

NEWS AND NOTES

1. **Rev. Bob** will have his regular office hours this week on **Tuesday and Thursday**. He would also **like to visit with our members** when they are available in the office or at their home. If you are interested, contact the office or Rev. Bob directly.
2. Rev. Bob will have a **5-part Lenten Study which will begin this Wednesday, March 1st** and continue **every Wednesday** through March 29th, **7 to 8 p.m.** All sessions will be **via zoom** and Rev. Bob asks that all who wish to participate send a request to his email address, nolan062400@gmail.com, and he will respond with a link each week. The title of the study is **“Social Spirituality - the DEIBJ Way”** and will include the following:
 - March 1 - Spiritual Diversity
 - March 8 - Spiritual Equity
 - March 15 - Spiritual Inclusion
 - March 22 - Spiritual Belonging
 - March 29 - Spiritual Justice
3. The **“Get Crafty”** group meets on **Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.** Please bring your own crafts to work on as we enjoy fellowship with one another. A time of sharing where everyone is welcome!
4. **Rocky’s Clam Shack** will be hosted by Riverside Congregational Church on upcoming Fridays during Lent, from **noon-6 p.m.** They are serving Chowder, Clamcakes and Stuffies - You can place your order by calling 433-2039.
5. The churches of Riverside are hosting a **Blood Drive on Monday, March 13**, from **3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at St. Brendan’s Church**, Riverside - An appointment is needed by calling the RI Blood Center 401-453-8383) or at: customerservice@ribc.org
6. **Maundy Thursday** will be a shared celebration (Hope and Riverside Churches) **at Hope Congregational Church on April 6th**. The service starts at 7 p.m. You are invited to a Soup and Bread Meal preceding the service in the church hall (lower level) at 6 p.m.
7. **Coming Event: Sunday, April 23** - We will have a guest speaker, Kathryn Bothelo, from Communities for People to speak about their mission and work.
8. Don’t forget your used clothing for the **St. Pauly shed**.



Hope Congregational Church United Church of Christ

120 Wampanoag Trail
East Providence, Rhode Island 02915
Tel. (401) 434-2415 FAX (401) 434-2041

E-mail: hopechurchep@verizon.net
[Facebook.com/HopeChurchRI](https://www.facebook.com/HopeChurchRI)

Rev. Robert W. Nolan, Pastor
Cell (401) 339-6134
Email: nolan062400@gmail.com

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 4:1-11 (from NRSVUE)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written,

'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

SERMON **"There Will Be a Test"**

*HYMN "Take Time to Be Holy" No. 483

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastoral Prayer (including prayer concerns)

Time of Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")

Prayer Response "Let the Church Say Amen"

*Let the church say amen, Let the church say amen,
Altogether, let the church say amen.*

DELIGHTING IN GIVING (Plates are at the back of the sanctuary.)

Invitation to Present Our Offerings

Offertory "Let Justice Roll Like a River" Music Team

*Doxology "Give Thanks" No. 359

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

God, may these selfless gifts meet needs of your people. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "God of Mercy, God of Justice" Insert

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION - We invite you to sing with us:

*Now may the God of love fill you with joy and peace in believing.
May you abound in all joy, may you abound in all hope.
By the power of the spirit, the spirit of God,
The spirit of God be with you.*

PASTOR - Rev. Robert Nolan
MINISTER OF MUSIC - Kim Kuda
DEACON & LAY READER - Cora Rose
MUSIC TEAM - Andrew Foster, Dot Leone, Dale Magnuson,
Sangho Nam, Kim Kuda



All: Call us into accountability, O God, to do the hard work of taking notice of the reality among us. To listen to the stories of those who have been oppressed even when it is hard for us to hear. To change our ways of life so that others may live. Lead us into right paths, O God, out of the wilderness of security and into the way promised for us, for Your name's sake. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

One: Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven; you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the night around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

All: God is always near us, even if we cannot feel it. The Holy Spirit is within us, even if we do not notice it. Christ is always beside us, even if we cannot comprehend it. We are made in the image of God, beloved. We are precious. We are forgiven of our sins. We must love one another and tell others that they are made in the image of God, and show them how much God loves them, and will know God's love. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 734

TIME FOR ALL AGES

PASSING THE PEACE

One: God calls us to create a community which welcomes all:
To care and love unconditionally,
To free us and create a welcome for all.
May the Peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: Let's share that welcome with each other, that Love!