

# LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR IN PERILOUS TIMES: HOW TO STAND UP FOR DEMOCRACY AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

A COTUIT FEDERATED CHURCH JUSTICE FORUM

Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>  
6:30-8pm in Hamilton Hall

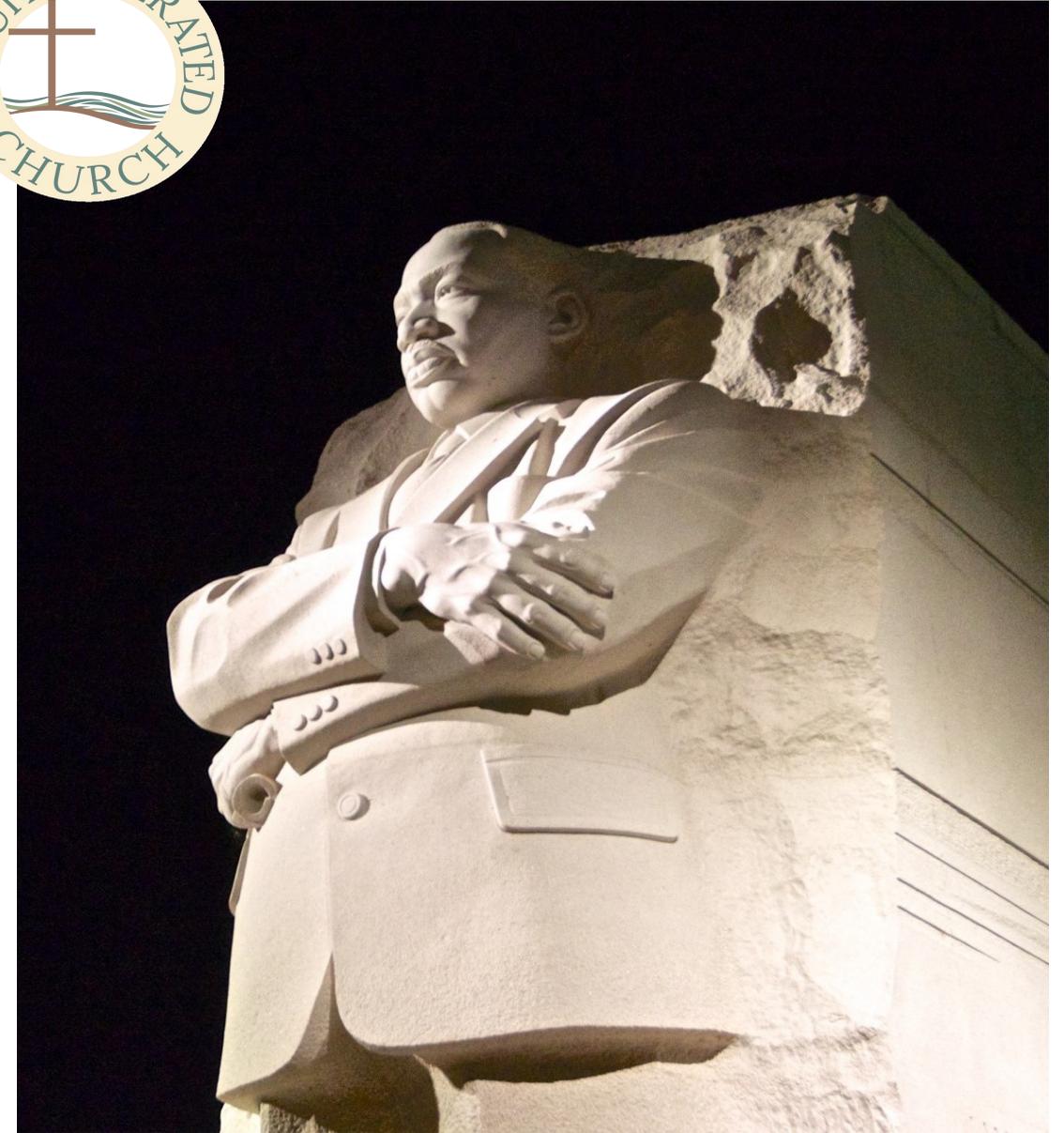
Cotuit Federated Church  
40 School St | Cotuit, MA 02635



What can we do to prepare ourselves for increasing federal presence in our local communities? And how can we better welcome and love our vulnerable neighbors whose lives, safety, families and freedoms are under daily threat? On February 11, 2025, the Massachusetts Council of Churches (MCC) joined over two dozen Christian and Jewish institutions and the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection in opposition to the federal government's rescission of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's sensitive locations policy, which violates the First Amendment and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, protecting our places of worship. MCC Executive Director Rev. Laura Everett has been engaged in frontline efforts to strengthen our democracy and protect our immigrant neighbors and will offer a short briefing on this lawsuit. She will also share specific ideas for how local communities of faith and conscience can strengthen our public witness and welcome. Please join us for this important community-wide conversation. All are welcome.



Register for the event here::



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday  
Second Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 18 | 10 o'clock in the morning  
40 School Street | Post Office Box 436 | Cotuit, MA 02635  
[www.cotuitfederatedchurch.org](http://www.cotuitfederatedchurch.org) | 508-428-6163

## Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial

Light shines onto the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial at night in Washington DC.

Sony Alpha SLT-A77V 1/30s, f 2.8, ISO 1600, 28 mm

Returning hate for hate multiplies hate,  
adding deeper darkness

to a night already devoid of stars.

Darkness cannot drive out darkness;

only light can do that.

Hate cannot drive out hate;

only love can do that.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King  
in Strength to Love 1963

The altar flowers are given in loving  
memory of our great granddaughter

Layla Madison Dwyer

By David & Brenda Nailor

**GUEST INFORMATION:** Thank you for worshipping with us today! Pick up a welcome brochure to learn more about our church. Join us for coffee hour following today's worship — just follow the crowd to our community room (Hamilton Hall). Both our sanctuary and community room are handicapped-accessible at the High Street entrance. Handicapped parking is available on High Street. Please ask a Greeter or Deacon to answer any questions.

**FELLOWSHIP PADS:** Whenever you have questions or comments, feel free to note them in the red fellowship pads available at each pew. Everyone — guests and regular attenders alike — are asked to sign the fellowship pads when passed during the Offering. If you are a first time visitor, please include your email or physical mailing address.

**PRAYER CARDS:** You will find prayer request cards at the Welcome Center and in the pew racks. You are invited to fill out a card and place it in the offering basket. If you want your request included in next Sunday's bulletin, please check the appropriate box.

**OUR E-LIST:** The "Weekly Word" is an e-mail newsletter for our members and friends. If you do not receive it and would like to, please complete the New Comer form available in the Welcome Packet, or call the Church Office at (508) 428-6163 or e-mail [office@cotuitfederatedchurch.org](mailto:office@cotuitfederatedchurch.org) to sign up.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** If you would like to donate flowers on any given Sunday, please sign up on the Sign-Up Sheet or contact Shannon in the office—(508) 428-6163— with your dedication.

*Please join us today for coffee and refreshments following the service.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

PILOT "CAN WE TALK?" GRIEF AND TRAUMA HEALING SESSION

**Sunday, January 18 4-6 p.m. in Hamilton Hall**

Rev. Liz Walker will join us again for a soft launch of our own CAN WE TALK?...grief and trauma healing conversations.

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY-PART II EXODUS SERIES

**Every other Tuesday beginning, January 13, 6:30 in Hamilton Hall**

Sign up sheets on the table in back of Hamilton Hall and Books are available for \$15.

SACRED GROUND

**Every other Tuesday beginning, January 20, 6:30 in Hamilton Hall**

A Film and Discussion Based Series on Race and Faith. Cotuit residents Lallie Lloyd and David Miller joined us for a racial justice forum in December that introduced an upcoming series they will be leading with Pastors Dan and Angie. The two groups are now full and will be led by Pastor Dan and Lallie, and by Pastor Angie and David. See the Weekly Word for additional information.





\*OPENING HYMN

The Faith We Sing #2082

Please join in singing.

*Woke Up This Morning*

*:Vs 2082*

CALL TO CONFESSION

*Mike O-Toole*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Mike O-Toole*

One: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace.

**All: God of Justice, whenever we settle for the way things are instead of the way you would have them to be, forgive us.  
Whenever we are paralyzed by fear or limited in vision, increase our trust in you.  
Whenever we offer charity, but fail to work for justice, show us what your love requires.  
Whenever we tire of the struggle and tomorrow feels overwhelming, restore our hope and renew our courage  
In the name of Jesus, our brother, Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

The United Methodist Hymnal #402

Please join in singing.

*Lord I Want To Be A Christian In My Heart*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please join us in Hamilton Hall for a coffee hour!



*The Embrace is a bronze sculpture by Hank Willis Thomas installed on Boston Common in Boston Massachusetts United States in December 2011. The artwork commemorates Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King and depicts four intertwined arms representing the hug they shared after he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1954.*

***Prayer»in»Song½***

Light before us, light behind us  
light beneath our feet  
Light within us, light above us  
Let all around us be light

Christ before us, Christ behind us  
Christ beneath our feet  
Christ within us, Christ above us  
Let all around us be Christ.

OFFERTORY

**Invitation To Offering  
Offertory**

***\*Doxology½***

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God, above, ye heavenly hosts  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

*Rev²»Angela»Menke»Ballou»*

CHORAL ANTHEM

***Love»Lifted»Me***

CHURCH SCHOOL MISSION MOMENT

*Shannon»Boon*

(CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO SUNDAY SCHOOL)

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

*Mike»O-Toole»*

HEBREW BIBLE READING

*Mike»O-Toole»*

Psalm 40: 1-11

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 3: 13-17

*Rev<sup>2</sup>»Daniel»Smith»*

**This is our hope for becoming a better people.  
This is our hope for making a better world.  
Amen! Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*Rev<sup>2</sup>»Daniel»Smith»*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Rev<sup>2</sup>»Angela»Menke»Ballou»*

RESPONSE OF FAITH

*Rev<sup>2</sup>»Daniel»Smith*

*Prayer»in»Song!»»*

[Adapted from a sermon by Martin Luther King, Jr., "Our God Is Able," in *Strength»to»Love*]

*Peace before us, peace behind us  
Peace beneath our feet  
Peace within us, peace above us  
Let all around us be peace*

One: Let us declare our faith together:

*Love before us, love behind us  
Love beneath our feet  
Love within us, love above us  
Let all around us be love*

**All: We believe in God, at work in the world,  
transforming death into life.  
We believe that God is able to change  
desolate valleys into paths of joy;  
to give tired feet strength  
for striding toward the city of freedom;  
to create courage in us  
for facing the uncertainties of the future,  
and to give us power to endure  
that which cannot be changed.  
When our days become dreary,  
and our nights darker  
than a thousand midnights,  
we believe that God is able  
to make a way out of no way  
and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.**

**Gathering of the Prayers**

**Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive  
us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass  
against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver  
us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever. Amen.*