WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23, 2025





From Woody: It was great to see everyone yesterday. If you are an on-line member of our congregation we are sorry for some technical difficulties in the first 15 minutes or so. The whole service is available on our web site. We had two very meaningful services in the church on Friday and Saturday. Friday, we celebrated the life of Frances Towne. Thanks to the choir for singing and to Sam and Lynda for a very moving AMAZING GRACE. On Saturday, we celebrated the commitment to one another of Dana Keiner and

Mike Sherry. It was full of love and an adorable group of ushers and ringbearers and flower girls, many of them Deb and Paul's grandkids.

So, in the midst of all the events, I thought I would offer a few thoughts on President's Day and my favorite President, Abraham Lincoln. He is the man who was a leader during our most trying time, he was a bright and ambitious but also humble man. In his most famous speech, he said at Gettysburg, "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here but it can never forget what they did here." He was humbly referring to the dead Union soldiers buried at the cemetery he was there to dedicate. So, I do feel like our current leaders need a bit of Lincoln-like humility. I humbly share with you the words of Jon Meachem from his wonderful biography of our 16th President, AND THERE WAS LIGHT: ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE AMERICAN STRUGGLE.

In life, Lincoln's motives were moral as well as political-a reminder that our finest presidents are those committed to bringing a flawed nation closer to the light, a mission that requires an understanding that politics divorced from conscience is fatal to the American experiment in liberty under law. In years of peril, he pointed the country toward a future that was superior to the past and to the present; in years of strife he held steady. Lincoln's life shows us that progress can be made by fallible and fallen presidents and peoples-which in a fallible and fallen world, should give us hope.





Lenten Organ Concert: Dawn Sweet, our guest organist is returning on March 9 at 3:00 pm to give an organ concert—as a time for reflection at the beginning of Lent. Her themes will focus on Hope, Relationship, and Light.



For a delicious Lasagna dinner on April 5! Watch for more information to come.



Help is needed to make soup in a crock pot, dessert, and/or help at the event



. **Dress A Girl Around the World:** Kristi Citak is again spearheading a project as part of an effort to provide one-of-a kind dresses to girls from infancy to teens, who are living in orphanages in the US and around the world—"Dress A Girl Around the World". Kristi will be hosting an event each third Saturday from March-September, 2025 The first one will be March 15 from 9:00-12:00 in the Dignard Room at the church. If you can sew and want to participate—great! Bring your sewing machine to the church or you can sew at home. If you do not

sew, there are other ways you can help: cutting patterns, ironing, sorting fabric, bringing a snack, or donating money for shirts, shorts, and shipping costs. Any questions or if you would like to participate, contact Kristi at 603-486-9910 or email at kris Kreations@ comcast.net.



Flowers for Sanctuary: A new sign-up sheet for flowers for our worship service, is posted on the bulletin board by the office. If you want to give them in memory of someone or some event, just let Ellen know. Thanks in advance for your contribution. Ellen Anderson cell 973-747-2321; email andersel@njms.rutges.edu



QR Code: You can use the QR code below to pay your pledge or other contribution.





Peace Quote: Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding......Albert Einstein