



PETROS

MARCH 2025

The Newsletter of the Kearsarge Community Presbyterian Church

Hope in the Lenten Season: A Time to Grow

Roberta Hollinger ~ Christian Education Director

Lent is a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. The intent is to take a similar 40-day journey of prayer, meditation, sacrifice and reflection as Jesus did. During Lent we experience the reminder of human morality and frailty of life. In the desert Jesus experienced hunger and temptation, yet He remained steadfast relying on God's Word and strength. Lent serves as a reminder that hope endures. We may be living in a time that is fraught with challenges and difficulties, but in that fragility the seed of hope and strength are often planted.

Within this season, we practice reflection, repentance and sacrifice as part of *our* journey.

Reflection during Lent encourages us to look inward, to examine our lives, and to ask: *How can I contribute to healing and renewal in my community?* Amid societal fractures, this practice of self-examination encourages us to grow in our empathy, understanding, and a commitment to positive change.

Repentance is key to the Lenten journey. It is a time to seek forgiveness—not only from God but also from one another. In a divided nation, the act of repentance can take on a communal aspect. Leaders can use this season to acknowledge past mistakes, while we *all* can embrace the spirit of reconciliation, striving to mend broken relationships. True repentance demands action, and during Lent, this may manifest as efforts to promote justice, advocate for the marginalized, or engage in acts of kindness that restore trust.

Sacrifice and fasting are hallmark practices of Lent, reminding us to focus on what truly matters. It's a time to let go of excess and prioritize the common good. Sacrifice during Lent can inspire generosity, encouraging those of us who have much to share with those who have little. These acts of solidarity build resilience and hope, demonstrating that even *small actions can make a significant difference in the lives of others*. This reminds me of a quote from a book we've read in Faith Book Group, "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."

— Jodi Picoult, **Small Great Things**

It is only with God's help, if we ask for it, that we may be able to grow during this season. In troubled times, it is easy to succumb to despair. But the Lenten season invites us to hold fast to faith, to nurture hope, and to act with love. It's a call to recognize that, even in the wilderness, God walks alongside us. As individuals, communities, and nations confront their trials, Lent serves as a reminder that renewal and growth is possible—not through avoidance of hardship, but through the courage to face it with grace, determination, and communication.

Let this Lenten season be a time of healing for both our souls and our nation. May it inspire us all to work together, united by hope, to create a future marked by peace, justice, and compassion.

May you be safe. May you be happy. May you be healthy. May you be at peace.
Buddhist Loving Kindness Prayer

~ Reflections ~

Paula Schoonmaker

Spring is on the Way!

In New Hampshire, we experience all four climactic seasons, and if I were to ask you which one is your favorite season, I would get many different responses. While I appreciate what all four seasons can bring, my favorite season is fall. As a teacher, I love the hope and anticipation of starting a new school year with a new group of goofy 6th graders, leaning into the anxiety and nervousness that come with the start of each fall term, learning to accept that it will inevitably come and inevitably go as all of the “what ifs” fail to materialize.

In the same way, with our church life at KCPC, we all know the seasons we have passed through over the last few years, and while it may seem like the season of “winter” will never end, I find myself looking forward to and anticipating the spring that is sure to follow. Spring follows winter (or in the past few years in New London, early summer follows winter!) What was old is made new again. Hope replaces hopelessness; faith and love replace despair. In Romans 15:13, the apostle Paul entreats us, ‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.’

Be hopeful, and recognize that as the Earth turns and gives us seasons that pass, so will the seasons we weather together as a body of Christ. As we find a new pastor and create a more unified church body, I see signs of spring. Better times are ahead! Be hopeful!

It's time to join PW & Youth Group for fun-filled family friendly

STAY & PLAY



Sunday, March 16th

**Right after Worship
in Foulkes Hall.**

**We'll provide
supplies and popcorn.
Hope to see you there!**



KCPC Yard Sale May 24, 2025 Get Ready, Mark your Calendar!

**33rd Annual YARD SALE: Saturday, May 24th
8:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**Bring your donations: Sunday May 18, 2025
Set-Up Week: May 19 – 23**

Mark your calendar: *Saturday May 24, 2025* for the 33rd KCPC Yard Sale, and plan to volunteer during SetUp Week.

Now is the time to label a box for things you want to donate to the KCPC Yard Sale. Clean out your closets and save your best items for donation. We will need gently used kid's and adult clothing, rugs, jewelry, tools, working electronics, fine china, glassware, mirrors, toys, patio furniture, yard + garden equipment, bicycles and other sporting goods. Email Maria at officem@tds.net, or call Lorelle Foulds (cell) at 203-952-6687 to discuss furniture donations.

We can be proud of bringing our community into our church for 33 years. Please plan to donate both your attic treasures and your time.

Interested in Participating in Sunday Worship?

We love seeing new faces
“up front” on Sunday mornings.
Would you like to be part of
worship as a reader or lay leader?



Liturgist or welcoming worshippers or making
the announcements? If so and for information,
please contact Lorelle at 203-952-6687 or by
email at lvfouldes@gmail.com

We Need You!

Would you like to meet
and greet fellow KCPC
members and visiting
guests as they enter the
Sanctuary? If so, please
sign up on the board in
Foulkes Hall.

Lucky March Birthdays!

March 5	Melissa Smart David Rhodes
March 12	Bud Dick
March 13	Leonara Jennison
March 18	Andrew Csontos
March 19	Naomi Cleaveland
March 23	Jane Barban
March 31	Ruth Pratt

Please Support KCPC Mission: Food Pantry Donations

Please bring one or two food items to church for our local food pantries. Donations are collected every Sunday.

The local food pantries need: canned meats including chicken, or tuna, pasta sauces, canned vegetables, beans, hearty canned soups, Chef Boyardee cans, boxed mashed potatoes, small bags of rice, Skillet Meals, Rice-A-Roni, jelly, medium boxes of cereal, peanut butter, canned vegetable drinks, boxed UHT milk, juice drinks (including 2 qt bottles), tea bags, cooking oil, spices, cake mixes, small ground coffee.



WHAT'S HAPPENING...

PETROS is now Online!

The monthly Petros newsletter is now available online!
The Petros will be posted at the beginning of each month on the KCPC website www.kcpcnlh.com



If you'd like a printed copy mailed to you, please let Maria know by calling the KCPC Office at: 603-526-4800 or by email at: officem@tds.net

Printed copies will also be available in the office and on the table in the narthex.

We hope you enjoy receiving and reading the Petros online.


Please join us at our monthly

Men's Breakfast

Tuesdays at
7:30 AM

Apr. 1st
May 6th

Serving great food & fellowship.




St. Patrick's Day
is
Monday, March 17th

KCPC March Calendar of Events:

- Sunday Worship @ 10 AM In Person & Online**
 March 2, 2025 Fran Steven-Putnam, Lay Leader
 March 9, 2025 Rev. Skye Murray, Guest Preacher
 ~ Communion Service
 March 16, 2025 Rev. Ruy Costa, Guest Preacher
 March 23, 2025 Rev. Rob Grabill, Guest Preacher
 March 30, 2025 Rev. Skye Murray, Guest Preacher

Every Monday
Small Group 10:30 AM

Every Wednesday
Bells 6:15 PM
Choir 7:00 PM

Every Thursday
Gospel O'Mark 9:00 AM

- Monday, March 10th**
 Yard Sale Meeting 12:00 PM
 ~ All Are Invited
 Mission Board Meeting 5:15 PM
 ~ All Are Invited

Tuesday, March 11th
TOD 6:30 PM



Gospel of Mark

Thursdays @ 9:00 a.m. at KCPC

Live and Learn

by Roberta Hollinger

In spring I get the hankering to grow something – anything! We have a few opportunities to *live and learn* at KCPC: Monday Small Group (soon to be re-named), Theology on Draft, Book of Mark and Faith Book Group. I would love to see those **opportunities grow!** To that end, you're invited to join the Monday Small Group, beginning 3/10/25 as we embark on a *40 day Lenten journey* with the help of Kate Bowler's new series *The Hardest Part...hurt we carry, hope we find*:

Lent begins with human touch as oil and ashes are traced in the shape of a cross on our foreheads. From dust we were made; to dust we will return (Genesis 3:19). The intimacy of this symbolic act expresses God's invitation to "be reconciled" right here, right now, in this moment, no matter how ready we feel—for "now is the acceptable time" (2 Corinthians 6:2b). Jesus has flung open the door and said, let nothing stand in your way. Come and see how loved and how precious you really are, in all of your humanity. Jesus will speak strength and love into all the places where you feel fragile and inadequate. He will speak hope into your fears and eternal life into your very mortality. For know this: you were never meant to do this alone.

I have both hard and digital copies for you to follow along the daily devotionals and weekly discussions.

Weekday mornings aren't convenient for everyone, so I will be offering a weekly Zoom evening small group. If you are interested in either, please join us on Monday mornings, 10:30 - 11:30 to let me know you're interest in the evening group (the group will decide which evening would work best for all).



Blessing for Ash Wednesday

*These days of dust.
These days of despair.
Reality speaks to us clearly.
So we approach—carefully, hesitantly, barely ready to hear the hard truths
we long to be told
about the beauty and terror of mortality.
How strange it feels,
so right and so good,
to move forward together,
wearing our finitude like a badge— a mess of ash,
a reminder:
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.
How strange it feels,
so right and so good,
to stand at the edge of awareness—
the balance point
between being and non-being. I catch my breath as I look and see shining faces.
I see it all in an instant: how precious,
how holy,
how fleeting and infinite each imperfect life.
How beautiful,
how stubborn,
how unfinishable each single existence.
We wear this truth,
moving forward together,
our dust shining like radiant hope¹*

1 Kate Bowler. "A Blessing for Ash Wednesday" in *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day: Daily Meditations for the Ups, Downs, and In-Betweens*. (New York: Convergent Books, 2024). 99.



*Thank
You*
from
WishListNH

Thank you for making the KCPC Giving Tree a huge success. WishListNH was able to assist 14 families which represented 36 kiddos. The surplus of Christmas toys were shared with a school social worker who works exclusively with New American families.

Another big thank you for donations to WishListNH in 2024. We were able to assist 119 local families. Twelve of those families are survivors of domestic violence. ~ Thank you.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Session

Annie Beck
Lorelle Foulds
Jeff Hollinger
Paula Schoonmaker
Russ Doughty
Bruce Herd
Paul Seyfried
Ruth Storey
Doug Darling
Linda Hoffman
Gerald Putnam

Deacons

Betty Stockwell
Barry Bradford
Rick Marsh
Jan Sahler
Barbara Cooper
Anne Holmes
Kris Walters
Donna Young
Susan Bradford
Jerry Cooper
Wanda Doughty
Nancy Marsh

Clerk of Session,

Barbara Rothe

Financial Secretary,

Anne Holmes

Asst. Financial Secretary,

John Walters

Treasurer,

Sara Scheuch

Moderator of Deacons,

Rick Marsh

Secretary of Deacons,

Barbara Cooper

CONTACTING THE CHURCH

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Roberta Hollinger, *Education Director*
Frances Steven-Putnam, *Music Director*
Jason Paquette, *Church Accompanist*
Maria Barnard, *Office Manager*

Please Contact For More Info:

Presbyterian Women, *Roberta Hollinger*
WishListNH Ministry, *Lorelle Foulds*
Christian Education, *Roberta Hollinger*
Bell Choir, *Gary Rothe*
Good Day Respite, *Jan Sahler*
Feed the Freezer, *Ruth Storey*
KLS Food Pantry, *Kathi Kelly*
KCPC Food Bank, *Doug Darling*
KCPC Wood Ministry, *John Foulds*

PETROS PUBLICATION

**Deadline for the April
issue of the newsletter is:
Sunday, March 23rd.**

**One way to send info to us:
officem@tds.net**

**Or: You may submit a typewritten
copy of your article. The above may
be left in the church office mailbox.**

Statement of Purpose:

The Kearsarge Community Presbyterian Church is a community of Christians striving to do God's work on earth. We proclaim that the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, give us direction and purpose as a people of faith.

Online Giving now at KCPC!

The Stewardship Committee is pleased to announce that KCPC now has an online giving platform. Click on this QR code to direct your pledge payment, monetary gift in the general offering plate, or specific donation to things like WishList NH, planned gifts, staff Christmas presents or a gift in memory of a loved one.

You will receive an immediate email acknowledgement of your gift and an end-of-the-year acknowledgement of your tax-deductible donations from the church.



Kearsarge Community

Presbyterian Church

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New London, NH 03257

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Organization

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