

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27 –

A Day to Lift Up Faith Education & Formation

Formation in Christian faith is a life-long adventure. It doesn't end with baptism, or joining a church, or any other singular piece of congregational life. We keep learning, stretching and growing in Christ. There are a number of ministries here at Fourth that nurture that formation, and this year there is some nice space in the calendar which gives us a chance to celebrate our ministry of education and formation.

Everybody: Save Sunday, February 27, 10:30am.

In worship that day, we'll have special opportunities to enjoy the blessings of our education ministries. The younger Sunday School classes will lead a piece of worship. Our adult Sunday School class will have an offering -- perhaps another original Song of Praise (like Gail Hancock's terrific composition from January 23!).

Our teen Sunday School class will share a presentation, and most likely the confirmation group, as well (though the confirmands are busy getting ready for another big day on May 15).

This particular Sunday comes at the end of the Vacation Week Bible School for the community, so that group will also have something creative to share; and we will try to motivate the teen helpers from the week to share their talents, as well.

Capping the morning will be a potluck lunch. We request your help in inviting families and other guests to this service, so they can share in this celebration of faith education; and perhaps even consider participation as we step into the formation-rich season of Lent.

Remembering Albert - February 6

It has been a year since Albert Aloise passed. We join Holly, Martha, Rodney and Albert's extended family in a one-year remembrance Sunday, February 6, in worship.

This service also includes communion. Please spread the word to Albert's friends in the community.

new officers!

With January and February comes the installation of new church officers: elders and deacons. This year we ordain Chris Hoklotubber, Layne Jacobs and Amanda Grant-Rose as elders serving in session.

With the deacons, the new class includes Erik Jacobs, Franco Akum and (with renewed terms) Betsy Schomburg and Art Martin.. We also John Keeley to serve a one-year term as youth deacon.

With these ordinations and installation we also have cause to say thank you to officers who have

completed their terms: Elders Lindsey Moyes, Erik Jacobs and Thatcher Freeborn; Deacons Chris H, Monica Titakum, Lizzie Stanfield and Kelly Schomburg. Art and Betsy finished their time, but are starting new terms.

We are blessed with great leadership all around. Give God a shout, and give these good people a thank you.

Sunday Psalms EXPERIENCE!

Katie Cole and Katherine Pater have been leading a thoroughly exciting Sunday morning class for adults. Participants have been learning about the Psalms from Scripture and then experimenting with their own creations in song, word (and rumor has it... dance!).

They are on a roll, and the class will continue until Lent. Come on Sundays at 9:30am to join the Sunday Psalms Experience!

Wednesday Soup N Study- "God Help Us"

Our Winter Soup N Study has brought incredible energy to the fellowship hall loft, but we keep getting interrupted by Wednesday snow storms. We will continue the series up until Lent and invite all to join us.

We call the series "God Help Us," and it is essentially a Bible study which looks each week at particular emotional challenges.

On February 2, we'll consider sadness and depression. In future weeks, we'll draw on Scripture in reflecting on anger, guilt and worry.

Much of the richness of our conversations comes from the personal experience that people bring. So we welcome you. All of you!

Light supper at 5:30pm. Study is 6-7pm. (And choir is 7:15). The tutoring program runs 6-7pm, where children are wonderfully engaged. Join us!

February 7 - Meeting to strategize on Schools

This past summer, when we met with neighbors in the "Extended Fourth Church Campaign" to prepare for our action with state representative candidates, an issue which shot to the top of the list was education. Indeed, we have a commitment from Rep. Nick Collins to meet with us specifically on this issue.

Accordingly, we invite ALL WHO CARE ABOUT THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN THIS COMMUNITY to attend a strategy session Sunday, February 7, at 7:30pm. We will be done at 9pm.

We issue a special invitation to parents, but ALL who care are welcome.

We will think of our own stories and tactics, but there will also be a chance to learn about the latest GBIO effort to research our potential city-wide involvement in the Boston Public School System. The superintendent has invited us to partner with her in re-thinking the very expensive system of transporting students to distant schools. GBIO is researching this.

Those with questions should contact Burns Stanfield or Kathy Burger. Those with a specific interest in helping us in our partnership with Perkins School (through tutoring, etc.) can contact Karen Flaherty.

A new kind of "Bingo"

You may hear our kids making reference to their Bingo Cards; but don't worry, we have not instated a bingo fund-raising effort. They have been issued a challenge to fill their cards not with numbers randomly pulled from a pot, but with acts of faithfulness! Each time they accomplish a certain

challenge from their Sunday School class -- an act of service, memorizing a verse, regular attendance, etc. -- they get to fill a square.

And those who fill their "Bingo Cards" then take a special trip to the trampoline park! Encourage them as they fill their cards!

February Vacation Bible School- Feb 21-25

Our annual School Vacation Bible School takes place February 21-25. Think of it as a mini-Summer Meals Program. Talk to Tim Hughes or Katie Cole if you can help, even for one morning. The program runs 8:30-12:30 each day, with breakfast, lunch, and activities in between.

If you know of children who need a wonderful activity for the week, invite them! It is all free. (Though donations are always welcome...)

Looking ahead... Lent begins March 9

Ash Wednesday is March 9, and we will again have an Ash Wednesday communion service at 7pm. Ashes will be available to those who choose to receive them. Nightly prayers then continue every night of Lent, 6pm-6:25. Our homemade daily devotion book will be available March 6. See Sarah Manoucheheri to volunteer to write a short devotion!

More Looking ahead... Fourth Fest on May 6 to raise funds for sanctuary!

Our town meeting on January 9 gave us a broad consensus of

support for a campaign to refresh and renovate our sanctuary. Session has voted officially to hold a fund-raising campaign to that end!

A talented team has already jumped into the task and we have an event:

Friday, May 6, 6-10pm, there will be a "Fourth Fest" at the new Carpenter's Center (750 Dorchester Avenue) to celebrate our 140th anniversary.

We are working out details, but tickets are likely to be \$50, and we'll certainly have an auction and live music.

The key to our success is broad participation. We need sponsors and auction items! We'll also need help with many logistics.

The building is beautiful and brand new. The carpenters union is being VERY supportive in welcoming us there.

Get excited everybody !!!

This event has the potential to be very successful, but we will need everybody's prayers and good help. Happy Birthday, Fourth!!

prayers...

Please pray for Ed Buccieri (cancer) and for Debbie Cormier's parents, who were in a car accident.

Phyllis Curtis is having a harder time getting around and out of the house.

Tatum Bezan has a wonderful new school !!

Daniel and Lauren Cochran have a beautiful new girl: "Avi" Jane.

The VanVellers are in wait for their new child, as are the McDonoughs and Mabel Titakum (Monica and John's daughter).

Prayers for Sika, whose father died in Togo.

Thank you International Group for leadership in the January potluck.

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