



# Vestry News

APRIL 2026

## HOLY WEEK



### Maundy Thursday, 7pm

The service will start with a simple soup and bread, communion, and remembering Jesus's sacrifice with readings and dimming the lights until we leave in darkness.

### Good Friday Lamentations, 7PM

This will be a prayer service in the sanctuary that will provide individuals the opportunity to voice their concerns; fears; and anger. To lament to God in the tradition of the Psalms. A quiet night of sitting in the pain of this time before the Alleluias of Easter morning. The liturgy will be appropriate for a multi-faith audience.



### Easter Sunrise Service: April 5th at 6:30am

**North Cemetery, located at the intersection of Hill and Middle Roads**  
(parking at Boxborough Historical Society)



Dress warmly and be ready to sing and praise God at sunrise. Please bring your own flower (ideally one for everyone in your party), so we can weave gorgeous variety into the cross! We will have daffodils for everyone who attends.

After the service, a delicious breakfast will be served at the Community Center! Everyone is welcome!

### Easter Service: April 5th at 9:30am

All ages join together (in person or online) for worship full of celebration and joy. Those in person will help flower the Easter cross; please bring your own flower (ideally one for everyone in your party), so we can weave gorgeous variety into the cross!



OPEN AND AFFIRMING  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## Palm Sunday



The congregation waves their palms.



Brenda and Todd sang The Old Rugged Cross together with the congregation. Brenda explained the history of The Old Rugged Cross with the black church—it was transformed into a soulful gospel anthem.



## Bee-long Boxborough! Sponsors Diaper Drive

UCCB's Immigration Work and Advocacy Group, Bee-long Boxborough!, is sponsoring a diaper drive as a leadup to the group's April 11 community event. **Diapers of all sizes are needed, especially sizes 5, 6, and 7.** Please place your donations in the labeled box in the Vestry.

The diapers will be donated to the Worcester Area Mission Society which runs a monthly free donation center for refugee and immigrant families in the Worcester area. The need is great; please give what you can. If you prefer, you can give directly through [the donation center's Amazon Wish List](#). Thank you for showing your love for your neighbor through your generosity!



**OUR SERVICES ARE SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30 IN PERSON OR ON ZOOM**

### To worship via Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

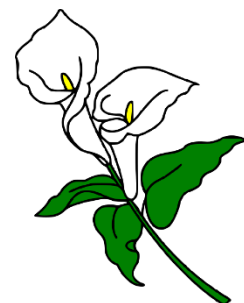
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88306753408?pwd=VlgwZUtYL05JeVU2WklHWGtUWExGdz09>

Meeting ID: 883 0675 3408

Passcode: 7387

Please note: our worship services are streamed live via Zoom, and recorded for posting on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIlayswOH7Ta7LYVK-BcAyA>).

Zoom offers closed captioning subtitles for those who find that helpful.



# Music Sunday

Come and brighten your day by coming to the 46th annual **Music Sunday Concert** at Sunday, **MAY 3 at 4:30PM** in the Sanctuary. This free musical program showcases local talent (instrumental and choral) from UCCB and the community. It will be highlighted by special selections by the choirs plus a variety of music performed by people of all ages. Come one and come all to this special, joyful musical program. Light refreshments will follow the program coordinated by the Fellowship Committee. **NOTE:** All performers please contact Gloria Roe about song(s) information (title & composer) for the program by April 26. There is an Open Rehearsal time for all musicians on Saturday morning, April 30, from 10:00-12:00 in the Church Sanctuary. For more information contact Gloria Roe 978-502-9625, email [gloria.a.roe@gmail.com](mailto:gloria.a.roe@gmail.com)



## Sunday, March 9



A skit from John 9—Jesus heals a man born blind by applying clay to his eyes. The Pharisees investigate the healing.

## Volunteer Opportunities!

We're looking for a few helping hands to support our upcoming Sunday worship services—whether it's greeting, ushering, lay reading, or young folks lighting candles. If you feel called to serve or just want to be part of something meaningful, we'd love to have you! No experience needed! For information on the tasks, please contact the deacon chair, Larry Wellington or Heidi Matthew. We are happy to answer any questions you may have. We use sign up genius to help organize the Sundays. See link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA9AF2AA1FDC61-sunday2#/>

## Lenten Dinner at the UCCB



There were approximately 35 people in attendance on Wednesday, March 25th. Sounds of Peace moved us into the spirit.



After we had soup and bread, Fran found volunteers and we read fervently the play "Table Talk". As the disciples ate, drank, and talked together, Peter addressed Jesus.

# UCCB Volunteers Serve Community Supper

Thank you to the team of volunteers who served dinner and welcomed the guests at the March 11 Community Supper at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Acton. UCCB has a years-long tradition of supporting Community Supper on a biannual basis. In addition to sending a team of volunteers, Faith in Action underwrites the cost of the dinner with a donation of \$350. Thank you to the volunteers for their gift of time, and to all who support UCCB with their financial contributions which make this work possible.



Nancy's Sunday St. Patrick's Day outfit.



On March 22nd, Hannah, Esther's daughter, played the cello again for us.

## Faith in Action

We have been busy putting our resources to work on behalf of UCCB!

- We provided sponsored two tables at the **Habitat for Humanity** Dueling Pianos fundraising event at the Bull Run Restaurant in Shirley, MA. While we don't yet know how much money was raised by the whole event, we know that UCCB donated \$1,300 for the two tables and then individuals contributed additional funds to add to the cause.
- We sponsored a community support on March 11<sup>th</sup> at **Mt. Calvary Community Supper**, providing the funds and people power to bring joy and sustenance to the community. Thank you, Glynis, for leading this effort!
- During Sunday School, as the children were reflecting on the Beatitudes, they learned about Barbara and Ira Smith, the founders of **Household Goods**. The children then created signs for the church wide drive for
- **Earth Day** to gather household items and linens to delivery to this important and impactful non-profit in Acton. Check out the collection bins in the lobby!
- Stay tuned for more efforts in the months to come!

Want to join the discernment and planning with the Faith in Action team? contact Susan Appleton ([sjkapple@gmail.com](mailto:sjkapple@gmail.com)) or Kellie Senghas ([ktsenghas@gmail.com](mailto:ktsenghas@gmail.com)) Many hands make light and joyful work!



## Hosting a Drive for Household Goods

Help Household Goods furnish homes for families in need by donating your good quality household items. Your donations provide comfort and stability to individuals and families and help turn empty apartments into homes. Clients include victims of domestic violence, those coming out of homeless shelters, returning veterans and those whose homes have been impacted by flood or fire. All clients come to Household Goods through referral agencies. Clients come to Household Goods (sometimes virtually through use of Zoom) to choose what they need, free of charge.

We are collecting sheets and towels, blankets and comforters, also pots, pans dishes and kitchen utensils.

Bins are located in the lobby (and will be emptied as needed).

For questions, contact Janet Glidden or go to [householdgoods.org](http://householdgoods.org).



## Adult Mission Trip with Habitat for Humanity - July 16 thru 18

We're excited to share that planning is underway for this summer's Adult Mission Trip with Habitat for Humanity! In lieu of visiting Maine Seacoast Mission, we will be supporting a local Habitat for Humanity build in Acton, helping to create safe and affordable housing in partnership with the community. The dates are from Thursday, July 16, through Saturday, July 18.

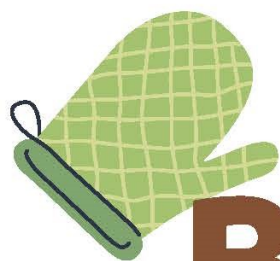
There will be a kickoff breakfast Thursday morning at the Church, followed by lunch at the site daily, and a potluck celebration on the evening of July 18 for volunteers, families, and friends to gather and share the experience together. In addition to the 8 to 12 construction workers needed each day, we need help to support the breakfast, daily lunches, and the Saturday celebration. We welcome your help, even if you can sign up only for one day!

This opportunity is open not only to UCCB folks but to friends and neighbors in the wider community—so feel free to spread the word!

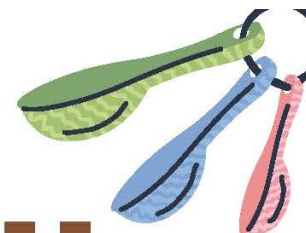
If you are interested, click the link to sign up [here!](#)

We'd love to have you join us!





Acton-Boxborough Community Compass  
Mental Wellness Team presents



# Bake It Till You Make It



**Community Potluck  
& Baking Presentation**  
*featuring Dayna Altman*

**Sunday, April 12, 2026 • 5:30-7:30PM**  
**AB Resource Center • 15 Charter Rd, Acton**

Using ingredients as metaphors, Dayna chronicles her struggles with major depression, OCD and an eating disorder through a presentation of honesty, hope and inspiration.

Bring your favorite dish and stay for a scrumptious potluck with community-minded neighbors.



Acton-Boxborough  
Cultural Council



**Acton-Boxborough  
Community Compass**

**RSVP**



[abccompass.org/nourish](http://abccompass.org/nourish)

# Generosity



We have been **plant seeds of hope – together** all year as we have worshipped, worked and laughed side-by-side all year. Did you tuck away the seed paper hearts that we distributed last fall at the conclusion of the generosity campaign, intending to plant them this spring? Well, spring is in the air and we are invited to plant seeds in the earth so the time is ripe!

Thank you to all who have pledged your financial support to keep the ministries of UCCB vibrant and growing in 2026. Your generous gifts – of time, talent, and treasure make **all** things possible in our faith community.

You can learn more about pledging and giving options, by visiting UCCB’s website ([www.boxboroughucc.org/giving/](http://www.boxboroughucc.org/giving/)). If you would like to pledge via a secure online form, follow this [link](#).



Thank you for being part of this journey and our faith community.

Your Generosity Ministry Team: Griet Dehandschutter, Rev. Fran Graveson, and Kellie Senghas

## Scholarships

Every year UCCB offers two scholarships in memory of former parishioners. Anyone within the broader church family, including extended family and friends of the church, are invited to apply. Eligible applicants can apply for one or both awards.

This year we ask that you **go the link below, provide the pertinent information in an email, and send it to [boxborochurch@verizon.net](mailto:boxborochurch@verizon.net) by May 17, 2026** More details are listed in this application.

<https://boxboroughucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/scholarship-application-UCCB-2026.pdf>

## Bluebirds - Messengers of Hope

A small blue feather, heaven's blue  
Resting on a branch of yew  
A song of hope, a whispered prayer,  
God's tiny messenger in the air.  
With heart of fire and wings of sky,  
It sings a grace as it flies by.  
No greater joy than this small bird,  
The living, breathing joyful Word.

*Pictures and AI generated poem provided by Ginny Harris.*



## Blanket Collection

After Easter the basket for the annual Blanket Collection will be in the Church lobby and will be there for the month of April. For more information contact Ann Marchmont at [marchmont922@gmail.com](mailto:marchmont922@gmail.com)



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## April 2026

[www.boxboroughucc.org](http://www.boxboroughucc.org)

978-263-7387

[boxborochurch@verizon.net](mailto:boxborochurch@verizon.net)

**Vestry News articles are due starting the 24th of each month. Please submit your article or pictures to [hmatthew25@verizon.net](mailto:hmatthew25@verizon.net) and [boxborochurch@verizon.net](mailto:boxborochurch@verizon.net)**



*Happy Easter*

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