



CHIMES

Spring 2025 Newsletter



everything [in] between

Meeting God in the midst of extremes

DATES TO REMEMBER

First Sunday of the Month
Communion

Wednesday, March 5
7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Friday, March 7
World Day of Prayer 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, Mar. 9, 16, 23, 30 & Apr, 6
10 a.m. LENT Worship Services

Tuesday, April 1st
6:30 p.m. Signs & Wonders Book
Study begins (4/1, 8, 15, 22, 29,
Break 5/20, 27, 6/3)

Tuesday, April 1 & Tuesday, June 3
Blood Drive in Hamilton Hall

Sunday, April 13—Palm Sunday
10 a.m. Worship Service

Thursday, April 17—Maundy Thursday
6:30 p.m. Worship Service

Sunday, April 20—EASTER
5:45 a.m. Sunrise Beach Service
10 a.m. Easter Celebration Service

**Second Thursday and
Fourth Tuesday of the Month**
Miracle Kitchen

Third Wednesday of the Month
Faith Family Kitchen

Dear Beloved Community,

Power and beauty of our Christian tradition is that it gives us ways of being – words, rituals, practices – that can hold us. In times of turmoil, we can turn to ancient words of comfort and challenge, rupture and repair, meaning and mystery. This Lent will be an exploration of paradoxes in faith. The ways that two seemingly competing or conflictual ideas are simultaneously true and inseparable.

18th century Hasidic Rabbi, Simcha Bunem, said that we should each hold two slips of paper in our pockets. On one should be written, "The world was created for me." on the other, "I am but dust and ashes." This allows us to know our proper place in life, as God's deeply beloved children who are here for a finite time made of the dust of the earth to which we will return. This allows us to contemplate who we are and what we do with this brief, precious living.

Every Ash Wednesday, we begin with a reading of a Call to a Holy Lent.

Call to a Holy Lent

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty day season of spiritual preparation.

During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

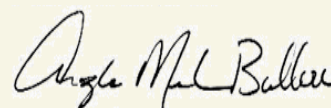
I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church to observe a Holy Lent: by self examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting, and self denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

I also invite you to make a right beginning through repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, bow your head before our Creator and Redeemer, make confession, receive Christ's forgiveness.

This year, it feels more urgent and important for us to enter into a season of prayer and penitence. An invitation to turn inward, that we might make a greater impact when we move to act outwardly. An invitation to practice self-denial, that we might live our lives with extravagant generosity. An invitation to meditate on God's Holy Word, that we might find some good news to carry into our broken world.

Join me in a Holy Lent this year.

Love relentlessly,



Holy Week at Cotuit Federated Church

Saturday, April 12 — For Such a Time at This: Conversation with Rev. Darrell Goodwin, 1-5 p.m.

(Optional Dinner) 5:30 Movement for Such a Time as This: Led by Kentavis Goodwin-Brice 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 13 — Palm Sunday with guest preacher Rev. Darrell Goodwin

Thursday, April 17 — Maundy Thursday Dinner Church, 6:30 p.m. Worship around the Table in Hamilton Hall

Friday, April 18 — Good Friday Observance - simple service of prayer and scripture, 12 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, April 20 — Sunrise Service on Loop Beach 5:45am & Festival Worship in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED—

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

CFC has been asked to host the Church Women's United's honoring of the World Day of Prayer on the morning of March 7. This will include a light refreshments at the beginning, a worship service, conversation, and a meal at the end. Please see the Weekly Word email for additional details and join us in coming together in prayer with our sisters from all over the world.



World Day of Prayer 2025

written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of the Cook Islands

Slow Growth

*There's a vine in the South
that covers everything.*

It chokes out the light.

Grows up to twelve inches per day.

*In a matter of years,
it will blanket a forest.*

*If you saw it from space,
you'd marvel at its reach.*

*If you saw it from the passenger seat,
you'd weep at what it covers.*

*Those looking for fast shade
plant this invasive vine.*

Who can blame them?

We're all impatient.

*But if it's fruit you want—
the tart cherry,*

the sticky sweet kumquat,

the soft side of a peach,

the crisp bite of an apple—

then bless the rain.

Thank the sun.

*Put your hands in the dirt,
and wait.*

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

An Invitation From Rev. Dan Smith

As I get started in this new-to-us-all role as Associate Pastor and Community Minister, I'm looking forward to so many things! I'm eager to worship with you most Sundays, and to learn the rhythms of how you gather, pray, sing, and break bread together. I'm delighted to be here in time for my first Ash Wednesday service, Lenten season, and Easter Sunday with you all. Looking ahead, I'm excited for Craft Fest and all the other feasts and festivals, liturgical and otherwise, that bring meaning and shape to this community. I want to learn about how you show up for each other and for the world! I'm even (dare I say it) looking forward to committee meetings and to learning more about how you operate and accomplish so much together. And, I can't wait to start working with Angie and the rest of the staff!

Above all else, I'm excited to get to know each of you. To that end, I plan to spend a good amount of my 20-plus hours/week in the coming months meeting in 1:1's, or with couples, or in small group settings. Whether it's in my new office, or at the Ho' (which I'm gathering is like a CFC Annex!), at a local coffee shop, beach, or walking trail. For me, ministry is all about relationships. So that's where I'd love to start - in building relationships with you.

Before I left my previous church, I set up a Calendly site so people could easily find a 30- or 50-minute window to meet with me, in person or via Zoom, to say goodbye. I plan to use a similar approach here so we can say hello. We *could* talk about whatever church business, but I'm more interested for now in hearing your stories, in learning why you are part of CFC, and anything else you think I should know as I get settled in. I plan to be around most Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays and otherwise working from home or coming in from time to time on other days as needs arise. Please stay tuned for that Calendly link (which will be shared very soon) or feel free to reach out to me via email. I so hope we can find a time soon!



Yours in faith,

Rev. Dan

communityminister@cotuitfederatedchurch.org

DEACONS

Here we are ready to enter into Lent. The deacon's will be hosting a Soup Supper on Ash Wednesday, March 5th at 6:15 in Hamilton Hall, prior to our evening worship service. It is a wonderful time of fellowship as we enter into this sacred season.

The deacon's continue to hold the spiritual health of our congregation in the forefront of our hearts. As well as being a support for our pastors, we are also here as a support for our whole CFC community. Please feel free to speak to any of us with any concerns.

We provide assistance during worship services by serving communion, offering blessings, reading scripture, assisting at baptisms, and representing the church at funerals.

Faithfully yours;
Kathi Campbell
Beth Gadoury
Jennifer Nash
Carol-Jean O'Toole
Gary Potter
Nancy Radosevic



Faith Family Kitchen Volunteers



Diaper Drive

MISSION TEAM

The Mission and Outreach Team uses its budget and efforts mainly for Salvation Army Miracle Kitchen lunches and Faith Family Kitchen FFK dinners. Delivery of bagged dinners with shopping gift cards to local needy families is also organized at Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving.

A shopping cart brigade in the July 4 parade collected a large amount of food for the Christ The King food pantry.

On Sunday October 6, the Team put on a fundraising lunch after worship service. The menu of pasta with homemade meat sauce and salad was based on the Miracle Kitchen lunches, Donation raised of \$560 was used for Miracle Kitchen and FFK food.

We hosted the community with donated cookies, hot cider and punch at Christmas in Cotuit. This is always well attended. and appreciated.

The Mission Team organized Christmas gifts for HAC unhoused elders and teens. Also gifts for Salvation Army "Teens Love Christmas Too" and a diaper drive for the families living at HAC shelter for women and children.

Efforts during Lent will emphasize the World Central Kitchen, which helps people worldwide with food insecurity, disaster relief and humanitarian aid.

Submitted by
Ken Molloy



Faith Family Kitchen Volunteers

MUSIC MINISTRY

What a fantastic fall and Advent season we've had! The choir has been enjoying some creative new setups in the sanctuary, and we're looking forward to welcoming special musical guests for Mardi Gras Sunday and Easter. We can't wait to share the beautiful music we've been preparing!

We're also excited that Open Choir is back! If you've ever thought about singing but aren't ready for a full commitment, this is your chance to give it a try. Join us on the first Sunday of each month at 9 AM—we'll sing a simple hymn together, no pressure, just joy!

Our Handbell Choir started the season with a weaving bells workshop, which was a little intimidating at first but turned out to be easier (and more fun!) than expected. Though we've had some changes in our lineup, the group is thriving and growing musically. Later this year, we hope to explore bell tree playing in another workshop—stay tuned! Handbell rehearsals are Thursdays at 6 PM in the sanctuary, and we typically ring on the second Sunday of each month. If you'd like to learn how to ring, just reach out to Megan.

We're grateful for all who make music such a joyful part of our worship and invite you to be part of it!

EQUIPPING

Join a Ministry Team . . .

Hello to everyone from your Equipping Team! We hope you are having a good and sparkly winter!

We have begun our yearly task of assessing our team membership and seeing that all of our Ministry Teams are staffed up by the time of our Annual Meeting in June. For further information, please check out the 2024 Annual Report. There is a listing both of our Teams and Leadership positions as well as a listing of all of our individual ministries. As you will see, there are many ways to participate in the life of the church—from helping on CraftFest or the rummage sale; joining the choir or bell choir; helping with collations following memorial services; joining our prayer team; helping Lynne in the church school. And many more...

We will be reaching out to people to make sure the teams are all staffed up. We welcome your questions....so please don't hesitate to reach out.

Love from your Equipping Team!



Linda Harmon (Leader)
Cathy Anton
Dave Bergeson
Charlie Dings
Diane McAdams
MaryBeth O'Brien

The 2025 Lenten Season ~ Cotuit Federated Church



everything [in] between

Meeting God in the midst of extremes

Beginning March 5

This year, we're letting the Gospel of Luke guide us through Lent. Beginning with Jesus setting his face toward Jerusalem (Luke 9:51), this devotion flows through several familiar stories—the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, the fruitless fig tree, the Lost Sheep, Zacchaeus, and more. Many of these stories are well-known in both sacred and secular imagination, carrying cultural relevance and lore. For example, have you ever identified yourself as either a “Mary” or a “Martha?” The “Good Samaritan” title alone could reference a hospital, a charitable organization, a type of law, or a good deed. Perhaps you grew up singing “Zacchaeus was a wee little man” in Sunday School. So many of these scriptures hold significance in pop culture, church history, politics, and everything in between.

As we studied these scriptures, we were struck by how Jesus' ministry disrupted the established social, political, and religious divides of his time. Jesus intentionally pointed out cultural and political extremes to emphasize the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God. When we study these stories in their historical and cultural context, we see how they mirror the divisions many of us experience in our families, churches, and communities today.

Our theme, “Everything In Between,” invites us to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. You will see that each weekly sub-theme explores two supposed binaries, like “faith & works” or “rest & growth,” or “grief & hope.” We often consider these ideas to be opposing. However, as we explore these concepts within the scriptures, we find nuance and complexity. We find that these dichotomies are false. We might begin to see a full spectrum instead of black and white. We might find that God is present in between.

And so, this season, we invite you to look beyond black and white binaries and easy answers. We encourage you to engage in the weekly art and reflections at your own pace, imagining where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create. This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between.

Artfully yours,



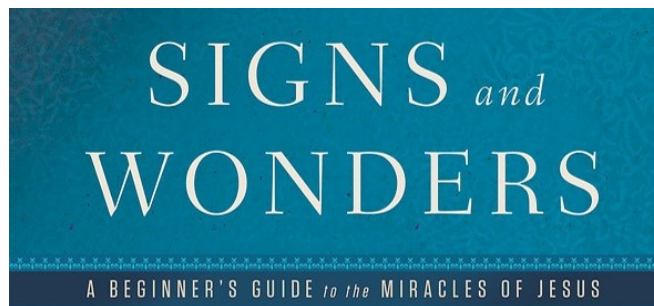
The Sanctified Art Creative Team
Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed
Hannah Garrity
Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman
Rev. Anna Strickland

About the season of Lent

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

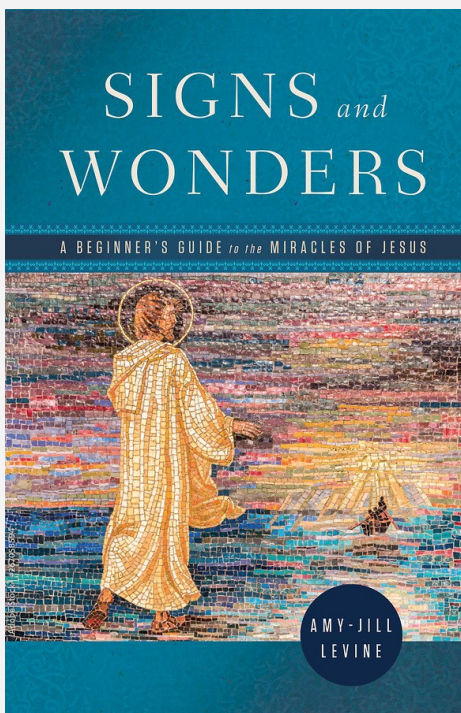
The Great Three Days—sometimes called the Triduum or Pasch—from sunset Holy Thursday through sunset Easter Day are the climax of Lent (and of the whole Christian year) and a bridge into the Easter Season. These days proclaim the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. During these days, the community journeys with Jesus from the upper room, to the cross, to the tomb, and to the garden. They should be seen as a great unified service beginning with a service of Holy Communion on Holy Thursday and concluding with the services of Easter Day. These services may be connected with a prayer vigil lasting from Holy Thursday evening (or Good Friday) until the first service of Easter and may be accompanied by fasting.

Article source by The United Methodist BOOK OF WORSHIP.



Small Group Book Study for LENT

In Signs and Wonders: A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of Jesus, Amy-Jill Levine explores selected miracles of Jesus in historical and theological context. For each miracle, she discusses not only how past witnesses would have understood the events, but also how today's readers can draw meaning from Jesus's words and actions.



The study will begin on Tuesday, April 1st and run through June 3. Dates and topics are listed below.

We will meet at 6:30pm in the Hamilton Hall.

Our binders for the class are \$10 and available at Coffee Hour.

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Themes

- April 1 -- Introduction to Signs & Wonders**
- April 8 -- Chapter 1: On the Role of Caregivers**
- April 15 -- Chapter 2: Attending to Nature**
- April 22 -- Chapter 3: The Centrality of Bread**
- April 29 -- Chapter 4: The Importance of Women's Bodies**
- May 6 -- Break**
- May 13 -- Break**
- May 20 -- Chapter 5: Seeing Again**
- May 27 -- Chapter 6: Taking Death Seriously**
- June 3 -- Conclusion: Being Saved**

CHURCH SCHOOL

Greetings from the Church School!

Thank you, families, for sharing your children with the Church School. Class begins with a Morning Meeting during which children have the opportunity to share something about the previous week and/or something they are anticipating. Next, the weekly lesson begins! At present the class meets as a group. I anticipate having separate age-based classes next year.

This winter the children have learned about the life of Jesus beginning with his baptism and calling of his disciples, and on to the miracles and healings he performed, as told in the Gospel of Luke. For the remainder of the school year the children will study some of the parables Jesus used in His teachings, His journey to the cross and Resurrection (all from the Gospel of Luke), concluding the school year with some of the Letters to the Church from the Books of Romans, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, and 1 John.

The children will begin a short-term mission project beginning in March. Stay tuned for all the details! We are still collecting the aluminum pull tabs from beverages in support of Shriners Hospitals for Children. The pull-tab program at Aleppo Shriners in Wilmington, Massachusetts was founded several years ago and as a way for the public to help raise funds for the humanitarian and life-saving services provided by Shriners Hospitals for Children. In Eastern Massachusetts, tabs are collected by many different organizations and collected at the Shrine Center in Wilmington, Massachusetts.

VBS (Vacation Bible School) will take place again this summer with a fun theme of "Road Trip-On The Go With God" with our puppet friend Scout. Last year was such a fun program and we hope to see more of our friends this year. Additional information will be in the Weekly Word email or by contacting Lynne, Church School Director at the contact information above.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Lynne Belfiore

Church School Director

(508) 428-8896

cotfedced@gmail.com

you are
Welcome here





COTUIT NURSERY SCHOOL

Hello from Cotuit Nursery School. As always, we have had a busy year filled with learning, laughter and fun! However, 2024 saw a staffing change for us. Kimberly Martino spent a year with us a teacher but ultimately accepted a promotion at her second job. She will be missed but we wish her great success. Christina Gannon was welcomed as our new teacher, starting in September 2024. She is a former nursery school parent and has served on our Board Of Directors in many capacities. She also has a son enrolled in our program now! Miss Tina is currently taking classes at Cape Cod Community College to further her education and become Lead Teacher Qualified. She is a great addition to our staff and an asset to our program.

We continue to run one mixed age group classroom that runs from 9-12 Monday-Thursday as a result of declining enrollment and staff constraints. We have added a few more students over the course of the year and now have 15 children enrolled. Registration is open for next year's class, so spread the word!!

As we reported last fall, the State of Massachusetts has awarded Stabilization Grants using funds from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act to licensed pre-school programs to help with operating costs. We are thrilled that Governor Healey added these funds into her budget and it was extended into 2025 at a significantly reduced rate. This money has helped Cotuit Nursery School cover payroll

expenses, rent and supplies for the students and has kept us out of the red financially for 2024.

Our fundraisers were still virtual this Fall and we will have another in the Spring. The Fall fundraiser profit was allocated for science enrichment programs with Miss Lynne. We are also raising money to replenish the funds spent from our playground fund when we replaced the aging fence as well as supplement the classroom funds with the spring Calendar Raffle fundraiser. Feel free to participate!

Cotuit Nursery School is thankful that we are able to continue to provide such a fun, educational and important service to the children and families in our program. Thank you for your support!!



Cotuit Nursery School

Cindy Faszewski | Mary Strassel | Christina Gannon

PO Box 1671, 40 School Street, Cotuit MA 02649

Phone: 508-428-1470

e-mail: cotuitnurseryschool@yahoo.com



Easter

Memorials & Tributes

Order Form

This year, we have multiple options for you:
Gifts may be made in honor or in memory of loved ones,
and dedications will be included in the Easter bulletins.

Option #1 — Spring Flowers:

Cotuit Federated Church traditionally decorates for our Easter celebration with spring flowers. If you would like to contribute to the Easter Flower Fund, donations of \$20-25 are appreciated.

Option #2 — Church World Service

This year our second offering will be made to the Church World Service \$40 for 40 days of Lent. CWS vision is a world where everyone has food, voice and a safe place to call home. CWS has been working to make this a reality for more than 75 years, and know it's possible. CWS has welcomed thousands of refugees and other new neighbors into our communities, helped countless families put food on the table and lifted the voices of people who have been left out.

Your name(s) _____

Phone _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

#1: _____ #2: _____

Would you like to take your plant home after the Festival service? _____

Mail this form and payment to: CFC, P.O. Box 436, Cotuit MA 02635.

The deadline for ordering is Sunday, April 13th

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Upcoming Events

EASTER FOOD DRIVE

Neighbors in NEED at Easter . . .

Our Mission Team and the Cotuit Fire and Rescue will provide Easter food baskets for local families needing additional support. The Cotuit Fire and Rescue will provide hams, while our church family provides the rest of the meal. Please bring items to Hamilton Hall. Additional information will be posted in *Weekly Word*.

BLOOD DRIVES

Every two months, Cotuit Federated Church holds a Blood Drive for Cape Cod Healthcare. Your giving can provide life-saving support to a person in need here on Cape Cod! The following are the 2025 Blood Drives held on Tuesdays — April 1st, June 3rd, August 5th, October 7th, and December 9th. The hours are usually 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. More details will be provided in the *Weekly Word* e-mail sent on Fridays.



www.capecodhealth.org/give-blood

MIRACLE KITCHEN

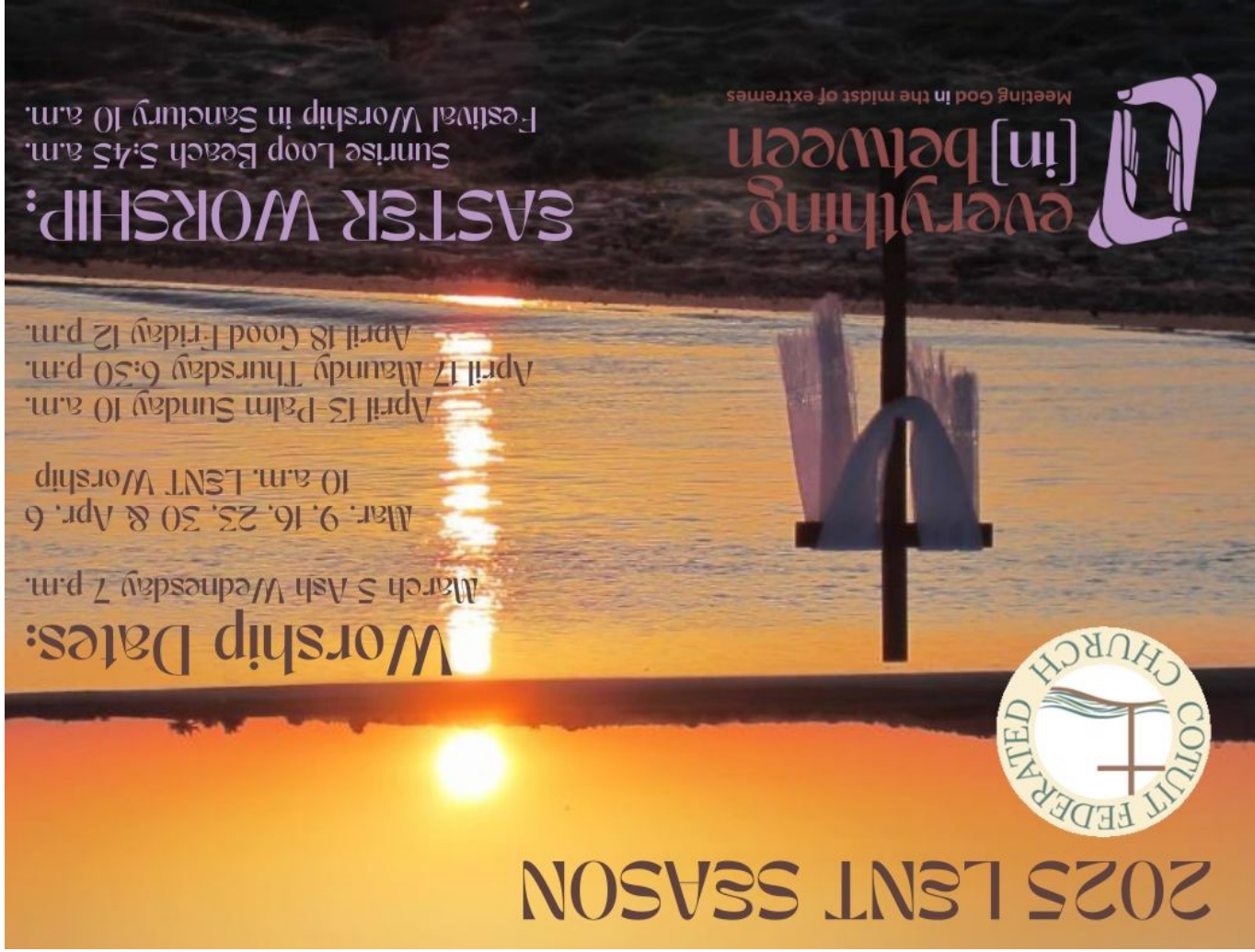
Each second Thursday and fourth Tuesday of the month, volunteers serve a hearty lunch for the homeless at the Hyannis Salvation Army Center. We are still meeting and making sandwiches in the kitchen and delivering them. Look for sign-up in the Weekly Word e-mail.

www.cotuitfederatedchurch.org



The Annual **CraftFest Cotuit** dates are set – mark your calendars for **August 16 and August 17**. During these two days in August, the Cotuit Village Green will become the largest outdoor crafts festival on Cape Cod. More than 100 artisans and craftsmen will gather at this premier showing of skilled craftsmanship and artistic talent. The steering committee will begin planning this spring with meetings on 3/23 and 4/27 at 11:15 in the Kraft room. There are many opportunities for you to join in and help support this event. For information, please contact :

Judy Eide at (203) 605-8858 or
fitted44@yahoo.com



2025 LENT SEASON



EASTER WORSHIP:
 Sunrise Loop Beach 5:45 a.m.
 Festival Worship in Sanctuary 10 a.m.

Mar. 9, 16, 23, 30 & Apr. 6
 10 a.m. LENT Worship
 April 13 Palm Sunday 10 a.m.
 April 17 Maundy Thursday 6:50 p.m.
 April 18 Good Friday 12 p.m.

Worship Dates:
 March 5 Ash Wednesday 7 p.m.

everything [in] between
 Meeting God in the midst of extremes



COTUIT FEDERATED CHURCH

40 School Street • Post Office Box 436 • Cotuit, MA 02635

PLEASE
 PLACE
 STAMP
 HERE

No matter
 who you are
 or where you
 are on
 life's journey,
 you are
 welcome
 here.

everything [in] between
 Meeting God in the midst of extremes