

MARCH TIDINGS

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March 2026

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Beloved Siblings in Christ,

As I write this article, currently the entire state of Massachusetts is under a blizzard warning, the governor has declared a state of emergency, the snow is falling and the wind is howling. We already seem to have close to a foot on the ground. It seems to be a day where not many people including myself, will be going very far.

Now this not the normal scenario for me on a Monday. Typically, I'm up by 6:30, I make myself a cup of coffee, shower, dress, and then head out the door. Monday, is typically a day I spend at Bethlehem, but on way I almost always stop at Sturbridge Coffee House for a cup of coffee and a granola bowl. After that, it's back to the church to begin looking at leaders' guides, announcements, and many other assorted tasks.

This morning though, the routine was different. The weather conditions have forced me to slow down, which to be honest, is not a bad thing. As I woke up this morning, there was no need to rush out the door, in fact it would have been safe to do so. Instead, I made my cup of coffee and then simply sat and watch the snow fall while the wind roared. There was a moment of peach in early morning hours on a day I didn't have to rush out the door.

Snow day Spirituality from **Your Priest-in-Charge**

There was certainly a certain calm and beauty in these early morning moments.

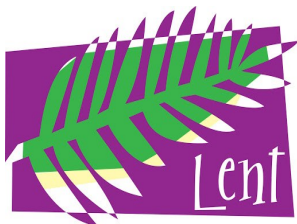
As we continue on our journey into Lent this year, I would, in the midst of hectic schedules, invite you to this sacred moment of stillness and peace, moments that invite us to be open to how God is speaking to us and just exactly what God might be saying to us. Where might the spirit might be calling us to go? How are we called to be community together? What are some of the things we need to let go of?

There is a beautiful sacredness to slowing down, to stopping for some moments. There is power in taking time to breath and reflect on what God is up to in our lives. Whether it's snowing or not, I hope you might find some time to step away from the google calendar, to lay your phones down, and take some moments in the midst of God's creation, be still and listen to the ways God is speaking to you

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Dan

*"Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth."*

Psalm 46:10



Mission Plate for March & April



The mission plate will be collected for World Central Kitchen

"Food is essential to life every single day, all over the world—and it is more important than ever in a crisis. Not only is a thoughtful, freshly prepared meal one less thing someone has to worry about in the wake of a disaster, it is a reminder that you are not alone, someone is thinking about you, and someone cares. Food has the power to be the nourishment and hope we need to pick ourselves back up in the darkest times." Chef José Andrés,

Please go to their website for more information at [World Central Kitchen's story](#)
Please give generously as you are able.

The Mission Committee
[Anne M Bouvier-Monroe](#)

Daylight Savings Begins



Sunday, March 8th
Remember to turn your clocks
AHEAD
one hour before you go to bed
on Saturday March 7th.



Our March donations will go the Bridge Fridge
in Southbridge.

A message from our Music Director

One of my favorite hymns is "It Is Well with My Soul," which carries a powerful message about maintaining faith during times of stress and grief. When you have a moment, please visit the Tabernacle Choir website for an inspiring story about the author's trust in God during difficult times.



There will also be a combined choir for Palm Sunday at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sturbridge. Anyone who can carry a tune is welcome to join us. Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday, March 18 and March 25 at 7:00 PM. If you cannot attend the Wednesday rehearsals, you are welcome to come early on Palm Sunday, March 29, to sing the anthem. Music will be available at church starting March 8.

Additionally, Holy Trinity's choir will be singing throughout Lent and Easter. We rehearse on Thursdays at 4:00 PM, with Sunday morning rehearsals at 10:15 AM before we sing the anthem.

Finally, for Easter Sunday on April 5, I am forming a multigenerational choir for a special, joyful piece of music. We are looking for children and those "young at heart" to join us. Rehearsals for this piece will begin on March 8 at 10:45 AM in the sanctuary.

God's peace and blessings,

Anne Bouvier-Monroe, organist

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



- 4— Cat Reith-Lowery
- 4— Sue Smith
- 7— Laura Gervais
- 8— Bethany Reith-Lowery
- 9— Jack Burns
- 9— Bridgette Bachand
- 10— Benjamin Normandin
- 12— Abigail Bullard
- 16— Lynn Garland
- 28— June Mosher
- 31— Christopher Ballou



**Save the date for an Intergenerational Lenten event on
Wednesday, March 4th at 5:30PM.**

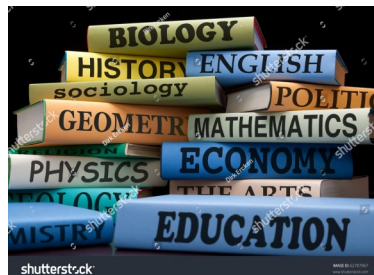
You are all invited to join us on Wednesdays, March 4th, 18th & 25th, 2026 5:30-8:00 PM
at Bethlehem Lutheran Church 345 Main St, Sturbridge, MA 01566

We will begin with a potluck supper with everyone of all ages. Please bring something to share. As the potluck supper wraps, adults will share in a viewing of *The Chosen*. Come join us in fellowship as we look deeper into the lives of the Apostles and discuss their relationships with Christ.

For questions: email/call/text Robin Yates: twoturns2@gmail.com 774-200-7652

Kids will engage in an interactive lesson centered around the practice of prayer in Lent.

As we prepare to end our time together, we will all gather together in the sanctuary to share in evening prayer.



Two scholarship opportunities for high school seniors:

The Bement-Waterfield Scholarship, a diocesan scholarship. For more information:
https://www.diocesewma.org/grant-opportunities#bement_waterfield

The Fitzpatrick Scholarship for books/ educational materials. More information and how to apply: <https://www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org/youth-christian-formation-2011-2012/fitzpatrick-fund-scholarship/>



EASTER MEMORIALS

This Easter, you may wish to have a loved one remembered or to express special thanks to God for His blessings in your life. To do so, please complete this form and return it with your donation to the Church office by **Sunday, April 5**. The donations collected for these memorials are used to purchase the flowers that decorate the sanctuary on Easter Day.

Exact wording of memorial will be:

Easter gifts for flowers are given to the Glory of God...

____ in Thanksgiving for the life of _____
(Name of your loved one or ones)

OR

____ in Loving Memory of _____
(Name of your loved one or ones)

OR

If this gift is in Thanksgiving of a person who is living, choose the following:

____ in Thanksgiving for the Blessing of _____
(Name of person or blessing)

given by _____

[Your name(s) – please use exact wording you would like to have published. You may, for example, say something like “by his family” or “by her husband” followed by your name or you may simply use your name(s).]

Please return this information sheet, along with your donation, to the church office or drop it in the offering plate by **Sunday, March 29th**. Donations of any amount are appreciated and will offset the cost of the flowers for decorating the church on Easter Day. Please make checks payable to Holy Trinity Church with the notation “Easter Flowers” on the memo line.

Do you know someone who would appreciate Easter flowers from the church? Please write their name and address here so arrangements can be made to bring them flowers:

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR DONATION WITH THIS FORM. THANK YOU!

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(trinity)

**The Episcopal Diocese of Western
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

Sunday Service

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**The Rev. Dan Purtell
Priest-in-Charge**



March



Website



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Tithely—Giving