



CORNWALL CORNUCOPIA

2598 RTE. 30

CORNWALL, VT 05753 (802) 462-3111

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Schueneman, pastor

THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Before there was Christmas, there was Epiphany – it is one of the most ancient festivals of the Christian Church! Originally, it celebrated 4 events in the life of Christ: his baptism, the miracle at Cana (where water was turned into wine), his birth, and the adoration of the Magi. The earliest records of this celebration date to sometime in the 2nd century! Today, we celebrate Epiphany on the Sunday nearest January 6 and for anywhere from 5 to 7 weeks after, we are in the season of Epiphany!

The altar table is adorned in white and gold during Epiphany to symbolize the light of Christ breaking into our world. And our gospel texts through this season tell us of the ways Jesus was – and is – revealed to the world as God's son, the One who brings sight to the blind, release to the captives, liberation to the oppressed, and good news to the poor. Most recently, we heard the story of Jesus' call to the first disciples to leave behind their fishing careers and join him in this work.

As disciples of Jesus, we are never separate from Epiphany. When you and I said, "Yes," to the call to discipleship, we agreed to leave our "fishing careers" behind and step into the work of Epiphany. Like Jesus, we are to be about the work of bringing sight to the blind, release to the captives, and good news to the poor – the business of making manifest to our neighbors the light of Christ breaking into the world.

Many of us are quite busy with this work in individual ways – through our work and our community volunteering. *In addition to this, the 1st Congregational Church of Cornwall is a community of disciples, and we are called as this community to practice the work of Epiphany.*

And we do this in so many ways!

- ✱ 5th Sundays when we do projects for HOPE and make meals for Charter House
- ✱ Baked Potato Bar where we offer a joyful time for friendship and raise money for Addison County Habitat for Humanity
- ✱ Mission Raffle at the Blueberry Festival that raises funds for local organizations
- ✱ The Deacons' Fund which made contributions of \$854 to our community in 2016 through organizations like Womensafe and Parent-Child Center
- ✱ Blessing of the Animals service with a special offering for Homeward Bound

If you are not a regular Sunday worshipper, I hope you will join us in one of these discipleship opportunities! And I hope all of us will spread the word and talk to our neighbors about these great things we do – maybe your friend would like to join in!

FEBRUARY 2017

February 5
Raising the Widow's
Son

Luke 7: 1-17

Psalm 119

February 12
Are You the One?

Luke 7: 18-35

Psalm 146

February 19
Forgiven at Jesus'
Feet

Luke 7: 36-50

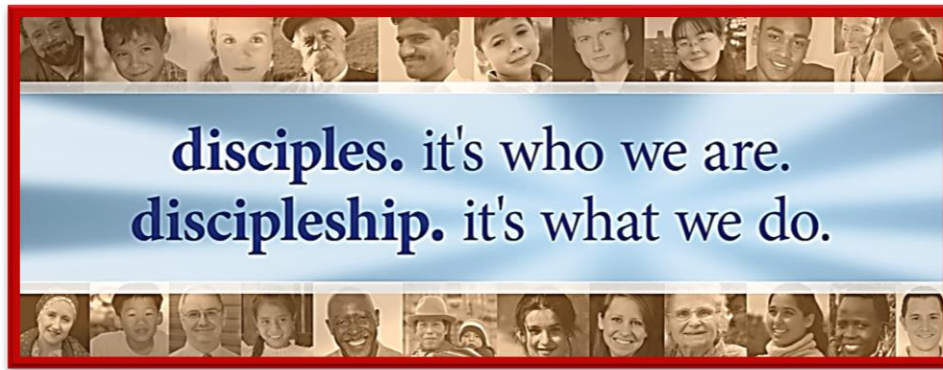
Psalm 130

February 26
Transfiguration
of Jesus

Luke 9: 28-45

Psalm 36





Schedule Notes

Feb 15 at 6:30	Council Meeting
Mar 1	Ash Wednesday
Mar 3	Potato Bar
Mar 5	1 st Sunday in Lent

POTATO BAR FOR HABITAT – This note from Betsy



On March 3 from 4:30 to 7:00 we will host the fifth annual Potato Bake to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Last year we sold out and were able to contribute \$500 to Habitat. Should we raise the bar??

This is truly an event that “takes a village” so I hope you will mark your calendars and plan to participate with your goods and service. We need everyone!! Thanks, Betsy



I don't mean to brag but.....I finished my 14-day diet in 3 hours and 20 minutes. Do you think “Potato Bar” had something to do with that?

Notes and Committee Reports from Annual Meeting – Jan 22, 2017

Building and Grounds — 2016 — Roma Mortensen

- *South side windows replaced
- *Handicap fixed
- *Handicap Ramp and south side church contracted to be painted
- *Rugs cleaned Sanctuary, Narthex, stairway and landings
- *Housekeeping supply list made
- *Refrigerator checked frequently for items to discard
- *Charge in Fire Extinguishers checked
- *Front doors weather stripped
- *Branch touching south window cut
- *Poison ivy eradicated
- *Invasive trees on south side dug out, east side trimmed low
- *Garden maintained
- *Debris cleaned from front parking area

Plan

- *schedule spring cleaning of church
- *Schedule furnace cleaning
- *Have south side church and Handicap Ramp painted
- *Field questions to congregation:
 - possible removal of bushes in front of church and replace with smaller perhaps flowering ones
 - replacing north windows
 - other building and grounds concerns

Everyone - thanks for all the help.

Please remember in your prayers

Gaye Bennett (Dianne's cousin)
Kathy Cordell
Martha Johnson



"Head to Toe" Offering in February...

5-Feb	Caps
12-Feb	Scarves
19-Feb	Mittens
26-Feb	Socks

This was just too good not to share.

WHY 2017 MAY BE THE BEST YEAR EVER

Nicholas Kristof JAN. 21, 2017, *New York Times*

A private effort in Madagascar helps educate children from the streets. Credit Heidi Yanulis

There's a broad consensus that the world is falling apart, with every headline reminding us that life is getting worse.

Except that it isn't. In fact, by some important metrics, 2016 was the best year in the history of humanity. And 2017 will probably be better still.

How can this be? I'm as appalled as anyone by the election of Donald Trump, the bloodshed in Syria, and so on. But while I fear what Trump will do to America and the world, and I applaud those standing up to him, the Trump administration isn't the most important thing going on. Here, take my quiz:

On any given day, the number of people worldwide living in extreme poverty:

- A.) Rises by 5,000, because of climate change, food shortages and endemic corruption.
- B.) Stays about the same.
- C.) Drops by 250,000.

Polls show that about 9 out of 10 Americans believe that global poverty has worsened or stayed the same. But in fact, the correct answer is C. Every day, an average of about a quarter-million people worldwide graduate from extreme poverty, according to World Bank figures.

Or if you need more of a blast of good news, consider this: Just since 1990, more than 100 million children's lives have been saved through vaccinations, breast-feeding promotion, diarrhea treatment and more. If just about the worst thing that can happen is for a parent to lose a child, that's only half as likely today as in 1990.

When I began writing about global poverty in the early 1980s, more than 40 percent of all humans were living in extreme poverty. Now fewer than 10 percent are. By 2030 it looks as if just 3 or 4 percent will be. (Extreme poverty is defined as less than \$1.90 per person per day, adjusted for inflation.)

For nearly all of human history, extreme poverty has been the default condition of our species, and now, on our watch, we are pretty much wiping it out. That's a stunning transformation that I believe is the most important thing happening in the world today — whatever the news from Washington.

There will, of course, be continued poverty of a less extreme kind, smaller numbers of children will continue to die unnecessarily, and inequality remains immense. Oxfam calculated this month that just [eight rich men own as much wealth](#) as the poorest half of humanity.

Yet global income inequality is actually declining. While income inequality has increased within the U.S., it has declined on a global level because China and India have lifted hundreds of millions from poverty.

All this may seem distant or irrelevant at a time when many Americans are traumatized by Trump's inauguration. But let me try to reassure you, along with myself.

On a recent [trip to Madagascar](#) to report on climate change, I was struck that several mothers I interviewed had never heard of Trump, or of Barack Obama, or even of the United States. Their obsession was more desperate: keeping their children alive. And the astonishing thing was that those children, despite severe

malnutrition, were all alive, because of improvements in aid and health care — reflecting trends that are grander than any one man.

Some of the most remarkable progress has been over diseases that — thank God! — Americans very rarely encounter. Elephantiasis is a horrible, disfiguring, humiliating disease usually caused by a parasite, leading a person's legs to expand hugely until they resemble an elephant's. In men, the disease can make the scrotum swell to grotesque proportions, so that when they walk they must carry their scrotum on a homemade wheelbarrow.

Yet some 40 countries are now on track to eliminate elephantiasis. When you've seen the anguish caused by elephantiasis — or leprosy, or Guinea worm, or polio, or river blindness, or blinding trachoma — it's impossible not to feel giddy at the gains registered against all of them.

There's similar progress in empowering women and in reducing illiteracy. Until the 1960s, a majority of humans had always been illiterate; now, 85 percent of adults are literate. And almost nothing makes more difference in a society than being able to read and write.

Michael Elliott, who died last year after leading the One Campaign, which battles poverty, used to say that we are living in an “age of miracles.” He was right, yet the progress is still too slow, and a basic question is whether President Trump will continue bipartisan U.S. efforts to fight global poverty. A four-page [questionnaire](#) from the Trump team to the State Department seems to suggest doubts about the value of humanitarian aid.

One reason for the Trump team's skepticism may be the belief that global poverty is hopeless, that nothing makes a difference. So let's keep perspective. Yes, Trump may cause enormous damage to America and the world in the coming years, and by all means we should challenge him at every turn. But when the headlines make me sick, I soothe myself with the reflection that there are forces in the world that are larger than Trump, and that in the long history of humanity, this still will likely be the very best year yet.

Remember: The most important thing happening is not a Trump tweet. What's infinitely more important is that today some 18,000 children who in the past would have died of simple diseases will survive, about 300,000 people will gain electricity and a cool 250,000 will graduate from extreme poverty.

