

The Carillon

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

Incorporated 1921

WORSHIP AT STORRS CONGREGATIONAL:

May 2021

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

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

MAY 2: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER WITH COMMUNION

Pastor Debbie preaching: "Vinedresser"

Scripture: Psalm 22: 25-31 and John 15: 1-8

MAY 9: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER AND MOTHER'S DAY

Pastor Debbie preaching "Abiding in Love"

Scripture: Psalm 98 and John 15: 9-17

MAY 16: SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Rev. Elizabeth Garrigan-Byerly, SNEC Area Conference Minister preaching

MAY 23: PENTECOST SUNDAY AND STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

Pastor Debbie preaching "Spirit for All"

Scripture: Acts 2: 1-21

MAY 30: TRINITY SUNDAY AND OUTDOOR SERVICE WITH COFFEE HOUR AT 10:00 AM

Pastor Debbie preaching "Mysterious Encounter"

(Bring your lawn chair and face mask!)

Scripture: John 3: 1-17

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. Feedback is greatly appreciated via email, sccoffice@storrscongchurch.org.

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A Just Peace Church



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BUILDING & GROUNDS NEWS

May presents an ideal time for spring projects that help beautify our buildings and grounds. Possible chores you might consider range from simple to complex and short-term to several hours. Many of the suggested projects center around preparations for the June 19th wedding of Laura Della Fera and June 26th funeral of Jan Muller. This is a chance for those of you who knew them to help us create an environment for these events which will show off our great facilities. If you can volunteer some hours during May, let me match you up with a project you might enjoy. Please contact Duffy Brookes (thebrookes@aol.com) if interested.

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.storrscongchurch.org

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ALONG THE JOURNEY WITH PASTOR DEBBIE



Dear Ones,

We have so much going on this month; all good things, for sure! I am so looking forward to our Spring Fair on May 8 and having the opportunity to meet and welcome people at the “coffee cart.” This will be such a wonderful opportunity for SCC to share our warm fellowship and our ministries with the community.

On May 16, our area conference minister, The Rev. Elizabeth Garrigan-Byerly, will be offering the sermon and joining us for virtual coffee hour. At this time, I am not sure if Rev. Liz will be here in person or will be on Zoom. More information on her sermon title and bio will be forthcoming.

On May 30, Trinity Sunday, we will hold our first outdoor worship service (weather permitting) and coffee hour. I hope to see you all there! Please bring your lawn chair, face mask, and plan to stay for safe-distancing coffee hour.



Happy Mother’s Day to all of our moms, grandmoms, and great-grandmoms on May 9!

Looking ahead a bit to June...we are planning to have a Service Project Sunday on **June 6** somewhere on campus. Families will be invited to participate in the project and then meet outdoors at the church at 11:00 a.m. for reflections, closing prayer, and coffee hour (which will also serve as our Communion that day!).

On Saturday, **June 12**, Lisa and I will be leading a women’s retreat, “A Prayerful Pause,” at Mercy by the Sea in Madison. Check out the flyer in the *Carillon* and also on the website. I hope many of you will sign up for this special get-away day!

I continue to meet with the deacons and the ministry team coordinators on purpose and role, how what we do relates to our mission, and organization and structure – all designed to best meet the

needs of our congregants and community. Claire and I are also meeting to update and refresh our church website.

Now that the weather is turning warmer, please let me know if you would like a home visit or would like to meet here at the church in the courtyard. You are always welcome to stop by anytime to say “hello!”

Thank you for all of the many hours spent volunteering on our spring fair, food pantry, caring ministry, and outreach ministries – and for keeping our church connected and active through meetings and small group gatherings. **“Here we are, ordinary people, called to be the Holy People of God.”** You are indeed!

Spring blessings to you all,
Pastor Debbie



Governing Board *Minutes*

Regular Meeting -April 14, 2021

.A. = attachment in Board packet

Sue Irvine called meeting to order with prayer at 7:36 PM.

Board Attendance:

- Malta Bailey
- Bruce Bergen
- Jane Ann Bobbitt
- Elaine Chague
- Cass Crewdson
- Darryl Hilliard
- Nolan Klimkiewicz
- Paul Schur
- Nancy Tomastik
- Pastor Debbie
- Stacy Malecki (clerk)

Present to speak at this evening's meeting.

There was nobody present to speak at this meeting, however the board used this time to discuss a couple of small miscellaneous topics.

- 1) Sue reported on a card received from Pastor Matt which thanked the church for the purse that he received and included a tithe donation to the minister's discretionary fund.

- 2) Duffy requested permission to hang a Pride Flag on a pole near the church's sign. Jane Ann Bobbitt made a motion to approve Duffy's recommendation to install the Pride Flag on a pole near the sign. This was seconded by Elaine Chague and Nancy Tomastik. This motion was approved.
- 3) Duffy requested board input on repurposing the chapel. The Board would like to create a task force and charge them with developing a plan and proposed workscope. The intent is to identify members of this task force over the next few weeks and appoint the team at the May meeting of the governing board.
- 4) There have been a few questions from board members and parishioners about Pastor Debbie's goals during her interim assignment. The goals for this period were articulated in the mini-profile that was used to hire Pastor Debbie. Some of these goals have also been alluded to in her call. Stacy Malecki recommended that Pastor Debbie develop a draft set of official goals and review with her Pastoral Relations committee with intent of bringing proposed goals to the May Governing Board meeting for approval.

Consent Agenda: Item 4 (Fundraising Proposal for Spring Fair) was removed from Consent Agenda. Remaining consent agenda items were approved.

1. That the Board appoints Sally Doyen as the Lead Ministry Coordinator for Caring Ministries, through January 2022 or until a different appointment is made.
2. That the Board appoints David Jordan as a second Assistant Treasurer for the purpose of helping the Treasurer update the SCC Finance Manual.
3. That the Board approves the Minutes of the March 10, 2021, meeting of the Board. **A.**
4. That the Board approves the Fundraising proposal for the Spring Fair.
5. That the Board acknowledges receipt of the March 2021 report of the Treasurer. **A.**
6. That the Board acknowledges receipt of the February 2021 report of the Buildings & Grounds Coordinator (Duffy Brookes) **A.**

Fundraising Proposal for Spring Fair: This item (4) was removed from consent agenda due to concerns about the potential for rain and concern about capacity of indoor space. The remainder of the proposal was accepted and well received as written. Paul explained that he and Pam had discussed

the plan for maintaining a Covid safe event. Capacity of the auditorium is 14 vendors to ensure adequate distancing. Vendors are being capped at 14 so that if weather requires event to be inside it can be done safely. Traffic flow will be one-way through the event and attendee's will be monitored and paced to ensure safety. After some discussion board voted on fundraising proposal. Proposal was approved with 7 for, 1 against, and 1 abstention. The board is appreciative of the efforts to develop this proposal and for the care being put into planning this event.

Task Force for Resuming In-person Worship: Paul Schur highlighted some of the key discussion from a recent meeting of the Task Force for Resuming In-Person Worship. There are a few groups currently using the facility in compliance with guidelines that were put in place by the task force based on CDC and state and local advice. Guidance on attendance is being developed to support safe weddings and funerals. Timing of returning to in-person worship was also discussed. A list of items which need to be addressed was created and these will be worked through by the task force. In the meantime, there is a plan to hold two outdoor in-person worship opportunities in May. The task force polled nearby congregations to find out what they are doing and for those currently holding in-person worship the protocol that they are using. It is expected that an on-line option will be available even as in-person worship begins.

Facilities Committee – Verizon Contract Lease Agreement update: Verizon has submitted a proposed update to lease agreement. The two significant changes proposed are (a) reduces lease cost and (b) allows Verizon to make modifications within their space without church approval. The reduction in lease cost would basically re-snap the cost to market value. The current lease agreement includes a 3% inflation escalation and since inflation has been less than 3% the lease cost has increased beyond market. Paul has convened a small group to consider this and the team is developing a counter proposal which would push the start date of the reduction in rent to January (vs June) and to ensure that SCC has review and approval of any structural modifications.

Pastor Debbie reviewed her Pastoral Report: Some highlights include:

- Positive feedback on Holy Week activities including Holy Week Vespers, Maundy Thursday Service, Viewing Stations of the Cross on Good Friday
- Working with Deacons to plan outdoor worship services in May and June – tentatively May 16, May 30, June 6, and June 13. Development of a service project on Sunday June 6.

- Wedding and Memorial Service planning (Jan Muller's service will be June 26)
- Participation in congregational leadership meetings Governing Board, Search Committee, Task Force on Resuming In-Person worship, Outreach Ministry, Pastoral Relations Committee.
- Leading monthly Deacons' meetings with goal of involving them more fully into worship and the spiritual care of congregants.
- Meeting with ministry team lead coordinators and making plans to clarify: ministry teams' vision/purpose; role; expectations in serving the church and the community; how the work of each team relates to the church mission; organization and structure/performance indicators; communication; and ways to attract team volunteers.
- Preparing for Women's retreat on June 4, at Mercy Center in Madison. Theme will be "A Prayerful Pause"
- Supported UCONN Journalism student with video project on how churches have been coping with the pandemic and future plans.
- Interviewed by reporter from *The Chronicle* during Holy Week.
- Will be leading a prayer service at Hartford Seminary on May 19. Theme will be service and spirituality.
- Leading worship, providing pastoral care, and holding one-one-one meetings with church members over coffee, lunch, or walks!

Work on Goals: Board selected two from the four potential goals that were identified at the Board retreat in March. The two goals selected were

- 1) Continuing to reinforce and improve our effectiveness in using the governance model
- 2) Defining what new directions our ministries might take us post-Covid.

Sue captured some initial thoughts on these topics for further development

Review of tasks

- Pastor Debbie will work with Pastoral Relations committee to document her goals for interim ministry at SCC
- Identify potential participants on task force on re-defining chapel usage.
- Work will continue on Verizon Lease agreement and Returning to In-Person worship.

Blessing & Adjournment at 9:05 PM

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

In my previous article in the March Carillon, I illustrated how our national UCC has been in opposition to the development, testing and use of nuclear weapons since 1959. The Synod has proposed a number of resolutions since that time. In 2019 the General Synod in Milwaukee passed a resolution “Calling for the United States to pull ‘Back from the Brink’ and prevent nuclear war.”

Since 2017 The United Nations has been working on “The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.” (TPNW) There have been 86 countries and 54 state parties who have signed it. It entered into force on Jan. 22, 2021 when 50 countries had ratified it, making it illegal to develop, test, purchase, possess or use nuclear weapons. Of course those countries who have nuclear weapons have not signed it: the United States, Russia, China, France, Israel, Korea, India, Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

So what can we do to help? I contacted Michael Neuroth who is the International Advocacy person in the UCC national office in Washington.

“Although having the U.S. join the TPNW treaty remains at this time mostly aspirational, given the current policy of nuclear deterrence, I do think it is still important for members of Congress to hear from constituents who support the treaty to remind them that a world without nuclear weapons remains our goal.”

Michael suggests writing to our representatives to support H.RES. 302 - Embracing the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This bill also includes:

- A. Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first.
- B. Ending the President’s sole authority to launch a nuclear attack.
- C. Taking the nuclear weapons of the United States off hair trigger alert.
- D. Canceling the plan to replace the nuclear arsenal of the United States with modernized, enhanced weapons, and
- E. Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to mutually eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

My plan is simply to go to the websites of our Senators, Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy and Congressman Joe Courtney and send an email in support of H. Res. 302 - Embracing the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It’s easy to do on their websites. Hope you can send messages too. Keep me posted if you get any responses.

kathyartist72@gmail.com.

By Kathy Lindner, Just Peace Team



Rain or Shine



SPRING FAIR

“In Person” Community Event ~ All are Welcome!

Great for Mother’s Day and Graduation Gifts

Saturday May 8th, 2021

9 AM to NOON

Annuals, Perennials, & Hanging Baskets

Bake Sale ★ Tag Sale ★ Silent Auction

★ International Gifts ★

Fabric Quilted Gifts ★ Vendors ★ Kids Crafts

Proceeds benefit the church’s newly expanded bread and food-pantry ministries,
made possible through partnership with Foodshare and CT Food Bank.

Face masks and social distancing are required.

In the event of rain, the fair will be held indoors, with COVID precautions in place.



2 North Eagleville Road
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“A Prayerful Pause: A Women’s Retreat”

Led by Pastor Debbie and Lisa Haupt



A time to pause from life’s busyness...come to the water to connect with the Divine, yourself, and others through stillness, prayer, reflection, and fellowship.

Saturday, June 12

Mercy by the Sea, Madison

- ✚ 8:30 a.m. ~ Carpool to Madison
- ✚ 10:00 a.m. ~ Tai Chi class on the lawn facing the ocean (optional)
- ✚ 11:00 a.m. ~ Gather for Opening prayer and a Blessing on Longing
- ✚ Individual time to explore the grounds/chapel/art exhibit, sit by the water, walk the labyrinth
- ✚ 12:30 ~ Lunch (provided)
- ✚ 1:15 ~ Prayer and Reflections
- ✚ 2:00 ~ Individual time
- ✚ 3:00 p.m. ~ Closing prayer on the beach and departure

(Note: This is a tentative schedule based on participants’ desires/needs)

Please bring a blanket or lawn chair. A retreat packet will be given to you upon arrival.

Register by May 10: revdebbie@storrscongregation.org

SONGS OF GRATITUDE

What a year it has been! Almost unbelievably we were able to keep our worship music 'live' over virtual platforms. Now, with vaccinations for most, we're bringing our full ensembles back together.

A song of gratitude to our tech trio, Matt, Andy and Claire, who made this possible.

A song of gratitude to our soloists, especially Cathy and Elaine, Mark and Rich, who kept our worship going all last spring and summer. Singing hymns as a soloist is no easy thing.

A song of gratitude to our choir members who recognized they could be there on behalf of all, even if it meant singing outside their comfort zones in small ensembles of quartets, men only, and women only. You made our worship glorious.

A song of gratitude to our bell players who kept me laughing, who enthusiastically recorded themselves from deck and pool room, in duets and trios, who learned how to play with metronomes, who learned that wind is not just a Pentecost phenomenon, who practiced over and over again and learned new techniques – brava Cheryl.

A song of gratitude to you, the congregation for supporting our choral scholars. Our worship music would not have happened without their unflinching support. This may be unbeknownst to you but the scholars did so much more than what you saw. They led sectional rehearsals, worked on videos, brought us amazing solo music, contributed their instrumental music talents, and above all, led our worship with their beautiful singing. We could never have accomplished what we did without them.

A song of gratitude to our choral scholars. Thank you for the joy you have brought us during a difficult time. You are beloved! Jonah, we wish you the very best as you depart our midst for new horizons.

A song of gratitude for Spring, for the hope it brings, for the possibility of someday raising all of our voices in song together.

Thank you for all your blessings!

Trisha

EASTERTIDE *to* TRINITY

Choral and Handbell music for worship

MAY 2

Communion

“Jesus Christ the Apple Tree” by E. Poston

MAY 9

“Now the Green Blade Riseth” arr. S. McRae
Adult Choir, Handbells, Tambourine

MAY 16

“Let Us Rejoice” by C. Dobrinski, *Handbells*
“I Will Not Leave You Comfortless” by Titcomb
“Promised Land” by T. Waldrop, *Handbells*

MAY 23 PENTECOST

“Pentecost Hymn” from *Peer Gynt* by Grieg
“Veni Sancte Spiritus” by A. Ramsay
with Djembe

MAY 30 TRINITY

“God So Loved the World” by B. E. Boykin

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES...



A Prayerful Pause: A Women's Retreat, at *Mercy by the Sea*, Madison, CT, led by Pastor Debbie & Lisa Haupt; a time to pause from life's busyness...come to the water to connect with the Divine, yourself, and others through stillness, prayer, reflection & fellowship. A tentative schedule, based on participants' needs/desires includes: outdoor Tai Chi class by the ocean, community prayers and blessing, individual time for prayer & reflection, walking on the beach and/or Labyrinth, exploring the chapel and/or art exhibit & sitting by the water. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Lunch will be provided.

Retreat Date: Saturday, June 12th

Carpool: Departure from SCC: 8:30 AM...from Mercy by the Sea: 3:00 PM

Register by May 10th: revdebbie@storrscongchurch.org

Middle School Students: take heart...TAKE ACTION!

...serving our community; in lieu of Vacation Bible School, up to twelve local middle school students, led by Pastor Debbie & Lisa Haupt, will participate with four area community service projects to make our community a better place— with time for reflection & fellowship. Do you have middle school children or grandchildren visiting for the summer? Students from Storrs Congregational Church, Mansfield Middle School, Faith Row Communities & First Congregational Church of Woodstock will be invited.



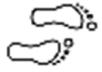
June 21-24, 2021

9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Register by May 24th: lisa@storrscongchurch.org

SCC Faith Formation for ALL STAGES & AGES

Conversation, Lisa Haupt, Director of Faith Formation, invites you to share in re-visioning 21st century Faith Formation for everyone at SCC. We are all on the journey of deepening our faith, building our knowledge of and experiencing God in our lives...an ongoing, life-endeavor. Want to join in the conversation? Contact Lisa at: lisa@storrcongchurch.org



L. CAMERON JOHNSON MEMORIAL ORGAN COMPETITION

May 29, 2021

11:00 o'clock

Awards ceremony at 1:00 o'clock



It's happening!!! We have had one of our best applicant pools in years for the 2021 competition. From advanced repertoire to masterful playing and musicianship, it was difficult to choose finalists.

Four candidates were recommended to be put forward as finalists. The competition this year will be held **VIRTUALLY**. Each performer will present a video of themselves playing their unedited program on their instrument of choice. You'll be seeing a variety of instruments, from a digitally sampled 'Hauptwerk' organ to a Cathedral-style pipe organ. For the first time ever you'll be able to actually see the performers, although the video will not be passed to the judges so the competition remains anonymous.

We're still sorting out the technology but envision that there will be a YouTube feed organized by the Hartford Chapter, American Guild of Organists for the playing part and a Zoom link to log onto afterwards for the Awards ceremony. Because some of the players are minors, I anticipate that the playing link will only be available during the actual competition.

Stay tuned for more information...hope to see you there.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Vancouver is home to many cruise ships in the summer, the perfect place to start an amazing journey along the west coast up to Alaska. Looking towards downtown, Stanley Park and a cruise ship alongside Canada Place.

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8 March 2021

Grace and peace to you all!

Greetings from Vancouver. I hope all is going well there at SCC, and that you're beginning to sense at least a little bit of light at the end of the pandemic tunnel.

Some of you may have seen my announcement on Instagram yesterday that I will begin serving as the lead minister at the Cloverdale United Church in Surrey (a suburb to the east and south of Vancouver) in mid-April - praise be to God! The new adventures continue ...!

Peace,

TO:

Storrs Congregational Church LLC

2 North Eagleville Rd.

Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268

UNITED STATES

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SCC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Sunday, May 16th

7:00 PM via Zoom Meetings

A Time to Share

At the May 16, 2021 book discussion, you are invited to talk briefly about a book that you have read and enjoyed during the pandemic. Following the sharing, we will select four books for the next session that begins in September.

A book list will be developed for summer reading that includes all the books shared.

Zoom invitations will be distributed the week of May 16th via the Tuesday eNews & Notes and Friday Weekly email.

Contact: Malta Bailey, mbailey05@snet.net

OUR FOOD PANTRY IS CHANGING

Food insecurity is more of an issue in our area than we'd like to admit. This is true on the campus of our university as well as in homes of seniors and families. In an attempt to be more effective in responding to this need, Foodshare recently reached out to our SCC Food Pantry to partner with us. Through our partnership, we are now able to procure frozen meat and poultry, as well as stock our shelves at a very modest cost because of the donations made to Feeding America and its affiliate programs, such as Foodshare.

Our pantry will be moving to the education building directly across from our library. We are receiving a donation of a refrigerator, which actually is an adapted Coca Cola machine, and we will need to purchase a freezer.

The main emphasis in the Fall will be to reach more students. Janice Castle, our coordinator of Student Ministries, and Ray Joesten, a professor emeritus who is very interested in this effort, will be promoting this service by reaching out to several offices, individuals, and student groups on campus. Jane Joesten remains in charge of the pantry. We will continue to cooperate with Kathy Ann Easley of our Town of Mansfield Social Services.

What can you do?

- Come to the Spring Fair on May 8. Proceeds will support the pantry.
- Contact Jane about volunteering some hours.
- Monetary donations (checks to SCC with Pantry in the memo line) are always welcome, as we will purchase personal needs items and produce that may not be available through Foodshare.
- If you would like to experience a Foodshare pickup, Jan Castle would be your contact.
- We will need help in moving and setting up the new room. Look for a wishlist of needed items (coming soon). Call Jan Hoyle to volunteer for that task.
- There are new shelves that need to be put together. Contact Ray Joesten for that project.
- Pray for an effective outreach to those who are food insecure. Pray that the whole food crises may be resolved so food pantries are no longer needed.

Storrs Congregational Church has always been a generous monetary supporter in our community. As you are involved on a personal level, your life is enriched with new relationships and the personal understanding of where others need the touch of God's love and our resources in their lives. God works through us. That's you and me!

Jan Hoyle

Co-coordinator of Outreach Ministries



SCC is grateful to be one of seventeen recipients of large coolers refurbished and donated by volunteers, Missy & Gus.



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READY TO RE-ENGAGE AS A "SUNDAY MORNING SERVER"?

As we move forward toward reopening, emails requesting Sunday Morning Server volunteers will include assignments for roles that have been suspended during the pandemic for dates we are scheduled to worship in person. Our Ministry Coordinators will make personal connections to recruit others so we can take turns again providing hospitality and assistance on Sundays for Worship and Fellowship. We invite you to resume serving as available if you are already on our list; or to start to serve if these roles should fit with your interests and personal passion to be the hands, heart and smiles for Christ in our midst.

Our Worship Ministry Co-leaders Jamie Lang-Rodean and Paul Schur will oversee the modifications and needs for Head Usher, Ushers, Liturgists and Communion Teams. Our Congregational Life and Hospitality Ministry leader, Pam Roberts, will oversee the modifications and needs for Greeters, Welcome Table Hosts and Fellowship Host Teams.

Your Ministry Coordinators will work to provide consistency as well as some modifications to the task descriptions. Assignments for Sunday Morning Servers will be continue to be distributed via email through the office and the Ministry Coordinators will follow-up to confirm summer outdoor Worship and Fellowship assignments, ensuring that we are ready to re-engage with the process that was working fairly well when we stopped in-person worship due to the pandemic. You will be asked to arrive a bit early, wear a mask and be ready to smile with your eyes to “welcome all” to our outdoor worship planned for the following May and June dates.

Sunday, May 30, 2021

Sunday, June 6, 2021

Sunday, June 13, 2021

Will you be among the first to re-engage in the Sunday Morning Server roles? Watch for and respond to emails regarding availability so you can be added to the schedule.

Thank you for considering how you can be a part of this ministry.
Pam Roberts, Jamie Lang-Rodean, and Paul Schur

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE HAPPENINGS

Anniversary Celebrations

Ted Yungclas & David Woods.. May 3
Laurie & Duffy Brookes..... May 11
Cindi & Paul Gilligan..... May 15

Greg Mills..... 05/14
Cindi Gilligan 05/18
Kenneth Larson 05/18
David Heng Litrico 05/18
Emily Irvine 05/19
Eric Abell 05/20
Mason Babbitt 05/20
Elaine Greer 05/22
Jessie Daniels 05/26
Victoria Chilinski 05/27
Alaina Klimkiewicz 05/27
Nancy Tomastik..... 05/28
Dan Wilson 05/28
Aline Booth..... 05/29
Bryan Huey..... 05/29
Jane Joesten..... 05/30

Birthday Celebrations

Alison Kuhn..... 05/01
Bradley Johnson 05/03
Lindsey Johnson 05/05
Chase Klimkiewicz..... 05/05
Brittany Kowalyshyn..... 05/06
Jesse Gifford..... 05/07
Charlene Dickenson 05/10
Wyatt Heffley..... 05/11
Bob Guttay..... 05/12
Elyse Mitchell..... 05/12

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.



PANTRY DONATIONS

Recent partnership with Connecticut Food Bank & Foodshare enable our pantry to have a well balanced supply of food items *but* health & beauty items such as **shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, bath soap** and **toothpaste** and household items such as **foil, toilet paper, paper towels** and **dish/laundry soap** are still needed and gratefully appreciated!

Donations may be brought to the Parish House during the week (9:30 AM – 5:30 PM) or Thursday nights until 7:00 PM.

Monetary donations may be sent to the church made payable to “SCC” with “Food Pantry” in the memo line. Under the green “Give now” button on our webpage and select “Spring Fair Donations” to contribute funds to support the overall initiative effort. Thank you.

CALLING ALL BAKERS!!!!



Each year people come to the Spring Fair with plans to purchase our delicious homemade goodies. Please help us to make this year as special as in the past by contributing your favorite baked goods to the May 8th sale.

Traditionally, best selling items are COOKIES, COFFEE CAKES, PIES, FRUIT & NUT BREADS, JAMS & JELLIES.

Unfortunately, brownies and squares do not sell well.

Please package your favorite cookies with 6 of each in separate plastic bags.

We ask that you deliver items to the SCC Parish House **fully wrapped and labeled**, ready for pricing so that we may observe maximum safety standards.

Baked goods can be dropped off at SCC anytime between 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM on Friday, May 7th and after 8:30 AM on Saturday, May 8th (the day of the Fair).

Many thanks for sharing your baking talents.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of this year's Bake Sale Team, Eileen Metzgar, Sondra Morrison and Frances Woody

SILENT AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT



Spring Fair is coming... It's time for the Silent Auction!

We are looking for donations of gently used, seasonal items for the Spring Fair Silent Auction. If you would like to donate an item to the Silent Auction, please be sure it has a value of at least \$20. We are looking for seasonal items with a spring/summer theme; outdoor/indoor household items, small pieces of furniture, paintings or photo pictures, yard games, electronics, home decorations, handmade items, anything that would make for a fun spring and summer.

Items for the 2021 Silent Auction can be dropped off at the church starting on Wednesday, May 5 and up until Friday, May 7 until 12:00 pm.

Drop off items to the Education wing, room 106. Please fill out a donation form (located in room 106), to register your item(s) and /or see Deborah in the office for assistance. Please be sure to completely fill out the form and leave it with your item.

Questions, or need help with no contact, safe pickup of your item? Contact Bonnie Chemerka, bonnie.chemerka@outlook.com.

Remember, at this time with safety in mind, entering the building still requires use of a face covering and social distancing.

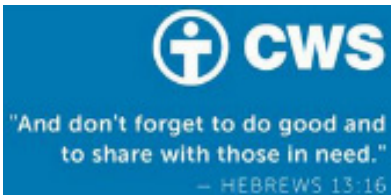
UPDATE FROM SERVICE SEWING

As most of you know, throughout each year the Sewing Group collects supplies and assembles school and health kits for distribution by the Church World Services organization. SCC brings our completed kits to a collection center in Meriden during April and ultimately, they are



distributed throughout the world. This year the Meriden center had only a small fraction of the amount contributed by churches in past years. Ironically, SCC sent 73 school kits which is believed to be the most ever. Focus will now shift to health kits in the months to come. Thank you to all who have contributed to this outreach. We are especially thankful for our two work study students, Danielle and Rubina, who prepared the school bags for packaging.

*Thank you to Laurie & Duffy Brookes
for safely delivering the kits!*



Ziploc bags with shopping lists for Health kits are available in the Parish House Lounge for you to take, fill up and return or, CWS Kits pamphlets are available through the mail by request through the office.

PATRICK BARTON ORIGINAL DESIGN NOTE CARDS

These spring themed note cards with original designs by Patrick Barton are available for ordering through the church office. Donations made in support of these cards will be used to assist Patrick as he transitions back to the community. Thank you for your support!

Patrick Barton

Available immediately and at the Spring Fair, May 8th
 Indicate quantity of each desired selection



To order cards: call the church office at 860-429-9382
 or email selections to sccoffice@storrcongchurch.org
 or mail this order form to church office.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Suggested Donation: \$2.50 per card or \$2.00 each for 3 or more cards
 Make checks payable to: "SCC" with "Patrick Barton Cards" in the
 memo line. Advance payment appreciated.

Questions? Contact: Jan Hoyle, janishoy25@aol.com

Your donation will help Patrick raise funds to transition back to the community.

**Pre-Order Your
HANGING BASKET FLOWERS
for pick up at the
ANNUAL SPRING FAIR
Saturday, May 8, 2021
9:00 AM – 12 Noon**

Order Form

Circle the type and indicate number ordered.

Type	Color choice	# Ordered
Fuschia	(dark-eye/red&white)	_____
Million Bells	_____	_____
Supertunias	_____	_____
Combo Basket		_____
Total # of baskets:		_____

TOTAL PAYMENT @ \$20.00 EACH \$

(We will try to accommodate color preferences.)

Orders must be received by Friday, April 30th

Make checks payable to: "SCC" with "Hanging Baskets" in the memo line. Advance payment appreciated.

Mail orders & payment to the Church Office.

Contact: **Jane Joesten** (860-742-5269) joesten@uconn.edu

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Strengthen the Church

Living the love and justice of Jesus!

A special offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, to support these Discipleship Ministries of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ

Outdoor Ministries

Faith Formation Ministries

NEW! The Center for Transformational Leadership

Make Disciples for the Church and for the World

Bring new life as agents of change!

Your Gifts Support These Transformational Ministries

SNEUCC Outdoor Ministries

Nurturing Disciples at Silver Lake Conference Center, Irons Homestead, and Edwards House Retreat Center

Your gifts nurture disciples of all ages through SNE Outdoor Ministries. Lives are changed and faith is deepened through programs, camps, and retreats.

SNEUCC Faith Formation Ministries

Equipping Leaders and Congregations for Ministry in a New D

Your contributions deepen discipleship initiatives for local church practitioners and laity.

NEW! The Center for Transformational Leadership Innovative Tools for Transformative Work

An exciting new initiative created to equip our clergy, lay leaders and congregations with the innovative tools, services, resources, guidance and support you require to do the transformative work that we, as the Church, are called to do — in our churches, our communities and our world.

For more information about CTL programs and resources, please contact Transform@SNEUCC.org.

*Please give generously on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd,
the day we celebrate the birth of the church!*

Please send your offering to Strengthen the Church to the church office. Please make checks payable to "SCC" with "Strengthen the Church" on the memo line. Thank you!

80% of your gift will be put to work in Southern New England

20% of your gift will support national ministries of the United Church of Christ

www.sneucc.org/Strengthen-The-Church



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Generous Thoughts



A collaborative effort of the Southern New England Conference
and the national setting of the United Church of Christ



The Gift of God's Presence During the COVID-19 Pandemic

I don't know about you, but years from now when we are finally all vaccinated and the COVID-19 pandemic is a memory within our collective conscience, there are some aspects that I will gladly forget because of the pain they caused. And there are other aspects that I will give thanks to God for sustaining us through those painful moments. I am so grateful that in the hardest times, generosity nourished us for the barrenness we experienced through the pandemic. Generosity inspired retired healthcare workers to return to hospitals, neighbors to check on vulnerable neighbors, New Yorkers to come together every night at 7 pm and to give loud sounds of thanks to the weary essential workers, and patrons to contribute extra dollars to their favorite service providers during the shutdown.

And the UCC embodied that generosity as well. Our churches learned how to worship virtually while our pastors generously provided pastoral care in new and substantive ways. Our Conference staff gave guidelines and webinars while also creating space to care for the clergy's bodies, minds, and souls. Every organization within the United Church of Christ banded together to share resources, support, prayer, and love. And as much as we gave, we also received that love as precious gifts from God. Our generosity given and received told us that God would never leave us in the toughest moments of the pandemic.

When the pandemic first started and churches had to close their buildings and move solely to online worship, I worried that financial giving would decrease as well. I was joyfully surprised when clergy shared that financial giving was stable and, in some places, actually increased. Upon reflection, it makes perfect sense to me that our generous spirits would include our financial support of our church. Our gifts became a sign to ourselves, each other, and to God that we will get through this pandemic because God is with us!

And isn't that the core message of the sacred scriptures? God is with us in the scariest moments of our lives. Do not worry about tomorrow because God will be with you through every breath of your life. Therefore, love, give, and receive the fullness of God's love from others. Gifts that God calls us to give through the hardest moments of life. That is Beloved Community now and forevermore. Amen.

Yours in Faith,

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel
Conference Minister
Missouri Mid-South Conference

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mondays, Service Sewing, *Room 207 (9:30 AM)*
- Tuesdays, Library Open, *Education Building (9:30 AM)*
- Wednesdays, Vespers, *Worship Online (7:00 PM)*
- Thursdays, Food Pantry Open, *3:00 PM – 7:00 PM*
- Fridays, Tea Time, *zoom meeting (3:30 PM)*
- Saturday, May 8th, Spring Fair, *Parish House & Courtyard (9:00 AM)*
- Wednesday, May 12th ~ Governing Board Meeting *via Zoom (7:30 PM)*
- Thursday, May 27th ~ Prayer Shawl Meeting, *Library & Zoom (10:00 AM)*
- Saturday, May 29th, L. Cameron Johnson Memorial Organ Competition Virtual Competition, 11:00 AM. Awards presented at 1:00 PM (zoom information to be available closer to the event date)
- Sunday, May 30th, *In person Outdoor service & Coffee Hour (10:00 AM)*
- Monday, May 31st, Memorial Day ~ Office closed in observance.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Mansfield Mobile FoodShare: Thursday, May 6th & 20th 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 by supplying volunteers to assist with FoodShare distributions.

This program is available to all, no proof of residency is required to attend.

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.

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.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
STORRS, CT 06268
Permit No. 33