



February 2016

Church of the New Jerusalem

Monthly Newsletter

A community united by faith in God and love to the neighbor

February greetings, dear readers! This month we find ourselves headed into the season of Lent. This is a time of the year when we prepare ourselves for the joys of Easter morning. During our Worship time we will find ourselves with Jesus on the way to Jerusalem, watching him wither a fig tree, cleanse the temple, share a Last Supper, expect a betrayal, and offer words of forgiveness and compassion from the cross. Many of us know this story...that *Jesus will willingly give up his life*. And on Easter morning, we will celebrate that glorious fact that Spirit cannot die.

Jesus will willingly give up his life. Thinking about this, the word **sacrifice** comes to mind. I'll admit it isn't a word that initially brings up positive connotations for me. I hear that word and my mind first flies to religious scenes in the Old Testament...Abraham ready to sacrifice his son Isaac, or the many animals that lost their life this way for worship. For some of you, perhaps something positive and brave comes to mind when you hear the word *sacrifice*, maybe your thoughts lead you to the courageous life of our military men and women.

In thinking of the word, it may help us to remember one of its definitions: sacrifice: *the*

surrender of something for the sake of something else.

Quite a beautiful definition, isn't it? *The surrender of something for the sake of something else*. How many times have you surrendered something for the sake of something else...something that felt more important or a greater priority? My guess is many times. This ability to surrender something appears to be part and parcel of the maturing spiritual life. Jesus would remind his followers on several occasions that this was indeed part of the journey. You might remember some of these words from Matthew:

"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it" (16:25).

Or these words to the rich young man: *Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."*

Or, perhaps you will recall these words about a kernel of wheat:

The Fryeburg New Church aka The Church of the New Jerusalem

12 Oxford Street • Fryeburg, ME 04037

Rev. Alison Lane-Olsen, Pastor • Email: pastorfnc@gmail.com

Office: (207) 935-3413, Cell phone (620) 960-6748

Office Hours: Pastor ~ Wednesday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.,

Saturday by appointment

Secretary ~ Wednesday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

www.fryeburgnewchurch.org

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. (John 12:24).

The Message version of the Bible completes this verse on John with the following words, *“In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you’ll have it forever, real and eternal.”*

Accepting that we are on a journey to expand in our love and awareness, we might realize that something about our life *as it is* may have to be surrendered for something else to live and grow. We are not to cling so tightly that all remains *just as it is*.

I’ve appreciated being reminded that it wasn’t only Jesus’ words and life that offered such a way of seeing the world. For example, I recently found myself reading about the way many Native peoples participated in give-away ceremonies, like Potlatch (a time to give away goods and wealth). Even certain creatures were believed to carry this message forward, like the turkey and buffalo. Buffalo, for example, was the major source of sustenance for the Plains Indians. It gave meat for food, hides for clothing, warm and soft buffalo robes for long winters, and hooves for glue. The Buffalo was honored as sacred for its role and willingness to give the gifts that its body provided. A message of the Buffalo is to honor another’s pathway, even if it brings sadness, and to be an instrument of someone else’s answer to a prayer.

When I opened the Buddhist Scriptures lately, I found myself reading the same message of sacrifice in stories of the Buddha. In one story, for example, three brothers come upon a tigress with with five week-old cubs. The mama tiger is hungry and weak, too weak to catch any prey. They see that she will perish, and her young cubs with her. With this realization, one brother offers his own life to the tiger, so that she and her cubs will live on. The brothers says, “Now the time has come to sacrifice myself!...it (this body) cannot subsist forever...today I will use it for a sublime deed. Then it will act for me as a boat which helps me to cross the ocean of birth and death...from deep compassion I now give

away my body, so hard to quit...that enlightenment I shall now gain, in which nothing hurts and nothing harms...”

This is a season to contemplate such stories and realities, the motivations and outcomes. As we shall see and I hope feel in Christ’s case...it all comes down to LOVE.

With many blessings as we head into another Lenten season,

~ Rev. Alison

Office Hours: Weds. - Friday 8:30am-12:30pm,
Saturday by appointment

Email: pastorfnc@gmail.com

Office phone: 935-3413

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Worship Schedule

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Family Worship 10:00 AM

Feb. 7th: (Rev. Alison away) Sally Gibson will lead the service on “Blessings”

The season of Lent begins. This year we will prepare ourselves for Easter by learning about the stories and events of Jesus’ last week.

Feb. 14th: Jesus curses the fig tree

Feb. 21st: Jesus cleanses the temple

Feb. 28th: Jesus shares the Last Supper (Communion Sunday)

March 6th: Jesus prays at Gethsemane

March 13th: Jesus is betrayed and arrested

March 20th: Palm Sunday

March 27th: Easter!

Church Report

The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 7:00 pm**. The meetings are open to all, but you should contact the Chair prior to the meeting to get an item on the agenda. Also, please speak to any of the Trustees with your questions, concerns, compliments or complaints. We are here to serve you.

Currently Serving Trustees

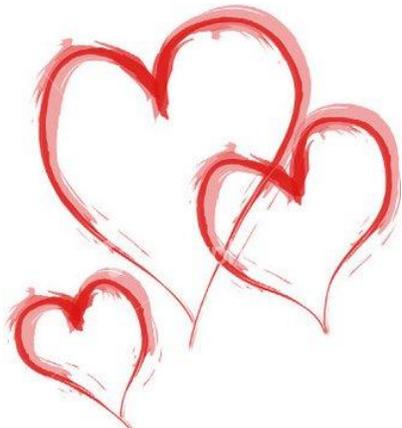
Stew Frost, <i>Chair</i>	935-3344
Jon Crowe, <i>Vice Chair</i>	925-1302
Cindy Priest, <i>Treasurer</i>	935-3360
Laurie Turley, <i>Secretary</i>	603-986-3611
Dede Frost, <i>Trustee</i>	935-3344
Judy Hatch, <i>Trustee</i>	935-2223
<i>Women's Alliance Representative:</i>	
Patricia Swett	603-939-2262

Women's Alliance

The next Women's Alliance meeting will be on **Monday, February 16th** at the FNC. Bring a bag lunch. We meet the third Monday of each month at the Church. All ladies are welcome!!

2016 Officers for the Women's Alliance are:

President Jean Cressy
Vice-President..... Claire Kiesman
Secretary..... Sally Harnden
Treasurer Patty Swett
Chaplain TBA



Annual Reports

Although the annual report won't come out until later in the year, we are asking that you please forward your reports to the office while 2015 is still fresh in your mind.

E-mail them @ office@fryeburgnewchurch.org or leave a copy for Dawn in the office.

Thank you so much for your time and effort.

From the Treasurer



Anyone wishing to receive a copy of their contributions for the year 2015 for tax purposes please contact Cindy Priest.



New Fundraiser...you just have to shop at Amazon.com!

When you shop online through Amazon.com, there is a very easy way to donate to our church.

First, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and follow the directions to choose a charitable organization: ours is **Fryeburg New Church**. Then each time you go to Amazon, be sure you enter the site through 'smile.amazon.com' and your purchases of eligible products will automatically count toward a donation of .5% of the purchase price to our church. That's all you have to do; everything else is exactly the same, no extra fees to you as consumer, or to the church. The only thing that's different is that our church benefits! So thanks!

No Potluck with a
Purpose this month

Will be back in March!

Thank you!

Dear FNC community,

We thank you so much for the gifts for our family this Christmas! The children appreciate their gift certificate to the bowling alley, and Adam and I appreciate the gift certificate to Stone Mountain Arts Center!

Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

With much gratitude and love,

The Lane-Olsen's



**The Fryeburg New Church
is once more partnering with
Equal Exchange!!**

Say "I Love You" with a gift box of fairly traded and organic heart-shaped chocolates! Each box includes 24 Dark Chocolate (55%) hearts. Vegan. Soy- and gluten-free. We will have this delicious chocolate available for purchase at the Church for \$7.00 a box.

(We also have catalogs at the Church if you would like to see what else Equal Exchange has to offer.)

In Our Prayers

Prayers for continued healing for Susan Logan - we were so glad you were able to return to church! Prayers for Bryson as he faces another upcoming surgery and recovery, and for Jim & Sally Gibson's family as they recover from a car accident. Prayers for Rev. Eric Zacharias, recovering from pneumonia. We also have several families in the church who have loved ones struggling with cancer - we send them our love and healing!



I do, still!

Special Service

February 14th, 4pm

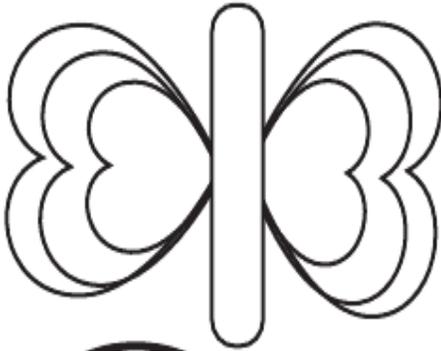
It's almost Valentine's Day! Are you looking for an extra special way to celebrate with your spouse?

On Feb. 14th, we are offering a Reaffirmation of Vows Service.

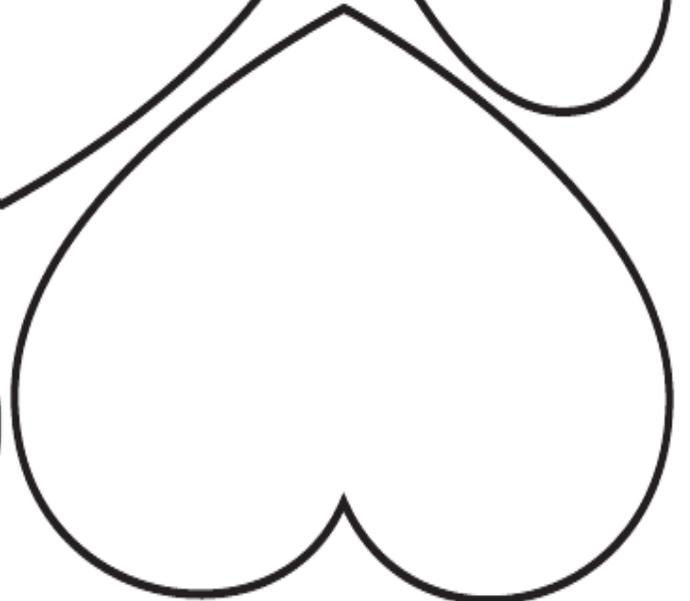
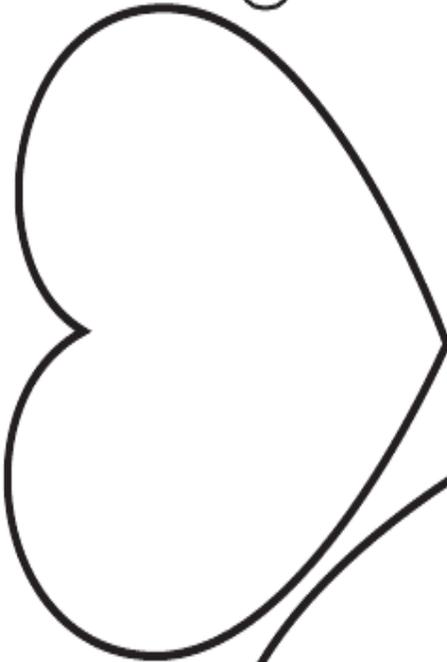
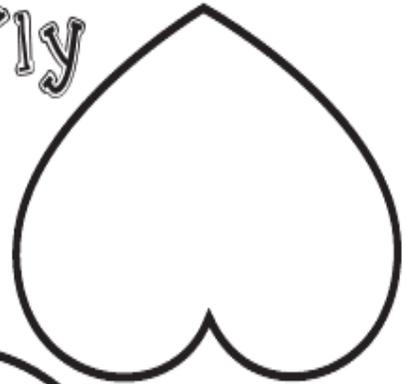
This will be open to the community for couples who would like to remember and cherish the vows that marked the beginning of their married life.

For the Kids! Happy Valentine's Day!

Love Butterfly



Color and decorate the hearts. Glue them together on top of each other as shown. Cut off the tip and glue them to a popsicle stick. Attach pipe cleaners and eyes for a fun look.





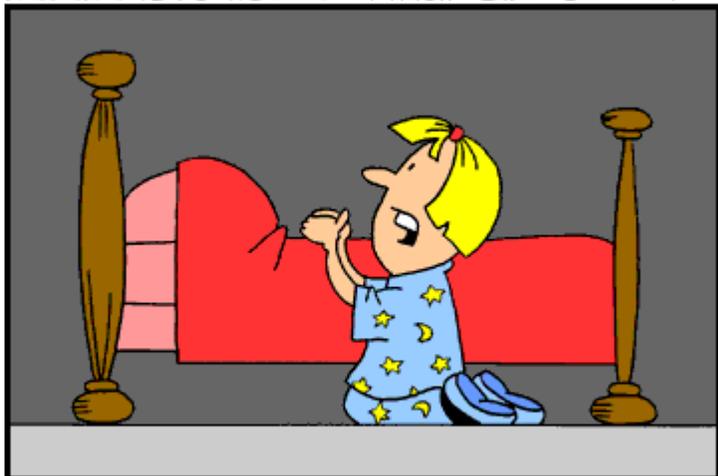
02-24-2012

LITTLE FLUFFY KITTY ETERNITY DOUBLED AS BOTH A HEAVEN AND A HELL



Thanks to Kevin Adelsberger (See 1+Corinthians 13:1-10) 2-26-2013

LOVE IS NOT SHELLFISH



02-13-1998

WILL YOU BE MY VALENTINE?

Parishioners get 15% off in February for brunch at



Brunch is 11:30am - 1pm
Call for reservations!

Glen, NH
603-383-4200

www.berherofinn.com

(flyer posted at the church)

Faith
Hope
and the Greatest
of these is
Love

Welcomers for February

Feb 7 *open*
 Feb 14 Debbie Dolley
 Feb 21 Martha Richardson
 Feb 28 *open*

Ushers for February

Feb 7 Tom Barrett & *open*
 Feb 14 Stanley Dolley & Chuck Priest
 Feb 21 David & Jen Richardson
 Feb 28 Jean Cressy & Dean Harnden

Coffee Hour for February

Feb 7 Dawn Crowe
 Feb 14 Sally Gibson
 Feb 21 Jen Richardson
 Feb 28 Martha Richardson

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE JANUARY 3 - 24, 2016

Date	Adults	Children
January 3	33	11
January 10	36	1
January 17	42	2
January 24	39	12

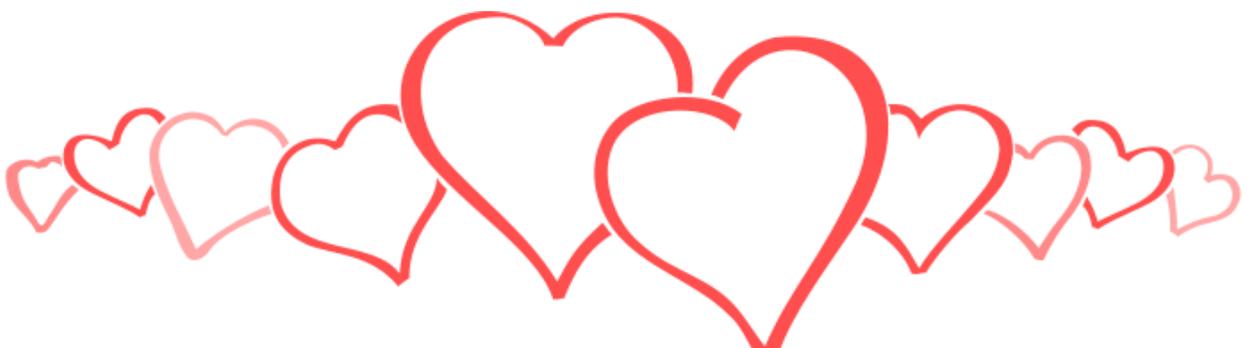
As much as we want every Sunday to be bright and sunny, it is winter and sometimes the weather will make it necessary to cancel our classes and worship service. Please check the following stations to see if they have been cancelled before heading out on the road:
 TV Channels 6, 8, 13 and the following
 Radio stations: 560AM, 93.1FM, 93.5FM, 100.9FM, 101.9FM, and 104.5FM.
 It also will be posted on our FNC Sunday school Facebook page. Thank you!

Calendar for February 2016

(held at our Church unless indicated)



1 - 7		Rev. Alison Vacation	
2	Tue	Trustees' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
3	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
7	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship NO POTLUCK	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
10	Wed	MSAD #72 Early release FNC office closes early Dinner Bell North @SEAS	12:00 noon 5:00 p.m.
11	Thu	AIM Workbook Group @ Parsonage	7 - 8 p.m.
14	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
17	Wed	Rev. Alison @ FHCC Dinner Bell North @SEAS	10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
18	Thu	AIM Workbook Group @ Parsonage	7 - 8 p.m.
21	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship SS Teacher's meeting	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. after worship
24	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS Worship Committee	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
25	Thu	AIM Workbook Group @ Parsonage	7 - 8 p.m.
28	Sun	Birthday Bank Sunday Food Pantry Sunday Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
29	Mon	Leap Year Day!	5:00 p.m.





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a.k.a. *Fryeburg New Church*
12 Oxford Street
Fryeburg, ME 04037

Address Service Requested