

## MARCH 2020 NEWS: CHURCH --

**Sundays, March 1, 15 and 29 at 9:30 am** – Pastor Balmer will be preaching.

**Sunday, March 8 at 9:30 am** - Charmion Mann , Lynne Myall's sister, will be our guest speaker.

**Sunday, March 22 at 9:30 am** – Tony Robinson will be our guest speaker.



**Pastor's Corner** – Hello fine souls of Guemes! I am looking forward to being with you again after my sabbatical month. This first Sunday I'll hope to hear anything you wish to share, and I'll offer a bit, too. Especially I am grateful for having had a shifting sense of time, where usual routines and schedules take a back seat. Also know I am grateful for you, the light you each offer, and for you who dare — these days it can be that— to be a part of 'church.' The need for dignity, compassion, grace and meaningful hope is as wide as ever; the Good Mother of all weaves her possibilities among us.

March 1 is the first Sunday of the season of Lent, the weeks before Jesus' death and Easter. We'll, again, hear the story of Jesus in the wilderness, and I've been percolating upon fresh interpretations for our consideration. On March 15, we wonder about comfort, as in 'comfortable' and take a look at the woman at the well story which begins with Jesus respecting a human more than the norms of the day (worthy of a closer look). On March 29, we'll make the most of our fellowship hall for worship, lots of music, singing, prayers, readings and reflection, and just being ourselves 'beloved church', perhaps with coffee at hand, too.

## MARCH 2020 NEWS: COMMUNITY--

**GATHERING LUNCHESES – Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19 and 26, 11:30 am-12:15 pm:** These lunches are a great opportunity to have someone else do the cooking and to meet and eat with friends and neighbors. Find lunch menus online at [Linetime.org](http://Linetime.org). Suggested donation is \$5.

**The interment for Edward Miklosh "Banjo", Saturday, March 7, 2:00 pm, Edens Cemetery:** Feel free to bring your instruments, remember and appreciate Banjo. For more information contact David Heath.



**Carol Steffy's Art Opening- Saturday, March 7, 3:30-5:30 pm, Church Fellowship Hall** - Carol works in watercolors, acrylics, and pen and ink, but she favors watercolors. The works in this show are all originals. Everyone is encouraged to come chat with Carol, enjoy a snack or two and enjoy viewing these wonderful works of art.

**G.I.V.E. FUNDRAISER – Saturday, March 14, 6:30- 8:00 pm at The Store featuring the Savage Blues Band:** G.I.V.E. Is a longtime Island organization that provides funds for Islanders in need on a case-by-case decision. THE STORE will provide matching funds up to \$500. Come GIVE and support this worthy community cause.

Speaking of Dying



Living Deeply ... Dying Well

**PLANNING A GOOD DEATH SERIES - Thursdays, March 12, March 19, and Tuesday, March 24, Church Fellowship Hall**

This series will cover topics relating to the approaching death of a loved one or oneself and the aftermath. Lynn Prewitt and Connie Snell will facilitate. Everyone is welcome. No charge.

**Thursday, March 12, 1:00 pm** - In this first session, we will view the video *Speaking of Dying*. Informative and intimate, the video captures the importance of individuals and groups speaking openly about all aspects of the dying process. The video will provide a springboard for all of us to consider sharing some of our personal experiences.

**Thursday, March 19, 1:00 pm** - There will be an emphasis in this session on hospice and particularly, palliative care. Lynn Prewitt will discuss her experience with nursing home care for her husband vs. at home care. In addition, a community outreach person from Hospice of the Northwest will join us. Documents, such as *The Five Wishes*, *POLST forms*, and *Health Directives for Dementia* will be available. Some participants may wish to share what worked and didn't work for them. A 20-minute video entitled *What Really Matters at the end of Life* will be shown as an optional activity at the end. This compelling TED talk by hospice and palliative medicine physician, Dr. BJ Miller, talk has been viewed over 10 million times.

**Tuesday, March 24, 1:30 pm (note day and time change)** - Nora Meekins, Executive Director of People's Memorial Association, a funeral education and advocacy nonprofit organization, will be the presenter. Topics to be covered include: options for disposition of the body (some new ones), the cost of each option, and the legal documents needed to get your wishes in writing. All participants will receive printed materials. At the conclusion, we will discuss whether an additional session would be of benefit. A 16 minute TED talk by Katrina Spade, founder of Seattle-based Recompose (human composting), will be shown as an optional activity - not the composting but the film!



**Annual Ferry Committee Meeting, Sunday, March 22, 2:00 pm** - The annual meeting of the Guemes Island Ferry Committee will be at the Community Hall at 2:00 p.m. on March 22. The agenda will include: GIFC Charter amendments; clarifying GIFC procedures and meeting schedules; expanding the electorate eligible to vote for GIFC members; taking nominations for the GIFC seats whose terms expire this year; and updates on the new ferry project. To view the current Charter and the proposed revised Charter, please see: [Proposed-Charter-Amendments-2020](#) and [Previous Ferry Committee Charter 2010](#).

**UPDATE ON IMMIGRANT SERVICES** - Frea Gladish has provided us with an updated list of how the Guemes Community can continue to provide much needed help to area immigrants. The church entry will continue to be a depository for donated goods.

New, warm socks continue to be needed, especially now as we approach tulip time. Skagit Farmers Supply has a program where rubber boots can be bought at a discount. New underwear is also a need: men's s/m, women's s/m and children's 3T and up. One ongoing sewing class, where participants learn to make garments and household items could use: fabric yardage, notions, and basic tools, like scissors and tape.

This is a great opportunity to clean those shelves and bins and donate the materials to a wonderful cause. Drop off donations anytime the church is open. Frea will continue to deliver the socks and other donations to the good folks, who are so appreciative, at the Farmworker Center. For more information, call Frea at 360-293-7448.

## UPCOMING IN APRIL--

Saturday, April 18, 9:00 am-1:00 pm at the church - PUBLIC CPR-AED CLASS

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**Note:** *If you have program ideas for the larger Guemes community, call Connie Snell, 360-708-3589 or email her at [conniemsnell@gmail.com](mailto:conniemsnell@gmail.com). Also, contact Connie if you'd like to reserve the church facilities for group or personal events. **There is no fee for using church facilities; however, donations are much appreciated.** If you would like to be added to the newsletter contact list, email Lynn Prewitt at [redhouselynn@gmail.com](mailto:redhouselynn@gmail.com).*