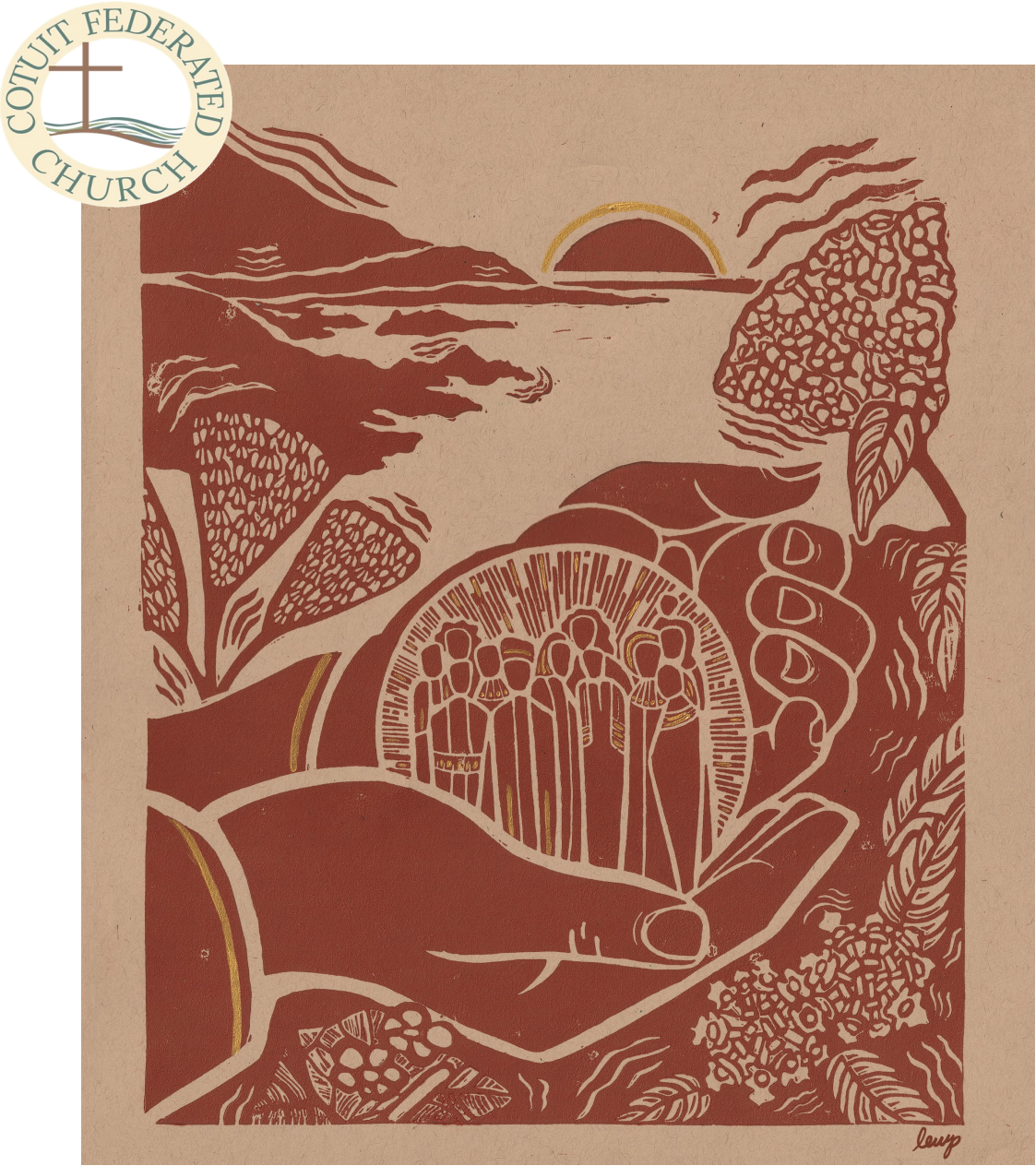


CALENDAR			
MONDAY, February 2		FRIDAY, February 6	
Church Office	9:00-1:00	Church Office	CLOSED
Chair Yoga (Hall)	9:30-10:30	AA	7:00
AA (Hall)	6:30-7:30		
TUESDAY, February 3		SATURDAY, February 7	
Church Office	9:00-1:00	Private Event	11:00
Sacred Ground (Hall)	6:30		
WEDNESDAY, February 4		SUNDAY, February 8	
Church Office	9:00-1:00	5th Sunday After Epiphany	
Prayer Circle	9:30		
AA Womens Just Breathe	6:30	Worship	10:00
THURSDAY, February 5		Coffee Hour/Chili Cook Off	11:15
Church Office	9:00-11:00		
Chair Yoga (Hall)	9:30		
Handbells (Sanctuary)	6:00		



## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 1 | 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



Bulletin Cover: I Am With You  
by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Isaiah 41:5-10

Here we find the Israelites far from home, living in Babylonian exile. Fear and uncertainty hang heavy with the looming threat of Persian invasion. “The coastlands have seen and are afraid, the ends of the earth tremble” (Isaiah 45:5). As some scramble to find courage in idols, God calls those exiled from Judah to be heartened by their rootedness in God’s story.

The image that formed in my mind was a community nestled in God’s hands amid the Mediterranean coastlands—the same lands conquered by the Babylonians, and to which the exiles longed to return.

Watching the powerful revel in the demise of the vulnerable is horrifying—but fitting. In Isaiah, God’s people are exiled under the thumb of a world power. Fearful artisans solder golden idols, hoping for security. But God is not found in the hands of the powerful or the shine of idols. God is present amid the rubble, comforting the forsaken and reminding them of their place in God’s story. No matter which empire holds sway, God sides with the subjugated and disenfranchised. Despite the fear that causes the very earth to tremble, God accompanies the downtrodden, upholding them with a steady hand.

From my study of this passage and shock at the video, a counter-vision of hope emerged. Coastal Mediterranean plants—bougainvillea for peace, lantana for liveliness, and red valerian for strength— anchor the shifting sand. God’s hands cradle the community like a fragile flame as their light resiliently radiates. The twelve figures in simplified Palestinian garb represent the exiled Judeans in Isaiah, the Palestinians in modern day Gaza, and all crushed by empire—each cherished by a faithful God. The hands in the image could also be ours.

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

**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 attendees 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 Newcomer 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

MIRACLE KITCHEN & FAITH FAMILY KITCHEN:

**Thursday, January 8th, Wednesday, January 21st, Tuesday, January 27th**

The Salvation Army (100 North Street, Hyannis) is back up and running. Miracle Kitchen food will be prepared there on the 2nd Thursday and 4th Tuesday of each month. The Faith Family Kitchen is also back and is the 3rd Wednesday of the month 4:30 –7 p.m.

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY-PART II EXODUS SERIES

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

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.



TODAY'S SERVERS

Ministers: *The People of Cotuit Federated Church*  
Pastor: *Rev. Angela Menke Ballou* | Community Minister: *Rev. Daniel Smith*  
Deacon: *Nancy Radosevic* | Director of Music: *Megan Anthony*  
Lay Reader: *Nancy Radosevic* | Greeters: *Steve Hampton & Scott Kwarta*  
Director of Christian Education: *Lynne Belfiore*  
Admin. Assistant for Ministry: *Shannon Boon*

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

- Worship
- Church School
- Coffee Hour

LOOKING AHEAD



CHILI COOK-OFF  
**Sunday, February 8 at 11:15am**  
Sign up to enter your chili into our annual cook-off to benefit our local Scout Troop.

Sign up in Hamilton Hall and bring a crockpot of your chili on the day of the event.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Passing of the Peace is the oldest part of the Christian liturgy and is a special way we welcome each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. You are invited to greet members with a handshake or hug, or contactless through hands over your heart, waving or giving the peace sign.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION *Nancy Radosevic*

One: You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope.

**Many: With less of you there is more of God and God's way.**

One: You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you.

**Many: Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.**

One: You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less.

**Many: That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.**

One: You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God.

**Many: God is food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.**

\*Congregation stands. Please remain seated whenever you would be more comfortable.

One: You're blessed when you care.

**Many: At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.**

One: You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right.

**Many: Then you can see God in the outside world.**

One: You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight.

**Many: That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.**

One: You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution.

**Many: The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kin-dom.**

One: Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable.

**All: You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of good trouble.**

**\*HYMN**

*Please join in singing.*

The Faith We Sing #2237

***As A Fire Is Meant For Burning***

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Nancy Radosevic*

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Please join in singing.*

The United Methodist Hymnal #599

***Break Thou The Bread Of Life***

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Please join us in Hamilton Hall for a coffee hour!



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Hymn of Preparation

The Lord’s Prayer TFWS#2278

*Our Father... in heaven... holy is your name...  
Your kingdom come... your will be done...  
on earth... as it is in heaven...*

*Give us today... our daily bread... and forgive  
us our sins... as we forgive those who sin against us...  
Save us from the time... of trial... and deliver us... from evil...  
for the kingdom, and the power, and the glory are yours, forever.  
....and ever...*

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Nancy Radosevic*

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.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

*Rev. Angela Menke Ballou*

CHORAL ANTHEM

**Be Still**

*Karen Marrolli*

(CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO SUNDAY SCHOOL)

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Daniel Smith

## Prayer in Song:

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

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

## Gathering of the Prayers

## Prayer in Song:

*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

## \*Doxology:

*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

## HEBREW BIBLE READING

Rev. Angela Menke Ballou

Micah 6: 1-8

## GOSPEL READING

Nancy Radosevic & Rev. Daniel Smith

Matthew 5:1-12

## SERMON

Rev. Angela Menke Ballou

## What Does The Lord Require?