

The Carillon

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

Incorporated 1921

WORSHIP AT STORRS CONGREGATIONAL: *February 2021*

*Worship Online with SCC: All the information for joining in
worship is at*

<http://www.storrscongchurch.org/worship-online/>

February 7: 5th Sunday after Epiphany – Holy Communion

Pastor Debbie preaching: "Source of Strength"

Scripture: Isaiah 40: 21-31 and Mark 1:29-39

February 14: Transfiguration Sunday; Racial Justice Sunday; Valentine's Day

Pastor Debbie preaching: "Beloved Community"

Scripture: Mark 9:2-9 and Matthew 5:1-11

February 17: Ash Wednesday (ashes and blessing provided; more information coming)

LENTEN VESPERS BEGINS: "Lament as Worship: Praying the
Psalms"

February 21: First Sunday in Lent

Pastor Debbie preaching: "God's Loving Paths"

Scripture: Genesis 9: 8-17; Psalm 25: 1-10

February: Second Sunday in Lent

Pastor Debbie preaching: "Always Close"

Scripture: Psalm 22: 22-31; The Gospel of Mary Magdalene

*Our monthly newsletter contains material about what's
happening in the ministries of the Church; Governing Board
actions; Church Family news; thoughts from our Pastor and
information about upcoming meetings, events and
celebrations.*

welcoming historic progressive Christian



Open and Affirming



Accessible to All



A Just Peace Church



In this Issue

Along the Journey with Pastor Debbie3
A Message from the Governing Board Chair and Vice-Chair4
Lenten Offerings6
Will Our Children Have Faith?7
SCC Book Discussion Group.....8
Building & Grounds News9
Bread for the World – Write an Advocacy Letter.....10
Congregational Life Happenings.....12
 Anniversary Celebrations12
 Birthday Celebrations.....12
 Pray For Our Military.....12
Upcoming Governing Board Meeting.....12
SCC Raises More than \$2,500 for Community13
A Note from Service Sewing.....14
Calendar of upcoming events 15

LIBRARY NEWS

It’s a New Year!!! And may we all do our best to make it a good one! While we as a church continue to ZOOM, YouTube, FaceTime through worship, meetings, chats with friends and family, your church library is still available for a plethora of books to read. No matter the subject we can pretty well meet your needs for reading enjoyment.

We look forward to new ideas as we work with our two new staff members, Claire and Lisa. Reverend Debbie has arrived as our interim pastor and we look forward to working with her also.

We welcome you to visit the library at your convenience and would especially like to see you on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 AM when we can assist you with book selections or enjoy conversation in person.

Our Library committee showcases various selections throughout the month which are announced in Tuesdays News and Notes emails. If you’d like a listing of recently reviewed books, please contact Deborah in the office.

The Carillon is the monthly newsletter of

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2 North Eagleville Rd., Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268 | 860.429.9382 | www.storrscongregation.org

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Sexton Antonio Aguilera

ALONG THE JOURNEY WITH PASTOR DEBBIE



Dear Ones,

As you can imagine, these past few weeks have been a flurry of introductions, learning new office procedures and protocols, setting up my office, finding my way around, and preparing for services and meetings. It has been a joy being part of the SCC staff and church family and I so appreciate your warm welcome, feedback, and assistance as I learn to navigate different waters.

I have to tell you that when I was driving to church over MLK week-end to bring things to the office, I was surprised to see the unexpected welcome for me on our SCC sign on the front lawn. Of course, I had to take a photo before I left that Saturday to share with family and friends! Thank you for that.

I am looking forward to working with the new Governing Board, ministry teams, and Pastoral Search Committee moving forward. In thinking about this, I found myself getting out my poetry by Robert Frost and re-read “*The Road Not Taken*” – one of my all-time favorites. When I received the offer to be your interim senior minister it was, of course, a road not yet taken. I could not travel both roads and had to leave some things behind to start a new beginning at SCC. I already know deep in my heart, that this road taken with all of you will make a difference in my life. Our journey together will be filled with joy, challenge, laughter, tears, and the re-imagining of all you want your church to be in the future. I am blessed to have been chosen to walk this road with you.

A bit later I will be sharing with you our plans for the Lenten season in consultation with the deacons. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, I will be offering a Lenten series called “Lament as Worship: Praying the Psalms,” during our weekly Vespers.

I hope you will feel free to call upon me in any way that I may be of assistance; or come and visit for a safe distanced chat over a cup of tea or coffee!

May each of you and the entire SCC community be surrounded by the Holy One’s love and mercy.

*Blessings,
Pastor Debbie*

A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

As we enter this time of transition, we thought that it might be a good time to remind everyone of the Behavioral Covenant that we developed and adopted working with Dr Jay during his time with us and re-affirmed early in Pastor Matt's ministry. Transition is an important period in the life of our church, but it is also challenging. We are all facing challenges due to the pandemic, and our own individual life challenges, these can reduce our patience and sap our emotional reserves. We also cannot meet face to face to deal with differences of opinion, and there will likely be differences of opinion as we consider new opportunities during this transition period. It is important that we all abide by this Behavioral Covenant in our interactions with each other.

Behavioral Covenant for Storrs Congregational Church

"But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."

Ephesians 4:15-16

As members and friends of Storrs Congregational Church,

We will seek the presence of God....

- ❖ Praying individually and collectively
- ❖ Inviting God into our discussions, believing in a larger purpose than ourselves
- ❖ Affirming that worship of God is the central activity of our life together in this church

In order to build fellowship with others.....

- ❖ Worshipping, praying, studying, serving, creating a fun and safe environment for all
- ❖ Remembering that 'we' are 'the Church' including the Pastors, staff, members, and friends
- ❖ Committing ourselves to welcoming each other, believing it is a spiritual task of us all
- ❖ Respecting decisions of meetings whether they reflect our views or not

We will speak....

- ❖ Communicating directly to each other using the first person
- ❖ Asking questions for clarification in order to confirm that we have understood accurately
- ❖ Valuing all opinions and recognizing that everyone is equally important
- ❖ Communicating with each other as if we were standing face-to-face with Jesus, asking what would God have us do, and seeking God's voice in the other person

the truth....

- ❖ Being as honest as we can with each other
- ❖ Striving together to understand and speak from factual information, rather than based on assumptions or speculation
- ❖ Directing concerns or complaints to the person or entity with authority to address the issue
- ❖ Discouraging anonymous complaints
- ❖ Operating in a transparent manner, i.e., dealing openly and honestly with no hidden agendas

and listen....

- ❖ Being patient with each other and encouraging participation from everyone
- ❖ Seeking the truth from carefully attending to each person
- ❖ Seeking solutions and consensus which may involve multiple options
- ❖ Celebrating diversity, as innovation and learning are the products of differences

with love.

- ❖ Loving one another and loving people where they are in their journey
- ❖ Speaking to each other with respect, treating others the way we want to be treated
- ❖ Affirming the merit in another person's idea or concern before we note its weaknesses
- ❖ Agreeing to disagree without becoming disagreeable
- ❖ Admitting when we are wrong and asking for forgiveness, being open to reconciliation
- ❖ Honoring an apology by listening, responding, and making a sincere effort to forgive

We share in God's love by growing in faith, courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.

LENTEN OFFERINGS



Fat Tuesday "Pancake Party" Bundles: Each bundle contains masks, beads, pancake mix, and questions for a Trivia Game! Join Pastor Debbie Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 PM for a virtual pancake dinner and game; wear your Mardi Gras mask and beads! Available for pick-up at SCC beginning February 12. Lisa has developed an on-line sign-up form to let us know who is planning to participate.

Ash Wednesday: Ashes and a blessing available on February 17 noon-1:00 p.m. or 4:30-5:30 p.m. either in the Meeting House or the parking lot. Due to the pandemic, sign-up with Deborah in the church office will be offered to keep people safe.

**Promises, Promises: 2021 Lenten Devotional* available, one per couple/family. Includes a biblical text, reflection, and prayer for each day of Lent.

Vespers Lenten Program: "Lament as Worship: Praying the Psalms" Wednesdays at 7:00 PM with Pastor Debbie.

Centering Prayer: Join Lisa Haupt on Thursdays from 8:00-8:30 AM beginning February 18. Additional information on page 8.

Maundy Thursday Service: A candlelight service on April 1 at 7:00 PM in the Meeting House via Zoom. (Or: If the weather is nice, perhaps a safe-distanced outdoor service in the courtyard/ on lawn around a fire pit?)

Good Friday Open Sanctuary: The Meeting House will be open from noon to 3:00 PM for private prayer and meditation. Safety protocols will be in place. Come and see our "Stations of the Cross."

Palm Sunday: Join us for virtual worship at 10:00 AM Palms will be available for pick-up over the week-end through the deacons. Information to be provided via emails nearer to the celebration.

WILL OUR CHILDREN HAVE FAITH?



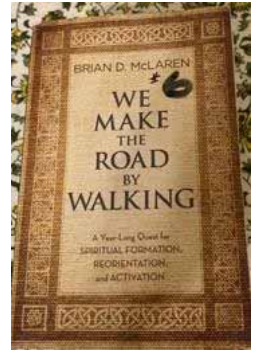
Will our children have faith? This radical question and exploration of various aspects surrounding it is discussed at length in a book titled just that, *Will Our Children Have Faith?*, written by John H. Westerhoff, III. Where to begin? I believe the place to start is in the re-visioning the future, as he writes, “the future is in our imaginations and with God. As we

celebrate the death of past understanding, we go forth, as pilgrims in faith, in search of new ones to support our educational ministry” (21). I feel hopeful and am hope-filled, as he states: “because I am more sure that God’s spirit is present and active in human life and history” (22-23). The most impressionable point he made upon me, as I recall reading this text in one of my graduate courses more than a decade ago, is that this question will be answered as we embrace a “community of faith-enculturation” (126).

What does a community of faith-enculturation look like in the 21st century? John Roberto, in *Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century: Engaging All Ages & Generations*, states his belief that “intergenerational faith formation and whole community faith experiences are at the *center* of the new faith formation ecosystem” (40). Rev. Debbie and I will be working together on planning for holistic intergenerational faith formation for our church community and exploring ideas for reaching beyond our church doors as well. I recently purchased a few books to read that Pastor Matt recommended before his departure: *Making a Home for Faith: Nurturing the Spiritual Life of Your Children* and *Leaving Home with Faith: Nurturing the Spiritual Life of our Youth*, both by Elizabeth F. Caldwell. In addition to these resources, I will begin auditing a class “Tackling the Issue: Retaining Young People in US Congregations” at Hartford Seminary for this spring semester. I look forward to sharing my learnings with you as the semester progresses.

- ***Intergenerational Faith Formation***: please look for *Faith Seeds*, included in the weekly Friday emails and join us for Sunday worship on Zoom, watch for *The Early Word*.

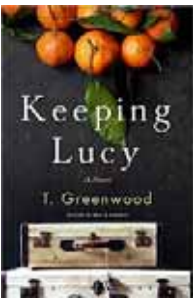
- **Centering Prayer:** on Zoom, 8:00-8:30am, each Thursday: What is Centering Prayer?—an invitation to align one’s *head, heart and body* with an intention to hear God’s still small voice speaking (*solitude, silence, stillness*). A small group meets for a brief opening prayer, 20 minutes of silence, and a short closing prayer. Please contact Lisa at lisa@storrsconchurch.org for more details.
- **Adult Faith Formation Opportunity:** There are 5 copies of the book, *We Make the Road by Walking* by Brian McLaren, available to check-out and read together. This book offers 52+ chapters (one chapter per week) that give an overview of the biblical story and a fresh introduction or re-orientation to Christian faith. Each chapter is written to be read aloud in ten to twelve minutes, and is accompanied by a set of Scripture readings, reflection/discussion questions, and liturgical resource. I would love to host a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly book discussion via Zoom for those interested. Please contact Lisa at lisa@storrsconchurch.org for more details.



~Lisa

Lisa Haupt, Director of Faith Formation

SCC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



March 21st, 2021 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom Meeting

Keeping Lucy by T. Greenwood. The heartbreaking and uplifting story, inspired by incredible true events, of how far one mother must go to protect her daughter.

Availability: SCC Library, audible and eBook, Walmart and Target (paperback) select CT libraries.

Zoom information will be distributed via email the week of the meeting.

Contact: Malta Bailey, mbailey05@snet.net

BUILDING & GROUNDS NEWS

Utility Room Leak ~ temporarily addressed...



Several weeks ago, a small drip started from a five foot by eighteen-inch cylinder mounted to the ceiling of the utility room. This highly inaccessible container serves as a pressure regulating tank for the steam system that supplies heat to the education wing and elevator hallway. It is the original tank that was present before UConn upgraded its utilities. Our regular plumber, Dennis Sadlon, determined that most of the pipes around the tank would have to be disconnected to allow replacement. Further, the leaking tank would have to be cut into thirds to remove it with a prolonged

shutdown of the system. An alternative plan is to leave the leaking tank in place and to order and then install a smaller, commercial grade cylinder in an “easier to service” location. Over the course of a week, the drip intensified into a squirting flow. This prompted us to have Dennis install a temporary tank until the new one arrives in mid-February. Once the commercial grade tank is added in the utility room, the temporary tank will be relocated and hooked up to the Meeting House system. This would serve as a backup in the event that a similar event was to take place in that heating system. The chance of a leak causing an explosion in either system is fairly remote. Fortunately, these measures will serve to prevent any such event for the future.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD – WRITE AN ADVOCACY LETTER

From Kathy Lindner, Just Peace Team

We are living in a frustrating time as a Just Peace Team and as a Just Peace Church. During this pandemic it is hard to figure out what we can do to promote healing and justice.

However, despite our limitations due to social distancing and individual health issues that prevent us from volunteering in person, here is something that I have found that you CAN do on a national level to advocate for **REDUCING HUNGER!**

Go to google on your computer and type in Bread for the World. Click on How to end Hunger and read the general information. When you're ready, click on Activist Corner at the top. Click on Take Action on the left. There is a current sample letter there to boost SNAP benefits to support vulnerable populations. Here's the tricky step. Put your cursor in the letter box...hit enter a few times....and type in the top: Dear Senator Blumenthal or Dear Senator Murphy. Then just click on Send Your Message. It will go to the right Senator with your name and address at the bottom.

So I encourage you during these difficult times as you are waiting to receive that prized Covid vaccine, to check out the Bread for the World website and complete a letter to Congress. There are things we can do!

I sent a letter recently to Senator Blumenthal concerning global nutrition programs and received the following response below.

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal <Senator@blumenthal.senate.gov>

Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 11:00 AM

To: kathyartist72@gmail.com

Dear Kathy,

Thank you for your message regarding foreign aid funding. I appreciate hearing from you.

The Trump administration's repeated budget and policy proposals to drastically reduce foreign aid demonstrated an alarming lack of commitment to American allies and national security. I look forward to

working with the Biden administration to restore American leadership in funding diplomatic efforts to reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance, and provide lifesaving assistance during humanitarian crises, including the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. Our nation must stand as a strong defender for the world's most vulnerable people and work with our allies to reduce conflict and enhance security. I strongly support funding for our International Affairs Budget – a mere one percent of the total federal budget – and I will continue to support the programs that fulfill our humanitarian commitments and maintain relations with countries that rely on American leadership in the global community.

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has demonstrated the importance of global health security funding and coordination. This global crisis requires a global response, and the United States cannot abdicate leadership. I support sustained multi-year funding of global health initiatives, which are critical to assisting the most vulnerable communities in fighting and recovering from the pandemic. Rest assured, I will continue to support foreign aid funding and advocate on behalf of programs that provide essential services to communities worldwide.

Thank you again for your message. Please feel free to reach out in the future with any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Senator Richard Blumenthal

WAIM & NO FREEZE SHELTER DONATIONS



WAIM accepts donations of winter clothing and essential household items only. Applicable items may be brought to their loading dock on Riverview Avenue, Willimantic CT, Tuesday – Saturday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon or left in the bin at the Parish

House entryway in the coatrack area.

Items for the No Freeze Shelter, such as individual shampoo, soap, body wash, lotion or new/gently used socks may also be brought to the Parish House entryway for collection.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE HAPPENINGS

Anniversary Celebrations

Janet & Adrian Atkins February 1
Ellen & Larry Mickel..... February 8
Cass Crewdson & Alice O'Donovan Feb. 28

Adrian Gibson..... 10-Feb
Molly Breault-Fisher..... 12-Feb
Stacy Malecki..... 12-Feb
Alison Latincsics..... 12-Feb
David Kapinos..... 14-Feb
Annemarie Thompson..... 15-Feb
Alexander Villar..... 16-Feb
Matthew Abell..... 16-Feb
Rebecca Shafer..... 18-Feb
Jake Harakaly..... 20-Feb
David Litrico..... 22-Feb
Greg Dione..... 22-Feb
Marcy Mochel..... 27-Feb
Peter Talbot..... 28-Feb

Birthday Celebrations

Campbell Zion..... 2-Feb
Cathy Jeffers..... 2-Feb
Rebecca Wilson..... 3-Feb
David Vaughan..... 4-Feb
Amaya Hodge..... 5-Feb
Julie Klimkiewicz..... 9-Feb
Kyle Enderle..... 9-Feb
Suzanne Hathaway..... 10-Feb

Pray For Our Military

The following list contains people called to active duty. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

- **Matt Allen**, submitted by Pam & Dick Roberts
- **Chip Greer**, submitted by Elaine Greer
- **Francis Kimenyi**, submitted by Patty Tanaka
- **Philip Lewis**, submitted by Russ Wheeler
- **Joshua & Dakota Conner**, submitted by Charlene Dickerson.

UPCOMING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, February 10th at 7:30 PM via Zoom

During this time of social distancing, the Governing Board continues to function while meeting via Zoom Meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend! If you'd like to receive the Zoom Meeting invite and materials packet (so you can follow along with the meeting), contact Deborah in the office before the upcoming meetings to be added to the group. Telephone "call in" information is available for anyone who does not have a camera or microphone for their computer. Reports or proposals for the upcoming meeting must be submitted to Sue Irvine and Malta Bailey by noon on the first Monday of the month to be included in the agenda.



SCC RAISES MORE THAN \$2,500 FOR COMMUNITY



As we settle into 2021, we would again like to thank all who participated in the 2020 Virtual Christmas Bazaar. This inaugural event was a first for us, but we are blessed to have the support of the congregation and the community at large to raise funds for a worthy cause.

Our efforts this winter included the online pre-order pecan and wreath sales, online auction and gift sales tables for in-person shopping on November 28. Bulk greens were also available for donations in our outdoor courtyard from November 28 to December 19 and were well received for a creative decoration for the holidays. Phone orders with an online “catalogue” of gifts helped with sales when the December 5 blizzard limited travel for shopping. No-contact pick-ups or delivery of items meant even those most isolated were able to participate.

Proceeds benefited the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry’s Neighbor Safety Net Fund. This fund was designed to fill the financial gap that many local families are experiencing because of the coronavirus. From lost wages to expensive childcare, many are struggling.

Thanks to the generosity of the Storrs Congregational Church community, a total of \$2,600 was donated to WAIM. WAIM Executive Director Victoria Nimirowski said the donation was “fantastic.”

“We try to be as generous with the disbursements as possible,” Victoria said. “It will go to somebody who needs it.”

Former senior minister Rev. Matthew Emery and bazaar event coordinators Pam Roberts and Annetta Miller recently gave Victoria the check.

According to early estimates from Victoria, 135 families have been helped between March and November.

“We’ve spent about \$71,000 and still have about \$50,000 to use,” Victoria said. “We are very happy to have that left. We don’t know when the next shoe will drop. Nobody knows what the future need is going to be.”

Pam commended the numerous volunteers and thanked all who shopped and supported the event. She noted, “We did something fun together none of us could have done alone. We did it modeling how to safely modify a traditional event with success in spite of the pandemic.”

Pictures from the bazaar events are available on the SCC Facebook Page.

A NOTE FROM SERVICE SEWING

Now is the time for us to focus on the greater needs of the community, nation and globe – disaster never takes a break or considers restrictions imposed because of a pandemic. Health kits are a vital resource for those affected by disaster or displacement. Ziploc bags with “shopping lists” included are available in the Parish House Lounge, stop by anytime to pick one up. Here is a list of the items that are needed to supply a Health/Hygiene Kit:

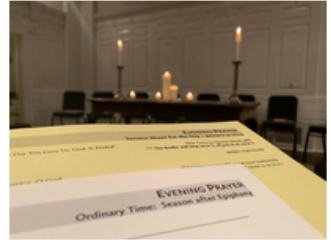
- hand towel measuring approximately 15” x 28” to 16” x 32”
- (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- washcloth
- wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- fingernail or toenail clipper, removed from the package
- bath size bar of soap, in the original package
- toothbrush, in the original package
- (10) standard size Band-Aids

All items need to fit inside a one-gallon Ziploc type bag. Remove excess air from the bag and seal before boxing. Do not add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each hygiene kit just prior to its journey. Please enclose \$2.00 for shipping fees.

Donations may be brought to the Parish House and left in the bin in the alcove in the Lounge. Monetary donations for supplies and shipping fees are greatly appreciated; checks may be made payable to SCC with “CWS Health Kits” on the memo line. If you need assistance getting your donations to the Parish House, please call the Deborah in the office to make arrangements.

Vespers with SCC: Every Wednesday @ 7:00 pm

In this time of wide-spread shutdowns and cancellations, we recognize the need for community, connection, fellowship, and worship -- perhaps now more than ever. As we all practice self-isolation, we will be offering **online midweek Vespers on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**. This service is designed specifically for the experience of online worshippers and incorporates communal and individual prayer, psalms, scripture, and the opportunity for fellowship and conversation.



[Access SCC Online Worship...](#)

Friday Tea Time: Fridays, 3:30 – 4:30 PM

Join other SCC-ers for a Friday fellowship opportunity, simply for casual conversation and social contact with one another. The Zoom Meeting will be open from 3:30 to 4:30 PM (i.e. "tea time"). All you need to do is "show up" on the Zoom Meeting. Feel free to bring a snack and your favorite beverage (it doesn't have to be tea!).



Join Zoom Meeting (note, this is not the same link as for Worship Services) :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81616273810?pwd=ME9IL2U2azdYRjJnMkxPT1ZpRIQ1UT09>

Telephone Access:

Phone: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 816 1627 3810

Password: 722786777 ("SCCStorrs")

FoodShare Distribution: Thursday, February 11th & 25th at 11:30 AM

The town of Mansfield works in collaboration with other faith based as well as non-profit organizations to assist individuals and families who have food insecurities.



Distribution Procedure...

Please wait in your vehicle and traffic will be directed by our resident troopers for distribution. Guests will remain in their vehicle and bags will be placed in the trunk of the vehicle. All bags are the same and there will be no exchange of items. We ask participants to wear a face covering, which can be as simple as a handkerchief or bandana. We are in this together and let's do what we can to keep each other safe during this time.

Mobile FoodShare is a pantry-on-wheels bringing fresh produce and other food to our neighbors in need. The program increases healthy food and nutrition opportunities for many in the area. The mobile food truck distributes food at 303 Maple Rd, Storrs, CT 06268 every other Thursdays at 11:30 am - noon. No sign up is required

Storrs Congregational Church
2 North Eagleville Rd.
Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268

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