

Dear Friends,

Our virtual worship service for Sunday, January 17 will be found here on our YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX1ppt9kU5rWj6DPaLGv9Ig/videos> Our Deacon, Karen Rettich, is reading the lectionary passage 1 Samuel 3:1-10. This Old Testament story is about Samuel listening to God and being called to be a prophet. Listening is the topic of the sermon. Kasha's prelude is "Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak," and the hymn is "Here I Am, Lord."

As we observe Martin Luther King Day, we remember how Dr. King listened to God's call, became a minister, and dedicated himself to nonviolent protest in achieving racial justice. As we look ahead this week, may our nation know peace and love, and not violence and hatred. Martin Luther King Jr. once said: "I have decided to stick to love ... Hate is too great a burden to bear."

Ann Labby's church school link for January 17 can be found here. https://youtu.be/_iwF4D17gLo

In cooperation with Streetfire Ministries' efforts to feed hungry folks in Middletown, our Missions Board invites you to help provide a dinner of sandwiches and chicken noodle soup on Thursday, January 28. The items may be dropped off at our church. If you would like to help in preparing the soup or a type of sandwich, please contact Karen Faass by January 22 at (860) 346-7487 or email faass@ccomcast.net.

The Middlesex Association prayer request for January 17: As many of our Middlesex Association churches will be celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, may our congregations work with vigor for racial justice and the end of institutional racism.

Sherry Ford-Lyman's mother, Madeleine Dunaway, died last Sunday. Please hold Sherry and her family in prayer along with praying for Jane Aronson, Bob Baker, Annette Bowman, Diane Burgess, Carol Carnemolla, Robert Daniels, Gail Grzegorowicz, Catherine Hunt, Doris Katt, Katie Kou and family, Bill Larson, Ann Lavoy, Tim Lavoy, Nicholas Lee, Scott MacDonald, the Maynard family, Martin Moon, Colleen Olsen, Audrey Johnson Roberts, Eleanor Rodrigue, Max Stone, Kelly Utter, Mark Vetrano, Rachel Wache, Steven Winakor, and the families and friends of Madeleine Dunaway and Seth Flynn.

Renowned 20th century theologian and philosopher, Paul Tillich, once said, "The first duty of love is to listen."

May we strive to listen to one another and love one another. And may we listen for God's call and be faithful to God's will.

Yours in faith,
Jane

P.S. Just a reminder that our church's Zoom book discussion is on Thursday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. and our Zoom Bible study is on Thursday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to participate!