



# The Herald

A Publication of the First Church in Salem, Unitarian Universalist

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 7

## MARCH 2019

In this issue	Pg.
March Schedule	2
Around the Parish	2
Calendar	3
Religious Ed/OWL	3
Henny Penny	4
Garden Committee	5
Min. Search Cmte	6 & 7
Goings On	8
Get Involved!	9
Ash Wednesday	10

## In the Interim: From Rev. Terry Sweetser

We use a thematic approach for worship and Religious Education at First Church lifting up the precious gift of our community: Each month we explore a different aspect of building and fortifying this beloved community through its people and possibilities.

In March we ponder what it means to be a people of the journey. We ask ourselves what we dare and how we can trust each other, to live the lives we wish we could. Journeying is about, and this is our message for the month, journeying is about unbecoming and becoming anew, freeing us to do what needs to be done for love.

We UUs love to tell our journey stories. And hear each other's journey stories. Whereas other religions have newcomers stand up and confess their fallen ways or declare a commitment to one way, we invite each other to talk about how our approach is like no other.

It's curious when you think about it. We welcome people to our fold not by asking them to commit to thinking in sync with the group, but by having them declare how their journey is not like anybody else in the group. It's about space, not similarity. We bind ourselves to each other not by sharing the same route but by offering each other the room to discover the unique journey that fits us. It's about making room for people to write their own stories.

Or maybe it's about making room for people to re-write their stories.

It's become fashionable in our society to talk about spiritual journeys as a process of living into your full or true self. That's a helpful frame. And yet there's something deep within UUism that resists it. Historically, we've been the people that struggled not so much to find ourselves but to untangle ourselves from the religious identities we were given. Our spiritual journeys did not begin with a blank slate; they started with the hunger to wipe the slate clean and begin anew.

So we have this critical awareness that spiritual journeys are not merely about finding your true self, but also about untangling from your old self. We agree with Albert Schweitzer who wrote:

"The path of awakening is not about becoming who you are. Rather it is about unbecoming who you are not."

Which means we are also sensitive to the fact that most spiritual journeys begin with a separation, a decision to walk away. We know that the first step is often laced with mourning and isolation. We know that "unbecoming" is not easy work.

We also know that it isn't a one-time thing. We find ourselves routinely tangled up in all kinds of identities and journeys that aren't actually ours. "Unbecoming who you are not" is a journey we walk every day.

So what does all this mean for us this month? Well, first, it's an important reminder that we're not just here to help each other hold steady and persevere on our current paths; often our primary gift is to help each other find the exit ramps.

It also means remembering that being a people of the journey involves tenderness. We are here not just to make room for each other's unique stories; we are also here to make room for each other's pain. Again, "unbecoming who you are not" involves bravely walking away, isolation and mourning. And so, if we are going to complete our journeys of unbecoming and becoming anew, we're definitely going to need pit stops of kindness and tenderness along the way.

See you in your church!

SUNDAY, MARCH 10



"Once a King in Narnia, always a King in Narnia. But don't go trying to use the same route twice. Indeed, don't try to get there at all. It'll happen when you're not looking for it." - The Professor, *The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis

## March Schedule of Events

### Sun, March 3

10:30am Service

4pm OWL at UUCGL

### Mon, March 4

7pm HR Committee Meeting

### Wed, March 6

12pm-12:30pm Ashes To Go

6pm Decorating for Family Fun Night

### Fri, March 8

6pm Family Fun Night: Hootenanny

### Sat, March 9

9am Choir Rehearsal



### Sun, March 10: Daylight Savings SPRING AHEAD!

9am Choir Rehearsal

9:30am Archives Committee Meeting

10:30am Choir Service

### Fri, March 15

6:30pm OWL at UUCGL

### Sun, March 17

9am Choir Rehearsal

10:30am Choir Service

4:45pm Lifebridge Dinner Team

### Tue, March 19

7pm Standing Committee Meeting

### Wed, March 20: Spring Equinox

### Thu, March 21

7:30am Breakfast at Maria's

### Sat, March 23

All Day OWL at First Church

4:45pm Lifebridge Dinner Team

### Sun, March 24

10:30am Choir Service

### Thu, March 28

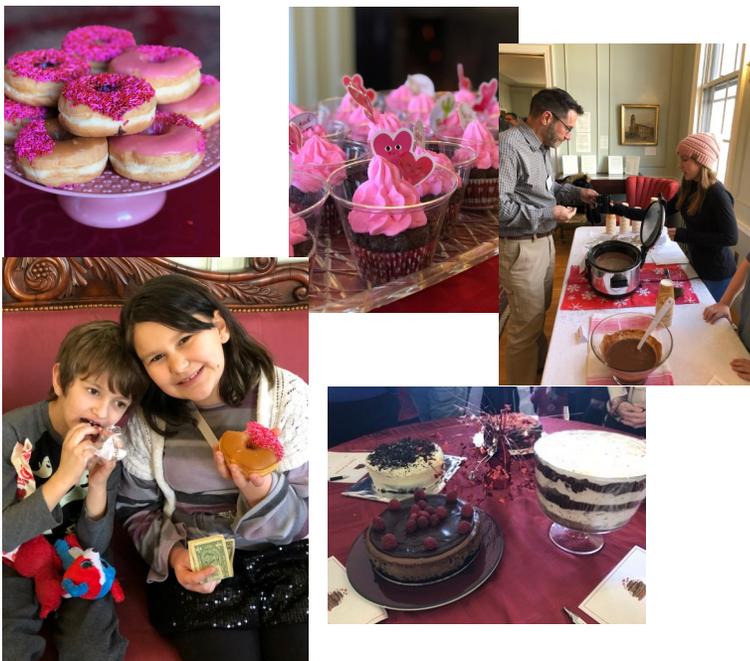
4pm Salem Pantry Bagging

### Sat, March 30

9am Salem Pantry Distribution

## Around the Parish

Last month Religious Education held its annual **Chocolate Sunday** the weekend before Valentine's Day to raise money for its (yet-to-be-determined) Social Justice Project.



We closed out the month by taking part in Salem's celebration of **Leslie's Retreat** for the third year in a row!



We're always on the lookout for news for the **Around the Parish!** Please feel free to email Church Administrator Catherine Bertrand with anything you'd like included. [firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com)

Thank you!



M A R C H 2 0 1 9						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
<b>3</b> 10:30am Service 4pm OWL at UUCGL	<b>4</b> 7pm HR Committee Mtg	<b>5</b>	<b>6 Ash</b> <b>Wednesday</b> 12pm Ashes to Go 6pm Decorating for Family Fun Night	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6pm Family Fun Night	<b>9</b> 9am Choir Rehearsal
<b>10 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS</b> Turn clocks ahead one hour. 9am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Archives Mtg 10:30am Choir Service	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30pmpm OWL at UUCGL	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Choir Service 12pm Stewardship Lunch 4:45pm Lifebridge	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7pm Standing Cmte Mtg	<b>20</b> Spring Equinox	<b>21</b> 7:30am Breakfast at Maria's	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> All Day OWL at First Church 4:45pm Lifebridge
<b>24</b> 10:30am Choir Service	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 4pm Salem Pantry Bagging	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:30am Salem Pantry Distribution
<b>31</b>						

## Religious Education

### It's the Journey not the Destination

This month's Soul Matter's theme is Journey. These days we are all so busy in our everyday lives that it is often difficult to discern the path before us or to look back over the journey that has brought us to where we are today. We are in such haste to reach someplace else that we cannot always see the place we are right now. This is even more true for busy families. Sharing the journey of our children's lives is a tremendous gift. *[continued next page]*

2018-2019 OWL Session Schedule *UUCGL = UU Church of Greater Lynn 101 Forest Ave, Swampscott / FCS = First Church in Salem			
Date	Time	Session	Location
Sun, Mar 3	4:00pm	Session #16	UUCGL
Fri, Mar 15	6:30pm	Session #17, #18	UUCGL
Sat, Mar 23	ALL DAY	Sessions #19-#22	FCS
Sun, Mar 31	4:00pm	Session #23	UUCGL
Fri, Apr 12	6:30pm	Session #24	UUCGL
Fri, Apr 26	6:30pm	Session #25 / Celebration!	UUCGL



I like to think of our Sunday morning ritual of church and Sunday School as a stop at roadside inn of our journey, where we can step of our path for just a moment. We rest and are refreshed. We can breathe in stillness and peace. We can look to what is behind us and imagine what lies ahead. We nourish our spirits and renew our love for each other. Then we take up the journey again. Together.

Over the five Sundays in March Religious Education will be exploring journeys of meditation, pilgrimage, justice, and the beginnings and endings of life's journey.

Friday, March 8 is our Spring Family Fun Night. We are having a Hootenanny! For those who don't know what a Hootenanny is it is a cross between a folk sing along and a country hoe down. Or at least that is what our Hootenanny will be! We will have a campfire, (indoor-no real flames) a folk sing along, and country line dancing.. We will have chili and hot dogs and even s'mores for dessert. Wear your best cowboy hat and plaid shirt and be ready for a Hootin' good time!

In faith,  
Deb DiGiulio  
Director of Religious Education

## Henny Penny

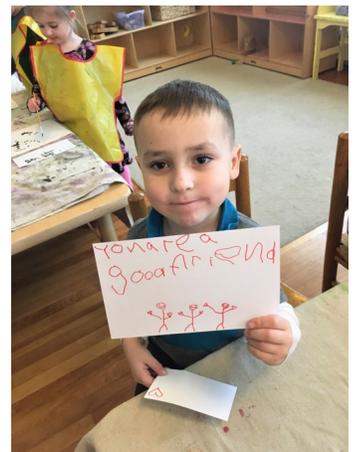
March is a busy month at Henny Penny. Our days will be inspired by the children's interest in underwater creatures! We have been listening to their conversations during choice times and often we hear them talk about sharks, jellyfish, dolphins and more. We are excited to have our lesson plans written around the true interests of the children, and not necessarily limited to monthly holidays and the season. Although we will still discuss winter topics, we anticipate deeper engagement by the children because most learning activities are based on what they are naturally discussing with each other unprompted.

In the fall the children witnessed the life cycle of monarch butterflies. We harvested some milkweed seeds with the intention of sowing them in our garden table, and then planting any thriving seedlings in the neighborhoods of Henny Penny students.

March is too soon to sow the milkweed, so the children will begin sowing seeds of flowering plants with the hope of successful germination. Our long-term plan is to have the plants be a part of the Mother's Day gift students will bring home. We are excited to set up a small greenhouse to protect the seedlings during evenings and weekends when the heat is turned down in the Henny Penny space.

Henny Penny is enrolling for September 2019, and we have limited 2-day, 3-day and 5-day schedules available. Spread the word if you know any families looking for a high-quality half-day preschool program. As always, First Church Members receive a 10% tuition discount. Henny Penny is one of the last half-day preschool programs in Salem.

**Save the date – April 26th!** The Fourth Annual Henny Penny Art Show will take place in the Cleveland & Barnard Rooms on Friday April 26th from 6p – 7:30p. The space will be filled with a variety of art projects including clay pieces, self-portrait collages, experiments in negative space, watercolors and more. The Art Show is one of the most beloved events for Henny Penny families, and the children are so proud to have their work on displaying our temporary gallery. They love walking their family members through the space while pointing out and discussing their work. Providing the opportunity to display their work in this way demonstrates that their work is important, worthwhile and that we honor their masterpieces.



The Henny Penny Teaching Team: Tricia Pini, Lisa Charest, Stacey Dupuis and Barbara Hermann

## Views from the Garden

*A garden is a grand teacher. It  
teaches patience and careful  
watchfulness; it teaches industry  
and thrift, above all it  
teaches entire trust.*  
~ Gertrude Jekyll

Between the bitter cold days assaulting us with all manner of “wintery mix” our garden has also been subjected to record high temperatures. Before the last snowstorm, I did a walk about and discovered tiny clusters of snowdrops emerging from the frozen soil, somehow pushing through the ice. Of course, now, they are once again buried beneath our last 3-4 inches of snow. The hellebores are also in bud, still dormant, but awaiting that first period of sustained warmth, and the forsythia buds are showing some pale yellow.



I know it seems early, but our next workday will be March 4th when we will dismantle the winter planters and transition to the simplicity of Lent. All are welcome to join us. No experience necessary. Time to be determined, depending on the temperature.

We have also tentatively scheduled a pre Easter clean up on April 12th pending confirmation from Catherine and depending on the weather. Please mark your calendars (in pencil.) Again, no experience necessary.

Thank you so much to those folks who supported our altar flower program in February, the Fritz family, the Cox family, the Deacons, and Mimi Ballou. We are so grateful for your generosity.



Nature continues to present us with challenges. Last week’s unusual windstorm, delivering gusts of up to 60 miles an hour overwhelmed the planters on the front steps. As the week continued with frigid temperatures we decided not to replace the planters on the steps but leave them protected at the side of the building until they could be re planted for Lent. Many thanks to Billy for rescuing them and doing the very heavy lifting.

I was looking through old photographs and came across the following one. The date on the photograph is May 4, 2018.

Be patient.

Jan Eschauzier for the Garden Committee: Mary Collari, Brenda Marean, and Lynn Taggart





## From the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC)



The past few months have been extraordinary. I suspect that nobody on this committee quite anticipated the intensity of the work. And there's more to come. But I think I speak for all of us that in saying that it has been a deeply joyous process, and that we're honored and humbled to be serving in this way.

Over and over again, the committee has invoked the First Church covenant. Asking what the words mean, and what kind of minister we need to help us live it. Can we find a minister who is able to get more than a 90% vote on May 5th?

I invite you to imagine the following conversation about what the First Church needs in its next minister:

*"Well that's easy, you say. The minister's job is to preach. Preaching an inspiring sermon each week is the most important thing they do."*

*"Hmm," says the person next to you. "That sounds like the job of a preacher. Are a minister and a preacher the same thing?"*

*"I don't think that's right," says the person in front of you. "The minister's job is to care for the church members. Like a shepherd tending a flock. Pastoral care is their most important task."*

*"That sounds like a pastor. Are a minister and a pastor the same thing?"*

*"In the UU Church, a minister must be a social justice leader. They must be charismatic enough attract followers in the community. That will grow the church and the UU Movement."*

*"Movement? Who said anything about a movement? I just want to be part of a church that welcomes me no matter what I believe."*

The survey results and the cottage chats revealed variations on all of these themes. And it's with this in mind that the search committee has reviewed prospective candidates.

Twelve candidates expressed interest. That's a lot. During January, each committee member spent somewhere around 60 hours in candidate review. Between those hours, we experienced ordinary life: new jobs, illness, serious family health crises, deaths of family and dear companions, human and furry. The term walking together has been ever present, like a beacon. We've felt the immediateness of walking with one another, and the ever-present covenant to walk with all of you.

At this point, we've narrowed our field to two candidates, a man and a woman. They're both sort of young -- probably between the age of 30 and 50. Each has considerable strengths, though in very different areas. Each spoke very thoughtfully about how they'd approach ministry here. They know we'll expect them to move to Salem or a neighboring community, and are excited about that.

During this process, we've learned some important things.

We've learned that UU ministers generally preach between 35 and 40 Sundays a year, less often than we're accustomed to. We've also learned that a Worship committee often actively partners with the minister to plan services.

Apparently, we at First Church have a complicated governance structure. Who knew? 😊

We've learned that churches often provide training for lay leadership. Perhaps it's coaching for people who speak from the pulpit, or listening skills for people doing pastoral care. It might be facilitation skills for committee chairs. You get the idea.

We've learned that it's unusual to have a children's moment every Sunday. And that it's generally called A Time for All Ages.

We've learned that UU ministers expect 4 weeks of study time each year to deepen their ministry. And that they're expected to report back to their congregations about their learning.

We've learned that First Church isn't perfect. And neither is any minister. We walk together in all our splendor and imperfection.



The search committee’s next step is to spend a weekend getting to know each of the two candidates. After those weekends, we will bring one candidate forward. That candidate will preach here on two Sundays: April 27 and May 5th. They’ll spend the week in between getting to know the church community. The congregation will then vote on May 5th to call (or not) its next minister.

The committee is excited about this next phase. At this juncture we believe we have two excellent candidates each of whom is just as excited about First Church. We continue to be honored to serve the church in this way and encourage you to offer us your thoughts and ask your questions.

See you in church!

Nicole McLaughlin, on behalf of the Ministerial Search Committee

Joe Bayne, Theo Burbank, Jessica Kane, Tommy Leon, Nicole McLaughlin, Katherine Palmer, and Lynn Taggart

<b>MSC: Where We’re Going</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>February 15th – April 15th:</b> Considering two final candidates</li> <li>● <b>April 27th:</b> Final candidate preaches at First Church</li> <li>● <b>April 27th – May 5th:</b> Final candidate gets to know First Church and Salem</li> <li>● <b>May 5th:</b> Final candidate preaches at First Church for 2nd time; congregation votes</li> </ul>	

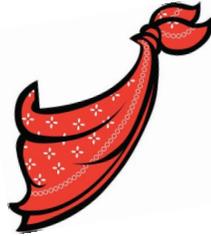
<b>MSC: Where We’ve Been</b>			
Month	Our work	Approximate Hours Per Committee Member	Approximate Committee Hours
October	Getting started with retreat, creating survey, organizing cottage chats; setting up website; member communications	30	210
November	Conduct and review cottage chats and surveys; hours of discussion and analysis; drafting, revising, and compiling congregational record; post to UUA portal; member communications	60	420
December	Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop; gather corporate documents, minutes, policies; make video of church; post to UUA portal; draft candidate rating sheets; member communications	40	280
January	Review 12 candidates’ information; draft individualized interview questions; interview 9; check references, follow up questions, hours of discussion referencing to surveys, cottage chats and our understanding of congregational needs; member communications	70	420
February	Draft second round reference questions; interview second round references; make arrangements for pre-candidate weekends; member communications; pre-candidate weekend #1	65	455

## Events and Goings on At and Around First Church

### Family Fun Night

**Friday, March 8 It's a Hootenanny!**

For those who don't know what a Hootenanny is it is a cross between a folk sing along and a country hoe down. Or at least that is what our Hootenanny will be! We will have a campfire, (indoor-no real flames) a folk sing along, and country line dancing.. We will have chili and hot dogs and even s'mores for dessert. Wear your best cowboy hat and plaid shirt and be ready for a Hootin' good time!



### Archives Committee Meeting

**Sunday, March 10 at 9:30am**

Everyone interested is invited to the meeting of the Archives Committee, March 10, 2019 from 9:30 to 10:00 AM in Wilson Hall, Room #8 or in the Archives office. Our regularly scheduled meetings are held at this time on the second Sunday of each month. Advanced notice is not required. Just show up!

*What's your story? It's all in the telling. Stories are compasses and architecture; we navigate by them, and to be without a story is to be lost in the vastness of world that spreads in all directions like arctic tundra or sea ice. To love someone is to put yourself in their place, we say, which is to put yourself in their story, or figure out how to tell yourself their story. Which means that a place is a story, and stories are geography, and empathy is first of all an act of imagination, a storyteller's art, and then a way of traveling from here to there. - Rebecca Solnit*



Image: "Untitled (Helga Looking from Afar)" by Andrew Wyeth

### Random Acts of Breakfast

**Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 7:30am**

For all those First Churchers who would like to gather socially in simple ways, Ben Waxman, past chair of Standing Committee, offers the following standing invitation: Every Third Thursday of the month, anyone so motivated can come to Maria's in Salem (10 Jefferson Ave) to join others for breakfast and casual, upbeat chat. There will be no kvetching at these gatherings! (Well, maybe there will be a little kvetching since we are New Englanders.)

General guidelines: Starts at 7:30 am. No RSVPs necessary. Everyone pays their own way. Sometimes there may be just 2 of us and other times maybe we'll have 12 of us. No pressure to show up or stay long. Just an opportunity for us to gather, have pancakes, eggs and coffee, lighten our days, and get to know each other a bit better.



### Stewardship Lunch

**Sunday, March 17**

Save the Date for a Stewardship Luncheon following the service.

Details to a be announced!



## Get Involved/Thank You!!!

### Lifebridge Dinner Team

**Next Dinners: Sun, March 17 & Sat, March 23 at 4:45pm**



The Lifebridge volunteer teams of the First Church shop for, cook and serve dinners at 56 Margin Street on the third Sunday and the fourth Saturday of every month. You can sign up on the clipboard in the Barnard Room on Sundays or using the link in the weekly e-Herald or on the website. You can also join the Lifebridge Team of First Church in Salem, UU Facebook page or send an email to Amanda (roedermusic@gmail.com) to be put on the email list. Thank you to our February volunteers: Doreen Beauregard and Paul Marquis, Holly Chase, Peter Copelas (shopper), Xia He, Kai Lam, and Tian Lam, Amanda Roeder.

### Fellowship Committee

**Next Potluck Fellowships: Sunday, March 17**

February Fellowship was a truly a group effort! In addition to Fellowship hosts, Jamie Tanch, Christiane Hansen-Mitev, Jerrie and Charlie Hildebrand, and the Fritz family, our community donated delicious treats for Chocolate Sunday and the Leslie's Retreat Re-enactment. There are hosting opportunities available in March (please sign up:



<http://bit.ly/fellowship2019spring> ) and upcoming potlucks. Your generous contributions to our weekly coffee hour are very much appreciated!

### Meeting House Flowers

Flowers beautify the spaces of our church and are a gift to those who attend our worship services. A contribution of altar flowers also provides an opportunity to honor or memorialize a loved one or to celebrate an event. The Garden Committee invites you to participate in this meaningful tradition. Thank you to the Fritz Family for providing flowers during the month of January.

For details about pricing and to sign up online go to

<http://bit.ly/2019flowersspring>

There is also a signup sheet is available in the Barnard Room or or you may email Catherine in the office at [firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com) or contact Jan Eschauzier directly at 978-969-1820 or [janeschauzier@gmail.com](mailto:janeschauzier@gmail.com).



### Email Scam Alert

At the end of February an email scam hit area churches including First Church. A fake email address had been created using Rev. Sweetser's name and an email requesting gift cards for cancer patients were sent to First Church members and friends.

Please note the Rev. Sweetser or First Church staff or committee members will NEVER solicit funds directly in this way.

The church office sent out two email blasts to warn the congregation about it in hopes of preventing anyone from being defrauded. If you did purchase and send gifts cards please contact your local police department and credit card company or bank immediately. Additionally please feel free to reach out to the church office if you would like.

Here is a link to one of our eblasts with further details regarding the emails being sent. <http://bit.ly/FCemailscam>

Please feel free to contact the Church Administrator with any further questions. 978-744-1551 or [firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com)

# THE HERALD



A Publication of

**The First Church in Salem, Unitarian Universalist**

316 Essex Street

Salem, Massachusetts 01970

Phone and Fax: 978-744-1551

Email: [firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com)

[www.firstchurchinsalem.org](http://www.firstchurchinsalem.org)



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Interim Senior Minister:* Reverend Terry Sweetser

*Director of Music:* Michael Kraft

*Director of Henny Penny:* Tricia Pini

*Director of Religious Education:* Deb DiGiulio

*Administrator:* Catherine Bertrand

*Sexton:* Billy McCarthy

*Chair of the Standing Committee:* Marlene Warner

*Chair of the Deacons:* Eric Kenney



## ASHES TO GO

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 12PM-12:30PM**

In a hurry? Haven't been to church recently? No worries! God will meet you in the midst of your busy day -- every day -- but particularly on **Wednesday, March 6 from 12 noon to 12:30 p.m.**, when you can pause a minute to open your heart and experience God's grace as the Rev. Terry Sweetser brings the gift of worship to the streets with "Ashes to Go."

Ashes remind us of our mortality and -- hopefully -- provoke a yearning within us to make all things right -- as we begin our walk into the season of LENT.

Find Rev. Terry offering the imposition of ashes, on Wednesday, March 6 from 12 to 12:30 p.m. , on the steps of the Meeting House of First Church.

