing beautiful anthems for Palm Sunday and Easter. Come and join us! The Mission Ringers are ringing on Palm Sunday, the hand bells are ringing on Easter, and the Cherub Choir will be singing on Easter. Now is the time to come and join us. There is always room for you in our musical groups! Talk to Susan and come to rehearsal.

### Save the Date!

Friday evening, May 30 at 7:30 p.m.

The Old South UMC Organ and Brass are presenting their Spring concert.

### Rehearsal times:

CHANCEL CHOIR: Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (8:30 a.m. for those who missed Thursday),

HAND BELL CHOIR: Every Tuesday in the sanctuary at 9:15 a.m.

OLD SOUTH BRASS AND ORGAN: Every Wednesday in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m.

CHERUB CHOIR: Every Sunday in the parlor with Marcy Nelson at 11:00 a.m.

REMEMBER TO CHECK THE CHURCH WEBSITE AND CALENDAR  
FOR UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

## ***From Farmer Dave's***

Baby cucumbers in the Tewksbury Greenhouse

After spending the coldest of the winter months away in the Republic of Georgia, it is wonderful to be back home. Clem, Danala and the whole farm team have been beautifully growing the spring share and seeding the first of the transplants that will be planted in the fields next month. This continuous seeding of transplants is creating a beautiful blanket of green in the greenhouse (hence the name). When they are all later spaced out in the field, they will grow to carpet the larger fields into the scrumptious shares of late spring and summer. The greens that we sowed in the greenhouses have been delayed due to the cold and cloudy winter. But they are now responding to the longer and sunnier days. The coming week's shares will be able to offer some wonderful meals of fresh greens salads topped with sweet roasted winter roots mixed with the crunch of last fall's apples.



I am getting a little worried about this prolonged winter. The cold and snow just does not want to leave. This weather is pushing back a lot of our preparatory work for the season. April will be a very very busy month for us. We normally prune the berries in March. With a foot of snow still around the raspberry and blueberry plants, we cannot yet get to the base of them to do our work. We typically plow the first fields in late March and seed the first peas at the end of the month. Before we can think about this the snow must first melt, then the foot of frost must thaw, the mud must dry and then the soil must warm. I sure hope we get a change in this weather pattern soon.

This all adds to the challenging fun of farming. Many ask me why I am not all stressed out as a farmer. The attitude towards it all is the key. And this attitude must also be shared by the members of the farm when receiving the CSA box. Similar to the words of Forrest Gump, "CSA is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get." Yet, at least you know the harvest will be something very sweet.

Growing Sweetness,  
Farmer Dave

P.S. Farmer Dave's is a CSA (Community Supported Agricultural program) that provides fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables for families who purchase a "share" of the farm harvest. Members pick up their share at Old South each Monday from 3-6:30pm during the Spring season. The regular season begins in June and pickups will move to Fridays.

Interested in eating more local, seasonal food? Try Simply in Season: Recipes that celebrate fresh, local foods in the spirit of More-with-Less by Mary Beth Lind and Cathleen Hockman-West.

**Educational Ministry**

**Bible Study** - Watch for special program details.

**Nursery Care** - Nursery Coordinator: Amanda Roland and volunteers  
Provided on Sunday mornings for infants to age 3 in Room 103 of the Educational Wing from 8:45 through the 10:00 worship service.

**Sunday School** - Meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00. For age 3 through senior high.

**Sunday School Staff**

Pre-K: Charlotte Harlan, Kristina Smith, Karen Roscoe, and Lauren Hubbard  
Elementary: Holly Stanieich, Jody Donahue, and Paula Perry  
Middlers: Jennifer Brickett and Dianne Meyers  
High School: Jim Roscoe and Chris Krebs  
Parenting Group: rotating leaders

**WOW** – Worship Our Way for children 4 years to grade 4 meets following the children’s message.

**Christian Cooperative Preschool** - Infants to pre-K. Meets weekdays 9am-12pm.

Director: Gina Azulay  
Infants: Jessica Aiello  
2 year olds: Donna Bramhall  
3 year olds: Eileen McTaggart  
4 year olds: Cindy Petrucci



**Opportunities for Nurturing the Body, Mind, and Spirit**

**Yoga** - Gentle Yoga meets Monday nights at 6:00 in the Choir Room with Linda Preston. Each class is \$8.00 and payable to Linda. Newcomers and walk-ins are always welcome.

**TOPS** - "Take Off Pounds Sensibly" meets in the Youth Room on Wednesdays at 5:30pm.

**Julia Circle** - Apr. 21 at 7:30 p.m.  
(location to be confirmed)

**Dorcas Circle** - Apr. 15 in the parlor at 10 a.m.

**Book Club** - Apr. 24 - Nancy White's at 10 a.m.

**Men’s Breakfast** - Apr. 27 in the vestry at 8 a.m.



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## Our Church Family

We extend our deepest sympathy to Joanne Perry on the recent loss of her father, Herb Perry, and husband, Graham Pratt; and Michelle Faulkner on the recent loss of her boyfriend, Dana Roberge.

Congratulations to Mark, Ling, Emily, and Allison Care on the birth of Isabelle on March 7th.

Congratulations to Ryan Trismen who was honored at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor in Andover on March 23rd.

## Thank You

To Old South,

I do so appreciate the flower gift you gave me. Being unwell is easier to bear. Thank you!

Nathalie Nordstrand

## Prayer Chain

Old South Prayer Chain members are available to pray for situations or problems that occur at times other than Sunday morning and Wednesday evenings. Members are: Lois Tulikangas (781)944-9316; Shirley Buzderewicz (781)944-3577; Nancy White (781)944-6269; Nathalie Nordstrand (791)944-4252; Liz Barnes (781)944-6907; June Meserve (781)944-9416; Grace Palmer (781)944-4069; Tina Waldroup (781)246-1054; Jody Donahue (781)944-0819; and Nancy Anderson (339) 927-1651.

## Coffee Hour Help for April

**Apr. 6** - Crow, Faulkner, and Nestor

**Apr. 13** - Anderson, Chalek, Opland, and Poehler

**Apr. 20** - Barnes, Lancelot, and Perkins

**Apr. 27** - Agami and Roscoe

## To reach us by email...

Rev. Jan Smith-Rushton  
[Pastor@oldsouthumc.org](mailto:Pastor@oldsouthumc.org)

Rev. Carol Van Buskirk  
[PastorCarol@oldsouthumc.org](mailto:PastorCarol@oldsouthumc.org)

Susan Holloway  
[MusicDirector@oldsouthumc.org](mailto:MusicDirector@oldsouthumc.org)

Carol Rogerson  
[Office@oldsouthumc.org](mailto:Office@oldsouthumc.org)

HOSPITAL  **Because we care...**

If you are hospitalized, please let the church office or one of the pastors know. Also, please list Old South United Methodist Church as your church upon admission.

If you know of someone else in our church family who is in the hospital, please let us know. Contact the church office at 781-944-2636 or [office@oldsouthumc.org](mailto:office@oldsouthumc.org).

*Touring Heifer's Overlook Farm, meeting the many animals there and learning how the gift of an animal and know-how can build self-sufficiency for impoverished families and communities.*



# April 2014

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
<p><b>Every Sunday</b>                      8:30AM - Chancel Choir Rehearsal                      9AM - Sunday School                      10AM - Worship                      11AM - Cherub Choir Rehearsal                      11AM - Coffee Hour</p>		<p><b>1</b>                      9:15 AM                      Bell Choir Rehearsal                       7:00 PM                      Contemplative Spirituality</p>	<p><b>2</b>                      7:00 PM                      Wednesday Worship                       7:30 PM                      Brass Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>3</b>                      10:00 AM                      Fresh Bread                       6:00 PM                      Music Committee                       7:00 PM                      Chancel Choir</p>	<p><b>4</b>                      10:30 AM                      Food Pantry</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>
<p><b>6</b>                      7:00 PM                      Confirmation Class</p>	<p><b>7</b>                      3:00 PM                      Farmer Dave                       6:00 PM                      Yoga                       7:00 PM                      Food Pantry</p>	<p><b>8</b>                      9:15 AM                      Bell Choir Rehearsal                       7:00 PM                      Contemplative Spirituality</p>	<p><b>9</b>                      7:30 PM                      Brass Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>10</b>  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>                       10:00 AM                      Fresh Bread                       7:00 PM                      Chancel Choir</p>	<p><b>11</b>                      10:30 AM                      Food Pantry</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>
<p><b>13</b>  <i>Palm Sunday</i>                       7:00 PM                      Confirmation Class</p>	<p><b>14</b>                      3:00 PM                      Farmer Dave                       6:00 PM                      Yoga                       7:00 PM                      Food Pantry</p>	<p><b>15</b>                      9:15 AM                      Bell Choir Rehearsal                       10:00 AM                      Dorcas Circle</p>	<p><b>16</b>                      7:30 PM                      Brass Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>17</b>                      7:30 PM                      Maundy Thursday Service                       8:30 PM                      Prayer Vigil Begins</p>	<p><b>18</b>  <i>Good Friday</i>                       Prayer Vigil Continues                       12:15 PM                      Ecumenical Good Friday Service - Korean Church of the Nazarene</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>
<p><b>20</b>  <i>Easter Sunday</i></p>	<p><b>21</b>  <i>Patriots' Day - Church Office Closed</i>                       3:00 PM                      Farmer Dave                       6:00 PM                      Yoga                       7:00 PM                      Food Pantry</p>	<p><b>22</b>                      9:15 AM                      Bell Choir Rehearsal                       7:30 PM                      Staff Parish Relations</p>	<p><b>23</b>                      7:30 PM                      Brass Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>24</b>                      7:00 PM                      Chancel Choir                       7:30 PM                      Trustees</p>	<p><b>25</b>                      10:30 AM                      Food Pantry</p>	<p><b>26</b>                      2:00 PM                      Callahan/Osborn Wedding</p>
<p><b>27</b>                      8:00 AM                      Men's Breakfast                       7:00 PM                      Confirmation Class</p>	<p><b>28</b>                      3:00 PM                      Farmer Dave                       6:00 PM                      Yoga</p>	<p><b>29</b>                      9:15 AM                      Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>30</b>                      7:30 PM                      Brass Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>Christian Cooperative Preschool</b>                      Monday-Friday                      9 AM - 12 PM</p>		

*The Old South United Methodist Church is a supportive, accepting, and loving community of believers inspired by the message of Christ to worship God, to grow spiritually, to nurture one another in faith and to serve others at home and abroad.*

## THE FAMILY VISITOR

Published regularly for the members and friends of Old South United Methodist Church. The purpose is to inform the congregation of upcoming meetings, events, and activities, and to proclaim the works of God in our midst.

Old South United Methodist Church is in connection and in mission with other United Methodist Churches in the United States and around the world. We are part of the New England Annual Conference.

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar

District Superintendent: Rev. Rene A. Perez

Church Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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 Director of Music: Susan Holloway  
 Secretary and Editor: Carol Rogerson  
 Business Administrator: Nancy Chloodian  
 Childcare Coordinator: Amanda Roland  
 Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Robert K. Sweet, Jr. D. Min.  
 Director of Music Emeritus: Wendell W. Hodgkins  
 Christian Cooperative Preschool: 781-944-0612  
 Reading Food Pantry: 781-944-8486



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