



God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

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

**Guilford Community Church is a safe place
for all people to worship regardless of race, creed,
age, cultural background or sexual orientation**

Rev. Lise Sparrow, Pastor

Peter Amidon & Andy Davis, Choir Directors

Patty Meyer, organist

Pastor's Phone: (802) 257-2776

Pastor's e-mail: gccucc@sover.net

Administrator's/Kitchen Phone: (802) 257-0994

Administrator's e-mail: gccsecy@sover.net

website: www.guilfordchurch.org

Or Like us on Facebook at Guilford Community
Church, United Church of Christ



Administrative Office Hours: Closed Mon
Tues-Fri 9am-3pm

Pastor's Office Hours: By Appointment

Bulletin Notices: Please notify the office by Thursday
at noon if you would like something added to the
bulletin.

Hospital Visits: If you or a loved one are in the
hospital and would like a visit from Pastor Lise Sparrow
or one of the Deacons, please leave a message at 257-
2776 with the name and room number of the person.
Hospital confidentiality regulations prevent visits
without this information.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
March 31, 2019

PRELUDE
WELCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS

A complete list of announcements can be found in the insert or in our weekly e-news. Please fill out the cards in the pews to be added to our mailings.

Birthday Song:

*Happy Birthday, happy birthday, we love you
Happy Birthday and may all your dreams come true
When you blow out the candles one light stays aglow
It's the love light in your eyes, where'er you go.*

SILENT MEDITATION & THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP: Matthew 5:

- ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
- ⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness, **for they will be filled.**
- ⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
- ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
- ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
- ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of
righteousness, **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

OPENING HYMN: #611 “When Like the Woman at the Well”

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PASSING OF THE PEACE

*THE CLOSING HYMN: #406 “Blest Are They”

SENDING FORTH THE LIGHT
BENEDICTION

*THREEFOLD AMEN: Hymn #291

**invites the congregation to stand*

****RPB=Red Pew Bible ***LPB=Large Print Bible*

**We wish you a warm welcome this morning
and hope you will feel very much
at home and among friends.
Please plan to stay and join us after
the service for a time
of fellowship and refreshment.**

Today we especially thank the volunteers who make
this worship service & the reception after possible.

Service Coordinator: Rob Harnish

Greeters: Rachel Johnson & Ben Coplan

Coffee Hour: Dwayne & Rachel Johnson

TODAY AFTER CHURCH:

“The Edge of Contemporary Christianity”,
an introduction to Nadia Bolz-Weber with Jen McCalley.

Who Is Nadia Bolz-Weber?

Nadia Bolz-Weber is a Lutheran minister and public theologian. She served as the founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Denver, Colorado, until July 8, 2018.

Bolz-Weber is known for her unusual approach to reaching others through her church. Heavily tattooed, she is considered a "performative pastor". Her work in the church is considered part of "a new Reformation".

She has written three books which are all available to borrow from the church : *Salvation on the Small Screen? 24 Hours of Christian Television, Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint, and Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People.*

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PREPARATION FOR CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

**in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: Matthew 7:12

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets

ANTHEM: "Jesus Gave Me Water"

CHILDREN'S STORY: "The Woman at the Well"

PRAYER

CHILDREN'S HYMN: #394 "I Have No Bucket..."

CONTEMPORARY READING (by Nadia Bolz-Weber)

I've mentioned this several times before but Catholic theologian James Allison describes faith not as intellectually ascending to a set of theological propositions, but he describes faith as relaxing. Relaxing in the love and presence of God in the way we relax in the presence of someone we are certain is fond of us. When we are in the presence of someone we are certain is fond of us, we are funnier, more spontaneous, softer and less defended. If I know for sure someone likes and loves me there is no reason to pretend anything. Allison says faith is relaxing. I think this is what happened to the woman at the well. I think living water found a crack in her defenses and trickled down to her lowest point, her deepest wound, her greatest need and she finally

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exhaled. In fact, she relaxed so much she totally left her water jar at the well.

I've always seen her water jar as a metaphor for what we think will quench our thirst but never does. And oh my gosh do I have some water jars I need to forget about. Things I think will

make me whole, hide my wound, make me loveable – I need those jars to just slip from my hand without even caring they are gone.

Because being known and loved and forgiven in our true form by our true God can quench our spiritual thirst in a way that no amount of success or admiration or romantic love or social justice work ever can. I don't know why this is God's economy – that our greatest wound, our deepest shame, our greatest sin is also our greatest gift, our greatest teacher. I just know it is.

SCRIPTURE (Elizabeth Christie)

John 4:4–26, 39–42 ***RPB p.89 ***LPB p.115

SERMON: "The Woman at the Well"

ANTHEM: "Ubi Caritas"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(It is our custom to join hands for the Lord's Prayer.)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Hymn #278

"Hear our Prayer, Oh Lord..."

SPECIAL OFFERING



CALL TO OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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PRAYERS AT GUILFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Our faith teaches us that prayer is a unique and powerful force for healing. Within our community, we believe it is also

important to respect confidentiality. We trust the people listed below have been consulted and are glad to be included.

If you would like a loved one added to these prayers, please leave a prayer request in the prayer triangle at the back of the Sanctuary, or call the Pastor's phone line (257-2776). They will be included in the list for three weeks unless other requests are made.

Family & Friends of Kate Mayo
Family and Friends of Marylin Boucher

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Joan Shimer | Angela Daprato | Grace Wahlberg |
| Lisa Vose | Joan Seymour | Doris Spahr |
| Mary Grove | Elaine Petrie | Carol Jaenson |
| Theodore Koehler | Bob Maes | Blakely Ann Amidon |
| Peter Tracy | Justin | Tony Barrand |
| Jay Falk | Diana MacInnes | Joy Hayes |
| Lois & Chaz Freeman | Herb Meyer | Elizabeth Israel |
| Ruth Ayers | Anne Janeway | Michael Vose |
| Jim Peters | Laurel Jenkins | Kyle Franklin |
| Mary Ellen Koehler | Alison | Desmond Oliver |
| Chip Siler | Elisabeth Dearborn | Joanie McBean |
| Matt Kent | | Kathy Linskey |

Officers and Crew of the
John C. Stennis Aircraft Carrier CVN74

Prayer Chain: Should a health emergency arise during the week for which you would like prayers, or if you would be willing to pray for others and would like to join the prayer chain, please call Lucy Spahr-Blazej at (380-3695). If you are leaving a message for Lucy requesting a prayer, please spell the names, or email Lucy at lucysb1@gmail.com.

EASTER WEEK

Thursday, April 18

Seder Supper 5:30 pm
Tenebrae Service, 7pm



Friday, April 19

Good Friday Ecumenical Service
Noon to 3pm

Sunday, April 21. EASTER!!

6am: Sunrise Service

Outside next to the church

6:30: Pancakes for all!

Served by the men of the church

10AM: EASTER FAMILY SERVICE

Nursery care provided

CHURCH CONNECTIONS AND SUPPORT

Need a ride to church? Please call Patty Meyer at 254-0994 by Friday noon.

Want to receive our weekly e-news and quarterly newsletters? Please fill out one of the cards in the pews and place it on the offering plate.

BCTV: Many of our services have been filmed and can be found on BCTV, Channel 8 Wednesday morning at 7am and Sunday mornings at 8am or anytime online at www.brattleborotv.org.

Audio-recordings of services are available through Patty at 257-0994.

GATHERINGS FOR LENT

Below you find listed presentations which we hope will bring the congregation together for shared learning about the themes of the Sermon on the Mount as lived out currently and locally. Come to one or come to all.

TODAY: "The Golden Rule: the Edge of Contemporary Christianity", an introduction to Nadia Bolz-

Weber with Jen McCalley.

April 7 **2pm**: “Build on Rock: Building Relationships on Pine Ridge Reservation” with John Willis and Arthur Running Horse

April 14: “Do Not Worry: the Universal Christ”, a conference excerpt with Richard Rohr from the Center for Action and Contemplation



**Centering Prayer every Wednesday
4:20-5:30pm—everyone welcome**

**OPEN MEDITATION
4:20 - 4:50 pm
DISCUSSION
4:50-5:30pm**

AA meets on Tuesdays and Fridays. The Tuesday 6-7pm meeting is a Big Book/Step meeting and is open to alcoholics and families of alcoholics. The meeting on Friday from 5:30-6:30pm is for women only.

Second Sunday Step/ Study – An Al-Anon Family Step Work Group. This group meets the 2nd Sunday of the month, 2-4pm in the Houghton Room. The next meeting is April 14.

**SPECIAL OFFERING
FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN
TODAY**

The pastor of Church of the Good Shepherd, UCC, in Sahuarita, Ariz., and his congregants are among church volunteers at the Comedor, a small hillside compound where Jesuits, Sisters of the Holy Eucharist, Samaritans from Green Valley, Sahuarita and Tucson, No More Deaths members, and helpers from both sides of the border provide migrants with morning and evening meals, clothing, medical care, phone calls, legal advice, and psychological services..

The work is too big for one church or one UCC conference. Our state conference and church want to support those who are supporting these families.

Ways to help:

- 1) Contribute to the Special Offering for Families and March 31.
- 2) Support the Sunday School which is collecting toothbrushes, travel size toothpaste, shampoo, razors, towels, wash cloths, sleeping mats, coloring books and crayons for kids.
- 3) Send your notes of encouragement to these families to the Southwest Conference, 917 E. Sheridan, Phoenix, AZ 85006, who will pass them along to families camped on the border.

**THANK YOU
FROM THE SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE OF THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**