

## **MIDWEEK MISSIVE – 01/24/18**

For me, this is one of those strange times of the year. Christmas has passed, the new year is well underway, winter is firmly entrenched and spring training for baseball is still a few weeks away. There are things to look forward to in the next couple of weeks: the Patriots in the Super Bowl, the opening of the Olympics, Spring training is coming, which means that Spring, Summer and good weather is not THAT far off. (This is also a time of wishful thinking.)

It is no different in the church. We are on the downside of all the Advent and Christmas Activity, and still several weeks away from Lent. We are in what we call “Ordinary Time”...and well, some days, it feels pretty ordinary.

It's easy to get complacent in these “ordinary days”. So, I'd like to keep us focused on how we can celebrate these ordinary days in the church, and to remind us what is in front of us.

First, one way we can stay connected to the mission of Christ's church during these times is by focusing outwardly to those who need our help. During the holiday season, lots of people step up and donate goods, presents, and food to our neighbors in need. But as the holidays wind down, so do the donations to agencies helping those who need assistance. Here at the Candleberry Chapel, we have a mechanism to help folks in our faith community year round. It is called the “Love Offering” and we collect it the first weekend of every month. The “Love Offering” is used to help those folks connected to the Candleberry Chapel who are in need. So, please plan on coming to worship the first weekend in February (February 3 and 4) and give generously to the offering. But here is a second, very important, part of this offering: we need to know of those who are in need. If you are in need of groceries, or heating oil, or other utility help, please let me know. Any assistance we give is completely anonymous, and no one knows who is getting any assistance except for you and me. If you know of someone who is in need, please let me know. It is hard to ask for help, but it is part of our job as Christ's church to be there for our brothers and sisters in need. Please let me know, whether you need help, or there is someone you know that could use some help. And give to the “Love Offering” fund!

Second, keep the young people who are about to embark on their Confirmation journey in your prayers. Beginning the first weekend of Lent and continuing into Holy Week, we have 7 (as of this writing) young people ready to begin our Confirmation class. Pray for them, and then, on Thursday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m., come to the Chapel for our Maundy Thursday Service where we commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus, share Holy Communion together, and welcome these young people into the full life of Christ's church!

Third, make plans to be with us all through Lent, beginning the weekend of February 17 and 18 and running until Palm Sunday Weekend, March 24 and 25, through Holy Week with our Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 on Thursday March 29 and culminating with Easter Services on the weekend of March 31 and April 1. Join the Lenten Journey with my sermon theme being “Fasting and Feasting” in preparation for the joy of the Resurrection!

Finally, cling fast to the fact that pitchers and catchers report to Spring Training on February 12. Which means the greatest season of all, baseball season, is just around the corner!

I hope that these and other things will help make your Ordinary Time, anything but ordinary!

Be peaceful,  
Rev Brad

--

Bradley J. Miller

Interim Pastor  
Candleberry Chapel  
381 S. Main St.  
Attleboro, MA 02703  
(508) 222-2525  
[www.candleberrychapel.com](http://www.candleberrychapel.com)

"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." - Francis of Assisi