

## News Update This Week

### **For Your Reflection:**

*Marilynne Robinson, Gilead, 21st century*

"It has seemed to me sometimes as though the Lord breathes on this poor gray ember of Creation and it turns to radiance--for a moment or a year or the span of a life. And then it sinks back into itself again, and to look at it no one would know it had anything to do with fire, or light....Wherever you turn your eyes the world can shine like transfiguration. You don't have to bring a thing to it except a little willingness to see. Only, who could have the courage to see it?"

*John O'Donohue, 21st century*

"Much of the stress and emptiness that haunt us can be traced back to our lack of attention to beauty. Internally, the mind becomes coarse and dull if it remains unvisited by images and thoughts that hold the radiance of beauty."

*Morgan Freeman, 21st century*

"Learning how to be still, to really be still and let life happen--that stillness becomes a radiance."

*Hafiz, 14th century*

"An awake heart is like a sky that pours light."

*Richard Bausch, Peace, 21st century*

"He turned in a small circle and looked at the grass, the rocks, the river, the raining sky with its tatters and torn places, the shining bark of the wet trees all around. He could not think of any prayers now. But every movement felt like a kind of adoration."

### **News for this Week:**

**Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season.**

**Our Ash Wednesday Service will be held this Wednesday, February 26, at 6pm here at the church. Please join us for a contemplative Service.**

**Mardi Gras Celebration: This Tuesday Night. Please Join US!  
Tuesday, February 25, 2020**

**5:30 p.m. Social Time; 6:00 Dinner**

**Biddeford Pool Community Center**

**2 Yates Street Biddeford Pool, Maine**

**Sign up at the back of the church or by contacting Eileen Foley ([foleye55@maine.rr.com](mailto:foleye55@maine.rr.com)) or Anita Coupe ([awcoupe@gmail.com](mailto:awcoupe@gmail.com)).**

**From our friends at Etz Chaim: Please join us on Thursday, February 27 at 7-8:30 pm for an extraordinary Community**

**Event:** "Old-New Hate: The Face of Anti-Semitism Today" White supremacists marching in Washington, D.C. and Charlottesville. Jews killed at Shabbat services in Poway and Pittsburgh. A synagogue attacked in Halle, Germany on Yom Kippur. Britain's Labor Party accused of being riddled with anti-Semitism. Is anti-Semitism really on the rise? Rabbi David Fox Sandmel, Ph.D will examine the current state of global anti-Semitism as expressed both in actions and attitudes.

Questions and RSVP to Cantor Beth Strassler [cantorstrassler@gmail.com](mailto:cantorstrassler@gmail.com)  
Congregation Etz Chaim 36 Bacon Street Biddeford, ME Parking is on the street or in the Biddeford Police Parking Lot, where the first two hours are free. This community event is free and open to the public. Donations to Congregation Etz Chaim are always appreciated.

**Spring Newsletter:** We are looking ahead to the publication of a newsletter in March. If you have something you'd like to share, please send your submissions, updates, photos etc... to Ken Murray at [ktmurray1727@hotmail.com](mailto:ktmurray1727@hotmail.com). By March 1. Thank you.

**Favorite Hymns:** The Deacons of Union Church will be compiling a list of your favorite hymns and/or hymns you have not heard in a while so that we may include these during Worship in the year ahead. In the coming weeks, we'd invite you to bring a short list of your favorite 2 or 3 hymns to church for our list. We will also include an insert on which you can write your hymns in the next few weeks. Thank you.

**Seeds of Hope Warming Center:** Seeds of Hope is looking for volunteers. If interested, please contact Rev. Shirley Bowen at Seeds of Hope.