

The Carillon

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

February 2015

The People of God at Worship: February

FEB 1: The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Holy Communion

Pastor Matt preaching: “By What Authority?”

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 & Mark 1:21-28

FEB 8: The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastor Matt preaching: “Have You Not Heard?”

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

FEB 15: The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Pastor Matt preaching: “Changing Visions”

Scripture: 2nd Kings 2:1-12 & Mark 9:2-9

This week's service will be a part of the National Preach-In on Global Warming sponsored by Interfaith Power & Light

FEB 18: Ash Wednesday – Services at 12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the Easter mysteries of Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness.

FEB 22: The 1st Sunday in Lent

Pastor Nancy preaching

Scripture: Psalm 25:1-10 & Mark 1:9-15

FEB 25: Manna in the Wilderness – Mid-week Communion

A contemplative time of worship and Holy Communion in the Waggoner Chapel, each Wednesday during Lent, 5:45 – 6:15 pm.



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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*
- **Matthew Ducharme**, *submitted by Adrian & Janet Atkins*
- **Chip Greer**, *submitted by Elaine Greer*
- **Joel Higley**, *submitted by Betty Robinson*
- **Francis Kimenyi**, *submitted by Patty Tanaka*
- **Philip Lewis**, *submitted by Russ Wheeler*
- **Jared Muth**, *submitted by Janet Atkins*
- **Eric Stailing**, *submitted by Bryan & Susan Stailing*
- **Marta Tanaka**, *submitted by Patty Tanaka*
- **Paul Tanaka**, *submitted by Patty Tanaka*
- **Lamont Ward**, *submitted by Nichole Gronski Ward*

If you know of someone who should be on this list (or have a correction), please contact the church office. Thank you.

Items for the March Carillon should be submitted to Deborah in the office by February 15th. Thank you for your cooperation!

The Carillon is the monthly newsletter of

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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HAVE A MINUTE?

Thoughts from Pastor Matt...

In lieu of my typical "Have a Minute?" column, this month

I share with you the "State of the Church" address I gave at our 2015 Annual Meeting on January 25th:

Good afternoon! It's my honor to stand before you today as the senior minister of this church to invite you for a few moments to think with me about where we are and where we are headed together.

Now, back in a previous era before most churches had in-house printing capability—mimeographs and the like, followed, of course, by our modern photocopiers and printers—it was a regular thing for the minister to address the congregation with an annual report at the annual meeting. You've already got my annual report, though, in your hands, so I don't plan to simply repeat all the data and facts from that now.

I do want to draw your attention to a number, though. 525,600 [*this was displayed on screen*]. Does anyone recognize this number? Perhaps this will help. [*At this point, a video of the song "Seasons of Love" from the Broadway musical Rent was played.*] In arguably the best known number from the hit musical *Rent* by

Jonathan Larson, which ran on Broadway from 1996 to 2008, we are asked 'how do you measure a year?' Is it simply the 525,600 minutes? Is it enumerated by the hours of daylight seen, the cups of coffee consumed, the truths that a woman learned, or the times that a man cried?

In reflecting on the state of a church—of any church, of our church—you could look for signs like those, and many do. Is the state of our church as we enter 2015 measured by the number of people we have in the pews on a Sunday morning, or the number of clergy we are proud to tell others we have in the chancel, or the relative increase or decrease in our budget? Or perhaps it's not simply the quantities of things. Maybe it's about the moments... moments of beauty that raise our spirits, moments of majesty that move our souls, moments of care that make us feel connected and embraced.

In any of these ways, the numbers and the moments, I would say that things here at the Storrs Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, are going pretty well. In a broader cultural climate in which church attendance across the board is declining, in all geographic regions and in all denominational traditions, we've been able over the past three or so years to at least stay stable. In times when plenty of churches are facing severe financial pinches, eating away at endowments

and adopting budgets with four- and five-digit deficits, we have for the moment kept a sound financial house and comparatively very-well-maintained facilities—even if it's not always all that we might want. And the moments... beauty and majesty, absolutely these have been abundant, and even more so care: the spirit of care that you, the people of this congregation, have for one another and for others is simply astounding. It really is.

As we look ahead to 2015 and beyond, the reality is that we are going to inevitably spend a good bit of time in the coming year talking and working with matters of governance. Governance is, I do believe, a significant issue we need to deal with in this congregation. But just like how the spirit of care and compassion living deep in the soul of this congregation doesn't have to do with numbers, neither do I believe the important shifts we need to make in governance are about numbers. Our success with this transformation will *not* be measured simply in the number of elected positions we end up with, or the precise enumerations of policies and powers—as important as those things will be.

Rather, all of this work on governance has to do with *how we see ourselves and each other*. Do we want leadership that actually *leads*, and are we willing to trust each other enough to let that happen?

Are we willing to explore new ways of working and being together, even and especially if we don't have all the details worked out right at first, in order that we can begin the journey toward being the church God needs us to be today, tomorrow, and into the future?

And, in the end, all this governance stuff is also about how we understand what our *purpose* is as a church... which, my friends, is not ultimately to *run* a church. Yes, that's right, and I'll say it again. Our purpose as a church is *not* to *run* a church. Our purpose is to take part in God's mission, to be a part of the things God is doing to and in and for the world. Our prayer, as Church Council and many of our boards have been praying together each month for nearly 3 years now, is that God would "bless what we do, *so that we can do* that which God is already blessing." We need to never forget that, as individuals or as this body together.

The "Seasons of Love" song from *Rent* asks "how about love?" It admonishes us to "*measure in love*". Indeed, in 2015, let us make the measurements of the Storrs Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, be the measurements of love. Not only—or perhaps not even—the love which we demonstrate here within our own walls and among our own people. But let it be the love of God which this campus of the University

of Connecticut, this community of Storrs and Mansfield, this region of central northeastern Connecticut, and this whole world comes to know and experience... *because* of what we're doing and believing and saying and praying here. Let us measure our fundraising success *not* by whether we can raise more money to support our own operations, but rather by how much we can raise for others, using the gifts and resources we already have. Let us measure the effectiveness of our governance *not* by whether any one of us has had the opportunity to have our *own* say, but by whether or not the voice of God was heard in our midst, and whether we followed it.

All of this brings me back to one final number, perhaps the only number that truly matters: one. That 'one' is each one of you. Each one of you has the power to decide whether and how you will be fully part of this church's work to take part in God's mission to the world. Each one of you has gifts to share and a calling to fulfill. Each one of you can make the choice to approach fellow congregants and identified leaders in the spirit of trust and openness and exploration. Each one of you has been claimed by none other than Jesus Christ, and each one of you has been joined by Christ into this rag-tag collection of people called church... *so that* together we can be the instrument by which God blesses others and all the world.

May it be so, in 2015 and forever. Amen.

Parking Concerns

With all of the snow that's fallen and students back at school, the parking lot has become very crowded and a little chaotic at certain times of the day.

Wednesday is the most active day of the week, starting at 8:45 and going until 2:00 pm.

Please check with the office before scheduling meetings or gatherings between 11:00 and 2:00 as this is the time when our lot is the busiest.

Thankyou!





“Seeds of Hope”
Number 5
in a series sponsored by the Green Team
written by Don Hoyle
Earth Crisis/America's Dilemma



With the purposed upcoming Paris climate summit in December of this year, there are now some signs of hope that the nations of the world can come together to save their common home, Mother Earth. After nearly 20 years and several climate summits in Kyoto, Qatar, Copenhagen, BuenosAires, and most recently the Conference of Parties (COP) gathered this past December in Lima, it is hoped that the nations of the world are ready to work on a formula for self-imposed decreases in greenhouse gases to curb the pollution that is causing global warming.

The big stumbling block from the beginning of negotiations in Kyoto in 1997 was the inequality of the decrease of green house gases being needed and requested. The developing countries should in fairness have the opportunity to continue to pollute in order to develop and industrialize for their people.

At the recent Lima COP the following agreements were made:

- the creation of the U.N. Green Climate Fund from which money will be made available to help developing countries use green technologies;
- an equitable formula that will be used to help developing and developed countries set their self-imposed goals of reduction of greenhouse gases

Last November President Obama made an agreement with China that allows China until 2030 to reach their peak pollution of greenhouse gases. At the same time, by 2025 the U.S. should decrease our pollution levels by an addition 26% from the 2005 levels. (We have the technology to do this.) The European Union pledged to cut emissions 40% by 2030 based on 1990 levels. Other countries have until the end of March to prepare their self-imposed goals to take to the Paris summit in December of this year.

I call this our American Dilemma because to many in our country this does not seem fair or possible. The first factor to bring into our equation is our motto of “No one can do everything, but everyone can (and should) do something.” What we are talking about here is the future state of our common home, Mother Earth, in which we are all saved together or destroyed

together. This is probably the first time in human history that what happens to one, happens to all.

When I turn to the scriptures of our Judeo-Christian heritage, I think of the Old Testament prophet Micah saying, “What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8) In our Christian scriptures, we read, “From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.” (Luke 12:48b) All this is emphasized in the Sermon on the Mount when Jesus says, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth . . . for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matt: 6:19-21) Then Luke, in chapter 12, tells of the rich fool who built bigger and bigger barns to store his wealth only to find out that tomorrow he would die.

In articles I have been reading in environmental newsletters, the theme is often that our true hope is in the grassroots involvement our democracy. We know our democracy seems to be in a log-jamb of unproductive debate, but there are many and increasing environmental issues that are calling for our involvement. A quote from the Fall 2014 issue of “Friends of the Earth,” presents its source of grassroots hope by saying, “As students, clergy, and ordinary folks around the country convince their colleges, faith-based institutions, and local governments to divest from fossil fuels, we hope for an increasingly powerful base of people whose voices raised together will drown out the clink of cash from the fossil fuel industries.” (Page 10)

Our church's recent program to replace light bulbs in our sanctuary from 40 watt incandescent bulbs to 2 watt LED bulbs is a good example of grassroots steps that need to be taken for it will decrease the amount of CO₂ emissions by 80%. As the scriptures teach us, “From whom much is given, much should be required. So let us love kindness, do justice, and walk humbly with our God.



Heard it at Council

Council Minutes – January 6, 2015

1. **Lighting of the Candles and Time of Centering (Ray Joesten)** - Tonight we have important issues to discuss, but count on guidance from our God. The first candle was for our infinite God (In the beginning was the WORD). The second candle represented the light that our church shines on the darkness in our world. The third candle is the light we, the council, strive to shine on the issues facing the congregation.
2. **Prayer of Blessing**
3. **Time of Sharing: Joys & Concerns.** Special kudos to Ray as he completes a year as Chair
4. **Prayer of Praise**
5. **Notes from Leadership**
 - a. Council Chair's Notes
 - Ray noted some loose ends for the incoming Chair – performance reviews for staff
 - Annual Meeting on January 25, 2015
 - Safe Church Compliance is the responsibility of the Personnel Committee - to review Safe Church Policies and recommend updates if appropriate
 - b. Pastor Matt's Notes
 - Governance Task Force: Easel Chats are being held and a workshop will be held as part of the Annual Meeting on January 25th, to help people discuss and learn about what was covered in the issue of The Gist of It that came out shortly before Christmas. Need to broaden the base of persons attending Chats, as many who have participated thus far are people GTF has already heard from.
6. **Consent Agenda** Any member may request that a specific item be removed from the Consent Agenda for full consideration by the Council.
 - The Council approves the minutes for the December 2, 2014, meeting.
 - The Council receives the Treasurer's Report for November, 2015).

As no request was made to move an item off the Consent Agenda, the Chair declared the Consent Agenda **Adopted without dissent.**

7. Teaching and Listening. Pastor Matt led a discussion of a 5-stage procedure for implementing change based on the 6 Growth Forces and 8 Quality Characteristics that we have studied previously. The 5 stages are: prepare, assess, plan, implement, evaluate. A survey tool can expedite the construction of this procedure.

8. Prayerful Consideration of Council Business.

An agenda for the Annual Meeting was introduced. It will be polished and used on January 25. An old-fashioned potluck lunch will be served before the meeting.

9. Round the Room.

- a. **(Pam) The Women's Fellowship Annual Report** should be embedded in the **Council's Annual Report.**
- b. **(Carolyn)** In the future, budget actions should be, to the extent possible, widely distributed in a timely fashion.

10. A Time of Prayer, the Lord's Prayer

II. Blessing and Benediction

Council Members Present

Ray Joesten (former Chair)

Suzanne Hathaway (Chair)

Pastor Matt Emery

Chuck Vinsonhaler (Clerk)

Donna Latincsics (Finance)

Carolyn Holmy (Outreach)

Jane Joesten (Women's Fellowship)

Pam Roberts (Call to Care)

Next Council Meeting – Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 7:00 pm

Chuck Vinsonhaler, Clerk

Our Faith Formation Journey continues...

Sunday School is geared to students in grades PK-8. As has been our practice during this year, children will be invited to gather in the Auditorium following the Early Message (in worship), for a brief gathering time before classes begin. We hope to see you there!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

Sunday School – “Regular” Sunday School continues this month, and we welcome a new teacher! Jamie Lang-Rodean has joined the team as a teacher for the grades 2-4 class. With gratitude to Sue Irvine for her long-term and incredibly generous and gracious ministry to this class for the last few years, we also welcome Jamie’s presence and experience.

Junior Pilgrim Fellowship and Senior Pilgrim Fellowship dates
Stay tuned! Pastor Nancy will contact the groups directly about plans for the month of February. If you are not currently receiving emails from her about the PF programs, but would like to be, please let Nancy know.
Contact: Pastor Nancy
(nancy@storrcongchurch.org) or
Peter Lang-Rodean
(mtbcrazy84@live.com).

Nursery – Our Uconn work-study students are back after their winter

break. Our nursery is staffed by two students from 9:30-11:30 weekly, and for special events at the church. Check out the great work they are doing there to make our children feel at home in their church!

ADULT PROGRAMS

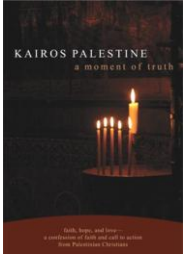
The Adult Sunday School continues to meet on *Sunday mornings in Room 201 at 9:00 am* in the Christian Education building and invites YOU to join! EVERYONE is welcome to join this group who are seeking to continually be formed in faith and educated about the Christian tradition. *Contact: Kate Alexander* (ktla2011@aol.com).

C.A.F.E. Storrs is also a great opportunity for adult learners to explore for their faith! We will be meeting every Wednesday from 10:30 am until noon. We drink coffee, study and discuss a Biblical and/or faith related topic together. This month, we will begin a Lenten study.

Women on the Way will gather again on February 24th from 5:30-7:30 pm. Women on the Way is a faith formation program offered by the women of the church for the women of the church! Feel free to come for food and conversation, no matter your age or place on God’s journey. Childcare will be provided if needed or wanted (moms should come too!), just let Pastor Nancy know. (nancy@storrcongchurch.org).

There are two adult course offerings for the adults of our congregation!

Adult Formation: Kairos Palestine
February 8th and 15th @ 11:30 am
 (following worship)



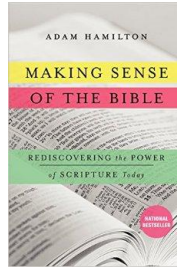
Join us for the final two weeks of a study of *Kairos Palestine*, a Christian perspective on the struggle for justice

in Israel/Palestine, led by Pastor Nancy. Though the conversation began in early January, you are still welcome to join in. This is an open group! All are welcome, and encouraged to come join a great group of minds for an intellectually and spiritually challenging study of an important document.

In addition, Pastor Nancy will be co-leading a trip to Israel-Palestine from March 10-20, and there are still openings to join in. If you are interested in joining her, or even thinking that you might be, this study will be a great introduction to the issue, and a wonderful way to grow in faith together.

For more info, contact Pastor Nancy: nancy@storrscongchurch.org or 860-429-9382 XII

Adult Formation: Bible 101 -
Making Sense of the Bible
6 Wednesdays, January 21 – March 4
@ 6:30 pm (enrollment continues until



February 4th, not meeting Feb. 18)

How and when was the Bible written? Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why? How literally should we read it? Is the Bible ever wrong?

These are honest questions people all across the spectrum ask about the collection of writings called the Bible that we Christians use as holy scripture. Led by Pastor Matt, this six-session series will invite you into an honest conversation about questions like these and more.

Making use of the book *Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today* by Adam Hamilton, we'll seek to explore and unpack our questions about the Bible and what it is... but more importantly, we'll hopefully seek after a deeper appreciation of the Bible so that we might hear God speak through it and find its words to be life-changing and life-giving.

Though the class has started, new participants are welcome to enroll up until February 4th.

For more info, contact Pastor Matt: matt@storrscongchurch.org or 860-429-9382 XII

Library News...

During the next weeks the library will be offering selections in support of current programs and activities. There are currently two groups meeting weekly. The Kairos Palestine discussion with Pastor Nancy following worship in the library began on Jan 4. Pastor Matt is leading Bible 101 - Making Sense of the Bible began meeting on Wednesday evenings. For more details on each group are available in the January Carillon.

Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the Lenten period, is Feb 18. There are many books available for adults to experience the 40 day journey. Come look at the many devotional books, Bible companion interpretations, concordances, and books dedicated to biblical quotations. Also, we have a wide selection of versions of the Bible. Some of the newer versions offer young people a more familiar vernacular than the NRSV, which we use in worship. For children we have books on the meaning of Lent and Easter.

We will also be aware of Ground Hog Day, Black History Month, and President's Day. Can Easter and Spring be far away? Select some titles to enjoy during the snowy days we are sure to have. See you in the library!

Do you or your child want to take books out of the church library but do not know how? There is a card in a pocket in back of each book. Just take the card out, put the due date on it and your name. Place the card in the envelope on the placard which also has the due date on it. Then put the due date on the pocket in the back of the book. Now you have your books for a month, with no overdue fee if you are late.

Upcoming Pick-A-Parties



Are you looking for something to do to drive away the dull drums of late winter in New England? How about a Pick-A-Party?

Chinese New Year Dumpling Demo

1:00 pm, Saturday, February 21

Ukrainian Egg Decorating Party

12:00 pm, Sunday, March 1

Call or visit Deborah in the Church Office and she will help you sign up and accept your payment. While pre-registration is encouraged, walk-ins are welcome! Feel free to invite your friends. Thank you for your support! **Party on SCC!**

Parties still available:

Exploring the High Teas

1:00 pm, Saturday, March 7

Sumptuous Southern Brunch

11:30 am, Sunday, March 29

Sing Out! (Folk sing & play along)

7:00 pm, Saturday, April 11

Basics of Gluten-free baking

2:00 pm, Saturday, May 23

Men's Chili Cook-off

12:00 pm, Sunday, September 13

Plant to Plate Party

6:00 pm, Saturday, September 27

News of Our Parish Family

Anniversary Celebrations — "A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person."
Mignon McLaughlin

Janet & Adrian Atkins.....February 1

Ellen & Larry Mickel.....February 8

Cass Crewdson &

Alice O'Donovan.....February 28

Birthday Celebrations —

Kathleen Rice	02/01
Campbell Sion.....	02/02
Rebecca Wilson.....	02/03
David Vaughan.....	02/04
David Vaughan Jr.	02/04
Janet Jordan.....	02/08
Kyle Enderle.....	02/09
Julie Klimkiewicz.....	02/09
Chloe Gibson.....	02/10
Suzanne Hathaway.....	02/10
Bob Ignatowicz.....	02/11
Gail Ignatowicz.....	02/11
Molly Breault-Fisher.....	02/12
Alison Latincsics.....	02/12
Stacy Malecki.....	02/12
Melissa McLaren.....	02/14
Bethany Dixon.....	02/15
Annemarie Thompson.....	02/15
Matthew Abell.....	02/16
Alexander Villar.....	02/16
Hilary Martin-Himan.....	02/17
Rebecca Shafer.....	02/18
Jake Harakaly.....	02/20
Greg Dione.....	02/22
David Litrico.....	02/22
Willard Daniels.....	02/27
Martha Mochel.....	02/27
Peter Talbot.....	02/28

In Memoriam — *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."*
1Corinthians 2:9

Donna Hartigan, former SCC member passed away, Friday, January 16th, 2015. May she rest in peace and rise in glory!

Sunday Morning Servers

Week 1 – February 1st

Litugist: Carolyn Holmy

Ushers: Paul Schur, Donna Latincsics,
Elizabeth Ross, Jacob Griffith
Gardner

Greeter: Janice Palmer

Welcome Table Host: Lisa Gregus

Fellowship: Elizabeth Cowles

Week 2 – February 8th

Litugist: Paul Schur

Ushers: Donna Latincsics, Carolyn
Holmy, Dana Gregus, Sue Irvine

Greeter: Linda Blum

Welcome Table Host: Lisa Gregus

Fellowship: Elizabeth Ross

Week 3 – February 15th

Litugist: Duffy Brookes

Ushers: Cheryl Roy, Nancy Rucker,
Chauncy Rucker

Greeter: Brenda Bergen

Welcome Table Host: Paul Schur

Fellowship: Marsha Creese

Week 4 – February 22nd

Litugist: Sue Irvine

Ushers: Lynn Brown, Dulcie Vannais,
Eileen Griffin, Malta Bailey

Greeter: Charles Vinsonhaler

Welcome Table Host: Eileen Metzgar

Fellowship: Dianne Sprague

Week 5 – March 1st

Litugist: David Litrico

Ushers: Janice Palmer, Carolyn Holmy,
Elizabeth Ross, Robert Malecki

Greeter: Marjorie Brown

Welcome Table Host: Patty Tanaka

Fellowship: Sondra Morrison

Week 6 – March 8th

Litugist: Carol Jordan

Ushers: Pamela Roberts, Duffy Brookes,
Greg Mills, Laura Mills

Greeter: Christianne Glenn-Long

Welcome Table Host: VACANT

Fellowship: Donna Latincsics

If you are interested in serving in one of the roles listed above or for filling in a VACANT spot, please contact a member of the **Fellowship Board** or call Deborah in the office for assistance getting signed up.

A Middle East Feast

And

FUNDRAISING KICK-OFF

YOU ARE INVITED!

Sunday February 8, 2015 at NOON

Middle Eastern favorites will be served for a free-will donation to kick off our church-wide fundraising efforts in support of our SCC Senior PF Members and Tree of Life delegates: Hannah Montgomery, Carly Smith and Laura Blum. Meet the youth and find out more about their planned journey to Palestine March 10-20, 2015.

Share a scrumptious menu including:

Falafel	Stuffed Grape Leaves
Mujaddra	Hummus Pita Olives
Tabbouleh	An assortment of cheeses
Baklava	Mint Tea

Free-will donations accepted - Food value estimate \$12-\$15 A \$20-\$30 donation will cover food & help us meet our goal.

Make checks out to "SCC", "2015 Holy Land Trip" in memo line.

Want to be involved? Choose how and make contact:

- DONATE A DISH-Nancy McLaren (nancy@storrscngchurch.org)
- SET-UP 8:30 Contact Melissa & Keith (Melissa.McLaren@icloud.com)
- KITCHEN CREW 9:00 Contact Kenny (kmclaren@stfranciscare.org)
- GREET/SERVE/CLEAN-UP Contact Dianne (dispraguew@gmail.com)

OR

Just come for the FUN, giving of your presence and a generous donation to help SCC raise the funds to support these young people in this incredible opportunity.



The Tree of Life Educational Fund (TOL) provides cross-cultural and transnational travel experiences, interfaith conferences and educational opportunities to help participants to become more enlightened and more engaged in making this a more just and peaceful world in which to live.

The March 10-20, 2015 interfaith trip to Israel/Palestine titled “**Rejecting Violence and Seeking Enclaves of Beauty**” will be led by Rev. Dr. Steve Jungkeit, Senior Minister of the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme (CT), and Rev. Nancy Boldt McLaren, Minister for Faith Formation and Discipleship at Storrs Congregational Church (CT), with artistic support from violinist Michael Dabroski, MM. Musicians, writers, visual artists, and photographers will join in learning more about aesthetic efforts for justice and peace in Israel/Palestine and in sharing their own artistic gifts. (For more information go to: <http://www.tolef.org> .



Laura Blum
E.O. Smith Junior



Hannah Montgomery
E.O. Smith Sophomore



Carly Smith
E.O. Smith Junior

Our SCC delegates have been offered underwriting from the Tree of Life Education Fund to cover the \$3,300 per person cost. With the help of their families and the support of our congregation, fundraising efforts with a goal of \$10,000 between now and October 1, 2015 are underway to cover the underwritten costs so others may participate in the future. **On February 8 we will announce advanced gifts to the fund. Can we raise \$2,500 from gifts and donations by then?**



UCC UConn's
Annual

Fundraising Dinner & Silent Auction

UCC UConn is hosting our Annual Valentine's Day Dinner!!!

This year the dinner falls on Valentine's Day and we will be hosting three dinner seatings for your convenience:

<i>Date & Time</i>	Friday, February 13 th at 6:30 pm
	Saturday, February 14 th at 5:00 pm
	Saturday, February 14 th at 7:30 pm.

Reservations can be made by sending an email to uccuconnasb@gmail.com or by contacting a member of UCC UConn after church on Sunday, February 8th.

<i>Ticket Prices</i>	Adult seats are \$25
	Student seats are \$20
	Childcare is provided for \$5

Menu

Fruit and Cheese Platter and Fresh Spring Mix Salad with Balsamic Dressing
Surf and Turf: Beef Tenderloin Medallions with Bordelaise Sauce and Baked Stuffed Sole Florentine with Almond Butter
Vegetarian: Eggplant Rollatini.
Desserts: Carrot Cake or Chocolate Flourless Torte

The main course will be served with Twice Baked Potato and a Harvest Blend Vegetable.

This dinner and the accompanying silent auction serves as one of our biggest fundraisers. This year we will be serving the community of Moore, OK and all proceeds will be used to make our alternative spring break. Thank you for your support.



WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

World Interfaith Harmony Month

In 2010 the United Nations officially established that henceforth the first week in February is designated as ***World Interfaith Harmony Week*** “to recognize the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding... to encourage the spread of the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill....to recognize the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions in enhancing mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people.”

This year, 2015, northeast CT is joining the worldwide interfaith efforts.

Through the Hochberg Fund for Holocaust and Human Rights Education, Temple Bnai Israel working with an Inter-Faith committee, has expanded the Interfaith Harmony celebration in our area to include informative conversations on the Sunday afternoons in February. 2015. Each conversation will increase our individual knowledge and understanding of how religious diversity came to be.

February 8 2 PM Temple Bnai Israel, 345 Jackson St., Willimantic
Diversity Within Judaism. Jerry Fischer, Executive Director, Jewish Federation of Eastern CT

February 15 2 PM First Church of Christ, Mansfield Center Rte. 195 & Rte. 89
Diversity Within Christianity Rev. Dr. Lois K. Happe, former Reg. Minister, CT Conf. of United Church of Christ (CTUCC)

February 22 2 PM Storrs Friends Meetinghouse, 57 Hunting Lodge Rd (corner No Eagleville Rd) ***Diversity Within Islam*** Dr. Farah Choudhry and Mr. Mongi Dhaouadi, Muslim Coalition of CT

Questions/comments: lemora@aol.com 860-228-9293

Board & Committee Meetings

- Feb. 3 Council Meeting, 7:00 pm
(Lounge)
- Feb. 8 Properties Board, 11:45 am
(Memorial Room)
- Feb. 23 Outreach, 5:00pm (Library)
- Feb. 10 Christian Ed., 5:30pm (Lounge)
- Feb. 11 Deacons, 5:30 pm (Lounge)
- Feb. 8 Christian Fellowship, 8:45 am
(Lounge)
- Feb. 11 Music Board, 6:30 pm (Library)
- Feb. 16 Finance Board, 7:00 pm (Library)
- Feb. 26 Prayer Shawl, 10:00 am (Library)
- WF Executive Board, 1:30 pm
(Library)

Activities & Events

- Feb. 4, 11, 25 Bible 101, 6:30 pm, Library
- Feb. 8 Middle East Feast,
12:00 noon, Auditorium
- Feb. 8 & 15 Kairos Palestine Adult
Formation, 11:30 am, Library
- Feb. 13 UCC Uconn Annual Valentine
Dinner and Silent Auction,
6:30 pm, Auditorium
- Feb. 14 UCC Uconn Annual Valentine
Dinner and Silent Auction,
5:00 & 7:30 pm, Auditorium
- Feb. 17 Pancake Dinner,
5:30 pm, Auditorium
- Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday Service,
12:00 noon & 7:00 pm, Meeting
House
- Feb. 21 Chinese New Year Dumpling
Cooking Demo, 1:00 pm,
Auditorium
- Feb. 24 Women on the Way,
5:30 pm, Lounge
- Feb. 25 Mid-weekLenten Communion
5:15 pm, Waggoner Chapel
- Mar. 1 Ukranian Egg Decorating,
12:00 noon, Auditorium
- Mar. 7 Exploring the High Teas,
1:00 pm, Lounge

Gatherings and Rehearsals

- Adult Choir, Sunday @ 9:00 and
Thursday @ 7:30 pm, MH Chancel
- Adult Forum, Sunday @ 9:00 am, CE
-Room 201
- Service Sewing, Monday @ 9:30 am
- Library Open, Sunday & Tuesday
@ 9:30 am
- Parish Piecers, Wednesday
@ 9:30 am, Ed. Bldg.- 2nd Floor
- C.A.F.E. Storrs, Wednesday
@ 10:30 am, Library
- Adult Handbells, Thursday
@ 6:30 pm, MH Balcony

UConn Activities at SCC

- Capoeira Club, Monday @ 8:00 pm &
Wednesday @ 7:00 pm (Auditorium)
- UConn Swing & Blues Dance, Tuesday @
7:00 pm (Auditorium)
- UConn Ballroom Dance, Thursday @
7:00 pm (Auditorium)

Community Activities & Events

- Feb. 7 A Quiet Corner Contra Dance,
8:00 pm (7:30 for lessons)
- Feb. 5 & 19 Foodshare Distribution,
11:30 am Wright's Village
- Feb. 28 Extreme Measures: A Cappella
Concert, 7:00 pm, Meeting House

FYI – Morning Lounge Usage

The Senior Fitness Group will be using the Lounge on Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings from 8:30 – 9:45 for their exercise class. *Parking may be limited at that time!*



Washington's Birthday is a United States federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday of February in honor of George

Washington, the first President of the United States. Colloquially, it is widely known as "Presidents Day" and is often an occasion to remember all the presidents, not just George Washington or Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday is also in February.[1] The term "Presidents Day" was informally coined in a deliberate attempt to use the holiday to honor multiple presidents and is virtually always used that way today.[2]

With official names including Presidents' Day, President's Day and Washington's and Lincoln's Birthday, the day is also a state holiday in most states.[1] It officially celebrates, depending upon the state, Washington alone, Washington and Lincoln, or some other combination of U.S. presidents.[1] Some states celebrate Washington and the third president Thomas Jefferson but not Lincoln.[1] Both Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays are in February.[3] In historical rankings of Presidents of the United States both Lincoln and Washington are frequently, but not always, the top two presidents.

The office and buildings will be closed on Monday, February 16 in observance of the holiday.



The Outreach Board extends a very warm thank you for your generous giving of the many hats, gloves and scarves that decorated the tree in the Meeting House during Advent. The adult items were delivered to the No Freeze Hospitality Center, and all the children's items were brought to WAIM "to squeals of delight" (and that was just the staff).



Storrs Congregational Church

2 North Eagleville Rd.

Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268

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