

UNOFFICIAL

Deacon Meeting Minutes for March 8, 2026

In attendance: Pastor Jane, Debbie Pratt, Ron Stack, Kimberly Stannard, Mary Ann Charron, Lisa Fenwick

The meeting was called to order at 11:38 am

Debbie began the meeting with a prayer.

New Business:

Ron made a motion to accept the minutes of the January meeting. Mary Ann seconded; the motion passed.

The Deacon of the Month for March is Lisa.

A Healing Service will be held Sunday, March 15th. Debbie and Mary Ann will assist.

The church will be open for lunch on Wednesday, March 18th. Corned beef and cabbage will be offered. Debbie and Mary Ann will help with preparations.

Holy Week Services were discussed.

- Maundy Thursday, April 2nd. Foot washing ceremony at 5:00 pm, followed by Tenebrae at 6:00 pm.

Ron, Debbie, Mary Ann and Lisa are available to read.

- Good Friday, April 3rd. Debbie and Mary Ann will ring the church bells at 3 pm. At 6:00 pm, we'll present the Seven Last Words of Christ. Pastor Jane asked if any Deacons would like to offer a brief meditation on any of these.

Easter Sunday, April 5th. Sunrise service at 6:00 am in the Park; our regular service will be at 10:00 am.

We will again host a community breakfast at our church before our regular service on Easter. PJ's daughter, Cathy, will be asked to make omelets again. Other offerings may include sausage, bagels, fruit, juice, home-baked muffins or the like. (A discussion outside of this meeting will be held to determine the time.)

Easter Lilies: Mary Ann will order Easter Lilies to decorate the Sanctuary. Debbie will ask Eileen to print order forms for members of the congregation, on which they can list the names of loved ones they want to remember or honor. Forms will be due on March 22nd in order for names to be included in the bulletin. Suggested donation will be \$15 per lily, with proceeds going to purchase the groceries for the Easter breakfast.

The Board of Directors of Slate Valley Cares is sponsoring a dinner for the volunteers on Wednesday, March 11th, here in our Dining Room. (This is not a Deacon function, but was mentioned at the meeting.)

Pastor Jane will be absent on Sunday, April 26. Steve has offered to lead the service that day.

Old Business:

The February open lunch held on Feb. 11th went well. People are beginning to know that we are doing this, and are asking when the next one will be.

Ashes-to-Go was not a success this year. Only 9 people received ashes, including the 3 Deacons and PJ who were available at two different times during the day. Perhaps next year we should hold an Ash Wednesday service here, or attend the service at the Catholic Church. PJ will discuss the idea with Father Julian.

The final iteration of the membership letter was discussed and approved. Pastor Jane will print copies. Debbie will provide PJ with an Excel file from which address labels can be printed. We'll work on stuffing envelopes after church the next few weeks.

The Vermont Conference has received our letter regarding ordination for Pastor Jane. She has already successfully completed all but two of the required elements. Unfortunately, one of these remaining requisites has no local offerings at this time. She would have to travel and spend three months in another city, which is not feasible. The Conference is working to find a solution for PJ.

A reminder was made of the prayer boxes, which will be mounted in the spring outside the church. Steve has suggested we put one at Slate Valley Cares also.

Jack Helm replaced burned-out light bulbs in the chandeliers in the Sanctuary. Thank you, Jack!

Ron made a motion to adjourn at 12:15 pm. Mary Ann seconded; the motion passed.

Our next meeting will be **Sunday, April 12th** after worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Fenwick, scribe