

Announcements

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

The 277th Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Upton, the 137th Charge Conference of the Upton Methodist Church, and the 42nd Annual Meeting of the United Parish of Upton will be held simultaneously on Sunday, January 29, 2012 in the vestry following the morning worship service.

The meeting will blend business and celebration as we thank God for the year that was and look ahead to the year that is and will be. Our celebration will include a slide show of "Where we have seen and felt God at work in 2011" and an opportunity to express thanks for the blessings we've shared. The business of the meeting includes

1. To hear from the committees, officers and councils of our church.
2. To hear and act upon the proposed budget for the year 2012.
3. To elect officers for the year 2012.
4. To hear and act upon any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

We'll surround our work with prayer and praise to God who makes us one!

Thirty (30) voting members shall constitute a quorum. Members of the First Congregational Church of Upton and the Upton Methodist Church are entitled to vote in the United Parish of Upton affairs.

The Annual Meeting is the time when we affirm our committee rosters for the upcoming year. Areas where you might particularly want to consider serving are: Deaconate, Stewardship, Spiritual Gifts, Building & Grounds and Faith in Action. Also, if you have expertise in estate planning or personnel evaluation, we have just the right job for you. If you have not signed up, please consider how you can best serve the church in the upcoming year and contact Sonja Hansard Weiner or Caroline Stoffel.

The next meeting of the **Parents of Children with Challenges** will meet on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 7:00. For more information, contact Debbie Pedersen at 508-529-4777 or email debrapedersen@edu@gmail.com.

United Parish Christian Nursery School Registration ~ Registration for Fall 2012 will take place starting the week of January 23rd for current students and their siblings. Alumni families and church member families can register the week of January 29th. The Nursery School Open House and public registration will be held on Saturday, February 4th from 10:00am to 12:00pm. A new 4 day program for 4-5 year olds will be offered this year along with the established programs. For more information, please call Sandy Leacu at the school office, 508-529-6382 or email at leacu@yahoo.com. Registration information can also be found at the school website at: www.unitedparishschool.org.

Orders for **Scrip gift cards** can be placed every Sunday morning after worship with the Scrip representative or contact the church office (unitedparishoffice@yahoo.com or call 508-529-3192). We also have a limited on-hand supply of some of the most frequently ordered cards. Please be sure to use Scrip whenever you can and invite family and friends to participate in the program too. The rebates earned help support the programs of the United Parish.

All boys, girls and adults involved in Scouting are invited to celebrate "**Scout Sunday**" on **Sunday, February 5th**. Scouts need to arrive by 9:15am. We will meet where the greeters stand outside the sanctuary. Scouts must be in full uniform and will help with greeting and handing out bulletins. Any adult Scout leaders are invited to help serve coffee during coffee hour following the service. Please contact Leanne Luetkemeyer if you can help with coffee hour or for more info, lmluetkemeyer@earthlink.net, 508-529-6123.

The Cookie Walk is Coming Soon! It's hard to imagine – but a whole year has passed and it's time for SYG's favorite fundraiser!! On Sunday, February 5, 2012, immediately following worship, be sure to stop by the vestry and purchase some delicious cookies donated by our SYG families ...and YOU! We can't do it without you! SYG members will be baking about 5 dozen cookies per family! But that STILL won't be enough! We need the congregation to pull out those old favorite recipes and share them with the rest of us! If you can help out by donating a batch of cookies, please drop them off on your way up to church on Sunday, February 5. After worship follow the cookie walk and get a wonderful variety of yummy desserts (\$5/small container * \$10/large container). It's Super Bowl Sunday, so be sure to get enough cookies for game time! All monies raised will go toward the SYG mission trip to Philadelphia in July. Thank You!!

The **Food Pantry is currently in need of toiletry items** to restock their supply. Items needed include: shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant. Donations can be dropped off in the bins in the vestibule outside the pastor's office on Sunday mornings or during church office hours (Tuesday-Friday 9am to 2pm). Your continued support is gratefully accepted. If you are interested in sharing your time by volunteering at the food pantry, please contact Amy Griswold at 508-529-6339 or email grizzlies@verizon.net.

During the months of January and February, the United Parish has the opportunity to earn an additional 10% bonus on any books donated through the *Got Books?* bin. Acceptable items for the bin include (in gently used condition): hardcover and paperback books, CDs, DVDs, audio books, textbooks, records/LPs, children's books and board books. *Got Books?* does not accept home recorded or taped media, magazines, newspapers, phone books, and encyclopedias. Whether you are cleaning out your attic or garage or just making room for those new items you received for Christmas, please drop off your unwanted media in the *Got Books?* bin located in the church parking lot and help us earn an additional bonus.

**Worship Assistants Schedule
January 2012**

January 29 ~ Youth Sunday

Deacons: **Brandy Capistran**, Junior Youth Group
Greeters: Junior Youth Group
Coffee Hour Host: June Otte

February 2012

February 5 ~

Deacons: **Wayne Phipps**, Katie Leclair, Mike Lareau, Scott Campbell
Greeters: Cub Scouts
Reader: Rich Perkins
Coffee Hour Host: Cub Scouts

February 12 ~

Deacons: **Wayne Phipps**, Liz Sylvester, Kelly Leutkemeyer, Beth LaCross
Greeters: The Leutkemeyer Family
Reader: June Otte
Coffee Hour Host: Leanne Leutkemeyer

February 19 ~ Jazz Sunday

Deacons: **Wayne Phipps**, Ken Gamache, Jay Tower, Dayle Doherty
Greeters: The Perkins Family
Reader: Heather Walsh
Coffee Hour Host: Senior Youth Group Pancake Breakfast

February 26 ~

Deacons: **Wayne Phipps**, Suze Caron, Sandra Ng, Trina Triggs
Greeters: The Alibozek Family
Reader: Sandra Alibozek
Coffee Hour Host: Heidi Schultz

March 2012

March 4 ~

Deacons: **Andy Weiner**, Alan Caron, Brandy Capistran, Sandy Leacu
Greeters: Linda & Rich Gazorian
Reader: Trina Triggs
Coffee Hour Host: Sonja Hansard Weiner

March 11 ~

Deacons: **Andy Weiner**, Whitney Loeperi, David Loeper, TBD
Greeters: The Van Norman Family
Reader: Lorrie Loeper
Coffee Hour Host: Member Care Committee

March 18 ~

Deacons: **Andy Weiner**, Steve Rogers, Linda & Rich Gazorian
Greeters: The Stoffel Family
Reader: Sonja Hansard Weiner
Coffee Hour Host: Michel Lareau

March 25 ~

Deacons: **Andy Weiner**, Carl Porter, Ruth & Ashley Whitmore
Greeters: The Campbell Family
Reader: Lisa Henry
Coffee Hour Host: Behrikis Family

The Reader, Greeter, Usher and Coffee Hour Host schedule is a work in progress. If you have signed up to be a worship assistant, please check this schedule and let Alan Caron know if you are unable to assist on the week you are assigned. We will be glad to reschedule you. Alan can be reached at 508-529-6829 or via email at caron20@charter.net. If you would like to assist with worship, please send Alan your contact information and position(s) you are interested in. Thank you!