



THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 21, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Hancock United Church of Christ, Congregational • 1912 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington, MA

Vision, Mission, and Values

OUR VISION:

Inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus, we are changing the world through love, compassion, and courage.

OUR MISSION:

In the revolutionary spirit of our Christian faith, we invite you to join us as we

- worship God with all our hearts and minds
- walk our spiritual paths together
- cherish one another
- build community in a diverse world
- protect the earth
- work for the common good



OUR VALUES:

faithfulness inclusion compassion gratitude integrity generosity humility vulnerability courage

WELCOME TO HANCOCK

We are delighted that you chose to worship with us this Sunday and are strengthened by your participation in our service! If you would like to watch us virtually, you can visit our youtube page via [youtube.com/hancockchurch](https://www.youtube.com/hancockchurch).



Given the continuing decline of covid cases, masks will no longer be required in any areas of the building or services. Individuals are always encouraged and supported in their decisions to wear masks as they need to given their own situation.

Infant and toddler care is available each Sunday. Today, it will begin at 9:30am in the nursery and toddler room and will be available through today's January Meeting.

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www.hancockchurch.org

Service of Worship

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Miracle by Seamus Heaney

Not the one who takes up his bed and walks
But the ones who have known him all along
And carry him in -

Their shoulders numb, the ache and stoop deeplocked
In their backs, the stretcher handles
Slippery with sweat. And no let up

Until he's strapped on tight, made tilttable
And raised to the tiled roof, then lowered for healing.
Be mindful of them as they stand and wait

For the burn of the paid-out ropes to cool,
Their slight lightheadedness and incredulity
To pass, those ones who had known him all along.

PRELUDE *Be Still My Soul* by Jean Sibelius
Bell Choir arr. by Cathy Moglebust

WORDS OF WELCOME Barbara Callaghan & David C Clark

INTROIT *As I Sat On a Sunny Bank* Trad. English Carol
Hancock Choristers

*As I sat a sunny bank, a sunny bank, a sunny bank
As I sat on a sunny bank on Christmas Day in the morning
I saw three ships come sailing by...
And who was in the ships all three?
'Twas Joseph and his fair lady...
And he did whistle and she did sing...
And all the bells on earth shall ring...*

PRAYERS OF INVOCATION Katie Brown-Bright

*OPENING HYMN *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* #S-5

Service of Worship

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROCLAMATION Barbara Callaghan

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD David C Clark

Mark 2:1-22

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves, and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—"I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your home." And he stood up and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting, and people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus said to them, "The wedding attendants cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.

"No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. Similarly, no one puts new wine into

**Congregation standing—some may wish to remain seated*

Service of Worship

old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins, but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.”

One: The Word of God, for the People of God.

Many: Thanks be to God!

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE . *Alleluia, God Is Still Speaking* . . . by Mark Morgan

Alleluia! Alleluia! God is still speaking, alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! God is still speaking, alleluia!

PASSING OF THE PEACE Barbara Callaghan

ONE: The Peace of Christ be with you

MANY: And also with you!

GATHERING SONG. *Guide My Feet*

Guide my feet, while I run this race (3 times)

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

Hold my hand, while I run this race (3 times)

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

CHILDREN'S TIME. Katie Brown-Bright

THE MORNING OFFERING Barbara Callaghan

This week our offering will go to UCC Christmas Fund. To learn more, visit christmasfund.org.

For more information about how to give, please see page 8.

OFFERTORY *What Shall I Give?* Catalonian Carol

Hancock Choristers

What shall I give to the child in the manger?

What shall I give to the beautiful boy?

Grapes will give to him, hanging in clusters,

Baskets of figs for the child to enjoy.

Tamp-a-tamp-tamp, when the figs will

have ripened.

Tamp-a-tamp-tamp, they will add to his joy.

What shall I give to the child in the manger?

What shall I give to the beautiful boy?

Garlands of flowers to twine in his fingers,

Cherries so big for the child to enjoy.

Tamp-a-tamp-tamp, when the cherries

have ripened.

Tamp-a-tamp-tamp, they will add to his joy.

Service of Worship

*DOXOLOGY *From North and South and East and West*

From north and south and east and west, may God's e-ter-nal name be blessed.

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! 'Til ev-'ry where be-neath the sun

thy king-dom come, thy will be done. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Barbara Callaghan

PASTORAL PRAYER David C Clark

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ANTHEM *My Song In the Night* American folk hymn
Chancel Choir arr. by Mack Wilberg

*O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night,
Come to us with Thy tender love, my
soul's delight,
Unto Thee O Lord in affliction I call,
My comfort by day and my song in the night.*

*O why should I wander an alien from Thee,
Or cry in the desert Thy face to see,
My comfort and joy, My soul's delight,
O Je-sus my Savior, my song in the night.*

*Congregation standing—some may wish to remain seated

Service of Worship

SERMON *Friends In Low Places* Barbara Callaghan

*CLOSING HYMN *Amazing Grace* #401

*BENEDICTION Barbara Callaghan

POSTLUDE *Glad Adoration* by Christian Guebert
Bell Choir



FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Today's flowers are given in loving memory of
her parents' anniversary, Alex & Bernadette Schneider,
by Elizabeth & Russell Schutt

Our Mission Is To...

Worship God With All Our Hearts And Mind

MORNING OFFERING

Each week at Hancock we accept an offering of gifts for two purposes:

Mission Partner of the Week: Each Sunday we accept gifts for one of our mission partners, a select organization doing God's work in the world. Many are local or regional organizations with whom we've worked with for years. All are effective organizations making a difference in people's lives. These donations are passed directly to the organization in addition to the donations included in Hancock's budget.

Sustaining Hancock's Vision: Gifts are also welcome in the Sunday offering plate for Hancock Church that support our staff, our building, community outreach, and all of the worship and programs at Hancock.

You may make a gift for either in one of three ways:

- **Through our website.** Go to www.hancockchurch.org, click on the Give button in the upper right, and follow the instructions to make a gift by credit or debit card, or ACH bank transfer. Be sure to indicate in the dropdown menu whether the gift is for "Mission Partner" or "Hancock Church."
- **Send a check.** Make it payable to Hancock UCC, and note on the memo line either "Mission Partner" or "Hancock." Our address is 1912 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington, MA 02421.
- **Text to give.** From your smart phone or tablet, text the dollar amount along with "Mission" or "Hancock" to 781-386-0866 and tap the link to enter your credit card information.

THE WEEKLY OFFERING

The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards.

Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks.

This offering is one of four UCC offerings, including One Great of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, and Neighbors in Need.

Mission Partner Update:

12/24/23 10 am: UCC-Christmas Fund \$175

12/24/23 Christmas Eve: Hancock Church
\$7,264.50

12/31/23: Habitat for Humanity \$589

Upcoming Offerings:

1/28/2024: LexRap

2/4/2024: Women's Lunch Place

Thank you for your continued support of these important organizations.

WARRANT FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Hancock United Church of Christ, Congregational

Special Annual Meeting January 21, 2024

All members of the congregation are asked to attend the Annual Meeting to be held January 21, 2024, after worship at 11:00 AM, either in-person or over Zoom, to consider and act upon the following:

Article I To receive the reports of the Officers responsible to the Membership

Article II To hear the report of the Engagement Team and election of officers and committee members

Article III To conduct additional business that might be brought properly before the Annual meeting

SPECIAL ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Hancock Church UCC, Congregational

January 21, 2024, 11 AM, Sanctuary and via Zoom

Call to Order	David Zenk
Blessing of the Meeting	Rev. Barbara Callaghan
Article I - Report from Ministers/Officers	
• Moderator's report	David Zenk
• Senior Minister's report	Rev. Barbara Callaghan
• Treasurer & Finance Committee report	Laurel Freeberg/Sarah Felton
Article II - Engagement Team's report	Al Bukys/Bess Deck
• Motion to approve Officers/Committee members	
Article III - New Business	David Zenk
• Capital Campaign Update	Carol Bukys
• Any new business	
• Motion to refer the minutes of the Special Hancock Annual Meeting to the Standing Committee	
• Motion to adjourn	Leanne Rodd
Benediction	Rev. David C Clark

Our Mission Is To...

Walk Our Spiritual Paths Together

WORSHIP AT THE WELL

Our evening service, Worship @The Well returns this Sunday with the River Rock Band and Rev. David Clark leading this informal service in Clark Hall at 5:00pm.

MAR. 16, SAVE THE DATE FOR ALL CHURCH POT LUCK

Please save the date for an All Church Pot Luck Dinner on Saturday, March 16, 2024 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. This event is hosted by the Welcoming Committee. Mark your calendars now!

SUNDAY MORNING ONLINE CHAT REACTIVATED

Become a Virtual Greeter! For all you folks that watch our Sunday Worship service from home, we're happy to report that the chat has been reactivated and we have recruited some new virtual greeters. Now you can use the online chat to once again be in touch with our church family.

We are delighted to have folks willing to help with this job and would welcome additional volunteers to be virtual greeters. This is an important ministry to keep our Hancock members and friends connected to the life of our church community. If you are a regular online viewer (or even an occasional viewer) and are willing to help, please contact CeCe Potter at **Hannah. Potter@verizon.net** or call at 781-812-8534 to learn more about what is involved in being a virtual greeter.

FEB. 4, GIRL SCOUT COOKIES!!!

To celebrate Scout Sunday, February 4, Troop #62580 will be hosting a Girl Scout cookie sale immediately after the service. Prepaid orders will be taken on February 4 for delivery the following Sunday, February 11. On February 11, immediately after the service, our Girl Scouts will also host a cookie booth for anyone who was unable to order the previous week.

If your daughter is a Girl Scout and would like to participate, please email Sadie's mom, Kendra Martin, **KendraMartin9@icloud.com**. If you would like to purchase delicious Girl Scout cookies, get your checkbooks ready! We will accept checks, Venmo, credit cards, and cash. If you would like to help out, but not bring home a package of cookies, we also accept donations which will be used to purchase boxes of cookies to donate to Arlington Eats. Cookies are \$6 per package this year.

Our Mission Is To...

Work for the Common Good

DO WE KNOW YOUR PLANS FOR 2024?



Happy New Year from the Giving Committee! Your gifts funded all the good work and worship that happened here at Hancock in 2023. And beyond our walls, your gifts supported our mission partners throughout the year. Thank you for your contributions, and for the commitments you have made for the year ahead.

If we haven't heard from you yet please let the church know your giving plans for 2024:

- on Hancock's website, click "give" and complete the 2024 commitment form or use the QR code.
- or drop your completed 2024 commitment card in the secure box outside of Suzie Barry's office (commitment cards are available in the narthex)
- or email Financial.Administrator@hancockchurch.org

Together we are changing the world through love, compassion, and courage. Thank you!

FAITHFUL & FORWARD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE



The capital campaign building committee has been at work meeting with the architect and seeking preliminary cost estimates. We are looking for the best way to meet our goals and are asking questions of both the architect and contractors on their initial numbers. This

month at the all church meeting, we will present an update. Please join us for the special annual meeting directly after church on January 21 in the sanctuary. QR Code is a link to the campaign website.

Our Mission Is To...

Cherish One Another

WOMEN IN ANCIENT CHRISTIANITY: NEW POTTER LIBRARY ADDITIONS

In the past 20 years, the history of women in ancient Christianity has been significantly revised. Two recent Potter Library additions contribute to this continuing conversation by challenging long-held myths and stories about Biblical and Early Christian women we thought we knew well.



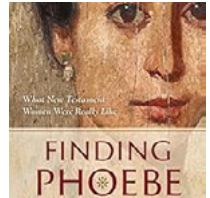
Eve Isn't Evil: Feminist Readings of the Bible to Uproot Our Assumptions by Julie Faith Parker

A visiting scholar at Union Theological Seminary, Parker interweaves scriptural analysis and personal anecdotes to reframe Eve as “a curious seeker of knowledge who yearns to understand ethics so she can make her way in the world.” “Parker tackles scripture from a broad-thinking, feminist perspective....Smart and impressive,” advises Publishers Weekly.

Finding Phoebe: What First Century Women Were Really Like by Susan E. Hulen

Drawing on first-century primary sources, Hulen helps readers understand the historical place of women in the church—and extend that knowledge to modern-day Christians. Offering ample evidence that women were impactful, vocal and a powerful social force in the time of Jesus, she provides an illuminating read for clergy, spiritual reading groups, and all curious minds!

Located on the main level near the church offices, Potter Library is open on Sunday mornings and weekdays, when the offices are open.



THE PASSING OF ANN HRUBY



Our condolences go to the friends and family of Ann Hruby. She lived to the age of 95 and passed away on December 29. A private, grave-side service will be held for her next month. Her obituary can be read here:

<https://www.douglassfh.com/obituary/ann-hruby>

Our Mission Is To...

Build Community in a Diverse World

WEDNESDAYS, PASTOR'S CLASS BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday, Pastor's Class reads and discusses the scripture passage for the following Sunday. It is led by the week's preacher and there's no homework or extra reading required! This class meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 1:00pm.

Wednesday, Jan. 24, we will discuss Matrk 4:1-34

Wednesday, Jan. 31, we will discuss Mark 5:1-20

JAN. 28, HELP WITH MEAL AT PLACE OF PROMISE

On Sunday, January 28, Hancock members will be serving and sharing the midday meal with the residents of Place of Promise. Place of Promise has 25 residents—half men, half women—in four group homes right next to each other in Lowell. Most of the residents come there following stays in detox or in prison—some residents are younger, some older, some more educated, some less.

We need Hancock home cooks to prepare hearty dishes/salads/desserts that we can bring there and heat up. And then we need volunteers who would like to go there to serve and share the meal. It was a lot of fun talking and breaking bread with the residents when we did it last year, after a Covid hiatus! The time commitment would be 12:00-4:00pm on that Sunday. Please contact Mike Bundy at LongLifeAutoRepair@yahoo.com or 617-308-5288 or anyone on the Mission & Justice team at Mission.Justice.Team@HancockChurch.org if you would like to participate.

JAN. 28, JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

On Sunday, January 28, we will take time during worship to celebrate anybody who wants to mark a milestone in their life. Whether that be a birthday, an anniversary, retirement, or a promotion, you are welcome to share it with us! Please submit the online form by Wednesday, **January 24, 2024** or email Church.Administrator@HancockChurch.org.

FEB. 4, INSTALLATION OF DAVID C CLARK

Please save the date for the Installation of David C Clark on Sunday, **February 4 at 3:00 PM** followed by a reception. There will not be Worship at the Well that day. We are so excited to celebrate this great day!



Our Potter Library is filled with books for adults and children to check out, read, and enjoy!

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

9:30am Infant and Toddler Care Available
9:40am Prayers with Choir
10:00am Morning Worship & Livestream
10:15am Church School
11:00am Special Annual Meeting
11:15am Junior Youth Organization
11:15am No Children's Choir
3:30pm Band Rehearsal
5:00pm Worship at the Well

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

Offices Closed on Mondays

11:00am LABBB Program
12:00pm Hancock Bulletin & Weekly Submission
Deadline
5:30pm Spanish Academy
6:30pm LCE: Zumba
7:30pm Halalisa Singers Rehearsal

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

9:00am Moderators Meeting
9:15am Iyengar Yoga with Mary Wixted
10:15am Staff Meeting
11:00am LABBB Program
11:00am Gentle Yoga with Mary Wixted
11:30am Staff Lenten Planning
4:30pm Spanish Academy
7:00pm Lexington Pops Chorus

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

12:00pm Hancock Weekly Sent Out
1:00pm Pastor's Class
7:00pm Hancock Carillon Rehearsal
7:00pm Halalisa Singers Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

9:30am Security Team Meeting
6:30pm Eagle Board of Review
6:30pm Scout Troop Merit Badges
6:30pm Pack 137 Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:30pm Scout Troop Meeting

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

9:30am Morning Glory Rehearsal
10:00am LCE: Joyful Yoga
5:00pm Pack 137 Pinewood Derby Setup

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

9:00am Pack 137 Pinewood Derby
10:00am AA Meeting in Dining Room
1:00pm AA Meeting in Dining Room
2:00pm Plaster Posaunes Brass Group

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

9:30am Infant and Toddler Care Available
9:40am Prayers with Choir
10:00am Morning Worship & Livestream
10:15am Church School
11:00am Fellowship Hour
11:15am Junior Youth Organization
11:15am Children's Choir
12:00pm Place of Promise Lunch
3:30pm Band Rehearsal
5:00pm Worship at the Well

HANCOCK WEEKLY

Stay updated on
Hancock news, events,
and volunteer
opportunities! Visit
hancockchurch.org or
scan the QR Code to sign
up!



Hancock Covenant of Welcome

We welcome all who seek to know God.

We believe that, although we are many members, we are one body in Christ.

We have been called as well as challenged by God to respect and reconcile our differences.

We recognize and love each individual as a child of God.

We welcome, respect, support, and lovingly encourage people of every race, ethnicity, creed, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical and mental ability to join us on our journey of faith.

The faith journey indeed calls Hancock Members not to be silent in the face of prejudice, injustice, and exclusion, but to express our faith, in word and deed, for justice and inclusiveness for all humanity.

As Paul wrote in Galatians, "In Christ there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for all are one..."

www.hancockchurch.org

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For Emergency Pastoral Support:
Call (781) 862-4220 and press 9

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