



* **deepening** * **exalting** * **gathering** * **stretching** *

Lenten Small Group Programs Starting in February

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

How would you answer this question that Jesus asked of Martha? Given the new life we receive through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, what does that mean for us today? In a diverse community such as the United Parish, one would expect a range of answers as we each interpret in our own way the meaning of Easter. The various small group programs being offered during Lent will give us the opportunity, from a variety of perspectives, to explore and experience the meaning of resurrection. The joy and hope and challenge of being an Easter people call us to find our answer to this question.

Therefore, you are invited to
PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF HOLY WEEK, THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS, AND THE GRACE OF SALVATION
By

GATHERING together with your UP family to **DEEPEN** and **STRETCH** your relationships with each other, our community, and with God by exploring the meaning of resurrection and **EXALTING** in having received the Gifts of Easter – Hope, Peace, Forgiveness, and Love.

The various offerings are summarized below with sign-up instructions at the end.

Power(ful) Poems for Easter People

Leader: Lisa McElaney

How do great poets frame the same spiritual urgency that the gospels express, including those who are agnostic? This small group will look closely at four examples of verse which render the power of resurrection in different ways. No reading required ahead of time. Just come as you are, ready to explore with others how human words reach out for and describe the divine.

Dates: Sunday, Feb. 28, Mar. 7, 14, and 21

Time: 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Location: United Parish, Youth Room across from downstairs kitchen

Finding Your Monastery in the World

Leader: Rev. Patricia Coughlin

Have you always wondered what the holy people in monasteries and convents do all day? Have you heard of the Rule of St. Benedict and been curious about what a Rule of Life might look like for you? Are you interested in fixed-time prayer and what Lauds and Vespers are all about? Did it ever occur to you that some of the practices and habits of those who have separated themselves from the world might enrich and center those of us whose frenetic lives are lived very much “in the world?” Come and explore what the wisdom of the monastic way of life might have to say to you.

Dates: Sunday, Feb. 21, Mar. 7, 14, and 21

Time: 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Location: Rev. Pat’s Office

Refreshment: Get your coffee or tea in the parlor and bring a bag lunch. Snacks will be provided.

The Journey to Easter

Leaders: Mike and Mary McConnell

In Advent, our small groups walked the road to Bethlehem. Now we are in another season of preparation. This new group will walk the road to Jerusalem, preparing us—through prayer, Bible study, and spiritual practice—for the transformation of becoming an Easter people.

Dates: Sunday, Feb. 28, Mar. 14, 21, and 28

Time: 7:00-7:30 p.m. Spiritual Practice, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Bible Study

Location: McConnell's home, 76 Williston Road, Brookline

Refreshment: Dessert with coffee/tea

Watching for God

Leaders: Rev. Suzanne Bossert and Kate Common

As our culture changes, new ways of experiencing the holy are emerging, with images and storytelling becoming more central. How might believers and seekers alike experience God's presence beyond traditional words and creeds? This small group will explore the imaginative power of film and art (utilizing the spiritual practice of "*visio divina*"), as we deepen our awareness of Christ's invitation to new life through emergent forms of discipleship.

Dates: Friday, Mar. 5, 12, 19 and 26

Time: 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Location: United Parish, Willett Hall

Refreshment: Dessert with coffee/tea

Deepening through Service

Leaders: Lissa Olbeter and Doug Knotts

Service in the name of Christ no longer is a duty to be checked off our spiritual task list. Instead, it is an opportunity to walk in His shadow. Just as Jesus served and ministered to the vulnerable in society, you will have an opportunity to renew your spirit by helping others in an assortment of community service projects.

Dates: Saturday, Mar. 6, 13, 20, and 27

Time: Begins at 9:30 a.m. - Service time will depend on project selected

Location: Meet at United Parish, Marion Street Lobby for the first meeting.

Service projects will take place both at the United Parish and other community locations. Car pooling will be available.

Refreshment: Bring your own bag lunch and drink

LENTEN SMALL GROUP PROGRAMS SIGN-UP INFORMATION

To sign up do one of the following:

1. Sign up on the lists provided in Marion Street Lobby or in the Parlor; OR
2. Email Kathy Phenix at phenix104@aol.com and provide contact information and the name of the program or programs you would like to attend; OR
3. Provide your contact information below, and circle the program(s) that you would like to attend and leave this form in the church office or the offertory plate.

Name	Telephone	Email

	SUNDAY 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21*	FRIDAY 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26	SATURDAY 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27
Morning	9:00-10:30 am Lisa McElaney Power(ful) Poems for Easter People		Begins at 9:30 am - Ending time project dependent Lissa Olbeter & Doug Knotts Deepening Through Service
Mid-Day	*Note 2/21 instead of 2/28) 12:30-2:00 pm Rev. Pat Coughlin Finding Your Monastery in the World		
Evening	*Note 3/28 instead of 3/7) 7:00-9:00 pm Mike & Mary McConnell The Journey to Easter	7:00-9:00 pm Rev. Suzanne Bossert & Kate Common Watching for God	