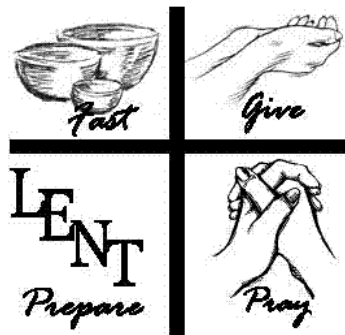


First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
300 Central Street
Saugus, MA 01906
781-233-3028
www.1stchurchsaugus.org

“THE MESSENGER”



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
300 CENTRAL STREET, SAUGUS CENTER
SAUGUS, MASSACHUSETTS
FEBRUARY 2012



"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in the Galilee and was baptized by (his cousin) John in the Jordan...At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals and the angels attended him."

The Gospel of Mark 1:9, 12

Dear Friends,

This month (February 22 to be exact) we begin the Season of Lent, a time for reflecting on how faithfully we travel the road that Jesus traveled. How we make decisions based on what we think God would have us do. How we live with and care for one another, at home, at work and at church. How we stick to the difficult way of the gospel rather than opt out for the easier way of the world.

One of the many joys and challenges of living in a close-knit community like ours is that we know each other's business. In one way, that's a good thing: we don't need to explain ourselves or our family stories over and over – they are usually well-known. On the other hand, it is sometimes impossible to keep our private lives confidential, whether from embarrassment or denial.

The early Christian churches tried hard to separate themselves from those who didn't believe in Jesus. They found it hard to be a part of the fabric of the community when their thinking about God's message to the world had entirely changed. Jesus was the key for them now, and there was no turning back.

Caring for each other is one of the key tenets of a Christian community. As we meditate on our place in God's plan, we think about how we have contributed to the care of those in our church who need our support. Two years ago, the Deacons began the "Called to Care" ministry, a lay visitation program designed to keep us connected with folks who could not attend church for various reasons, including age and health.

Because we are a close-knit group, we know when each other is going through rough times. That is when we are "called to care" for each other. A traditional Lenten spiritual practice is to give something up – usually tasty, fattening foods. But consider adding a spiritual practice – like becoming a member of our Called to Care Team.

On Kids Craft Sunday, Feb. 12, our Sunday School kids will be creating "Christian Conversation Hearts" to give to those who are homebound. It would be great if these were hand-delivered personally by some of us. In this way, we can offer a truly "Christian conversation" with someone who may really need it. See me after church on Feb. 12 to choose your own Valentine visit - and/or volunteer to be trained as a "Called to Caregiver."

Remember, angels attended Jesus in the desert during his 40 days there. Won't you be an angel and attend to a fellow Christian who needs you? Let's give thanks for accompanying each other on this Lenten journey together.

Peace,
Rev. Martha Leahy



**THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS with a
"CELTIC" ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
FEBRUARY 22, 2012 7:00 PM**

Lent is a time of preparation, for looking inward and reflecting on our relationship with God. Come, let us prepare for the 40 days of Lent at our annual Ash Wednesday Service. We will recite prayers and listen to Celtic music from the Iona Community in Scotland. We will be marked with ashes to signify a time of reflection on the finite nature of the human being. We will remember the words God spoke in Genesis to the first human, saying,
"By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are and to dust you will return."

Come, meditate upon the hope and the mystery that is our relationship with God, as we begin our 40-day walk with Jesus on his way to Jerusalem.

FASTING AND FEASTING DURING LENT

Traditionally, Lent is a time giving up something we love – like potato chips, candy, or cigarettes. But an alternative way to mark these 40 days is to turn around our thinking and behaviors. Here is an affirmation to help us in our daily Lenten meditations:

- Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism.
- Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation.
- Fast from negatives; Feast on affirmatives.
- Fast from unrelenting pressures; Feast on unceasing prayer.
- Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.
- Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion for others.
- Fast from discouragements; Feast on hope.
- Fast from facts that depress; Feast on truths that uplift.
- Fast from lethargy; Feast on enthusiasm.
- Fast from thoughts that weaken; Feast on promises that inspire.
- Fast from shadows of sorrow; Feast on the sunlight of serenity.
- Fast from idle gossip; Feast on purposeful silence.
- Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that strengthens.



—William Arthur Ward (American author, teacher and pastor, 1921-1994.)

Come to the
PUMPKIN PATCH INN

at First Congregational Church, 300 Central Street, Saugus Center
for a

PASTA DINNER



Saturday, February 11, 2012
6:00-8:00 pm

Ziti, meatballs, salad, rolls, dessert and drinks

Donation \$6.95 per person

Children 6 and under free

Reservations Recommended

Call 781-233-3028 or 781-233-4709

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

January 2012 thru June 2012

Saturday, February 11th - Pasta Dinner & Bake Sale - 5:00-7:00PM - \$6.95

Saturday, March 10th - Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner (2 Seatings) - 4:00PM & 6:00PM - \$10

Sunday, March 25th - after Church Pot Luck Dinner

Sunday, April 8th - Easter Sunday Breakfast - 6:30-9:00AM - \$5.95 Donation

Saturday, April 14th - Time & Talent Auction w/Roast Pork Dinner - 5:00-7:00PM - \$9.95
What's your talent? Do you have time you can donate? Talk to the Stewardship Team.

Saturday, May 12th - Breakfast & Bake Sale 7:00-10:00AM - \$5.95 Donation

Sunday, June 10th - Children's Day Ice Cream Social after Church Service

Sunday, June 24th - Church Pot Luck Luncheon after Church Service

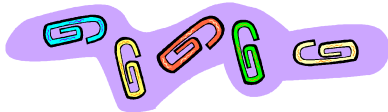


The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting on Wed., Feb. 15th at 10:00 a.m. in Rev. Martha's office. We will continue our study of the Gospel of Matthew as we knit our prayer shawls. All are welcome to attend - even if you do not knit! If you have any questions please contact Kate at katepinkham@gmail.com



Do you like to sing?
Would you like to join our choir?
We would like to *have* you join our choir!

Come enjoy our music and fellowship on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. and then singing on Sunday mornings at worship service. Easter is closer than you think and we would like to fill our choir loft for this very exciting time. Hope you can make it. We look forward to seeing you. Any questions, ask Carolyn or a member of our choir. SEE YOU THERE!!



NEW SECRETARY

First Congregational Church is happy to introduce their new secretary, Elizabeth Bereza. Liz has been a member of the church for many years and was baptized and confirmed at our church. She has previously held the church secretary position at First Congregational and hopes she'll do a great job for everyone. Liz and her husband Jason just moved back to Mass. from the Washington, DC area and are looking forward to a new start together. Please welcome them and see Liz for your secretarial needs.





DIAPER DRIVE 2012 - First Congregational & St. John's Episcopal are combining forces for a diaper collection to benefit the homeless families living in Route 1 motels. Collection dates are 1/29-2/12. Needed are: Pampers, Huggies, Luvs, Target Brand diapers size 2 and larger; diaper coupons; baby wipes. Liz & Jason Bereza will coordinate this ministry (setting up a collection box & coordinating with St. John's mission team). Please give what you can to children in need.

Introducing a New Group Meeting at our Church

Rev. Martha, the Board of Trustees and Church Council are pleased to announce that weekly meetings of Narcotics Anonymous will be held here on Monday evenings, beginning Feb. 12, from 7 to 8 p.m. Drug abuse is a serious issue in our community, especially among teenagers and young adults. We hope this group can bring education and healing to people who really need it. If anyone you know has a problem with drug abuse, please encourage them to attend. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we begin this new ministry together.

Kate Pinkham's Ecclesiastical Council Sunday, March 4 at 3:00 p.m. Second Congregational Church UCC, Beverly

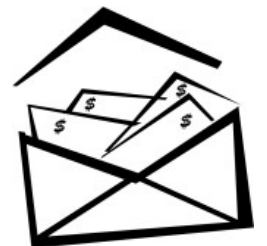
You are invited to join us at the Second Congregational Church in Beverly on Sunday, March 4, 2012 at 3 p.m. to support Kate as she fields questions on her ordination paper from all the delegates present. This is the next-to-last step for Kate on her path to ordination to the ministry. If you want to come early and have refreshments, arrive at 2:30 p.m.

We are very excited that our own Student Pastor Intern has come this far. If you would like a copy of Kate's ordination paper to read beforehand, please see me. We wish Kate abundant blessings for a wonderful day on March 4! Peace, *Rev. Martha Leahy*

A NOTE FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Dear Congregation,

RE: Pledge statements. If anyone needs an itemized statement of monies given for 2011 please let me know by phone or e-mail and I will gladly supply you with what you need. My phone # is 781-233-1052 and my e-mail is allisonrobot@comcast.net.



Thanks for all the prayers, cards and phone calls, while I have been laid up with a fractured ankle. It means a lot to me to know my church family has me in their thoughts and prayers.

Jessie Allison
Financial Secretary

CALENDAR OF WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL 2012



Come to Sunday School! There are lots of kids and lots of fun things to do and learn as we study the Bible's lessons about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Love to work with kids? See our lead teacher, Jean Brooks. Co-teachers are always needed. We always learn from kids when we teach them. The plan is as follows:

Every Sunday: Kids gather in sanctuary & light a candle at the beginning of the service; after the Children's Message, they go to Sunday School.

Communion Sundays: Kids are in Sunday School until Communion Hymn played; then they will enter sanctuary & sit in front 2 pews with RE staff.

Nursery: For kids ages 0-4. Caregiving will be shared by church members.

Craft Sundays: Same plan as for a regular Sunday. Kids in church first, then to Fellowship Hall for making crafts related to the gospel lesson.

Here is the worship calendar so far, subject to change as the Spirit moves us:

February 5	Communion Sunday, Worship Theme: "Mark 1:29-39, Jesus heals"
February 12	Worship Theme: "Mark 1:40-45, Jesus heals a man with leprosy" Kids Craft Sunday – Called to Care Valentines with Bree McConnell & "Christian Conversation Hearts"
February 19	Worship Theme: "Mark 9:2-9, the Transfiguration"
February 26	First Sunday in Lent. Worship Theme: "Mark 1:9-15, Jesus is tempted in the wilderness"
March 11	Kids Craft Sunday - "One Great Hour of Sharing". Kady Bertrand will bring our pen pal letters from the Dominican Republic (see story below)
April 8	Easter Sunday with an Easter Egg Hunt after worship
April 22	Earth Day – Steven Rich will lead us again this year in a cool project
May 13	Mother's Day – honoring the women in our lives who made us who we are
June 10	Children's Sunday Service with ice cream social following worship
June 17	Father's Day – who are the special men in your life?

!!!! BRING A FRIEND OR TWO TO CHURCH !!!!

DOMINICAN DREAM PROJECT NEWS

Our friend Kady Bertrand, who travels to the Dominican Republic in the summer to teach kids through the Dominican Dream Project, is a full-time teacher at KIPP Academy in Lynn. She teaches many students in Lynn who are from the same area she travels to in the Dominican in the summer. This year she came up with a plan to bring some of those kids back to the Dominican with her, and she launched an essay writing contest to pick the four who would accompany her. Log on to The Lynn Daily Item website and read all about it:

<http://itemlive.com/articles/2012/01/25/news/news02.txt>

Church Etiquette - In God's House

We are blessed with many new faces in worship lately, so Rev. Martha and the Deacons thought a helpful guide to explaining what to expect in church would take some of the mystery out of what it is we do here. People are coming in from different faith backgrounds, some with no church experience at all, and some with children or grandchildren who have never been to church or Sunday School before. But with the help of our congregation and this guide, we hope that everyone will not only feel more comfortable here, but can teach their children what worshipping God is all about. This guide will be placed in the pews for people to use in worship and/or take home with them. Feel free to hand it to someone who may be visiting for the first time. Here is the text:

"Church Etiquette - In God's House"

It's great to have you in worship today. We're glad to see people of all ages: kids, seniors, teens & middle-agers. So that we can foster an atmosphere of reverence to God in worship - after all, we're in God's House - we want to share with you the order of the service, explain a little of each movement and suggest the appropriate times to move in and out of the sanctuary.

9:45 a.m. Ushers greet us & hand out worship programs until announcements begin. All kids entering light a special candle at the front of the sanctuary before taking their seats.

9:50 a.m. A Deacon lights the altar candles, bringing in the Light of Christ.

9:55 a.m. The Pastor and Choir process to their seats. Organist plays the prelude. All voices should be quiet, as we center ourselves for worship.

10:00 a.m. Announcements are made. Sanctuary doors remain open until announcements are over.

10:05 a.m. Worship prayerfully begins. Sanctuary doors close.

Call to Worship: Our first prayer telling God, "We are here!"

First Hymn: We stand, as we are able, to sing together. Latecomers may enter sanctuary, opening and closing doors quietly.

Children's Message: Pastor calls the children to come to the front of the sanctuary for a special story. Afterwards, the children go to Sunday School or the Nursery.

Prayer of Confession: Telling God, "We're sorry," for things we have (not) said or (not) done.

Assurance of Forgiveness: Accepting God's pardon for our confession.

Gloria Patri: We stand, as we are able, for this short song of praise to God; Latin for "Glory be to the Father."

Scripture Reading: We read excerpts from either/both the Hebrew Bible & the New Testament. There are Bibles in the pews for you to follow along.

Second Hymn: We stand, as we are able, to sing together. If necessary, we may come in or leave the sanctuary at this time, closing doors quietly.

Sermon: The Pastor's interpretation of the Bible passages. We give our respectful attention, leaving the sanctuary only if necessary.

Pastoral Prayer: This is a sacred moment when we go to our God in prayer. We stay seated and in silent prayer until its conclusion, leaving only if necessary.

Offertory Invitation/Doxology/Prayer: Each Congregational Church is self-supporting, so your gifts & pledges are what keep our ministries going. Ushers come forward to take the collection plates from the Pastor. Pass the plate all the way to the end of your row first; last person puts in their offering & returns the plate to the next person until it arrives back at the Usher. When all plates have been collected, we stand to sing and give thanks together.

Closing Hymn: We stand, as we are able, to sing together. If necessary, we may come in or leave the sanctuary at this time, closing doors quietly.

Commission & Blessing: We ask God to help us as we try to live out these words.

Benediction: The final blessing at the conclusion of the service. We remain standing until the Deacon extinguishes the candles and follows the Pastor out of the sanctuary, bringing the Light of Christ out into the world.

Choral Benediction: We sing a short verse or two of this ending song. Please join us for coffee & conversation following worship!

**Thank you for worshipping reverently with us...
in God's House!**



First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
300 Central Street, Saugus, MA 01906

Rev. Martha Leahy, Pastor

Office 781-233-3028 Cell phone 617-763-7354

Carolyn Davis, Organist

Elizabeth Bereza, Church Secretary

E-mail address: uccsaugus@verizon.net

Website: <http://1stchurchsaugus.org>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/uccsaugus

"A Different Christian Voice"
A New UCC Church Start in Middleton, Mass.
<http://www.adifferentchristianvoice.org>.

Churches sometimes support missionaries, who go to far off places like Africa or China to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. The United Church of Christ has done something different – commissioned a missionary right here in Massachusetts! Meet Rev. Marie Lucca, an ordained UCC pastor who felt a call to begin a new church totally unlike any other, reaching out to folks who have never even been to church. It's called "A Different Christian Voice" and it is being formed in the town of Middleton. Rev. Lucca has done an amazing job, gathering resources from scratch, finding a worship space, and networking with UCC pastors and community leaders for the past two years. Now it's time to gather supplies for the new church. Won't you help? Look at the Wish List here and see if there is anything you can donate. If so, contact Rev. Lucca at 978-973-2466 or email her at pastormarie@differentchristianvoice.org.

A DIFFERENT CHRISTIAN VOICE WISH LIST

Churches are encouraged to work together to make larger purchases.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Couches/Arm Chairs Bean Bag Chairs* Wooden End Tables Projector* Screen Laptop* Imac Desktop Computer* Printer DVD player Cordless Microphones and Portable Sound System Candle Displays Altar/Communion Table Dark Wood Baptismal Font Filing Cabinets Floor and Table Lamps Wooden Bookcases Desk and Chair Carpet Squares to Sit on Large Throw Pillows Glider-type Rocking Chairs Vacuum* Framed Posters*
 Paten/Chalice* Candles & Candlesticks* Communion Cup Filler* Compostable Communion Cups
www.greenpaperproducts.com Communion Cup Trays* Collection Plates/Baskets* Paraments/Liturgical Linens* Lectern/Podium* Banner Stands* Seasonal Banners Stations of the Cross Banners* Shofar* Children's Instruments Animal Puppets Drum set Tables and Chairs
 CD Player* Felt Board at least 40" x 60" Torch/Candle Lighter* Processional Cross* Large Advent Wreath with Stand* Framed print of "Jesus in the Breadline"
by Fritz Eichenberg Framed print of the "New Last Supper"
by Bohdan Piasecki | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic Name Tag Holders Helium Balloon Machine* Sturdy Ceramic Coffee Mugs Small dessert size dishes (sturdy ceramic) Large Coffee Urns* Serving Trays/Cookie Platters Serving Utensils/Tongs Fair Trade Coffee, Tea & Cocoa Fair Trade Exchange Product Displays
 Note Cards/Envelopes Stamps - regular and postcard stamps Blank DVDs and CDs 100s of \$5 Gift Cards to Sol Bean,
www.solebeancafe.com Reams of White Paper Reams of Color Paper Reams of Card Stock Poster Board Sandwich Board Signs White Envelopes American flag and flag stand Art Supplies - markers, scissors, posterboard,
glue sticks etc. Staples Gift Cards Cost of Video License Cost of Music License Bulletin Board Gift Cards to Christian Book Distributors,
Peabody, MA Gift Cards to Christian Book & Supply,
Burlington, MA Gift Certificates to the Syracuse Cultural Worker
www.syracuseculturalworker.org Gift Cards to Market Basket Gift Cards to Stop & Shop Gift Cards to Ace Hardware Laundry Basket Large Rubbermaid Tubs w/ Lids for Storage
 Certificates for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 month of pastor's salary (she currently has no salary!) 1 month of rent (about \$1800) 1 mailing (about \$300) 1 month of internet/phones (about \$1000) 1 month of coffee hour supplies (you will provide) Room Renovation costs (paint, spackle, vanity etc. about \$2000) |
|--|---|

*A particular item has been selected and is on our Amazon.com wish list (link on church website). Additional items and books can also be found on our Amazon.com wish list.

Daily Lectionary Scripture References February 2012 (Year B)

Wed., Feb. 1

Psalm 35:1-10
Jeremiah 29:1-14
Mark 5:1-20

Thurs., Feb. 2

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Proverbs 12:10-21
Galatians 5:2-15

Fri., Feb. 3

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Job 36:1-23
1 Corinthians 9:1-16

Sat., Feb. 4

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Isaiah 46:1-13
Matthew 12:9-14

Sun., Feb. 5

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Mon., Feb. 6

Psalm 102:12-28
2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37
Acts 14:1-7

Tues., Feb. 7

Psalm 102:12-28
2 Kings 8:1-6
Acts 15:36-41

Wed., Feb. 8

Psalm 102:12-28
Job 6:1-13
Mark 3:7-12

Thurs., Feb. 9

Psalm 30
Leviticus 13:1-17
Hebrews 12:7-13

Fri., Feb. 10

Psalm 30
Leviticus 14:1-20
Acts 19:11-20

Sat., Feb. 11

Psalm 30
Leviticus 14:21-32
Matthew 26:6-13

Sun., Feb. 12

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45

Mon., Feb. 13

Psalm 6
2 Chronicles 26:1-21
Acts 3:1-10

Tues., Feb. 14

Psalm 6
2 Kings 7:3-10
1 Corinthians 10:14—11:1

Wed., Feb. 15

Psalm 6
Job 30:16-31
John 4:46-54

Thurs., Feb. 16

Psalm 41
2 Chronicles 7:12-22
3 John 2-8

Fri., Feb. 17

Psalm 41
Isaiah 38:1-8
Hebrews 12:7-13

Sat., Feb. 18

Psalm 41
Isaiah 39:1-8
Luke 4:38-41

Sun., Feb. 19

Last Sunday after the Epiphany/Transfiguration
2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Mon., Feb. 20

Psalm 38
Isaiah 30:18-26
Acts 14:8-18

Tues., Feb. 21

Psalm 38
Micah 4:1-7
2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Wed., Feb. 22

Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or
Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Thurs., Feb. 23

Psalm 103:1-13, 22
Ezekiel 16:1-14
Romans 3:1-8

Fri., Feb. 24

Psalm 103:1-13, 22
Ezekiel 16:44-52
2 Peter 1:1-11

Sat., Feb. 25

Psalm 103:1-13, 22
Ezekiel 16:53-63
John 7:53—8:11

Sun., Feb. 26

First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Mon., Feb. 27

Psalm 45:6-17
Hosea 3:1-5
2 Corinthians 1:23—2:11

Tues., Feb. 28

Psalm 45:6-171
Hosea 14:1-9
2 Corinthians 11:1-15










Wed., Feb. 29

Psalm 45:6-17
Isaiah 62:1-5
John 3:22-36



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February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Open 2:00-5:00PM	2 Office Open 9AM-1:30PM	3	4
5 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Worship 10:00AM Communion Sunday Stewardship After Church	6 Girl Scouts 4:00-5:30PM  Trustees 7:00PM	7 Dance Group 7:00-9:00PM	8 Office Open 2:00-5:00PM Saugus Clergy @Blessed Sacrament Noon	9 Office Open 9AM-1:30PM	10	11 Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale 5:00-7:00PM 
12 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Worship 10:00AM Kids Craft Sunday "Called to Care" for Valentine's Day	13 Girl Scouts 4:00-5:30PM  Council 7:00PM N.A. Meeting 7-8PM Masons Week	14 Valentine's Day  Dance Group 7:00-9:00PM Masons Week Rev. Martha @ New Clergy Group	15 Prayer Shawls 10am  Office Open 2:00-5:00PM Masons Week	16 Office Open 9AM-1:30PM Masons Night 	17 Masons Week	18 Pearl Church Meeting 9:30- 12:30 @ Winchester Masons Week
19 Transfiguration Sunday Worship 10:00AM	20 Presidents Day Girl Scouts 4:00-5:30PM  N.A. Meeting 7-8PM	21 Dance Group 7:00-9:00PM	22  ASH WEDNESDAY Ash Wednesday Service 7PM Office Open 2:00-5:00PM	23 Office Open 9AM-1:30PM Rev. Martha at UCC Church & Ministry Meeting @Georgetown 6-9PM	24	25
26 1 st Sunday in Lent  LENT Worship 10:00AM Deacons After Church	27 Girl Scouts 4:00-5:30PM  N.A. Meeting 7-8PM	28 Choir 7:00PM Dance Group 7:00-9:00PM	29 Office Open 2:00-5:00PM			