

welcoming

Reflect on what it means to be a congregation of open minds, hearts, and doors in a denomination that continues to single out lesbians and gay men for discrimination. The Sunday morning study in the parlor at 8:35, facilitated by Louise House, will be using *The Loyal Opposition: Struggling with the Church on Homosexuality*. The voices of bishops, civil rights

leaders, laity, pastors, professors and church executives will explore the denominations' positions and make the case for ecclesial disobedience as a faithful response.

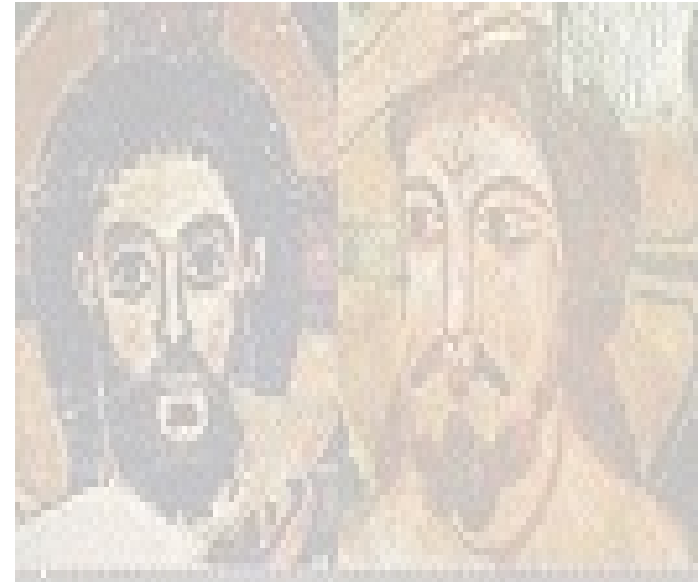
“Resistance is basic to the church’s life in withstanding the kind of cultural accommodation that violates the gospel and in opposing attempts to victimize people who live on the margins of a society.”
(pg 16)

ELUMC is considering becoming a reconciling congregation. It’s a process that includes education, dialogue and action. What does it mean to resist the deadly, numbing effects of the atmosphere of exclusion? How can we be a “place of life” and construct a world of radical hospitality? While reconciling congregations would be the first to confess all the ways they fall short of the reign of God, “these congregation are also the places where the new forms of life are being hammered out in the day-to-day living of the community of faith.” (pg 21)

There will be other opportunities to watch films, study the Bible, and to discuss what it means to become a reconciling congregation. Be a part of the conversation!

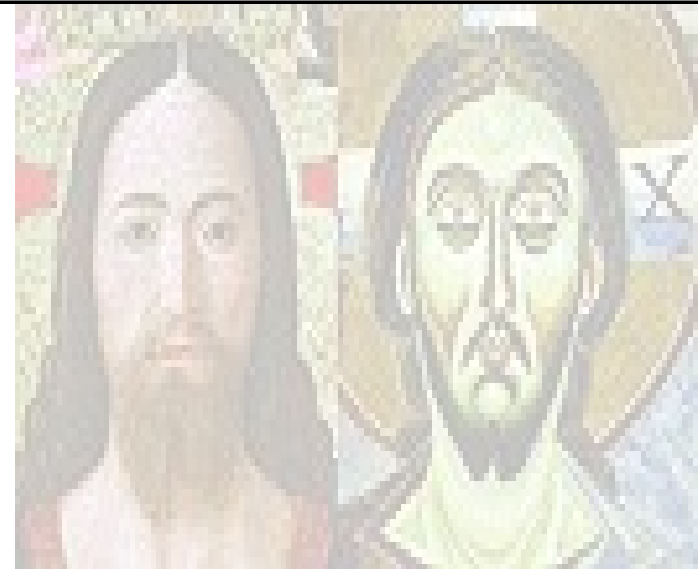


E.L. United Methodist Church
Corner of Route 83 and Chestnut
215 Somers Road • EL, MA 01028
413.525.7416 • www.elumc.org



THE FACES OF JESUS

Profiles of Lent



2010

The gospel writers offer various portraits of Jesus as prophet, healer, teacher, radical and friend. He's portrayed as human, divine, peasant and scholar. Through worship and study we'll explore the different faces of the one we know as sage leader and savior.



prayerful

Ash Wednesday begins the 40 week-day wilderness journey of Lent. It's a season for letting go of what's distracting us and getting back to the basics of our spiritual practice. The readings for Ash Wednesday focus on realigning spiritual practices with their intended purposes.

Ash Wednesday Service— February 17, 7:30 p.m. A meditative, multi-sensory experience in the Taíze tradition.

Palm & Passion Sunday—March 28, 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Svc—April 1, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Celebration—April 4, 10:00 a.m.

Weekly GPS guides (Grow, Pray, Study) will focus on some of the many names and titles by which Jesus was known or addressed.

spirit-led

Jesus was led by the spirit into the desert wilderness. We'll do the New England version along the Neff Loop of the Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary. Grab your hiking boots or snowshoes for this 2-hour walk through the forest. Walk alongside the stone boundaries of another time and reflect on the spiritual metaphors of the journey. At the end of our journey perhaps we'll be greeted with spiritual insight and hot cocoa. March 6 or whichever decent-weather Saturday morning in Lent.

counter-cultural

Some have a habit of "giving up" something for Lent: food choices like caffeine, meat, sugar, or media distractions like T.V. Others choose to "take on" a spiritual practice. Whatever way you choose to renew your relationship to your faith, make an offering of gratitude. And consider praying for and making a financial donation to any one of our Lenten special offerings:

Mission to New Orleans – Help Tom McGowan and the New England

team help folks rebuild after Hurricane Katrina (February 7-13).

Haiti UMCOR to offer disaster relief. Checks payable to ELUMC with Advance #418325 on the memo line.

Jewish

"Today Jesus's words are too familiar, too domesticated, too stripped of their initial edginess and urgency. Only when heard through first-century Jewish ears can their original edginess and urgency be recovered. Consequently, to understand the man from Nazareth, it is necessary to understand Judaism. More, it is necessary to see Jesus as firmly within Judaism rather than as standing apart from it. . ." (pg 7)

Read Amy-Jill Levine's book: *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* for some historical investigation designed to deepen our faith. Book discussion on Wednesday, March 10 at 7:00 at the parsonage.



observant

Foster interfaith understanding and recover shared roots with Jesus and his followers by joining the Confirmation class as they visit a reform synagogue's Sabbath services at Temple Sinai on April 30, 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield.

healing

Healing was a part of Christ's ministry and the Bible affirms the ministry of healing: anointing with oil, laying on of hands, praying for those seeking healing in body, mind and spirit. District Healing services continue the tradition on Sundays at 4:00, led by the District Superintendent, Heidi Chamberland, to release God's love.

Feb. 21 – Dalton UMC, Dalton MA; Feb. 28 – 1st UMC, Mansfield Ctr CT
Mar. 7 – 1st UMC, Stafford Springs CT; Mar. 14 – 1st UMC, Westfield MA