Rev. Marraine’s Musings

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Christ is Risen Indeed! As those words ring out from our sanctuary we step into the season of Easter. That is not just the Good News, but the Great News. We spent six weeks during Lent to ramp up to Holy Week and Easter. We get to spend the six weeks leading up to Pentecost immersed in the season of Easter. We can surround ourselves with the good news of the resurrection, the hope of renewal, and even the coming out of mud season into Spring and quite possibly into even a few warmer days.

Even through the darker winter months when we were surrounded by snowbanks Old South buzzed with ministries full of life and energy. My hope for the season ahead is opportunities for renewal and engagement to celebrate the ministry and ministry we already practice. To be honest, I am not sure what that renewal looks like yet, but if I have learned one thing in the last six months it is that this is a resourceful, creative bunch who makes room for the Holy Spirit. I am excited to see where the Holy Spirit leads us in this season of Easter.

Blessings,

Rev. Marraine
Would you like to meet with Rev. Marraine? Rev. Marraine is often in her office during the week. She will maintain regular office hours on Wednesdays from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. While she may be in meetings during this time, it is a time to drop by if you would like! If you would prefer to schedule a different day and time to meet with her, please call her (207-778-0424) or email (RevMarraine@FarmingtonUCC.org).

Please note, Rev. Marraine will be on vacation May 8-May 14. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact Deacon Shelley Griffith at sgriffith875@gmail.com or 639-2013.

A Note on Rev. Marraine’s Schedule: Rev. Marraine is off on Fridays. Please join us in respecting this day of rest for her. She will take one other day off during the week which will be on Saturday when programming allows. Rev. Marraine is in the office regularly Tuesday through Thursday and is also here many evenings for meetings. She usually works from home on Mondays. If you would like to meet with Rev. Marraine, please email or call (RevMarraine@FarmingtonUCC.org) 778-0424 to schedule a time.

Executive Council

Minister: Rev. Marraine Kettell
Moderator: Chris Magri
Treasurer: Amanda Adams
Clerk: Shannon Munro
Financial Secretary & Fundraising: Brenda Scribner
Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Jodie Gunther
Chair, Christian Ed: Arin Hilton
Chair, Diaconate: Shelley Griffith
Chair, Financial Trustees: Marilyn Hylan
Chair, Outreach, Justice & Witness: Randy Oakley
Chair, Property Trustees: Daniel Bachelder
Member at Large: Robin Beck
Member at Large: Wendy Huish

The deadline for submissions for the June Telstar is May 10. Please submit all articles to the church office (Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org) no later than May 10. The June Telstar is the last issue of the programming year. There will not be a July or August newsletter but we will continue our communication through weekly emails and on our Facebook page. Thank you!

Special Office Hours

Regular office hours during the Programming Year (September through June) are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. During the month of May, the church office will be closed May 28-May 30 while Phyllis is spending time with her parents.
The homeless shelter project is moving into its next phase.

We expect that on Monday, May 13 we will be on the Farmington Planning Board’s agenda. Architect Bill Hamilton will be presenting our formal application to the board, with various members of the Western Maine Homeless Outreach board present to make additional comments and to answer questions. I’ll be there as well, of course, wearing both my Old South hat and my (newer) WMHO hat. Our goal will be to convince the seven members of the Planning Board that this new use for the Holman Mission House is in keeping with all relevant town and state ordinances – for example, that it will not create a noise problem or a traffic problem. (Recall that the state fire marshal has already approved the building renovation plan as consistent with fire regulations.)

To the extent that any Planning Board members, or any members of the public, have more general concerns about the effects of a homeless shelter, we’ll be prepared to discuss that as well, just as we did at last May’s panel discussion for local businesspeople. We’ll point out that the shelter has a five-year track record of not being a problem for law enforcement, that it is a “dry shelter” whose homeless guests are searched for alcohol and drugs every time they enter, that the shelter is highly effective at getting guests back on their feet and "rehoused,” and so on. Most importantly, we’ll be ready to explain that homeless people are homeless for a variety of reasons (e.g., escaping from domestic violence), that the guests at the WMHO shelter look and behave just like any other people in Farmington, and that HMH is an excellent location for addressing the needs of these guests.

We’ve been told that the Planning Board might require multiple meetings, and thus multiple months, to reach a decision. That’s a complication for launching a public capital campaign to raise the renovation funds, as we can’t really launch it until the project has been approved. (Incidentally, anyone who’s willing to lend a hand with that campaign for a few months should please contact me!) All the same, what really matters is that this marvelous effort to make an important difference for the least of these eventually becomes a reality.

I’m writing these words on Easter Sunday. By my unofficial count, this project has risen from the dead about a half-dozen times to date. But my faith tells me that anxiety and despair never, never get the last word. We the followers of Jesus the Christ will continue to hope and pray that love wins out in the end.

Chris Magri
From the Treasurer

I’m writing this from an orthopedic doctor’s office waiting for a post-op check-up. As I look around this waiting room, I’m reminded of how the life of our church is much like the people in this waiting room. I mean there are the young, old, women, men, some getting around better than others. Everyone here has a life story, different than mine. Yet, here we all are in this common area because some part of us was injured and doesn’t work like it used to work. As a church, we all have individual life stories, but we find ourselves in the common place of Old South. As a church, we are often in need of care. Sometimes we have to endure the surgeries to fix what is broken. We have to get through the times of recovery after the surgery and work on those newly repaired parts. Sometimes the repairs are expensive and the work is hard, but in the long run, we push through all that to keep going, to get our life back, to grow. It isn’t the easy times that make us strong, it’s the hard times. It’s the times we put in the work.

I don’t know what this has to do with finances, but for me, I just felt like it did. Many blessings to all of you.

Amanda Adams
Treasurer

At the printing of the Telstar, with our 2nd quarter investment distributions, our year to date income is $84,960.64 and our expenses are $91,593.28.

News and Upcoming Events

Committee and Group Meetings

Christian Ed: Wednesday, May 15, Chapel at 10:00 am  
Deacons: Sunday, May 12, Matthew Room at 11:00 am  
Exec Council: Thursday, May 2, Church Office at 6:00 pm  
Financial Trustees: Tuesday, May 14, Church Office at 5:30 pm  
O, J, W: Tuesday, May 14, Matthew Room at 6:30 pm  
Pastoral Relations: Thursday, June 6, Rev. Marraine’s Office at 4:00 pm  
Property Trustees: Tuesday, May 21, Church Office at 6:00 pm

Retirees’ Lunch

Mark your calendars and join us for lunch on May 6 for the next Retirees’ Lunch. Beef stew is on the menu. Bring a dish to share if you would like and join us if you are able! For more information, contact Dick Giard at 897-6228.
David Mallett performs at Old South

David Mallett is coming to the Old South Church Concert Series on Friday, May 10. Mallett has been named one of the most memorable “Mainers” in the millennium edition of *The Bangor Daily News*. While a student at the University of Maine where he was a theatre major, Mallett discovered the music of singer songwriters like Gordon Lightfoot and Bob Dylan and soon began writing his own songs. To learn more about David Mallett visit [http://davidmallett.com/](http://davidmallett.com/)

Doors will open at 7 pm. The concert begins at 7:30 pm. Adults $20 - Students $10/$5 (college students ID required) Refreshments will be available by donation during intermission. Ticket reservations are highly recommended by calling 207-491-5919. Email [oldsouthchurchconcerts@gmail.com](mailto:oldsouthchurchconcerts@gmail.com) to subscribe to their newsletter. Updates on Facebook or [http://www.farmingtonucc.org/news--events.html](http://www.farmingtonucc.org/news--events.html)

For more information about concerts or to volunteer your time to help, please contact Debbie Davis Robinson (491-5919) or Brenda Scribner (299-3686) today!

**Upcoming Concert Dates:**
- May 10: David Mallett
- June 6: High Times

*With the exception of the December concert which benefits EcuHeat, concert proceeds benefit Old South Capital Campaign projects. Thank you for your ongoing support.*

The yard sale and plant sale dates are May 31 and June 1. Donations are being accepted now! Items may be dropped off at the during office hours or you may contact Brenda Scribner 299-3686 (please leave a message) to arrange a different drop off time. If you are going to drop off during office hours, please call (778-0424) in order to arrange access to the Holman Mission House garage. We cannot accept broken items, clothing, stuffed animals, pillows, bedding, mattresses, or electronics. Plant sale donations will be accepted later in May.

If you would like to help with this event, please contact Brenda Scribner at 299-3686 or [tatabug47@hotmail.com](mailto:tatabug47@hotmail.com)
The Living Water Association, Installation Service, and Old South Church

The Living Water Association will meet at Old South on Sunday, May 5, at 2:00 pm. Our delegates to this meeting are: Karyl Condit, Chris Magri, and Roy Scribner. Chris Magri is the current scribe for the Association, and Roy Scribner will be attending General Synod as the Association delegate. As clergy members with standing Rev. Marraine (after her installation) and Dick Waddell also attend these biennial meetings. We are allowed up to five delegates so if you are interested in joining this group, please let us know! Participation in the Association is a way to increase your awareness of the United Church of Christ in Maine and to interact with our UCC sisters and brothers in Franklin, Somerset, and Kennebec Counties.

Following the meeting, Rev. Marraine will be installed as the settled minister of Old South. The Installation service will be a worship services that celebrates the covenantal relationship between Rev. Marraine and our church family. This service will begin at 3:30 pm, and it will be followed with a meal in the Vestry.

We hope that you will join us for the meeting, for the Installation, and for dinner!

NOTICE

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, OF FARMINGTON, MAINE:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Church, the PROGRAM/NOMINATING ANNUAL MEETING thereof will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2019, immediately following the worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is:
1. To approve the minutes of the May 20, 2018 Program/Nominating Annual Meeting;
2. To receive Annual Reports from boards and committees and to consider the same;
3. To elect officers and members of boards and committees;
4. To conduct a non-voting introductory discussion of possibly installing a columbarium in the church sanctuary;
5. To transact such other or further business that may properly come before said meeting.

Dated at Farmington, Maine, April 3, 2019

Shannon Munro, Clerk
Serving on Boards, Committee, and Groups at Old South Church

Committees at Old South include Christian Education, Diaconate, Financial Trustees, Fundraising, Pastoral Relations and the Property Trustees. There is also a Nominating Committee (a group that works to fill all the other committees!) and the Outreach, Justice, and Witness Group (an open group). The Executive Council includes a member from each of these committees/groups except the Nominating Committee and the Moderator, Treasurer, Clerk, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, and Minister. These committees are essential to the daily operations of our favorite charity: Old South Church. In addition, groups work to meet the needs of the Community Lunch, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Warming Centers, and the many other wonderful programming ministries here at Old South. We welcome your involvement and support.

In an effort to help all understand the work of the committees, we have been writing about the various groups. In this issue, we will focus on the Financial Trustees and Outreach, Justice, and Witness.

**Financial Trustees:** The Financial Trustees examine the current and future financial status of Old South and make recommendations to the congregation for our operating budget and other financial concerns. They implement the annual pledge drive each year and help coordinate other financial campaigns. For more information, please contact Marilyn Hylan (778-4211).

**Outreach, Justice, and Witness:** This group is an open ministry not a committee. Anyone interested may join them. They meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Matthew Room. Their work is centered around developing programs in response to Christ’s call to mission and social action. They oversee the outreach funds which are donated to charities, volunteer at the Medical Equipment Lending program, and sponsor many other activities here at Old South. For more information, contact Randy Oakley (293-2368).

Photos taken by Arin Hilton at the Lenten Reflections Event at the Holman Mission House.

A Note of Gratitude

*Special thanks to Jodie Gunther, Mardy Bogar, Cherie Giampietro, and all the artists, musicians, poets, and writers who made this year’s Lenten Reflections event possible. The open house event was a gift of hope, reflection and prayer for all who attended.*
Worship & Music

Revised Common Lectionary

The Revised Common Lectionary is a list of Bible passages followed by the majority of mainline Christian churches, including the United Church of Christ. Rev. Marraine will be following the Revised Common Lectionary each week. You will find the lectionary readings below for May.

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Worship Service Leader: An Opportunity for You

If you were with us during times when our minister has been away, you know that we are very fortunate to have strong lay leaders at Old South who have stepped into the role leading worship and sharing their personal faith journeys or reflections on the lectionary readings. If you are interested in serving in this way, please let us know by contacting Phyllis in the church office (Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org). We are able to provide support by either putting the full order of worship together for you and allowing you to focus solely on your reflection or you can do as much of the order as you want! During these times, the Revised Common Lectionary may be followed or not. Perhaps you have a Bible reading that particularly speaks to you and you want to share your insight and thoughts on it. Our own faith journeys have been enriched by this sharing and we are grateful to each person who has been called to nourish our spirits in this way.
"WHAT DOES YOUR LIFE DEPEND ON?"

In the introduction to her book, *An Altar in the World*, Barbara Brown Taylor tells this story:

"Many years ago now, a wise old priest invited me to come speak at his church in Alabama. 'What do you want me to talk about?' I asked.

'Come tell us what is saving your life now,' he answered. It was as if he had swept his arm across a dusty table and brushed all the formal china to the ground. I did not have to say correct things...all I had to do was figure out what my life depended on."

At this writing, we are still in the season of Lent and the question, "What is saving your life now?", pulled me out of my desert meanderings and back into focus. Something about that question landed deep inside me, touching an essential, vulnerable spot. I knew the answer to the question immediately, although it surprised me, because I had experienced the same feeling the week before when I sang to myself the song that Fairbanks Union Church submitted to the Easter Sunrise Service. Something about that song, maybe the strength and resolve of the poem juxtaposed on the gentleness on the tune, took me to that same spot.

I would like to share the song with you as a belated Easter gift, along with an invitation to ask yourself the same question, "What is saving your life now?"

We shall go out with hope of resurrection,  
We shall go out, from strength to strength go on,  
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly,  
Tales of a love that will not let us go.  
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted,  
We'll dream our dreams of hearts that can be healed,  
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
Within a vision of a Christ that sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken,  
We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed.  
We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,  
Vibrating love alive in every heart.  
We'll shout for joy with those who are still weeping,  
Chant hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief.  
We'll leap and dance the resurrection story,  
Including all within the circle of our love.

Words by June Boyce-Tillman  
Tune: Londonderry Air

Easter blessings to one and all,  
Shelley

(your deacons: Mary Sinclair, Roger Condit, Michelle Scribner, Wendy Huish, Margaret Gould Wescott, Carole Trickett, John Demers Linder, Shelley Griffith, chair.)
Outreach, Justice & Witness

Outreach, Justice & Witness is open to all. We welcome all who come to one meeting or many meetings. We are concerned with justice issues and the environment. We also feel the need to help our neighbors near and far. Please join us if you feel so moved.

We would like to remind you of our ministry donating items to the Share and Care Food Closet. In April we will be collecting donations of Shampoo, Toothpaste and Laundry Detergent. They can be left in the wooden box in the Narthex.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the Medical Equipment Ministry. This is one of our most rewarding ministries. The gratitude of the people we serve is heartwarming. It is an amazingly important ministry in this community.

I also want to thank everyone who helped with the E-Waste Event and/or brought items to be recycled. Each year we are amazed at the amount of electronic devices that are turned in to us to be recycled. It is always gratifying to know we are making a difference.

Randy

For our April Community Luncheon we served an “Easter” meal of baked ham, scalloped potatoes, peas with pearl onions, biscuits, and cake for dessert. We delivered more than 30 meals to members of the community, and served a total of about 125 meals. (That number is slightly lower than usual because Jean Longyear normally picks up 25 meals and delivers them herself to various people around town, and Jean was out of town).

Every May we have a dilemma, because the second Saturday of May is Mother’s Day weekend AND the UMF graduation day. So this year we made a decision to move the May Luncheon to the FIRST Saturday of May, which will be May 4th. The menu for that day will be Shepherd’s Pie and biscuits. We hope that this change will not be inconvenient for anyone.

As always, we are very pleased when we are able to welcome members/friends of Old South to come enjoy the meal with us. We hope you can plan to join us on May 4th.

Stan Wheeler
Rocell Marcellino, Co-chairs
Children and Youth

With Easter behind us, and the final days of school in sight, May is the month in which we wrap up our year’s Sunday School program. But the fun doesn’t end here! We’ll continue to offer Activities with Children during the worship service through June 9. For grade-school kids, we’re planning a Summer Sunday School event, with games, crafts, snacks, music and more. And, of course, the high school youth group will have its annual “mini retreat” at Clearwater Lake. Watch your emails for dates and times.

Sunday School, Middlers, and High School

Our final “regular” Sunday school lesson, May 5, explores the role of the church in our lives. We have just one final Sunday School lesson together on May 5th. On the 12th, we rehearse music, readings, and more for Youth Sunday, May 19. On this special day, children assist with many aspects of the worship service, serving as lay leaders, sharing musical talents, and a few surprises, too! Plus, our third graders are presented with Bibles, and our high school graduates receive a special blessing.

The Pancakery Cafe

The Pancakery concludes our season on May 12. But we’ll wrap things up with a spectacular last menu, great live music, and more! As always, kids in grades 5 - 9 are warmly encouraged to join us as we don some kitchen aprons, set the tables, and flip those pancakes. We get to work at 10:30 am, and are ready to start dishing up our first meals before 11:30 am.
Jump Start Weekend
Students in Middle and High School are invited to join Arin Hilton to help prep Pilgrim Lodge for summer. Everyone’s invited to pitch in—there’s plenty of raking, sweeping, and cleaning to do, as well as helping to launch the docks. For more info, please contact Arin at ArinHilton@gmail.com.

How Do I Find Out More?
Don’t miss a single youth activity! Sign up for our email newsletter, “Old South Kids This Week,” to receive updates, news, photos, and more. Just send a note to Jodie@FarmingtonUCC.org.

From the Financial Trustees

We currently have 65 pledging units for a total pledge of $120,456.00 for the 2019 budget. We have received as of April 7, 2019, $35,828.34 from pledges and donations. If you have not submitted your pledge card for this year, you may put it in the church offering on Sunday or give it to Phyllis during office hours Tuesday-Thursday. We appreciate all that our church family does through time and talents as well as money.

This is the final year for our capital campaign. Church friends and family can still pledge to this campaign. Those who have pledged and have not paid in full, we ask that the balance due be given as soon as possible. I believe the brickwork is the next item on our agenda. We had to rearrange the priority list due to the pest infestation over the vestry and parts of the sanctuary. The final work on this problem will take place as soon as our church bats finish their hibernation which should be very soon. The Fund Raising Committee contributed $1112.52 to this campaign from concerts in January, February, and March.

The pellet boilers are still creating maintenance problems due to poor pellets. We have an amazing team of Property Trustees who take care of removing ashes and other issues, but we still have to have frequent service repairs which are costly.

Based on the decisions made at the Financial Annual Meeting in February, $500 will be transferred from the General Budget to the Sabbatical Fund. We need this fund for when Marraine takes her sabbatical in five years. We will also return $500 to our endowment fund as a first installment on the money used for the pellet boilers.

The Western Maine Homeless Outreach plan for construction for code improvements in the Holman Mission House will go before the Farmington Planning Board on May 13, 2019 at 6 PM. Fund raising is being discussed by their board, and they will be ready to move forward as soon as the plan is approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Hylan, Chairman; Ed David; Shirley Waddell; Amanda Adams, Treasurer; Daniel Batchelder, Chairman Property Trustees; Chris Magri, Moderator; Pastor Marraine Kettell
From the Property Trustees

Winter still clings to the area, even though many of us have expressed desires it move on. Preferably until mid-December, if possible. A variety of maintenance projects are in the works or happening now, and we are grateful for the volunteers who are making this work happen.

We extend our thanks to Gil and Betsy Riley, for the generous donation of a ladder, tall enough to reach the lights in the Sanctuary. The replacement light bulbs themselves were donated by John McKim. Thank you, John. We also thank Roger Condit for his stewardship of Old South. Roger spent several mornings at Old South during Holy Week raking leaves and sand and cleaning up the grounds on the church side of our buildings. Though we have had various difficulties with the boilers and regulating their operating this year, due to irregular pellet quality, they have kept the church warm enough that no water pipes ruptured. Our thanks to the Boiler Meister and his team for keeping the boilers clean and running to the best of their ability.

We thank Jodie Gunther and her helpers for coordinating the beautiful displays we were able to view at the Holman Mission House for Lenten Expressions as well as thanks to all the artists.

Once Winter has honestly subsided, we will be contacting All American Wildlife to remove our attic bats and finish enclosing the church to prevent further infestations.

Respectfully submitted;
John McKim, Barb Fortier, Donna Wheeler, Cassidy Munro, Wendy Morrill and Daniel Bachelder - Chair

The Living Water Association, Maine Conference and the United Church of Christ

Would you like to know more about the Living Water Association and Living Water Honduras Partnership? Please contact the church office (Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org), to learn about our connections with other UCC churches in Maine and about opportunities to make connections with them.

The Living Water Spring Association meeting will be held at Old South on Sunday, May 5, at 2:00 pm. The meeting will be followed by the Installation Service for Rev. Marraine Kettell at 3:30 pm. Please join us!

If you would like to receive monthly communication from the Maine Conference office, please subscribe to the A.C.E. (Maine Conference UCC All Conference Email) here:
https://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001WY46HL75sRR8ugU-gynzwIRrhzosImGndFmb2smmp0bq75gY9p8awUyU2Y3ZgqXJLfyMhJA9E429CcYLI986ORfoelx6_i-2B0x3JDub2BqZMuvjRCxq4Z4ri-irjI0wKX4O0xuKkQu0gFsk1T-oW-zU5wSkbOg5oEAdD5nqrLiQzxdAH5DOh34ysAPJlhPs

Would you like to learn more about the United Church of Christ? Please check the United Church of Christ website for more information about our denomination: http://www.ucc.org On this site, you may sign up for “Weekly Seeds” a reflection based on the Revised Common Lectionary readings for each Sunday of the year. There is also a link to an electronic daily devotional called, “The StillSpeaking Daily Devotional.”
Get Connected and Stay Connected!

OLD SOUTH CHURCH
First Congregational Church of Farmington
235 MAIN STREET
FARMINGTON, ME 04938
TEL: (207) 778-0424

WORSHIP: 9:30 AM SUNDAYS
OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Tuesday through Thursday

http://www.farmingtonucc.org/

www.facebook.com/OldSouthFarmington

TWITTER.COM/FARMINGTONUCC

INSTAGRAM.COM/OLDSOUTHLOVE

PINTEREST.COM/OLDSOUTHCHURCH

Old South Statement of Identity

“In Christ there is no longer Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for all are one...”

(Galatians 3:28)

Walking toward God, we, the members of (Old South) First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Farmington, Maine, seek through God’s Grace to be a congregation that includes all persons who desire to live God’s Love, as shown to us through the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. We respect and embrace differences of gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identification, mental and physical ability, as well as racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic background. We welcome all to share fully in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our congregation. We are an open and affirming church: open to all, and affirming of all God’s beloved children. No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.
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<td>Worship (Sanctuary)</td>
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<td>Retirees Lunch (Vestry)</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)</td>
<td>Executive Council (Church Office)</td>
<td>Shepherd's Pie (Chapel)</td>
<td>Community Lunch (Kitchen, Vestry)</td>
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<td>2:00pm Living Water Association Spring Meeting (Vestry)</td>
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<td>3:30pm Installation Service (Sanctuary)</td>
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<td>Outreach, Justice, Witness (Matthew Room)</td>
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