



United Spirit

U n i t e d C h u r c h
o f B e r n a r d s t o n



2024

United Church of Bernardston

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
 † 10:30 Worship with Humor		 † 7:00 Property & Finance				 Roast Beef Supper 5:00 + 6:15 pm
 Deacons Meeting † 8:30 Deacon's Meeting † 10:30 Worship	Office Closed  <i>Patriot's Day</i>					
† 10:30 Worship		 † 11:00 Welcoming & Outreach Meeting				 27 KIWANIS Chicken Pot Pie Dinner 5:00-6:30 pm & Fiery Hope Concert
† 10:30 Worship						



APRIL GREETERS

April 7th Steve & Joyana Damon
 April 14th Tom & Deb Bergeron
 April 21st Drenna Mahaney &
 Russ Deane
 April 28th Harvey & Donna Noel

Property & Finance will meet
 April 9th at 7:00 pm

Welcoming & Outreach
 Committee will meet
 April 23rd at 11:00 pm

FEBRUARY

INCOME & EXPENSES

INCOME	\$ 10,521.78
EXPENSES	\$ 8,796.28



We have a new batch of
 Kiwanis Chicken Pot Pies
 for sale at the Church for only \$15.
 Stop in and pick up dinner.

Our last Roast Beef Supper of the
 season will be April 13th.

As usual, there are seatings at 5:00
 and 6:15, or dinners to go for only
 \$15.00.



And don't miss the next
 Chicken Pot Pie supper
 on April 27th,
 with music by Fiery Hope.

If you'd like to help out, please sign
 up on the sheet outside the office.



The Fifth Flowing Stream

Robert M. Girard, MA, M.Div, STL, STD

Springtime brings us so many beautiful sights and sounds within God’s creation, including the songs of birds, the emergence of flowers and the babbling of our many streams flowing down the mountainsides. Our own region has 15 major streams, each one with a unique bio-diversity that enrich one another as they combine and flow into the Connecticut River. Each spring, streams of life-giving water flow down from the mountains, joining and enriching one another as they babble so that life can emerge and flourish once again the newly arrived warmth.

Our Christian faith can be understood as streams of life-giving water flowing from our Creator through the person of Jesus Christ in order to “reconcile the world to himself (2 Cor. 5:19).” From the waters of creation (Gen. 1:2) to the rock struck by Moses (Ex. 17:6; 1 Cor. 10:4) to the Samaritan woman at the well (Jn. 4:10, 13-14) to the Pool of Siloam (Jn. 9:6-7) to the pierced side of Christ (Jn. 19:34) and to the rivers of life within a restored Eden (Rv. 22:1-2), the Creator of life never abandons his/her creation. In Christ, we are gathered into community to share with one another and the world an infinite, transformative love that surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:7), heals all wounds (Ps. 147:3; Rv. 21:4) and sanctifies all in truth (Jn. 17:17-19; 1Cor. 6:11).

In a similar way, the history of our faith community, *The United Church of Christ*, can be understood as the combining and enriching of diverse spiritual traditions within the general movement of Protestantism. Until recently, most historians have indicated four major streams or traditions that formed our faith community: the *Congregational*, the *Christian*, the *Reformed* and the *Evangelical*, these streams having combined first in the early 1930’s and finally in 1957.

However, upon a more thorough and honest review of history, we can see that there has always been a fifth stream or tradition that flowed directly into the formation of the United Church of Christ, namely, a community of churches known as the *Afro-Christian Convention*. In the decade after the Civil War, Afro-Christian churches, whose members were comprised of recently freed slaves, flourished while retaining many African traditions of preaching, song, dance and a theology of liberation that became part of the their worship. Although the Afro-Christian Convention had always been the “fifth stream” flowing into the formation of the United Church of Christ, this was not fully appreciated or formally recognized by our faith community until our Annual Meeting in 2022.



So perhaps going forward we could all ask ourselves in what ways can we better understand and appreciate this fifth stream of Afro-Christianity. I think one of the ways is to educate ourselves about the history of slavery in our country and the abolitionist movement that worked to end his abhorrent and inhumane practice. We can become more familiar with the great abolitionists such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass and Harriet Beecher Stowe. We can learn more about those who worked in the Civil Rights Movement such as Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, Jr, A. Phillip Randolph, John Lewis, James Farmer, Jr and of course, Martin Luther King, Jr. We can remain open to listening the experience of African-Americans within our own community today and reach out in ways that build friendship and understanding.

Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (Jn. 8:31). As a faith community within the United Church of Christ, may we all come to a fuller appreciation of the fifth flowing stream of Afro-Christianity, the history of racism in our country and the experience of our African-American brothers and sisters of today. May our better understanding of this fifth flowing stream bring about a new springtime of renewal for our faith community.

From the Deacons

By the time you read this, the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox will maybe **just have passed by. And while I haven't found that prescription for the date of Easter yet in the Bible**, I value its relating us to the workings of this amazing planet we are on.

Of note for our upcoming Sunday services: We've decided to return to our traditional offertory passing of the plate on Easter Sunday and our traditional passing of Communion elements on April 7. **We'll start by using up our packaged elements, and you can pick up your own in the back on your way** in if you like. These of course are totally optional if you have concerns.

Also on April 7 we'll try to maintain some Easter spirit in a light hearted way with “Bright” or “Holy Humor” Sunday. Come and see!

48th ANNUAL GAS ENGINE SHOW, FLEA MARKET & CRAFT FAIR

ADVERTISING:	MICHELLE ROOKS	802-451-8784
AUCTION:	_____	
BAKED POTATO BOOTH:	TERESA BURBANK	475-0327
BREAKFAST SANDWICH:	JOELLE DEANE	648-5282
BUD'S MAIN RAFFLE:	DIANE ELLIS	978-544-3616
DOLL HOUSE RAFFLE:	_____	
EXECUTIVE CHAIR:	RUSS DEANE	
FIELD SET UP:	MARK GREGORY	522-0908
FLEA MARKET VENDORS:	_____	
FOOD CHAIR:	JASON DEANE	
FRENCH FRIES:	TOM BERGERON	775-3447
FRONT FOOD BOOTH:	JUSTIN LAWRENCE	768-9818
FRONT GATE:	BARB MORRIS	522-5573
GAS ENGINE VENDORS:	VICKIE OVITT	834-0103
GOLFCART TRANSPORT:	DEB ALLEN	387-9563
HAM & BEAN SUPPER:	BOB & LINDA RAYMOND	648-9372
HAM COOK:	JIM VASSAR	834-1674
ICE CREAM BOOTH:	SHARON WEYERS	498-4491
KNIFE/FORK WRAP:	(Done)	
LOGISTICS:	_____	
PARKING:	CAROL BENOIT	775-3898
PAT'S SHACK:	ALYSON LAFLEUR	768-7787
	JULIE VASSAR	325-4266
PIE BOOTH:	DEB BERGERON	775-4031
PORTA-POTTY SPONSORSHIP:	JESS TOWNE	218-6217
SERVICE:	_____	
SODA & WATER:	BOB & LINDA RAYMOND	648-9372
SPONSOR ROW:	_____	
TAG SALE:	JASON BURBANK	531-4080
TRACTOR PULL:	BEN EASTMAN	624-3416
UCB TENT:	PATTY FLAGG BYRNE	835-5490

LOOKING FOR DONATIONS

As the Gas Engine Show is fast approaching, we are looking for new good quality items for our can raffle. You may leave your donations at the Church Office with Kelly between 9:00 and 12:00 daily or you can reach out to me at 413-835-5490.

(PLEASE NO SECOND-HAND ITEMS.)

Thank you to those who have already donated. As the new Chairperson of the Can Raffle, I look forward to helping make this year a successful fundraiser.

Thanks and have a great day.

Patty Byrne

**We are now accepting donations
of bottled water and soda for the
upcoming Gas Engine Show.**



The Church office will be closed April 15th in observance of Patriot's Day.

The Tag Sale Room is open, and the auction trailer is on its way. Please put any larger items to the side for now.

DOLL HOUSE RAFFLE

Tickets are still available to enter our Doll House Raffle, with the winners to be announced at the Gas Engine Show.

Tickets are \$5/ each or five for \$20.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

William & Susan Cameron,
married April 20, 1963

Happy Birthday

- April 5 Robert Allen
- April 5 Aderlyn Tyree
- April 12 Russell Bixby
- April 15 Byron Beckwith
- April 16 Kris Schramel
- April 17 Greta Shores
- April 19 Judy Beckwith
- April 20 Stacy Hyer
- April 26 Jason Deane
- April 26 Babette Phelps
- April 28 Kim Curtis
- April 30 Nora Bixby
- April 30 Jason Kelliher

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

U n i t e d C h u r c h
o f B e r n a r d s t o n

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Bernardston, MA 01337

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Office Hours: 9-12 Monday-Friday

You can scan this QR Code, which will get you to a site from which you can donate to any of our particular causes, make contributions, or it can be used for tithes. There is also a link on the Church Facebook page.

