

FEBRUARY 2026

THE COMMUNICON

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PETERBOROUGH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
An Open and Affirming Congregation

**“Keep alive the dream; for as long as a man has a dream in his heart, he cannot lose the significance of living.”
—Howard Thurman, *Meditations of the Heart***

February is Black History Month, and this year that may be more important than in years past. In the past year we have seen people of color becoming the targets of immigration operations, even when they are US citizens. Off-duty police officers have been stopped for papers – all people of color. Before the abolition of slavery, Black people had to carry “free papers,” which they had to show to slave patrols to prove they had the right to travel freely. And even these documents didn’t guarantee their liberty would be respected. This practice is mirrored in today’s society, as Black people are routinely stopped and asked to show identification, even when they’ve committed no crime.



Dr. King said, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” But right now, it feels as if the arc is in retrograde, going backward. The current administration has said that civil rights protections and programs have hurt White people. The current DOJ has said it will “seek to protect White people” against alleged “reverse discrimination.” This is remarkable. White supremacy is a stain on our society, and it is finding its voice in the public square. They say racism will get rid of the invaders and make America a haven for white values.

When people ask why we need a Black History Month, that is the reason. Racism is alive and well in the US. We need to remember that the history of the United States is a history of welcome, yet there has always been a counter-current of xenophobia as well. When my relatives came from Italy, they would have been considered outsiders. Italians were garlic eaters; they were not clean; they were just a step above blacks, and probably a step below the Irish. The thing is that Europeans from less desirable countries eventually blended in—learning the language, adopting the cultural norms—and because we are White, we fit in. Color is hard to change.

Black History Month is an opportunity to step back and look at the realities faced by communities of color. Black people are routinely passed over for jobs and promotions. They have a harder time buying a home. Black people earn about two thirds of what Whites earn. When it comes to innovation, Black people have contributed in so many ways, but we rarely hear their stories. Marie Van Brittan Brown invented a security system with cameras in 1966. The first African-American U.S. patent recipient, Thomas L. Jennings, was working as a tailor and businessman in New York City when he invented a process for dry-cleaning delicate clothing known as “dry-scouring.” Jennings applied for a patent in 1820.

There are many other amazing accomplishments by people of color in the US. We have been made better because of the diversity in our country. By educating ourselves, we can resist the call of racism that has become so vocal. Jesus called us to love one another. Black history is US history.

Shalom,
Bob



Worship Schedule

10 AM Sundays

February 1

Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon: Them's Fightin' Words

February 8

Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon: Glory Where Glory Is Due

February 15 - Transfiguration Sunday

Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon: Overcome

February 18 - Ash Wednesday

February 22 - First Sunday in Lent

Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon: Sad News

Pastor Bob's Sunday sermons can be emailed or sent by regular mail at your request. Please contact the office if you are interested.



Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82609242815>

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Many people feel supported and blessed by our continuing prayers. Please remember to keep the following people in your prayers:

Beth S.
Bob F.
Debbie H.
Debi
Ed
Emily
Ginny
Jo

Katherine, friend of Carele
Kathleen
Lindseigh

Sarah L. and family, friends of Kathy S.
Shirlee
Ted S.
Vicki
Walker

...all those with hidden sorrows or challenges and everyone in our church community.

To add or delete names from this ongoing prayer list, please contact the office at 603-924-3272 or office@uccpeterborough.org.

To make a prayer request for the weekly worship bulletin, please contact the office by Wednesday. Thank you!

Services are being offered both in person and online via Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/peterboroughucc>



Monday Night **Supper**

5:30 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall


February Menus













Feb. 2	Feb. 9	Feb. 16	Feb. 23
Soups Tossed Salad Bread Dessert	Pulled Pork Sandwiches Cole Slaw Chips Dessert	Meatloaf, Green Beans & Baked Rice Bread Dessert	Tuna Noodle Casserole Broccoli Salad Rolls Dessert

(Menus subject to change)

FEBRUARY

2026



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>10 am WORSHIP</p> <p>11:15 am Annual Meeting (S, Z)</p> <p>12:30 pm Vision Team —Review Interim Report with Congregation (FH)</p> <p>Super Bowl Subs order form DUE!</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>GROUNDHOG DAY</p> <p>5:30 pm Monday Night Supper (FH, K)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 am Staff Meeting (P)</p> <p>12:30 pm Worksource Basketball (FH)</p> <p>4:30 pm Diaconate (Z)</p> <p>6:30 pm AA Step Study (P)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30 am Bone Builders (FH)</p> <p>12:30 pm Worksource Basketball (FH)</p> <p>4 pm Maintenance Committee (P)</p> <p>6:30 pm Bible Study (Z)</p> <p>7 pm Monadnock Chorus (FH)</p> <p>7:30 pm Vision Team with Paul Nickerson (Z)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30 am WIC/SNHS (C, P)</p> <p>12:30 pm Worksource Basketball (FH)</p> <p>6:30 pm Bell Choir (S)</p> <p>6:30 pm Youth Choir (U)</p> <p>7 pm Senior Choir (S)</p> <p>7 pm AA meeting (P)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:30 am Bone Builders (FH)</p> <p>9:30 am Gentle Stretching (C)</p> <p>12 pm Blood Drive (C, FH, P)</p>  <p>American Red Cross</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8 am Men Making Breakfast (FH, K)</p>  <p>10 am Old Common Owners Association Meeting (C)</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10 am WORSHIP</p> <p>11:15 am Super Bowl Subs pick-up</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>5:30 pm Monday Night Supper (FH, K)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 am Worship Planning (P)</p> <p>12:30 pm Worksource Basketball (FH)</p> <p>6:30 pm AA Step Study (P)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30 am Bone Builders (FH)</p> <p>12:30 pm Worksource Basketball (FH)</p> <p>6:30 pm Bible Study (Z)</p> <p>7 pm Monadnock Chorus (FH)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9 am Life Line Screening (FH, K)</p> <p>12:30 pm Worksource Basketball (FH)</p> <p>6:30 pm Bell Choir (S)</p> <p>6:30 pm Youth Choir (U)</p> <p>7 pm Senior Choir (S)</p> <p>7 pm AA meeting (P)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 am Bone Builders (FH)</p> <p>9:30 am Gentle Stretching (C)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p> 
<p>15</p> <p>10 am WORSHIP</p>  <p>TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY</p>	<p>16</p> <p>— OFFICE CLOSED —</p>  <p>PRESIDENTS DAY</p> <p>5:30 pm Monday Night Supper (FH, K)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Articles Due! Communion DEADLINE</p>  <p>8:30 am Staff Meeting (P)</p> <p>12:30 pm Worksource Basketball (FH)</p> <p>2 pm Sunshine Group (P)</p> <p>6:30 pm AA Step Study (P)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Ballots Due!</p>  <p>7:30 am Bone Builders (FH)</p> <p>12:30 pm Worksource Basketball (FH)</p> <p>6:30 pm Service (S)</p>  <p>ASH WEDNESDAY</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:30 pm Worksource Basketball (FH)</p> <p>4 pm Finance Committee (P)</p> <p>6:30 pm Bell Choir (S)</p> <p>7 pm AA meeting (P)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30 am Bone Builders (FH)</p> <p>9:30 am Gentle Stretching (C)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5 pm Christian Service Potluck, Dance Party, and Project Linus Workshop (FH, K)</p>  <p>Sweets, Beats, and Service DANCE PARTY</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10 am WORSHIP</p>  <p>First Sunday IN LENT</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1 pm Pastor Dawn (UCC Wolfeboro) meeting (P)</p> <p>5:30 pm Monday Night Supper (FH, K)</p> <p>6:45 pm Council (P)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30 am Worship Planning (P)</p> <p>12:30 pm Worksource Basketball (FH)</p> <p>6:30 pm AA Step Study (P)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:30 am Bone Builders (FH)</p> <p>12:30 pm Worksource Basketball (FH)</p> <p>6:30 pm Bible Study (Z)</p> <p>7 pm Monadnock Chorus (FH)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:30 pm Worksource Basketball (FH)</p> <p>7 pm AA meeting (P)</p> <p>(No choirs; school vacation week)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30 am Bone Builders (FH)</p> <p>9:30 am Gentle Stretching (C)</p>	<p>28</p>

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 3** Sam Rhine
- 14** Melody Fellows
- 17** Jodi Marrone
- 21** Leonard & Roberta Klein (anniv)
- 22** John Smith

Key: C = Chapel FH = Fellowship Hall K = Kitchen
 N = Nursery OS = Off-site P = Parlor
 S = Sanctuary U = Upstairs Z = Zoom

Calendar is subject to change.

For updates please visit:

<https://www.uccpeterborough.org/calendar-of-events>

A Lasting Gift of Faith and Love

Many of us think carefully about how we live out our faith day by day—through worship, service, generosity, and care for one another. Another meaningful way to express that faith is through the legacy we leave behind.

Including Union Congregational Church in your will or estate plans is a simple yet powerful way to ensure that the values and ministries you cherish today continue to flourish for generations to come. A planned gift—no matter the size—helps sustain our church’s mission, maintain our historic building, support outreach and service, and nurture future ministries we may not yet imagine.

A bequest is often easier to arrange than people realize. It can be added to an existing will or trust and can be structured in a way that reflects your personal circumstances and priorities. Many choose to leave a specific amount, a percentage of their estate, or the remainder after loved ones are cared for. Some also choose to name the church as a beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy.

These gifts are acts of faith, gratitude, and hope. They say, “This church mattered to me. Its mission matters to the world.” Planned gifts have helped

congregations like ours remain vibrant and faithful long after individual lifetimes, ensuring that worship, compassion, and community continue to thrive.

If you are considering a bequest or would like more information, we invite you to speak with your attorney or financial advisor. You may also contact the church office with questions or simply to let us know of your intentions, so we can express our gratitude and ensure your wishes are honored.

Thank you for the many ways you support Union Congregational Church—today and for the future.

The Stewardship Committee



SERVICE

Wednesday, February 18
6:30 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

Christmas Eve



Bud Schoel, Luke, Sarah Pope, Maddy, Megan, Dan Millbauer

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

Second Annual Potluck and Project Linus Workshop

Save the Date: Saturday, February 21, 5:00 PM

The Christian Service Committee is planning another Potluck Dinner and Project Linus workshop to prepare fleece to tie, and then dancing. We had so much fun last year, so let's do it again!

There is a signup sheet for the Potluck in the hallway. We have some great cooks, so come for a fabulous supper.

Blankets will be tied throughout Lent during worship as a service project for the community. Last year our church donated 81 blankets to Project Linus Southwest NH chapter. They were given to children in hospitals, day care centers, homeless shelters, and other situations where children need comfort and warmth.

Besides willing hands, supplies needed include fabric scissors, painter's or masking tape, fabric markers, and rulers. If the quilters in our congregation can bring cutting mats, rotary cutters, and quilting rulers, that will make the process faster.

Fleece will be provided for the workshop thanks to the generosity of members of our congregation. I hit Joann Fabrics hard last spring before they closed and have fleece for at least 70 blankets now. I'm still looking for another fabric source, so there may be more. If anyone would like to contribute to this project, make your donation to Union Congregational Church, with Christian Service Committee in the memo line.

Pastor Bob will bless the blankets before they are delivered to Project Linus for distribution.

Arlene MacArthur



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Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
33 Concord Street
Peterborough, NH 03458

Minister: The Reverend Dr. Robert Marrone

pastorbob@uccpeterborough.org; 603-425-4578

Pastor's office hours: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.

Lan DiSciullo, *Administrative Assistant*

Cathy Harvey, *Organist and Choir Director*

Carele Mayer, *Handbell Director*

Emily Burke, *Sunday School Coordinator*

Russ Fernald, *Custodian*

Worship Service: 10 a.m. online and in person

Church Office: 603-924-3272

Office hours: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Email: office@uccpeterborough.org

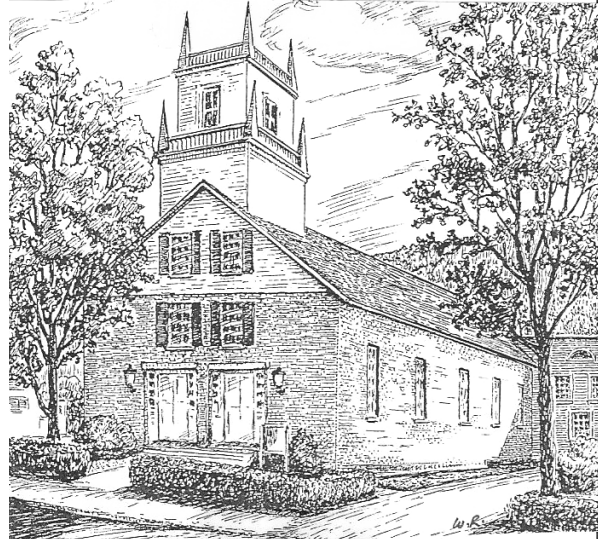
<https://www.uccpeterborough.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/peterboroughucc>

Communicon Editor: Lan DiSciullo

DEADLINE for March issue:

10 a.m., February 17



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