

the first church in chestnut hill

[UNITARIAN]

26 SUFFOLK ROAD OFF HAMMOND STREET



February 2023

SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:30

Rev. Mark J. T. Caggiano, *Minister*

VERITAS, CARITAS, ET RISUS

Why does February have 28 days? It is an old story.

Our calendar is based on the Roman system, in which originally there were 10 months in the year. It was derived from the lunar year, which consists of 355 days. Eventually, two more months were added, January and February. That time period was previously considered “monthless” and was just free-floating days. The Romans thought even numbers were unlucky, so the months had either 29 or 31 days to avoid, mostly, that problem. However, there would always need to be an even numbered month and so February was given that dishonor. Why? Because it was the month dedicated to both purification and honoring the dead. Bad luck abounds.

Of course, we do not have that same problem with even numbers, as the modern months with 30 days would suggest. And there are now 365 days in a year, 365.2425 to be accurate. This is a solar year calendar rather than one linked to the cycles of the moon. We add one day every four years resulting in a leap year with 29 days in February. This is a messy system.

But it is a mess by necessity. With fractional days under the solar calendar, there can never be perfectly apportioned months. It is also messy if you follow the moon, because over time the sun-linked seasons would shift across the months. And the actual length of the lunar year is 354.367 days because the Romans rounded up to avoid an even number.

Why do we care about months at all? We need to know when it will be hot or cold, rainy or dry, given where we live in the world. Historically that was important because human beings lived off the land, farming and raising livestock. You needed to know when to plant, when to move the flocks, when to harvest, and when to start all over again. We still feel the need to know what to expect and that need can tell us much about how we as human beings navigate our lives.

February marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It is the lead up to Easter, symbolizing the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert being tempted by Satan. Notice that it begins in February, the Roman time of purification. We can only guess when Jesus might have gone out into the wilderness, but the Lenten tradition overlaps with the Roman practice. Much like the messy months of the year, there has not been a burning need to place aside past reliance on pre-Christian elements like this. The traditions are maintained because they are traditions, not because they derive from currently predominant religious or cultural influences.

Is that inertia at work? Perhaps. But it is also maintaining a connection to the past and across the generations. Sometimes it might be good to work from a clean slate. But usually not. It is hard to know where you are going if you have forgotten, or rejected, where you have been. A thought for the coming Easter season.

God bless,
~Mark

FEBRUARY 5

Sermon: Hiding Under a Bushel Basket
Scriptures: Isaiah 58:1-9a, Matthew 5:13-20, Psalm 112
Scripture Reader: Rev. Mark
Usher: Westy Saltonstall
Coffee Hour: Ludy & Garret Shih
Altar Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of Charles W. Brown Jr. and Agnes Brown Welch by Jacob F. Brown II

FEBRUARY 12

Sermon: To Be Perfect
Scriptures: Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Matthew 5:21-26, Psalm 119:1-8
Scripture Reader: Bert Dane
Usher: Mark Chadbourne
Coffee Hour: Sally & Bert Dane
Altar Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of Jane Ewell Dane, by Bert and Sally Dane

FEBRUARY 19

Sermon: Transfiguration Sunday
Scriptures: Exodus 24:12-18, Matthew 17:1-9, Psalm 2
Scripture Reader: Sally Baker
Usher: Lisle Baker
Coffee Hour: Judith Vanderkay
Altar Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of Robert Vanderkay, Barbara Vanderkay, and Robert Vanderkay, Jr.

FEBRUARY 26

Sermon: Temptation and the American Church
Scriptures: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11, Psalm 32
Scripture Reader: Joe Hicks
Usher: David Brooks
Coffee Hour: Judy & John Wyman
Altar Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of Dr. & Mrs. Arthur M. Cragin and Mr. & Mrs. Frederick C. Koch by the Wyman family

FEBRUARY MUSIC

February 5, 2023

Prelude:	<i>Oh Danny Boy</i>	arr. Milley
Anthem:	<i>Psalm 137</i>	Scottish Psalter
Hymn:	<i>Morning Has Broken</i>	#38
Prayer Response:	<i>Jesus, Who Didst Ever Love Me</i>	Bach
Offertory Anthem:	<i>Angelus ad virginem</i>	14 th century Irish
Hymn:	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	#391
Hymn:	<i>All Things Bright and Beautiful</i>	#478
Choral Amen:	<i>Old Irish Blessing</i>	Agay
Postlude:	<i>Air and Gavotte</i>	Wesley

February 12, 2023

Prelude:	<i>Souvenir</i>	Dupre
Anthem:	<i>Ave Maria</i>	des Prez
Hymn:	<i>Bless the Lord</i>	Taize #5
Prayer Response:	<i>Our Father, Thou in Heav'n Above</i>	Bach
Offertory Anthem:	<i>Salve Regina</i>	Poulenc
Hymn:	<i>Ubi Caritas</i>	Taize #4
Hymn:	<i>Dona la Pace</i>	Taize #53
Choral Amen:	<i>Fourfold Amen</i>	Barrow
Postlude:	<i>Rondeau</i>	Rousseau

February 19, 2023

Prelude:	<i>Saetas</i>	Torres
Anthem:	<i>Ave Regina Caelorum</i>	Garcia
Hymn:	<i>Our God, Our Help, Of Ages Past</i>	#1
Prayer Response:	<i>Where'er I Go, Whate'er My Task</i>	Bach
Offertory Anthem:	<i>Regina Coeli Laetore Alleluia</i>	Garcia
Hymn:	<i>Before Jehovah's Aweful Throne</i>	#10
Hymn:	<i>Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee</i>	#8
Choral Amen:	<i>Sevenfold Amen</i>	Stainer
Postlude:	<i>Toccata in C</i>	Seixas

February 26, 2023

Prelude:	<i>Pater noster</i>	Foote
Anthem:	<i>Deep River</i>	Spiritual
Hymn:	<i>Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise</i>	#7
Prayer Response:	<i>Deck Thyself with Joy and Gladness</i>	Bach
Offertory Anthem:	<i>Simple Gifts</i>	arr. Copland
Hymn:	<i>Not Alone for Mighty Empire</i>	#439
Hymn:	<i>Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory</i>	#443
Choral Amen:	<i>Twofold Amen</i>	Traditional
Postlude:	<i>Reflection</i>	Beaumont

MUSIC PROGRAM NOTES

Jose Mauricio Nunes Garcia was a Brazilian classical composer, one of the greatest exponents of Classicism in the Americas. He lived in Rio de Janeiro from 1767-1830. He was also a priest.

BOOK GROUP

This month the book group is reading "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. We'll meet at Sally Baker's (137 Suffolk Rd.) on Thursday, Feb. 23 at 2:00pm.

-Molly Batchelder

REQUESTING DIAPER DONATIONS

Centre Street Food Pantry has let us know that disposable diapers are in high demand for families with babies and toddlers.

This month, we hope you will support young families in need by donating Pampers/Huggies/generic brand diapers in baby sizes 5, 6, or 7. Please bring your contribution to the Parish Hall or drop it off on Andrew & Sarah Welch's back porch (31 Halcyon Road in Newton Centre) or the Bakers' side porch (137 Suffolk Road in Chestnut Hill).

We would like to donate an ample supply to Centre Street at the end of February. Thanks to all in advance!

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Mark hosts bible study at 10:00am on Wednesdays on zoom. Contact him at mjtcaggiano@gmail.com to be included on the zoom invitation list. All are welcome.

DONATIONS

Collection has returned to its traditional format during the service. If you wish, you may also make your donation via Zelle or mail a check to the church, Attention: Treasurer, 26 Suffolk Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467. Many thanks for your anticipated generosity.

ALTAR FLOWERS



Attention flower donors: please contact Dana Flynn (617-680-0702) to coordinate the delivery of your flower donation. He will meet the florist (or you) at the church on the Saturday prior to your date. If you prefer, we also have tasteful silk arrangements which can easily be placed on the altar.

If you would like to donate flowers, April 30, 2023 is still available. Please contact our administrator Ashley Mulcaire, 26Suffolk@gmail.com if you are interested.

VOLUNTEER SCRIPTURE READERS

If you would like to join the group of volunteer scripture readers, please contact Carol Lohe (ctroyen@mfa.org.) This is a rewarding opportunity to be part of our Sunday services.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

..... *grow spiritually*
to *foster community*
..... *serve others*

ORGANIST and MUSIC DIRECTOR

Kathryn Rosenbach, 617-821-0385

SEXTON

Dana Flynn, 617-680-0702

ADMINISTRATOR

Ashley Mulcaire, 26Suffolk@gmail.com

FOR THOSE IN NEED THIS MONTH

Please contact the The Parish Service Committee Co-chairs:

Molly Batchelder 617-232-6213

Carol Stuart 617-731-0196

or Rev. Mark at the parsonage 617-232-0011 or via email

(mjtcaggiano@gmail.com)



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