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Something to think about ...

During the first week in Lent, a group of intrepid travelers from UUC followed Sarah and Abraham's route from the city of Ur in modern day Iraq to the city of Haran in modern day Turkey. We will continue to follow in their footsteps for the remaining weeks of Lent, traveling south to Israel, continuing on to Egypt and Mount Sinai before returning finally to Jerusalem for Holy Week.

We are, of course, doing this virtually. As members of the "UUC Caravan" exercise at home, they send me the miles they completed whether on their treadmills, exercise bikes, outdoor walks or skis, or through a workout conversion. I add these miles to the group total and plot them on Google Earth, moving our peg along Abraham and Sarah's route every day. As we move along, I send daily emails to the participants with photos of sights along the way (thank you Google), and descriptions of their historic and biblical significance. I even include real life weather reports for those towns. If you would like to read those emails, they are all posted on our website at <https://unionuniversitychurch.org/virtual-lenten-journey/>

As I write this, we are ten days into our journey and we have seen parts of Iraq, Syria, and the southeastern corner of Turkey. As I have pored over maps, I have come to realize how abysmal my knowledge of this part of the world is, in spite of the frequency of Middle Eastern events in our news, and how unfamiliar their landscape is. Nevertheless, as I have researched the history of the people who have inhabited this "cradle of civilization" for millennia, I have also discovered that though the names, languages, governments, and technology may have changed since Abraham and Sarah first traveled these roads, the things that people most care about have not. Just as it does today, war in the Bronze age drove people from their homes forming caravans of refugees in search of a place they could live in peace. Governments of the time —just as today — could be a blessing for the people when their leaders worked to build their communities and provide safety and resources for their citizens or governments could be a burden when leaders sought their own fortune at the expense of their citizenry. And just as today, families in Abraham and Sarah's time worked to keep in touch with one another even over great distances, and looked after one another and rejoiced at the birth of children and wept when loved ones died.

In the ancient city of Mari, archaeologists found a huge trove of clay tablets that had been preserved when a Babylonian king set fire to the palace and essentially turned it into a giant pottery kiln baking hard all of the court records for posterity. The documents are mostly mundane records of ordinary transactions describing what people bought that day, what wandering families had passed through the gate, the menus they had planned for

meals, and an extensive correspondence between women in the city sharing their opinions, news, and thoughts with one another. If those documents had been found on a hard drive instead of baked into clay, they would feel quite familiar to us. When we sit at our desks streaming Netflix on our laptops over our fiber optic cables drinking coffee brewed in a Krups coffeemaker, we may feel far far away from the experiences of Abraham and Sarah living on a wind swept desert plain in their goatskin tent, but through the archaeological evidence and the biblical stories we have left to us, we know that the things that they sought are not any different from what we seek: food and shelter for our families, a moment of beauty to uplift our hearts, a good laugh to lighten our souls, someone to love us, and someone to love.

Although everything has changed in the several thousand years since the time of Sarah and Abraham, so too, nothing has changed, which is why the Bible still has the power to speak to us. The words of the Psalmist who lived nearly 3000 years ago are our words as well: "Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, God, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul."

May our footsteps carry us through Lent on the same path taken by our biblical forebears — through our days and in and out of the years walking on the path God has shown us trusting that this path will carry us as it carried them to the life we seek.

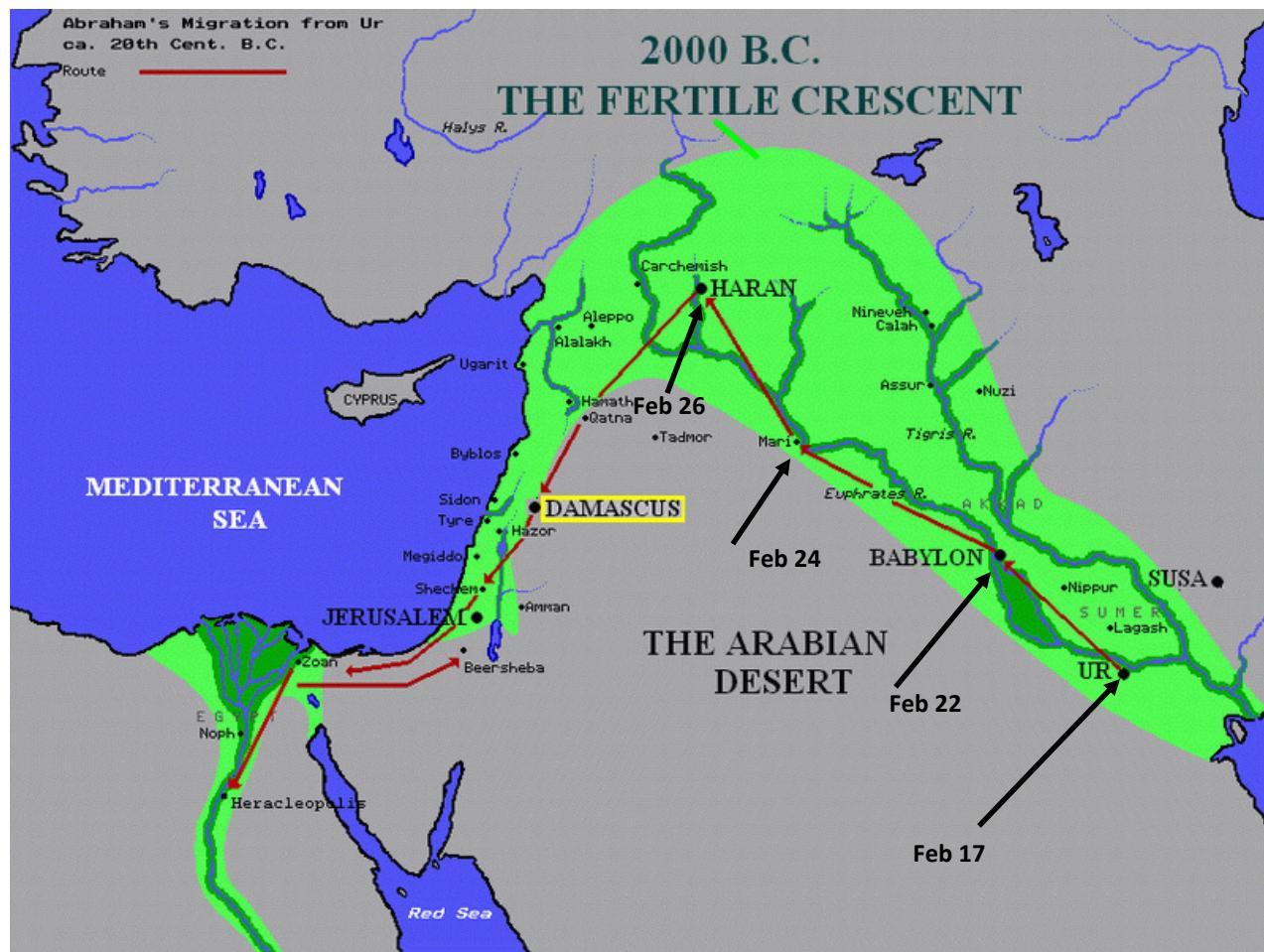
Lenten Project Update



45 participants

742 miles traveled since Ash Wednesday

The UUC Caravan is currently crossing the Syrian (Arabian) desert on our way to Damascus



Church News & Events



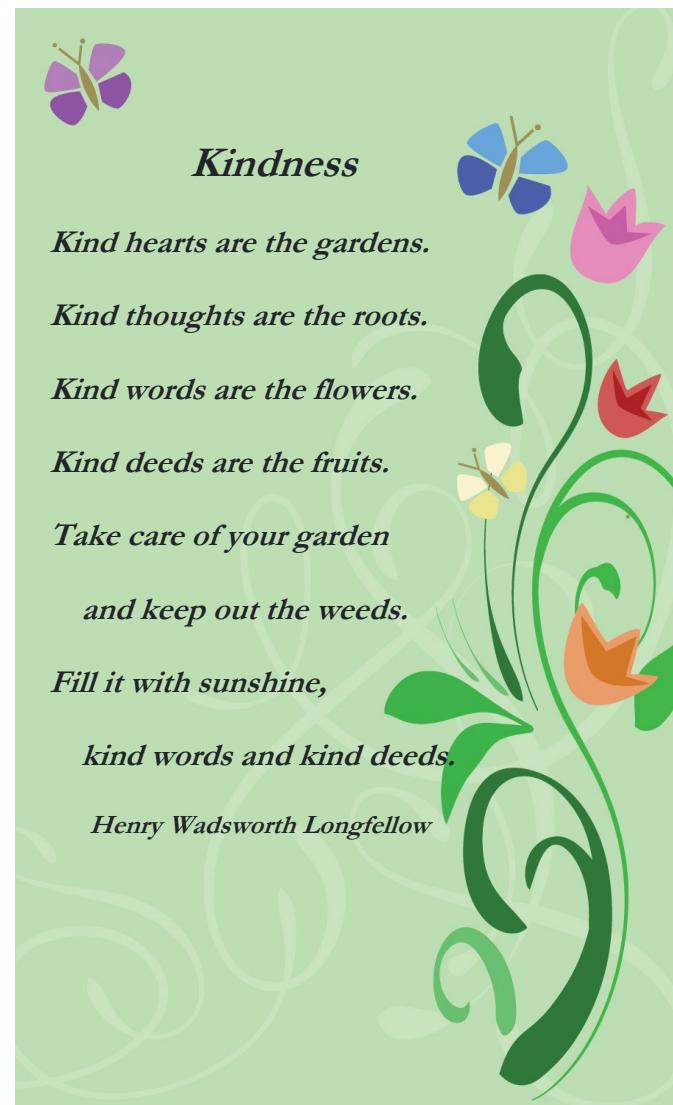
Mission of the Month



The Board of Elders has selected Amnesty International as the Mission of the Month for March because it is an organization that is working to free political prisoners like Ding Jiaxi. Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who take injustice personally. It is independent of any political ideology, economic interest or religion. They are campaigning for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all. If you wish to make a monetary donation please make checks out to UUC with "Amnesty" in the memo line

Amnesty International continues to work on Ding Jiaxi case and has issued another urgent appeal for action. For further information on his case go to

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/3670/2021/en/>



Palm Sunday Service

March 28, 2021



Church News & Events, cont.

“All Glory Laud and Honor”

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” is perhaps the quintessential Palm Sunday entrance hymn. With its Latin text written in 820 century by Theodulph of Orleans while imprisoned in France by Emperor Louis I, its English translation by John Mason Neale (1818-1866), and its majestic 17th-century German tune by Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), one would have to look far and wide for a hymn more rooted in Western historical and cultural traditions.

“Legend has it that King Louis passed the prison during the Palm Sunday procession while Theodulph sang this hymn from his window, which so delighted the king that he was immediately liberated. However, the unfortunate truth is that he probably remained imprisoned until his death in 821, possibly of poisoning.

“The lyrics recount Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event the medieval church reenacted every Palm Sunday. Clergy and townspeople processed from fields through the city gates, behind a Jesus figure riding a donkey. At the gates, children began singing the hymn in Latin — *Gloria, laus et honor* — and onlookers soon chimed in.

“City gates may be a thing of the past, as the website Hymnary.org notes, yet we still praise our blessed Redeemer “because we know just what kind of King he was and is — an everlasting King who reigns not just in Jerusalem but over the entire earth. What more could we do but praise him with glory, laud and honor.”

*All glory, laud, and honor,
To thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.*

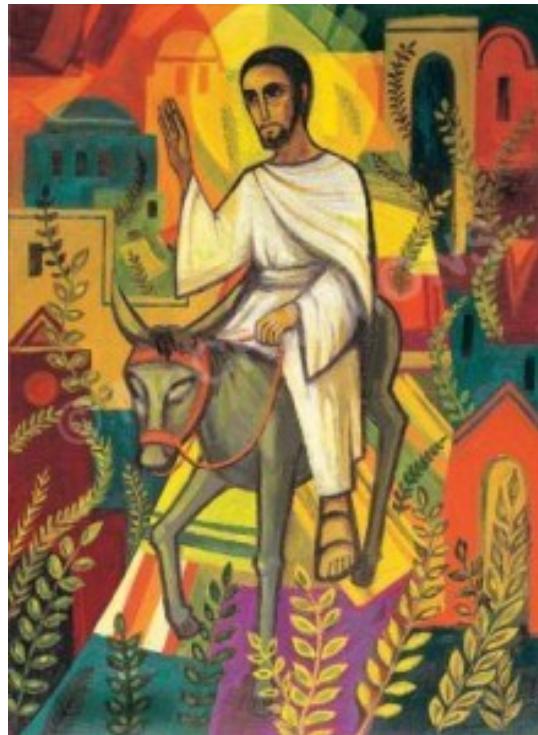
*Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David’s royal Son,
Who in the Lord’s name comest,
The King and Blessed One.*

The Latin text begins:

*Gloria, laus, et honor tibi sit, rex
Christe, Redemptor,
cui puerile decus prompsit Hosanna pium. . . .*

“An interesting note is that Theodulph inserts children (puerile) directly into his Latin hymn. There is no biblical basis for this, either in the Latin Vulgate or the King James Version. The accounts of Matthew and Luke include a reference to children, but these have nothing to do with children singing specifically during the triumphal entry. Matthew 21:16 notes, “Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?” This mention of children takes place several verses after the narrative of the triumphal entry.”

Sources: The NewsletterNewsletter and <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-all-glory-laud-and-honor>



Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abby

Church News & Events, cont.



To:

John Buckwalter—for repairing the ceiling in the Bergren Room

Walt Schulze—for repairing church Center bathroom fixtures, emergency exit fixtures, and for helping Dennis Smith keep our walks clear

From:

Allegany-Cattaraugus-Chautauqua Fund for Women for our gift of \$410.

Resurrection Rolls



“Resurrection” or “Empty Tomb” rolls are often made at Easter to symbolize the meaning of this sacred event. They are easy to make, though they can be a bit messy if you don’t seal the dough carefully. There are many variations of the basic recipe: some use Pillsbury Crescent Rolls, Jumbo Crescent Rolls, or Pillsbury Grands Biscuits, others use homemade rolled biscuit dough or purchased puff pastry. The technique is the same no matter which pastry you choose.

Prep Time 15 minutes Cook Time 14 minutes Total Time 29 minutes

Ingredients

1 (10 ounce) package jumbo refrigerated crescent rolls
1/4 cup sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon or more to taste
8 large marshmallows
1/4 cup butter, melted

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Prepare muffin pan (preferably jumbo muffin pan) with non-stick cooking spray.
2. Separate rolls into eight triangles and set aside. Combine sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl.
3. Dip each marshmallow into butter, then roll in cinnamon-sugar and place on a triangle dough. Pinch dough around marshmallow, sealing all edges. Make sure to seal well or all the marshmallow will escape.
4. Dip tops of dough into the remaining butter and then into the cinnamon-sugar. Place roll with the sugar side up into prepared muffin cups.
5. Bake at 375 degrees for 13 - 15 minutes. Eat warm. From: Around My Family Table

Transitional Minister Report

The Transitional Minister Search Committee has met monthly and has made progress in the following ways:

- Elected Larry Casey and Dave Porter as co-chairs.
- Discussed process & potential time lines.
- Formed a sub-committee, chaired by Melissa Jusianiec, to work on a church profile that will be made available to potential candidates. Sub-committee members include: Melissa Jusianiec, Lana Meissner, Joan Bowden, MaryAnn Whittemore, and Cindy Tucker.
- Contacted several organizations specializing in helping churches find transitional ministers.
- Contacted Grace United Church in Wellsville which recently completed its pastoral search and went through a process similar to ours for suggestions.

Next steps:

- Finalize time line and organization/s to partner with.
- Request input from congregation members for the church profile.
- Complete the church profile.

March Board Members of the Month

Deacon.....Sharon Burdick (vernsharon@frontiernet.net; 607.769.8344)
Elder.....Larry Casey (lcasey1834@gmail.com; 607.382.2772)
BOCE.....NA
Fellowship.....Joan Bowden (joan_bowden@yahoo.com; 607.587.9145)
Trustee.....Brad Bowden (fbowden@alfred.edu; 607.587.9145)
Who do you call? Flowers or lay leading—call an Elder; greeting or coffee hour—call a Deacon;
Sunday school—call BOCE; building issues—call a Trustee.



Mindy Smith, Catherine Chambers, Ding Jiaxi & family, Michelle Garcia Escobar, Clayton Stutzman, Hugh Langelier, Lois Stiles, Sharon & Roger Smith, Wes Bentz, Beverly Snyder's sister (Barbara), 3 yr. old Lowin, Jim Rausch in hospice care, Marnie Johnson (Joan Schulze's niece), Sharon Burdick, all those whose families are suffering from Covid-19, Michele Hluchy's father (Rev. Stephen Hluchy), Mary Lou Cartledge's brother Walter Straight (heart surgery), Beth Slack's brother, Will Jacox, has recovered from covid and is back at work, we also celebrate with the Slacks on the birth of their 2 newest great grandchildren—Thomas Peter and Isabel Diane.

Upcoming Sunday Leaders

If you are not able to serve as scheduled, please switch with someone listed on the charts below and notify the Church Office. If you are unable to find someone to switch with you, please contact either the Elder of the Month or the Deacon of the Month.



Date	Lay Leader	Flowers
March 7 Lent 3	Larry Casey	Communion
March 14 Lent 4	Tiersa Watson	Lent
March 21 Lent 5	Dave Porter	Lent
March 28 Palms Sun	Lana Meissner	Palms
April 4 Easter	John Buckwalter	Lana Meissner
April 11	Mary Lou Cartledge	
April 18	Dave Porter	
April 25	Tiersa Watson	

MARCH




Mission of the Month

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



“The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month.”
— Henry Van Dyke

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Book Group	4	5	6
7 10:30 Worship—Communion	8	9	10 Book Group	11	12	13
14 10:30 Worship	15	16	17 Book Group	18	19	20
21 10:30 Worship	22	23	24 Book Group	25	26	27
28 10:30 Worship Palm Sunday	29	30	31 Book Group			



Just for Fun

Domestic Bliss

One afternoon a man came home from work to find total mayhem in his house. His three children were outside, still in their pajamas, playing in the mud, with empty food boxes and wrappers strewn all around the front yard. The door of his wife's car was open, as was the front door to the house.

Proceeding to the entry, he found an even bigger mess. A lamp had been knocked over, and the throw rug was wadded against one wall. In the front room, the TV was loudly blaring a cartoon channel, and the family room was strewn with toys and various items of clothing. In the kitchen, dishes filled the sink, breakfast food was spilled on the counter, dog food was spilled on the floor, a broken glass lay under the table, and a small pile of sand was spread by the back door.

He quickly headed up the stairs, stepping over the toys and more piles of clothes, looking for his wife. He was worried she may be ill, or that something serious had happened. He found her lounging in the bedroom, still curled in the bed in her pajamas, reading a novel. She looked up at him, smiled, and asked how his day went. He looked at her bewildered and asked, "What happened here today?"

She again smiled and answered, "You know every day when you come home from work and ask me what in the world did I do today?"

"Yes," was his incredulous reply.
She answered, "Well, today I didn't do it."



III-fitting Boots

There was a teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put his boots on. He asked for help and she could see why. With her pulling and him pushing, the boots still didn't want to go on.

When the second boot was finally on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost whimpered when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked, and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on -- this time on the right feet.

He then announced, "These aren't my boots." She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" like she wanted to. Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off.

He then said, "They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear them." The teacher didn't know if she should laugh or cry. She mustered up the grace to wrestle the boots on his feet again.

She said, "Now, where are your mittens?" He said, "I stuffed them in the toes of my boots."



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.



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March, 2021 Newsletter